

LOVETT COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

619. **Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai:** Do the Government propose to invite the opinion of the Members of the Council of State and Legislative Assembly on the Lovett Committee's Report before giving effect to the recommendations contained therein?

Sir Godfrey Fell: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the reply given to the question asked by Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha on the 15th March 1921 (Question No. 4, 2).

Government do not propose to invite the opinion of the Members of the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly on the Lovett Committee's Report. It has been open to any Member of the Council of State or the Legislative Assembly to move a Resolution on the subject during the present session, and thus to elicit an expression of opinion.

BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY AND THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

620. **Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai:** Will the Government be pleased to state why the Benares Hindu University Court has not been given the privilege of returning a Member to the Legislative Assembly?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: The question of allotting representation to the Benares Hindu University on the Assembly was duly considered by the Government of India. In deciding not to include provision on this behalf in their draft of the electoral rules the Government of India were actuated by the consideration that though the University is in form an all-India institution, the majority of its students are residents of the United Provinces and that the grant of a seat to the University would therefore in effect have increased the measure of representation accorded to that Province, with the result of disturbing the inter-provincial adjustment of seats. I may add that the conclusion reached was concurred in by a majority of the members of the Reforms Advisory Committee and that the claim for the representation of the University was expressly noticed and discussed by the Government of India in the despatch with which the draft rules were forwarded for the sanction of the Secretary of State and the approval of Parliament.

COURT OF THE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER AT LUCKNOW.

621. **Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai:** (a) Is the Government aware of a very strong feeling in Oudh that the Court of the Judicial Commissioner at Lucknow should be converted into a Chief Court?

(b) If the reply is in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state what action it contemplates to take in the matter?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by me on the 21st March to a question on the subject asked by Munshi Iswar Saran.

COMMON HIGH COURT FOR AGRA AND OUDH.

622. **Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai:** Is there any truth in the rumour that a common High Court is proposed to be established for the Provinces of Agra and Oudh with Divisional Benches at Allahabad and Lucknow?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: I would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to the question asked by Mr. Iswar Saran.

NEW ARMS RULES.

623. Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai: (a) Is the Government aware that the new Arms Rules have caused deep resentment among titleholders, honorary magistrates, honorary munsifs and honorary assistant collectors?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it contemplates to so revise the rules as to exempt them from restrictions contained in the Arms Act?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: (a) Government are aware that some of the new provisions in the Indian Arms Rules have caused dissatisfaction among the classes mentioned.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the Home Department Resolution No. 2125-C., dated the 2nd March 1919, from which he will see that the policy of the Government is to confine exemptions within the narrowest limits practicable. They are not therefore prepared to extend the list of exemptions in the manner proposed.

DISCONTINUANCE OF THE POWAGAN STEAM RAILWAY.

624. Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai: (a) Is the Government aware that the residents of Shahjahanpur and Kheri districts are put to very great inconvenience owing to the discontinuance of the Powagan Steam Railway?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any likelihood of the running of the Powagan Steam Railway at an early date? If so, when?

Colonel W. D. Waghorn: (1) Government are not aware that the discontinuement of this line has caused any serious inconvenience. They have received no formal complaints to this effect.

(2) There is at present no idea of relaying this line and it is improbable that anything can be done in the matter in the immediate future.

PROVINCIAL FOREST SERVICE.

625. Rai Bahadur S. P. Bajpai: (a) Will the Government be pleased to state what percentage of increase was recommended by the Royal Commission on Public Services for the Provincial Forest Service?

(b) Is it a fact that the salary of the Provincial Forest Service before the introduction of the revised scheme of pay in March 1920 went up to Rs. 850, and that under the new scheme they can rise up to Rs. 750 only? If so, will the Government be pleased to state why this curtailment in their grade has been found necessary?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any other service, Imperial or Provincial, in which there has been a similar reduction in the maximum grade?

(d) Is the Government aware that serious dissatisfaction prevails amongst the Provincial Forest Service officers on account of the revised scheme?