

Heavy Snow in England Rail and Road Traffic Dislocated

WELSH TOWNS CUT OFF

(BRITISH OFFICIAL WIRELESS)

Bayly, February 25—

Although temperature had risen to day in most parts of the British Isles, London is exceptionally snow covered as a result of the worst snow blizzard experienced for many years. A strong southerly gale is still blowing in the channel and heavy weather is being experienced round most coasts. In South Wales and Western England snow was particularly heavy and both rail and road traffic were severely dislocated and hundreds of telegraph and telephone wires

were out of order. Conditions have also been particularly severe in Ireland. Nearly all week-end sporting fixtures have had to be cancelled including the International Rugby Match at Dublin between Ireland and Scotland. Scottish football fixtures in Dublin after a stormy passage across the Irish Channel fifteen hours late. Large towns in South Wales are cut off by rail through the latter part of yesterday and during last night several trains being held up enroute by snowdrifts. In Southern England at least snow is rapidly melting to-day.

The Railway Board had failed to carry out their obligations as regards Muslims. Mr. Shafie Bandi thanked Mr. Mudallar for the constructive suggestion in regard to a Railway Service Commission and asked for a definite answer on the point. He warned the Government that educated youngmen were being expatriated owing to closing of entry to Government services and hoped that Government would find ways and means as early as possible.

RAILWAY MEMBER'S REPLY

Sir Joseph Blore assured that the Government were honestly doing all they could on the subject, but no specific action on Mr. Hassan's report was yet possible. The chief reason for this delay was that the Government were trying to devise a consolidated solution on the matter of communal representation generally, which would be applicable to all departments of Government, and not only to the Railway. In this connection, he referred to the reply given by the Home Member a few days ago, and hoped that it would be found long before early action on the matter was reached.

As for a Railway Service Commission, the Commerce Member said that the suggestion was most important, and the House should not expect any pronouncement from him at present. He hoped that the annunciation of certain principles, which the Government were formulating, would remove all reasonable grounds for complaints. Mr. Maswood Ahmed, replying, wanted equal justice for Muslims as well as other communities. He asked leave to withdraw his motion. Mr. Amarnath Dutt pressed for division. However, when the cut motion was put to the House, it was lost.

As it was already five, the guillotine was applied and the rest of the demands were agreed to one after another.

The House adjourned till Monday.

NAME-PLATE OF GERMAN CRUISER

TO BE HANDED TO PRESIDENT HINDENBURG

(BRITISH OFFICIAL WIRELESS)

Bayly, February 25—

The Australian Minister in London Mr. Stanley Bruce leaves for Berlin on Monday to hand to President Hindenburg the name plate of the famous German Cruiser Panther which was destroyed by the Australian Cruiser "Sydney" on the 9th November 1914. The presentation is being made as a token of good will on the part of Australian Government.

FIFTH TEST MATCH

ENGLAND 418 FOR 8 WICKETS

(BRITISH OFFICIAL WIRELESS)

Bayly, February 25—

In the fifth test match at Sydney at the close of play scores were Australian first innings 436.

England first innings 418 for 8. Hammond 101, Larwood 98, Leyland 42, Ames 4, Eayster 9, Wyatt 31, Allen not out 25 Extras 14.

Finance Member's Budget Speech

Favourable Financial Condition

Restoration of Salary Cut Deferred

WHY LAND REVENUE REMISSION WAS DISALLOWED

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

REVISED ESTIMATE 1932-33.

	Lakhs
Opening Balance	1,71
Revenue	16,90
Expenditure	16,38
Difference	63

BUDGET ESTIMATE 1933-34

	Lakhs
Opening Balance Rs.	233,44
Revenue	Rs. 17,267.1
Expenditure	Rs. 17,229.30
Closing Balance Rs.	271.40

MADRAS, Feb. 26.

