

Trans-Frontier men did not come back in large numbers.

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The other classes did not fail us very badly but they were quite unsuitable for places in the ranks

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Q: They had got fat

A: Some ^{were} fat and some very thin, underfed, and worn with old age (premature)

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Q: The system of reservoirs for the Indian Army must be altered - you think

A: No doubt - absolutely

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Q: The drafts you are getting now are newly enlisted men I suppose - half trained

A I was ~~at~~ there out there in 1915 and the last draft I had were 50 from my own depot, enlisted by my own regiment and 100 men from another regiment. The 100 men from the other regiment were absolutely untrained to all intents and purposes.

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Q Just the sweepings of the streets of Bombay

A I will not say that. The class was all right but they were immature. They could not carry the weight and they were not trained. There were not enough good instructors left in India to carry on. For instance of one battalion which ^{outbreak of the} they had enlisted 2,300 men from the ~~district where~~ war - say in 13 months. Now ~~supposing they trained~~ a man for 6 months they had to turn the men out in 6 months ready trained and the average time for an Indian recruit is a year. That ^{by} would probably at the end of 6 months say, have something like 1,200 men in training. ^{to train} ~~But only~~ ^{of those} ~~every~~ those in peace time most regiments allow about 10 per cent of instructors; one instructor to 10 men. ^{For} ~~At~~ ^{1,200} men, therefore, in peace time you would be given 120 men

When
Q You

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When
Q: You say instructor, you mean a ~~N.C.O.~~ an ordinary native N. C. O.

A: Yes an ordinary native N. C. O. You ~~do not~~ ^{would} want 120, ~~and~~ ^{but} I do not believe ^{that} those were ever available and if they ~~were~~ ^{are} wanted in peace time you certainly would not want just as many to prepare men for war. That question will certainly want looking into - the ~~amount~~ ^{number} of instruction ^{lets} available for a tremendous expansion of recruits

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Q: I do not know the conditions in India, but I imagine that instruction in India must be a good deal easier than instruction in this country as you have a large standing army in India and ~~we~~ have not here. All the frontier troops ^{is} available as instructors.?

A: The frontier troops were all over the place

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Chairman: Had you difficulties about getting pure water

A: With regard to the supply of water efforts were made wherever possible to improve the Tigris water which we had to use, but of course it is ^{very often} impossible to carry out various precautions ~~very often~~ and the result was that both British and Native troops ^{frequently} had to drink water just as it was

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Q: From the Tigris

A: From the Tigris or the Euphrates

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Q: As ~~to~~ you moved up ~~on the "successful"~~ was there any organized system of tanks for water along the river side established

A: Nothing along the river. You could only have placed those tanks at large places like Amara or places where there were troops. The natives would ^{have riddled} readily shoot them with bullets or rolled them into the river. You could not have protected ^{them}. It would only be at places like Kurna

and Amara where we had troops that a large system of tanks might have been arranged. The only places where I saw tanks ^{were} at Basra and at Ahwas. Otherwise I have no recollection of having seen any tanks

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Lord Hugh Cecil: Were your troops inoculated for

enteric and for cholera ~~with regard~~

^{with regard to the native troops} Q: That was left voluntarily to them. My ^{battalion} ~~appointment~~ was not inoculated

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Commander Wedgwood: Either against cholera or against fever typhoid

A: No, against neither

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Sir Archibald Williamson: You said there was a shortage of field ambulances at the battle of Nasiriyah

A: Yes

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Q: I see from the figures before us that the total number of wounded at that battle was 429

A: Yes

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Q That battle spread over more than one day, did it not
A The casualties on that day I think were 429, but then there were a large number of sick. The sick were very numerous. I suppose to put it very conservatively, at least 15 per cent of each Brigade were suffering from typhoid or dysentery

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Q But would the sick suffering from fever or dysentery be treated in the field ambulances

A: Yes, they would

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Q Would they not be cleared ~~before~~ before the battle took place on the 26th

A If possible, but they were continually going in. A certain number could be cleared but there would be ~~many~~ still others left

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Q As they fell sick they would be sent down to Basra

A: Yes if there was a ship going. But there were

always a large number of sick in the field ambulances

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Q: The field ambulances at that battle were insufficient?

A: During the whole period from practically the 26th June to the 24th July the field ambulances were overcrowded with sick. The wounded were a small matter. During the whole operation they amounted to about a thousand, I think. The whole of the casualties amounted to about a thousand

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Q It remains the case that the field ambulance provision for wounded and sick was insufficient

A: Yes

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Q: You said, I think, that mosquito nets were not available, and that food was short in the field ambulances

A The cooking arrangements were inadequate. That was one of the greatest handicaps I think that the field ambulances had

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To receive the articles, shot, ice
Q: Quinine was ~~short~~ ^{short}, ~~was~~ ^{was} short, blankets were short and motor ambulances

A The blankets in field ambulances that is

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Q Hospital steamers were non-existent

A. Non-existent

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Q ~~Some~~ things were short or non-existent in the period before the end of June 1915

A: Yes

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Q: Would it surprise you to learn that the Chief Medical Officer in India the D. H. S. responsible for the ~~act~~ sending these things holds this view: "I think I am ~~and~~ right in saying ^{the} there was no medical failure". Would you agree with that

A: Certainly should not agree. Those three points were certainly so

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Q Up to the 30th June 1915 there was no ^{medical} failure

A I call the absence of mosquito nets a medical

failure

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failure; I call the deficiency in quinine a medical failure

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Q: That was before the 30th June

A: Yes before the 30th June. I should call the over-crowding of field ambulances ^a medical failure

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Lord Hugh Cecil: And the shortage of personnel

A. Well that results in the shortage of personnel

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Sir Archibald Williamson. We are told that a number of the things I have enumerated are not supplied by the Medical Department; for example Hospital steamers, motor ambulances, blankets, ice making machines. Now as a soldier, if these things ~~are~~ ^{are} short who do you think if the doctors are not responsible, is responsible for the shortage

A. As a soldier I have all along felt that the Medical Establishments are probably the same, or were the same at the beginning of 1915 as they were say in 1885. If the Government of India knew that the scale was entirely inadequate seeing what modern war means as regards casualties, then they would ~~at~~ ^{of} ~~perhaps~~ ^{perhaps} have ^{no} good reason for not supplying them. ^{Do} You ^{would} ~~would~~ ^{would} ~~ask~~ ^{ask} to show I would apply for these things?

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Q. ^{The} Doctors find that there is a shortage of things which it is not their own personal duty to supply - blankets for wounded, ice making plant, motor ambulances hospital steamers and so forth; Now what steps ought they to take

A You mean to say junior Medical Officers - & Medical Officers of ~~the~~ field ambulances

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Q Assuming that it is known to the Chief Medical Officer of the Expedition

A. ~~But if he had~~ ^{Should he ought} to bring it to the notice of the Army Commander and he could also, by means of semi-official or private letters in the case of the Mesopotamian

Expedition bring it to the notice of the Chief Medical Officer in India, pointing out what things were wanted and how they were being handicapped by this or that deficiency -

Officially, he would ^{bring the notice of} ~~do~~ it to the Army Commander ^{would have felt.} ~~it~~ fall

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Q As Colonel of a battalion on you to make representations if there are shortages of these things

A I used to demand quinine, but I was told I could not have it

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Q: From whom did you demand it

A: My Medical Officer would demand it from the A. D. M. S.

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Q: Whose office would be at Nasarjeh I suppose

A: No, his office would be at headquarters wherever the Division was

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Q: You would ^{represent} ~~leave~~ it to the Medical Officer and he would represent it to the A. D. M. S.

