

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 1st March, 1921.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock.
The Honourable the President was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN :

Rai Nishikanta Sen Bahadur, M.L.A.; Mr. Syed Haider Karrar Jafri, M.L.A.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

RANGOON UNIVERSITY BILL.

299. **Mr. P. P. Ginwala :** Will the Government be pleased to state whether before according its administrative approval to the Rangoon University Bill, 1920, the Bill was scrutinised by it in the light of such of the general recommendations of the Sadler Commission, as were applicable to all new Universities of the centralized and residential type to be established in the future, and, if so, which of such recommendations were in respect of the Rangoon University :

- (i) adopted by the Government of India;
- (ii) suggested as worthy of adoption by the Government of Burma ;
and
- (iii) adopted by the Government of Burma ?

Mr. H. Sharp : Before the Government of India accorded approval to the introduction of the Rangoon University Bill, the question of the extent to which its provisions accorded with the general recommendations of the Calcutta University Commission was carefully considered. The Government of India held that the divergencies in the Bill from those recommendations were largely due to the peculiar conditions prevailing in Burma and that the scheme set forth, as it developed, would, in time to come, conform with the more important of those recommendations. It may also be mentioned that the Government of Burma delayed the submission of the scheme in order that the Commission's recommendations might be considered.

LEGISLATION FOR THE RANGOON UNIVERSITY.

300. **Mr. P. P. Ginwala :** Will the Government be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Sadler Commission did not in paragraph 3 of Chapter L of their report lay it down as a general proposition that it was 'essential that fundamental University legislation should continue to be, for British India, a function of the Imperial Government'?

Mr. H. Sharp: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The Professors will be appointed by the Chancellor. The number of these Professors was, at least in the first instance, to be ten, and all Professors must be members of the staff of one or other of the constituent colleges. One of these colleges is placed, by the provisions of the Act, under a Governing Body. The other is a privately managed institution. Hence the arrangement at Rangoon is different from that contemplated by the Commission at Dacca and Calcutta.

HEDJAZ PILGRIMS.

303. Haji Wajihuddin: Will the Honourable Member in charge of the Foreign Department please say whether the Government is aware of the hardships and sufferings that Hedjaz pilgrims underwent last year on their journey from Mecca to Medina? And of anarchy and want of peace prevailing in Medina?

Mr. H. Sharp (on behalf of the Honourable Mr. Denys Bray): The Government of India have received reports that the Hedjaz pilgrims met with hardships last year on the road from Mecca to Medina, but the reports did not indicate the existence of a state of anarchy and want of peace in Medina.

NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT.

304. Mr. Darcy Lindsay: Will the Government of India state what course they propose adopting to counteract the non-co-operation movement and arrest its spread and otherwise afford protection to those who oppose the movement and wish to live in peace?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: The policy of the Government of India has been indicated in the Resolution published on 6th November. The Government of India are consulting Local Governments as to the necessity for further action, but all replies have not been received.

COMPOSITION OF THE PUBLICITY DEPARTMENT.

305. Mr. Darcy Lindsay: Will the Government of India give information as to the composition of the Publicity Department, its present activities and ability to undertake and deal with the work of distributing true knowledge to the people of India on the aims and objects of the new form of government, and also the wide distribution of a *résumé* of the speeches delivered by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, His Excellency the Viceroy and the Princes of India at the recent ceremonies held in Delhi and Raisina including the speeches to the Indian Army?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: The Honourable Member no doubt refers to the Central Bureau of Information. It is under the general control of the Home Department and consists of Professor Rushbrook-Williams and Mr. R. S. Bajpai, with a small office staff.

The present activities of the Central Bureau of Information fall under the following heads:

- (a) Collecting and supplying to provincial publicity organisations authoritative information upon matters of all-India interest in which the public is interested.

- (b) Bringing to the notice of the different Departments of the Government of India topics upon which statements can usefully be made.
- (c) Placing before the public information which Government considers should be made widely known.
- (d) Supervising the diffusion of correct information about India in other countries, especially England and America.

Government is satisfied of the ability of the Bureau and of the provincial departments affiliated to it to disseminate true knowledge of the aims and objects of the new form of Government, and the Bureau has in fact done a great deal in this direction by the use of leaflets, pamphlets and posters. The attention of many newspapers, English and vernacular, have also been drawn to the necessity for explaining the Reforms. The Bureau is also assisting in the steps taken for the wide distribution of the speeches delivered by His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES.

306. **Mr. N. M. Joshi :** (a) Have Government formulated any scheme for the settling of industrial disputes? And, if so, what is its nature?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place a copy of the scheme together with the opinions of the Local Governments, if any, on the table?

(c) Do Government propose to take any legislative steps as regards this matter?

The Honourable Sir Thomas Holland : The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to Question No. 266 put by Mr. Mahmood S'Chamnad Sahib Bahadur on the 22nd February 1921. As stated then, it is not possible to put forward any uniform proposals on this subject. The Government of India have given continuous attention to this matter for some months past, and I believe several Local Governments have done the same, but no definite scheme has been prepared, and, for the reasons given before, it does not seem practicable to take any legislative steps in the near future.

MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920.

307. **Mr. M. K. Reddiyar :** (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if any memorial has been received from the Jenmies and Market owners of Malabar regarding certain provisions of the Madras Local Boards Act of 1920 and to lay on the table a copy of the same, if the answer is in the affirmative?

(b) Is it a fact that certain provisions in the said Act will diminish the income-tax now levied on the income from private markets, and, if so, do the Government of India propose to direct that no action of the Local Government ought to encroach on the financial resources of the Government of India?

Mr. H. Sharp : (a) Memorials, as described in the question, were received addressed to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council, objecting to certain provisions of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920. These memorials, which were rejected by the Governor General in Council after careful consideration, were returned in original to the Government of Madras who had forwarded them.