The Hon. Mr. H. G. Stokes, Finance Member, presented the Budget, in the Legislative Council yesterday morning. The following is the full text of his speech:—

Sir, I propose, before discussing in detail the Estimates that are now to be laid before the House, to give, as is customary, a review, as succinctly as possible, of the affairs of the Presidency during the financial year that is just about to close. I shall touch only on such topics as have a bearing on our financial or economic position. The monsoon was upon the whole less favourable, and several districts, notably in the Central and South-Central areas of the Presidency, which had for some years been suffering from lack of rain, received in the year more copious supplies. At the same time, the year has not been marked by those disastrous floods or rain-hurries which worried the result of the immediate predecessors. The South-West monsoon made its appearance in some strength during the month of May, somewhat untimely; considerable falls occurred on the West Coast and the rains during July and during August the rains, though comparatively light, extended generally throughout the Presidency. Upon the whole, the monsoon was favourable and the total extent of the rainfall was considerably above the average and the extent enjoyed in the preceding year. The North-East monsoon was favourable and the rainfall was above the average throughout the Presidency, except in Kurnool and Chulaballi, Nellore and Chittoor districts. We had very heavy rain in November, but the floods thereby caused in the Tanjore district, by which a number of tanks and canals were breached, did not, upon the whole, result in extensive loss of crop. Among the works which it is proposed to take up in the ensuing year will be found several designed to improve the drainage and mitigate the flooding from which parts of the Delta suffer. Only in an area of about 300 square miles in the neighbourhood of Bellary was there in early months of the year any serious risk of drought. The Government, by the extension of the stage work was afforded by the expansion of road and water-supply works under the direction of the District Board with special allotments from the Government. Relief was also given to the villages affected by extensive inundations or post-monsoon of revenue, and of loan repayments. By the month of October, when the Finance Commission was organized in seven centres, but the favourable rains in July and August, which continued into September, relieved the situation and averted the closure of the works from October last.

2. Economically, as the House knows, the Presidency continued to languish under the universal trade depression. There seems little doubt that the general improvement in trade under a forward step can be taken in the matter of war debts which is to form one of the principal topics of business at the London Conference in April next. So far as our domestic affairs are concerned, there are a few hopeful features which may be mentioned; such as the decline in our foreign debt, which was due to the adverse year, 1932, some at least to have been arrested, and its total value for the first 11 months of 1932 was practically unchanged as compared with the corresponding period of 1931. This, no doubt, was due to the adverse year (1932), but, apart from this, there are some hopeful signs; trade in some important articles of merchandise has somewhat revived and considerable trade there at all-round rates. There was also an increase in the number of new companies registered. The increase in which I shall presently allude in the revenue under REGISTRATION AND STAMPS is to some extent due to the revival of trading companies. The disquieting feature of the situation, viz.,

the continued decline in prices of food grains, however still continues and though it may have benefited the poorer classes has adversely affected those of the more well-to-do whose incomes are drawn from the land.

3. Politically the year so far as this Province is concerned, has been uneventful on the whole, but the possibility of a renewal of civil disturbance, as we have seen, has not been removed, and cannot be left out of account.

ACCOUNT OF THE YEAR

1931-1932.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

4. Before dealing in detail with the Estimates that are now for the consideration of the House, I have a few preliminary observations to offer. The year 1932-1933, the Revised Estimate for which I am about to submit to the House, has witnessed, in great measure, the effect of those efforts at a retrenchment, which the Government undertook in response to what may be described as a clear message from the House expressed in the course of the debates on the Budget of 1932. This mandate was enforced by the signs of serious collapse under every head of revenue which became manifest in the early months of the year, and led us to the Revised Estimate for that year to anticipate a decline in revenue of no less than Rs. 158.61 lakhs. In my Budget Speech for 1932-1933 I was expected, as against a revenue deficiency of Rs. 187.01 lakhs, we should in the year achieve savings in expenditure of Rs. 129.30 lakhs, and, in the result, we anticipated a revenue deficit of Rs. 57.71 lakhs. We have now the actual accounts figures for 1931-1932 which show that while our revenue has come out better than we expected, mainly under the head of Excises where the reduction was by Rs. 20 lakhs, and also in the Revenue Expenditure were also more successful than we anticipated and have given us savings of Rs. 10.74 lakhs against Rs. 129.30 lakhs. The betterment of Rs. 19.90 lakhs, the result has been that we have closed 1931-1932 with a small surplus of Rs. 5.11 lakhs. It is perhaps worth while, before quitting this part of the subject, to observe that, upon the whole, the aim of the Government and of the Retrenchment Committee to achieve a reduction of 8 per cent in the year was attained.