A: Yes, and I would probably tell him to go on representing it

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Q: If you did not get a thing you felt was absolutely essential for your troops, would you make a sufficient noise about it to ensure attention

A: I certainly should, but it takes such a long time to get a reply from India ^{to a complaint of you} ~~that they found the supply that~~ ^{of some thing made to date,} ~~by the time~~ ^{it} ~~the thing~~ was available the necessity ^{have} ~~ceased~~

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Q If you did not get the things that you felt were necessary for the troops, having ~~made~~ an inquiry made a requisition, to whom would you complain

A I, personally, would probably talk it over with the Brigade Commander. I might do it officially or I might do it in conversation

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Q It ~~was~~ ^{would be} quite within your province to do it officially

A Quite within my province

4446
Q: Was there not amongst certain Commanders belonging to the Indian army a reluctance to complain of shortages

A: I think that many of us ^{rather} accepted the situation that things were on the way, ~~rather~~ we were told so, and would arrive in due time

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Q: Hope deferred

A: Referring to the machine gun boxes, I referred ~~to~~ that as an urgent matter officially to the Brigade commander and one battalion in the Brigade were equipped with these boxes. I think I told you - 24 in number. He ordered that unit to retain ~~them~~⁶ for their own use and hand over 18 to ~~the~~ other three regiments - six each. That is a case in point, of reference.

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Q: But was there any reluctance amongst commanding officers connected with the Indian army to make complaints of shortages

A: In ^{my own} many cases of ~~that sort~~ I used to ~~just~~ talk over matters with the Brigade commander and ^{tell} him the things that we were short of

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Q: We have been told that things have been looked at very closely in the Financial Department in India and that that has ^{conduced} adduced to officers thinking that their promotion would depend partly upon economy and perhaps more upon economy than on efficiency

A: I was always under the impression ~~this is only an idea~~
I ~~formed myself that~~ as commanding officer of a battalion that a record was kept of the expenditure of the regiment

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Q: It was an advantage to you if you did not spend too much

A: Certainly it would have been a disadvantage for me if I spent too much. That was only an idea. I always thought that every regiment was checked.

4451 Chairman. Supposing you found a deficiency and talked the matter over with the Brigadier and made an official request to him and supposing he accepted your view, with whom would you ^{he} communicate

A: He would probably ask me to put the point on paper or do it himself direct; ^{and it} it would go to the Divisional Commander

4452 Q: The Divisional commander would send it on
A: He would then ^{if he} either agreed to it, ~~and~~ forward it on his recommendation to the Army commander ^{with}

4453 Q: Then the Army commander would forward it or comply ^{with it}?
A: He would carry it out if he could do so or thought it desirable, and if he could not do so he would make arrangements with India, ~~that~~ presumably to get the things

4454 Q: But all down the line any one in that chain could stop the communication

A: Certainly, anyone who liked could stop it, if he did not think it desirable

4455 Q: Do you suppose, speaking according to your knowledge, that ~~if~~ any communications of that kind were stopped and did not get to India

A: No, I cannot speak to that

4456 Q: Was there any feeling prevalent that it was useless to make demands

A: No I would not say that. The things I am chiefly ~~am~~ thinking of now are wire cutters, machine gun boxes, mosquito nets and ^{quinine} ~~carrots~~. Those were the four prominent things I always kept on

4457 Lord Hugh Cecil: You got none of them

A: I got the mosquito curtains in August

4458 Q: Rather too late

A: Rather too late. I did not get the wire cutters but I was always told that they were on their way.

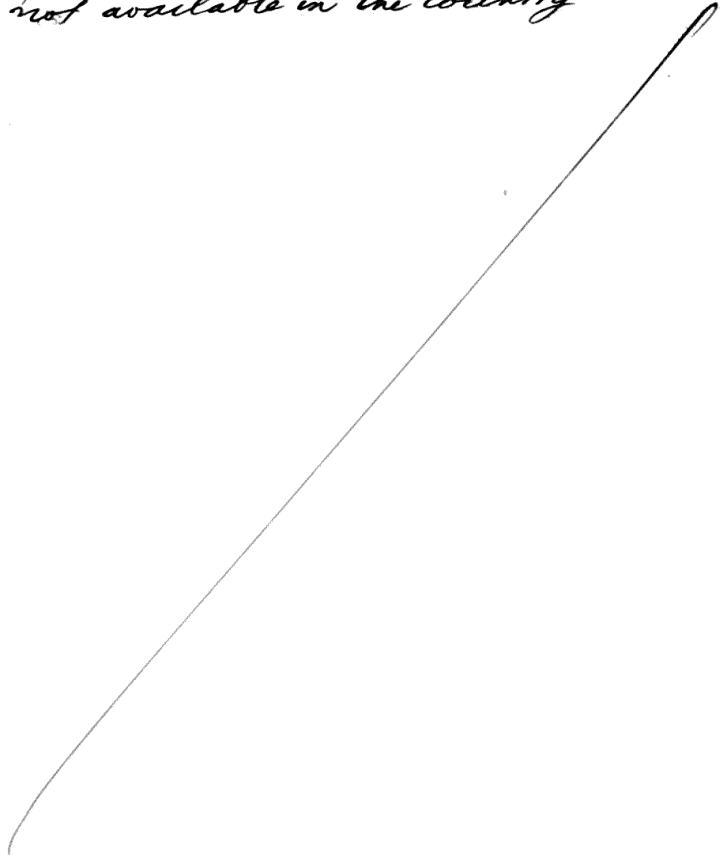
There was a permanent order in ~~the~~ force that indents were not to be repeated if they had been once acknowledged as received; that it was to be understood that the things were, for the time being, not available but as soon as they became available they would be supplied. That rather made one hang a thing up and forget about it

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Q: You might not ask twice about it

A: It was to save ~~expense~~ ^{correspondence that} we were not to send reminders.

It was an understood thing that the Departments concerned kept a record and would supply as soon as the articles ^{thing} became available, and if we did not get them at once we were to understand that the things were ^{probably} not available in the country



Sir Archel

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4468 Q Mr Richard Williamson Would that not rather prevent you from making strong representations of shortage
 A I ~~may~~ ^{made} say, "We have to wait time for six weeks or two months before ^{the} things can come"
 It has to go through various channels in India and so on

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4461
Chaplin

2 Was there any general idea ^{prevailing} amongst Commanding officers with whom you associated that the water transport question for instance had not been taken in hand as it should have been at the very beginning
 A I never had any conversation with ~~any of the~~ ^{other} Commanding officers on it. I myself made a note after the battle of Es-Sinn when the troops suffered from want of water that it seemed to me that a water column ought to be improvised as soon as possible

4462 2 Transport by water
 A Water column. It means transporting water by carts or on camels

4463 2 I did not mean transporting water; I meant river transport
 A We ~~had~~ accepted the situation with regard to river transport that ^{only} so many ships were available and we had to carry on

4464 2 The ^{issue} ~~question~~ of shortage of steamers ~~was~~ a constant subject of conversation
 A I should say it was

4465 2 Each steamer you knew as a sort of pet
 A We knew every one

4466 2 When a new one arrived there was a sort of welcome
 A There was certainly a ~~sort~~ of welcome when it arrived

4467 2 It ~~was~~ ^{is} generally known that from an early date ~~there~~ ^{the} great shortage existed
 A It ~~had~~ ^{has} ~~been~~ ^{been} really to be felt acutely. I should say from the time we advanced from Kurma to Amara and again from Kurma to Nasiriyah

4468 Q That is in May and June 1915

A Yes in May and June 1915

4469 Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge Long before the advance to Oterifon

A Yes a good time before the advance to Oterifon

4470 Q General Sir Neville Lytton With regard to the carriage of water were there water carts there or mashaiks

A The only form of water carriage there was requisital. We had found up mashaiks; they were rather decrepitated. There were zinc tanks specially constructed for carriage on mules

4471 Q As in Egypt

A Probably something like the camel tanks

4472 Q Did these answer the purpose very well

A We really wanted about treble the number per unit even for normal conditions not involving a march away from water ^{but if} when you may expect to get to water within 12 hours ~~but about~~ ^{if} we were to be away from water for 12 hours I consider we wanted about three times as many in the hot weather

4473 Q You and I have seen in several hot countries and we know that the water is never sufficient when it is very hot

A Yes for instance I ~~sent~~ ^{sent} water columns across ^{on} the Canal at Suez and we made very special arrangements and I think the same arrangements are always necessary when you have water

4474 Q With regard to the question of the supply of provisions I suppose the supply of provisions was very much hampered by the caste and religious habits of ^{the} troops

A Much less I think than we expected. I thought myself that there was a general tendency on the

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the part of all the Indian troops to throw their prejudices to the wind for the time being

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Q I thought that that was very likely the case. You did your best to see that Mussulman were not served out with bacon

A ~~That never happened; at least I hope not~~ ~~On water~~ ^{things}

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Q Would the ~~water~~ ^{things} get bully beef

A No not in Mesopotamia. We never issued them any tinned food in Mesopotamia

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Q On the whole then that did not constitute a very serious difficulty

A That did not

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Q That is to the credit of the ~~supply~~ ^{supply} arrangements. How did the ~~troops~~ ^{troops} use any gas

A Not when I was there

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Q Gas would have been very useful to you in some of these attacks

A Gas or smoke attacks ~~not~~ would have been certainly very useful to us; for instance in the fighting, working up to the relief of Kut

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Commander Wedgwood You mean by smoke attacks, phosphorus?

