

Monday, 19th December, 1932

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

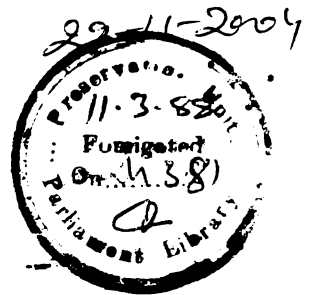
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COUNCIL OF STATE.

Monday, 19th December, 1932.

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

REDRESS OF COMMUNAL INEQUALITIES IN THE CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL STAFF OF THE FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE, DEHRA DUN.

227. THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY :

(a) What is the strength of the technical and clerical staff (excluding the gazetted and research staff) of the Forest Research Institute and College, Dehra Dun? How many of the staff in question are Muslims?

(b) How many of the non-Muslims on the staff are not matriculates?

(c) What is the number of vacancies that occurred in the temporary as well as the permanent clerical and technical staff of the Institute during the last six years and by whom were they filled?

(d) Is it a fact that the Government of India orders to fill every third vacancy from a minority community have not been observed in filling these vacancies? Is it also a fact that unqualified non-Muslims have been appointed by the Forest Economist to some of the clerical posts when qualified Muslims were available? If so, why? Are any efforts made to fill such posts by Muslims? If so, what measures are adopted?

(e) How many Muslims and non-Muslims were retrenched recently and what proportion did they bear to their respective strength on the staff?

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN :

(a) The present strength is 158 of whom 14 are Muslims.

(b) Enquiries are being made and the information will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(c) A statement giving the information asked for is laid on the table of the House.

(d) Government's orders for the appointment of members of minority communities to one-third of the vacancies, if properly qualified candidates are available, are now being observed. I might point out that since 1930, two out of six clerical appointments and four out of ten subordinate technical posts have been filled by Muslims. The Forest Economist did not appoint unqualified non-Muslims to clerical posts when qualified Muslims were available. Muslims like others have to sit for a competition examination and endeavours are made to give them preference.

(e) Three Muslims and 47 non-Muslims were retrenched, and the proportions were 17.7 per cent. in the case of Muslims and 24.6 per cent. in the case of non-Muslims.

Statement showing the number of vacancies in the clerical and subordinate technical staff of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, during the years 1927 to 1932.

Year.	Clerical staff.			Subordinate technical staff.		
	Total No. of vacancies.	No. of vacancies filled by Muslims.	No. of vacancies filled by non-Muslims.	Total No. of vacancies.	No. of vacancies filled by Muslims.	No. of vacancies filled by non-Muslims.
1927 . . .	2		2	10	1	9
1928 . . .	1	..	1	14	4	10
1929 . . .				17	1	16
1930 . . .	1	..	1	7	2	5
1931 . . .	4	1	3	1	1	..
1932 . . .	1	1		2	1	1
Total	9	2	7	51	10	41

Non-Muslims include other minority communities as well.

STATE PRISONER SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

228. THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK : (1) Will Government be pleased to state what is the *locus standi* of the Bengal Government in the case of Bengal State prisoners confined under Regulation III of 1818 in jails outside Bengal ?

(2) Is it a fact that the Bengal Government whenever questioned in this respect disown all responsibility for Bengal State prisoners confined outside Bengal ?

(3) Is it a fact that the Home Member to the Government of Bengal took up this attitude in the case of State prisoner Subhas Chandra Bose when he was confined in the Central Provinces ?

(4) Is it a fact that in actual practice the Bengal Government frequently interfere in the affairs of Bengal State prisoners confined outside Bengal ?

(5) Is it a fact that the Bengal Government sent a special police guard to look after Subhas Bose during his stay at the Bhavali Sanatorium ?

(6) Is it a fact that the Bengal Government sent a police officer to Bhavali to look after the correspondence of Subhas Bose ?

(7) What is the report of the doctors who were lately deputed to examine Subhas Chandra Bose in Bhavali Sanatorium and what action is being taken thereon ?