CAPITAL AND DEBT HEADS.

5. I need not inflict upon the House details of the accounts figures of 1931-1932 for the Capital and Debt heads. The details under these heads include Capital expenditure, not ordinarily charged to current revenues, such as the cost of the construction of irrigation works, hydro-electric schemes, Government commercial undertakings and on loans and advances to local bodies, irrigation, etc. These were financed partly from loans from the local bodies, partly from the Government, and partly from the Provincial loan account which we drew to the extent of Rs. 57.78 lakhs. In the result, we closed the year with a Revenue Account balance of Rs. 170.91 lakhs, more than less than we anticipated in the Budget Estimate for the year but better by Rs. 76 lakhs than we expected at the time of preparing the Revised Estimate. The total balance of Rs. 170.91 lakhs forms the opening balance of 1932-1933.

REVISED ESTIMATE FOR

THE YEAR 1932-1933.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

6. In the Budget Estimate for 1932-1933 as submitted to the House, we anticipated a deficient budget, the figures for Revenue and Expenditure being also indicated as Rs. 1,059.01 lakhs. The Revised Estimate for the year fixes the Revenue at Rs. 1,059.79 lakhs and

(Continued on page 11A)

BUDGET ESTIMATE FOR THE
YEAR 1933-1934.

REVENUE ACCOUNT PART-1

Thus under 22. GENERAL ADMINISTRATION provision is made for the expenses of the General Elections for the reformed legislatures. 1,500 lakhs is to be given for restoring teaching grants to the amount prior to retrocession, and money is also provided for additional staff, for the purchase of motor vehicles and for building and equipment grants overhead. Under 41.3 we have a provision of Rs. 6-62 lakhs on account of capital outlay on certain buildings, and under 41.4 we have a provision which is not proposed to be carried over. This is not proposed to be carried over next year. Additional provision for communications of persons Rs. 140 lakhs is made under band and telegraph. Under 41.5 we have a provision of Rs. 10 lakhs for the purchase of land and PRINTING, which is the net increase resulting from an increase of expenditure of Rs. 8 lakhs on account of the General Elections. The expenditure on the subject of Rs. 10 lakhs is expenditure on the head in other directions.

REVENUE CLOSING BALANCE
IN THE YEAR 1933-1934

**PART II SCHEMES FOR
THE YEAR 1933-1934**

13. It will be convenient here to advert to the Part II Expenditure proposal in 1933-1934 in the Revenue Account before touching on the Capital and Debt funds. The position in regard to the expenditure on the account of the pay out to the extent above mentioned can be allotted Rs. 75.45 lakhs for Part II Schemes. Against this sum, the Finance Committee have recommended as urgently required additional expenditure of Rs. 19.34 in 1934 is Rs. 70.56 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 3.14 lakhs recurring. To this the Government decided to add certain non-recurring schemes which the Finance Committee recommended for account of the Government. The amount of these is Rs. 1.09 lakhs.