A I mean advancing under the cover of smoke
General Sir Neville Lytton Here she was wounded cut up by Arabs to your knowledge. We have heard of the fear of Arab atrocities

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A It was very much less ~~than~~ ^{than} than ~~as~~ ^{as} generally ~~has~~ ^{has} been reported. To a large extent they ~~committed~~ ^{committed} ~~with~~ ^{with} stripping. ~~for plunder~~

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Q ~~For plunder?~~ ^{For plunder?} There were cases where they committed atrocities but much less than has been stated I think

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Q You were asked whether the commanding officers' reputations ~~did~~ ^{did} not depend a good deal on their economical ~~conduct~~ ^{conduct} ~~or~~ ^{or} tendencies ~~the~~ ^{the} reverse. I suppose ~~your~~ ^{your} ~~answer~~ ^{answer}

answer, referred to
my peace time

Q ~~I mean~~ in Peace time. It is only an impression
I have, but I felt that. Supposing your unit was
conting more than the normal in replacement of
condemned kit ~~and so on~~ equipment and so on,

~~It~~ Probably you would hear about it

4484 I My experience in War time has been and I daresay
it has been yours, that really there is very little
restriction put on

A Very little in war time

4485 Q Notably with regard to medical men
who may make any demands they like in war time
and nobody ever finds fault with them

A I think so

4486 Q Lord Hugh Cecil It is not supposed to be against
a man to make demands during war

A No I should say not. In war time we open out
and ~~draw~~ ^{throw} a good great deal of our red tape to
the wind. We get things without receipts and the
departments help us all they can

4487 Q General Sir Neville Lyttelton No commanding officers would
~~have~~ ^{be} looked on with disfavor because he brought
deficiencies to notice

A Not in war time

4488 Q It is his duty to do it

A Yes. I am not speaking ^{of large} matters of hospital ships
and things of that sort. ^{In} But if this
or that did not suit, he could

~~It~~ ~~he~~ might certainly make a representation ^{with} regard
to regimental supply in war time. The Department
in Mesopotamia on the spot always try to ^{fill} ~~put~~ you
up if they can

4489 Q I see in the evidence that we have, ~~that~~ it is said
over and over again that all the economy
emanated
away from

from India; did you know yourself that India paid nothing more than ~~the~~ normal expenses.

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Q I understand that India was bearing only the pay of the men.

44490

A As in ordinary years
I Yes as in ordinary years the just paid & what the normal peace expenses of the units would be I understand

44491

Q So there was no inducement for India to be parsimonious with regard to any abnormal expenditure because India did not have to meet it
A Yes exactly.

44492

Q Do you think that that was generally known out there because lots of people have said that India was to blame for all these shortcomings. I

A I understand that India was only leading the troops and paying the normal expenses that would be incurred in peace for time

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Q Say about £20,000,000 a year
A Yes

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Lord Hugh Cecil The point rather is whether that produced any effect on the minds of those who incurred expenditure or not. Were they just as economical ~~as~~ as usual or not so economical as usual

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Q You mean to say on the subordinate officers?
A Yes

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Q We were as economical as we possibly could be
A It did not make practically any difference to you or any commanding officer in your position ~~that~~ ^{that the} expense fell on the ^{English} ~~Indian~~ tax payers instead of on the Indian taxpayers

44497

Q No, certainly not. He did not throw things about
A Whatever was the tradition of the Service with respect to economy remained in War time just as

as it was in peace time
1 Well ~~they are~~ we might have endeavored things
lately a little more liberally than we would have done in
peace time

4498

2 The question of who paid the taxes made no
difference to you

A None whatever.

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Chairman ^{I think} ~~without~~ the allegation that is made is that the
policy of ^{accuracy} had had such an effect on officers
during peace time that they were still under
that ~~is~~ tradition

A That may be so

4500

2 And they ~~are~~ were reluctant to ask for things unless
they ~~are~~ were quite sure that their requests ^{estimates} would
be favorably looked upon

A Yes I presume that that would be so

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2 You think there ~~was~~ ^{was} no hesitation on the
part of combatant officers during the time of work
in asking for what they ~~thought~~ ^{thought} really essential
to We certainly had no hesitation in asking for things
to make ourselves efficient. No single rifle,
no single belt, ~~no single machine gun~~, ^{no single}
machine gun ~~that~~ was out of repair, ~~we~~ had
no hesitation in asking for ~~it~~ ^{it} to be put
right as soon as possible

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Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge Did you see much of
her wounded after the fighting in January
Were you amongst them much

A I was amongst them to a certain extent; I
may say in fact a good deal. I once or twice
went on board the ~~so~~ ^{or so called} hospital ships ^{ships} that were
going down and I came myself down on a
steamer filled with sick and wounded from the
^{British} ~~British~~ Army Corps to Basra

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4503

Q What date did you arrive at Basra
 A I arrived in Basra I think on the 1st February. I left the Army Corps - I left the fighting front on the 28th January.

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Q Would you agree with this statement which must have been made somewhere about the third week in January "all the sick and wounded arriving at Basra after the late fighting are improving and the wounds as a rule are clean and healthy though of course there are bad joints and smashed femora ^{or} cases septic, but no bed sores." That is a very optimistic statement. I should not think that was correct. As a layman you cannot see what a man's body is like or what his wounds are like unless you happen to be there when he is being dressed. But I should not think that that was true here again it is hearsay, but I heard of men arriving with bed sores, sores filled with animal life and that sort of thing, and how men could improve on a journey of that description I fail to see. They were practically not under cover; it was intensely cold and they were short of blankets. There was only one doctor perhaps on board and very often not more than one to a couple of hundred or 300 men. If they did improve then I can only say I think it is just belief.

4505

Q You said just now that the shortage of river transport was felt some months before the advance on Clifton

A Yes. At the battle of Kurna we had two brigades that came up on ships. The 3rd Brigade went in boats and then landed and interchanged with other brigades. All my experiences were that

that the ships were extremely crowded; so much so that men could not lie down. They might be three or four or five or six deep on board ships and ^{sets} for no proper rest and the troops were losing in energy and ^{efficiency} ~~freshness~~, all the time they were on board and suffering a great deal from the heat. There were many cases of heat

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2. Did these conditions become more or less acute during the advance from ^{towards} Baghdad

In the advance from Amara to Baghdad the ~~other~~ weather had moderated, it was carried out in October and November and the troops did not travel on ships then. They marched the whole way, and they marched as far as the ships went each day. There was a parent ship for ~~the wounded~~ ^{each unit} and the parent ship carried the ^{kit} ~~wounded~~ and the food so that there was not the same crowding. During June, July, and August it was impossible to march owing to the floods and the troops had to be carried on ships if they were to move. The same ships in addition to carrying supplies, ammunition and so on in the flood season, had to carry troops and the result was no doubt ~~terrible~~ ^{awful} over-crowding. There were not only troops but ammunition as well.

