



Proceedings of the Assam Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1919.

The Council met in the Council Chamber at Government House, on Thursday, the 7th September 1922, at 11 A.M.

P R E S E N T :

The Hon'ble Mr. J. C. Arbuthnott, C.I.E., *President*, the Hon'ble the Finance Member, the two Hon'ble Ministers and 41 nominated and elected Members.

OATH OF OFFICE.

The following Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown :—

1. Mr. A. J. Lainé.
2. Maulavi Akmal Hussein.
3. Babu Hiralal Bose.
4. Mr. E. W. Hobson.
5. Maulavi Abdul Rah'm Chaudhury.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.)

MAULAVI SAIYID NURUR RAHMAN asked :—

1. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

Habiganj
High
School.

(b) What was the number of Muhammadan students in the year preceding, class by class, and what is the corresponding number of the Muhammadan students in the year 1921 ?

(c) Are the Government aware that Muhammadans of the Habiganj subdivision are poorer than their brethren of other community ?

(This question was asked at the Council meeting held on the 7th February 1922.)

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA
replied :—

1. (b)—The number of Muhammadan students in Habiganj Government High School, class by class, in the year preceding that in which the flat rates of fees were introduced and in the year 1921 are as follows :—

Class	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	Total.
1918	14	9	11	11	8	7	12	9	81
1921	4	1	4	5	8	6	3	9	40

(c)—The Subdivisional Officer, Habiganj, reports that it is not perhaps correct to say that the Muhammadans of the Habiganj subdivision are as a class poorer than the Hindus to any appreciable extent. It is, however, true that amongst rural population the number of Muhammadans who work as labourers is much greater than the corresponding section of the Hindu community and it would appear that so far as the lowest stratum of society is concerned Muhammadans are poorer than the Hindus.

MAULAVI SAIYID ABDUL KHALIQUE CHAUDHURY asked :—

1. Will the Government be pleased to state how many posts of Clerks of the Upper Division of the Assam Secretariat and of the Upper Division of Assam Secretariat and which how many are held by the Muhammadans?

2. Is it a fact that clerks in the Upper Division of the Assam Secretariat are occasionally taken from those of the offices of Heads of Departments and of the Commissioners of Divisions?

(a) If the answer be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state how many Muhammadans are thus taken?

(b) If the answer be in the negative, will the Government be pleased to see its way to take suitable Muhammadan clerks from the offices of Heads of Departments, Commissioners of Divisions and of the District offices to the said Upper Division of the Assam Secretariat?

3. Will the Government be pleased to give separately the accounts of Income from Court-fees, incomes derived from Court-fees from the year 1918-1922 for a period of three months from May to July only?

4. Will the Government be pleased to give separately the accounts of Income from stamps, of incomes derived from stamps from the year 1918-1922 for a period of three months from May to July only?

THE HON'BLE Mr. W. J. REID replied :—

1.—There are 24 posts in the Upper Division of the Secretariat including six posts of Head Assistants; one post, that of a Head Assistant, is occupied by a Muhammadan.

2.—Yes.

(a)—No Muhammadan has been so taken recently.

(b)—Although communal claims are taken into consideration in making original appointments to the Secretariat merit and seniority alone are considered in making promotions to the Upper Division which is essentially a selection grade.

3 and 4.—The figures are given below :—

Year.	Receipts from —	
	Receipt-stamps.	Court-fees.
1	2	3
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
1918 (May to July) ...	57,874 8 0	2,66,948 0 0
1919 (ditto) ...	1,04,325 4 0	2,94,113 5 0
1920 (ditto) ...	1,05,587 9 0	3,22,132 5 0
1921 (ditto) ...	84,004 6 0	2,73,001 12 0
1922 (ditto) ...	1,14,356 0 0	3,09,841 4 0

MAULAVI ABDUL KHALIQUE CHAUDHURY asked :—

Hindu and
Muham-
madan
Teachers.

5. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately :—

- (a) The number of Hindu and Muhammadan teachers serving in the Government High Schools in the Province school by school separately ?
- (b) The number of Hindu and Muhammadan teachers appointed to those schools from 1916-1921 ?
- (c) Is any Muhammadan teacher serving in any of those schools as Head Master or Assistant Head Master ? If not will Government be pleased to state the reason ?

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA replied :—

5. (a)—The particulars are given below :—

No.	Name of School.	Number of teachers.	
		Hindu.	Muhammadan.
1	2	3	4
(1)	Sylhet	20	4
(2)	Maulvi Bazar	17	4
(3)	Silchar	17	3
(4)	Habiganj	20	1
(5)	Karimganj	14	3
(6)	Shillong	16	1
(7)	North Lakhimpur	12	2
(8)	Dibrugarh	19	4
(9)	Sibsagar	18	3
(10)	Jorhat	17	5
(11)	Golaghat	15	2
(12)	Nowgong	17	2
(13)	Tezpur	16	1
(14)	Mangaldai	12	1
(15)	Cotton Collegiate School	23	2
(16)	Barpeta	13	1
(17)	Goalpara	12	1
(18)	Dhubri	12	2
	Total	290	42

(b)--The number of Hindu and Muhammadan teachers appointed to Government High Schools from 1916 to 1921 are respectively 76 and 27.

(c)--There are 3 Muhammadan Assistant Head Masters in the Province.

RAI BAHADUR AMARNATH RAY asked :—

1. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state the annual cost of training educational officers from Assam at Dacca during the last five years showing the allowances of officers deputed ?

Dacca Training College.

(This question was asked at the Council meeting held on the 29th March 1922.)

2. Will the Government be pleased to state separately :—

(a) The total number of Government Aided and Unaided High Schools in the Province which have got trained Head Masters ?

Government Aided and Unaided High Schools.

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA replied :—

1. (a)—The approximate amount of allowances of Government Officers deputed to the Training College at Dacca during the last five years is as follows :—

				Rs.
1917-18	...	...	...	7,750
1918-19	...	...	...	9,250
1919-20	...	...	...	8,000
1920-21	...	...	...	8,470
1921-22	...	...	...	10,040

2. (a)—The number of trained Head Masters in Government, Government Aided and Unaided High Schools in Assam is 4, 0 and 1, respectively.

