

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Three of the Clock. The Deputy President was in the Chair.

**The Honourable Dr. T. B. Sapru :** Sir, with your permission I wish to move before the House a formal Resolution which speaks for itself. It is this :

'This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that Mr. A. D. Pickford be appointed to be a Member of the Committee already appointed to consider the Report of the Esher Committee in place of Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert who, by reason of sickness, is unable to perform his duties.'

We have held two sittings of the Committee but, unfortunately, Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert has not been able to attend on account of his sickness, and we have therefore come to the House itself to sanction the substitution of Mr. Pickford, who, I understand, is willing to serve on the Committee, for Lieutenant-Colonel Herbert.

The Resolution was accepted.

#### ASSISTANT METALLURGICAL INSPECTORS.

**Mr. Piyari Lal Misra :** Sir, I beg to move :

'That the provision of Rs. 21,900 at page 181 be reduced by Rs. 12,000.'

If we turn to page 181, Miscellaneous Department, we notice that this Department is a new one altogether and the staff is also a new one. Item No. 2 contains two Assistant Metallurgical Inspectors. From this item I wish to take away one Inspector, because this is, after all, a new Department, and we should like to see how it works. There is no necessity to have two Assistant Inspectors and my demand is that Rs. 12,000 be deducted therefrom.

**Mr. Wali Mohamed Hussanally :** May I ask to what demand this relates?

**The Deputy President :** Demand No. 39. It is not printed there.

**The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland :** I am sorry, Sir, that I was not here in time to hear the details of the motion that was made, but I take it for granted that it is in accordance with the notice that was given that one Assistant Metallurgical Inspector should be reduced leaving a junior officer of the value of Rs. 825 a month.

Well, I should like to explain to the House that one Metallurgical Inspecting Staff is still below what is absolutely necessary for safety. The Inspectors are now faced with an increase in work due to an increase in the total output, especially of the Tata Iron and Steel Works which are being enlarged very greatly indeed; they are putting up new blast furnaces and with blast furnaces new steel works. The work therefore is increased by the total quantity of material that requires inspection. The work is increased further more by the increased variety of materials to be inspected. This month we shall have to inspect steel plates as well as steel bars and angles, and the work has also increased by the fact that now the works are spread over a very much greater area, so that the ground to be covered by the Inspectors in their visits to the works is very much greater than before. We are unable at present to obtain Indian Inspectors for this work, because we have no provision in the country for metallurgical training. We train chemists and various other scientific workers, but we have no metallurgical institution so far. That is

one of the proposals made by the Industrial Commission and a proposal which we hope to take up as soon as the financial situation will permit us to do so.

Now, these officers who inspect the steel are responsible for the strength of structural steel as well as the reliability of steel rails used on our railways. It would obviously be very dangerous indeed to allow any inspection of this kind to be reduced intensively, for the Inspectors have to inspect by samples. It is impossible for them to inspect every rail or every beam, but they must take a certain number of rails or beams out of each lot. If they reduce the number of beams or rails actually inspected the risk is consequently and proportionately increased. In addition to the work of actual inspection according to the British standard specifications the Inspectors ought now to be undertaking research work in order to modify the specifications to suit Indian conditions. So far it has been utterly impossible for them to spare time to undertake any form of research work of this sort. We are accordingly carrying on blindly with the British standard classifications. That may be or may not be an economy. It is almost certain though that it will be desirable to modify the specifications to suit Indian conditions and for this purpose the inspecting officers ought to be qualified by their training and ought to be allowed a sufficiency of time to undertake work of this nature. We have already arranged for a slight extension of the buildings so as to introduce some more plant, the plant necessary to do their testing work. At present we have no testing machine that will deal with steel of heavy standards and the result is that our Inspectors have been up till now dependent on the hospitality of the Tata Iron and Steel Company.

We think that with the extension of the works and the demands made on the apparatus used by the Company itself we ought to be independent and we propose, therefore, to provide Rs. 35,000 of which Rs. 30,000 will be due to the extension of the office and laboratory buildings, and Rs. 5,000 for freight and erection charges of certain machinery now expected out from home. I have inspected these offices frequently and I have not the slightest doubt myself that the Inspectors are now overworked and are just reaching the stage when they are forced to reduce the number of inspections made. Consequently, they are reaching the danger line. I ought also to explain that in addition to the work of the Government Departments and railways, they undertake the inspection of structural steel for private firms that buy from the Tata Iron and Steel Company. For this work a scale of fees is charged and credited to Government. A portion of the fees, limited to Rs. 500, a month in the case of the senior officers, is credited to the officers who do the work; but the Government gets the main share of the income and last year our income from fees alone was just about two lakhs. So you see, the Metallurgical Inspector is a paying enterprise even from the point of view of pure cash, apart altogether from the fact that he is an essential insurance against the possibility of our having failures in structural steel and railways. I hope, therefore, the House will understand that it is impossible at present to reduce the staff. On the other hand, it may be necessary in the very near future to ask permission to increase it.

