



Proceedings of the Fifth Session of the Second Assam Legislative  
Assembly assembled under the Provisions of the Government of  
India Act, 1935

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Shillong at 10 a. m., on  
Monday, the 13th September, 1948.

PRESENT

The Hon'ble Mr. Lakshesvar Borooah, Speaker, in the Chair, seven Hon'ble  
Ministers and forty-eight Members.

Oath of Allegiance to the Constitution of India

The following members were sworn in :—

Dr. C. G. Terrel.

Maulavi Afazuddin Ahmed.

CONDOLENCE MOTION

Condolence Motion on the death of Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah, Governor  
General of Pakistan

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER :** Friends, we are meeting here under the shadow of a great sorrow. With a heavy heart I inform you, hon. Members that Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah, Governor General of Pakistan breathed his last on the 12th instant. Quaid-i-Azam was one of our greatest political leaders and as such a great void is felt owing to his demise. True it is that his political ideology is not supported by a vast majority of our countrymen, but at the same time we cannot deny that the policy and method evolved by him for the amelioration of his community appeal to vast majority of his community and millions stood and stand under his banner.

Friends, you all know that his tenacious adherence to the policy resulted in the division of our country into two zones—Hindusthan and Pakistan—much to the dislike of crores. If I understood Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah aright, he stood for an ideal of society in which if the majority be tolerant towards the minority and if the majority be mindful to the welfare of the minority then millions in our country although they are separated and separated geographically may live in peace and amity. Let us all hope that the millions of Quaid i-Azam's followers if they mean to worship the memory of their great leader like and work up to his ideals.

We are meeting after a sad event and it is only meet and proper that we adjourn, and I propose that the House do adjourn. I request the hon'ble Leaders of the various Groups and Parties to lend their hearty support to my proposal.

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLOI :** Mr, Speaker, Sir, in supporting the Motion that you have proposed, I, on behalf of myself and of the Party I represent, associate ourselves with what you have said. I said only yesterday that Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah, while alive was one of the most controversial figures in the politics of the world. But death has hushed all that. We did recognise him as a great leader of the Indian Nationalist Movement till, shall I say, 1930. He joined with the nationalist forces to end British Imperialism in India. The change of ideology drove him to a kind of politics which could not be subscribed by a large majority of Indians. But he was the Governor-General of a Dominion, a Dominion which, we yet cherish, will be a friendly neighbour of ours. On our part we have wished that Pakistan should carry on an orderly and good Government just as we

wish it for ourselves. It must be a very sad event for the people of Pakistan that they have lost the leadership of such an eminent personality, and in that we have really our sympathy. And so far as Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah is concerned, he was the first Governor-General of Pakistan and we owe a tribute of homage to him. As such I whole-heartedly associate myself with the proposal that has been put before the House by the Hon'ble Speaker.

**Mawlavi Suiyd MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of myself and my Friends who sit with me on this side of the House, we thank you heartily for your very kind words and the gesture of good-will that you have shown by the proposal that you have made. We are also grateful to the Hon'ble Leader of the House for his appreciation of the worth of Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah. We, as Parliamentarians should cherish the memory of that great leader, if for nothing else, for the acumen, the forensic ability and the oratory with which he adorned his speeches in his long career as a Member of the Indian Central Assembly. If I remember aright, he joined as early as 1909 the old Imperial Legislative Council and continued till 1945 to be a Member of the Central Legislative Assembly.

In the face of death all controversies must cease, and, therefore, I do not intend to enter into topics which cannot but be controversial. The Hon'ble Leader of the House has said that Mr. Jinnah's personality was the most controversial in the whole world. On the other hand, he said that Mr. Jinnah showed an integrity in politics which cannot ordinarily be found. Whatever ideal was thought best for the country—and he had a towering personality and a gigantic mind—he stuck to it in spite of criticisms, threat, coaxing, cajoling and even the lure of temptation. If we can follow, at least in this respect, in our Parliamentary career we will be doing honour to his memory. He was a constitutionalist of the first order. As soon as India, with the consent and approval of the great Congress Organisation, was divided into the Dominions of Pakistan and India, Quaid-i-Azam realised that the fate of the three and a half crores of Muslims, whose domicile is in the Indian Dominion, lies with that Dominion, and as late as December 1947 in a public meeting, which I had the honour to attend, he advised all the Muslims to be faithful to the Indian Dominion and to serve to the best of their ability the Government of that Dominion. He also advised that the best course for the Muslims was to live in amity, peace and good-will with their Hindu neighbours. Unless the man was great he could not give such advice to his own people who through thick and thin carried his banner, fought his battle and supported him in his ideal of Pakistan. Some of us even protested in that very meeting that we had been left in the lurch and to the tender mercies of the vast Hindu community. Quaid-i-Azam's advice was that everyone of the Hindu community was not narrow-minded, everyone was not out to reap their ancient vengeance on the Muslims, that there were broad minded people, who were catholic in their outlook and he advised us to cultivate their friendship and good-will. We shall honour his memory if we follow in this line. I, in my capacity as the representative of the Muslims of this House in the Constituent Assembly swore allegiance to the Indian Dominion and I hope my views are shared by all my Friends who are here. We are out here to give all the loyalty and co-operation that we are capable of for the betterment of our own country and in the service of the Indian Dominion which had its birth only a year ago.