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3. May I take it that there was not much ^{improvement} in the ^{efficiency} ~~efficiency~~ of river transport during the advance on Ctesiphon

In the advance from Kut el Amara to Ctesiphon our transport was ~~increased~~ ^{decreased} because a large number of the steamers were of too great draught to go up. We then reduced the number of ships.

The

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4508 The boats known as P boats which came from the Irrawaddy had to remain at Kut. ~~They were~~ P. boats! ^{we called them P. boats.} ~~As they were portable boats.~~ ^{There} ~~was~~ ^{is} anything from 3 to 5 feet. The boats that went above Kut were ordered I think not to be more than

4509 2 feet 10 inches but I am not quite certain
 2 This advance was over 300 miles was it not
 + From Kut or from Amara?

4510 2 From Basra I meant
 + From Basra to the concentration point before
 Ctesiphon?

4511 2 Yes
 + By water I should think it is more than 300 miles

4512 2 Measured on the map without taking the windings on the river it is 300 miles as the crow flies or rather over
 + It may be. By river it is more. By water it is something like 470 to 500 miles I should think

4513 2 All the ammunition and equipment and most of the supplies for the troops were taken on the steamers almost entirely
 + Yes. The units themselves had I think transport for one blanket a man and for their water ~~and~~ for their cooking pots and of course for the requisitorial and ^{section} reserve ammunition, ~~that~~ ^{which} had to be on land. All the supplies were on the ships and all kit ^{beyond} and one blanket

4514 2 Owing to the fact of ^{was} the decrease in the depth of the water ruled out a certain number of steamers, the river transport was very deficient in going up was it not
 + It depends on how you measure it. If you ^{mean}

measured it in fair weather and everything ^{was} going swimmingly ^{and} you might say that ~~originally~~ we could have carried on all right but in view of what ultimately happened certainly it was far too little. We could carry enough ammunition on the ships and enough stores to last a ^{seven} ~~four~~ period, - I cannot say what period, but say something between 20 and 35 days. That is if all went well, but I do not know that ~~it would give~~ ^{that they made} very much allowance for the unexpected.

4515 Q ~~Speaking of~~ On an optimistic computation there would be enough to get. When the whole of the ships had become hospital ships and everything had to be thrown to the wind except the taking away of the wounded, no transport existed

4516 Q On a reasonable computation ~~as~~ ^{requirements} ~~in~~ ^{beforehand} of the probable ~~would~~ ^{would} the river transport there have been ~~considered~~ ^{considered} sufficient.
A I think not

4517 Q That is what I want to know. Questions of supply and maintenance are vital questions to an Army are they not
A They question of supply is absolutely vital. An ~~army~~ ^{army} ~~man~~ ^{man} ~~matches~~ ^{matches} on his ~~stomach~~ ^{stomach} does ~~it~~ ^{it} not?

4518 Q It depended on the sufficiency of the river transport
A Yes, it depended on the sufficiency of the river transport

4519 Q Would it be a fair conclusion to say that the advance was made beyond the resources of the river transport. I do not mean beyond in distance but outside the sufficiency of the river transport
A Yes I should say so

4520 Q Thank you; that is what I want to know

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4521

Q The chief point ^{to be} taken into consideration is that we had to evacuate certain things and ~~even~~ those steamers were scarcely sufficient for it

2 I want to know whether the advance towards Baghdad was made so to speak regardless of the insufficiency of our river transport

A Talking from my own point of view - I cannot talk from the point of view of anyone else - my own point of view is that, taking into account what we were bound to evacuate, even if we had not to evacuate the great number of wounded that we did, (we certainly had to evacuate a large number of sick) it meant that we lost our transport for the time being. We lost our transport for the whole time that it had to go down to Basra to fill up. In my opinion we ~~should~~ ^{ought to} have had sufficient transport not only to go back to Basra and bring up food but also to remain present with the forces in case it was desirable to move from one point to another. They might have had to withdraw and once you take to ~~withdrawing~~ ^{again} the transport whether it be a cart or ship or train ^{you must} ~~be~~ ^{be} immobilized your forces at once

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2 The amount of transport which you think there ought to have been was very far from being available

A Yes I should say so

4523

2 Were your communications after you advanced from Kut to Ctesiphon to ~~be~~ quite secure. Were the Germans able to pass to and fro for instance and were the wounded able to be sent away safely

A No. The wounded were fired on ^{on} ~~at~~ the way back

2 Dis

4524 Q Did you ~~they~~ ~~did~~ any of the wounded
have to return

A Yes; I had to return twice myself
4525 Chairman I dare say you have heard there was an idea
that our Expedition might make a raid on Baghdad
and come back. Did you hear that

A I never heard that idea

4526 Q You thought that they went up to occupy it
at what we all understood was that we were to
occupy Baghdad, and that other troops were coming
to consolidate us there

4527 Q The transport might have been sufficient for a raid
assuming it was rapid and successful but quite
insufficient for the same force if you met with
very ~~heavy~~ heavy casualties consolidation and had
to evacuate

A Quite so

4528 Colonel Sir Cyprian Bridge Would the transport that
there was have been sufficient simply for a raid

A I should doubt it

Chairman We are much obliged to you

The witness withdrew

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CONFIDENTIAL.

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to do

MESOPOTAMIA COMMISSION.

STATEMENT BY SIR ROBERT CARLYLE.

I.

1. I was an ordinary Member of Council of the Governor-General of India from July, 1910, to July, 1915, and was in charge of the departments of Revenue and Agriculture and Public Works. I left Simla on the 2nd July, 1915, and resigned my appointment with effect from the 4th July, 1915.

2. I have no recollection of the Council ever being consulted regarding the Mesopotamian Expedition. I cannot even remember any information of any importance being given the Members of Council as a body regarding the progress of operations there.

Under Section 8 of the India Council's Act the Governor-General has power to issue "rules and orders for the more convenient transaction of business in the Council," and under Section 19, Part V of the Rules of Business, framed by the Governor-General under these powers, it is laid down that it is for the Governor-General to decide whether and when a case shall be brought before Council. Section 20 provides that if the Governor-General and the Member of Council to whose department a case belongs do not concur the case must be brought before a meeting after it has been circulated to all members unless the Governor-General specially directs it is at once to be brought before the Council. I need not refer here to the Rules of Business regarding cases in which legislation is required.

3. It will be seen that under the letter of the rules it is in the discretion of the Governor-General to decide whether cases in which he and the member of the department concerned are to come before the Council or not. The only way in which a member whose department is not directly concerned can force a reference is where a despatch has to go to the Secretary of State. Every despatch has to be signed by all the members present at the headquarters of Government and a Member of Council who does not concur has the right to record a Minute of dissent. Before doing so he would usually ask for a discussion at a meeting of all the members and I do not think the Governor-General would ever refuse such a request.

It will thus be seen that the Governor-General did not transgress the letter of the law by excluding the Council from participation in Mesopotamian affairs. If any Member of Council had challenged the wisdom of excluding the Council from all participation in matters of such importance he would probably have got no support from the India Office and in fact I do not know how, except by tendering his resignation, he could have brought the matter to the notice of the Home authorities. My reason

for believing the Home authorities would not have interfered is that in one case where I acted strictly within my rights in dissenting from a despatch on very important educational proposals I was told by a permanent official of the India Office that he was of opinion I should not have recorded a dissent as education was not one of the departments under my charge. I have heard it suggested that in the case of the Mesopotamian Expedition it was right not to consult us as a body because some of the facts were so confidential that it would have been unsafe to communicate them to our Indian colleagues. This would appear to cut at the roots of the Government of India as at present by law established.

II.