**Mr. Pyari Lal Misra:** Sir, in view of the remarks made by the Honourable Sir Thomas Holland, I wish to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**The Deputy President:** The question is :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,12,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments.'

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I beg to move, Sir :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 31,30,000 be granted to the Governor General Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st of March 1922 in respect of 'Currency.'

Currency.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I beg to move, Sir :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the 'Mint.'

Mint.

(The Honourable the President here resumed the Chair.)

**Mr. E. L. Price:** Sir, I want to ask what is the position of the Bombay Mint. I understand that under a provision made after Government, as an emergency measure, had coined some gold mohurs—now no longer in circulation—the Bombay Mint was made a branch of the Royal Mint for the purpose of coining sovereigns. I want to know if the Bombay Mint is still open to the coining of sovereigns from gold produced in India and gold imported into India, or, if not, why not?

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** Sir, I may explain the exact state of the case. We agreed in the Legislative Council this time last year to re-open that section of the Bombay Mint which was devoted to the coining of sovereigns. We have been in correspondence with the Royal Mint, and they are prepared to take charge again of that section of the Mint which coins sovereigns and to send out the necessary establishment to supervise the work. We have, as the Honourable Member no doubt knows, a large stock of sovereigns at present; but we are making arrangements to re-open the mint, as I have said, as soon as it is required to coin fresh sovereigns here.

**The Honourable the President:** The question is :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 21,45,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of the 'Mint.'

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** I beg to move, Sir :

That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,23,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Exchange.'

Exchange.

**Mr. E. L. Price:** Sir, before we pass this vote, I think we ought to have some information as to what would be the effect on the Budget if exchange failed to rise above the present basis of 1s. 3d.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey:** Sir, I think on a question of this nature, it would have been more suitable if the Honourable Member had given formal notice; if necessary, we could have had a general discussion on the subject. I do not understand, however, that he desires to reduce this demand for grant in

any way, but merely means to ask for information. If our exchange transactions are not effected at an average of 1s. 8d. there will be extra expenditure over that provided in this demand. That is the only answer I can give the Honourable Member at present. In the course of my Budget speech I said that we were not making real forecast, but for accounts purposes we were putting the figure at 1s. 8d. The effect of putting it at 1s. 8d. is shown in the present demand for grant; and if in the course of the year we do not realise that 1s. 8d., there will be an excess.

**Mr. E. L. Price :** An excess, Sir? I did not quite catch the last words of the Honourable Member.

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey :** An excess over the sum now provided.

**Mr. E. L. Price :** Of what sort?

**The Honourable Mr. W. M. Hailey :** The amount of the excess will depend entirely on the rate realised.

**The Honourable the President :** The question is :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 3'28,54,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 in respect of 'Exchange'.'

The motion was adopted.

**Sir Sydney Crookshank :** I beg to move, Sir :

'That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,19,50,000 be granted to the Governor-General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March 1922 for 'Civil Works'.'

Civil Works.

#### PROVISION OF Rs. 3,00,000 FOR THE VICEREGAL ESTATE.

**Dr. H. S. Gour :** Sir, the amendment that I have the honour to move, runs thus :

'That the provision of Rs. 3,00,000 for the Viceregal Estate be omitted.'

This item appears at page 201, of the Demand Book.

You will find, Sir, at page 201, a sum of Rs. 3,98,000 is demanded for the maintenance and repairs to the existing Viceregal Lodge. Members of this Assembly have been promised a full dress debate on the question, if I understood the Honourable Sir William Vincent aright, firstly on the question of the annual exodus to Simla and the desirability of the Assembly holding its sessions there, and secondly on the desirability of holding its sessions in Delhi or elsewhere. Connected with that question is the other question about the expenditure which is being incurred from year to year upon the establishment of the Imperial capital in this city. I understand that ever since the decision of the Government of India to move from Calcutta to Delhi a sum of 5 crores of rupees or thereabouts has been expended upon the construction of the new capital, and if I understand aright, a sum of Rs. 8 or 10 crores still remains unspent on the construction of this capital. Now, I venture to submit that if the capital is to be transferred from this end of the town to the other end, namely, the Raisina town, I fail to understand why large sums of money should be annually required and spent for the amelioration of the present Viceregal Lodge. If the intention of the Government of India is to make this place a permanent home of the Government of India, I can understand