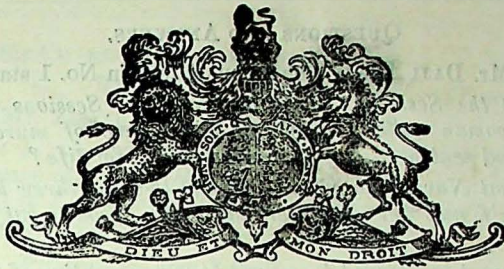


THE



# Bombay Government Gazette.

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Separate paging is given to this Part, in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

## PART V.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY.

The following extract from the Proceedings of the Governor of Bombay in the Legislative Department is published for general information :—

*Abstract of the Proceedings of the Council of the Governor of Bombay, assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations, under the provisions of "THE INDIAN COUNCILS ACTS, 1861 and 1892."*

The Council met at Poona on Wednesday the 4th day of August 1897, at 12 noon.

#### P R E S E N T :

His Excellency the Right Honourable Lord SANDHURST, G.C.I.E., Governor of Bombay, *Presiding*.

The Honourable Mr. JOHN NUGENT, C.S.I., I.C.S.

The Honourable Sir E. CHARLES K. OLLIVANT, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.

The Honourable Mr. ABDALLA MEHERALI DHARAMSI, B.A., LL.B.

The Honourable Mr. LINGAPA JAYAPA, Sir Desái of Shirsangi.

The Honourable Mr. W. H. CROWE, I.C.S.

The Honourable Mr. J. MONTEATH, C.S.I., M.A., I.C.S.

The Honourable Mr. H. M. THOMPSON, B.A., M.Inst.C.E.

The Honourable Mr. A. ABERCROMBIE.

The Honourable Mr. DAJI ABAJI KHARE, B.A., LL.B.

The Honourable Mr. NARAYAN GANESH CHANDAVARKAR, B.A., LL.B.

The Honourable Mr. J. K. SPENCE, I.C.S.

The Honourable Mr. T. B. KIRKHAM.

The Honourable Mr. W. C. HUGHES, M.Inst.C.E.

The Honourable Mr. A. S. MORIARTY, I.C.S.

The Honourable Mr. BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA BHATAVADEKAR, L.M.

The Honourable Mr. T. R. McLELLAN.

The Honourable Mr. GOKULDAS KAHANDAS PAREKH, B.A., LL.B.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The Honourable Mr. DAJI ABAJI KHARE put question No. 1 standing in his name—

(a) *Is it true that the Sessions Judge of Thána in Sessions case No. 25 of 1897 convicted one Várli woman called Navshi of the offence of murder for throwing her daughter into a well and sentenced her to transportation for life?*

(b) *Is it a fact that Navshi stated to the Court that she threw her daughter into the well because she herself and her daughter had had no food to eat for five days consecutively?*

(c) *Will Government be pleased to exercise the prerogative of mercy in this case on behalf of this unfortunate woman?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

(a) Yes.

(b) The exact answer of the woman was, "Because I had nothing to eat."

(c) Without pledging Government to any specific course in relation to a case which has not yet come officially before them, I have little doubt that any recommendation for mercy which the presiding Judge may feel justified in making will receive the most favourable consideration.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 2—

*Will Government be pleased to appoint a Commission to hold a public enquiry into the alleged grievances in connection with the plague operations in Poona?*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT in reply said—

Government do not propose to appoint a Commission as suggested in the question.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 3—

(a) *Has Government enquired into the serious allegations made by Pandita Ramabai in her letter dated 18th May 1897, published in the "Bombay Guardian" of the 22nd May, in connection with the management of the Poona Plague Hospital?*

(b) *Will Government be pleased to state the result of such inquiry?*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT in reply said—

Government did enquire into the allegations made by Pandita Ramabai in a letter which is believed to be the one mentioned by the honourable member. The result is that Government consider the statements grossly inaccurate and misleading, and had no reason to be dissatisfied with the management of the Poona Plague Hospital.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 4—

*Will Government be pleased to furnish the information called for by question No. 2\* put by the Honourable Mr. Setalvad at the meeting of the Council held on 24th February last about the closing and re-opening of the primary school at Tarbhan?*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT in reply said—

In addition to repeated warnings given by the Mámlatdár personally, warnings were on two occasions given in writing to the Patil and the Taláti, as being the principal members of the School Committee for communication to the villagers. Copies† of the translations of the warnings and of the correspondence on the subject of the re-opening of the school are placed on the Council table, to which I refer the honourable member. The vernacular order No. 25 of the President of the District Local Board was communicated to the School Committee on the 27th February 1895. On the 8th March 1897 the Collector and the President of the District Local Board reported that the school would be re-opened in that month.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 5—

*Will Government be pleased to give the information about District Municipalities and Local Boards called for by question No. 6 put by the Honourable Mr. Setalvad at the February meeting of the Council?*

\* What was the nature of, and to whom were the warnings given about improving the attendance of Kaliparaj children at the Tarbhan school? Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the warnings thus given and the correspondence that has now led to the people of Tarbhan agreeing that twenty-five Kaliparaj children shall attend the school if it is re-established? Has the school been re-established, and if not, will Government be pleased to state when that will be done?

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

\* *Vide* Appendix C.

The answer to this question is laid on the table.\*

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 6—

*Will Government be pleased to reply to question No. 13† put at the Meeting of Council held in February last about the prosecution of Messrs. Paranjpe, Pimpulkar and Kulkarni (Karulkar?) of Umbargaon, if the information called for has been received?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

Messrs. Paranjpe, Pimpulkar and Karulkar of Umbargaon were arrested in December 1896 on charges of offences under Sections 117, 143 and 186 of the Indian Penal Code. The warrants were issued by the District Magistrate on official reports received by him. The case was dismissed under Section 253 after hearing the arguments of Counsel. Government consider that the hand-bill went far beyond the description of it given in the late honourable member's question and afforded a perfectly sufficient *prima facie* case for the action taken by the District Magistrate.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 7—

*Will Government be pleased to furnish the information called for by question No. 15‡ put by the Honourable Mr. Setalvad at the Meeting of Council held in February last about the prosecution of Professor Sathe of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

Professor Sathe was arrested on a warrant and charged before a Magistrate with an offence under the sections mentioned. It is not the fact that the Magistrate made the statement alleged. In the absence of evidence which would warrant a conviction Professor Sathe was discharged. The warrant was issued by the Sub-divisional Magistrate *suo motu*, and the proceedings were not initiated by any Police officers. Government do not propose to make any further enquiry into the matter.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 8—

*Are Government now in a position to answer question No. 14§ put by the Honourable Mr. Setalvad at the last meeting of the Council about the proposal to give early effect to the recommendation made by the Finance Committee in 1886 to put the Clerk of the Insolvency Court on a salary of Rs. 500 or 600 a month and credit all fees in excess of that sum to Government?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 2 put by the Honourable Mr. Dharamsi.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE then put question No. 9—

*(a) Is it a fact that a circular was issued by the Commissioner of the Central Division in May last to all the Collectors in the districts to report how far combinations incited by*

† Is it true that Messrs. Paranjpe, Pimpulkar and Karulkar of Umbargaon in the Thána District were arrested by a warrant and prosecuted under Section 117 of the Indian Penal Code and Section 43 of the A'bkári Act and Section 25 of the Forest Act, for publishing and circulating printed copies of a hand-bill in the vernacular, explaining the provisions of the Famine Code regarding suspensions and remissions of land revenue, and that the District Magistrate before whom the trial was held, on a perusal of the hand-bill, discharged them? Who was the Magistrate who issued the warrants and on what information did he act in issuing the warrants? Did he, before issuing the warrants, satisfy himself by a careful perusal of the hand-bill whether it disclosed any offence? Will Government be pleased to take notice of the conduct of the officers concerned in the arrest of these people?

‡ Is it true that Professor Sathe of the Poona Sarvajanic Sabha was arrested on a warrant and charged before the Magistrate at Pen with offences under Section 117 of the Indian Penal Code, Section 43 of the A'bkári Act and Section 25 of the Forest Act; that when the case was called on on the 1st of January last, the Magistrate said that he was himself in the dark about the case and there was no formal complaint before him, and, therefore, adjourned the case; and that at the trial on the 11th of January the examination-in-chief of the witnesses for the prosecution disclosing no offence, the Magistrate discharged Professor Sathe? Who were the Police officers who proceeded against Professor Sathe, and on what information did they act? What are their salaries, standing and grade? Who was the Magistrate who granted the warrant of arrest, and on what information did he act? Will Government be pleased to enquire into the circumstances connected with this prosecution?

§ What is the result of the communication that this Government had with the Government of India about the question of giving early effect to the recommendation made by the Finance Committee in 1886 to put the Clerk of the Insolvency Court on a salary of Rs. 500 or 600 a month and credit all fees in excess of that sum to Government?

*the Poona Sarvajamik Sabha to withhold payment of land revenue had any effect in their districts, whether they rendered necessary the use of coercive measures, how far those measures were efficacious, and whether any agents of the Sabha were holding meetings since the publication of the Government Resolution No. 875 (Famine), dated 17th March last, or the conviction in Koldba of Mr. Apte?*

(b) *Was the circular issued with the knowledge and sanction of Government?*

(c) *Have any reports been received and will Government be pleased to put them on the Table?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

Any question of the kind asked by the honourable member could have no other basis than information supplied by an official in violation of the rules relating to the conduct of public servants and of his duty, and Government must decline to reply to such a question.

The Honourable Mr. DAI ABADI KHARE, on behalf of the Honourable Mr. ABDALLA MEHERALI DHARAMSI, who had not arrived, then put question No. 1 standing in the latter's name:—

*Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to amend at an early date the Bombay Municipal Act III of 1888, as requested by the Corporation, on the lines suggested in the President's letter No. 7488 of 1896-97, dated the 20th October 1896, to the address of the Secretary to Government, Legislative Department, so as to enable the Corporation to invest their sinking and surplus funds in bonds or debentures issued by the Municipality?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply, said—

The Municipal Commissioner has been requested to get a Statement of Objects and Reasons prepared by the legal advisers of the Corporation and submitted to Government at an early date, with a view to the draft Bill, sent with the President's letter No. 7488 referred to, being considered in the Legislative Department.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. DHARAMSI) then put question No. 2—

*Will Government be pleased to state (if they are now in a position to do so) the result of the communication between them and the Government of India regarding the question of giving early effect to the recommendations of the Finance Committee to put the Clerk of the Insolvent Court on a salary of Rs. 500—600 a month and to credit all fees received in excess of such salary to Government?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

The subject is still under discussion.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. DHARAMSI) then put question No. 3—

(a) *Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of engaging the services of a duly qualified judicial officer for the special purpose of advising the Governor in Council in the disposal of judicial appeals, &c., coming up for the decision of Government?*

(b) *Will Government be pleased to consider the advisability of hearing the parties before the disposal of the said appeals?*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT in reply said—

The return laid on the Table at the Meeting of February 24th shows that the cases to which I assume the honourable member must refer are exceedingly few. Government do not deem it necessary to consider either of the suggestions of the honourable member in that connection.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. DHARAMSI) then put question No. 4—

*Is it true that in connection with the Educational Conference held last year at Ahmedabad instructions were issued to the officers of the Educational Department by the Inspector, Northern Division, and the Director of Public Instruction to the effect that they should not make any proposals for reforms at the Conference and that they should*

*not read any papers before the Conference unless they were first submitted to the Inspector for approval?*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT in reply said—

The Director of Public Instruction instructed the Educational Inspector, Northern Division, that papers from officers of the Department to be read at the Conference were to be submitted to him before being read, so that purely departmental matters should be excluded from a Conference to which people outside the Department were specially invited. It is not true that Educational officers were forbidden to make any proposals for reform or were forbidden to submit papers to the Conference.

The Honourable Mr. NARAYEN GANESH CHANDAVARKAR, on behalf the Honourable MIR ALLAHBAKSHKHAN walad ALIBAKSHKHAN SHAHWANI TALPUR, who was not present, then put question No. 1 standing in the latter's name—

*Will Government be pleased to publish the report of Dr. Pollen regarding zamindari rights in Upper Sind and the decision of Government thereon for the information of the public in Sind?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

The honourable member is referred to the answer given to paragraph (a) of question No. 3 put by him at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 17th August 1896. The substance of the orders passed by Government on Mr. Pollen's report referred to by the honourable member will be communicated by the Commissioner in Sind to any person affected by those orders on application.

The Honourable Mr. CHANDAVARKAR (for the Honourable MIR ALLAHBAKSHKHAN) then put question No. 2—

*With reference to the reply to my previous question No. 4 do not Government see the necessity of laying down a fair rule for apportioning expenditure in the case of those courts which have both civil and criminal powers in order to ascertain whether the civil courts are working at a profit or at a loss?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

Government do not at present see any necessity for laying down a rule of the nature suggested.

The Honourable Mr. CHANDAVARKAR (for the Honourable MIR ALLAHBAKSHKHAN) then put question No. 3—

*Will Government be pleased to state whether they authorized Survey and Settlement Officers in Sind to record zamindari rights in jaghirs while fixing the water-rate on jaghirs? If so, under what law was such authority given? Did Government at the time of introducing the said survey in jaghirs state that in cases where the jaghirdar is himself the zamindar the cost of demarcation will be borne by Government and has it now been ruled that he must pay the cost of repairing the boundary marks from time to time?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

The jaghir survey was undertaken by order of Government in order that fair rates of hakabo might be levied, it having been found that the former demand on this account was not equitably distributed. It was not stated at the time of introducing the survey that the cost of demarcation would be borne by Government. It was decided that in cases in which the jaghirdar is not the zamindar the expenses of putting up boundary marks should be borne by the zamindars as in unalienated lands, but that in cases in which the jaghirdar is also the zamindar the cost of the survey should be borne by Government. For the purpose of carrying out this decision it was necessary to ascertain in whose occupancy the several lands were, and information on this point is also needed for statistical purposes and is such as Government have a right to obtain; but the record of course in no way affects the nature of the actual rights existing.

With reference to the concluding portion of the honourable member's question his attention is invited to Section 123 of the Bombay Land Revenue Code, 1879.

The Honourable Mr. CHANDAVARKAR (for the Honourable MIR ALLAHBAKSHKHAN) then put question No. 4—

*Will Government be pleased to rule that the periods fixed in the fallow rules should be extended whenever fallow land is not cultivated owing to causes over which the landholder has no control, e. g., failure of water-supply?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

The authorized practice is already in accordance with the suggestion of the honourable member.

The Honourable Mr. CHANDAVARKAR (for the Honourable MIR ALLAHBAKSHKhan) then put question No. 5—

*Will Government be pleased to state whether in the Jacobabad Taluka of the Upper Sind Frontier District the assessment of land was at the last settlement increased from the original rate of ten annas and eight pies per acre to rupees two and eight annas on lands in the first class and rupees two and annas four on lands in the second class, and whether in the last year the assessment has been further increased by eight annas on lands in the first class and four annas on lands in the second class, and if so, for what reasons?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

The revision of assessment in the Jacobabad Taluka has not been as stated in the honourable member's question. The honourable member will find full details both of the rates and of the reasons for them in the papers relating to the several settlements, which can be purchased by him.

The Honourable Mr. CHANDAVARKAR (for the Honourable MIR ALLAHBAKSHKhan) then put question No. 6—

*Will Government be pleased to rule that before a jaghirdár or a zamindár is deprived of his license to carry arms or of his privilege to sit on a chair in darbars, &c., he should be given an opportunity of being heard in his defence?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

Government have no knowledge which would lead them to suppose that a general rule on the subject is required, and so far as Sind is concerned the authority of the Commissioner will suffice, as hitherto, to deal with questions of this nature.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE, on behalf of the Honourable Mr. BAL GANGADHAR TILAK, who was not present, then put question No. 1 standing in the latter's name—

*Is it a fact that in the inquest held in May last on two dead bodies found on the roadside in the Umbargaon Petha in the Thána District it was at first reported that death in both cases was due to starvation? Was a second inquest or inquiry ordered to be made on the ground that the first report was unreliable? Is the second report same as the first? If so, will Government be pleased to take notice of the conduct of those officers who directed the second inquiry?*

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT in reply said—

Government have no information on the subject, but inquiries are being made.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 2—

*Is Government aware of the fact that the rayat in the Umbargaon Petha in the Thána District has been in great distress on account of famine, and that no relief works have been started by Government in that petha? Will Government be pleased to state what amount has been spent on famine relief in the petha?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

What is alleged in the question of the honourable member to be a fact is not supported by the information which has been supplied to Government. In March last it was understood that there was some distress amongst the forest tribes and arrangements were at once made to commence relief works in Umbargaon. It was announced to all people likely to be in need of relief that employment was available for them, but up till the end of May none took advantage of the offer. A further report was recently called for but has not yet been received, and Government are not aware whether there have yet been any applicants for employment, which however has since March been available for any who wished to accept it.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 3—

*Has the attention of Government been drawn to the complaints regarding the recovery of full land revenue from almost all the occupants in the Alibág Taluka in the Kolába District by threats of prosecutions or confiscation of the occupancy rights, and that this has, contrary to the provisions of the Famine Code, driven many of the cultivators to borrow money from savkars or to sell cattle to pay the assessment? (See Times of India of 20th July 1897.) Is it a fact that nearly the whole of the land revenue in the Umbargaon Petha in the Phána District was recovered by a similar process? Will Government be pleased to make an inquiry into the matter?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

The attention of Government has not been called to any such complaints, but they are aware that it was necessary owing to the ill advice of certain agitators to make known what were the orders of Government with regard to the recovery of the land revenue and even to make use of coercive measures against substantial occupants to a larger extent than would otherwise have been the case.

An attempt at combination in the Umbargaon Petha was defeated by similar means. In few cases was it necessary to resort to actual distraint. Government see no valid reason for making a special inquiry regarding these matters. They have full confidence that the local officers will administer the law and carry out instructions with discretion and with the fullest consideration for those entitled to it.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 4—

*Will Government be pleased to state what was the amount of land revenue recoverable last year (1896-97) in each of the districts affected by famine, and what amount thereof was suspended or remitted in each of the districts? Also what portion of such suspensions or remissions represents increase in the assessment caused by the Revision Survey in the first year of its levy?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

Exact information on the matters referred to in the first part of the honourable member's question is not yet available, but a statement\* is laid on the table showing the approximate demand and the amount which it is estimated will be suspended in each of the districts affected by famine or scarcity.

There are only four talukas and certain lands in two talukas in the affected tract in which revised assessment was levied last year for the first time, but suspensions and remissions were not made with any regard to increase of assessment under revision settlements.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 5—

*Is it a fact that some agriculturists in the village of Rayer in the taluka of Dhulia in the Khánlesh District had to pay in one sum the last year's land revenue ordinarily recoverable in two instalments? If so, will Government be pleased to inquire why this extraordinary course was adopted?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

Government have no information regarding the particular matter referred to by the honourable member, but are aware that owing to evidence of a combination to withhold the Government revenue in the Dhulia Taluka the law for its recovery, which authorizes the levy at once of the whole amount due, was enforced against some well-to-do persons, with the result that almost all the occupants, probably including some who would have been held entitled to suspension, forthwith paid their assessment.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 6—

*Is it a fact that Government has called for reports from the District officers regarding the existence of any combination to resist the payment of land revenue in the districts affected by famine? If so, will Government be pleased to lay on the Table the reports received by Government?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

The honourable member is referred to the answer to question No. 9 put by the Honourable Mr. Daji Abaji Khare.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 7—

*Is it a fact that Government has declined to grant tagai to the rayats in the alienated villages? Were the inamdars also informed that in case they granted any tagai to their tenants they could not have these same facilities for recovering it as Government? If there are any legal difficulties in the matter, will Government be pleased to move for an amendment of the existing law on the subject?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

Government have declined to give tagai to rayats in alienated villages without the assent of the inamdars. Inamdars have not, so far as Government are aware, been informed to the effect stated by the honourable member. There is not, in the opinion of Government, any occasion for an amendment of the law with reference to the points specified by the honourable member.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 8—

*Will Government be pleased to lay on the Table the details of the sixth Provincial Contract so far as they have been settled?*

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT in reply said—

The honourable member is referred to paragraphs 6, 14 and 17 of the Financial Statement, in which is given all the information on the subject of the sixth Provincial Contract which can at present be published.

The Honourable Mr. KHARE (for the Honourable Mr. TILAK) then put question No. 9—

*Will Government be pleased to place on the Table a statement regarding the petitions received by the Poona Plague Committee against the improper administration of the plague rules or the conduct of the persons engaged therein, showing (a) the name and address of the complainant, (b) the nature of the complaint, and (c) how it was disposed of? What is the total number of such petitions received by the Plague Committee or its Chairman?*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT in reply said—

Government do not consider that any good purpose will be served by supplying the information asked for.

#### PAPERS PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL.

- (1) Letter\* from the Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Department, No. 402, dated the 25th February 1897, and its accompaniment, together with a copy of the amended Rules for the Conduct of Business at Meetings of the Council of the Governor of Bombay held for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of "The Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892."
- (2) Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Department, No. 686, dated the 19th March 1897—Returning, with the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General signified thereon, the authentic copy of the Law to further amend the City of Bombay Municipal Act, 1888.
- (3) Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Department, No. 893, dated the 24th April 1897—Returning, with the assent of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General signified thereon, the authentic copy of the Law to amend the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act, 1891.

† *Vide* Appendix B.

(4) Copies of the papers† referred to in the reply to question No. 4 put by the Honourable Mr. Daji Abaji Khare.



\*Vide Appendix C.

(5) Reply\* to question No. 5 put by the Honourable Mr. Dāji Abāji Khare.

†Vide Appendix D.

(6) Statement† referred to in the reply to question No. 4 put by the Honourable Mr. Bāl Gangādhār Tilak.