5. Very soon after the war broke out some ladies in Simla began to co-operate in sending comforts to troops belonging to the various expeditionary forces that left India. The Commander-in-Chief took much interest in the matter and proposed to take it up on a large scale. He wanted to form a large Committee headed by the Viceroy and himself and including, besides leading Indians and Europeans, all Governors, Lieut.-Governors and Members of Council. There was to be an Executive Committee with the Chief of the Staff presiding. The Viceroy at first agreed but very quickly withdrew his consent on the ground that the troops were provided by Government with all they required. The Commander-in-Chief accordingly withdrew his scheme. Whatever was done after that at Simla was done privately and on a small scale, but with the consent and help, privately given, of the Commander-in-Chief.

6. A Committee was formed in this country (Indian Soldiers' Fund) soon after the war broke out to provide comforts for the troops of the Indian Expeditionary Force. Some time later (in December, I think) the Secretary of State telegraphed to India enquiring what was being done there as regards the troops in Egypt, Mesopotamia and East Africa, as the Indian Soldiers' Fund only provided for troops in France. The result was that the work already being done was greatly developed and was liberally supported by the Commander-in-Chief from funds placed at his disposal by native chiefs.

I attach importance to these incidents as showing how the Viceroy used his power and how the Commander-in-Chief failed to assert his position.

R. W. CARLYLE

10th September, 1916.

59a

(Sir Robert Carlyle K.C.S.I.) sworn

Gardner & Smith

4529

Chairman: Sir Robert we will take the Statement which you have put in as your evidence in chief
[^{certainly} Insert paper marked B]

4530

Q You were an Ordinary Member of Council of the Governor General of India for 5 years from July 1910 to July 1915.

A Yes

4531

Q You were in charge of the ~~two~~ ^{of} Departments Revenue, and Agriculture, and Public Works

A Yes

4532

Q How was the Council then constituted, who were the other Members of the Council, ^{or rather} what were their offices

A: Finance was one, Commerce and Industry was another; then ^{came} the Home Department and the Legislative Department and then of course the Commander in Chief was an Extraordinary Member of Council

4533

Q You had a legal Member of Council

A Yes. I meant to mention that

4534

Q Our business is to enquire into the ^{inv.} ~~conception~~ and conduct of the Mesopotamia Expedition. That Expedition as I understand, never came before you officially as a Member of Council

A No

4535

Q. Were no communications made to the Council by the Viceroy during the process of the operations in Mesopotamia up to the time you left

A I cannot say positively that no communications were made. I know that we heard very little, but it is a little difficult to say that nothing was ever told us, because we did hear from outside a good deal from people who wrote from Mesopotamia. It is difficult to distinguish between what one heard outside and what one might have heard in Council. I

cannot remember any communications

4536 Q No Despatch or no communication relating to the Mesopotamia Expedition passed through the Council of India during ^{the} ~~the~~ ^{time}

A. I have no recollection of any despatch certainly

4537 Q. Was the Council consulted at all about the other expeditions which left India

A. There again, I find it very difficult to recollect. I ^{know} ~~am told~~ Sir Beauchamp Duff read a ^{wrote} memorandum about the number of troops that ^{would} be spared from India ^{at} the very beginning of the war, ~~he was there~~ but whether ^{about it I do not know} members were actually consulted, I do not think they were; I think it was merely ^{circulated to all the} members

4538 Q Were you not consulted, because you were collectively responsible for the Government of India, as to what

A. ~~It was~~ ^{any} troops could be taken away and what the condition of India would be after ^{they were taken away.} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~great~~

A. One question that came up before the Council, the question of sending Indian troops ~~home~~ to Europe is all that I can recollect. Before that ~~it~~ came before the Council, Lord Hardinge telegraphed to the Secretary of State and he then brought it before us, and he was supported by the Council in the matter

4539 Q The Council then gave ^{him} you authority to despatch the Expedition

A Well, we strongly urged that Indian troops ~~shd~~ be sent ~~and~~ allowed to be used in Europe

4540 Q I understand that according to the rules prevailing as regard the conduct of the business of the Council of the Governor General no Member of Council can bring anything before that body unless it relates to his department

A. He has no power to compel it to be brought ^{before} Council

4541 Q And the Viceroy can decide what business he brings before the Council

A: Yes; he is obliged to bring it before the Council, if he does not agree with the Member

4542 Q And if it involves expenditure, I suppose

A: No; that is not the question

4543 Q: Can the Viceroy sanction expenditure without the consent of his Council - he cannot, can he?

A: ~~He cannot~~ ^{Yes, but it} must have been budgetted for; it. It would come under the Budget Rules

4544 Q But anything outside the Budget?

A I do not think there is anything to prevent it ^{if} he agrees with the Finance ^{Minister} Member

4545 Q. He can incur expenditure on his own responsibility outside the Budget. if the Finance ^{Minister} Member agrees

A. The question did not arise at all in connexion with these Expeditions. I should like to look up the Rules. ~~I am not quite sure about it.~~ I cannot cover all that without refreshing my memory by reading up the Rules of Business. The question has never arisen as far as I know

4546 Q How ~~often~~ ^{often does} the Council meet

A: It varies a good deal.
 It used generally in Lord Hardinge's time to meet once every week, but not always

4547 Q There is no statutory obligation to meet weekly

A. No

4548 Q: Therefore you would say, although you were not consulted at all about this Mesopotamia Expedition, ~~to have~~ ^{that the Viceroy was} not exceeding his power

A: That is the way in which I read it. I think it may be against the spirit of the legislation but I do not think it is against the letter

4549 Q: You left India in July 1915. ~~That~~ ^{A. I left} will be Simla

A. ~~I~~ I did not actually leave India

4550

Q: Did any information reach you unofficially that things were not going quite well in Mesopotamia, as regards ~~the~~ medical treatment and comfort of the troops

A: Not before I left Simla

4551

Q: Up to that time the Expedition had been associated with a succession of successes

A: Yes; we looked upon it as a pleasing instance of our doing well

4552

Lord Hugh Cecil: when did you leave Simla

A: The beginning of July 1915

4553

Chairman: Any despatch that comes to you officially from the ^{Viceroy} ~~office~~ has to be signed by all ~~the~~ Members of the Council

A: Yes

4554

Q: And if they disapprove, they can dissent
A: ^{Yes} They are entitled to dissent. That ~~does not~~ ^{does not} extend to telegrams. Anything sent as a telegram need not come before Members of the Council at all except the Department concerned

4555

Q Do you think there is a disposition in recent years to do more business outside the Council as regards the Government of India than was previously the practice.

A My experience was entirely confined to the end of Lord Minto's Viceroyalty and ^{to} Lord Hardinge's. It was certainly carried quite as far in Lord Minto's time as in Lord Hardinge's time

4556

Q That the Council were not consulted

A: Yes

4557

Q: Not on matters of ~~the~~ importance

A: I do not think that there has been any change in that respect as between Lord Minto's time and Lord Hardinge's time

4558

Q: The Viceroy sees the Secretaries of the different Departments at stated intervals

A He sees them every week when at Simla

or at Headquarters

4559 Q. He has power to direct things to be done in the Departments through the Secretaries independently of the Member of Council

A. The Member of Council must be informed and the Member of Council ^{Chair} could always challenge it

4560 Q. But he can give orders? -
Are orders ever given in that way ^{through} to the Secretary ^{is} of ~~State~~ independently of the Member of Council

A. I cannot remember any important orders being given. The Viceroy might express a wish that something should be done on a not very important matter. I cannot remember it ever being done ^{or} any important matter ^{in my case} and I was always told at once by the Secretary

4561 Q. Has the sense of collective responsibility ^{for} of the Government of India diminished amongst Members of Council in recent years

A. Well there is very little collective responsibility now. I can only speak really of what I know

4562 Q. Would you say that the idea of a Governor General in Council administering India ^{had} to a considerable extent ~~was~~ disappeared

A. Yes, I should certainly

4563 Lord Hugh Cecil: Is it considered a formality?

A. I would not put it quite as strongly as that, but I think it has a good deal diminished. It is not fully carried out

4564 Chairman: Now take one of your Departments, the Public Works Department. That is under your control

A: Yes

4565 Q: It is divided into two heads, is it not, the Railway Branch and the Irrigation Branch

A: That was the case but it is no longer so now. The Railway is entirely under the Commerce and Industry Department