THE HONOURABLE MR. M. G. HALLETT : (1), (2), (3) and (4). I would refer the Honourable Member to the provisions of Regulation III of 1818

from which he will see that persons confined thereunder are detained directly under and in accordance with the orders of the Governor General in Council. The Bengal Government have no responsibility under the law in regard to Bengal State prisoners detained under the Regulation outside Bengal, though they are naturally consulted in such cases by the Government of India.

(5) and (6). Yes ; this was under the orders of the Government of India, after consultation with the Government of the United Provinces and the Government of Bengal.

(7) The medical board, which recently examined Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, have reported that his present condition shows disease in the abdomen which the board consider is most likely to be tuberculous in nature. They consider that the future probably lies in further surgical diagnosis and possible operation. In view of this recommendation Government have transferred Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose to the Balrampur Hospital at Lucknow for further diagnosis and treatment. The question of the further action to be taken will be decided when a report has been received from the medical officers of this hospital.

INDIANS IN TRINIDAD.

229. THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS :

(1) Will Government be pleased to state when Indian labour was introduced in Trinidad (West Indies) and what were the terms under which the immigrants were allowed to proceed ?

(2) Will Government kindly state whether it is a fact that the said emigration was allowed on the specific condition of such Indians being free to observe their religious usages without any kind of restrictions under the laws of the Colony ?

(3) Will Government kindly state whether it is a fact that the children born from those Indian marriages which are not registered under the Immigration Ordinance, section 245, are declared illegitimate and for this reason are deprived of the estates of their parents, such estates being taken over by the Government of the Colony ? If this is a fact, what action does the Government of India intend to take in this respect ?

(4) Will Government lay a copy of the Ordinance under reference or relative extracts from it on the table of this House.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN :

(1), (2) and (4). Indian labour was first introduced into Trinidad in 1845. It has not been possible in the time available to procure the papers relating to the terms on which emigration was then permitted. I am, therefore, unable at present to confirm or deny the statement made in part (2) of the Honourable Member's question, but will have the point further investigated. The existing law relating to Indian immigrants to Trinidad, which includes provisions relating to marriages amongst them, is contained in the Immigration Ordinance No. 26 of 1916 (Chapter 245), a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

(3) The legal position would appear to be that the children of unregistered marriages are regarded as illegitimate and cannot inherit property in the event of their parents dying intestate. Presumably such cases are rare as the Government of India have received no complaints on the subject. The question of their taking any action does not therefore arise.

INDIAN TARIFF (OTTAWA TRADE AGREEMENT) AMENDMENT
BILL—*contd.*

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for certain purposes, as passed by the Legislative Assembly. Clause 2.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That in clause 2 in part (a) of the proposed new sub-section (3B) of section 3 of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, before the words 'the produce' the words 'wholly or partly' be inserted."

Sir, I understand that in the United Kingdom a lot of articles consists partly of material manufactured in the United Kingdom and partly of material imported from the continent. I might, Sir, by way of illustration, mention that, as far as the axles and tyre-springs and other heavy parts of steel for Railways and heavy machinery are concerned, they come from the Continent and the British manufacturers manufacture some other parts themselves and the articles thus produced are not wholly of British manufacture but partly of British and partly of non-British manufacture. Therefore, Sir, I want to make the section clear—this is a kind of safeguard to disallow the diversion of non-British material coming into India through the United Kingdom.

For these reasons, Sir, I move the amendment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE (Commerce Secretary): Sir, I think that possibly my Honourable friend is under some misapprehension in moving the amendment that stands in his name. I mentioned in speaking in this House on Saturday that the rules which are to be framed under this Act will lay down exactly what is to be considered the produce or manufacture of a country which enjoys preference. Those rules will lay down precisely what is the produce or manufacture of the country concerned and the only effect of my Honourable friend's amendment would be to make the clause more indefinite again. It would again require some further explanation in order that we might say what was wholly or partly the manufacture of the United Kingdom or a British Colony. The rules themselves will state what is the produce of the United Kingdom or of a British Colony. What the Collector of Customs requires is a perfectly precise definition. I think, Sir, if that is understood, my Honourable friend will probably not wish to press his amendment.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, may I ask who will frame these rules and whether the rules will be laid on the table of the House?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: The answer is that the Governor General in Council may, under the new clause (3B) which is to be inserted, make those rules. I shall certainly have no objection whatever to laying these rules on the table of the House as soon as they are made.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, on this assurance I beg permission to withdraw the amendment.

