

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 11th March, 1924.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

DEATH OF MR. G. M. BHURGRI.

Pandit Motilal Nehru (Cities of the United Provinces: Non-Muhamadan Urban): Sir, before you begin the business of the day, it is my painful duty to convey a very sad news to this House. It is the news of the untimely death of our colleague, Mr. Bhurgri, which sad event occurred last night. We were informed of it only a few minutes ago by a press message. In Mr. Bhurgri, Sir, many of us lose a true and valued personal friend and the House loses a very earnest worker, a valued colleague and true patriot. I have no doubt that the House will agree to communicate a message of sympathy and condolence to his relations and to express the grief which I am sure is felt by every Member of this House.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhamadan Rural): Sir, I wish also to associate myself with what has fallen from the lips of Pandit Motilal Nehru. Sir, I knew Mr. Bhurgri for the last 25 years from the time when he joined the collegiate school at Aligarh. He was in his school life popular and won the esteem and love of all those who came in contact with him, and afterwards in public life he proved to be a true Aligarh boy, a genuine patriot and a worthy son of the Motherland. It is very sad indeed that the cruel hand of premature death has snatched away from us a young man and a valuable servant of the country at a time when his services were so badly needed. When we all came to Delhi at the commencement of the present Session, I looked forward with great eagerness to the time of his arrival here, and was very much pleased at the prospect of meeting him again, but unfortunately it was not destined to be, and we will not see him ever in this world. Really it is very sad, and it is difficult for me to convey by means of any words, the expression of our feelings. With these words I support the proposition that we should convey our condolence to the bereaved family of the late Mr. Bhurgri.

Maulvi Abul Kasem (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the news of the death of Mr. Bhurgri came to me as a very great shock. I came to know him at the meetings of the Congress, about 20 years back. He was one of the very few Muhammadans who had the courage of his convictions, and ventured to go into the Congress camp in spite of the jeers and the jibes of the members of the community, and he has maintained that character to the end of his life. He wanted, Sir, to do his duty by the country without fear and favour. He feared not any man, however high or powerful he might be, and he cared not for the claps or the cheers of the populace. But he did his duty honestly, according to the dictates

• **Mr. G. R. Clarke:** (a) Nil.

(b) Two.

(c) Nine.

STRENGTH OF CLERICAL STAFF IN AND HEAD POST OFFICE IN THE PUNJAB AND N. W. F. CIRCLE.

740. ***Mr. Ohaman Lal:** Will the Government be pleased to state the present clerical strength in each head office in the Punjab and N. W. F. Circle and that actually justified by the present time-test?

Mr. G. R. Clarke: A reference is invited to the reply given by me on the 25th February, 1924, to Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda's starred Question No. 423.

In order to ascertain the number of clerks actually justified by the time-test in each of the offices concerned at the present moment, it would be necessary to record special statistics. Government do not propose to have this done, as any shortage of staff that there may be will be automatically made good under departmental arrangements.

CASE OF MR. E. F. FLYNN, LATE PLATFORM INSPECTOR, AMBALA.

741. ***Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** 1. Will the Government be pleased to state whether one Mr. E. F. Flynn, late Platform Inspector, N. W. Railway, Ambala, was prosecuted at the instance of the Station Master and the Assistant Traffic Superintendent for having abetted the embezzlement of Rs. 18 and tried by the Sessions Judge, Ambala, with the aid of a jury, with the result that he was honourably acquitted with the finding that the case against him was a trumped up one?

2. Is it a fact that the said Mr. E. F. Flynn was, after re-instatement in his post lasting only for a few days, brought under reduction, and is no longer employed in the Railway?

3. Are the Government aware that, when he was paid his gratuity, his services were described as efficient, faithful and continuous?

4. Is it a fact that the said Mr. E. F. Flynn served the N. W. Railway for over thirty years and being under fifty years is physically quite fit to serve longer?

5. In view of the finding of the Sessions Judge and his re-instatement, and the absence of any other known reasons, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for the subsequent forced retirement of the said Mr. E. F. Flynn? What action do Government propose to take?

The Honourable Sir Charles Innes: Government are making inquiries and will let the Honourable Member know the result in due course.

HOLIDAYS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT.

742. ***Mr. Ohaman Lal:** (a) Have Government issued any orders reducing the number of holidays in the Secretariat of the Government of India?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to lay a copy of these orders on the table?