A. Yes

4566 Q: You only have Irrigation

A: Roads and Buildings and Irrigation. The Public Works ^{Department} ~~are~~ divided into those two branches

4567 Q: Was the Railway Department ever under you

A: No

4568 Q: Could you give any information direct with regard to railways. Have ~~not~~ the railways ^{any} large workshops

A I only know what anybody else may know. I never had anything to do with it officially. They have large workshops I know

4569 Q They build railways

A. Yes

4570 Q: And have a large staff of engineers connected with building railways

A: Yes, I ~~know about recruitment of course~~

4571 Q. Do they build locomotives in India

A: Yes, I believe so

4572 Q: And they provide rolling stock do they not

A. They build the rolling stock but I am not quite sure about the locomotives. I think they do

4573 Q You never heard that there was a difficulty of transport as regards the supply of the troops in Mesopotamia

A: Not at the time I left Simla. ^{One} ~~he~~ knew that river communication was very difficult but did not know at that time that ^{they} ~~they~~ ^{were} were very short of river transport

4574 Q Then as far as you know the Railway Department was never called upon to assist the Military Department

A: I certainly never heard so. This is purely hearsay but I have been told by another Member of Council that there was a question about a railway

4575 Q: Well now, there are very big Port trusts in India

A. Yes

31

4576, Q Bombay

A: Bombay, Calcutta, Madras

4577 Q And Rangoon

A: Yes

4578 Q And Karachi

A: Yes. They again were ~~represented~~ under the Commerce and Industry Department

4579 Q They have the handling of very large transport work and I suppose that they have to make provision for the embarkation and disembarkation of a very large amount of goods

A: Yes of course they have

4580 Q Did you ever hear that any of them were asked to help

A I know that after I left they got engineers of the Port Trust at Rangoon to Mesopotamia. That is after my time. I did not hear of anything of that while I was in Simla, or in fact of anything before I left India in October

4581 Q This is rather a general question: assuming the Council of India which is composed of men with general Indian experience and a certain amount of administrative knowledge, had been acquainted with these difficulties of transport in Mesopotamia both on land and on the river, do you think that ^{they could} ~~it~~ ^{can} have been useful to the military authorities in the advice they could have given to them

A: Yes, most certainly they could have done a great deal I think

4582 Q The transport question you consider to be almost as much a civilian question as a ^{side} military question

A: Yes I think that the civilian ^{side} could have certainly given an enormous amount of help

4583 Q Assuming that you had been fully informed per-
apses

to practice economy was it not

A: Yes. We were asked not to start any new projects as far as possible and not to spend more than was absolutely unavoidable

Commander Wedgwood: That is after the War began

A. After the war began

But surely there were Circulars issued before the war, were there not, or discussions on the Budget, indicating that the policy of the Indian Government was to keep down expenditure, ~~the~~ as far as the Revenue

and Agricultural Departments ^{was} concerned there was ~~some~~ ^{a great} change in the way of greater liberality after Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson left and Sir William Meyer came.

I found it very much easier to get money which I thought was really badly wanted than before

Q: It has been ^{alleged} ~~used~~ that the campaign on behalf of economy had rather the effect of making officers, particularly military officers, reluctant to ~~enter~~ ^{and ask} indent ~~a word~~ for fresh things

A: There is no doubt about that at all. There had been most tremendous pressure in the direction of what I very often thought very false economy in Sir Guy Fleetwood Department Wilson's time

Q: In the Military Department

A. In all the Departments that I ^{of} knew ~~that~~ ^{and} ~~was~~ ^{and} certainly it was so in my own Department, One heard of the same thing in other Departments

Q Things were cut down to what were really bare necessities

A Yes and I think even below that

Q You hold, I suppose, strongly the opinion that this economy campaign did have the effect

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4592

Chairman

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4596

of deterring officers from making fresh demands

A Yes, I think there is no doubt about it. May I safeguard myself, I want to be quite plain. I do not attribute any of that to Sir William Murray & Meyer; it was

he found his time

4597

Lord Hugh Cecil: In Sir ^{Guy} Fleetwood Wilson's time

A Yes

4598

General Sir Neville Lytton: ^{It is not merely} ~~Do you~~ refer to the Agri-
Military
cultural Department

A: ^{There was} ~~I mean~~ the general cheese-paring economy of the worst description. I put that down entirely to Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson's time. There was an entirely different spirit after Sir William ^{Meyer} ~~Murray~~ came out

4599

Q That pervaded every Department

A It pervaded every Department

4600

Chairman: It rather specially pervaded the Military
Department

A Yes

4601

Lord Hugh Cecil: When did Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson resign?

A: He resigned in 1913. I think he left in June 1913

4602

Chairman: As regards ^{a branch of the} ~~the~~ drainage Public Works under you, - irrigation - had you not any river steamers or any flotilla of steamers

A: No

4603

Q: I suppose that your officers are constantly surveying and dredging

A: No, not our officers - not very much. Where dredging is done, it is mostly ^{under the} ~~part of the~~ Trusts.

4604

Q: Your department building dams and diverting water

A: Yes, and making the canals

4605

Q: ~~So that~~ ^{would that} class of expert would ~~not~~ have been useful in solving the problems which cropped up as

Mesopotamia

A: The Public Works had not much experience of dredging but our engineers knew something about it and could have given useful hints, or they could have got information

33

II 4606

Q Now, Sir Robert, in the ~~second~~ ^{II} paragraph you state that the Commander in Chief wanted to establish a ~~big staff on a large scale~~ ^{large Committee} There was to be an ~~Executive~~ ^{Executive} Committee with the Chief of Staff presiding and this organization was to provide comforts for the troops and for the wounded

A: Not for the wounded

4607

Q: Only the troops

A: Only the troops

4608

Q: I understand that the Viceroy objected to this

A: Yes

4609

Q: On what ground

A: I do not know at all. I never could understand on what ground. I never spoke to ~~me~~ him about it but the Commander in Chief told us that the Viceroy had objected and therefore he had dropped it. What was said, ^{said by} ~~was that~~ the Viceroy ^{had} ~~said~~ that everything that was necessary would be supplied by the military people

4610

Q Therefore a committee was formed, but on a much smaller scale

A: What happened was that my wife just started it, absolutely privately, and ran it herself for some months, and then a telegram came from the Secretary of State. The Commander in Chief after that gave her a great deal more money, gradually it was worked ~~up~~ ^{up}, and finally a committee was appointed to run it. It ~~has~~ ^{is} now ~~come to about an income~~ in receipt of an income

of 50,000 rupees a month. When we left Simla it was about 35,000 a month

4611

Q. ~~To the~~ To send comforts to Mesopotamia

A To Mesopotamia, to East Africa, and to Egypt

4612

Q Does it work in connection with ^{the funds which} Lady Willingdon started.

A. Yes. All the provinces were working together. The Simla funds alone were 31,000 ^{lacs} ~~piastres~~ whatever they had ^{was} done in the rest of India. Lady Willingdon and ^{the others} ~~the~~ worked together.

4613

Q. Assuming that the big organization ^{had been set} ~~was~~ ^{up} which the Commander in Chief wished ~~would~~ it not have been an indication to ~~India~~ ^{India} as regards what was ~~amiss~~ ^{amiss} in Mesopotamia

A: Yes and we heard a great deal in that way as to what was wanted

4614

Q: Supposing you had had a semi-official organization established for the express purpose of supplying extra comforts that would have been a channel of communication between Mesopotamia and the highest authorities in India

A Yes. As it was one did get a good deal of information

4615

Q Did that information ever point to the fact that the troops were comfortless and were undergoing considerable hardships

A Yes; we heard that there ~~was a great number~~ ^{were good many more} of comforts wanted than they had

4616

Q In your last sentence you say "I attach importance to these questions as showing how the Viceroy used his power, and how the Commander in Chief failed to assert his position". Would you expand the idea ^{in that sentence} a little

A I think that ^{the} ~~a~~ Commander in Chief ought not to be ~~allowed~~ have allowed the Viceroy to overrule him

him in the matter at all. He ought to have told the Viceroy that ~~he~~ he knew a great deal more of what the troops wanted and what they were likely to get than the Viceroy himself did, and it was not, I think, for the Viceroy to stop a thing like that.