SRIJUT BISHNU CHARAN BORA asked :—

1. Will the Government please state whether any steps have been taken to give effect to the motion carried in the Council in September Session of 1921 for limiting to 3 years the tenure of membership of the managing committee of the High Schools ?

Tenure of membership of the managing committee of High Schools.

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA replied :—

1.—Yes. Hon'ble Member's attention is invited to Notification No. 28E., dated the 6th January 1922, whereby the rules for the working of School Managing Committees were amended enjoining that non-official members will hold office for three years but will be eligible for re-election.

SRIJUT BISHNU CHARAN BORA asked :—

Village
Civil
Courts.

2. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact that the parties aggrieved by the decision of the Village Civil Courts of all the districts in Assam Valley Division except those of the district of Kamrup have to experience great hardships in approaching the District Judge for redress ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to remedy this at an early date ?

THE HON'BLE MR. A. MAJID replied :—

2.—Government have received no information of the existence of the alleged hardships.

MAULAVI RUKUNUDDIN AHMAD asked :—

Survey
operation
of Dibru-
garh-
Amguri
Railway.

1. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state as to when the Survey operation of the proposed Railway line from Dibrugarh to Amguri *via* Khowang and Sibsagar will be completed ?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state as to when the construction work of the aforesaid Railway line will be undertaken ?

(c) Are the Government aware of the fact that a journey to Dibrugarh along the existing line takes a much longer time than necessary and also that a journey to Sibsagar is attended with a good deal of inconvenience ? If so, will the Government be pleased to undertake the construction of the proposed Railway line at an early date ?

Kamalabari
Road
to North
Lakhimpur.

2. (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that great inconvenience is felt by the public as the Kamalabari road to North Lakhimpur is not in a good condition ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to devise means for improving the aforesaid road for the convenience of the public ?

Water-
supply in
Sibsagar
town.

3. (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that a good deal of inconvenience is felt by the public of Sibsagar town for lack of proper water-supply ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consult the Municipal authorities of the aforesaid place to consider the feasibility of water-supply by tap-system ?

Waiting
room for
Indian
ladies
travelling
in the
Inter-
class.

4. (a) Are the Government aware that great inconvenience is being felt by the majority of Indian ladies travelling in the Inter-class of the Railways of the Province for want of suitable waiting rooms for them ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct the Railway authorities concerned to provide such waiting rooms as far as practicable ?

5. (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that great inconvenience is felt by the public in connection with the first train that runs from Dibrugarh Bazar station of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway, as the train leaving Dibrugarh does not connect with the Assam-Bengal Railway mixed train that leaves Tinsukia Railway junction before the arrival of the Dibru-Sadiya Railway train from Dibrugarh Bazar station?

Dibru-Sadiya Railway.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to direct the Assam-Bengal Railway and the Dibru-Sadiya Railway authorities for bridging over the difficulties?

6. Will the Government be pleased to extend the recent concessional privilege offered to the members of the bar as regards age limit in the Assam Executive Services to other similar Services, namely, Excise, Police, etc.?

Age limit of candidates for services in Excise, Police, etc., Departments.

MR. A. W. BOTHAM replied :—

1. (a)—The survey operations were completed during 1921-22.

(b)—Government is unable to state when the construction of the Railway will be undertaken.

(c)—Yes. The importance of this line has been urged on the Railway Board but the difficulty of financing it is likely to delay its construction in the immediate future.

2. (a)—This fair weather road is reported to be in good order and Government are not aware that inconvenience is felt by the public on account of the bad condition of the road.

(b)—Any radical improvement to this road would involve considerable expenditure which the province cannot afford at present.

3. (a) and (b)—Administrative approval has been given to a water-supply scheme for the town of Sibsagar. The estimated cost of the scheme in 1918, was 50,000 rupees. The scheme cannot materialise unless the Municipal authorities are in a position to provide the necessary funds.

4. (a)—No representation on the alleged inconvenience felt by Indian ladies travelling in the Intermediate Class of the railways of this province has been received by Government.

(b)—The control over the Assam-Bengal and Eastern Bengal Railways which are the two main lines in this province does not rest with this Government but if the Hon'ble Member will state the names of the stations where he considers that such accommodation should be provided, the railways concerned will be approached on the subject and their replies communicated to him.

5. (a)—Government are aware that some inconvenience is felt by the public of Lakhimpur owing to the two trains referred to not connecting at Tinsukia. .

(b)—Government are satisfied that the difficulty cannot at present be overcome by the earlier despatch of the morning train from Dibrugarh and a change in the time of departure of the Assam-Bengal Railway train from Tinsukia is likely to cause greater inconveniences to the rest of the public making use of the Railway between Tinsukia and Pandughat than those which it is proposed to remedy.

6.—No.

MAULAVI RUKUNUDDIN AHMAD asked :—

7. (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that probationers are admitted into the ministerial department of the Deputy Commissioners' offices ?

Probationers in the Deputy Commissioners' offices.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if when such probationers are admitted there is any standing provision for advertising the vacancies ?

(c) If the reply to the above question is in the negative, will the Government be pleased in the interest of the public to advertise such vacancies as they occur in the public places of the localities ; and, if possible, in the local newspapers ?

8. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of vacancies occurring and the number of probationers admitted into the ministerial department of the Deputy Commissioners' offices of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts and the number of Muhammadans and non-Muhammadans respectively filling up such vacancies, for the last three years ?

Probationers in the Deputy Commissioners' offices of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts.

THE HON'BLE MR. W. J. REID replied :—

7. (a)—Yes.

(b)—The standing orders require that the occurrence of vacancies should be widely advertised.

(c)—The Government have no reason to think that the standing orders are disregarded.

8.—A statement giving the information required is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of vacancies occurred and the number of probationers admitted in the offices of the Deputy Commissioners of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur.

Year.	Number of vacancies occurred.	Number of probationers admitted.		Number of clerks who got direct appointment.	
		Muhammadans.	Non-Muhammadans.	Muhammadans.	Non-Muhammadans.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1919-20.					
Lakhimpur	5	2	2	...	1
Sibsagar	3	...	3	...	...
1920-21.					
Lakhimpur	5	...	4	1	...
Sibsagar	4	2	1	...	1
1921-22.					
Lakhimpur	3	...	2	...	1
Sibsagar	1	...	1	...	...