### EXPLANATION OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY FOR THE YEAR 1897-98.

In presenting the Financial Statement of the Government of Bombay for the year 1897-98 the Honourable Mr. NUGENT said :—The general nature of the existing financial system is so familiar to honourable members that it is not necessary to do more than remind them that its leading feature is the division of revenue and expenditure between the Imperial and Provincial accounts in certain fixed proportions. The two sides of the provincial account are balanced by an allotment from the Imperial share of the Land Revenue, and the settlement of the amount of this allotment is the most important part of the arrangement which is commonly called the Provincial Contract. The present statement deals with the final accounts of the year 1895-96 : with the revised estimates of 1896-97 : and with the budget estimates of 1897-98. The figures throughout represent thousands of rupees. When preparing the Budget for 1895-96, the fourth year of the contract then current, Government anticipated a deficit of 9,79. Happily this forecast was not realised, and the year ended with an actual surplus of 10,07. The improvement was in great part due to abnormal causes, such as the collection of large arrears of land revenue in Gujarāt, and the restoration by the Government of India of the contribution of 5,60 which had been made to them in the previous year : but besides these windfalls there was a substantial increase in the receipts under Stamps, Excise and Assessed Taxes, which affords a gratifying proof of the elasticity of these heads of revenue. The year 1896-97, the last year of the contract, opened with fairly favourable prospects, and provision was made in the budget for increased expenditure on education, public works and village water-supply. But the occurrence of widespread famine and the outbreak of plague in the second half of the year compelled Government to abandon many minor improvements, and to incur very heavy expenditure on measures of relief and sanitation. At the same time the paralysis of business arising from these calamities caused a decrease in revenue amounting to 14,45. Had the whole of the famine charges (25,10) fallen upon Provincial revenues, the year would have ended with a deficit of 49,07 and a minus closing balance of 8,99. The year has been one of the most disastrous ever known. In order to provide this Government with a working balance of 10,00 the Government of India have undertaken to bear a share of the famine charges of the year 1896-97 amounting to 18,99, and almost all the famine charges of the current year will have to be borne by Imperial funds. It may be of interest here to state briefly the financial results of the provincial contract which was in force from 1892-93 to 1896-97. During this period the contract allotment was 77,14, and this Government was bound to keep a balance of 20,00 in hand. The opening balance on 1st April 1892; the difference between the total receipts and the total expenditure, excluding opening balance for each year of the contract; and the closing balance on March 31st, 1897, were as follows :—

Opening balance	...	...	...	...	40,70
1892-93 Difference between receipts and expenditure Accounts	...	...	...	...	-2,39
1893-94	"	"	"	...	+1,95
1894-95	"	"	"	...	-10,25
1895-96	"	"	"	...	+10,07
1896-97	"	"	Revised	...	-30,08
Estimated closing balance	...	...	...	...	+10,00

It will be seen that during the first four years of the contract surplus alternated with deficit, and that the surpluses and deficits very nearly balanced each other. The calamities of the fifth year have, however, made the result very unfavourable to Provincial revenues, which have suffered a net loss of 30,70 during the currency of the contract. As shown in paragraph 4 the closing balance of 10,00 has been obtained through the Government of India bearing a share of the famine charges. The sixth Provincial Contract, of which 1897-98 is the first year, would ordinarily have been fixed in the usual way on

the basis of the figures for 1896-97, by excluding abnormal items. But the finances have been so seriously affected by famine and plague, on both sides of the account, that the figures of 1896-97 gave no trustworthy guidance. The Government of India have therefore made what is properly speaking a contract for one year only, and have reserved the settlement of the fixed allotment for the last four years of the contract until next cold weather, when the revenue under I. Land Revenue, IV. Stamps, V. Excise and IX. Forest, and the expenditure under 1. Refunds, so far as it relates to these heads, and under 11. Forest will be re-examined, the allotment fixed and a working balance provided for the Presidency. As regards the remaining heads contract figures for the full five years have been finally agreed upon. For the *ad interim* contract an assignment of 77,42 has been arrived at in the manner explained in paragraph 17 below. The Government of India have also informed us that the amounts under the heads specified above, which are hereinafter referred to as the excluded heads, will be credited or debited to Provincial revenues, whether they are or are not actually reached. It will be seen that as this Government receive fixed sums under all the more important heads of revenue except VIII. Assessed Taxes, there is very little room for variation between the budget and the actuals so far as the credit side of the account is concerned. On the expenditure side of the budget no provision has been made for direct famine charges, which will be borne by the Government of India and by Municipal and Local Funds: but it has been necessary to provide for a large amount of indirect expenditure on account of famine and plague, such as the cost of strengthening police, medical and revenue establishments, and the grant of grain compensation in all departments. The Government of India before sanctioning the Budget thought it necessary to make reductions aggregating 5½ lakhs on the expenditure side, which are shown for the most part as probable savings or as lump deductions under the minor heads concerned in the printed estimates. We have, however, found it impossible to make the full deductions required under 20. Police, 22. Education, and 24. Medical, and have therefore been compelled to cut down the Public Works grant by 2,80 instead. Since the Budget was framed, the Government of India have allotted 5,00 for expenditure on plague operations, the greater part of which will eventually, it is trusted, be recovered from local bodies. It has already been explained that the contract for 1897-98 is provisional only, and that the allotment for the last four years of the current contract will not be fixed until next cold weather. Further, the Presidency has been passing through a period of great stress and difficulty from which it may take a long time to recover. It is therefore impossible to say how long it may be necessary to practise the severe economy that has been forced upon us by the misfortunes of this and the past year, or how soon we may be able to undertake any of the improvements which have hitherto been postponed for want of funds. For the present we can only wait upon events and hope for better times. The plague happily seems to be rapidly dying out in the cities, towns and villages where it wrought most destruction, and the monsoon though tardy in its advent appears so far to be favourable in large tracts at least of the Presidency.

The Honourable Mr. ABDALLA MEHERALI DHARAMSI said—Your Excellency,—This year's Budget does not call for many remarks. Still there are some points to which, with your Excellency's permission, I would like to invite the attention of this Honourable Council. Before doing so, I may be allowed to express my approval of the provisional arrangement made by your Excellency's Government with the Government of India, whereby the sixth Provincial Contract, of which this year is the first, is not settled, but a contract of one year only is made, leaving the settlement of the fixed allotment for the remaining four years to be arranged for hereafter. As remarked in the Financial Statement, the year 1896-97 has been one of the most disastrous ever known, but it has taught us certain experiences in regard to the financial arrangement of this Presidency as governed by the system of the quinquennial provincial contracts at present in force which will not be thrown away. The opening balance of Rs. 40,08,000, which the revised estimate for the last year showed, has not only been swept away, but the year would have ended with a minus closing balance of Rs. 8,99,000, had it not been for the contribution from the Government of India towards the large expenditure incurred on account of the famine. Scarcity and famine occur periodically, and it is therefore necessary that the resources of the local Government should be so husbanded as to meet and cope with such contingencies whenever they may occur, especially if famine relief be a provincial head of expenditure. Several reasons are urged in support of the statement that the system of provincial contracts as at present in vogue is unsatisfactory, and when a year like the

one that has ended occurs, the unsatisfactory nature of the system is brought into sight more prominently. To show the one-sided nature of the arrangement, I will merely draw your Lordship's attention to the total figures of revenue and expenditure, as given in this year's Budget, which show that whereas the Supreme Government receive a sum of Rs. 10,13,11,000, the expenditure which falls to their share, including the charges on account of the army (Rs. 3,49,12,000) and expenditure on account of famine relief (Rs. 50,00,000), which is not an ordinary item, comes to Rs. 5,76,90,000, thus leaving a surplus of Rs. 4,37,02,000 in their hands. On the other hand, the Provincial Government get as their share of revenue Rs. 4,15,80,000, and have to provide for an expenditure of Rs. 4,15,73,000. My Lord, this has been a terrible year, and what with plague and famine, the resources of your Excellency's Government have undergone such a strain as they never experienced before, and I approach the consideration of this Budget in a spirit of sympathy.

I will now shortly refer to the head of Land Revenue, which is the backbone of our finances. The total budgetted amount under this head is Rs. 3,81,12,000, which exceeds the revised estimate for 1896-97 by Rs. 4,50,50,000. Owing to the famine last year, the ryots have suffered considerably, and even if this year turns out one of prosperity, as we all sincerely hope it will, I am afraid mere suspensions of revenue will not adequately meet the case of numerous cultivators. As your Excellency is no doubt aware, many of the agriculturists in several districts of this Presidency, such as Bijápur, Sholápur, Ahmednagar, etc., have lost all their belongings, including cattle, and but for the charitable assistance given to them from the Bombay branch of the Indian Famine Relief Fund, of which your Lordship is the Vice-President, they would have found it impracticable to set up in life again. The collection of arrears will in many cases work undue hardship, and I have no doubt that your Excellency's Government will sanction adequate remission and give proper facilities for the payment of instalments of revenue to the poor ryots. In this connection I am glad to notice a remark in the Financial Statement that "in framing the estimate of ordinary land revenue, it has not been thought safe to allow for the recovery of more than a small part of the ten and a-half lakhs postponed in 1896-97 on account of the famine." If a larger amount had been budgetted for, it would in all probability have resulted in pressure and hardship, as there is a tendency on the part of Revenue officers to work up to budget figures in the matter of the collection of land revenue. I feel sure that your Lordship will also give sympathetic consideration to the question whether the distressed condition of certain parts of the Presidency does not require that the enforcement of the revision survey settlement should be postponed for some time. Under the head of Opium revenue, I wish to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that, although it is entirely an Imperial head, the Provincial Government has to make payments to certain Native States in respect of opium compensations, amounting to Rs. 46,000, which are entered under the head of Assignments and Compensations.

Under the heading of Law and Justice, I expected to see that credit would be taken this year in respect of fees paid into the office of the Clerk of the Insolvent Court, after providing a fixed salary for that officer, but this does not appear to have been done. These fees amount to about Rs. 40,000 a year, and at a time of great financial stringency like the present, when the strictest economy is exercised this amount could have been applied to useful purposes.

Turning to the head of Education, it is to be regretted that the state of the finances is such that Government have been compelled to curtail the building grants to Rs. 50,000. The Budget estimate for 1896-97 in respect of this item was Rs. 1,50,000. In the revised estimate it was reduced to Rs. 66,000, and this year the amount has been still further reduced. In connection with the item of grants-in-aid under the head of Education, I notice that a lump deduction of Rs. 75,000 has been made to comply with the orders of the Government of India, who, as stated in the Financial Statement, before sanctioning the Budget thought it necessary to make reductions aggregating Rs. 5,50,000 on the expenditure side. It appears that a larger deduction than Rs. 75,000 was directed to be made under the head of Education, but your Excellency's Government found it impossible to make the full deduction. This shows how the hands of this Government are tied in allocating funds to different heads, and illustrates the inadequacy of the Provincial contract arrangement. The head of Education should

be a progressive head of expenditure, and it is a pity that the construction of many useful buildings urgently required will have to the detriment of the institutions concerned to stand over. While recognising that the present position of Government does not enable them to spend more under the head of education, it is to be hoped that within the next year or two the educational grant will be suitably increased. The same remarks apply to Civil Works. Under this head also it has become necessary to cut down the grant considerably. The allotment made for expenditure is Rs. 5,84,000 less than the Budget for 1896-97, and is no doubt the result of the pinch felt by the Provincial Government. The material development of the Presidency is thus checked, and several useful public works have to be abandoned.

I observe that since the Budget was framed, the Government of India have allotted Rs. 5,00,000 for expenditure on plague operations, but as remarked in the Financial Statement, Government expect to recover a greater part of this eventually from local bodies. My Lord, the suppression of the plague was more than a local question, and in fairness local bodies ought to receive from the Imperial finances a fair and reasonable share of the expenditure incurred by them on this account. The expense which the Municipal Corporation of Bombay has been put to in connection with the measures adopted for the suppression of the plague, has been, as your Excellency is doubtless aware, very heavy, and the Corporation can fairly claim that a reasonable share of this heavy expenditure should be refunded. I feel sure that when this question comes on for final settlement, your Excellency's Government will lend their strong support to the claim of the Corporation.

There is only one other subject to which I wish to allude before concluding my observations. It is the subject of famine relief expenditure. The honourable the financial member, in paragraph 41 of the Financial Statement, says that famine relief is, properly speaking, a provincial head of expenditure, but owing to the state of provincial balances, the Supreme Government has undertaken to provide for so much of it as cannot be met from local funds. I do not know if this is intended to mean that if the state of the provincial balances had permitted all expenditure under this head would have been charged to them. I am not sure whether this would be in accordance with the conclusions arrived at by the Indian Famine Commission, who, in paragraph 177 of their report, say, "the extent to which the aid from the resources of the Central Government should be given will have to be determined as each case arises," and there can be no doubt that in all cases of severe drought this liability will occur. There can be no question that the drought prevailing last year was not only severe but was also general, and it cannot be said that the Supreme Government generously came to the relief of the Provincial Government by undertaking an obligation which did not rest upon them. Bearing in mind that the Government of India receive a three-fourths share of the land revenue of this Presidency, and do not contribute anything towards the cost of collection, it becomes their duty to assist the cultivating classes, who are the chief sufferers from the effects of the famine. This obligation on the part of the State is acknowledged by the Famine Commission. The financial resources placed at the disposal of the Provincial Government are meant for normal times, but when a calamity like the one experienced last year occurs, it cannot be said with fairness that unforeseen and extraordinary expenditure of this kind should be thrown upon the shoulders of the Provincial Government. The share which this Government gets in the revenue is intended for carrying on the general administration and for education, public works, sanitation, opening up of road communications, and other works calculated to improve the material development of the Presidency. In times of famine works of public utility are stopped, and the Presidency suffers in many ways, including a diminution of revenue, but if in addition to this loss it had to defray all the expenditure on account of famine, we should be most seriously handicapped, and the sooner the contract arrangements are altered the better. Under no circumstances should the minimum contract balance of Rs. 20,000,00 be allowed to be trenched upon.

The Honourable Mr. DAJI ABAJI KHARE said—Your Excellency,—As my friend the Honourable Mr. Dharamsi remarked, this year has been a year of great disaster; the famine and the plague have played great havoc amongst us and the Government of this Presidency has had to face a situation of exceeding difficulty. I do not consequently propose to enter upon any criticism or add anything to what Mr. Dharamsi has said. On the contrary, it is but due to your Excellency's Government to say that the famine

administration in the Presidency has on the whole been very successful and the people have every reason to feel deeply thankful for what has been done for them in their distress. I would not, as I have said, allude to anything now except to the grievance of the khots of the Devgad taluka. That grievance has remained unredressed for some years past, and I would take this occasion to request your Excellency's Government to redress it as early as possible.

The Honourable Mr. NARAYAN GANESH CHANDAVARKAR said—Your Excellency,—I wish your Excellency's Government had more money for the administration of the Presidency than has been placed at your disposal, and in that case I would have imitated the example of my friend Mr. Dharamsi, and, like Oliver Twist, cried for more in the interests of public works, education and other desirable objects. But the present situation is an exceptional one, and the famine and plague having upset all calculations, I think it is my duty to approach the discussion of the Budget on the present occasion in a spirit of sympathy rather than in a spirit of criticism. The famine has undoubtedly been responsible for much of the discouraging tale told in the budget; and your Excellency's Government have had to contend, and are still contending, with an exceptionally difficult situation created by it. But it is a matter of satisfaction to know that those difficulties have been grappled with by your Excellency's Government in a very satisfactory and successful manner. I have myself been in some of the famine districts and have been able to ascertain the popular opinion, and the result of my enquiries has been that to the skill, wisdom, and care of the famine administration in this Presidency we owe the fact that there has not been a single death from starvation. The other point to which I wish to refer is the liberal manner in which your Excellency's Government have made what are called the "takavi" advances in the famine districts. These advances are highly appreciated by the people; they are of great help to the rayats; and I believe my information, gathered on the spot, is correct, that your Excellency's Government have given Rs. 42,000 as takavi for the taluka of Sholapur alone; and the other talukas in the Sholapur district have each received from one to one lakh and a quarter. This is very satisfactory indeed. My Lord, I have already said this is not an occasion for a critical discussion of the financial situation. When peace and plenty and prosperity are restored, and I devoutly hope they may soon be restored and the famine and the plague may soon die out, we shall be able to make suggestions to the Government in the matter of much-needed reforms, and those suggestions will come more aptly then.

Before resuming my seat, may I, my Lord, make an appeal to your Excellency's Government regarding the need of maintaining the judicial service of this Presidency in a state of efficiency? The Bombay tradition, if I may so call it, has been to get good men for the judicial service, and having got them to keep them there. In this Presidency we have generally got on on the administrative principle: "Once a Collector, always a Collector; once a Judge, always a Judge"; and the principle has worked very satisfactorily whereas elsewhere a Civil Servant can become a Collector to-day, a Judge to-morrow, and a Collector again the day after. This latter practice is not calculated to keep the judicial service in a high state of efficiency, and there is some reason to fear that there has been a tendency of late in this Presidency to adopt that practice. I have in my mind's eye just now an able Civil Servant, who having served his apprenticeship in the revenue service, entered the judicial line, did good work as an Assistant Judge, was promoted to be Acting District Judge, in which capacity he did excellent work, and promised to be one of our best Judges. But he has reverted to the revenue line, and though he is now doing useful work as a revenue and famine officer, those who had opportunities of observing the satisfactory manner in which he discharged his duties as a Judge, have always regretted that he was allowed to revert to the revenue line. This should not be. My Lord, these are the few observations that I have thought it my duty to offer on the budget, having regard to the financial difficulties of an unusual character with which your Excellency's Government has been coping. Let us hope next year we shall meet under better and more encouraging circumstances.

The Honourable Mr. GOKULDAS KHANDAS PAREKH said—Your Excellency,—The year that has passed was of extreme distress to the country and of unprecedented difficulty to Government. This Presidency during the year suffered from two visitations of a very severe kind. On one side we had the plague which devastated three of the biggest cities of this Presidency, which carried away thousands of people, and nearly paralysed all trade

and business; on the other side there was famine and scarcity, which in some of the districts rendered people completely helpless. These have taxed to their utmost the energies and the resources of Government. Government may be congratulated that we are now approaching better days. The plague has been successfully coped with, and it may be taken to have nearly disappeared. Though the mortality of Bombay has recently much increased, I hope that, with the great watchfulness that the authorities observe, there is no reasonable apprehension of its re-appearance. In respect of the famine, the holding over of the rains in a few districts did cause anxiety, but now nearly the whole of the Presidency has had rain; and if it is seasonable during the rest of the monsoon, we may have good and plentiful harvests. In reference to the famine, I completely endorse my honourable friend Mr. Chandavarkar's remarks. The famine operations were very sympathetically and successfully conducted, and wherever real distress was found, attention was paid to it.

It has been often remarked in this hall, that the discussion of the budget is a matter of academical interest. It is true that so far as the existing budget is concerned the discussion is of no use. I understand that the object of the discussion is, that the members of Government may bear in mind the views of the additional members at the time of the framing of the next budget, and give them such consideration as they may deserve.

In reference to the budget, the most important thing that strikes one is the hardness of the Provincial Contract. So long as its terms are not made more favourable, the honourable member in charge of the finances will, with all his skill, always find it difficult to agree to give larger assistance to departments which administer to the wants of the people, or to agree to the removal of any burdens which they may feel too heavy to bear. Though the receipts are large, most of our important revenue items are absorbed by administration charges and other expenditure which this Government has no power to curtail. Thus the items of the Provincial share of Land Revenue Rx. 9,528, the assessment of alienated lands Rx. 9,791 and of the Provincial revenue of salt Rx. 67, aggregating in all Rx. 19,386, are absorbed by the items of refund on account of land revenue Rx. 37, assignments to inámdárs and other grantees Rx. 8,155, pensions in respect of resumed lands Rx. 1,532, costs of the Land Revenue Department Rx. 6,891, costs of General Administration Rx. 1,453, superannuation allowances and pensions Rx. 1,668, Post Offices Rx. 109 and Provincial salt compensation Rx. 43, aggregating in all Rx. 19,388. The revenue in respect of stamps Rx. 4,369 is absorbed by the net costs of the Law Courts Rx. 4,212 and miscellaneous charges Rx. 130, aggregating Rx. 4,342. The Imperial Funds contribution of Rx. 7,750 is absorbed by the net cost of the Police Rx. 5,558, net cost of jails Rx. 566, Provincial expenditure in respect of Political Department Rx. 374, stationery Rx. 771, and miscellaneous refunds and assignments other than those that relate to land revenue Rx. 509, aggregating in all Rx. 7,778. Thus the only appreciable items of revenue that are left are the Excise, the net revenue of which is Rx. 2,659, net Assessed Taxes Rx. 1,702, net Forest Rx. 527, net Registration Rx. 175, and Customs Rx. 96, aggregating in all Rx. 5,159, against which are the charges of the Educational, the Medical, the Public Works, the Scientific and other Minor Departments. These Departments do not get much out of the benefit of improved revenue; but as the other charges do not bear much curtailment, whenever there is a bad year they are the first and foremost to suffer. One feels it regrettable that Departments that administer to the wants of the people should be left in this plight when our revenue has been growing very fast.

In 1871-72 the receipts amounted to 980 lakhs, in 1881-82 they rose to 1,172 lakhs, in 1891-92 to 1,208 lakhs, and in 1895-96 to 1,417 lakhs. But the Provincial revenue has not received any proportional benefit from their increase. By far the largest portion of the increases has been appropriated by the Government of India. The saving to the Imperial funds after deducting the Imperial costs of working the Civil Departments was 475 lakhs in 1871-72, 622 lakhs in 1881-82, 720 lakhs in 1891-92, and 900 lakhs in 1895-96. I submit that it would be much fairer if our Presidency received a larger share in the revenue of lands and others which have great expansive capacity.

The visitations from which we have suffered had a very disastrous effect on our finances. Our most important items of revenue suffered very seriously, and there has been an immense increase in our expenditure.

We have to thank the Government of India for contributing about 19 lakhs of rupees towards the famine expenses of the last year, and 50 lakhs in meeting the famine expenses

of the current year. I, however, feel that full measure of justice is not done to our Presidency. I think the Imperial funds ought to meet all charges, direct and indirect, in consequence of the famine. The Provincial contract was so settled, that unless there was some windfall, our Government could barely make both ends meet. During the first four years of the last contract, though this Government practised the utmost economy and though many useful works had to be put off, the result of the working was excess of expenditure over revenue by about one lakh and sixty-two thousand rupees. When the contract arrangements are on such a footing, it is reasonable that all extraordinary charges should be borne by the Imperial Government.

When the contract of 1882 was made, there was a reservation of our receiving assistance from the Imperial funds on the occasion of a famine. But our position has changed much since, to the disadvantage of this Presidency. Under the contract of 1892 we had a greater share in the more expansive revenues. Though the contract of 1892 was less favourable than the previous one, this Presidency was not allowed to work under it unhampered; a large and unforeseen liability was thrown on our revenues in the form of exchange compensation; and we received nothing in return for this increased expenditure. During this period again, the Customs revenue immensely increased, and a new item of revenue was created in the form of excise on cotton manufactures. These have been appropriated exclusively by the Imperial funds, and the Provincial funds have got no share out of them. But my greatest ground is the vastness of the resources of the Government of India. They receive from us more than two-thirds of our revenues free from all local civil expenses. A few lakhs of rupees are nothing to them when compared with the large items of their revenue and expenditure, but they would affect us very seriously.

It appears from the Budget that about Rs. 10,00,000 of the famine expenses have been charged against the Local funds. As between the Imperial and Provincial funds I should much wish these extraordinary charges to fall on the former, but as between the Provincial and the Local funds, I should wish them to be borne by the Provincial Funds. It may be one thing if the Local funds are rich, and the boards are anxious to undertake any particular works of local usefulness. The majority however of works undertaken as famine relief works are not of this kind, and I understand that if the Local fund administrations were left to themselves, they would be unwilling to undertake them. What the rural population, for whose benefit these funds are made, want are, village wells, tanks, and other small works of local usefulness. Such works are considered not good for famine relief. The Local funds should not be spent in works which are fitted only for famine relief, to the neglect of works more needed for the material prosperity of the district. The pledges given by Government to the cultivators that Local funds would be used merely in supplying local wants such as wells, tanks, rest-houses, local roads and village sanitation should be carried out in their entirety. I submit that it is very desirable to check the present tendency of diverting Local funds to purposes other than those for which they were created.

