

preponderated in the higher grades of the Public Works Department subordinate account staff. For example, of the eight Public Works Chief Accountants in service in July 1911 six were Europeans or Anglo-Indians. The disparity has, however, been now extinguished. Of the eight Assistant Accounts Officers (Public Works Department) now in service four are Indians. Thus it is likely that in future a considerable share of such promotions will go to Indians.

DISCONTENTMENT IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

667. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : (a) Is Government aware of the great discontentment prevailing in the Ordnance Factories among the leading hands and Indian service mechanics due to the non-fulfilment of promises made to these men by the heads of their departments to revise their pre-war rates of pay, while the rest of the staff have been in receipt of substantial increment for some time ?

(b) Is Government aware that these men were promised in early 1918 that their rates were being revised along with the Home-recruited men, *viz.*, the Foremen and Assistant Foremen of the Factories, and that whereas the latter received in September 1919 an increase of pay averaging 35 to 40 per cent. over pre-war rates, the former received nothing more than the temporary war allowance sanctioned for both in 1918 ?

Sir Godfrey Fell : I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the replies given on the 11th March to the Questions asked by Dr. Gour, Nos. 440 and 443.

INDIAN SERVICE MECHANICS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

668. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney : (a) Is it not the fact that the leading hands and Indian service mechanics in Ordnance Factories after appealing for three years have just been granted only an additional 5 per cent. temporary allowance, whereas another 15 per cent. would have only cost Government approximately Rs. 1,400 monthly, and at the same time given these men a percentage of increase which would have brought them into line with increases granted to the rest of the staff ?

(b) Is it not the fact that the Home-recruited men are being granted (if not already granted) a further increase of pay by way of 'overseas allowance' which gives them an increase of *nearly 60 per cent* over pre-war rates of pay and cost Government an additional *1½ lacs of rupees* annually, while the leading hands and Indian service mechanics, 'for want of funds,' can only get a temporary allowance of *25 per cent* over pre-war rates? If so, will Government please state the reasons for this differential treatment ?

(c) Does Government propose to see that necessary action is taken immediately to increase the temporary allowance of leading hands and Indian service mechanics in the same proportion as the increases sanctioned for the Home-recruited men, *viz.*, Foremen and Assistant Foremen; and also to recompense these men by early sanctioning a revised permanent scale commensurate with the present high price of labour, basing it on a time scale with retrospective effect to September 1919 as in the case of the Home-recruited men ?