In addition there are certain schemes for which it was proposed to move in 1933-1934 Supplementary Grants but which have not yet been sanctioned. These could not be moved in the October meeting of the Legislative Council and had to be deferred until the January meeting by which time it was too late to try to get approval. The total sum to be added to the account of the Government is Rs. 1.33 lakhs non-recurring and Rs. 0.1 lakhs recurring expenditure. These have been added to the Part II Schemes for 1933-1934. The total expenditure is non-recurring Rs. 72.26 lakhs and Rs. 3.15 lakhs recurring. As against this larger figure however we have received from the Government Rs. 75.45 lakhs, in 1933-1934, therefore, we shall have available to meet the non-recurring expenditures (Rs. 72.26 lakhs) Rs. 3.19 lakhs and Rs. 73.30 lakhs, therefore, we shall be able to close the year with a Revenue Account surplus of Rs. 4.33 lakhs; of this Rs. 3.14 lakhs is recurring and Rs. 1.19 lakhs is non-recurring. The balance of the pay out in the case of officers who are not under a rule-making powers of the

EMERGENCY CUT IN PAY

12. Coming now to EXPENDITURE, the Budget Estimate (Part I) for 1953-1954 contemplates, as compared with that of 1952-1953, a gross increase of Rs. 60.37 lakhs against which we can set off reductions amounting to Rs. 8.25 lakhs, thus arriving at the net figure of Rs. 52.12 lakhs already mentioned. As I have already said, the Government of India have announced that the 10 per cent pay cut will from 1st March 1953 be reduced to 5 per cent in the case of services 'protected' under the Government of India Act, and of all other 'non-protected' services controlled by them. In the case of the Provincial and Subordinate Services, whose pay is within the power of the Local Government to regulate, they have

that we propose to derive practically the whole of the revenue grants for expanding the activities of Government departments from the savings which have been accomplished in 1931-1932 and 1933-1934 to counter rigorously the effects of the depression. It is to estimate the total commitment which these savings involve is less than Rs. 10,000 lakhs per annum. That I think, represents a considerable relaxation of the financial curb. It is not, however, a complete abrogation of all these savings.

I may mention a few only, selecting myself the non-revenue grants. The first is the additional revenue grants for the year 1933-1934 amounting to about Rs. 602 lakhs for the Government of Madras for the construction of educational buildings to Rs. 577 lakhs for Medical and Public Health (including buildings) and Rs. 100 lakhs for the Government of Madras in aid to local bodies; Agriculture, Veterinary, Industries and Fisheries are given Rs. 101 lakhs each; and Rs. 100 lakhs for the Government of Madras. The total of these non-revenue grants provided in Part 2, there are further grants of Rs. 1,62 lakhs for the Government of Madras for the development of the distribution of electricity, which cannot be highly beneficial to the population.

(Sd/-) H. RAO

the decision of the Government to devote part of their resources to the restoration of the 10 per cent out in pay. I may remind the House in this connection of the terms of the pledges which, following those made in Parliament and in the Legislative Assembly, the Government gave. Speaking in the House of Lords on the 3rd December 1931, the then Under Secretary of State pointed out that the Bill conferred on the Secretary of State temporary power to make a reduction exceeding 10 per cent for a period not longer than between December 1st of that year (1931) and March 31, 1933—

" If (he proceeded) the financial emergency continues, it will not be possible to continue that out without coming to Parliament and there to agree to it; but if, as we all hope, the financial situation rapidly improves, there will be nothing to prevent the salaries of the arrears being restored before the date of

In the Legislative Assembly the Finance Minister used similar language. Referring to the duration of the additional burdens pro-

"It must be clearly explained that there is no intention that they should remain operational beyond March 31st, 1933. They will not."

continued beyond that date without further examination of economic conditions; even if economic conditions so required or permitted, we should re-consider them before that date.