It appears that the Government of India have allotted five lakhs of rupees for expenditure on plague operations, and it is intended that these moneys should be recovered from the local bodies. I think this item of extraordinary expenditure should be borne by the Government of India. The plague was a visitation from heaven, and did not much depend on local circumstances. The municipalities and the local bodies in incurring charges in reference to the plague operations were for the most part acting under the orders of Government. The operations were needed not only for the place itself, but for preventing the plague from spreading to other places. The places that suffered from the plague had their revenues considerably crippled, and they had a considerable increase of indirect expenses: it would be very hard on the local bodies if they were made to bear these expenses. Places subject to the attacks of the plague would take much time to recover their financial equilibrium, and their material improvements would be much retarded if the plague charges were thrown on them. I should therefore suggest that these expenses should be borne by the Imperial revenues; in any case they should be borne by the Provincial revenues, and not thrown on the small funds at the disposal of local bodies. I should wish that they should not at all fall on small municipalities. They should be entirely exempt from these contributions.

Referring to individual items, the first question to which I shall refer is that of land revenue. When so many lakhs of our agricultural people have become helpleas, and have

to ask help from State funds, it may not be amiss to consider whether the incidence of land revenue does not fall somewhat too heavily upon them. The result of the revised surveys is to add nearly 40 lakhs to the assessments that existed before. I think that the condition of our agriculturists is such as not to bear the burden, and that under the pressure of the increasing assessments, they are getting more and more impoverished every year. There is one fact that furnishes to my mind very strong evidence of the impoverishment. The number of transactions of mortgages and of sales of immovable properties has been increasing continuously from year to year. The Registration returns show a regular increase of transactions of this kind. The number of documents mortgaging immovable property of over Rs. 100 was 49,377 in 1888-89, and by continuous increase they rose to 71,568 in 1895-96; the number of transactions showing sale and exchange of immovable properties of over Rs. 100 was 38,254 in 1888-89, and it rose by regular increases to 53,669 in 1895-96. The returns do not show how many mortgagors and vendors in these transactions were agriculturists, but as agriculturists form the greater part of the people in this country, I should think that the majority of the mortgagors and vendors were of that class. This shows therefore that the debts of the agriculturists are increasing from year to year and that more and more of their property passes out of their hands every year. In this connection, my Lord, I would suggest that it would help much if the Registration Department were asked to show the mortgages and sales separately in respect of agricultural transactions.

In connection with the question of Land Revenue, I have to draw your Excellency's attention to one item on the revenue side—"Fines for appropriating lands for purposes unconnected with agriculture." In small townships, where population has increased, the town site is often insufficient, and in consequence of heavy fines and high assessments, the people are unable to take up quarters outside the town site, and are therefore obliged to crowd themselves within narrow limits. Overcrowding is injurious on sanitary grounds; it is most dangerous when an epidemic breaks out. It seems to me that Government ought to discourage overcrowding, and to give every encouragement to people to live in more open and better ventilated houses. If Government were pleased to make some relaxation in the condition, on which they would permit lands to be appropriated for house-building purposes, it might relieve some towns of overcrowding, and lead to the improvement of general health in this country. The question of fines in respect of Government unoccupied lands requires careful consideration at the hands of Government on other grounds. There are complaints as regards the mode of levying the fine; many poor cultivators have been heavily fined for storing grass or other field produce in Government unoccupied lands. I would ask that Government may be pleased to call for a return showing the details of the total of fines on this account.

We expected that the Survey Department would be abolished this year. It had been announced that the department would be abolished from the 1st April last, but expenditure on it still exists in the Budget. I should be glad if Government would be pleased to see that this department is abolished as early as possible.

In reference to education, in primary education we are considerably behind other educated countries, and even behind some of our good Native States. We do want more schools. In female education we are also considerably behind. Female schools require special encouragement. There are many reforms recommended by the Education Commission, which we are unable to carry out for want of funds. Considering the urgent needs of the department, Government was pleased to allow in the Budget estimate of the last year an increase of Rs. 1,15,000, but when there are financial difficulties the first sufferer is the Educational Department. Instead of getting the increase, Rs. 75,000 have been taken away from it. The result is, that in connection with the Provincial grants to schools Government has been obliged to curtail the amount of Rs. 6,81,000 to Rs. 36,000. I hope your Excellency's Government will be able to give a considerably larger grant to education in the next Budget.

I have to offer my most sincere thanks to Government for their liberal policy in reference to the advance of the takávi in consequence of the distress of the agriculturists; the advances of the year have been exceptionally large. But for some years there has been a regular increase in them. I regret to notice that there has been a curtailment of Rs. 50,000 in the grant to the Medical Department. It is a matter of pity that at a time of financial distress, Government are unable to make up their Budget without



seriously embarrassing a department which aims at the alleviation of the miseries of the poor.

With reference to the Miscellaneous, Scientific and other minor Departments, I find that the grant to the Reay Museum at Poona has been curtailed. The grant is made under a contract. The present curtailment may be perhaps owing to the exceptional circumstances of the year. I hope, however, that Government will order the payment of the balance as soon as better times arrive.

The Honourable Dr. BHALCHANDRA KRISHNA BATAVADEKAR said—Your Excellency,—Having received the papers in connection with this meeting less than a week ago I have not been able to bestow that amount of time and attention on the study of the Financial Statement that its importance demands. I am afraid, therefore, I shall not be able to do proper justice to the subject. I only propose to offer a few observations on some of the heads in which I take special interest. In this connection I will follow the example set by my friend the Honourable Mr. Chandavarkar, that is, to approach the discussion of the Budget in a spirit of sympathy rather than of adverse criticism. Taking into consideration the fact that the Presidency has been passing through great difficulty and distress on account of the prevalence of the plague and famine during the past year, the arrangement come to for only one year regarding the Provincial contract seems to be satisfactory, and your Lordship's Government is to be warmly congratulated on being able to obtain such fair terms, to transfer the burden of famine relief to Imperial finances, and to get an additional grant on account of plague expenditure. As the estimate of revenue is higher, I beg to express a hope that there will be no particular stringency in its collection in view of the fact that the rayat has been passing through famine. Passing to the consideration of the different heads in the statement I notice the revenue under the head of Forests has fallen off to a certain extent, but the reasons which are given in the statement appear to be satisfactory. I would make one remark in this connection, and that is with reference to the hardship entailed on the aboriginal tribes—the Várlis and Kátkaris—residing in the Bassein and Dahánu talukas, on account of certain stringent orders passed by Government some years ago, prohibiting those people from collecting dried twigs and pieces of wood lying in the jungles. These poor people maintain themselves almost entirely by selling faggots of these dried pieces collected in the forests. The preventive orders appear to have operated on these poor people so harshly, especially during the trying time of the famine, that they were unable to suppress their feelings, an ebullition of which unfortunately found expression in the recent riots in Bassein and Dahánu a few months ago. The Government to pacify these people, as a temporary measure of relief, have relaxed their stringent orders, and the people have quietly settled down to their peaceful avocations. They are a very law-abiding people and, I believe, were unfortunately driven to extreme action on account of the pangs of hunger. Taking this circumstance into your favourable consideration, I venture to express a hope that your Excellency's Government will be pleased to consider the advisability of relaxing these orders permanently, so as to permit these people to earn their livelihood without any trouble, especially as I believe the loss incurred from this source is not likely to be very great.

The next head in the statement which I wish to advert to is Police. Immediately on setting foot in Bombay your Lordship was pleased to convey a message of assurance to the Bombay Municipal Corporation on the vexed question of the proper adjustment of the Police charges. This question, which had long remained unsettled, and had caused so much friction between the Government and the Corporation, is now, I am glad to observe, on a fair way towards settlement, and the Corporation cannot be too thankful to your Excellency for the genuine and sympathetic interest evinced by your Lordship. I earnestly hope that the matter will soon be finally placed on a satisfactory basis, both to the Government and the Corporation. The total annual allotment on account of the Police charges provided by the Corporation in the Budget for 1897-98 is Rs. 5,00,000, and the monthly instalment is Rs. 40,500. The arrears claimed by Government on the 1st of April 1895, from 1892 to 1895, is Rs. 1,01,137, out of which Rs. 51,589 were paid in 1896-97, leaving a difference of Rs. 49,548. Over and above this sum Government claimed for 1895-96 Rs. 14,876, making up a total of Rs. 64,424, the payment of which is disputed by the Corporation on legal grounds, which have been already represented to Government, and which, I trust, will receive your Excellency's best consideration.

The keen interest which your Lordship has evinced in education generally, and in primary education in particular, and the assurances given on the occasion of the Budget dis-

cussion last year as regards secondary education, leave no ground for apprehension regarding the future of secondary education in this Presidency. I would, however, allude to one point on which last year the Honourable Mr. Kirkham had such a lively passage-at-arms with my friend the Honourable Mr. Mehta, whose absence on this occasion I sincerely deplore, and who, I hope, will soon return in renewed health and vigour. The honourable member for education, for whom I have high respect, and whose quondam pupil I am proud to acknowledge myself to be, laboured ingeniously on that occasion to prove that the Bombay Municipal Corporation had failed in its duty towards primary education. I have very carefully read his speech, but I must confess I have not been convinced by the arguments used by him to prove his case. The figures he quoted in reference to English towns do not, I submit, justify him in making them applicable to the Bombay Municipality. The conditions here are quite different. The position of the Corporation is unique in one respect. A heavy burden has been imposed upon it in the shape of the Police charges since 1865, entirely unassisted by Government, whereas Section 139 of the Acts of 1872 and 1878 left it to the option of the Corporation to contribute a reasonable sum for primary education, and they have not shirked their duty, optional though it was, consistent with their finances and their other obligatory demands. The Madras and Calcutta Corporations have not the burden of Police charges put upon them, and the English cities which he cited as examples have not, I believe, to bear the burden to the same extent. Had the Government of the time taken the lead in the matter of providing sanitary and commodious school buildings, and had they called upon the Corporation to bear their share, they would willingly have met Government half-way.

Another injustice done to the finances of the Corporation was the fixing by Act V of 1878, the annual figure of the liquor licenses as low as Rs. 1,43,157, whereas, as the Honourable Mr. Mehta pointed out last year, the actual income on that head amounts to about three lakhs. If their police charges are lowered, and the proper revenue on liquor licenses allowed, the Corporation, who have at present allotted Rs. 1,05,000 towards educational objects, will be, I trust, only too ready to contribute towards primary education and buildings in connection therewith. Mr. Kirkham takes the Corporation to task for not raising taxation for educational purposes. I hope he is aware that the Bombay rate-payer, rich as he is supposed to be, has been very heavily taxed, and the expenditure on the plague, as I shall show presently, has nearly swept off our surplus cash balances, and unless the Local and Imperial Governments are prepared to help us, I am afraid the already heavily taxed rate-payer will find it difficult to bear the additional burden of fresh taxation imposed on him especially in view of his heavy losses during the plague and famine due to paralysed industry and trade. I have heard with regret, my Lord, that Government have reduced their grant to the Victoria Technical Institute by Rs. 5,000. It is needless for me to remark that technical education is a plant of very recent growth in Bombay. It has been nursed and reared up by the Government, the Municipality, and the public, and the time has not yet arrived when it can prosper and grow without external help. The Corporation, in spite of their crippled finances, only the other day, at the instance of my friend Mr. N. N. Wadia, have increased their grant to that Institution from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 for the purpose of enabling the Board to engage the services of a qualified professor to teach sanitary engineering. I venture to hope, my Lord, that the claims of technical education will not suffer at the hands of your Excellency's Government.

Passing to the head Medical, I take this opportunity to express my sorrow that the Government have seen fit to increase the fees at the Grant Medical College. The scale of fees up to within a short time ago was Rs. 10 per mensem, whereas since last year it has been raised to Rs. 12, the increased fee being made payable by new students. The scale of fees in the Elphinstone College is Rs. 10, in the Deccan College Rs. 6-10, at the Science College Rs. 8, while at the Law School it is Rs. 4. I am not aware of the circumstances which have led the Government to enhance the scale of fees in the Medical College. The Grant Medical College being the only Medical College in the Presidency should have, really speaking, a smaller rate of fees. I do not believe the Government could have raised the fees on the score of revenue, because the increase, granting the number of students to be the same, is a mere trifle. But, as a matter of fact, the scale presses heavily on the poorer class of students. Some have actually to forego the advantage of medical education on account of their inability to meet the increased demands. I venture to hope that the matter will receive the earnest attention of Government, and that they will see fit to reconsider their decision in reference to it. The next point of importance under this head is the system of appointments to the professorial chairs in the Grant

Medical College. It has long been a conviction with me that the state of medical education in our Presidency is not so satisfactory as it should be, and I have expressed this conviction on different public occasions, and at the various discussions on the vexed M.B. question in the University Senate. I have not a word to say, my Lord, against the past or present Principals and Professors of the College. In fact some of them were my own teachers, others are my personal friends, and I have a very high regard for them. I believe the system of appointments is faulty, and the men are victims to it. Some of the past Principals have bitterly complained of this system in their annual reports. I mean the system of appointing men to suit the exigencies of the service and not the exigencies of the College. The teaching staff as well as the students suffer on account of frequent changes and appointing a Professor to teach several subjects in succession. The Bombay Medical Union, as the accredited mouthpiece of the native medical profession, memorialized the Government, and a Resolution No. 1979, November 1888, was passed by the Government of Lord Reay with the view of placing medical education on a better basis. The principle enunciated in that Resolution was to appoint a Professor after careful selection to teach one subject and to allow him to continue to work with the same subject without prejudice to his promotion in the service. There was a ray of hope that that Resolution would place medical education in the only Medical College in this Presidency on a sound basis. But, I am constrained to remark that owing to circumstances of which I have no knowledge, there has been a want of continuity in the policy enunciated in that Resolution. Knowing full well that your Lordship takes keen interest in medical education and the management of hospitals, I earnestly hope that this important question will receive due consideration at the hands of your Lordship's Government. No less important is the question of the status and pay of Civil Assistant Surgeons, a very useful class of public servants, recruited mainly from the medical graduates of the Bombay University. Many of them are doing very useful work in the Mofussil, and some of them are ornaments to the profession. Their status and emoluments have been originally fixed very low, in comparison to their worth, and, instead of being improved, have suffered a diminution for some time past. Their pay is graded from Rs. 100, rising by increments of Rs. 50 by septennial periods, after a searching examination each time, to the maximum of Rs. 200, with a handsome pension of Rs. 100 after thirty years' service, and each grade carrying an allowance of Rs. 50 in case of an independent charge. Their compeers in the Revenue, Judicial, and Engineering Departments are placed on much higher salaries, beginning with Rs. 150, and rising in their respective grades to Rs. 800, and in exceptional cases even more. Some of the Assistant Surgeons have been held eligible to act for Civil Surgeons for long periods, and, I believe, have given entire satisfaction in the discharge of their duties. In spite of this, I have heard of no instance in which they have been confirmed in these appointments. In the districts they do an important portion of the work of Civil Surgeons and thus lighten their labours. The Finance Commission of 1885 made a recommendation that at least five uncovenanted appointments of the grade of 2nd class Civil Surgeon should be reserved for the best Civil Assistant Surgeons. But I am grieved to remark that, during the last twelve years, only one Assistant Surgeon has been found fit to fill an appointment of that nature, and that at Sávantvádi, where the salary is paid by the State. Their grievances have been represented to Government, both by the profession and by themselves individually and collectively, but up to this time without any tangible result. I feel keenly, my Lord, on this point, because I was one of them, and know personally their grievances. I earnestly appeal to your Lordship that their grievances may receive a very careful and favourable consideration at the hands of the Government. In this connection I must not omit to mention the grievances of another class of medical servants, I mean the class of Hospital Assistants. I feel bound to place them prominently before Government, as they have been doing very useful work in the whole Presidency. Their pay and allowances are also very low, ranging from Rs. 25 to Rs. 60. In many cases they are placed in independent charge of Mofussil dispensaries and have very responsible duties to discharge. The lives of men and the ends of justice depend upon the skill and evidence of these low-paid Hospital Assistants. Under these circumstances, I think, they should be placed above all sorts of temptation.

Under the head of Grants-in-aid to Village Sanitation Committees a saving is shown. This strikes me as if very little is expended on village sanitation. The Village Sanitation Act, which was brought into existence during Lord Reay's régime, through the earnest and sympathetic representations of that philanthropic lady, Miss Florence Nightingale, has been in operation for about seven years. It does not, in my humble

judgment, appear to have done any tangible good. I have seen in some villages in the Deccan and Gujarát the old state of things still prevailing. I believe this arises from the Village Sanitation Committees being constituted of members who are ignorant of the very principles of hygiene, and are unable to do anything towards improvement in sanitation. Some rules relating to sanitation have been issued by Government for the guidance of these committees and the Circle Inspectors. But I am not aware if these are properly carried out. The Circle Inspectors have, as a part of their duty, to supervise the working of these committees, and to assist them with suggestions on sanitation from time to time. I am not in a position to know the qualifications of these Inspectors, nor as to whether they are required to possess a knowledge of the elementary principles of sanitation. I believe the addition of the village school-masters to the committees is desirable. These masters should be required to pass an examination in elementary hygiene in addition to the subjects already prescribed. This step is calculated to lead to some practical improvement, and I would here venture to make some suggestions for the sanitation of villages :—

I. Open spaces should be reserved outside the villages for the collection of manure. These spaces (*chara*) should be as far as possible on the northern or eastern side. They may be utilized as open latrines also.

II. In villages where the narvadári system is in force there are three pieces of ground allotted to each narvadár, *viz.*, the house, the house site, and a piece of land (*ghur*, *ghurdar* and *dubhan*). The first is used for human habitation, the second for tethering, cattle and the third which is generally on the outskirts of a village is used for depositing manure. In many cases owing to over-population or indifference these pieces of land are not used for their proper purposes.

III. Farm-houses should be encouraged so that the cultivators of Government land can tether their cattle and deposit their manure in the fields. The assessment for these farm-houses in Government land should be remitted. Any encouragement in this way will not only relieve the village of its over-population but will also be of great use in checking and altogether preventing epidemics. Ordinarily the manure is collected for six or eight months, beginning from June or the middle of May, and is removed to the fields in the month of May (*Waishakha*). Now that being the hot season it is precisely the time when the pits should not be disturbed. If therefore these manure heaps are removed to the fields near the farm-houses the difficulty will be removed. In some Native States, such as Lunavada, this farm-house system has been introduced.

IV. As for Hakálkhore service, it is better to improve on the old system than to introduce a new one. The old system is this. In every village there is a sweeper who is granted a field of two, three, or five acres free of rent for service to be rendered. He does the sweeping and other work and generally gets pieces of bread and food gratis every night from the villagers. These two are amply sufficient to maintain the sweeper and his family.

V. A larger area for a village site should be allotted to make room for increasing population. During the last thirty years though the population has increased, the area of village sites has not been extended.

VI. The system of founding Mawadas at some distance from the village on kharába land may also be used with advantage. In the Rewa Kántha Agency and in some of the States of Rájputána this system is in vogue and the Mawadas are called *falias*.

VII. As regards tanks, it so happens that in many cases the rain water from the villages runs into the tanks and fills them up. Village water is generally mixed with refuse and carries with it germs of disease. This should be stopped and rain water from the open spaces and fields outside should alone be allowed to run into the tanks. In the Rewa Kántha Agency and to a great extent in the Panch Maháls this system is followed and the water of such tanks is drunk without any detriment to health.

VIII. The system of allowing any Poisar (*Nelumbium Speciosum*) and Singoda (*Trapabispinosa*) to grow into tanks used for drinking purposes, either for man or beast, should wherever found be discouraged, while the system of digging and carrying away to the fields the tank refuse (*tan*) when the tank is dry in the hot season should be encouraged.

IX. As regards wells used for drinking purposes they are generally not bad, but all trees that grow near the well in such a way that the leaves fall into it should be removed, also the shrubs that grow on the sides and inside the well. All such wells should be supplied with small drains to carry off waste water and every such well should be cleaned every third year. Now and then permanganate of potash may be added to purify the water.

X. The enforcement of these rules must be left to the Village Circle Inspectors under the superintendence of the Mámlatdárs and the sanitary authorities. The Circle Inspector should possess knowledge of the ordinary principles of sanitation. The village headman and the mátdárs should be given a voice in the matter, but not much power nor great responsibility unless proved to possess some disinterestedness and knowledge of sanitation.

I notice that a grant of Rs. 5 lákhs is entered in the Statement as having been obtained from the Imperial Exchequer to meet Plague charges and to assist Mofussil Municipalities. Of this grant, I am informed, a lák and a half has been given away to the Karáchi Municipality, and Rs. 25,600 to the Poona Municipality, and the remaining sum is intended to cover the expenditure incurred by the Government on plague operations in the Presidency. It is understood that none of this grant is to be used as a subvention to the Bombay Municipality, and whatever portion of it will be given to the local bodies will be recovered from them gradually. It is rather a surprise to Bombay. The Bombay Municipal Corporation from the commencement of the plague up to now have not grudged a single pie for the purpose of ridding the city of this great scourge which has till now carried off about 30,000 of its inhabitants. They have spared neither money nor energy, and in spite of the calumnies and abuse that were showered on that much-maligned body as well as the Municipal Executive by irresponsible persons entirely ignorant of Municipal constitution and Municipal administration, I boldly assert, my Lord, that no Municipal body could have acted so zealously and could have shown itself so alive to a sense of its duty towards the city as the Bombay Municipality. The campaign with the plague was conducted from its beginning by the Municipal Executive and their subordinates with a zeal and earnestness which cannot be too highly praised. Due to these vigorous operations the plague began to decline from the middle of February, and even after the appointment of the Plague Committee they worked as zealously and loyally as before. Our best thanks are due to them for their arduous labours. The Plague Committee's operations were conducted by the Chairman with great tact, discretion, and ability, and gave entire satisfaction to the people. Bombay owes a deep debt of gratitude to the gallant Chairman, General Gatacre. I may point out that the expenditure on plague operations in Bombay up to the present time amounts to no less than Rs. 12,80,000, and a large part of it has been spent by the Plague Committee.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—Does not this include the whole of the conservancy charges that would have to be met in any case?

The Honourable Dr. BHALCHANDRA:—It is difficult to say, my Lord.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:—Does it not include all the work of the Health Department since last September including the charge for the vast army of sweepers?

The Honourable Dr. BHALCHANDRA:—No, my Lord. This is an addition to the budgetted grant for the ordinary expenditure of the Health Department. This was incurred from the surplus cash balance. Out of this sum Rs. 4,50,000 have been incurred by the Plague Committee, and there is at present before the Standing Committee a requisition from the Municipal Commissioner for a sum of Rs. 3,00,000, of which 2,00,000 are required by the Chairman of the Plague Committee for expenditure already incurred and to be incurred in future up to the end of the rains. This gives a total of Rs. 15,80,000, which have almost entirely swept away our surplus cash balances. Owing to the temporary paralysis of trade and industry in Bombay our Municipal revenues have suffered considerably, and the Municipal Commissioner has already foreshadowed fresh taxation as the only means of meeting the heavy demands of Municipal administration, as well as of meeting an additional expenditure of nearly five lákhs of rupees per annum for the re-organization of the Health Department, which is felt an urgent necessity by the Corporation, having regard to the needs of the city and the increased mortality. Under these circumstances I would appeal to your Lordship to keep a sympathetic corner in your Excellency's heart for the Bombay Municipality. Its claims are just. Your Lordship on

the occasion of taking the Plague administration out of the hands of the Municipality assured the Corporation that the suppression of the epidemic was a matter of "Imperial concern." I trust, therefore, that your Excellency will be pleased to represent this to the Imperial Government. If the Bombay Municipality are left out in the cold in the apportionment of Imperial aid there will be no encouragement to promote economy in municipal administration. I trust this will not be the reward to the Corporation for husbanding its resources so carefully to meet urgent necessities.