It is indeed unfortunate that within the space of this one year—in this very year 1948—we have lost two greatest sons of India in the persons of Mahatma Gandhi, who died at the hands of an assassin, the Father of the Nation, the friend, philosopher and guide of the Indian Dominion and the greatest worker of the cause of Hindu-Muslim amity and accord. Although Quaid-i-Azam Jinnah

did not die at the hands of a cruel assassin, I can assure my hon. Friends from my personal knowledge that he died in the cause of what he thought was his duty. He rushed from his place of rest in Baluchistan to Karachi in order to preside over an important meeting of the Prime Ministers of the Pakistan Governments. This meeting was originally fixed for the 18th, but it was pre-dated and he had to rush to the meeting. He never thought that he would be no more to give his instructions to the Prime Ministers in the difficult times that are ahead! We will be doing great service to our communities and to both the Dominions if we keep our heads cool and try to work in the best of spirit and good-will for the amelioration of the Indian Dominion, for the benefit of the people, both Hindus and Muslims, and for good neighbourly behaviour with our sister Dominion of Pakistan.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Members and constituents of the Planting and Commerce Group, I desire to associate the Group with the sincere message of condolence which has been so ably moved by the Hon'ble Speaker and so eloquently supported by the Hon'ble Premier and Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition. We, who have seen a whole nation slowly recovering from their sense of loss and frustration at the untimely death of a revered leader, can readily appreciate what the death of Mr. Jinnah, Quaid-i-Azam and Governor-General of Pakistan, must mean to the whole people of that country, and it is with that knowledge that we extend our deep sympathy to the nation in its bereavement. Though Mr. Jinnah may have given a very superficial impression of lacking in the warmer qualities of humanity so frequently associated with statesmen, he had, by his brilliant leadership and selfless dedication to the cause which he had espoused, succeeded in inspiring a devotion and loyalty which has rarely, if ever been surpassed. His death so soon after the establishment of Pakistan cannot but be a severe and cruel blow to the fortunes of that Dominion. Some years ago when I was an official member of the Central Assembly, I had the privilege of hearing Mr. Jinnah speak on numerous occasions and I can recollect now how the Assembly Chamber used to fill up as members from all sides of the House returned to their seats to listen with rapt attention to his lucid and logical expositions of complex political problems. Mr. Jinnah, however, was more than a brilliant orator and debator, and possessed in an exceptional degree all the qualities required in a great statesman and leader, and the world will be poorer by his passing. Mr. Speaker, with these brief and inadequate expressions of tribute and sympathy I conclude and I trust this House will accept them as a proof of this Group's earnest desire to be associated with the proposal which you, Sir, have moved.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** Before we break up, I think, it would be better if we stand in two minutes prayerful silence in reverential memory of the departed soul.

(The House stood for two minutes in solemn silence.)

#### **Re: Government Business for the Session**

**The Hon'ble Srijut GOPINATH BARDOLAI:** Before we break up, I should like to know whether in view of the heavy agenda of the Government business during this Session, we should not utilize one of the non-official days for Government purpose. I would suggest that 16th which I suppose will be the first non-official day should be set apart for transaction of Government business.

**Maulavi Saiyid MUHAMMAD SAADULLA:** In view of the fact that Government business is heavy, our Friends on this side are agreeable to allot one of

the non-official days for Government purpose. At the same time we would like to impress that, if necessary, the Session may be extended by a day to allow the non-official business to be finished.

**Mr. J. S. HARDMAN:** We shall have no objection to the Hon'ble Premier's proposal.

**The Hon'ble the SPEAKER:** I shall make a statement about the private members business and the Government business to-morrow.

### Adjournment

The Assembly was then adjourned till 10 A.M., on Tuesday, the 14th September, 1948.

SHILLONG:  
The 15th October, 1948.

A. K. BARUA,  
Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Assam.