Having discussed the forecasts of revenue, Hon'ble Member continued, "If those forecasts are fulfilled, then, even if there is improvement in the economic position, the Government when he presents

Budget for 1933-1934, will find him in possession of a surplus of 5-23 and he will be able to make a substantial saving of the burdens. It is

But there are certain principles which consider must be observed. Relief must

first in restoring the emergency cut in
and secondly in taking off the surcharge on
income-tax now to be imposed. I think
may predict, with as much certainty as

In their communication on the subject in

" In conformity with the announcement made by the Finance Member of the Government of Madras, regarding the duration of the art...

measures will be of a temporary nature extending beyond the needs of the pre-exceptional emergency and will be removed as a measure of relief as soon as the

When I presented to this House the Bill

for 1932-1933 on 24th February last year position was that we expected to close 1932-1933 with a deficit of Rs. 50½ lakhs, 1933-1934 we hoped for a balanced budget.

after allocating for Part II Schemes a sum of about Rs. 8½ lakhs. The object of our pledges, which I have quoted, precluded us from allowing even this small addition.

expenditure, was met by the argument with a trifling revenue surplus of this amount we should not be justified in assuming an improvement in our finances as would we

as in removing the cut. I pointed out before we could contemplate dispensing the temporary expedient of the pay cut must realize or have in sight a very much

substantial margin of revenue over expenditure of Rs. 84 lakhs, and that, within the period of grace secured by this exceptional measure, we must find means, in accordance with

number of productive schemes of which the most important are the Kistna East bank

canal scheme and the improvements to the Podalanka channel and the Yamamadurai drainage channel—all relating to the Godavari and Krishna deltas. For the Cauvery delta it is proposed to take up much needed improvements to the advantage of the Vulavur and Ayyavayamar systems; in the Tiruchirappalli district provision is made for the scheme for the Cauvery bed-regulator and High Level Channel and for the North Bank Canal, both in the neighbourhood of Kattalai. Increased expenditure accrues under other heads, but I need only mention here the more important

14. The consideration of the Capital and Debt bonds for 1933-1934 need not detain us long. The total estimate of disbursements under these bonds (Bond D is \$5,245,000)

distributed as follows:—For Canvay-Motter Project Rs. 35.20 lakhs; for the Pykara Head-works completion, the Kattalai Scheme and the Gobin Habone Rs. 14.51 lakhs; 'other heads,'

i.e., for the Cinsbona development and loans other than for the Cochin Harbour Rs. 30.54 lakhs—total Rs. 31.25 lakhs. Against this we have an opening balance

of Rs. 2.91 lakhs in the Cauvery - Mottur account, and Rs. 12.6 lakhs in the accounts of Kattalai, Pykara and Cochin Works, Rs. 43.33 lakhs will be available from recoveries of

loans and the balance (Rs. 16.13 lakhs) will be met from Provincial balances. For the Fykara Power Station scheme Rs. 6.25 lakhs is proposed. Of this scheme all the main items

of construction work, except certain minor works on the lower end of the reservoir and certain office and other buildings, have been completed. The provision proposed is to

complete these and to pay in 1933-1934 for stores purchased in Europe, for which payment falls due within that year. For the distribu-

(Continued on page 11-B)

FINANCE MEMBER'S BUDGET SPEECH

(Continued from page 11-3)

pledges given, to balance our revenues and expenditure without any aid.

In the opening part of my speech to-day I have indicated what we have done and I venture to think that it is no inconsiderable achievement, and that, making due allowance for the improvement in revenue, the Madras Government has not paid more than its proper share of the necessary; and that the resolutions of the Retrenchment Committee they tackled early in 1931-32 the disorganised task before them, and that, notwithstanding the fact that in 1931-32 closed with a deficit of Rs. 105 lakhs, the next year (1932-33) closed with a small surplus of Rs. 5.41 lakhs of Revenue.

But, in spite of the fact that in 1932-33 (Revised Estimates) of Rs. 10.74 lakhs, while in 1933-34 and in 1934-35 we anticipate a surplus of Rs. 60 to 70 lakhs in each year. Such being the position, the Government feel that they would not be justified in retaining any longer the temporary expedients of the past, the removal of which has been declared to have the first claim on their resources and which they are dealing accordingly with the dispatch with at the earliest opportunity. They have decided to honour their pledge to the extent of their ability to do so, and to give up the grant-in-aid, not more because of their promise, but because, in the interests of the public service, it is essential to get rid of money which is the cause of considerable friction and which is a constant reminder that almost good men to the service of Government should not be impaired.