MAULAVI RUKUNUDDIN AHMAD asked :—

9. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there was any sitting of the Muhammadan Educational Conference since 1914, to consider the question of the Madrassa education in Assam? Muhammadan Educational Conference.

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any proposal for holding such a conference in near future?

(c) If the reply to the above question is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of holding such a conference at an early date to examine how the present system of Madrassa education is working and to devise some modifications if necessary to suit the requirements of the present day?

10. (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that the Sibsagar district has a comparatively large Muhammadan population? Islamic Institution.

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to provide an Islamic Institution teaching secular subjects up to the Middle English standard and Islamic subjects up to the Junior standard, in the aforesaid district?

11. Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the rule or rules, if any, governing the constitution of the Text-Book Committee in Assam? Text-Book Committee.

Muham-
madan
population.

12. Will the Government be pleased to state the increase in percent-
age of the Muhammadan population in Assam, valley by valley, at the
last Census operation ?

Literary
pension.

13. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any-
thing like literary pension granted to the Literateurs of Assam ?

(b) Are the Government aware of the fact that there are promising
Muhammadan Literateurs in the Assam Valley who for want of impetus
from the Government in the shape of literary pension are proving
barren in the matter of literary productions ?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of
granting some more literary pensions to the desiring Muhammadans as
well ?

Muhamma-
dan Hostel
attached to
Earle Law
College.

14. Are the Government aware of the fact that in the Muhammadan
Hostel attached to the Earle Law College, Gauhati, arrangements for
accommodation, water-supply, and conservancy are not satisfactory ? If
so, will the Government be pleased to remedy these defects as early as
possible ?

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA
replied :—

9. (a)—There have been meetings of Sub-Committees but no sitting
of the general conference since 1914.

(b)—The answer is in the negative.

(c)—The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the debate
at the April Session of the Council on the resolution by Maulavi Safiur
Rahman on the subject of the appointment of a committee to consider
inter alia the question of the revival of the Madrasa courses. As the
Hon'ble Member will recollect, the question of revising the courses is
pending in anticipation of the report of the Committee which was
recently appointed in Bengal to advise in regard to the courses of the
Madrasa-i-alia, Calcutta. On receipt of this report it will be carefully
considered by the Director of Public Instruction who will, if the
circumstances indicate that this course is proper, appoint a small
departmental Committee to advise him on the issues. In the event of
such action, the findings of the Committee will in due course be
published for criticism so that every one who is interested will have
an opportunity of stating his views and having them taken into con-
sideration.

10. (a)—The answer is in the affirmative.

(b)—In view of the financial position Government do not regard
it as necessary to consider the proposal at the present time. Government
are further informed that, as is proved by the backward condition of
existing Islamic institutions in the district, instruction on specifically
Islamic lines is not popular with the Muhammadans of Sibsagar and
that the establishment of such an institution as that proposed would not
in any case be warranted.

11.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the Notification No. 6102E., dated 12th November 1919, containing the rules for the working of Text-Book Committees published in the *Assam Gazette* of the 19th November 1919.

12. A statement is laid on the table :—

	1921.	1911.	Actual variation.	Increase per cent.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
Surma Valley and Hill Division.	1,606,880	1,532,968	+83,892	+5.5	
* Assam Valley Division including Sadiya and Balipara Frontier Tracts.	595,530	863,540	+232,040	+63.8	* During 1911-1921 Sadiya and Balipara Frontier Tracts were formed partly by transfer of areas from Lakhimpur and Darrang districts, respectively. Hence they are included under Assam Valley Division for calculation.

13.—(a) A special literary pension of Rs. 25 a month was granted by the Secretary of State in 1909 to Srijut Padmanath Barua, now Rai Sahib Padmanath Gohain Barua. This is the only literary pension which has been granted in the province of Assam.

(b)—Government regret that they have no information on the subject but they do not regard the grant of literary pensions as a means of stimulating literary output.

(c)—Government will be prepared to take into consideration any suitable proposal which may come before them. The Hon'ble Member is probably aware however that civil list pensions are granted most sparingly nowadays and that ordinarily, in the matter of literary pensions a recommendation, if it is to have any chance of success, should specify outstanding literary merit on the part of the person recommended, and should show that he is unavoidably placed in circumstances of hardship inconsistent with his position and his merits.

14.—Government are advised that the arrangements for the accommodation of the Muhammadan students are satisfactory. The Director of Public Instruction is in correspondence with the Principal of the College in regard to the water-supply and the sanitary arrangements. He will look into these matters when he next halts at Gauhati.

MAULAVI RUKUNUDDIN AHMAD asked :—

Tour programme of Heads of Departments.

15. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if there is any standing provision of sending the tour programmes of the various Heads of Departments to the Deputy Commissioners and to the Subdivisional Officers ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to instruct the Deputy Commissioners and the Subdivisional Officers to circulate such tour programmes among the elite of the town, to give them an opportunity to meet the Heads of Departments if necessary ?

(c) Will the Government be also pleased to send such tour programmes to the members of the Council respectively ?

MR. A. W. BOTHAM replied :—

15. (a)—The reply is in the affirmative.

(b)—Heads of Departments have been instructed to publish their tour programmes in the *Assam Gazette* for the information of the general public.

(c) As the Members of Council are supplied with a copy of the *Gazette* the arrangement at (b) will meet the purpose.

MAULAVI RUKUNUDDIN AHMAD asked :—

Commercial education.

16. (a) Are the Government aware of the fact that there is a great demand for a commercial education amongst the Assamese youths of the present day ?

(b) If so, will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of granting them some facilities by providing a certain number of scholarships for such education outside the province ?

(c) Will the Government be also pleased to reserve some such scholarships for the Muhammadan youths of the province as well ?

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR GHANASYAM BARUA replied :—

16. (a)—The answer is in the negative.

(b)—The question will be examined when the financial position is improved.

(c) The suggestion will be considered.

BABU BIRAJ MOHAN DATTA asked :—

Deputy Superintendent of Police.

1. With reference to the reply given to question 1 (a to e) asked by Babu Ramani Mohon Das, M.L.C., in the Legislative Council of February 6th, 1922 (*vide Assam Gazette* of 15th February 1922, page 20), will the Government be pleased to state when final order can be expected from the Government? Is it a fact that orders have already been passed in Bengal and Madras ?

2. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the recent memorials of the Deputy Superintendents of Police in this respect ?

THE HON'BLE MR. A. MAJID replied :—

1 and 2.—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the replies given to similar questions asked by Babu Ramani Mohan Das.

BABU BIRAJ MOHAN DATTA asked :—

3. Will the Government be pleased to state whether the area or jurisdiction of a Local Board coincides with that of a civil subdivision in which it is located?

Area or
Jurisdiction
of
Local
Boards.

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR GHANASYAM BARUA replied :—

3.—The boundaries of a Local Board are conterminous with those of a civil subdivision, excluding areas under Municipalities, Unions or Cantonments in the subdivision.

BABU BIRAJ MOHAN DATTA asked :—

4. (a) Is it a fact that the residents of Dhubri sent a memorial through the Deputy Commissioner for making Dhubri a centre for the Matriculation Examination?

Centre for
Matriculation
Examination.

(b) If so, will the Government consider the desirability of making Dhubri a centre for Matriculation Examination and inform the Hon'ble the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University of this fact?

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA replied :—

4. (a) and (b)—The answer is in the affirmative.

The University refused the request as it had been made too late. They will be moved again during the current year, it may be hoped, successfully. The decision rests with the University and not with the Local Government.

RAI SAHIB PADMANATH GOHAIN BARUA asked :—

1. Will the Government be pleased to state what projects, if any, are in hands or contemplation of the Government for improvements of communication to the headquarters station of North Lakhimpur during the current year?

Improvement of
communication to
the headquarters
station of
North
Lakhimpur.

MR. A. W. BOTHAM replied :—

1. Owing to lack of funds no projects for the improvement of communications to the headquarters of North Lakhimpur are contemplated during the current year.

BABU RAMANI MOHAN DAS asked :—

Deputy
Superin-
tendent of
Police.

1. With reference to the reply given to question 1(a to e) asked by me in the Legislative Council on February 6th, 1922 (*vide Assam Gazette* of 15th February 1922, page 20), will the Government be pleased to state when final order can be expected from the Government ?

Is it a fact that orders have already been passed in Bengal and Madras ?

2. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the memorials addressed by the Deputy Superintendents of Police recently in this connection ?

THE HON'BLE MR. A. MAJID replied :—

1.—A time-scale of pay was sanctioned for Inspectors of Police with effect from the 1st April 1922. Government have decided that they cannot at present grant travelling allowance at first class rates to Deputy Superintendents of Police whose pay does not exceed Rs. 500 per mensem. Other points in connexion with Deputy Superintendents will be taken into consideration after a decision has been reached on the recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee regarding this class of officers. The Government of Assam have no information regarding orders passed by the Bengal and Madras Governments.

2.—Memorials were received from the Deputy Superintendents of Police in September 1920.

BABU RAMANI MOHAN DAS asked :—

India
General
Navigation
and
Railway
Company,
Limited.

3. Is it a fact that the India General Navigation and Railway Company, Limited, are not carrying passengers regularly and thereby causing inconvenience to the general public ?

If so, will the Government be pleased to cause an enquiry to be made and remove the inconveniences and grievances of the public ?

MR. A. W. BOTHAM replied :—

3.—Government is aware that the timings of the Steamer Companies services in this province, as published in the time tables issued by these companies, are often unreliable.

Except in the case of the despatch steamer service from Tezpur to Silghat, these steamer services are not subsidised by Government, who thus have no means of enforcing punctuality.

BABU RAMANI MOHAN DAS asked :—

Deaths
caused by
Malaria.

4. Is it a fact that the number of deaths by Malaria in the Province is very great ?

If so, will the Government be pleased to state what was the number of deaths during last two years and up to *the end of July in 1922* ?

5. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state if they are going to start a Medical Institution in the Surma Valley at all?
If so, when?

Medical
Institution
in the
Surma
Valley.

6. Are the Government aware of the fact that Sub-Inspectors of Schools are allowed to inspect Middle Vernacular schools but no kind of correspondence from and to these schools is allowed to pass through them?

Sub-Inspector
of
Schools.

Will the Government be pleased to state the reasons why the correspondence is not allowed to pass through Sub-Inspectors of Schools from and to these schools?

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA replied :—

4.—The recorded deaths from fevers were as below :—

1920	...	...	...	1,12,201 (a)
1921	...	...	...	1,06,662 (a)
up to June 1922	...	...	...	41,923 (a) (b)

In urban areas the initial recording is done by the Health Officers and in rural areas it is done by the village Chaukidars and Gaonburas. Anything fatal that is associated with pyrexia comes under "fevers." It is not possible to say what proportion of the mortality is really due to malaria. Judged by the percentage of children with enlarged spleen the prevalence of malaria is probably greater in the Assam Valley than in the Surma Valley and that in submontane and jungle-clad areas it is very considerable and more or less constant.

5 (a).—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the debates on the resolution on this subject moved by Khan Sahib Alauddin Ahmad Chaudhuri at the last session of this Council and to the statements made on behalf of Government then. The position remains unchanged.

6.—Government are aware of the fact that Sub-Inspectors of Schools are allowed to inspect Middle Vernacular Schools. There are no official orders in regard to the manner in which the correspondence affecting such schools is to be conducted. But Sub-Inspectors of Schools are primarily inspecting officers and arrangements are no doubt made by the Deputy Inspectors to avoid charging them with office work which can be otherwise arranged for.

BABU KRISHNA SUNDAR DAM asked :—

1. Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether the post of the Subdivisional Officer of the North Cachar Hills is borne on the cadre of the Police Department, and, if so, the number and date of the authority under which it is so borne?

North
Cachar
Hills.

(b) If not, on the cadre of what service is this post borne, and under what circumstances has a Police Officer been appointed to the post since December last?

(a) Excludes kala-azar deaths.

(b) Latest figures are not yet available.

MR. A. W. BOTHAM replied :—

1. (a) and (b)—The post of Subdivisional Officer, North Cachar Hills, has for many years been borne on the cadre of the Police Department although it is tenable also by members of the Indian Civil Service and the Assam Civil Service. It was recognised as a post borne on the cadre of the Police Department in the orders contained in letter No. 358, dated the 28th March 1912, from the Government of India in the Home Department, determining the Police cadre of the re-constituted province of Assam.

REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY asked :—

Chhatak
Magazine.

1. (a) Will the Government be pleased to answer my question 1 (a), (b) and (c) asked at the sitting of the Council on the 23rd March 1922 and of which the answer then was only "the information not available"?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to consider either the reduction of the price of explosives in the Chhatak Magazine, or allowing the people of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills to buy explosives for use in their lime quarries from Calcutta?

THE HON'BLE MR. A. MAJID replied :—

1. (a)—The information for which the Hon'ble Member asked in the questions mentioned referred to the private affairs of the firm to which the Chhatak Magazine is leased. The Government have not got this information and do not consider that they would be justified in asking for it.

(b)—The Hon'ble Member is referred to the reply given to his question No. 2(c) on the same subject at the February session of the Council. Government have consulted the Commissioner as to the steps to be taken to ensure that all explosives used in the lime quarries of the Khasi and Jaintia Hills are brought from the Chhatak magazine and are awaiting his final reply.

SRIJUT BEPIN CHANDRA GHOSE asked :—

Grazing
fields in
Goalpara
subdivi-
sion.

1. Are the Government aware that for want of suitable grazing fields in the Goalpara subdivision good deal of inconvenience is felt by the professional graziers of Goalpara?

Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the repeated memorials submitted by these professional graziers of Goalpara for grazing reserves at suitable places near the town of Goalpara?

2. Will the Government be pleased to grant grazing reserve to the convenience of these graziers of Goalpara at suitable places near the town of Goalpara from Jahanamukh up to old Kholabanda steamer station in the Chenga Bahuri mauza of the Barpeta subdivision and from Chowllkhowa to Barjana Char along the Manas?

THE HON'BLE MR. W. J. REID replied :—

1 and 2.—The area of grazing reserves in the temporarily-settled portions of the Goalpara district is 10,208 acres. Government have not got separate figures for the Goalpara subdivision.

The Commissioner has under consideration the formation of a large grazing reserve in the neighbourhood of the town of Goalpara, and the Hon'ble Member's questions will be forwarded to him.

SRIJIT NILMONI PHUKAN asked :—

1. (a) How many cases of prosecution of pound-keepers under the Cattle Trespass Act were instituted in the last financial year in different subdivisions of Assam Valley?

Prosecu-
tion of
p o u n d-
keepers
and erec-
tion of
sanitary
pounds.

(b) Was my suggestion of erecting sanitary pounds of standard plan approved by the Veterinary Department considered? If so, with what results?

THE HON'BLE MR. A. MAJID replied :—

1. (a)—The information is not available.

(b)—A copy of a letter from the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, which as the outcome of the Hon'ble Member's suggestion was forwarded to Commissioners of Divisions for the guidance of magistrates and local bodies, is laid on the table.

No. Mi-4/1451, dated the 11th November 1921.

From—The Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, Assam,

To—The Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Assam.

With reference to your Memorandum No. iG-2/629, dated the 25th October 1921, I have the honour to say that no standard plan can be submitted as circumstances dictate the size of the pound and the material of which the fence, shed, floor, etc., will be made. It is sufficient if animals can be kept safely shut up, clean and dry and provided with water.

The following are the chief defects found in pounds :—

- (1) The ground is often low lying and during the rains becomes a quagmire which is rendered still more unsanitary by accumulation of manure.
- (2) In many cases there is no suitable shelter from the weather.
- (3) The absence of any approach road. These defects suggest that the pounds should be on high or raised ground and that all surface water should be drained off.

There should be an open shed, the floor being about 6 inches higher than the ground of the pound. Holes in the floor of the pound and shed should be filled up without delay. The approach road should also be raised above water level. The pound should have supply of drinking water at all seasons of the year.

MR. A. W. BOTHAM :—With your permission, Sir, I would draw the attention of Hon'ble Members to the reports on the separation of Judicial and Executive Functions in Assam, which, as was promised at an earlier date, have been laid on the table.

THE LATE KHAN BAHADUR SYED ABDUL MAJID, C.I.E.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULAVI MUHAMMAD BAKHT MAZUMDAR :—Sir, in moving the resolution which stands in my name, I dare say I am voicing the feelings of the Council in the sense of the great loss which we have suffered on account of the sad and untimely death of our late Education Minister, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid. He was so prominently connected with this House and so well-known to all of us that I need hardly dilate on the many qualities of head and heart which he possessed. All those who knew him intimately will agree that his sterling qualities marked him as a born leader of men and I am afraid that his removal by cruel death has created a gap which cannot be easily filled. During the last 20 years he was connected with every public movement in the province and his association was eagerly sought in every matter affecting public interest. His selection as a Minister in the Reformed Government was a fitting recognition of his political services to the country and during his tenure of office he so conducted himself as to enjoy confidence of both the Hindu and Moslem communities. His conspicuous ability extracted admiration even from those who were opposed to him and the universal respect in which he was held rarely falls to the lot of a political leader of moderate views. By his death we have lost a great leader and the Moslem community one who was a tower of strength to it. With a heavy heart therefore I move the resolution which runs thus :—

“ That this Council desires to place on record its sense of heavy loss caused by the death of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid, C.I.E., Minister of Education, Assam, as also its high appreciations of the many valuable services he rendered to the Province in and outside the Council.”

THE HON'BLE MR. W. J. REID :—Sir, on behalf of the Government I desire to express our deep sense of the loss that we have sustained by the death of the late Khan Bahadur Saiyid Abdul Majid which has deprived us of a valued colleague. Nor is the loss that of the Government alone. The community which he represented so long and so worthily have lost in him a trusted leader. This Council is the poorer for his absence and the province has lost one of its best known and best beloved public men.

As an individual, Sir, I am among the number, and the number is a large one, of those who have lost an old and valued friend.

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR GHANASYAM BARUA :—Sir, with a deep sense of sorrow and regret I gladly associate myself with the resolution moved by Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bakht Mazumdar. As expressed by

my Hon'ble Colleague the Finance Member the Government as well as the people will deeply feel the loss. To me personally the late Khan Bahadur was always a staunch, valued and sincere friend and the loss I have sustained by his death is simply an irreparable one. His sense of patriotism was as high as his sense of loyalty. I have no doubt I have the full support of the Council when I say that we all deeply mourn his loss. It is only just that the Council should pay its last tribute to the departed soul.