The amendment was, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

Clauses 2, 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The Schedule.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 168 for the figures and words '30 per cent.' and '20 per cent.' in columns 3 and 4 the figures and words '25 per cent.' and '15 per cent.' respectively be substituted."

Sir, I move this amendment because milk, cream and other products are not imported into India from the United Kingdom in any quantity. They come from the Continent and a preference of this sort will simply mean more taxation on the Indian people. As this does not appreciably effect the trade of the United Kingdom, I propose this amendment.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS (Finance Secretary): Sir, this amendment and the other amendments which the Leader of the Progressive Party proposes to bring before the House this morning have one feature in common. They all propose a reduction of the rates of duty given in the Schedule to the Bill and as this is the main feature of all the amendments proposed, I have risen to speak on this, the first amendment, in order that the time of the House may not be taken up by a repetition of the same arguments. The main reason why Government are unable to accept this, or, I may say, any of the other amendments which the Honourable Member proposes to move can be put in one sentence, or even in five words, the detriment to the revenue. I have had a calculation made of the effect on the customs revenue if all my Honourable friend's amendments are accepted, and on the figures for this year, which is of course a year in which imports are not large, the loss in customs revenue would be of the order of Rs. 60 or 70 lakhs. That is a sum, Sir, which I am sure Honourable Members will recognise the Government of India cannot in present conditions afford to give up. If they were to give that up, they would have to replenish their revenues by extra taxation in other directions. I should like to explain—for that will show my Honourable friend that the Government of India are in no way negligent of the consumer's interests for which he has spoken—exactly how we dealt with these proposals in the Government of India when they came to us both from Ottawa and, if I am not giving away a secret, even before the proposals were made and when we were almost daily in consultation with the members of the Ottawa Delegation. On each individual proposal we had three definite points to consider: "Would the acceptance of the proposal lead to an undue burden on the consumer? Would it act to the detriment of the producer in India when the same article was produced in India? Would it lead to such a sacrifice of revenue that, however desirable on the merits, it was not a proposal which we could at present accept?" I have already given the House what I think would be the effect of my Honourable friend's proposals as a whole on the revenue. So far as the consumer is concerned in every case we have attempted so to fix the rates in this Schedule that the consumer as a whole in this country will not have to bear a larger burden than he does at present. To reinforce that point I would just like to quote to the House the remarks which were made by the Committee of the other House which went very carefully into the details

[Sir Alan Parsons.]

of this Ottawa Agreement, remarks which were endorsed by the Honourable the Commerce Member and by the then Finance Member. In paragraph 14 of their Report they say:

“In our opinion the general level of the tariff after the imposition of surcharges by the Finance Acts of 1931 should in the interests of the country generally be reduced as soon as the financial situation permits”.

In paragraph 16 they quote an assurance which was given by myself—and they point out that it is a matter to which they attach considerable importance—

that “the tariff charges proposed have not been so designed as to increase the revenue from customs as a whole. A summary of the calculations upon which these assurances are based has been presented to the Committee”.

This particular duty, the duty on milk, illustrates the principles which we had in mind. My Honourable friend has suggested that very little tinned milk comes from the United Kingdom. That, to a certain extent, is correct. The larger portion of the condensed milk imported into this country comes from the Continent. That milk is of low grade. It is made, I understand, largely from skim milk and has a low nutritive value and it competes severely with the Indian dairy industry—

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Will you kindly give the quantities?