Passing on to famine relief I have very little to add to what has fallen from my friend the Honourable Mr. Chandavarkar. He has had opportunities of personally inspecting the famine relief camps. I had no such opportunities, but from the information I have been able to get and from the reports from the famine districts submitted to the Presidency branch of the famine relief fund, of which I am an humble member, I have been able to satisfy myself that the famine administration has been of a most satisfactory character, and your Lordship's Government deserves the highest praise for this. In this connection, my Lord, I would venture to make one suggestion. I have heard that some millowners in Bombay are short of mill-hands and they would be glad to have some skilled labour imported into Bombay, such as the weavers of Bijapur and Sholapur and other able-bodied persons. I merely throw out this suggestion for the consideration of your Lordship's Government, because it may perhaps relieve the hands of the Government to a certain extent.

Under the head of Civil Works, I wish to make one remark and that is with regard to the disinfecting chamber which, as mentioned in the Statement, is to be erected in Bombay. The necessity of such a chamber has long been felt and was felt most during the prevalence of the plague. If such a chamber is erected soon it will serve as a model for a similar chamber which the Bombay Municipality intend to erect.

With these few observations I beg cordially to thank your Lordship and the Council for giving me such a patient hearing.

At this stage the Council adjourned for half an hour.

The Honourable Mr. KIRKHAM said—Your Excellency,—The circumstances under which we meet this year are so entirely different from those that existed at the time of the last Budget discussion that I feel sure you will agree with me that any lengthy remarks on the subject of education such as seemed to be called for last year would now be out of place. In the state of war through which we have passed, or rather are still passing,—war with famine and war with plague, matters of life and death,—it is inevitable that education should for the time take a somewhat back place. All the same, Sir, I must say that looking at this Budget as a whole, those of us who are specially interested in education have not only no reason for complaint, but grounds for something like agreeable surprise. It has not been possible to provide for any great advance, but on the other hand we have been secured against any retrogression. My honourable friend Mr. Dharamsi commented on the reduction in building grants. The reduction is of course a matter for regret, but a temporary suspension of building operations does not affect educational efficiency. The object kept in view has been to maintain all educational institutions and agencies in existence in full efficiency and working order so that at the earliest possible moment after the return of prosperity our normal state of steady and continuous progress may be resumed. I feel sure the Council will recognize the practical wisdom of this course. Under these circumstances, I believe you will excuse me from discussing the educational details that have been referred to. I will not even be tempted to follow my friend the Honourable Dr. Bhalechandra, whose kindly reference to old times I cordially acknowledge in his provocative remarks on my controversy with the Honourable Mr. Mehta last year regarding the important subject of primary education in the City of Bombay. That controversy is on record, and I am perfectly content to allow judgment to go on the papers as they stand. I will, however, take the opportunity of expanding one hint I gave last year with regard to industrial competition in the Far East. I know from correspondence with educationists in Japan that they are there expending money like water on primary education for the artizan and industrial classes. The Japanese have learnt from Europe to recognize the fact that there is a very close relation between a skilful industrial class and efficient primary schools for the people. The millowners of Bombay will not open their eyes to this fact, and are, I believe, running a serious risk of industrial defeat in cotton-spinning at the hands of the Japanese. I will not detain the Council with details,

but I venture to warn Bombay that at no distant date we shall probably see Japanese foremen coming to Bombay and pushing the natives of the place from their stools. I notice that in the last issue of the *Indian Textile Journal*, a very ably conducted paper, it is stated that "there can be no doubt of the superior aptitude of the Japanese operatives, both male and female, for the work of spinning, and it will be no matter of surprise if they get ahead of Bombay in the matter of fine spinning." I will only add that this sort of competition is not to be met by a school-rate which still continues to be less than a half per cent. on the rental of the city.

The single subject on which I feel disposed to make a few remarks is of a strictly financial character, and that is, the claims on Government on the part of the City of Bombay, which have been foreshadowed in several of the speeches made to-day. Now, Sir, claims on the part of Bombay are usually very important for two reasons. In the first place they are usually big affairs and involve large amounts, and in the second place they are invariably urged with great ability and persistence. Now, I am in no way interested to anticipate what the decision of Government may be as to any claims the city may prefer for help from Provincial funds. They will, of course, receive, as they deserve to receive, the most careful consideration. But as I ventured to point out last year, when Bombay makes a claim upon Government, as it is called, if you look behind the word Government you see that the claim is really made upon the ryots of the Presidency, the poorest class, and I will also add the most important class, whose land-tax constitutes the largest part of the Provincial revenues. I have often thought that if my Bombay friends who urge so eloquently the claims of their great city on help from Government, would only substitute the words "the poor ryots" for the word "Government," they would often feel ashamed of the claims they make. We heard from the speech of the Honourable Dr. Bhalchandra, and to some extent also from that of the Honourable Mr. Dharamsi, that the citizens of Bombay are very heavily taxed, and that its finances are in a very critical state, and it is upon these grounds that Government is to be approached for special aid. But the Council must have observed that the Honourable Doctor gave neither proof nor illustration to enable us to judge what he meant by "heavily taxed." So far as I understand the matter, I deny categorically that Bombay is heavily taxed, and contend on the contrary that it is very lightly taxed, and to prove the point I ask the Council to compare the local taxation of Bombay with that imposed in England, in cities of anything like the same size and pretensions as Bombay. Unless we have some standard of comparison the words light and heavy can convey no definite meaning. I will take one example from figures I happen to have here.

We have heard a good deal to-day about the Police charges in Bombay which have been increased of late years by Government, and which are now represented to be crushing. Well, the police charges of Bombay amount to five lakhs of rupees per annum. But the annual rental of Bombay is roughly 250 lakhs per annum, and the police charges are, therefore, equivalent to a police rate of 2 per cent. Is this high or low? I say take a city something like Bombay in population and rank and compare. Take Liverpool. It has, I believe, a population of 641,000, its annual rental is £3,400,000, and its police force costs about £100,000 a year, equal to a police rate of 3 per cent. How then can it be said that the police charges of Bombay are high when they are much lower than those found necessary in a seaport like Liverpool, which has so many points of resemblance to Bombay. I will not go into further details. I wish merely to suggest to my former colleagues in the administration of Bombay that they must accustom themselves to compare their great city, not with small places, but with cities of the first rank elsewhere, and especially in England. If they do this, I believe they will arrive at the opinion at which I arrived many years ago, that the Municipal administration of Bombay is one of the cheapest in the world. Everyone knows that when a man takes a house in a large town in England he has to reckon on adding a third, say 30 per cent., to the rental for local taxation, whilst in some parishes of London it is actually above 40 per cent. Now, what is the local taxation of Bombay. It is, I believe, about 16 per cent. on the rental.

The Honourable Dr. BHALCHANDRA:—Our taxation is 17½ per cent.

The Honourable Mr. KIRKHAM:—Yes, but in that my honourable friend includes "wheel tax," which is only paid by those who ride in carriages, and against that I would point out that my calculation of 16 per cent. includes free water, which in most large cities is considered a service and paid for separately like gas. That, however, is a small

detail. Broadly you have the fact which is, I think, indisputable, that the local taxation of Bombay is about one-half of what it is in Western cities of first class rank which may fairly be compared with her. Now, one concluding word on the critical state of her finances. I believe, Sir, that at this moment the general tax of the city stands at 8 per cent. which is the minimum allowed by the Act. The Act prescribes a minimum of 8 per cent. and a maximum of 12 per cent., so that unless I am altogether mistaken there is a margin of 4 per cent. available. If my honourable friend Mr. Dharamsi will only move that in these times of plague and famine it is necessary to collect the General Tax at 12 per cent., and if Dr. Bhalchandra will second it, and the members of the Corporation raise their hands, the Corporation will at once have ten lakhs of rupees a year in addition to their present resources.

The Honourable Mr. DHARAMSI :—Sir Charles Ollivant well knows that the thing is impossible.

The Honourable Mr. KIRKHAM :—In that case it is fortunate that Sir Charles will be in the Council to protect the interests of the city. I am quite willing to leave the matter in his hands. My point is that I desire to put in a plea for the ryot against the landlords of Bombay when they seem disposed to make claims that threaten his interests. It is useless to express pity for the ryot and advocate suspensions and remissions of taxation, and at the same time make claims on behalf of Bombay which must ultimately in one form or another fall on his shoulders. Bombay must learn the lesson of self-help.

The Honourable Mr. A. ABERCROMBIE said :—I desire, Your Excellency, to make a few remarks upon a subject which has not, in my opinion, received the consideration to which it is entitled. I find that in respect to Irrigation the Budget contains an item of 26½ lakhs of rupees. Mr. Nugent has kindly given me some further information on the subject, and tells me that there has been a grant of Rs. 3,30,000 for works in progress, chiefly in Sind, and 22 lakhs for maintenance. This means that at a time when we have spent something like 67 lakhs of rupees on account of famine relief we are spending something under four lakhs of rupees, and that chiefly in Sind, for one of the most important preventives of famine. It seems to me that this grant is sadly inadequate. Instead of increasing expenditure for the purpose of insuring tracts of country against famine by supplying means of irrigation, Government are reducing such expenditure. So far as works in the Presidency proper are concerned, the accounts for 1895-96 show that 27 lakhs of rupees were expended on irrigation, and the revised estimates for the year 1896-97 provide 28 lakhs of rupees for this purpose, while the estimates for the current year only allot 26½ lakhs to irrigation. I am told that irrigation does not pay, and I am not sufficiently acquainted with the subject to say how far this view is correct. But I see that in the accounts against the 22 lakhs charged for maintenance, there is a revenue of 17½ lakhs; so that on this basis there is only a loss of 4½ lakhs, which cannot be regarded as a large amount, in view of the benefits which irrigation confers.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—I desire to point out to the honourable member that the expenditure on irrigation is an Imperial charge with the exception of one item. Although I agree with the views of the honourable member I hardly consider that it is within the province of this Council to discuss the question, as the expenditure is Imperial.

The Honourable Mr. ABERCROMBIE :—I am afraid then I must sit down. I was told that the amounts spent on irrigation were set forth in the Budget.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT :—The only irrigation charge which is provincial is that of the Gokak Canal; all the other expenditure under this head is Imperial.

The Honourable Mr. ABERCROMBIE :—All I desire to do, my Lord, is to point out the desirability of increasing the irrigation grant, at a time when so much is being spent on famine relief.

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT said—Your Excellency,—When, owing to unfortunate circumstances our finances are truncated, our speeches must, more happily, follow suit, and I will therefore confine myself to the one or two points only which concern the department with which I am most immediately connected. First of all, I notice that the Honourable Mr. Dharamsi referred to the question of the insolvency fees, but as the matter is still under consideration, I am unable to make any answer beyond that contained in my reply to one of the questions. A more important matter to which Mr. Chandavarkar referred was that of the condition of appointments in this Presidency to the Judicial branch of the service. When I first arrived in this country, if I had one



aspiration more than another it was that some day or other I might attain to the High Court bench, but unfortunately my ambitions were summarily cut short by a too despotic superior. I am able to assure the honourable member that no influence of that kind is at present at work, and that one of the great objects of Government is to make one branch of the service as popular as the other, and to secure the highest dignity they possibly can to the Judicial service. There have been instances here and there, and there will be again, of men who are equally fitted to adorn either the Bench or the Revenue service, and the fact that they join the one or the other often arises from their own choice or from accident rather than from the action of the authorities in making a particular selection. I have reason to believe that the gentleman to whom Mr. Chandavarkar referred as being transferred from the Judicial to the Revenue service was so transferred of his own free will. He, if I am right in my conjecture as to the officer alluded to, has served under me, and I have no hesitation whatever in stating that at the time he was in Judicial work he was longing for enfranchisement and wishing to get back to the more congenial Revenue work. The Honourable Dr. Bhalchandra Krishna touched on the happily impending solution of the question between the Government and the Municipality regarding police charges, and I was glad to notice that he thought that any minor point remaining for settlement should be dealt with upon an amicable basis, instead of upon a legal basis. I must congratulate your Excellency on having for the first time, at any rate for many years, a representative of the medical profession upon the Council. I have had the pleasure of knowing Dr. Bhalchandra's practical business qualities on another board, and I am sure that all who have heard him to-day will feel how valuable his suggestions have been in regard to those matters which more immediately concern his own profession. But he alluded, and I will take advantage of the allusion, to the drawback which attends a man who is called upon to deal with five entirely different subjects in succession, and I feel that would apply to me if I attempted to follow him through the various matters on which he touched. Some of them were matters of such interest and importance that I respectfully offer the suggestion that it may be well if at subsequent meetings of this Council he sends in notice of questions in a concrete shape so that I may be in a position to prepare a reply to them. But in regard to one particular matter of which he treated—the position of Civil Assistant Surgeons—though I am not prepared to go into the question fully, it struck me that there was one point of view not sufficiently alluded to. These Assistant Surgeons are in a position to take fees in their private practice, whereas their contemporaries in the Public Works Department have not that opportunity. Both the Honourable Dr. Bhalchandra and another member referred to the question of village sanitation. I am quite certain that within reason the Government would be only too glad to afford facilities for extending village sites where cases of overcrowding are substantiated. With regard to other features of village sanitation, I confess that, speaking for myself, I am not at all in favour of causing irritation by worrying the people into ways and methods to which they are not accustomed. The lack of sanitation which we all deplore is far more likely to be remedied by the diffusion of general education and by the large cities setting a good example. It is to these cities that the young men resort for their education, and when they go back to their villages they can take with them enlarged views regarding sanitation which will react favourably upon their fellow-villagers. This is a better way than to force upon people sanitary improvements which they do not understand and which therefore may prove no improvements at all. One more remark of the honourable member deserves attention. He referred to a desire on the part of some of the mill-owners of Bombay to obtain labour from the Government relief-works. On that most interesting subject I should like to have further information. From my recent visit to Bombay, so far as I am in a position to speak at all (and I do not care to speak without more certain information), the sanitary condition of Bombay seems rather to demand that overcrowding of the working classes should be remedied by providing attractions and labour outside of Bombay than by encouraging more people to crowd into the city when so many of them are in a bad physical condition. I notice this great rise in the mortality has chiefly occurred in the very section of the city which has been drawn attention to by the Army Sanitary Commission, and which is the one to which the mill-hands most resort. If we provide more labour locally, more people will crowd into the city, and have to be dealt with there. The better way is to provide some counter attraction in places where the people can be more healthy, because the population is not so congested, and because they can be located under more favourable conditions as to dryness of atmosphere and subsoil. I have only one other matter to refer to before

I sit down, and that is the general tone of sympathy which prevailed in the speeches of the honourable members who have addressed this Council. I can only say that being here, as I am, for the first time as a member of Government, I could hardly remain unmoved whilst I heard these remarks. I know well what has been the strain upon Government, and I can speak with the greater liberty in appreciation of the kindly sentiments expressed by honourable members because I was not a member of the Government which had to deal with famine and plague in the first instance. But I have been sufficiently behind the scenes to know how earnest and unremitting have been the labours of Government, and I was glad to hear honourable members say how successful have been the efforts of those upon whom the strain has rested. Mistakes may have been made, but at any rate, whatever mistakes were made, those who know anything about Englishmen, know that they are not irresponsive to the generous sentiments of others, and all Englishmen who have been connected with the recent operations cannot fail to appreciate the sympathy of the natives of this country. The longer one has lived among the natives of the country, and the more years one has spent in service here, the more he appreciates utterances and sentiments such as we have heard to-day. We may still have troubles before us, but going hand-in-hand to meet them I have no doubt of the result.

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT said—Your Excellency.—Many changes, some disastrous, have occurred since the last Budget meeting of this Council in August 1896, and our position is far less favourable in all respects than it was a year ago. Then we had had up to that date an ample, indeed if anything, too heavy a rainfall; the crops generally were flourishing; a bumper harvest was anticipated; the population was healthy; no epidemic prevailed; and our finances were in a satisfactory condition, enabling Government to contemplate a material additional outlay on public works, and also to strengthen in certain directions departmental establishments and to improve their pay and prospects. But, unhappily, speedily after the Budget meeting our sky became covered with clouds which have not yet rolled by. The monsoon ceased abruptly. The harvest in by far the greater part of the Central Division and in portions of the Southern Division was very deficient. Even the coast districts suffered. After a short time we had to recognise that a famine had to be faced, and thanks to the zeal and ability and indefatigable labours of the officers of the Land Revenue, Public Works, and other departments, on whom it fell to meet the emergency and to carry out the policy and orders of Government, the famine has, I think I may say, been faced with commendable success. There has been no starvation: there has been no misery: there has been no appalling suffering. So far the supply of relief-works has amply sufficed to meet the demand for employment of the people, men, women, and children, thrown on the works and their adjuncts, and, besides, maintaining hundreds of thousands on the various works started in the affected districts, Government have made provision for the support of the destitute in the other ways authorised by the Famine Code and have granted immense sums for distribution in the form of loans and tagai advances. Every effort possible was made to provide for the requirements of the cattle of the cultivators in the famine-stricken districts, and thousands of tons of grass, mainly in Thána and Khândesh, were collected, pressed, despatched, and sold by a special agency, controlled by Mr. Shuttleworth, the Conservator of Forests of the Central Circle. Notwithstanding this, myriads of cattle have died from lack of fodder. It is, however, consolatory to know that in this Presidency no loss of human life has been caused by starvation. This result, though, has only been attained by a huge outlay which, combined with other inevitable but unforeseen expenditure, has crippled our finances to such an extent, that this Government is practically insolvent, and has had to fall back for funds to carry on the administration on the Government of India, which has met with prompt and generous liberality our requests for aid. To show the enormous financial strain which the famine has thrown on the Government, I may mention that the outlay on famine-relief in 1896-97 amounted in round numbers to thirty-two lakhs, and that the estimated expenditure for relief in the current year is over sixty-seven lakhs, of which about thirty-one and one-third lakhs had been spent up to June 30 last. In addition to this immense sum, some thirty-six and three-quarter lakhs were granted as takávi advances in 1896-97, and about twenty and a quarter lakhs have been given this year. The money thus lent will, it is hoped, be eventually recovered from the borrowers. The bulk has been expended on the sinking of wells and the improvement of land, and has afforded

profitable employment to large numbers of persons, who would otherwise have resorted to our relief-works, in addition to conferring a benefit on those to whom the funds were advanced by facilitating the irrigation of their lands and bettering the productive capacity of their holdings. Much also has been given to enable cultivators to purchase seed and plough cattle and to maintain themselves until they can reap the harvest and realise a part of the proceeds. A full list of the works which have been carried out and are in progress in the various affected districts with a view to furnishing labour for those in need of food and employment would be as lengthy as, and not much more interesting than, the catalogue of the ships in Homer. Broadly speaking, those works have chiefly been road-making, road-repairing, preparation of a stock of road metal calculated to last for many years to come, irrigational tank embankments, dams and canals, or distributories, and railway earth-works. To road-making, road-repairing, and collection of road metal there obviously must sooner or later be an end, and we are now nearing the completion of most of the works of this nature which can with any profit be undertaken in the majority of the affected districts. It is of little advantage to construct roads which when finished cannot from lack of requisite rupees be maintained in efficient order by Provincial or Local funds. The number of roads to be repaired is limited to the number of roads in existence and needing repairs, and it is of no gain to accumulate gigantic stocks of road metal which cannot be utilised within the span of life of this and of the coming generation. Our mainstay, therefore, for the immediate future and for a still further period, should the present monsoon fail us, is the construction of new and the improvement of existing tanks and their auxiliary works, combined with such railway extensions, as may be found feasible. These undertakings will furnish suitable employment, concentrated at comparatively few places, for immense numbers of labourers. That the tanks will as an investment of capital prove remunerative I should hesitate to assert. They may not, probably will not, yield a large return on the money expended on them. In a year of copious rainfall the cultivators may not care to draw water from them to irrigate the lands: in a year of deficient rainfall they may not fill, or only fill partially. But in any case they are likely to prove more beneficial and of greater use than a multitude of roads, which are not urgently required, and which cannot be kept in satisfactory repair. In regard to railways much valuable work has already been supplied by the earth-work of intended extensions of the Barsi Light Railway line to Pandharpur and Sangola, and on this line there may possibly be, hereafter, still further extensions. Railway projects are also either in progress or very shortly to be taken in hand in Khândesh and elsewhere, and should the worst come to the worst, and another season of partial famine be in store for us, the earth-works required for the eventual doubling of the G. I. P. Railway line from Sholapur to Lanowli will supply occupation as a famine-relief work for a large number of people. It is far too early yet to venture on any prediction, even on any conjecture, as to how the present season will turn out. In many districts the rainfall in June and the first half of July was on the whole scanty and inadequate, but the situation has been materially improved by the recent rain, and affairs look more promising than they did three weeks ago. With seasonable rain this month and in September, the customary storms later on in the year in the Deccan, and a favourable Madras monsoon in the south-eastern portion of the Presidency, where now perhaps things look worst, we may trust to be at the end of our famine troubles and outlay by November, but even should this good fortune be ours, I anticipate that the number of people on our works and in receipt of relief will continue to be large until the beginning of October, and that we shall be unable to relax our efforts until then, to furnish employment and to maintain the indigent population in good health and heart. I beg to thank the honourable Messrs. Khare, Gokuldas, Chandavarkar and Dr. Bhalchandra for their sympathetic remarks on the conduct of famine operations in this Presidency by this Government, and for their cordial recognition of the success of the measures adopted to cope with the famine and to ameliorate the condition of the hard-pressed poor. It is gratifying to find that such intelligent and able critics fully approve of the action we have taken, and I most fully appreciate their kindly expressions. In our case, too, the truth of the adage, that misfortunes never come singly, has been exemplified. Putting aside recent events in Poona, to which I do not propose to refer here, simultaneously with the advent of the famine, the plague appeared in Bombay, and after creating there sad havoc, leading to a large exodus of the population greatly hampering all trade and business and seriously affecting the local mill industry, it spread to the adjoining districts, north, south and

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east, and reaching Sind, Poona and Cutch, wrought there great destruction of human life. The expenditure incurred in the combat with the pestilence is to be reckoned by lakhs, and though this outlay has probably proved the salvation of the lives of many thousands, it has still further augmented the difficulties of our financial condition, sorely tried already by the famine, which whilst entailing enormous expenditure has also led to a reduction of land revenue in the form of remissions and suspensions of collection. Eventually, probably most of the money spent on plague operations will be recovered from the various local bodies within the limits of whose jurisdiction the outlay for the purpose has been incurred, but even allowing for this the charge borne and to be borne by Government is very considerable. That Municipal and Local Boards should pay from their own funds the cost of preserving the lives of the persons residing within their areas, and, checking or warding off plague by the adoption of approved sanitary measures, seems but equitable and proper.