BABU KRISHNA SUNDAR DAM :—Sir, as a Hindu Member of the Surma Valley I feel I have a special duty cast upon me to associate myself with the resolution now before us for offering our last tribute of respect to the memory of the first Minister appointed from the Surma Valley. His appointment gave full satisfaction to all his fellow-countrymen—Hindus and Muhammadans alike. The right man was in the right place and we expected great things from him because of the fine qualities of head and heart possessed by him, his courage, convictions and firmness of purpose, and we admired him all the more because his functions were not those of a pilot in the calm sea, but as fate would have it he was snatched away from our midst when he had journeyed only half way with the great task entrusted to him, and we must submit to the ordinance of fate with resignation, but we shall always cherish with love and respect his memory.

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA :—Sir I desire to associate myself with all that has fallen from the previous speakers about the late Khan Bahadur. I came in contact with him many years ago and there grew up between us a friendship that in spite of differences of opinion about certain public matters lasted till his lamented death. His was a towering personality and everybody who came in contact with him was impressed by it. His services to the public and specially to his community are well known and require no repetition. The Council is distinctly the poorer for his absence and I pray to the Almighty that his soul may rest in peace !

SRIJUT NILMONI PHUKAN :—Sir, I deem it my sacred duty to associate myself with the mover of this resolution in recording this Council's sense of loss at the death of the late Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid and it does not require any words from me to express the deep sense of sorrow which we all feel at this moment. I may only say with the mover that he was really a born leader and he was so up to the last moment of his life and we have followed the course of his life up to the brink of the grave beyond which we cannot go. The only thing I can say at this moment is that we really feel that this House is the poorer by his absence. Let us pray to the Almighty Father that his soul may rest in peace and bless us from there.

MAULAVI MUNAWWAR ALI :—Sir, I beg to speak a few words. The late lamented Minister of Education was a born leader of men : this has been admitted by all sections of the community. His towering personality as has just now been observed hardly failed to impress anybody who came in contact with him. I had Sir, the good fortune to know him more intimately than almost any of the members of this Council. Since my childhood I had been associated with him most intimately. I have had also the good fortune to have been associated with several other leaders in this country, but, Sir, the

impression which I received from him and the greatness which I felt centred in him, appeared to me to have been much greater in several respects, than from and round those occupying even higher position in life. Sir, the shock which the community has received at his sad demise is very great, indeed, and the community is really in the lurch by his death. I do not know when a man of his type and ability will appear in the midst of the Muslim Community of this province to steer the communal vessel towards a great goal. Sir, we as Mussalmans cannot do better than to pray to the Almighty to receive his soul in *jannat* and give him a fitting-place there—a position equal to,—nay even higher than, what he occupied here. With this prayer to the Almighty, Sir, I beg to support the resolution of my friend.

RAI SAHIB PADMANATH GOHAIN BARUA :—Sir, on behalf of the constituency and the community I have the honour to represent I beg to support the resolution placed before the Council by my Hon'ble friend Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bakht Mazumdar. I have nothing more to add to what he has said than to remark that the untimely death of the late Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid is not only an irreparable loss to the country—a national loss—but a great loss to the Administration too. To me personally the loss is especially painful, my affection for him being that of an old colleague. I was a colleague of his since the creation of this Council. I appreciated him as a Councillor and Hon'ble Minister and as a most able administrator of the transferred subjects entrusted to him since the very beginning of this Council, which onerous duties he performed with best of his abilities and to the entire satisfaction of the public. From what I have seen, as an old retired man of the Education Department, I am of opinion that the late Hon'ble Minister might have had some great problems before him for the advancement of education of the people of this backward province—the present “ Assam Primary Education Bill ” being the outcome of one of them. In fact the subject of education which he undertook to administer as the Minister of Education was given his full heart and he worked for it with all his power. Now, Sir, I have only to join hands with the Hon'ble Mover and the other Hon'ble friends and to offer my sincere prayer for the eternal rest of the departed soul. With these few words I heartily support the resolution.

SRIJUT LOHIT CHANDRA NAYAK :—Sir, I beg to associate myself with all that has fallen from the Hon'ble members regarding the premature death of the late lamented Khan Bahadur Education Minister. We all know that death is a thing that comes to all, but his death was a glorious one because one crowded hour of glorious life is worth an age without a name. He was really a born leader of men. Like Caesar's *veni, vidi, vici* had the marvellous power of conquering everybody who came in contact with him. I saw him in the Council, and once or twice I met him in his house. I then felt he had the marvellous capacity of converting even his enemies into his friends. The death of such a man so remarkable for the many qualities of his head and heart is indeed a very lamentable one and the Council is distinctly the poorer by his death.

MAULAVI RUKUNUDDIN AHMAD :—Sir, in my opinion I shall be failing in my duty if I do not associate myself with the Hon'ble Mover of the resolution in expressing our deep sense of regret at the untimely death of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid, C.I.E., the late Education

Minister. It is beyond doubt that we feel his absence here very keenly to-day. Now with a prayer to *Allah* to bless his sacred soul in heaven, I support the resolution.

MR. R. N. CHAUDHURY :—Sir, as a personal friend of his I shall be failing in my duty if I do not support the resolution which has just been moved. Although my association with him does not go very far, it began since I became a member of this Council. I had also occasion to see him in Sylhet when I went there once. There is no doubt that the deceased gentleman was much respected. His capacity for work and his power for leadership are well recognized and there is no doubt that all classes and communities did pay respect to him. I endorse what the members have just now said about him. Of course I do not know much about his biography nor had I much time to study it. But so far as his courtesy and gentlemanly behaviour are concerned, I can bear testimony that he was a model of these virtues. As far as I know he was a zemindar of Sylhet. He had good education and got degrees from the University. Beyond that I have not much knowledge of him. In the sense that he was a friend of mine I feel personally for his death which I believe was very untimely.