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: I am not sure that I have the exact quantities, Sir, on the papers in front of me, but last year the imports from the United Kingdom were about 11 per cent. of the total imports. So far as the United Kingdom imports are concerned, there are at least two large combines which have factories both on the Continent and in the United Kingdom, and the grant of this preference to the United Kingdom is likely to lead to a transfer from the Continental factories to the United Kingdom factories and probably to a reduction in the cost of that class of tinned milk. Admittedly the imposition of a higher duty on foreign imports may raise the price of those imports. But, as I have pointed out, that is inferior milk with a low nutritive value and it is a milk which competes very heavily with the Indian industry. Actually, at the present moment, I understand that the possibility of producing tinned milk at economic prices in some of the Indian districts is under examination by the Imperial Department of Agriculture and by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and we obviously do not want to do anything which will stop the growth of that industry which might become a very important industry. I would therefore submit to the House, Sir, that in our proposals under this particular head we have shown exactly that balance between the interests of the consumer, the potential producer in India and the revenue of the State, which it has been our object to maintain throughout in proposals in this Bill.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I do not wish to move amendment* No. 4.

*“That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 181 for the figures and words ‘30 per cent.’ and ‘20 per cent.’ in columns 3 and 4 the figures and words ‘25 per cent.’ and ‘15 per cent.’ respectively be substituted.”

I beg to move my amendment No. 5:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 182 for the figures and words '30 per cent.' and '20 per cent.' in columns 3 and 4 the figures and words '25 per cent.' and '15 per cent.' respectively be substituted."

I move this amendment, Sir, because so far as bicycles are concerned the greatest quantities come from countries other than the United Kingdom, and owing to the existing economic depression I do not think that the burden on the poor tax-payer so far as the purchase of bicycles is concerned should be increased. In these days of hard times it will be too much to deprive the poorer classes of Indians of their ability to buy bicycles.

For that reason, Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: For the reasons which have already been given by my Honourable friend Sir Alan Parsons, Government would not be able to accept this amendment on the ground of the inroad which it would make upon their revenues. But I would like to add to that that in the case of these bicycles the point which my Honourable friend has made in moving his amendment was very carefully considered in the Select Committee on exactly the same grounds as my Honourable friend has taken. It was finally decided that Government could not afford to alter the duties solely in a downward direction. But I would point out that the increase in the duty in any case is only 5 per cent. on bicycles not of British manufacture, and on the other hand we get a definite lowering of the duty from 25 to 20 per cent. on bicycles of British manufacture. The bicycle trade is one in which there is very keen competition and one naturally expects that the first thing the foreign manufacturer will do is to endeavour as far as he can to cut his profits and lower prices in order to retain what market he has. So far as we can see there is no reason to suppose that there should be any appreciable rise in the cost of cycles as a result of this adjustment of the duty.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: May I know the amount of duty at present realized on bicycles?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, cycles are not separated in our trade returns, so I am afraid I cannot give the Honourable Member the figures for cycles alone. As he will see, this item includes all vehicles not mechanically propelled, and the loss by accepting his proposal on the whole of this item would be about Rs. 4 to 5 lakhs.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: I asked this question because bicycles were not separately shown in the trade returns.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. M. MEHTA (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, my Honourable friend Lala Ram Saran Das has asked for the reduction of the tax on bicycles and other non-mechanically propelled vehicles of foreign make. May I draw the attention of my friend to the fact that even before the war no bicycle coming from the Continent or other parts of the world was sold for anything less than Rs. 75. But today my friend will be surprised to hear that bicycles of Japanese make

[Mr. H. M. Mehta.]

are sold in Bombay for Rs. 20 and Rs. 25. If that be the case, even at 30 per cent. the income which the Government is going to get will be far less than what they used to get even before the War. Therefore I do not think it is a hardship to any one.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 182 for the figures and words '30 per cent.' and '20 per cent.' in columns 3 and 4 the figures and words '25 per cent.' and '15 per cent.' respectively be substituted."

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I do not want to move amendment* No. 6.

I beg to move my amendment No. 7:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 187 in column 2 after the word 'photographic' the words 'other than for Film Industry' be inserted."