And in this Council itself not a few changes have occurred. Some familiar faces are no longer present. Some new-comers have to be welcomed. *Uno avulso non deficit alter*. The uncrowned king of the Corporation is absent for the time in England, where I believe and trust, his health has greatly improved. Mr. Wadia has also gone. We have lost for ever the outpourings of the *mitis sapientia*, mingled with many a cough of Mr. Javerilal, and his comprehensive researches into the numerous subjects in which he took an interest. Mr. Setalwad, too, has been removed, happily not by the hand of death, but as a consequence of the transfer of the affections of the Municipalities of the Northern Division, and we have no longer the benefit of the investigations instituted by his microscopic eye and active and inquisitive mind. He has ceased for a time at least to flutter the dovescots of the Bombay Courts, and to search with unremitting vigilance for the weak points in our harness and defective joints in our armour. And of the English gentlemen who attended the Budget meeting last year, Messrs. Birdwood, Little and Mackenzie will never again sit at this table, having now retired on well-earned pensions.

I feel myself to-day very much in the same predicament as was the ancient traveller when he found himself with nothing in his pockets in the presence of the Roman robbers. I trust I shall not be charged with having accused some of my honourable native colleagues of being dacoits. I can sing a song of sixpence, or any other song because I have absolutely nothing to give, and no entreaties or menaces can wring from me a rupee for any object, however intrinsically meritorious. It is therefore consolatory to find that my honourable non-official colleagues acknowledge the fact and have not pressed for the immediate grant of additional sums for various objects. Various honourable members have referred to the Provincial Contract, and made suggestions concerning it and the principles on which it should be framed, and regarding alterations in it which appeared to them desirable. I can assure these gentlemen that in the course of the negotiations with reference to the new contract which came into operation on April 1st last, this Government did their best to secure the most favourable possible terms for the Bombay Presidency, and I am bound to admit that I do not think that as a whole we have been very harshly treated by the Supreme Government. The Honourable Mr. Dharamsi, as I understood, is of opinion that the Local Government should bear all charges in connection with a famine when a famine does occur and that to enable them to do so the contract should be so framed as to provide the Local Government with a large annual surplus over and above its estimated yearly expenditure in normal times, and that this surplus should be allowed to accumulate and to form a fund from which when a famine did visit the land the entire outlay in connection with the famine should be defrayed. In other words, he would lock up for many years, perhaps ten, possibly twenty, that is for a period of four consecutive contracts, and conceivably even more, what would be a huge sum, and leave the money lying idle and yielding no return of any description until an emergency arose when it would be required. To such a scheme the Government of India would I should say certainly refuse assent, and for my part I could not recommend the adoption of such a project which in my opinion has little if anything to commend it. The system now in force appears to me to be in every way preferable. We are required to maintain a fixed minimum balance, only to be trenched upon in most exceptional circumstances. We are given a certain annual income consisting partly of a fixed lump assignment, partly of the proceeds of our share of the revenue under certain specified heads, and partly of the entire revenue under certain other heads; and with this income we have to meet our expenditure, cutting our coat according to our cloth,

and, as a rule, we are better off at the end than we were at the beginning of a contract. But such an arrangement is obviously designed to meet only normal times and ordinary circumstances. It clearly does not provide, and cannot provide, for exceptional calamity, such as famine, and for the extraordinary outlay which such a misfortune necessitates. When the calamity does befall us we have then, as in the present instance, first to exhaust our own resources to meet it, and then to seek the requisite assistance and funds from the Government of India. This method of dealing with the difficulty seems to me the simplest and the best, and under it the Government of India have as a matter of fact to bear the bulk of the famine charges in every Province where severe famine prevails over an extensive area, as the means at the disposal of the Local Government are insufficient to enable them to meet the whole burden. The accumulation of a large balance greatly in excess of our wants is an unprofitable locking-up of capital, and as painful experience has taught us, is to be avoided, for as once before remarked it tempts the Imperial Assyrian at Simla or Calcutta to come down on our fold and carry off many of our idle lambs. The deviation from the existing system which the Honourable Mr. Gokuldas apparently advocates, is that the Government of India should bear all famine expenses, leaving us our full ordinary income to meet our ordinary outgoings; in other words, we should not contribute at all from our balance or our current revenue towards meeting the cost of a famine. This doubtless would be for the Local Government an agreeable arrangement, but it is opposed to the principles which constitute the basis of the contract. It is to my mind barely equitable, and it is useless to expect that the Government of India would accede to such a suggestion. Further, as I have already remarked, the Supreme Government does perforce bear the bulk of all famine charges. The Honourable Mr. Gokuldas is in favour also of a revision of the terms of the contract. He thinks that our lump assignment out of the land revenue of the Presidency is too small, that it should be increased, and that we should be given a larger proportion of the receipts under the shared heads. Of course, I should like to have more money to spend. I wish that the honourable member's suggestion could be carried out, as it would obviously be a great gain to this Presidency. But there are two partners to the bargain and in the business, and we cannot leave out of consideration the wants of the senior partner. His requirements as well as our needs have to be met out of the general estate or business in which we may be regarded as a junior-paid partner, with a certain share in the profits. It must be remembered that the Government of India have to bear the cost of all the military and naval forces, of various purely Imperial departments and establishments, of interest on Indian Government loans, of home charges and pensions, and of the Supreme Government itself, to say nothing of other minor items, and that to meet this expenditure it must of necessity draw its funds from the revenues of the various provinces or rather the State revenues collected in those provinces. We cannot expect to pocket the whole of the Bombay Presidency revenues, and in existing circumstances, and pending the advent of the millennium, it would, I apprehend, be of little avail to invite the Government of India to kindly make our share of income under the shared heads a much larger fraction than it now is. The suggestions for the modification of the contract seem therefore to me to be for the present beyond the range of practical politics and finance. The Honourable Mr. Dharamsi appears to think we are unfairly treated in having to pay from Provincial funds the sums given to Native States for opium compensation. I am unable to agree with him, seeing that provision to meet the charge is made in the contract. This is not a new or unforeseen demand to meet, for which there is no cover on the credit side. As regards the reduction, which the Government of India directed to be made in the estimated expenditure in our Budget, it indubitably has pressed hard on us, and I doubt if the full reduction is feasible, or can be actually effected, but we had to carry out orders, and adjust it in the manner we deemed most practicable and expedient for the time being, the luckless Public Works Department being in the end the chief sufferer. The only other remark made by the Honourable Mr. Dharamsi, to which perhaps I need refer relates to the grant of remissions of land revenue in the districts where famine obtains. I can only say that the local officers are naturally the best judges as to where and to what extent remissions should be given, that Government have full confidence in them and trust to their discretion, and that their recommendations are accepted. Allusion was made by the Honourable Mr. Gokuldas to the subject of exchange compensation allowance, and to what he deemed the unfairness of imposing this charge on Provincial revenues without any corresponding credit. It is true that when this allowance was first sanctioned during the currency of the contract which has just expired

its incidence fell on Provincial revenues, and the Government of India, when applied to, declined to give us an additional assignment to meet it. This was, of course, somewhat hard on us, but the Supreme Government contended that it was a consequence of the terms of the contract that we should bear the new charge without an enhanced grant to cover it. In the new contract, however, the requisite provision has been entered, and no grievance therefore now exists on this score. The same honourable member contended, as I gathered from his remarks, that it was not proper that Local Funds should be called upon to make provision for famine relief works. From this view I must express my dissent. On the contrary, I can perceive no more useful or appropriate object on which Local Fund money can be spent. The cost is levied for the benefit of the population of a district. One-third has by law to be expended on educational purposes, the remaining two-thirds are available for outlay on works such as wells, communications, and the like. I cannot see how this money can be laid out to greater advantage than in carrying on with it public works, which will not only prove hereafter of service to the cess-payers, but will also at the same time provide suitable occupation for the poor of the district and assist in preserving their lives in times of suffering and distress.

Mr. Gokuldas is, I think, under some misapprehension in holding that the action of Government in levying a fine when agricultural land is converted into non-agricultural land, or in other words, is rendered incapable of being cultivated by the erection on it of buildings, presses harshly on the rural population, by creating overcrowding in existing village sites, and thereby injuring the health of the villagers. In respect of providing additional land for new sites in an ordinary village when increase of population renders an enlargement of the village site desirable, or of giving new village sites when the former sites are found to be unhealthy or liable to be flooded, Government always act with liberality. Fines are not imposed, and the land, if waste, is given free or for a merely nominal charge, or if, as has been the case in several instances which recently have come before me, the land is occupied and is bought by the villagers from the holders. Government purchase it from the villagers for the sum so paid by them, and it is parcelled out amongst intending house-builders, and an amount equivalent to that paid for the land is recovered from them. In the instance of towns and large villages, which might almost be described as towns, the case is different. There when the population expands, and the trade and importance of the place increase, and when for these or other reasons the value of the land immediately surrounding the town is materially raised a fine varying in amount according to circumstances is levied. It is but fair that Government as the owner of the land should share with the tenant the unearned increment in the value of the land when it is converted from cultivated ground into building sites. I agree with the Honourable Dr. Bhalchandra as to the intrinsic expediency of the various sanitary improvements suggested by him, but there are two difficulties in the way: first, there is the conservative instinct of the ordinary villager and his dislike of all change and callousness regarding the need for cleanliness of his surroundings which he cannot understand and is not keen to secure; and secondly, there is the fact that generally the land immediately around a village is occupied and that sites for clusters of separate dung heaps and the like are not procurable.

The Honourable Dr. Bhalchandra has referred to the question of the forest tribes in Thána and the privileges allowed to them in the Government forests. It seems only necessary to say with regard to this matter that several months ago on consideration of the circumstances Government suspended the operation of the order passed some ten months ago withdrawing from the forest tribes privileges in forest which they had previously exercised. The suspension was nominally temporary, but the restrictions on forest privileges imposed last year will not, I think, be re-imposed—at all events not with the same rigid and comprehensive effect. I am unable to agree with the honourable member in his eulogy of the Katharis as honest and law-abiding people. I know them well when I served as Assistant Collector in Thána for three years, and unless since then their morals have greatly improved and they have gained a keener perception of the difference between *meum* and *tuum*, they certainly do not merit this description of them. Perhaps they rarely are guilty of very serious crime, but as thieves on a small scale they are difficult to beat.

The Honourable Dr. Bhalchandra has revived the well-worn subject of the adequacy of the annual ábkári compensation paid to the Bombay City Municipality. I do not pro-



pose to refer at length to this matter. I can only repeat what I have said before more than once that the amount of the compensation has been fixed by law, that Government are not prepared to re-open the question, and that as far as I can see the Municipality has no legal or equitable claim to an increase of the sum paid yearly to it. The Honourable Mr. Khare has mentioned the subject of the Devghad Taluka Khots and the necessity for legislation with reference to them. Government admit that the Khoti Act must be amended, and a Bill to effect the alterations deemed requisite has been drafted, is now under consideration, and will, I trust, ere long be introduced. The Honourable Mr. Abercrombie has made some remarks on the subject of irrigation and the advisability of extending it. Irrigational revenue and expenditure are however Imperial with the exception of a comparatively small irrigational work at Gokak in the Belgaum Collectorate, which has been provincialised for reasons which I need not detail. I would, however, point out to the honourable member that of the very large sum amounting to many lakhs which has been advanced by Government to occupants of land fully one-half, I should say, and probably more, has been laid out in the sinking of wells for irrigational purposes, and will thus materially increase the irrigable area, as each well thus sunk will suffice to supply water for the cultivation of several acres of land. I do not think I need further detain the Council. I have I hope referred to most of the subjects touched on in the debate. The rest have been dealt with by my honourable colleague, Sir Charles Ollivant, and the Honourable Mr. Kirkham, or will be referred to by His Excellency the President. The comments on the budget have not on this occasion been as numerous and varied as usual; adverse criticisms have been few: and it only remains for me again to thank honourable non-official members who have to-day addressed the Council for their courteous and interesting observations.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT said—My honourable Colleagues,—Under the rules of this Council it is provided that the budget discussion shall be closed by the President if he has any remarks to make. I have a few remarks to make, particularly on a subject with which I have been more intimately connected than either of the other members of Government, but before I come to that I must say something regarding the changes in the Council itself. This is the second occasion on which I have had to welcome new members and to regret the loss and departure of others. Some members have appealed to their constituents, and, as in the case of elections in all countries, some have been fortunate enough to be returned and others have lost their seats. Amongst the latter is Mr. Setalvad with his great anxiety for information—an anxiety with which I have never once quarrelled. He is an energetic young man and I have no doubt that during the time he is absent from the Council, he will find other fields for the talents and energies he undoubtedly possesses. I regret in common with all members present the absence of the Honourable Mr. Mehta who possesses a record of public life which is most honourable to himself. I sincerely hope and I am encouraged to believe, from the enquiries I have made, that the operation he went to England to have performed has been successfully carried out, and I hope we shall soon see him in public life and at this Council table in his former health and strength. I regret the loss of my honourable colleague, Mr. Birdwood, although his post is filled by so able an officer as Sir Charles Ollivant. We all know that for many years he rendered faithful service to this country and our good wishes for a lengthy leisure have followed him to his home. Another personage I miss, not only from this table, but also in my bi-weekly meetings with Government officers is my friend Mr. Little, whose portly form we shall not see here again. During his long service in this country he proved to all the value of his counsels and the breadth of his views on all subjects; he was a friend of all, and we lose in him a public servant of very great value to Government. We welcome however several new members of Council, amongst them Mr. Chandavarkar, whom I did not previously know, and Dr. Bhalchandra. Both have proved themselves in their various walks of life men of ability and also so far as the latter is concerned, of administrative capacity, and I cannot but think that they will be a source of strength to us. Mr. Gokuldas has hitherto not been personally known to me, but I observe with pleasure that he takes considerable interest in the various subjects with which this Council is concerned.

As has already been mentioned this Presidency has passed through a most terrible year. In November last I visited Surat and I had an opportunity of shadowing forth the policy of the Government of Bombay in regard to famine, should it unfortunately rise to the proportions which it unhappily reached. But it was then impossible to foresee

that the Government of Bombay would simultaneously find itself face to face with a foe more insidious, more damaging to commerce, more fatal, slow perhaps in its movement, but fatally sure, namely plague. Of the famine my colleague, Mr. Nugent, and the officers of Government who worked under him have unhappily in one sense had experience to guide them, and that experience did a great deal towards assuring the success of the energies that were put forth in combating scarcity. But in regard to plague we had not similar experience to guide us. What is more, the daily returns from the Municipal Health Department, at the time of which I am speaking, November, led one to believe (I don't say erroneously) that the mortality from the disease was not increasing. Before I left Mahableshwar, about the third week in November, we were encouraged to believe that the outbreak was not gaining ground. But unfortunately these hopes were not fulfilled, and the mortality suddenly mounted up. Thus we had a combination of famine and plague calculated to strain to the utmost all the powers, nay, the possibilities of administration; not only the resources of the Bombay Government, but also those of the Government of India. I sincerely trust and pray that it may not be the lot of any future Governor or Government in Bombay to have to deal with so terrible a combination as this. With regard to the famine it is true that the responsibility for the conduct of operations against it, like all other administrative responsibility, lies with the Government of Bombay as a whole. But I noticed that throughout his speech my honourable colleague, Mr. Nugent, with characteristic modesty, spoke of the operations of Government, and did not let it appear that it was upon him that the burden of dealing with the famine principally rested. In conjunction with the Honourable Mr. Monteatl, combined with the officials of various departments, Mr. Nugent is entitled to the whole credit of the success in the famine administration of which such cordial acknowledgment has been given by all non-official members to-day.

It will be remembered that some time during the month of December a public meeting was called by the Sheriff of Bombay for the purpose of starting a charitable relief fund. I was asked to preside at that meeting, and I had great pleasure in doing so. It is interesting to relate the success of the appeal then made to the public for funds. I need not remind this Council, especially such members of it as the Chairman of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, and also the Chairman of the Port Trust, of the sad havoc the plague and famine combined were making of the commerce and industry of Bombay. But in spite of the depressed condition of trade, in sums ranging from a few rupees to 10,000 rupees the amount collected by the Bombay Fund was upwards of 2,43,000 rupees. In this sum are included sums from different parts of the Presidency and Aden. Aden sent Rs. 18,000, Ahmedabad Rs. 8,000, Bhavnagar Rs. 25,000, and so on. In addition to this we received from the Central Fund in Calcutta nearly 12 lakhs of rupees, making in all about Rs. 14,36,000. This charitable help being in addition to the work done by Government has contributed greatly to the success of famine operations. I am informed that there exists the greatest gratitude for what has been done amongst the poor and suffering. It is gratifying that such spontaneous generosity has been shown and has been gratefully received. It is also satisfactory to note (a circumstance which my honourable colleague was again far too modest to refer to) that the famine administration besides meeting with the approval of non-official members of this Council has called forth the most generous eulogies from the Government of India.

The members of the Council are aware that I have not had any opportunity of late of saying any word in public in regard to the administration of plague measures, of which I myself have had charge. It is true that I made one speech to a deputation of the Chamber of Commerce last February. I then took the opportunity to acknowledge the generosity with which the actions of the Government of Bombay had been viewed by Press and public, when serious criticisms, even though not well founded, might have been looked for. A great deal has happened since then. It has been, indeed, a long and terrible struggle, and I need not go over its history so far as Bombay is concerned. Honourable members will remember the formation of the Gatacre Committee when Government considered that the operations must be entrusted to a special agency. When that Committee undertook its functions a decrease in the mortality had already commenced. The weekly number of deaths had fallen from nearly 1,900 to about 1,400, so that the improvement was obvious. But we cannot be too thankful—I doubt whether we can be sufficiently thankful—for the extraordinary energy, the great tact and the absolute self-sacrifice of the gallant general who was Chairman of that Committee, further than that I should like

to mention the work done by the Sisters, both Catholic and Protestant, who both before and after the arrival of the nurses from England did so much of the nursing of plague patients at the Parel Hospital and elsewhere. Not only is Government grateful to them for their devoted and self-denying labours, but also the public have every reason to be grateful, and in many cases patients have recognised after leaving hospital the kindness bestowed upon them.

I am also glad to take this opportunity of recognising the help afforded by the Justices of the Peace in response to an appeal I made to them at a meeting in the Town Hall in February last. There was very generous response to the application I made to them for voluntary help and a great number of the Justices worked throughout the operations and did very valuable service indeed. The result of all this self-denying labour is that for some weeks past the plague has been nearly extinct. It is true there is some ground for anxiety in the death-rate being so abnormally high. But about three weeks ago I suggested a searching enquiry as to the causes of this increase, and I find that so far as can possibly be discovered, it is not due to any disease with bubonic symptoms. I paid a flying visit to Karachi after plague had assumed epidemic proportions there, and a plague committee was instituted. Its operations have been controlled by the Commissioner in Sind, Mr. Wingate, under whom I put all the officers concerned, and the work that has been done there has been most unceasing, most unselfish and splendid. I would here add in addition to what I have said of the work of the civilians, that the Plague Committee was presided over by General Cooke, military were employed in the service of General Cooke, and the soldiers of all ranks are entitled to our praise and thanks. There again, we are glad to observe that the plague has even more nearly disappeared. But it is not only the Plague Committees specially constituted to whom recognition is due. In almost every place in the Presidency if we had not had to combat plague, we have at least had to make such preparations as would be necessary in case the epidemic should break out.

We had to adopt an octopus-like organisation for the examination of passengers by train at railway stations. I cannot say how many medical men, hospital assistants, and others were employed in this operation which has been carried out in a manner which reflects the greatest credit upon the commissioned officers, the assistant surgeons, and the hospital assistants engaged in this delicate work. Not only did we examine passengers leaving Bombay, there was also an examination of all persons entering the city, either by rail, road, or sea, in order that they might not carry with them from their towns and villages the risk of infection. In addition to the examination of travellers by train and of passengers by harbour boats, it was absolutely necessary to examine every passenger who left Bombay by any sort of sea-going vessel, and all incoming passengers, so that Bombay should not be re-infected. In the months of February, March, April, May, June and July the number of out-going passengers medically examined exceeded 394,000, and as regards inward passengers the number of persons examined was 283,000, making a total of close on 700,000. This examination was of a very thorough character. It was a task of such colossal magnitude, that when it was seriously proposed I quailed before it, because I thought it was practically impossible. But it has been done, and successfully done. So far as I know, there have only been two ocean-going vessels that carried any plague cases from Bombay, and one was a ship for the health of which the medical officers of the Port, Drs. MacCartie and Crimmin, were not responsible. A sober-headed Scotch friend of mine said to me a short time ago, that since the building of the tower of Babel no work so great has been undertaken. Without going so far as to endorse this view, I can say that Dr. MacCartie and Dr. Crimmin have carried out the colossal project with the greatest success. To these energetic and tactful gentlemen thanks are due not only in Bombay, but also in the numerous ports throughout the civilised world where the steamers from Bombay go. Another direction in which we had to take precautions, and salutary indeed have been the results, was in the "camps of observation" at the entrances of various towns and villages. The need for such precaution is shown by the success with which Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Maháleshvar, and other places were kept free from the disease. Cases did arise on the confines of those towns, and the travellers were put into observation camps, and in some instances fatal cases of plague occurred.

Thus plague was kept away, and from our experience we know that if it had gained an entrance, it would have been hard to dislodge it, for authorities would probably not have heard of it till many deaths had occurred. I know that in very many cases great inconvenience has been caused by the measures of plague suppression that were rendered

necessary. I do not suppose that there is a single member of this Council who has not known something of this inconvenience, which has been felt both by the Europeans and the Native inhabitants of this country. I know this that my own servants have been shut up in these observation camps, and inconveniences such as this have been felt by all alike. But what are these trifling inconveniences compared with the great loss of life occasioned by the plague, and the enormous difficulty of stamping it out when once it has gained a footing? Just look at the case of Cutch Mándvi. For a considerable time they said they had no plague there. But one fine day the mortality barometer went up, and it went on going up until, if my memory serves me rightly, the death rate rose to nearly 2,000 per mille per annum. At that rate, the whole population would have been swept away in an incredibly short space of time. We sent coolies, nurses and doctors, and his Highness the Ráo of Cutch helped in every possible way. Supposing that things had been left to take their course, few who had remained in the town would have been saved. Of course we have had to do many things in a great hurry. Anxious as we are ordinarily to observe routine rules, it was not possible to do so in fighting such a campaign. The time was one for action and not for thinking of ordinary methods of procedure. I am practically certain that there is a general sense of extreme gratitude, shared by all classes of the population for the efforts made to save the population from the destruction wrought by the plague.