MR. A. MOFFAT :—Sir, as a European member I have the honour to express the regret felt by the European section of the Council at the loss of Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid. I beg earnestly to join in the general tribute to his memory which has been paid by the other members. We all regret his loss and will long remember his genial personality in this Council. We very much appreciated his tactful management and sympathetic attitude and we heartily join with the other members of the Council in this expression of regret.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

THE LATE KHAN BAHADUR MUHIBUDDIN AHMED.

KHAN BAHADUR MUHAMMAD BAKHT MAZUMDAR :—Sir, I rise again to move the resolution, which I am sure will be unanimously carried, to mark our sense of loss on account of the death of our Deputy President, Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmad. The late Khan Bahadur, as is well known, retired after a long and meritorious service in 1920 and when he joined the ranks of public leaders great expectations were entertained from him which have now been shattered by his untimely death. His courtesy, affability and simplicity commanded great respect amongst all those with whom he came in contact and the Council therefore elected him very rightly as its Deputy President. He enjoyed the confidence of both Government and the Moslem community of Assam who very keenly feel his loss. Little did we think that in one meeting we shall have to mourn the loss of two such prominent members of the Council like the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Abdul Majid and Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin. To record our appreciation of his services and the loss which we feel at his death I beg to move :—

“That this Council expresses its sense of grief at the death of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed who rendered useful services to the province both as a public servant and as the first Deputy President of the Council.”

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTTA :—Sir, I desire to add my tribute of respect to the memory of the late Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed. I came to know him for the first time about a year and a half ago. But during this short time I saw enough of him to respect and admire him. I saw what stuff he was made of in connection with the Retrenchment Committee. We travelled together from place to place, we discussed matters and I can freely say that he was a man who was at once patriotic and able. The Council is distinctly the poorer for his absence and I pray to the Almighty that his soul may rest in peace.

SRIJUT LOHIT CHANDRA NAYAK :—Sir, death seems to have been very busy in our Council. In the course of a single year three prominent members, a Minister, a Deputy President and Srijut Dhairya Narayan Das have passed away. However, Sir, the deaths of all these gentlemen seem to be glorious. I knew our late Deputy President, Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed, as an Extra Assistant Commissioner in Barpeta, as an Assistant Sessions Judge in Gauhati and also as my colleague in this Council. He was a man of high thinking and plain living. I have seen that as a Judge he was always cool-headed, well-balanced and his judicial pronouncements were always on the side of right. Whenever I met him I found him inspiring me with confidence. He was a man of spotless character. His judgment, sobriety of temper and his qualities of head and heart all marked him as one who was destined to move and work in high circles.

THE HON'BLE RAI BAHADUR GHANASYAM BARUA :—Sir, I also wish to associate myself with this resolution. The late Khan Bahadur was a personal friend of mine from my college days. I knew him while he was in service and I had the good fortune of knowing him in this Council too. He was brilliant as a scholar and he had also a brilliant career while in service; and in the short period that he came to this Council he has clearly impressed his personality on every one. The loss we sustain by his departure is not only to the Muhammadan community or to the Assam Valley alone but to the whole province.

THE HON'BLE MR. W. J. REID :—The Government, Sir, desire to associate themselves with what the resolution says about the late Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed. My acquaintance with him dates from the time when he and I were junior officers in the same station, and we again worked in close association in the Assam Secretariat. I watched his career with interest, and I personally rejoiced when the votes of his fellow members in this Council elected him to the office of Deputy President. We all hoped that the Council would long benefit by his wide knowledge and ripe experience, and it is a matter of the sincerest regret to all in this Council that he is no longer with us.

RAI BAHADUR MANOMOHAN LAHIRI :—Sir, I desire to associate myself with the resolution expressing deep regret at the death of Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed. I met him in 1876. We were brought up in the same school and I always found him taking an active part in all public movements. He was a man of exemplary character and was always straight forward. He was an honest judicial officer and we know that he took a keen interest in our debates. With these few words I again say, Sir, that I deeply regret the death of the Khan Bahadur.

KHAN SAHIB ALAUDDIN AHMED CHAUDHURI :—We did not expect, Sir, that an inopportune time like this would come up so suddenly and take away two of our trusted Muhammadan leaders of the province, popular representatives of both the valleys occupying most prominent positions in this Council. This fact itself goes to show that the time for us Muhammadans is not good. As one of my friends has already said, Death seems to have been very frequent upon the Council members. To that I should add that it has cut off two of the most prominent members in the half-way without allowing them to complete their full career of new spheres of life. We bitterly deplore their untimely death and offer our hearty condolence to the members of bereaved families and pray that their souls may enjoy peace in heaven.

RAI SAHIB PADMANATH GOHAIN BARUA :—Sir, I rise to associate myself with the words uttered by the previous speakers in connection with the death of the late Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed. The summary published in the *Assam Gazette*, though not sufficient, is quite befitting his career. On the present occasion I will not go further than this, as I do not want to detain the Council. But I have a mind,—and it will be my sacred duty—to deal with his life separately as a literary man. This will be published later on in my newspaper *Assam Banti*, and I hope I shall be able to do full justice to the brilliant career of the late gentleman then. On the present occasion I simply associate myself with what the Hon'ble Mover pronounced and with the appreciation of what the Government published in the *Assam Gazette* in this connection. I beg to support the resolution.

MAULAVI RASHID ALI LASKAR :—Sir, I for myself do not blame nature for taking away the two gentlemen, who only paid the debt of nature nor do I look upon the event with great regret. I rather envy their death after the performance of so many noble deeds, and I would prefer such a death for myself if I could do such noble deeds as they performed. As for the resolutions as they stand and their wordings, I do not appreciate their wordings. The wordings appear to me to be of an economic and material nature, so to say,—as if we had some wealth and we lost it and we are aggrieved for it and nothing more. It does not go further than a recording of our sense of loss and sense of grief, and that is all. The question is with departed souls. Simply a recitation of the noble deeds performed by these great men and a description of their services to the country would not do here. Besides, I think it is not necessary too, because is there any Member of this Council who does not know of their good performances? I think their souls too do not need our recitation of the noble deeds performed by them, because souls are in need of other things than our flatteries. Then, Sir, seeing that these people have done so much for us we should in exchange for their services and noble deeds do something which would really benefit their souls and not remain content with the recitation of their noble deeds. I think one word of prayer for their departed souls would be more valuable than all the expressions of our sense of grief and of loss. So, I think we should rather pray for their departed souls and at the same time mould our conducts and lives in their way. That would be beneficial both to us and to their departed souls. With these words, I support the resolution.