REMISSION OF LAND REVENUE.

17. The second matter to which special reference must be made is the proposal that an all-round reduction of Land Revenue by 12½ per cent to 20 per cent be made from 1933-34 onwards. The actual proposal was that this reduction should be made for one year only, and that in the second year the reduction should be 20 per cent. The proposal was that, in 1933-34, 74 lakhs, say three-fourths of a crore. A Resolution to this effect was carried by a large majority at the Madras Legislative Assembly after the loss by voting the motion, but refused to hear me on the financial implications of the motion. I suggest that this is regrettable, not because I am optimistic enough to suppose that, on such a matter, anything I might have said would have led to the rejection of the motion, but at least the House would have had presented to it the other side of the shield, and a variety of questions which it might have considered. In all its aspects, would have carried correspondingly the greater weight. However, however, however, considered, the Government will not be able to meet the proposed demands but have not even thought of voting upon the Resolution for reasons which I shall briefly mention. It is not the financial position. I do not deny that, so far as the current year 1932-33 and the next year 1933-34 are concerned, it would not be impossible for us to meet the required sum, which would be charged partly against the Revised Estimates for the current year and partly against the Budget (as I suggested); and we might still have been able to deal during 1933-1934 a certain amount of money for expansion besides the amount which we could pay out of the surplus. But we should certainly not be able to undertake many schemes, which though urgently necessary, are inevitable in the course of the recovery from the depression which we are now experiencing. The Government in 1933-1934, and the restoration of the activities of Government in the financial position, I shall, of course, be told that the Resolution contemplated a remission of 12½ per cent for one year only, and that we would not be asked to restore it. As I regard this 'revenue cut' nothing is to my mind more certain than that it will be tantamount to a single year's loss of income for the Government, and that, in the long run, for improvement in the general economic position and there are some signs that that hope is justified, but it is a loss which will be permanent and consequential or other than slow, and, in that case, human nature being what it is, it is pretty certain that the Government will not be able to resist the temptation to be so vigorous for the retention of the 'cut' than it is as present for its introduction. If it has been indicated, that the Government will be disabled to the extent of three-fourths crore a year for meeting the needs for increased expenditure and for financial aid that are daily pressed upon them, from every side.

At the risk of repetition let me again remind the House of the position we are in. From two years ago, with a heavy deficit and with the prospect of a serious collapse of revenue, we set vigorously to work at this distasteful task. The task was to reduce expenditure, how distasteful and thankless no one knows better than myself. In all directions, how every one else in the days of general depression, we had to curtail expenditures, to dispense with luxuries, and to eliminate waste, in the process we have not hesitated in the effort to reduce our financial outlay to such an extent as to reduce beneficial expenditure in many directions, which we should normally have been reluctant to equal. In our private life, I believe we have succeeded. It was never my intention nor the intention of the Government that this reduction in the

standard of living of the State—1 I may say, it should be indicated, prolonged. But if the Government are now to give up Rs. 70 lakhs a year out of the Land Revenue, the single stable source of revenue they possess, the process of recovery cannot but be retarded, and to a proportionate degree the demands on Government from other directions, for Education for instance, for measures of medical relief, public health, for the uplift of the backward and depressed classes and various other objects of public interest.

Add to this that the financial prospect of the next year or two is full of uncertainty. We do not know, for instance, how we shall stand as the result of the Retrenchment Committee, or the introduction of Federation. It seems not improbable that in certain directions the Government will be asked to meet needs that are not diminished. It is as yet uncertain whether some system of Provincial Contributions may be imposed upon us, it has also to be remembered that we have to take account of the possibility of other vicissitudes of a more familiar kind, that may adversely affect our revenues and might, when taken in conjunction with a largely reduced Land Revenue, disable the Government possibly for a considerable period from paying any salary-building scheme, or other public works, or even retrogression for development and progress.