I turn now to a subject that has attracted considerable attention of late, and that is the work of the Plague Committee in Poona. You will have observed that various questions have been asked in the House of Commons in regard to a petition purporting to have been signed by nearly 2,000 people. Great capital was made of the alleged fact that both Mussalmáns and Hindus combined, and therefore it was assumed that every allegation in that petition was a fact. Honourable members will, no doubt, have seen the direct contradiction I gave through the mouth of the Secretary of State for India, in the House of Commons, to the general allegations in that petition. From that contradiction I have not a particle to withdraw, more than that, before I sit down I shall show honourable members how baseless, how cruel, how ruthless, how disgraceful were the insinuations made. I had held a meeting, to which leading inhabitants were invited, at which I had asked them to organise measures of this kind themselves. I was also most anxious that in Poona as in Bombay, so far as human foresight made it possible, our operations should not be hindered by any unduly harsh measures, or by offending the susceptibilities of the people in regard to the examination of women. I caused the Collector to call together the various heads of the community, Mussalmáns, Pársees, and Hindus. I explained to them the terrible exigencies of the situation and pointed out what must be done, and I called upon them to assist to the best of their ability. Through Mr. Rand I arranged that ladies should be at hand to assist the search parties by examining females. I can of my own knowledge bear witness to the fact how instead of being ruthlessly severe and proud of his own knowledge, how anxious Mr. Rand was to find out the weak points in his organisation and to remedy any arrangement which might lead to unnecessary severity and hardship. Very well, what was the result? Before very long a variety of mis-statements (were I not in this Council Hall I should call them by a more direct term) were started. These mis-statements have found their way into newspapers of various descriptions, and they have found their way into the House of Commons. I cannot remember whether it was in the petition of the body styling itself the Deccan Sabha that this was stated, but stated it was, that on operations commencing so great was the terror caused that the public fled in large numbers. Now, what is the fact? Precisely the opposite; no statement could have been more misleading. Before the measures took place a certain number of people did leave the city, but when it was ascertained how simply, how quietly, how harmoniously the operations were carried out, the people began to come back. Few more people left the city, and they began settling down to their avocations. Mr. Rand, with whom I was in constant touch, wrote to me that since the operations had begun, on the 13th of March, the exodus had stopped. Not only so; before the operations were over the people were returning in considerable numbers. Other equally erroneous statements besides those I have mentioned were made in the various petitions. I had it from Mr. Rand's own lips and from many other sources that he did make all possible enquiry in regard to the things which were brought to his notice. Not only so, he posted a statement in the vernacular, pointing out that complaints should be made on the spot, if possible, because identification might be difficult later on. There was every anxiety to

get at the bottom of grievances and remedy them. Some people may say that is not the fact, but in reply to that I may say that that dead man's word is good enough for me. Of course the measures to which I have referred were inconvenient and unpleasant; nobody likes a party of white-washers to come into their house, nobody cares to be made to go into hospital, and so forth. But what the people would not do for themselves we had to do for them in the hope of stealing a march on this almost-not-to-be-defeated enemy. In regard to one statement I put the words "malevolent fabrication" into the mouth of the Secretary of State. The statement was that women were brought down into the streets and stripped to be examined. For this statement there was no foundation whatever. As you are all aware, a great many houses in Poona are extremely dark, and, in fact, it is almost impossible to see into them. It was considered necessary, if possible, to get all the inmates of such houses, not always into the street, but into some lighter room or into a court-yard to see if they looked ill. If there were indications that the persons were not in good health, a medical inspection did ensue, but with every regard to decency. Women were examined by women, unless, as was not unfrequently the case, no objection was offered to examination by a commissioned medical officer. It was, however, reported to Mr. Rand, I think by a deputation, that this practice was objectionable to a large number of the population. Mr. Rand said, "Very well, we must see what we can do," and at the risk of impairing the efficiency of the organisation he decided to give up the practice. A still more malevolent invention was the allegation that two women had been violated by British soldiers and that one of them had committed suicide. Well, some silly person has observed that Mr. Lamb was making enquiries into this charge, after I had informed the Secretary of State that it was false, and said it was a pity that I had given this extreme contradiction without having first made these enquiries. The man who made this remark must have been very ignorant of the ordinary way in which business is carried on. Who would suppose that I should go and deny any statement without first making enquiries as to whether there was any possible foundation for it? I did make such enquiries before I telegraphed to the Secretary of State, and if the man who blames me for being, as he thinks, too hasty in the matter, had read the telegram, as given by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons, he would have seen that what I telegraphed was this: "From all enquiries I have made, I am convinced that this is a still more gross and malevolent invention than that about stripping of women." Enquiries have been made of all the persons attending the search parties, and as far as I have been able to ascertain from their replies, only one of them had ever heard even a rumour of ill-treatment of women, and on inquiry could find no basis for the rumour.

Well, then, I give you another statement this time in regard to the Poona Plague Hospital, started by a person of the name of Pandita Ramabai, that a female plague patient had been seduced at this hospital, and a general statement was made, which I think appeared in a newspaper called the *Bombay Guardian*, that the administration of the hospital was very bad and scandalous. I noticed that statement, and I made inquiries at once, which led me to believe implicitly not only that the particular charge was unfounded, but that I had no reason to criticise or to complain of the management of the Poona Plague Hospital which was not only in the charge of a commissioned medical officer, but also had three of the most efficient trained English nurses in addition. But it is a curious fact that with the five hundred women patients that the commissioned officer assumes he had from first to last in the hospital no complaint of ill treatment of women ever reached him. The hospital was not closed to visitors, and the relations, male and female, of patients were frequently about and took care of their sick, and no such imputation ever reached that officer. The result of these measures was that in a period of about six weeks we had got the death rate in Poona down to normal from the great height at which it stood—when operations began a rate six or seven times the normal—and within three months the plague was practically exterminated. I venture to say this was done by the unceasing energetic pursuit of the most monotonous, hardest, and most distasteful work that one could be called upon to perform. When you come to talk about discontent we know perfectly well that in every town, even in England, where you have a strong body to administer the health department you will always have a considerable number of grumblers who dislike being ordered to do this and that, and I am not surprised that grumbling found vent at times; but there was no shred of suspicion to justify such a saying as was reported in certain newspapers, and which I emphatically

repudiate. I should like to say a word about the conservancy of the town. I believe it is difficult to imagine the filthy state in which the town of Poona was. I believe now it is in an extremely clean state. But then there was hardly a night-soil cart in proper repair, and the night-soil and refuse, instead of being taken to the proper place, was shot out here and there. All this has now been put right, and in a great measure owing to the industrious efforts of the British non-commissioned officers and soldiers, who themselves have done a great deal of the sanitary and disinfecting work which would have fallen under ordinary circumstances into other hands. Now I should like to ask how all these ceaseless and unselfish efforts are met by a certain section of the people of Poona? They were pleased to put in the background all the generous assistance, the voluntary aid, the self-denying energy that was shown by all those who endeavoured to do good, and instead to misrepresent—misrepresent is a mild term—the objects and the measures, and to assume and to put about that they were instigated by cruelty, greed, and lust. Also what happened after Mr. Rand had been shot, and when he was lying at the point of death? It was then that this question was prompted and found vent in the House of Commons, and without a word of generous recognition of the energy, the sympathy, he had shown, the untiring and ceaseless watch that he had kept over the plague operations. The feeling that promoted those questions is one which I believe is repudiated by a great proportion of the native inhabitants not only of the Bombay Presidency but also of other parts of India. Then it is true that an apology, and a withdrawal has been made by a gentleman whose name was prominently for a few days before the public, but it is very easy thousands of mile from here to make statements which have not a shred of foundation, but which such a man may deem good enough for the English people—statements which show this and show that. That is very easy. It is also very easy to come back and say “I was misinformed, and I apologise,” but the harm has been done in spreading abroad these foul unfounded accusations and attacks, and while I recognise that the apology has been made I might tender the advice that in future when it is thought necessary as it may be at times to offer criticism—and I have never complained of criticism—if it is necessary to make statements of that kind they should be made here where they may be enquired into, and, if untrue, contradicted, and not made so that they gain currency all the world over before an answer can be given. There is another point, one which has attracted the attention of none here outside those who were actively responsible and who carried out the measures in Poona and other places. Few of us are aware of the dissimulation that was met with, the subterfuges that were resorted to. By a travesty of terms one obstructive individual explained that he was working in the interests of the people. The greatest and the foremost interest of the people was to get rid of the plague, which, as I said, was not killing individuals here and there, but was devastating villages and towns, and obstruction was devised with a crafty ingenuity, the object of which was to defeat the measures which were being carried out and to produce and stimulate discontent. We know very well that this was not done by those who belonged to the poor, uneducated or simple class, but it was done by some of those who, proud of their education, ought to have known better than to do as they did. They ought to have known that what was being done was to combat this disease. They must have known this, and they knew also the manner in which these operations were being carried out. There were people who surreptitiously moved plague patients from place to place, with the result that they became the instruments for spreading the disease broadcast. Now, I visited the Hindu hospital. It was not a hospital like the Poona Plague Hospital for the free admission of patients; it was a hospital to which all comers, or the greater part of them, had to pay for their food and an entrance fee of ten rupees. As far as I was able to ascertain, and I saw the hospital myself, the people in constant attendance at it were not even hospital assistants, and I think the community interested in that hospital might have discovered some one like my honourable colleague, Dr. Balchandra, who is an experienced member of his profession, who would have given up his time and worked with the greatest assiduity as did Dr. Bhalchandra in his plague hospital in Bombay, and endeavoured to save the lives and ameliorate the condition of the sufferers. The Mahomedans of Poona have erected, I believe principally at the instance of one individual—for I believe Poona is not numerous in wealthy Mahomedans—a hospital, and the friends and relations, as in the general plague hospital, were allowed to visit the patients, and the greatest usefulness was done by that hospital.

Now I wish to say a word as to the memorial which has excited so much comment, and which comes from a body called the Deccan Sabha, a memorial, I explained at the

commencement of my speech, the strong point of which was said to be that it included amongst its signatories both Musalmans and Hindoos. Well I have been at the pains of endeavouring to ascertain who the signatories to this memorial were, and I found out of the 1,699 signatories 721 have been examined. Of these only 144 can be found, the remaining 577 not being found or not traceable or not known. Of these 144, fourteen deny their signatures and the rest say that they were induced by the agents of the Deccan Sabha and the "Dnyan Prakash" newspaper to sign some petition about plague measures. Fifty of them did not know what they were signing, and half a dozen different objects for which their signatures were required were held out. One reason was for better lighting, another for fixing the price of grain, a third against increased taxes, and fourth for reduction of market rents. Ráo Bahádúr Bhíde was the principal signatory of this affair. He was the chairman of the Deccan Sabha and admits that he worked with the troops from first to last, never missing a day of his turn to accompany the search parties, and that he never saw any misconduct. Nawab Abdul Khan, another signatory, says he signed merely in his private capacity, never having seen the memorial, not knowing any of its contents, and never having seen any misconduct. He has been deposed by the members of that body from his position of President of the Anjuman-i-Islam. The Mahomedans deny that they have any complaints to make against the plague operations. Now, I have stated the facts of the case. I have spoken plainly, and I began to speak with that intention. The result of all this was that there was a small section in Poona who, with deliberate and unscrupulous untruth and perversion, tried to impede our plague operations, then tried to blind the public to the merit of the splendid work done by the plague workers, and finally tried to blind them to the true malignity of a cruel and deliberate murder. Now there is a brighter side to all these plague measures. I would beg leave to say that the whole of the credit for these operations—and I claim that they have been most successful, successful beyond my most sanguine hopes—has depended upon the vast army of officials of all ranks who have been engaged under the Government of Bombay in carrying out the plague work in various places. In speaking of the officers engaged in plague work I cannot but refer to the murders—I cannot do anything else—of those two officers. As for the one who was shot dead, Lieutenant Ayerst, it is so distressing that I can hardly allude to it. A boy just commencing his career, beloved by his brother officers and respected by the soldiers whom he had commanded—all I can do is to express what, I am sure, are the sentiments of this Council by saying that we all deeply deplore his death, and we tender our respectful sympathy to the widow he has left behind him. In regard to Mr. Rand, again expression almost fails me. I was particularly thrown with the late Mr. Rand throughout the whole of these operations. I heard from him, I think without intermission, daily. I stayed at Poona on two occasions, and I saw him at several other times. I have said, through the Secretary of State, that the Civil Service has lost in that gentleman an able and devoted servant. Again here let us offer our respectful sympathy to his widow, and in the face of the baseless calumnies with which he was assailed I will merely say he was a man of honour who tried to do his duty. Turning to the other officers the Council will observe that it would be impossible to enumerate by name every officer with whom I have come into contact, and to whom I wish to give the praise which has been so well deserved by all. I cannot speak too highly of the way Government have been served—nay the public have been served,—by officers both civil and military; by the medical officers of both the Army Medical Staff and the Indian Medical Service; by the subordinate Government servants; and by the private soldier, both native and European. Also I must speak with gratitude of the vast amount of work voluntarily done by the ladies who assisted us, and by the very large number of English and native gentlemen and by the Sisters and nurses. In my remarks on famine I mentioned my honourable colleague's (Mr. Nugent's) energy and success and the invaluable work of the Chief Secretary, Mr. Monteath. I should like also to say I do consider the Government and the public are under a very great obligation to the officer who is the Secretary of the General Department, Mr. Atkins, for the ceaseless work he did, and which these tremendous calamities have entailed upon us. No hours have been too long for him, no matter too trivial to be allowed to escape prompt attention, and every call has been met not only by Mr. Atkins, but by all the men in his office, with an ever-present readiness and cheerfulness which merits the highest praise. When I speak of the civil officers I am not forgetful of the deeds performed by so many private gentlemen, European and native, who have greatly contributed in Bombay, Káráchi, and Poona to render success in the task more easy, but there was not a civil officer in the Presidency who was not anxious to

work. The moment a judge could leave his court he was ready to assist, whilst in remote places the assistant collectors and the subordinate officers and the medical officers of all degrees vied with one another in doing their very utmost to bring about a better state of things. The plague operations at Bandora were under the direction of an energetic Englishman, Mr. Gilbert, to whom, together with Surgeon-Captain Prall and Mr. Little, their fellow-townsmen, we owe a very deep debt of gratitude. On the Damaun frontier it is difficult to exaggerate the importance of the work done by Mr. Judge of the Salt Department. I notice side by side with this plague work that we have had to deal with famine, so that honourable members will see, as I have said, that the possibilities of the administration of Government were strained almost to bursting point, and that they could not have been carried on had not the Government of Bombay been seconded in this energetic and ever cheerful way by all the officers. I have often asked myself when I have been round the famine districts, "How long can these men endure this ceaseless work in a climate in which they were not born, and living in the hottest days and in rains in tents, and so forth?"—and the answer always given me was, "Well, you will see, these men will continue to work until the calamity is past." Such is the experience I have had, and I must say that whilst the calamities have been very great, and whilst it has been heart-rending to observe the devastation and the suffering around us, it has indeed been a proud feeling for me that I have been at the head throughout the whole of these proceedings, and to feel that I have been the chief in command of such a body of men as I have had to assist me in these calamities. I do not limit my observations to commissioned officers, civilian officers, and so on, but I wish to include amongst them the assistant surgeons and hospital assistants who come in this long list, and who, in their profession, I consider to have nobly performed their several tasks. Now I must say a word about the soldiers. These calumnies have been sown broadcast—I should think as a matter of fact they have commanded very little respect and credence—but they have been made. It is not to be supposed that when these charges are made, when they are the subject of questions in the House of Commons, that Commanding Officers can sit quietly by and hear the characters of their men impugned, or that the private soldier himself does not feel the very greatest and gravest indignation. And I should like to ask those who lightly make these charges to ask themselves this question—"Are not Commanding Officers jealous to a degree of the reputation of the men whom they command?" And I know full well they would be the first to single out and punish any individuals who had been detected in crimes of this description. And is not the private soldier equally proud of his own reputation and that of his comrades and his corps? All I can say is that from the inquiries I have made, I believe that nowhere in the world could operations of this description have been carried out by any class of people more ably, more thoroughly, or more considerately or humanely than by the body of soldiers employed in plague work in the City of Poona. I tender the thanks of the suffering public of the Bombay Presidency to all the civilian officers, subordinate servants, military officers, private soldiers, English and native, nurses, private gentlemen, and the members of the various departments of Public Works and Revenue officials engaged in famine and plague work. I cannot think at this moment that I have excluded anybody, but if I have inadvertently excluded anybody who ought to be included, he must consider himself included. I have made this speech on my own responsibility as being responsible for the department which has administered the campaign against the plague. Without disrespect to this Honourable Council I have one regret about this speech. If I may say so I should have liked to make this speech before a full body of those who have so villainously traduced the soldiers. I am convinced from the reports I have seen from officers of great experience that there exists generally—and I believe emphatically it also has existence in Poona—a great feeling of gratitude for the measures and steps which were taken in regard to checking the plague. The people do now recognise the spirit in which they were carried out and the endeavour to do good. The hospitals were hated at first in Bombay, and it was difficult to get people to go into them. It was not so much the want of hospital accommodation we felt as the want of patients who would consent to be put into them. Notwithstanding this extraordinary objection the time came when patients expressed regret at having to leave a home where they had been so happy, and on many occasions people returned to the nurses and to the good Sisters who worked so well with their humble but pathetic offerings of flowers with which to testify to the gratitude which they felt. I wish to say now that having lived through this tempestuous year which came to a climax with that terrible tragedy just outside my own doors only a few



weeks ago, I would like to remind you that I have been here now for very nearly two and a half years. I came here full of the greatest sympathy for all natives, and for every-thing native, and I can assure my honourable colleagues, who do not come from Europe, that notwithstanding all these calumnies, which I pass over and sweep aside, and notwithstanding the heart-breaking tragedy which occurred, that sympathy is not altered one iota. I have had an opportunity, which I think I may say without putting myself forward, few others have had of visiting in Bombay the homes of many of the poorest class of people. I also made it my duty to go twice round the famine districts. It was a pleasure, if one can use such a term in regard to famine work, to see how the work was being done, how well on the whole the people looked, and how well nourished they apparently were. I have watched with the greatest sympathy and admiration the extraordinary patience with which the poorest classes of this country bear their sufferings, and my honourable friend has given his account of the proceedings of the famine. He can testify, as innumerable officers can testify, to the fact that gratitude has been shown for the assistance given, and especially in regard to the charitable fund which has been utilized to replace bullocks which were starved. At the same time I am glad to be able to record my opinion, based upon the views of those who have had a lengthy experience of this country, that the plague operations have left a great mark and a deep mark, and, as most men think, a lasting mark in a feeling of gratitude in the minds of the poorest of the people. I have said all I had to say. I thought it was due to the Council and the public to make this statement. I will merely conclude by repeating what I said a few minutes ago that the great encouragement and satisfaction I have had in dealing with this plague has been to observe the splendid spirit which has animated and maintained every worker who has been employed under the Government of Bombay through this time of trial.

**BILL No. III OF 1896: A BILL TO AMEND ACT VIII OF 1870 (AN ACT FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE MURDER OF FEMALE INFANTS AS TO THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY.)**

The Honourable Sir CHARLES OLLIVANT said:—Your Excellency,—I shall not have to detain the Council for any length of time in respect to this Bill. Most of the members of the Council were present when the Bill passed its first reading, and went through other stages, and therefore know more about the objects of the measure than I do myself. The Bill has been approved by the Select Committee to which it was referred and has passed its second reading. Before moving the third reading I have to propose a slight amendment to Section 2. Owing to a clerical error the date therein stated is the 31st December 1870, whereas the proper date should be 21st December 1870. I therefore propose that the words “21st December 1870” be substituted in Section 2 for the words “31st December 1870.”

Bill read a third time and passed.

The amendment was agreed to. The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

**BILL No. II OF 1897: A BILL TO AMEND THE SIND VILLAGE OFFICERS ACT, 1881, AS AMENDED BY BOMBAY ACT II OF 1888.**

In moving the first reading of the Bill to amend the Sind Village Officers Act, 1881, the Honourable Mr. NUGENT said—Your Excellency,—the Sind Village Officers Act of 1881 empowered the Commissioner in Sind to appoint village officers in that Province, and authorised Government to levy a cess of one anna per rupee of land assessment in addition to such assessment to meet the cost of the salaries and other emoluments of the village officers. In 1888 this Act was amended by a law passed by this Council. Amongst the amendments then made was one which constituted as village officers for the purposes of the original Act the peons of Tapedárs. A Tapedár I may mention is the officer in Sind

The Honourable Mr. Nugent moves the first reading of the Bill to amend the Sind Village Officers Act, 1881, as amended by Bombay Act II of 1888.

holding a position analogous to that occupied, and performing duties in many respects similar to, but at the same time more important and extensive than, those discharged by taláttis in Gujarát, the Konkan and elsewhere, and by *shanbogs* in Kánara. Another amendment authorised the expenditure on account of the contingent expenditure of Sind village officers and of pensions, gratuities, or compassionate allowances granted to them on retirement to be defrayed from the special One-anna Cess Fund. The present Bill is now brought forward with a view to the insertion in the original Act of further provisions, which experience since acquired has shown to be expedient. All Local Fund accounts, and of course the Sind Village Cess Fund constituted by the Act of 1881 is a Local Fund, are audited in the office of the Accountant General. For the purposes of this audit an establishment is maintained in that office, the cost of which is recovered proportionately from the various Local Funds. The Sind Village Cess Fund was at first called upon to pay its due share, and did so: but in 1889 the point was raised whether under the law as it then stood and at present stands the payment could legally be made, and bearing in mind the precisely defined purposes for which alone under the Act of 1881 and the amending Act of 1888 the moneys of the Fund could be spent, it was held by the legal adviser of Government that the defrayal from the Fund of audit charges in connection with the Accountant General's scrutiny of the charges was not admissible under the strict letter of the law. To remedy this defect and to permit of the payment from the Fund in future of the charge for audit, as also to validate all payments under this head made up to date, provision is now made in section 2 of the Bill. It is obviously desirable that the accounts of this Fund as of other Local Funds should be subjected to professional audit, and it is but equitable that this Fund should bear its proportionate share of the cost of the Local Funds Audit establishment in the Accountant General's office as do the other Local Funds.

The Sind Revenue Survey has now ceased to exist and such survey work as has to be done is performed by the Superintendent of Land Records and Agriculture in Sind with the assistance of the Tapedárs and Supervising Tapedárs. Agricultural statistics have to be collected: the village maps and records have to be kept up to date: traverse surveys have to be made for the accurate subdivision of the land into numbers: subsidiary numbers have to be measured and plotted out: questions regarding boundaries and encroachments have to be settled. For the performance primarily of these duties in addition to the collection of all the land revenue within his charge the Tapedár is responsible. It is obvious therefore that to enable him to carry out his work intelligently and satisfactorily the Tapedár should not merely possess some ordinary literary learning but should also have received some special technical training. It is essential that he should know surveying: he must be versed in village accounts: he must understand field inspection, know the different kinds of crops and be able to judge what the character of a crop is. And all this he should know when first he enters on his duties and not be left to learn by slow degrees, if ever, by practical experience, in the meantime committing many mistakes and making many bumbles to the disadvantage both of the State and the cultivator. To enable therefore persons who are to serve as Tapedárs to acquire the knowledge and obtain the training necessary to fit them for the discharge of their multifarious and important duties before their appointment to charges a system has been devised under which probationers receive an education in the various branches of their work at the Hyderabad Agricultural School. There they are well grounded in their future duties and undergo a course of instruction tending to render them efficient servants of Government and to enable them to carry out satisfactorily when appointed to be Tapedárs the Revenue and Survey work which is expected of them.