My reason for making this amendment is to enable the Indian film industry to thrive by not increasing the import duties on any photographic material or apparatus required for the manufacture of films. As the film industry is in its infancy it ought to have good support from Government.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, by his amendment my Honourable friend proposes to exclude from this Item, No. 187, all instruments, apparatus and appliances for the film industry. I do not think he quite realises what the effect of that amendment would be. It would actually be to throw these instruments, apparatus and appliances for the cinematograph industry out of the preferential tariff into the original Part V of Schedule II of the Tariff Act. The effect of that would be to make all these appliances subject to the old rate of duty of 25 per cent. The effect of the amendment would thus be to deprive so much of those instruments and appliances as are imported from the United Kingdom of the benefit of the 5 per cent. reduction in the duty which will be applicable to them under the proposals made in the Bill. Apart from that, Sir, the film industry is one in which, as was mentioned by the Honourable the Commerce Member in another place, the Government do take a considerable amount of interest and that interest, Sir, has been shown, I think, by the fact that they accepted an amendment in the Select Committee to give the preference on raw film, which is by much the most important material of the industry, wholly by reduction of the duty. I am unable therefore on behalf of Government to accept this amendment.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 194 for the figures and words '30 per cent.' and '20 per cent.' in columns 3 and 4 the figures and words '25 per cent.' and '15 per cent.' respectively be substituted."

*"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 183 for the figures and words '30 per cent.' and '20 per cent.' in columns 3 and 4 the figures and words '25 per cent.' and '15 per cent.' respectively be substituted."

Sir, I move this amendment in view of giving an impetus to the Indian industry and particularly to the cottage industry. I wish machinery of every kind to be imported into India free of any duty; but I have restricted myself to only the machinery of the class referred to in this clause and I wish that the duty which is now in force is maintained; and no extra duty be imposed. So far as preference to the United Kingdom is concerned, the 10 per cent. margin is quite sufficient.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, this is again an amendment which is covered by the general remarks made by my Honourable friend, Sir Alan Parsons. The machinery covered by this item is what is usually called machinery worked by animal or manual labour and it is separate for tariff purposes from what we usually call industrial machinery or power machinery used in large industries. The item comprises a large number of articles, such, for instance, as the ordinary electric fan used for domestic purposes and things of that kind. There has always been a distinction for tariff purposes between machinery of that class and what we generally call industrial machinery. It will not be possible for Government to accept this amendment generally for the reasons which have been given by my Honourable friend, the Finance Secretary.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part VIII against item No. 196 for the figures and words '30 per cent.' and '20 per cent.' in columns 3 and 4 the figures and words '25 per cent.' and '15 per cent.' be substituted."