I have attempted, in what has just been said, to put before the House on aspects of the matter which was not perhaps sufficiently present to the minds of my hon. friends, and I am sure that, even so far from saying that, under no conceivable circumstances is relief to the payer of Land Revenue thinkable, the Government are not to be taken at all. The price of agricultural produce has advanced appreciably, in different degrees, those who depend on the land for their living or their income, and the Government are not to be taken at all. The demand which is one for an all-round reduction of Land Revenue regardless of the circumstances and conditions which vary from district to district. As the Hon. the Revenue Member told the House during the recent debate, the Government have been asked to consider the question with full attention; the existing system of Land Revenue administration is sufficiently flexible to enable them, should occasion require, to take such steps as they may be required as necessary, without adopting the expedient which is now pressed upon them. The demand has its origin among the representatives of the Tanjore district. The Government cannot be accused of neglecting the interests of that district, as the expenditure of Rs. 60 crores in the Cauvery-Mettur Project witnesses. In the present Budget, provision is made for several other important irrigation works, and their completion will be a great benefit to the subjects of a special investigation by an officer of the Agricultural Department, and the Government will be able to consider it. I am unable now to say what conditions will be reached, but one point that appears to me is that the particular kind of rise which has long been their principal grievance has ceased to command its old markets, in Coimbatore and elsewhere, and the Government are from the Revenue Member of the Presidency. If that is so, it may well prove that the solution of the problem of the Tanjore district is to be found in the agricultural products of the district to the changed conditions, so as to substitute the growth of products which will be able to meet the demand of those which it does. Connected questions also arise: such as the grievance in respect of railway freight, the question of reaping of the crops, the question of improving by other means if possible the material facilities of the district. I am aware that the House of the Government will consider the case and early attention of the Government.

CONCLUSION.

18. I do not think I need detain the House with further observations on the outline which I now offer for their acceptance.

I would beg permission, before concluding, to express my appreciation to the members of the House who have served on the Finance and Public Accounts Committee for the valuable assistance and advice they have given. Lastly I have to express once again my own and the Government's cordial appreciation of the devotion and care which the Financial Department have brought to the discharge of their duties, not in connection with the Budget only but throughout the year, and to the maintenance of all in respect of the high standard of efficient financial administration for which the Government of the Madras have been noted and to which we are largely our present relatively favourable financial position.

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ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

A CASE IN BOMBAY

(Associated Press)

Bombay, Feb. 25

Stephen Fernandez who was detained in the docks on arrival by a Goa boat some weeks ago for alleged illegal possession of firearms was today placed before the District Magistrate along with Giridhar Singh and Radhakrishnan who were arrested in Delhi along with Ramachandra Anand and Balkrishna Bikanagar Sharma who were arrested along with Balkrishna and Bikanar Sharma at Calcutta. They are charged with conspiracy to commit house-breaking, robberies, dacoities and for illegal possession of firearms. Opening the case the Police Prosecutor alleged that the five accused had joined conspiracy to bring in arms and ammunition illegally from Portuguese Goa. The Police Prosecutor read out the various letters and extracts from note books to show that an attempt had been made to import arms from Hyderabad. He also read instructions from note books for the use of firearms. He detailed the various parts of the case which had been connected to each accused. Fernandez, said the Prosecutor, used to import arms from Goa and was arrested in Bombay with four revolvers in his possession. The Prosecutor stated that Ramachandra Anand was undergoing training in a military school in Delhi as part of the campaign.

PUNJAB COUNCIL

FINANCE MEMBER PRESENTS BUDGET

(Associated Press)

Lahore, 25 Feb.