SRIJUT NILMONI PHUKAN :—Sir, this is another loss that we have sustained in the course of the year. The late Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed was known to us all along his life. As a Government servant we know how trusted an officer he was from the expressions that have fallen from the lips of the Hon'ble the Finance Member. And after his retirement we also know how he was trusted by his own countrymen. He came to this Council and immediately he was elected its Deputy President. He easily won the confidence of the whole house in this matter, and we know how useful he was in guiding the course of this Council in several matters. He was a very pious Muhammadan, very honest and sensible, very intelligent and always on the side of the good. I associate myself with the mover of this resolution and other members of the Council in all that they have said in this connection, and I now pray to the Almighty that his soul may rest in peace.

Mr. W. E. H. GRAYBURN :—Sir, I wish to associate myself with the resolution. I am afraid it is only a few years ago that I first met the late Khan Bahadur, but I personally shall miss here a kindly and courtly gentleman.

MUNSHI SAFIUR RAHMAN spoke in Bengali expressing regret at the death of the late Khan Bahadur and said that it was he who encouraged him to stand for election and he was personally much indebted to him for this.

RAI BAHADUR KRISHNA CHANDRA CHAUDHURI :—Sir, as a retired member of the same service, I wish to associate myself with the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Member. Khan Bahadur Muhibuddin Ahmed was a very respected officer and was always known for his keen sense of justice. He was a pious and devout Mussalman and as such he was always respected by the men of his community. With these words, I sincerely support the resolution.

MR. R. N. CHAUDHURI :—Sir, I think it is a mere coincidence that these two Muhammadan members of this Council have died. I do not think that there is any curse affecting the Muhammadan community as has been said just now. This gentleman was good as the other gentleman about whom reference was made just now, and his career was in no way less than that of the other. He was known to me as well as the other gentleman was known to me. There is no doubt that he was a very pious and righteous Muhammadan gentleman and as such he was a devout religionist. As to his keen sense of justice I fully believe that he had that and he did what he believed to be the right thing and always sided with the persons who did the right thing. I remember very well in this house when some amendments were moved by some members he did not like to vote for all of them but he exercised his right discretion so it was the case when he was requested to support resolutions. He was a supporter of mine. I could count him as a supporter in all my right movements. He is a gentleman of this Division and it is my profound duty as a fellow human being to express my heart-felt obligation to him. I was unable to send letter of condolences at his death to the bereaved family for which I very much regret, but nevertheless I take this opportunity of expressing grief for his untimely loss.

REV. J. J. M. NICHOLS-ROY :—Sir, I want to associate myself with the other members, in the expression of the deep sense of regret at the deaths of both the Khan Bahadurs. I have known them only from the beginning of this Council, and I have known them both to be courteous, kind and good, and always ready to discuss matters with an open mind. I hope that our expression of sympathy will go to the members of their families and give them comfort in the hour of their distress and grief.

BABU RAMANI MOHAN DAS :—Sir, I beg to associate myself with the speakers preceding me, in the expression of sorrow for the death of our late lamented friend Khan Bahadur Muhibbuddin Ahmad. It is a matter of regret that we should have had to pass resolutions one after another for two of our best colleagues who departed this life but very recently. Both of them were my personal friends, and as regards Khan Bahadur Muhibbuddin Ahmad, I must say that we received his support in many affairs, not only in this Council, but even before his entry into the Council.

With these few words I beg to express my regret, and to support the Resolution whole-heartedly.

THE HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT :—I should like to say that telegrams of condolence were sent in the name of the Council to the relatives of the late Hon'ble Minister and again the other day to the son and brother of the late Deputy President.

The Deputy President, after a distinguished career of thirty years in the Assam Civil Service was elected as the first Deputy President of this Council. As long as 10 or 12 years ago, he held the post of Junior Secretary to the Board of Revenue and was afterwards Assistant Sessions and District Judge at Gauhati. The death of these two eminent men has been a great loss to the Government, the Council and the people of Assam, and, in particular, to the Muhammadan community of whom they were distinguished representatives. Their deaths have been a great misfortune—in fact I might say a calamity—to the Muhammadan community.

The Resolution was put and carried unanimously.

THE HON'BLE MR. W. J. REID :—If, Sir, before the election begins, I may correct a possible misunderstanding, I should like to do so. I have received—and I fancy a good many Members of the Council have received letters—from various members of this Council, signifying their intention of standing for election for the office of Deputy President. That is clear enough. But I have also received letters asking for the support of the Government for a particular candidate. Well, Sir, in this matter the Government are in no way concerned. The Deputy President is elected by the votes of the members of this Council, and we here exercise the same rights as other members, and no others. I have not the slightest idea, Sir, how the others on the Government benches propose to vote. I can assure the Council that not one of them has any idea as to how I am going to vote.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

The Council then proceeded to the next item of business which was the election of the Deputy President of the Legislative Council in place of Khan Bahadur Muhib uddin Ahmad, deceased.

The following members were duly nominated and seconded :—

1. Srijut Siva Prosad Barua.
2. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bakht Mazumdar.
3. Rai Bahadur Nalini Kanta Ray Dastidar.
4. Srijut Lohit Chandra Nayak.
5. Rai Sahib Padmanath Gohain Barua.

The votes of the members present were taken in accordance with the regulations prescribed in that behalf. The votes were then counted by the Secretary in the presence of the President. The President declared that Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bakht Mazumdar having received the largest number of votes was, subject to the Governor's approval, duly elected Deputy President.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

THE HON'BLE THE PRESIDENT :—Under Rule 3 the following Hon'ble Members are nominated to the panel of Chairmen for the present session :—

1. Maulavi Munawwarali,
2. Babu Radha Binod Das,
3. Rai Bahadur Krishna Chandra Chaudhuri,
and
4. Maulavi Rukunuddin Ahmad.

The Council was then adjourned to Friday, the 8th September, 1922, at 2 P.M.

S. E. STINTON,

The 13th September 1922.

*Offg. Secretary to the Legislative
Council, Assam.*