This system naturally involves outlay in the form of remuneration to teachers, stipends to the probationers during their two years course, and other minor incidental expenses. The expenditure thus incurred in the training of the men who are hereafter to be the Tapedárs in Sind, filling up vacancies in the permanent staff as they arise, is one which may properly and legitimately be defrayed from the Village Cess Fund which bears all charges connected with Tapedárs, but under the present Act it is not an object on which the moneys of that Fund can legally be spent. To legalise expenditure from the Fund for this purpose in future and to render legal any outlay from the Fund which has already been incurred under the orders of the Commissioner in Sind provision is now made in the Bill, of which with these remarks I now beg to move the first reading.

Bill read a first time.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT put the motion that the Bill be read a first time. This was agreed to.

The Honourable Mr. NUGENT then moved that the Bill be referred to a select committee consisting of the Honourable Messrs. Dharamsi, Spence, Moriarty, and the Mover, with instructions to report within one month.

Bill referred to a select committee.

The motion was put by His Excellency the PRESIDENT and agreed to.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT then adjourned the Council *sine die*.

*By order of His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council,*

S. L. BATCHELOR,

Secretary to the Council of the Governor of

Bombay for making Laws and Regulations.

Poona, 4th August 1897.

## APPENDICES

TO THE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY  
ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING LAWS AND  
REGULATIONS ON THE 4TH AUGUST 1897.

## APPENDIX A.

No. 402.

From

J. M. MACPHERSON, Esq.,  
Secretary to the Government of India,  
Legislative Department;

To

THE ACTING SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY,  
Legislative Department.

*Calcutta, the 25th February 1897.*

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 23, dated the 19th ultimo, submitting, for the sanction of the Governor General in Council, a copy of the Rules for the Conduct of Business at Meetings of the Council of the Governor of Bombay held for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations under the provisions of the Indian Councils Acts, 1861 and 1892, as amended at a meeting of the Council held on the 18th August 1896, and assented to by His Excellency the Governor on the 1st September last.

2. In reply, I am to state that, while the Governor General in Council sees no reason to disallow the rules in exercise of the power conferred upon him by section 37 of the Statute of 1861, it is deemed desirable to take the opportunity of inviting attention to the divergence between Rule 17 now under consideration and Rule 35 of the Rules for the Conduct of the Legislative Business of the Council of the Governor General (copy enclosed). His Excellency the Governor in Council will, doubtless, consider whether the former should not, when a convenient occasion presents itself, be made to correspond more closely with the latter in respect of the length of time fixed for giving notice as to the legislative business to be laid before the Council.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. M. MACPHERSON,  
Secretary to Government of India.

[AS PASSED IN COUNCIL.]

**Rules for the Conduct of the Legislative Business of the Council of the  
Governor General.**

*I.—Preliminary.*

1. These Rules supersede the Rules for the Conduct of Business at the meetings of the Council made on the 11th day of February 1873, and the 16th day of February 1883.

2. In these Rules—

“Council” means the Council of the Governor General of India assembled for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations :

“President” means the Governor General or (during the time of his visit to any part of India unaccompanied by his Council) the President nominated by the Governor General in Council, under the Indian Councils Act, 1861, Section 6 ; or, in the absence of both the Governor General and the President so nominated, the senior Ordinary Member of Council present and presiding :

“Member” means a Member of the Council, whether ordinary, extraordinary or additional :

“Secretary” means the Secretary to the Government of India in the Legislative Department and includes the Deputy Secretary and every person for the time being exercising the functions of the Secretary: and

“Local Government” includes a Chief Commissioner.

*II.—Meetings of the Council.*

3. The Council shall ordinarily meet at 11 A.M., and shall not prolong its sitting after 4 P.M., unless the President otherwise directs.

4. The quorum shall be seven, including the President.

5. The Governor or Lieutenant-Governor and the Law Member shall sit where the President may direct.

Subject to any such direction, the Members shall sit in the following order, beginning from the right of the President:—

(1) The Commander-in-Chief.

(2) The Ordinary Members according to seniority.

(3) The Additional Members according to seniority.

6. The President may adjourn, without any discussion or vote, any meeting or business, whether here be a quorum present or not, to any future day, or to any hour of the same day.

7. The President shall preserve order, and all points of order shall be decided by him, no discussion thereupon being allowed.

8. A Member desiring to make any observations on any subject before the Council shall address the President without rising from his chair.

9. On all matters brought before the Council, after the Member who makes a motion has spoken, each Member consecutively, beginning with the Member on the left of the President, may make such observations as he thinks proper. The Law Member, however, may speak according to the position of the seat he would occupy if he sat in order of seniority and not according to the seat he may occupy at the Council table under rule 5.

After all the Members in turn have had an opportunity of speaking, the Mover may speak once by way of reply, and any other Member may, with the permission of the President, speak once by way of explanation:

Provided that, if the matter be an amendment of a Bill, the Member in charge of the Bill shall be entitled to speak next after the Mover of the amendment.

10. When, for the purpose of explanation during discussion, or for any other sufficient reason, any Member has occasion to ask a question of another Member on any measure then under the consideration of the Council, he shall ask the question through the President.

11. Any Member may speak at the request and on behalf of another Member who is unable to express himself in English.

12. On every motion before the Council, the question shall be put by the President, and shall be decided by a majority of votes.

In case of a division, the votes shall be taken by the Secretary in consecutive order, beginning with the Member on the left of the President.

After the question is put, no further discussion upon it shall be allowed.

13. Any Member may ask for any papers or returns connected with any Bill before the Council. The President shall determine, either at the time or at the Meeting of the Council next following, whether the papers or returns asked for can be given.

14. Communications on matters connected with any Bill before the Council may be addressed, either in the form of a petition to the Governor General in Council, or in a letter to the Secretary, and must in either case be sent to the Secretary. Ordinarily, such communications will not be answered.

Except in the case of the High Court at Fort William, such communications shall ordinarily be sent through the Local Government.

15. The Secretary shall either cause such communications to be printed and send a copy to each Member, or circulate them for the perusal of each Member.

*III.—Introduction and Publication of Bills.*

16. Any Member desiring to move for leave to introduce a Bill in accordance with the provisions of section 19 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, shall give the Secretary at least three days' previous notice of the title and object of the Bill.

If such motion be carried, the Bill with a full Statement of Objects and Reasons shall, if not already prepared, be prepared by the Member or (if he so desire) by the Secretary in consultation with the Member.

17. The Secretary shall then cause the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, to be printed, and shall send a copy to each Member.

If any of the Members are unacquainted with English, he shall also, if requested, cause the Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons to be translated into Hindustani for their use.

18. The Council may, at any time after leave to introduce a Bill has been granted, direct that such Bill be published in such manner as the Council thinks fit.

19. When a Bill is introduced, or on some subsequent occasion, the Member in charge of it shall make one or more of the following motions :

- (a) that it be referred to a Select Committee, or
- (b) that it be taken into consideration by the Council, either at once or at some future day to be then mentioned, or
- (c) that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon.

20. No such motion shall be made until after a copy of the Bill and a copy of the Statement of Objects and Reasons have been furnished to each Member. Any Member may object to the motion unless such copies have been furnished to him at least seven days previously : and such objection shall prevail unless the President, in exercise of his power to suspend any of these rules, allows the motion to be made.

21. On the day on which such motion is made, or on any subsequent day to which the discussion is postponed, the principle of the Bill and its general provisions may be discussed.

22. When any motion mentioned in rule 19 is carried, the Bill shall, together with a Statement of its Objects and Reasons, if not already published on a motion under rule 18, be published in English in the Gazette of India.

The Bill and Statement shall also, if publication has not already been directed, be published in such Official Gazettes and in such vernacular languages (if any) as the Council in each case decides to be necessary for the purpose of giving notice to the communities affected by the Bill.

For this purpose the Council shall make an order at the Meeting at which such motion is carried, and may from time to time, on the motion of any Member, vary or cancel such order.

23. The Governor General, if he see fit, may order the publication of a Bill together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons which accompanies it, in such Gazettes and languages as he thinks necessary, although no motion has been made for leave to introduce the Bill.

In that case it shall not be necessary to move for leave to introduce the Bill ; and, if the Bill be afterwards introduced, it shall not be necessary to publish it again.

#### IV.—Select Committees.

24. The Law Member shall be a Member of every Select Committee.

The other Members of every Committee shall be named by the Council when the Bill is referred, or at any subsequent Meeting.

The Law Member and, in his absence, the Member in charge of the Bill, shall be chairman of the Committee, and, in the case of an equality of votes, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

25. After publication of a Bill in the Gazette of India, the Select Committee to which the Bill may have been referred shall make a report thereon.

Such report shall be made not sooner than three months from the date of the first publication in the Gazette of India, unless the Council orders the report to be made sooner.

Reports may be either preliminary or final.

The Select Committee shall in their report state whether or not, in their judgment, the Bill has been so altered as to require re-publication, whether the publication ordered by these Rules or by the Council has taken place, and the date on which the publication has taken place, or, where publication in more than one Gazette or in more than one language is ordered, the date on which the publication in each such Gazette and each such language has taken place.

If, in the judgment of the Committee, the Bill has been so altered as to require re-publication, the Secretary shall send a copy of the altered Bill to the Secretary of the Department to which it pertains.

When the Committee recommend the re-publication of a Bill which was originally ordered by these Rules or by the Council to be published in more than one Gazette or in more than one language, they shall, in the absence of anything to the contrary in their report, be taken to recommend that the Bill be republished in every such Gazette and every such language.

If the Committee are of opinion that it is unnecessary to re-publish the Bill in any such Gazette or in any such language, they shall, in their report, state the grounds of their opinion.

26. The Secretary shall cause every report of a Select Committee to be printed, and shall send a copy of such report to each Member, and shall cause the report, with the amended Bill, to be published in the Gazette of India.

If any Member present is unacquainted with English, the Secretary shall also, if requested, cause the report to be translated into Hindustani for his use.

27. The report of the Select Committee on a Bill shall be presented to the Council by the Member in charge of the Bill, and shall be taken into consideration by the Council as soon as conveniently may be ; but any Member may object to its being so taken into consideration when he has not been furnished for a week with a copy of the report ; and such objection shall prevail, unless the President, in exercise of his power to suspend any of these Rules, allows the report to be taken into consideration.

*V.—Consideration and Amendments of Bills.*

28. When a Bill is taken into consideration by the Council, any Member may propose an amendment of such Bill.

29. If notice of such amendment has not been sent to the Secretary at least three days before the meeting of the Council at which the Bill is to be considered, any member may object to the moving of the amendment, and such objection shall prevail unless the President, in exercise of his power to suspend any of these Rules, allows the amendment to be moved.

The Secretary shall, if time permits, cause every notice of amendment to be printed, and send a copy for the information of each member.

If any member present is unacquainted with English, the Secretary shall also, if requested, cause every such notice to be translated into Hindustani for his use.

30. Amendments shall ordinarily be considered in the order of the clauses to which they respectively relate.

31. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing Rules, it shall be in the discretion of the President, when a motion that a Bill be taken into consideration has been carried, to submit the Bill or any part of the Bill to the Council section by section. When this procedure is adopted, the President shall call each section separately, and when the amendments relating to it have been dealt with, shall put the question "that this section, or (as the case may be) this section as amended, stand part of the Bill."

32. Any Member may move that a Bill which has been amended by the Council or by a Select Committee be re-published or re-committed, and, if the Council so decide, the President may order the Bill to be re-published or re-committed, as the case may be.

33. If no amendment be made when a Bill is taken into consideration by the Council, the Bill may at once be passed.

If any amendment be made, any Member may object to the passing of the Bill at the same Meeting; and such objection shall prevail, unless the President, in exercise of his power to suspend any of these Rules, allows the Bill to pass.

Where the objection prevails, the Bill shall be brought forward again at a future Meeting, and may then be passed with or without further amendment.

34. When a Bill is passed by the Council, a copy thereof shall be signed by the President, and when the Governor General has declared his assent thereto, such copy shall be signed by the Governor General, and the Bill shall be published as soon as possible in the official Gazettes, under the signature of the Secretary, as an Act of the Governor General in Council.

Such publication shall be made in the Gazette of India in English and in the official Gazettes of the Local Governments in English, and in such vernacular languages spoken in the territories subject to such Governments respectively as may be ordered by the Council or directed by the Local Government:

Provided that, when the Act does not apply to the whole of British India, it shall be published only in the Gazette of India and in the Gazettes of the Local Governments to whose territories it applies.

*VI.—Duties of Secretaries.*

35. At least two days before each meeting of the Council, the Secretary shall send to each Member a list of the business to be brought forward at such meeting.

Subject to the provisions of rule 29, no business shall be entered by the Secretary in a list, unless notice thereof has been given to him at least three days before the meeting of the Council to which the lists relate: provided that business may be added to the list at any time before a meeting under the special orders of the President.

36. The Secretary shall keep a journal in which all the proceedings of the Council shall be fairly entered.

The journal shall be submitted after each Meeting to the President for his confirmation and signature, and, when so signed, shall be the record of the proceedings of the Council.

37. The Secretary shall also cause to be prepared a full report of the proceedings of the Council at each of its Meetings, and publish it in the Gazette of India as soon as practicable. He shall send a copy of such report to each Member and also to the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for India.

38. In addition to the other duties specially required by these Rules, it shall be the duty of the Secretary—

*1st*, to draft all Bills originated by the Government of India, the Statements of their Objects and Reasons, and the Reports of the Select Committee to which such Bills are referred;

*2nd*, to take charge of the copies of the Bills signed by the Governor General and of all the other records of the Council;

*3rd*, to keep the books of the Council;

*4th*, to keep a list of the business for the time being before the Council;

- 5th, to superintend the printing of all papers printed in pursuance of these rules ;  
 6th, to assist the Council and all Committees in such manner as they may direct ;  
 7th, to send to the Secretary of the Department to which the Bill pertains, any Bill which an Additional Member has obtained leave to introduce under rule 16 ;  
 8th, to examine all Bills deposited by Additional Members, and report to the President on those which contain clauses trenching on subjects coming within section 19 or section 22 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861 ;  
 9th, to write all letters which the Council or the President, or any Select Committee, or the Law Member, directs to be written.

39. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to cause to be translated into Hindustani Bills, Statements of Objects and Reasons, Reports of Select Committees and Amendments of Bills, to cause papers to be explained to Members unacquainted with English, and otherwise to assist them in such manner as they may require.

#### VII.—Miscellaneous.

40. Strangers may be admitted into the Council Chamber during the sittings of the Council on the order of the President.

Application for orders of admission is to be made to the Secretary.

41. The President, on the motion of any Member, may direct at any time during a sitting of the Council that strangers withdraw.

42. Any paper relating to any measure before the Council may be published by order of the President.

Copies of papers so published shall be sold at such rates as may be fixed by the Secretary.

43. Any Bill respecting which no motion has been made in the Council for two years may, by order of the President, be removed from the List of Business.

44. The President, for sufficient reason, may suspend any of the foregoing Rules.

### RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AT MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE GOVERNOR OF BOMBAY, HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING LAWS AND REGULATIONS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF "THE INDIAN COUNCILS ACTS, 1861 AND 1892."

(As amended at a Meeting of the Council held on the 18th August 1896 and assented to by His Excellency the Governor on the 1st September 1896.)

#### I.—Definitions.

1. In these Rules—

The word "Council" means the Council of the Governor of Bombay assembled for the purpose of making laws and regulations.

The word "President" means the Governor of Bombay, or, in his absence, the Senior Civil Ordinary Member of Council present and presiding, as provided in Section 34 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861.

The word "Member" means a Member of the Council, whether Ordinary or Additional.

The word "Secretary" means the Under Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Legislative Department; but all acts which the "Secretary" is required or authorized to do by these rules may be done by a Secretary or an Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bombay.

The word "Bill" means a proposed enactment at any stage before it has received the assent of the Governor.

In the computation of "clear days" Sundays and Holidays are not excluded.

#### II.—Meetings.

2. The Council will meet on such days and at such hours as the President shall direct. The date and hour so fixed shall be notified by the Secretary in the *Bombay Government Gazette* and to each Member by letter.

3. The President may adjourn to any future day or to any part of the same day without any discussion or vote, any meeting or business, whether the quorum required by Section 34 of the Indian Councils Act, 1861, be present or not.

4. A motion that any business before the Council be adjourned, or that the Council pass to the consideration of the business next in order in the list of business or that the business under consideration be referred to a Select Committee (in accordance with the Rules hereinafter in that behalf contained), may be moved by any Member at any time as a distinct question; and such motion shall take precedence of any other motion then before the Council; but the President alone shall have power to propose the adjournment of the meeting.

5. If a motion of the kind referred to in Rule 4 be rejected, no similar motion shall be again made at the same meeting of Council except by the President.



6. Any business of the day not disposed of at the time of any adjournment of the Council shall stand for disposal on the next day on which the Council shall meet, and unless otherwise specially ordered, shall take priority of all other business on that day.

7. If at any time appointed for the holding of any meeting of the Council, or if at any time after the commencement of business, the quorum required by Section 34 of "The Indian Councils Act, 1861," be not present, the President shall adjourn the Meeting. But in the absence of a President the Secretary shall make an entry in the journal of the Council of the names of the Members present, and the meeting shall be thereby adjourned.

### III.—Maintenance of Order.

8. The President shall preserve order, and all points of order shall be decided by him, no discussion thereupon being allowed.

9. Any Member may notice a violation of order by drawing the attention of the President to it. When a Member is thus addressing the President, any other member who may be then speaking shall resume his seat and cease speaking until the point of order is settled.

10. In discussing questions coming before the Council for consideration a member shall speak from his place, shall rise when he speaks and shall address the President. The President also shall rise when he addresses the Council.

11. Any Member may, with the permission of the President, speak at the request and on behalf of another Member who is unable to express himself in the English language.

12. On all matters brought before the Council, after the Member who makes a motion has spoken, each Member may speak to the motion. After all the Members have had an opportunity of speaking, the Member making the motion may speak by way of reply.

13. No Member shall speak except upon business which is at the time regularly before the Council or, by special permission of the President, in explanation of any thing said by him previously in debate.

14. When, for the purpose of explanation during discussion, or for any other sufficient reason, any Member shall have occasion to ask a question of another Member on any measure then under the consideration of the Council, he shall ask the question through the President.

15. A purely verbal amendment of a motion may, with the permission of the President, be moved at any time during the discussion upon the motion and without previous notice, but no amendment which is substantially the negative of a motion shall be taken into consideration by the Council.

16. Any Member may ask for any papers or returns connected with the business before the Council. The President shall determine whether the papers or returns asked for shall be given.

### IV.—Course of Business.

17. (1) The Secretary shall at least fifteen clear days before each meeting despatch to each Member a preliminary list of the business to be brought forward under each clause of Rule 19 at such meeting, including all reports of Select Committees to be taken into consideration thereat; and such list shall specify in respect of each Bill therein referred to, the title and stage of such Bill.

(2) The Secretary shall also after despatching such preliminary list, despatch to each member, as soon as it can be prepared, a complete agenda paper specifying in full detail the business of all kinds to be brought forward at such meeting.

18. The President shall have power to regulate or alter the order in which business is to be transacted, but, ordinarily the business of the Council shall be conducted in the order described in Rule 19.

19. After the President has taken his chair—

(1) Questions asked under Section 2 of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, shall then be put and answered;

(2) At meetings where the annual Financial Statement is presented discussion thereon shall take place;

(3) The Secretary shall present any Petitions, Bills, and any other communications which may have been received;

(4) The Council will then proceed to consider the Bills and Orders of the day in the order in which they stand on the list of business for the meeting of that day;

(5) Afterwards, any Member may make any motion which it may be competent for him make consistently with "The Indian Councils Act, 1861 and 1892," and these Rules.

### V.—Bills.

20. Any Member may move at a meeting of the Council for leave to introduce a Bill in accordance with the provisions of Section 38 of "The Indian Councils Act, 1861," provided that seven clear days' previous notice of the title and subject of the Bill has been given to the Secretary. On making such motion the Member moving shall be at liberty to state, as concisely as may be, the scope of the Bill, and the reasons in support of it; but he may defer this till the first reading, unless the introduc-

tion of the Bill be opposed. If the motion be carried in the affirmative, the Member shall send the Bill to the Secretary with a full statement in writing of its objects and of the reasons for it, and any other papers which he may consider necessary.

21. The Secretary shall forthwith cause the Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, to be printed, and, if ordered by the Council, to be translated into such native language or languages as shall be deemed requisite by the Council, and shall send a copy thereof to each Member of the Council, and shall cause the same to be published in the *Bombay Government Gazette*; and copies of the Bill and Statement of Objects and Reasons shall be distributed to the Press and to the public in such manner as the Governor, from time to time, may see fit to direct.

22. The Governor, if he see fit, may order the publication, in the manner hereinbefore described in the rule last preceding, of a Bill, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons which accompanies it, although no motion may have been made for leave to introduce the Bill. In that case it shall not be necessary to move for leave to introduce the Bill; and if the Bill be afterwards introduced, it shall not be necessary to publish it again; and in any case the publication of a Bill, in pursuance of an order by the Governor, or of leave given by the Council, shall be deemed to be the introduction of the Bill.

23. No motion that a Bill be read the first time shall be made until fifteen clear days after a copy of the Bill and of the Statement of Objects and Reasons has been despatched to each Member and until fifteen clear days from the date on which the Bill was introduced.

24. Every Bill shall be read three times before it can be passed, and if the motion for the third reading be carried, the Bill, on being so read, shall be considered as passed.

25. On the reading of a Bill the Secretary shall only read the title of it, unless the Council requires that the Bill shall be more fully read.

26. If the motion for any reading of a Bill be negatived, such Bill shall be considered as rejected and shall not be again introduced at any period before the expiration of six months from the date of such rejection.

27. If the motion for the first reading of a Bill be carried, the Council shall then consider the question of referring such Bill to a Select Committee and, if the question be decided in the affirmative, the Council shall appoint the Committee and may further direct that the Committee's report be submitted within a specified period.

28. When a Bill has been referred to a Select Committee, the Council shall not take it into consideration again until the expiration of fifteen clear days from the date on which copies of the Select Committee's report, and, (if the Bill has been amended) of the Bill as amended have been despatched by the Secretary to each Member nor until fifteen clear days after the publication of such report and such Bill in the *Bombay Government Gazette*.

29. The Member in charge of a Bill may, on presentation of the Select Committee's report, propose that the Bill be read a second time as amended by the Select Committee. On the second reading being carried the principle of the Bill will be considered as affirmed, and the Council will proceed to consider the Bill in detail. The Council having so examined the Bill, it may then, or on some subsequent day, be read a third time.

30. If the motion for the third reading be carried, and the Bill be passed, the President shall sign a certificate at the foot of the Bill in the following form:—

"This Law was made at a meeting of the Council of the Governor of Bombay, held for the purpose of making laws and regulations on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

President."