Adjourned for a short time.

4617

Chairman: ^{I understand that you would} ~~Would you like to alter your answer as~~ regards the joint action between the Viceroy and the ^{Minister in Connection by the} ~~Financial~~ ^{Members for} the expenditure which has not been sanctioned

A: Yes

4618

Q: You ~~might~~ ^{could} do that when you get the proof

A: Then I think I might have been understood as making out that the Council is more a nonentity ~~constituted~~ than it is. Every Member of the Council must sign a despatch. It always retains that power

4619

Q: Assuming that no communication is brought before you then the Council is, as regards ^{the} that particular question, ^{concerned,} a nonentity.

A: Yes, but a great many things must come before it because of the fact that we have to sign every despatch

4620

General Sir Neville Lyttelton: But Mesopotamia did not come before you

A: No; there was no despatch

4621

Chairman: The other Expeditions did, did they not

A: I do not ~~know~~ ^{remember.} We supported the Viceroy in the case I mentioned in his wish to have Indian troops sent to Europe

4622

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: You told the Chairman, Sir Robert, that there was nothing like a sort of mobilization of all the resources of India enjoined from headquarters when the War began

A: Yes

4623

Q Was there not, at that time, a very great outburst of offers of loyal assistance on the part of princes and chiefs of India

A: Yes

4624

Q: Was there a contrast, so to speak, between the attitude of the princes and chiefs in making these offers and the quiescence of the ^{governing} ~~native~~ authorities in not suggesting any mobilization of resources

A: I can scarcely say that. I think that ^{more} ~~some~~ use might have been made of these ~~offers~~ offers

4625

Q I was not asking the question what use could ^{have} been made of these ~~offers~~ offers ^{as to any} but of the difference between the attitude of these ^{princes and chiefs} chiefs in ^{coming forward and making} ~~making~~ these offers and that of the Government of India ^{when they came forward and made them}

A: I do not think that ^{one} ~~anything~~ at the time in India

4626

Q It has been more than once suggested, in fact definitely stated, that the authorities in ~~the~~ India ^{appeared to} ~~be~~ be unaware that the Empire was at war

A: I think there was a little of that - yes

4627

Q: Was that in ^{any way due} ~~I know~~, or do you doubt it the absence of ^{some} public announcement of the necessity for mobilization so to speak (I use the word mobilization in a general sense) of the resources of the ~~Government~~

A: Yes possibly. I think it was the whole attitude at the top. It was ^{really} ~~largely~~ perhaps not treated as a thing beside which every thing else became of no importance

4628

Q When did you become aware as a Member

of Council that it was proposed to advance on Baghdad

A. That was after my time; it was after I left

Q: The instructions were given on March 23rd 1915. Were you cognisant of the fact that ^{orders} forces were given to the General Commanding in Mesopotamia as far back as March 1915 for the advance on Baghdad

A. I had not the smallest idea. When I left Simla in July, the general idea ^{was} that such a thing was practically out of the question. I am only talking of the general view

Q. Yes, quite so. With your knowledge as an ^{Indian} independent administrator would such an advance on Baghdad involve more than merely military ^{questions} questions. Would it involve considerable political questions

A: Yes. Of course there are political questions involved

Q. If you were not aware of this probably no other Member of Council was aware of it

A. Well I have seen one of my colleagues who is at home now. He, certainly was not aware of ~~that~~ it

Lord Hugh Cecil: Which colleague is that

A: Sir William Clark

Q. What office

A. He was Member for Commerce and Industry Commander Wedgwood: In charge of the rivers?

A. He was in charge of the Port Trusts, not of ^{the} ~~the~~ rivers, and of railways

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge. May I ask when you first went to India

A. I went at the end of 1880

Q I suppose there is no doubt that during the whole of this war Bombay has been a remarkably important point

A Yes very

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Q It has been the gateway, so to speak of all the Expeditions and of the returning of the sick and wounded

A: Yes - a few of the sick and wounded in any have possibly gone to Madras - I am not sure. There is a Madras Hospital

4638

Q: ^{and} Karachi, ~~is~~ in the Bombay Presidency

A: Yes

4639

Q: As far as any evidence ^{which} has come before ~~us~~ this Commission is concerned although it is known that ~~the~~ the Governor of Bombay as a private individual took a very active and zealous part in dealing with the sick and wounded, as an official ~~he~~ ^{he} absolutely never appears at all

A: No. I believe he certainly has no official status in the matter

4640

Q. Is that modern or has it always been the case
A Well really I could not answer that, but I should think it has always been the case

4641

Q We have had evidence that former Governors of Bombay (~~one~~ ^{by name Sir Richard} one was mentioned ~~had come~~ from Temple) took a very active part in the embarkation of troops and the reception of wounded on coming back

A: I do not know anything about that. That might have been by some special arrangement with the Government of India, but I am not conversant with it at all.

4642

Q. The Governor of Bombay is a great Imperial official is he not?

A: Yes

4643

Q. There are few Imperial officials that have more executive power than he has

A No

4644

Q: The Governor General of Canada and the Governor General of Australia for instance, who act on the advice of their Ministers, have nothing like the power

A: No, of course not

4645

Q: He and his administrative staff were not utilised at all, as far as you are aware

A: No, as far as I am aware they were not ~~utilised~~ ^{used}

4646

Sir Archibald Williamson: I want to ask you, Sir Robert, one question on your statement and that is about the difficulty of making a communication to the Council as to a campaign owing to the presence of Indian colleagues, what do you think would be the practical course which should be pursued in such circumstances as that

A: I do not know. For instance as regards the Mesopotamia Expedition I think it would have been quite unnecessary to tell us anything dangerous at all, anything that there would have been any danger in communicating but I think if there is to be Council government at all by ^{wishy} the Indians on it ~~to~~ you must trust them

4647

Q: You would trust them with information as to the policy that underlies the campaign as well as the details

A: Certainly. I think if the Council is to be a reality at all you must do so

4648

Chairman: Your point is, I think, that if it is not safe to entrust them with information they ought not to be on the Council

A: Exactly ^{their presence on the Council}

4649

Q: Do you think that is a ~~policy~~ ^{valid} reason for not communicating ^{in matters of} to the Council

A: I do not think it is

Lord

4650

Lord Hugh Cecil: Would you as a matter of fact think that ~~the Indian Member of Council~~ I do not mean this ~~precisely~~ but any Indian Member of Council ⁺ would be ^{un}trustworthy in a matter of a confidential kind

A A Member who would be untrustworthy in a matter of that kind ought not to be on it

4651

Q: There would be no difficulty, would there in finding Indian public servants ^{of position} who could be quite as well trusted with secrets as Europeans

A: I do not think so; I think they could be found

4652

Chairman: It is not alleged that any Member ~~is~~ ^{is} untrustworthy. It is only a sort of excuse put forward by certain people for not giving the Council information which they ought to have got. ~~As I wrote I~~ think it ^{cuts} ~~goes~~ at the root of all Council government if ^{people} take that view and put it forward. I am not expressing any opinion as to whether there was danger in practice or not in saying anything confidential.

4653

Sir Archibald Williamson: If you propose to govern through a Council you must make all Members of the Council aware of all information received by any Member

A Yes

Commander

Chaplin 3 small

4654 Commander Wedgwood Do you think or did it ever occur to you or ^{to any} of the members. ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~any~~ of Council Street Simla ought to be in Bombay during the war.

A No certainly not. Before I left, the Mesopotamia Expedition at that time was really a comparatively ^{small} ~~side~~ show, and ~~the~~ ~~question~~ of sending the troops to ~~the~~ ~~front~~ I will ~~not~~ ~~say~~ to Europe. I do not think there was anything in the fact of the ^{Indian troops} ~~Expedition~~ having gone to Europe to make the Government come down to Bombay.