Sir, my esteemed friend, the Honourable Sir Alan Parsons, in his reply to my amendment No. 2 said—at least what I understood from him—that it is the policy of the Government to encourage the manufacture of articles in India and to protect them from foreign competition. As far as this section is concerned and as far as aluminium in particular is concerned, in case we adopt this clause, the result will be to place the British and Canadian aluminium factories in India in a legalised unfair and overwhelmingly predominant position followed by the sure extermination of the Indian-owned factories and revenue will not consequently be augmented. In the peculiar circumstances of this case it is most inequitable and unconscionable, resulting in undue preference to the British manufacturer and producer of raw material all in one and sealing the death warrant of the Indian aluminium manufacturer, who will now be placed at the mercy of his competitor for the supply of the raw material. If revenue is the main consideration, as declared by the Honourable Mr. Drake, I have no objection if the tariff, as far as aluminium is concerned, is equal and no preference given. The British Aluminium Company, the largest factory owners in India as well as producers and suppliers of the raw material from England, do not stand in need of either preference or protection, but it is the Indian-owned factories of aluminium utensils that are in need of protection against the ever-increasing encroachment and ruthless competition of the British and Canadian producers of the metal. This is the reason which has made me move this amendment, as I find that in case the amendment is not accepted it will result in the collapse of Indian-owned aluminium factories.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, the articles covered by this item form a very large class and the revenue consideration which has been referred to more than once this morning is a very important one indeed. This item again was very carefully considered, and it is Government's policy, as my Honourable friend has pointed out, to keep the duty upon the raw materials or semi-manufactured materials for an Indian industry as cheap as possible, but the carrying out of that policy is, of course, subject to revenue considerations. In this particular case my Honourable friend has laid stress on the aluminium manufacturing industry of India but he will, I am sure, bear me out when I say that the aluminium manufacturing industry competes to a large extent with the industry which makes utensils and other articles from brass, bronze, German silver and other material. It would therefore have been quite impossible for Government to have lowered the duty only upon aluminium sheets and circles, which is the material of one Indian industry, and to have left subject to the higher duty brass sheets and sheets of other material with which that industry has to compete.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: I include them all in my amendment.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: I know my Honourable friend includes them but he mentioned aluminium specially and therefore I took the point that it would be necessary to lower the duty upon all those materials. The loss on all these would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 20 lakhs.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: What will such loss be on aluminium alone?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: I have not got separate figures here for aluminium. Then, Sir, I would mention a particular point about aluminium. There has been a great deal of misunderstanding about the supply of aluminium material to India. I had hoped, Sir, that that had been by now completely cleared up. I do not know whether my Honourable friend followed the debates in another place when it was made perfectly clear that by reason of the arrangement by which sheets and circles are supplied to India this preference would not tend to put Indian manufacturers in a disadvantageous position as compared with other manufacturing concerns which are owned or financed by British or Canadian interests. The main point is that under their agreement the Cartel which supplies these sheets and circles is obliged to supply them at the same price to all manufacturers. That, Sir, is, I think, all I need say on this amendment. Government are unable to accept it for the reasons which I have given.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: May I ask whether there was any representation from the Indian aluminium industry in this matter?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Yes, Sir, there were representations which were examined very carefully both from Bombay and from Calcutta, and I think, also, from the Punjab.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part IX against item No. 229 for the figures and words '37½ per cent.' and '30 per cent.' in columns 4 and 5 the figures and words '32½ per cent.' and '25 per cent.' respectively be substituted."

Sir, my reason for moving this amendment is quite simple and it is that motor cars now are not considered a luxury but as a necessity, particularly for business men and for zemindars and others who have to travel about a lot. I, therefore, Sir, consider that such extra taxation on the country is, at the present moment, undesirable.

Sir, I move.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, in this amendment my Honourable friend has shown his enthusiasm by outrunning the proposals in the Bill. This is one of the cases where, acting on the principles which my Honourable friend has in mind, we have given the preference wholly by a reduction of the duty. Now my Honourable friend wants to go one better and to make the duty lower still. Well, Sir, Government are bound to resist a proposal of that kind, because after all this Bill is intended to give effect to the preferences agreed to at the Ottawa Conference. The Bill cannot be used as an opportunity for a revision of the tariff generally. That is really the objection to this proposal, the main reason being, of course, one of revenue. I must oppose this amendment, Sir.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, the Government did not bring forward their usual argument that the monetary position of the Finance Department would be disturbed; because if there is one thing about which it can be safely said that the additional duty has materially reduced the income, it is the motor car duty. This Bill is not being utilised, as Mr. Drake says, to reduce the taxation but simply to give preference, but that gives us, an idea of what is in store for us in the next Finance Bill. If this Bill can increase the burden of taxation there was no difficulty in reducing it too. In many of the things, Sir, the present rate of duty has been maintained for British goods and an additional duty imposed for goods coming from outside the British Empire. The reason we brought this kind of amendment forward was just to meet those arguments which Sir Alan Parsons so vehemently urged before us, that the customs income would be reduced. This reduction would result not in a reduction of income but rather in an increase of income, because with the present reduced purchasing power of India it is difficult to continue to pay such a high rate of duty. I do not think even the M'Kenna duties imposed 37½ per cent. duty on the protected industries. The Government has therefore abstained from bringing forward their usual argument that it will cause a reduction in their revenue. Further, the fact that the Government give certain figures about reduction of income is, I may say, a not safe prophecy. We have found them erring many times. In 1931 they made a mistake of about Rs. 5 crores and in 1932 of about Rs. 7 crores in income from enhanced duties. Therefore, Sir, I think if the Government were really anxious to increase their income, they would have reduced the tax.