In his speech introducing the Budget estimates the finance Member announced that the Local Government had decided to follow the Government of India and majority of Local Governments in respect of pay cut and to apply five percent cut to all provincial and subordinate services to which ten percent was at present applied accompanied by the withdrawal of the exemption from surcharge on income-tax and super-tax as was done by the Government. The revenue account for the year ending March 1933 was expected to close with a balance of Rs. 25 lakhs and taking all accounts together the year was expected to close with a balance of Rs. 52 lakhs. The Finance Member referred to the Hydro Electric Project and said that the total expenditure for this project up to the end of the year was 5-14 crores, 60 lakhs having been provided in this connection in the coming year Budget. As regards retrenchment Sir Henry said that 65 per cent of the retrenchments proposed by the Retrenchment Committee were given effect to including Rs. 160 lakhs as revenue account. As for the future he appealed for efforts to produce a position of stability which was essential before the introduction of reforms in order to give the new administration a fair chance.

PRIME MINISTER OF ALWAR

(Associated Press)

New Delhi, Feb. 25

According to the present arrangement Mr. F. V. Wylie will leave London on the 27th March and arrive in Bombay on the 31st. It is expected he will join the appointment of Prime Minister and Revenue Minister at Alwar about the 20th March.

"If you try to kiss me, I shall scream!"
"Not with all these people about, surely?"
"Let's do a quieter one," then!"

MURDEROUS GANG IN LAHORE

13 ARRESTS MADE

(Associated Press)

Lahore, Feb. 25

The Special Police are engaged in rounding up members of the gang believed to be concerned in various murderous dacoities and bomb explosions including the Kanakana Sahib Naudar Sudhar and Rajit Singh cases outrages, arrested one more person Santosh Singh from a village in Amritsar District. This brings the total number of arrests in this connection to thirteen.

DELHI MUNICIPALITY

WOMEN FRANCHISE SANCTIONED

(Associated Press)

New Delhi, Feb. 25

It is understood that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has sanctioned female franchise for the Delhi Municipality by putting women on the same footing as men both as regards voting and contenting assent.

SIR MD. IQBAL

(Associated Press)

Lahore (Feb. 25)

Sir Mohammed Iqbal, delegate to the Third Round Table Conference, arrived this morning by the Frontier Mail and was welcomed at the Railway Station by a number of his friends and admirers. He was presented with a copy of a book on the Jamiatul Islam in which his services to Islam were enquired.

PATNA HIGH COURT

(Associated Press)

New Delhi Feb. 25

A Communique says—The Governor-General in Council has appointed Justice S. R. Das as a permanent acting as Judge, Patna High Court, to act as Additional Judge at that Court with effect from 3rd March 1933 until the commencement of the High Court vacatur.

EXSPANISH KING IN MADRAS

(Associated Press)

Madras, Feb. 26

Yesterday morning the King of Spain arrived in Madras accompanied by his 8rd son Don Juan and the Duke of Miranda who has been the King's secretary for over a period of 25 years and who still continues to serve his master faithfully, although he could have effected a compromise with the New Republican Administration of Spain and remained in his native country with comfort and happiness.

The Ex-King and the party were received at the Vigorosa Street Club, Col. S. E. L. Baddley, Military Secretary to His Excellency and by the Spanish Priest in Madras.

The Ex-King and party will be the guests of His Excellency during their sojourn in Madras.

Least

WOMAN was passing his ordinary bag in a queue when an old lady behind him snatched quickly down the bag, stopped by Tompkins, dropped a penny in the bag, and moved to a seat.

The lady was at the last now when the old lady caught her again. She snatched a penny from the bag, and was passing out when she snatched their last penny and snatched her bag.

"I may," he muttered, "why in the name of goodness do you come in here, drop a penny in the bag, and then take it out again and snatched it?"

The old lady shook him off indignantly. "I'm in the wrong class," she said.

Freezing

Two guests who had dined not wisely but too well at a party given by a master of foxhounds wandered into their host's garden and stimulated on to his freezing fancies.

"Seems to me," said one of them, as the glass cracked beneath his feet, "there would be any ice-braining to-morrow."