The Bill shall then be laid before the Governor for the purpose required in Sections 39 and 40 of "The Indian Councils Act, 1861," and after it has been assented to by the Governor General it shall be published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* under the signature of the Secretary.

#### VI.—Select Committees.

31. Select Committees may be appointed by the Council for any purpose connected with its business. The Council shall name a period within which a Select Committee shall make its report on any matter which may be referred to it.

32. When a Bill is referred to a Select Committee for report, it shall form part of the business of the Select Committee to decide whether the report shall be translated into any native language or languages before the same shall be presented to the Council.

33. The Council may, if necessary, extend the time for receiving the report of any Select Committee.

34. The report of the Select Committee shall be signed by all the Members of the Committee or by a majority of them; but any Member of a Select Committee may record his views in a separate minute.

35. The report of the Select Committee, any minutes that may have been recorded by individual Members of the Committee and (if the Bill has been amended) the Bill as amended by the Committee shall be printed and copies despatched to each Member of the Council. The report and minutes (if

any) and (if the Bill has been amended) the Bill as amended, or such portion thereof as may have been amended, shall also be published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* with such translations as the Select Committee may think necessary.

36. Printed copies of all Bills and reports published in accordance with this rule shall be distributed to the Press and to the public in the same manner, for the same purposes, and with a like interval of time allowed, as are hereinbefore prescribed for the distribution of copies of original Bills.

37. The report of a Select Committee on any matter other than a Bill shall not be taken into consideration by the Council until seven clear days after copies thereof have been despatched by the Secretary to each Member.

#### VII.—Amendments.

38. Any Member wishing to propose an amendment affecting the principle of a Bill or other matter before the Council shall send the amendment so as to reach the Secretary at least five clear days before the meeting of the Council at which the Bill or other matter is to be considered. The Secretary shall cause every such amendment to be printed, and shall send printed copies of such amendment to all the Members of Council. When the amendment is moved in Council, it shall be determined whether the same shall be translated or not.

39. If, however, any amendment not affecting the principle of a Bill, as settled by a Select Committee, or other matter before the Council be proposed without notice while the Council is sitting, the President shall decide whether such amendment shall be considered by the Council at the meeting at which it is proposed, or be deferred to the next or any other subsequent meeting.

40. Amendments shall be considered in the order of the sections to which they relate, except when an amendment in a section renders an alteration in an earlier section necessary.

41. If any amendment, not merely clerical, be made while the Bill as presented by the Select Committee is under the consideration of the Council in detail, the motion for the third reading of the Bill shall not be made at the same meeting, but the Bill shall be brought forward again at a future meeting and may then be read a third time and passed with or without further amendment.

#### VIII.—Admission of Strangers.

42. Strangers may be admitted into the Council Chamber during the sittings of the Council on the order of the President. Application for orders of admission is to be made to the Secretary.

43. The President, on the motion of any Member, may direct at any time during a sitting of the Council that strangers withdraw.

#### IX.—Duties of the Secretary.

44. Journals shall be kept in which all the proceedings of the Council and of Select Committees shall be entered. The Journal of the Council shall be submitted after each meeting to the President for his confirmation and signature, and when signed shall be the record of the proceedings of the Council. The proceedings of each meeting of the Council shall be published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* as soon after the meeting as can be conveniently arranged.

45. All documents ordered to be printed or recorded shall be referred to in the Journal, and after being authenticated by the signature of the Secretary shall be kept with the Records.

46. The Secretary shall attend at every meeting of the Council and of a Select Committee, and in addition to the other duties specially required by these Rules, it shall be his duty—

(1) to take charge of the Records of the Council ;

(2) to keep the Journals of the Council and of the Select Committees ;

(3) to keep a Minute Book, in which he shall enter all the proceedings of the Council, and of the Select Committees, in the order in which they occur, and the names of the Members present ;

(4) To superintend the printing of all Bills and papers ordered to be printed ;

(5) To assist, at all times, the Council and all Committees in all work connected with their duty ;

(6) To write all letters ordered by the Council or by any Committee.

47. After the passing of a Bill the Secretary shall revise and complete the marginal notes thereof.

#### X.—Miscellaneous.

48. Petitions preferred by private persons must be addressed to the Governor in Council, and, if in the vernacular, they must be accompanied by translations. Ordinarily, no reply will be sent to a petition, and no petitions will be considered unless they relate to some Bill before the Council ; but the Secretary may be ordered, for special reasons, to make such communication to the petitioner as the Council may direct.

49. The President may, for sufficient reasons, suspend any of the foregoing rules.

## APPENDIX B.

C.

To

KHA'N SA'HEB MA'MLATDA'R,

Bárdoli.

No. 25 of 25th February 1895.

The people of Varád, Vadoli, Páni and Tarbhan should be warned that if no attempt is made to get more Kaliparaj boys within three months a recommendation will be made to remove the schools to other villages; a detailed report showing the effect of these orders should be made after that period. In the report should be shown the number of Kaliparaj boys that have joined the school.

(Signed) F. S. P. LELY,  
Collector.

D.

The Patel and Taláti of Tarbhan are informed that under the instructions conveyed in the Collector's Order No. 687 of the 26th June 1895, six months' further period is allowed to get more Kaliparaj boys to the school. If the attendance does not increase within that period the order of the 25th February 1895, No. 25, to abolish the school will be put into effect. The people must be informed of this order, and you and the schoolmaster should carefully attend to the order and should try to get more Kaliparaj boys. The result should be reported in detail before the 15th December 1895, and the undersigned should be informed of the state of the case, whenever he visits the village.

No. E.—259 of 1896.

*Camp Bulsár, 30th March 1896.*

## MEMORANDUM.

The people of Tarbhan presented themselves before the undersigned and requested to arrange to keep their village school open. They were informed that their own obstinacy has brought this result and they must suffer the consequences. If they will agree to send at least 25 Kaliparaj and apply again with a kabuláyat to that effect their request will be reconsidered. Khán Sáheb Dinshahji is therefore requested to report in continuation of this office No. 237 of 24th instant, whether Tarbhan school has now been closed and one opened at Wanskai. It must be closed according to orders and the question of re-opening it may be considered afterwards.

(Signed) F. S. P. LELY,  
President, District Local Board, Surat.

No. F. 5293 of 1896-97.

*Ahmedabad, Office of the Educational  
Inspector, N. D.*

*Dated 3rd March 1897.*

To

THE COLLECTOR AND PRESIDENT,

District Local Board, Surat.

SIR,

With reference to your memorandum No. 121, dated the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to state that an arrangement has been made to re-open the school at Tarbhan in the current month.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed) J. OLIVER.  
Educational Inspector, N. D.

## APPENDIX C.

*Sub-heads (a), (b), (d) and (e) of Question No. 10 put by the Honourable Mr. C. H. Setalvad on the 12th October 1896.\**

(a) Will Government be pleased to state what attempts were made and with what result to give effect to the following assurance given by this Government in the year 1882 :—

“But he (the Governor in Council) would now assure the Government of India that whenever such a course is practicable and any private person is found fit to discharge the duties of President and is willing to accept the office, he will have no hesitation in conferring the post upon a non-official. He is fully prepared to concur with the Governor General in Council in regarding, merely as a temporary arrangement, the proposal that the Collector should continue as a rule to be President of the Municipal and Local Fund Committees. That arrangement will cease at once as soon as properly qualified private gentlemen can be found and induced to accept the office, and the Governor in Council trusts that the experiment which he hopes soon to make in this direction will prove so successful as to justify the adoption of the measure.”

*(Paragraph 5, letter No. 4141 of 27th October 1882, from the Government of Bombay to the Secretary to the Government of India.)*

(b) (1) Do not Government find it possible to find non-official persons fit and willing to serve as Presidents in important towns like Surat, Broach, Thána, &c. Were any attempts to secure such persons in such places made during the last five years, and with what result?

(b) (2) If not, will Government be pleased to now move in that direction?

(d) (1) In what Municipalities and District Local Boards presided over by official Presidents are there non-official Vice-Presidents, and for what periods have these non-official gentlemen worked as such Vice-Presidents?

(d) (2) Is it not true that for a greater portion of the year when the Presidents are absent from head-quar-

*Answer to sub-heads (a), (b), (d) and (e) of Question No. 10 put by the Honourable Mr. Setalvad.*

(a) and (b) (1) Non-officials, both fit and willing to serve as Presidents of Municipalities, have occasionally been found, but the instances have not been as numerous as Government could have wished.

(b) (2) When a vacancy occurs Government endeavour to appoint the fittest gentleman available.

(d) (1) The information required so far as it is ascertainable from the Secretariat records will be found in the accompanying Statements I and II.

(d) (2) This is certainly not true in most cases and Government are not aware of any single case in respect of

\* The following *ad interim* reply was given by the Honourable Mr. Birdwood at the Council meeting of the 24th February 1897:

“Government are not at present in a position to answer this question.”

ters they perform all the duties of the Presidents?

(d) (3) Do not Government consider some of them fitted to work as Presidents, and were any of them requested to consent to be nominated Presidents? If not, will Government be pleased to now move in that direction?

(e) In what Municipalities and District and Taluka Local Boards presided over by official Presidents are the Vice-Presidents also officials?

which it could be said to be absolutely true.

(d) (3) It is the intention of Government to continue to appoint the fittest person available. Government must decline to express an opinion as to whether any persons not yet appointed Presidents are fit to be so appointed.

(e) The information required so far as it is ascertainable from the Secretariat records will be found in the accompanying Statement III.

## I.

Statement showing the Municipalities presided over by official Presidents in which there are non-official Vice-Presidents.

Name of Municipality.	Name of Vice-President.	Remarks as to the period for which the Vice-President has served.
	NORTHERN DIVISION.	
	<i>Ahmedabad District.</i>	
	<i>Kaira District.</i>	
1 Kapadvanj ...	Mr. Maganlal Jeychand ...	Vice-President since 1889.
2 Kaira ...	Mr. Virchand Parbhudas ...	There has been a non-official Vice-President since 1895.
	<i>Broach District.</i>	
3 Broach ...	R. B. Chunilal Ven C.I.E.	Vice-President for about ten years.
	<i>Surat District.</i>	
4 Surat ...	Mr. Iswardas Jagjivandas Store.	Vice-President for two years.
	<i>Thána District.</i>	
5 Thána...	R. B. Daji Govind Gupte ...	There has been a non-official Vice-President for over five years.
6 Bassein ...	Mr. Krishnaji Daji Thakur ...	Do.
7 Máhim Kelva ...	Mr. Vaman Ganesh Dandekar...	Do.
8 Bhiwandi ...	Mr. Narayan Vasudev Kunte ...	There has been a non-official Vice-President for one year and a half.
	CENTRAL DIVISION.	
	<i>Ahmednagar District.</i>	
Ahmednagar ...	Information not supplied ...	Information not supplied.

No.	Name of Municipality.	Name of Vice-President.	Remarks as to the period for which the Vice-President has served.
CENTRAL DIVISION— <i>continued.</i>			
<i>Khándesh District.</i>			
Dhulia ...	Information not supplied	...	Since August 1895.
Amalner ...	Do. do.	...	Since 21st April 1892.
Dharangaon ...	Do. do.	...	Since 24th June 1893.
Yaval ...	Do. do.	...	Since 17th September 1895.
Ráver ...	Do. do.	...	Since 6th June 1892.
Blusával ...	Do. do.	...	Since 25th September 1892.
<i>Násik District.</i>			
Igatpuri ...	Information not supplied	...	Information not supplied.
Málegaon ...	Do. do.	...	Do.
<i>Poona District.</i>			
Poona Suburban ...	Dr. R. C. Bhandarkar	...	Information not supplied.
Lonávla ...	Information not supplied	...	Do.
Junnar ...	Do. do.	...	Do.
Síurur ...	Do. do.	...	Do.
<i>Sátára District.</i>			
Sátára City ...	Information not supplied	...	Since 1st April 1892.
Wái ...	Do. do.	...	Information not supplied.
Rahimatpur ...	Do. do.	...	Since 1st April 1892.
Ashta ...	Do. do.	...	Do.
Mayni ...	Do. do.	...	Information not supplied.
Vita ...	Do. do.	...	Since 1st April 1892.
Mhasvad ...	Do. do.	...	Do.
Tásgaon ...	Do. do.	...	Information not supplied.
<i>Sholápur District</i>			
Sholápur ...	Information not supplied	...	Since 1st April 1895.
Bársi ...	Do. do.	...	Since 24th September 1895.
Pandharpur ...	Do. do.	...	Since 1st April 1895.
SOUTHERN DIVISION.			
<i>Belgaum District.</i>			
Belgaum ...	Mr. C. P. Boyce, L.M. & S. ...	Y. m. d.	0 9 0
Nipáni ...	„ Lalchand Bhavanchand Shetgi.		7 8 0
Yamkanmardi ...	„ Shridhar Gangaram Man- gaonkar.		1 0 0
Athni ...	„ Mr. Dinkar Lakshman Gad- gil.		4 4 0
Saundatti-Yellama ...	R. S. Govind Sakharam Hosur .		9 8 0
<i>Bijápur District.</i>			
Bijápur ...	R. S. Raghavendra Krishna ...		4 7 0
<i>Dhárwár District.</i>			
Dhárwár ...	Mr. W. B. Wright...		1 9 0
Gadag... ..	„ Malleshappa Fakirappa Manvi.		1 9 0

No.	Name of Municipality.	Name of Vice-President.	Remarks as to the period for which the Vice-President has served.
<i>Kánara District.</i>			
Kumta	...	Mr. Ganpat Venkatsubha Bhagvat.	Since 28th April 1895.
Honávar	...	R. S. Narayanrao Ranmaya Udiawar.	Since 21st October 1890.
Gokarn	...	Mr. Ganapa Rama Dikshit	Since 9th May 1892.
Haliyál	...	„ Dattátraya Yeshvant Phanse.	Y. m. d. 6 6 0
<i>Kolába District.</i>			
Pen	...	Mr. Khanderao Yeshvant Phanse. (Mr. Phanse, though still a member of the Pen Municipality, resigned the office of Vice-President at the end of last year. Since then the Mámlatdár has been elected Vice-President by the Municipality owing to the unwillingness or inability of unofficial members to fill the office.)	6 6 0
Uran	...	Mr. Bálábhái Dámodar	2 9 0
Roha-Ashtami	...	Mr. V. B. Mehendale	1 6 22
Mahád	...	Mr. B. V. Virkar	1 6 22
<i>Ratnágiri District.</i>			
Vengurla	...	Mr. Krishnáji Shitárám Redkar, B.A., LL.B.	1 5 0
SIND.			
<i>Karáchi District.</i>			
Karáchi	...	Mr. Tahilráam Khemchand	From 18th September 1895 to 20th March 1896, when he was appointed President on Mr. Possman resigning.
<i>Shikárpur District.</i>			
Sukkur	...	Mr. Pesumal Zowkirám	From 8th May 1894.
Shikárpur	...	Mr. Dowlatráam Suratsing	From 14th May 1894.
Ghotki	...	Mr. Ali Mahamadsháh valad Pir Ghulam Hydarsháh.	From 11th May 1896.
Jacobabad	...	A non-official Vice-President was also in office for some years at Jacobabad, but the Commissioner in Sind reported in October last that he was then being prosecuted for malversation of municipal funds.	.....

## II.

*Statement showing the District Local Boards presided over by official Presidents in which there are non-official Vice-Presidents.*

No.	Name of the District Local Board.	Name of Vice-President.	Remarks as to the period for which the Vice-President has served.
NORTHERN DIVISION.			
Kaira	...	Mr. Prabhashankar Bhaishankar.	There has been a non-official Vice-President since the middle of 1895. From 1892 to middle of 1895 the Huzúr Deputy Collector was Vice-President. Up to 1892 there was a non-official Vice-President.



No.	Name of the District Local Board.	Name of Vice-President.	Remarks as to the period for which the Vice-President has served.
NORTHERN DIVISION— <i>continued</i> .			
Broach	...	R. B. Chunilal Venilal, C.I.E.	Vice-President for about ten years.
Thána...	...	R. B. Ramchandra Trimbak Acharya.	There has been a non-official Vice-President for the last six years.
CENTRAL DIVISION.			
Ahmednagar	...	Information not supplied	Information not supplied.
Khándesh	...	Do.	Since 6th February 1896.
Násik	...	Do.	Information not supplied.
Poona	...	Do.	Do.
Sátára	...	Do.	Since 1st April 1892.
Sholápur	...	Do.	Since 20th June 1888.
SOUTHERN DIVISION.			
Bijápur	...	R. S. Raghavendra Krishna	Since 1895.
Dhárwár	...	Mr. Ramchandra Swamirao Mallapur.	Y. m. d. 1 9 0
Kanára	...	Mr. J. J. Saldanha	Since 6th November 1895.
Ratnágiri	...	R. B. Bhaskar Vishnu Phadke.	Y. m. d. 11 6 0
SIND.			
Hyderabad	...	Mr. Chuharmal Kundanmal	From 19th February 1895.

## III.

*Statement showing the Municipalities and District and Táluka Local Boards presided over by official Presidents in which the Vice-Presidents are also officials.*

## MUNICIPALITIES IN THE NORTHERN DIVISION.

*Ahmedabad District.*

Virangám.	Dholera.	Modása.
Dhandhuka.	Sánand.	Ránpur.
Dholka.	Parántij.	Mandal.

*Kaira District.*

Mehmadabad.	Ánand.	Matár.
Dákor.	Umreth.	Mahudha.
Borsad.	Od.	

*Panch Maháls District.*

Godhra.	Dohád.	Kálol.
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*Broach District.*

Anklesvar.	Hánsot.
Jumbusar.	Ámod.

*Surat District.*

Bulsár.	Ránder.	Máudvi.
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*Thána District.*

Kalyán.	Kurla.	Bándra.
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## DISTRICT AND TALUKA LOCAL BOARDS IN THE NORTHERN DIVISION.

*Ahmedabad District.*

District Local Board, Ahmedabad.
Táluka Local Board, Daskrohi.
Do. Viramgám.
Do. Dhandhuka.
Do. Dholka.
Do. Sánand.
Do. Parántij.

*Kaira District.*

Táluka Local Board, Mehmádad.
Do. Mátar.
Do. Nadiád.
Do. Anand.
Do. Borsad.
Do. Thásra.
Do. Kapadvanj.

*Panch Máhals District.*

District Local Board, Panch Máhals.
Táluka Local Board, Godhra.

Táluka Local Board, Kálol.
Do. Dchad.

*Broach District.*

Táluka Local Board, Broach.
Do. Vágra.
Do. Amod.
Do. Jambusar.
Do. Anklesvar.

*Surat District.*

District Local Board, Surat.
Táluka Local Board, Olpád.
Do. Chorási.
Do. Bárdoli.
Do. Jalálpur.
Do. Chikhli.
Do. Bulsár.
Do. Párdi.
Do. Mandvi.

*Thána District.*

Táluka Local Board, Bhiwndi.
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## MUNICIPALITIES IN THE CENTRAL DIVISION.

*Ahmednagar District.*

All Municipalities except Ahmednagar.

*Khándesh District.*

All Municipalities except Dhulia, Amalner, Dharangaon, Yával, Ráver and Bhusával.

*Násik District.*

All Municipalities except Igatpuri and Málegaon.

*Poona District.*

All Municipalities except Lonávla, Junnar and Sirúr.

*Sátára District.*

All Municipalities except Sátára, Wái, Rahimatpur, Ashta, Máyni, Vita, Mhasvad and Tásgaon.

*Sholápur District.*

All Municipalities except Sholápur, Bársi and Pandharpur.

## DISTRICT AND TALUKA LOCAL BOARDS IN THE CENTRAL DIVISION.

*Ahmednagar District.*

All Táluka Local Boards except Nagar and Nevása.

*Khándesh District.*

All Táluka Local Boards except Sindkheda and Bhusával.

*Násik District.*

All the Táluka Local Boards except those of Násik, Báglán, Málegaon, Nándgaon and Niphád.

*Poona District.*

All Táluka Local Boards except that of Haveli.

*Sátára District.*

All Táluka Local Boards except Koregaon, Khatáo and Tásgaon.

*Sholápur District.*

All Táluka Local Boards.

## MUNICIPALITIES IN THE SOUTHERN DIVISION.

*Belgaum District.*

Gokák.

*Dhárwár District.*

All Municipalities except Dhárwár and Gadag-Bettigeri.

*Bijápur District.*

All Municipalities except Bijápur.

*Kánara District.*

Bhatkal.

*Ratnágiri District.*

Rájápur.

*Kolába District.*

Alibág and Panvel.

DISTRICT AND TA'LUKA LOCAL BOARDS IN THE SOUTHERN DIVISION.

<p><i>Belgaum District.</i></p> <p>The District Local Board and all Táluka Local Boards.</p> <p><i>Bijápur District.</i></p> <p>All Táluka Local Boards except Sindgi.</p> <p><i>Dhárwár District.</i></p> <p>All Táluka Local Boards except Dhárwár, Hangal and Karajgi.</p>	<p><i>Kánara District.</i></p> <p>All Táluka Local Boards.</p> <p><i>Kolába District.</i></p> <p>The District Local Board and Táluka Local Boards of Alibág, Pen, Panvel, Roha and Mángaon.</p> <p><i>Ratnágiri District.</i></p> <p>The Táluka Local Boards of Vengurla, Sangameshvar and Dápoli.</p>
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MUNICIPALITIES IN SIND.

<p><i>Karáchi District.</i></p> <p>All Municipalities except that of Karáchi.</p> <p><i>Hyderabad District.</i></p> <p>All Municipalities.</p>	<p><i>Shikárpur District.</i></p> <p>All Municipalities except Shikárpur, Sukkur and Ghotki.</p> <p><i>Thar and Parkár District.</i></p> <p>The Municipalities of Umarkot and Mitti.</p>
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*Upper Sind Frontier District.*

Jacobabad Municipality.

DISTRICT AND TA'LUKA LOCAL BOARDS IN SIND.

<p><i>Karáchi District.</i></p> <p>The District Local Board and all Táluka Local Boards.</p> <p><i>Hyderabad District.</i></p> <p>All Táluka Local Boards.</p>	<p><i>Shikárpur District.</i></p> <p>The District Local Board and all Táluka Local Boards.</p> <p><i>Thar and Párkar.</i></p> <p>The District Local Board and all Táluka Local Boards.</p>
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*Upper Sind Frontier.*

The District Local Board and all Táluka Local Boards.

APPENDIX D.

District.	Approximate land revenue demand for 1896-97.	Estimates of probable suspensions.	Remarks.
	Rs.	Rs.	
Sholápur ... ..	11,29,996	2,28,000	
Ahmednagar ... ..	16,20,000	(3) 1,50,000	(3) The figures relate to the financial year.
Poona ... ..	13,23,294	2,36,000	
Sátára ... ..	19,37,164	1,51,200	
Násik ... ..	14,97,924	2,10,000	
Khándesh ... ..	(2) 40,23,914	(2) 6,80,000	(2) for 1895-96.
Bijápur ... ..	14,09,535	(5) 5,57,350	
Belgaum ... ..	13,70,649	25,000	
Dhárwár ... ..	24,98,991	93,500	