4655 I You are aware that one of the complaints is that the Commander-in-chief never went to Bombay ^{year} ~~year~~, I have ~~not~~ heard that

4656 I And that there are many complaints from Bombay as to red tape which prevents them getting what they want out of Simla.

A No, I have not heard that, and I cannot see that that ^{could not} ~~can~~ be stopped without the Government coming down to Bombay.

4657 I Would not more ~~personal~~ personal bond between the people working in Bombay and the people who issued the orders in Simla, have been a desirable thing?

A I think the Commander in Chief ought to have gone down to Bombay.

4658 I How many days is it before a letter can get from Bombay to Simla, and be answered?

A It would be four days. It is about 36 hours.

4659 Questioner Does the railway go right up to Simla?

A Yes.

4660 Commander Wedgwood The question of hutments for the troops came under your Department ^{was} ~~is~~ the P.W.D. ever consulted about providing hutments?

A Not in my time but I think ~~that~~ ^{that} question would naturally

naturally go to the military works Department

2. You would have been able to help

1. ~~Yes, but~~

but in the ordinary course it would ^{not} have come to the Public Works Department but ^{to} the Military Works Department

4662

2. If the military people ^{had} wanted help you could have helped them materially both with a staff and with material to erect huts

1. Yes I think we could certainly have done that

4663

2. Do you think that India has been pulling its weight during the war

1. No

4664

Lord Hugh Cecil When did you leave India apart from leaving Simla

1. I left India in October

4665

2. Did you by that time through ordinary conversation know that things were going wrong in Mesopotamia

1. No I do not think that I ^{had} heard much about it at that time. I was away in Cochin which is very much out of the track and one does not ^{hear} very much there

4669

Q Is there a considerable steamer building industry in Calcutta or elsewhere in India

4662 Can you tell me at all from your general ~~knowledge~~ ^{Indian} ~~and~~ ^{experience} whether the rivers in India are used by boats & there much traffic on them
1. There is a great deal of traffic on the ~~Ganges~~ ^{Ganges} and the Brahmaputra in Bengal

4667 ~~Q~~ ~~Called~~ ~~steamers~~ ~~are the~~ ~~made~~ ~~can~~ ~~go~~ ~~into~~ ~~I~~ ~~think~~

1. Yes, ~~where~~ ~~large~~ ~~steamers~~ ~~can~~ ~~go~~ ~~into~~ I think

4668 ~~There~~ ~~is~~ ~~a~~ ~~considerable~~ ~~building~~ ~~industry~~ ~~in~~ ~~where~~ ~~are~~ ~~the~~ ~~steamers~~ ~~made~~?

1. ~~Calcutta~~ ~~or~~ ~~elsewhere~~ ~~in~~ ~~India~~

2. Yes. I do not know that mostly they are made in India, so I ought not to say so but I imagine so

4670 2 Your Department never had occasion to order boats

1 No. I know that boats are built in considerable numbers in Calcutta, but I could not say whether the River Steam Navigation Companies have ^{their} boats built there.

4671 2 There are boat building resources in India

1 Yes. River navigation is almost entirely in Bengal, in Assam, and in Burmah. The Irrawaddy ^{has} a very large ~~boat~~ body of steamer traffic

4672 2 You have never heard whether any steps were taken or what steps were taken (that did not come before you at all) to get boats from India and use them in Mesopotamia on the rivers

1 No. It was public knowledge that there was rather a fiasco about sending a hospital boat from Bengal manned by Bengal volunteers, that was sunk while she was being towed from Bengal to Basra

4673 Earl of Darnley. One question about the Council: The Council sits in public: does it not

1 No.

~~2 It sits in private~~

* There are two Councils, the Executive Council and the Legislative Council. The Executive Council sits in private, the Legislative Council sits in public

4674 2 Which Council has the signing of despatches

1 The Executive Council

4675 2 There would have been no public inconvenience through publication if you had been further consulted than you were

1 No

4676 2 On the other hand I notice in your statement that ^{the} ~~that~~ impression is given that criticism is not much welcomed in the Council by one member of the Department

of another another

Well I do not know that there is much feeling about it in India, but I certainly gathered that impression when I came home on leave while I was a member of Council. I had a conversation with one of the Permanent officials ^{of the India} office and I gathered from him that he considered ^{it} had done quite ^{well} thoroughly

4677

in dissenting Lord Hugh Cecil

He ^{ought} ^{would} to know his name

Q Sir Thomas Holderness

4678

Chairman Permanent Under Secretary

A Yes

4679

Earl of Darnley ^{small point} : you used ^{the} phrase

which has been used in this room before ^{the} Mesopotamia Expedition ^{to} a certain extent at any rate at one time was ^{regarded as a} side show

A Yes

4680

2 Is it fair to say that attention in India was very much more concentrated on its Frontier and on its internal conditions than it was on this Expedition which they were managing for the Empire

A In a way the Frontier is a very burning question. It is very near to ~~Asia~~ everybody - I mean that any serious trouble on the Frontier would come home to everybody at once

4681

2. One justification put ~~before~~ ^{forward} for this Expedition is ^{was} that it would react on the Frontier and relieve the Indian Frontier. Was it at all ^{greatly} ^{actually} ^{regarded} as such ^{in that way} in India

A I have never heard that put forward

4682

Lord Hugh Cecil Following that would it be true to say that in India the Mesopotamia Expedition was not regarded very differently from an Expedition say against the King of Spain or the Emperor

of Tibet

1 It was a little more than that, but I think that it was looked upon by many people as being rather connected with the supply of oil

4683

2 And it was conceived that only in that case when they got to ^{Amara} that part of the expedition would be complete and nothing much more would be done, was it not

4684

1 That was the sort of general impression I had, but it was founded on no definite information. Chairman I would like to follow up ^{the} that statement ^{as regards} because of your conversation with a permanent official.

I understand that it was laid down that ^{as to the} the question was not in the Department under your charge therefore it was rather exceeding your rights in writing dissent.

Q That is what I gathered from him. It was ~~not~~ ^{not} an official conversation. He was merely talking together but he seemed to think that it would be ^{have been} better if I had not dissented

4685

2 To lay that principle down that a member of Council can only dissent from a public despatch when it relates to ^{his} ~~a~~ proper Department would be an immense curtailment of the rights previously exercised by members of ~~the~~ Council

1 Yes; it would ^{be} ~~have~~ subverting the whole theory of the Government

4686

2 Do you think that this conversation that you had with this official was due to his being prompted by some higher authority to make that remark to you

1 Really I do not think so because I saw Lord Curzon at that time, and certainly he had never said anything of the kind. There had been a good deal of friction between Lord Hardinge and

and myself. he certainly never said anything to me of that kind

4687 General Sir Neville Lytton Does the Council vote on ~~any~~ questions

1 Yes if necessary

4688 2 If the majority is against a proposal, is it dropped although the Viceroys is in favour of it

4689 Lord Hugh Cecil He can overrule the Council can he not
1 He can overrule the Council, but he has to report to the Secretary of State and give reasons. ~~It is very special~~
2 ~~How Sir Robert in the second paragraph you~~

4690 ~~Commander~~ ^{states} Wedgwood He never has.

1 Never in my time

4691 Lord Hugh Cecil What does the Council do under modern conditions. You meet once a week and what do you in fact do

1 We discuss various important questions that arise

4692 2 The Viceroy settles what questions are discussed
1 Yes

4693 Commander Wedgwood You settle what legislation shall be introduced

1 That ^{must} come before the Council

4694 Unanimous Had there been a contraction of the business discussed by the Council during your five years

1 No, when I first joined in Lord Minto's time there was ~~no~~ ^{less} discussion I think. There was a good deal of discussion when Lord Hardinge first became Viceroy and after that it distinctly diminished

4695 2 Has it ever been suggested to you ~~that~~ ^{by} old members of the Council serving under Lord Curzon ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~says~~ that the form of the Council had been