THE HONOURABLE SIR ALAN PARSONS: The Honourable Member has succeeded in making me get up—I thought I should not have to make a

[Sir Alan Parsons.]

second speech today—in order to tell him that, though Mr. Drake did not meet him with the usual argument, the usual argument is still there. We shall not be able to afford at present the loss of duty which the acceptance of this amendment would entail. I can give him, I am afraid, very little support in his argument that the law of diminishing returns necessarily applies to the present duty on motor cars or even on motor lorries. I think the reduced purchasing power of the people has far more to do with the reduction in the imports of both cars and lorries than the fact that the duties are at their present level. I can, however, give him one word of comfort, and that is that we are carefully watching the effect of these surcharges on the existing customs duties and perhaps more particularly their effect on the imports of motor cars and motor lorries. That is, I am afraid, as far as I can go. He made some suggestion that this Bill was giving an inkling of what is in store for the House in the next Finance Bill. I expect he already knows me well enough to realise that he is not likely to get that inkling from me.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. M. MEHTA: Sir, I support this amendment on account of the reasons mainly that motor cars and omnibuses and other articles coming from foreign parts have suffered tremendously on account of Great Britain going off the gold standard. In exchange alone foreign countries are suffering to the tune of 25 to 30 per cent. This has resulted in increased prices which benefit Great Britain. In the duties that are levied as import duties on motor cars Government fortunately gets nearly 35 per cent. more. When these duties were put on, the American dollar exchange to the £ was \$3.90; today, the exchange between America and England on dollar-pound is 3.30 equivalent to Rs. 410 to \$100. That is to say, nearly 33 per cent. more and on that 33 per cent. another 37½ per cent. duty is being charged. If Government will reduce the duties, it will be more beneficial to them, because, as it is, they are killing the trade and not getting the revenue which they ought to get.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

“That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part IX against item No. 229 for the figures and words ‘37½ per cent.’ and ‘30 per cent.’ in columns 4 and 5 the figures and words ‘32½ per cent.’ and ‘25 per cent.’ respectively be substituted.”

The Council divided:

AYES—11.

Akbar Khan, The Honourable Major Nawab Sir Mahomed.	Jagdish Prasad, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.
Banerjee, The Honourable Mr. Jagadish Chandra.	Jalan, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Radha Krishna.
Dutt, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Promode Chandra.	Kalikor, The Honourable Mr. Vinayak Vithal.
Ghosh Maulik, The Honourable Mr. Satyendra Chandra.	Mehta, The Honourable Mr. H. M.
Hussain Imam, The Honourable Mr. Abu Abdullah Syed.	Ram Saran Das, The Honourable Rai Bahadur Lala.
	Sinha, The Honourable Kumar Nripendra Narayan.

NOES—27.

Bartley, The Honourable Mr. J.
 Basu, The Honourable Mr. Bijay Kumar.
 Benthall, The Honourable Mr. E. C.
 Charanjit Singh, The Honourable Raja.
 Choksy, The Honourable Khan Bahadur
 Dr. Sir. N.
 Clow, The Honourable Mr. A. G.
 Cotterell, The Honourable Mr. C. B.
 Devadoss, The Honourable Sir David.
 Drake, The Honourable Mr. J. C. B.
 Fazl-i-Husain, The Honourable Khan
 Bahadur Mian Sir.
 Ghosal, The Honourable Mr. Jyotsnanath.
 Habibullah, The Honourable Nawab
 Khwaja.
 Hafeez, The Honourable Khan Bahadur
 Syed Abdul.
 Halim, The Honourable Khan Bahadur
 Hafiz Muhammad.
 Hallett, The Honourable Mr. M. G.

Israr Hasan Khan, The Honourable
 Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad.
 Johnson, The Honourable Mr. J. N. G.
 Muhammad Din, The Honourable Khan
 Bahadur Chaudri.
 Muhammad Hussain, The Honourable
 Mian Ali Baksh.
 Murphy, The Honourable Mr. P. W.
 Noon, The Honourable Nawab Malik
 Mohammad Hayat Khan.
 Padshah Sahib Bahadur, The Honourable.
 Saiyed Mohamed.
 Parsons, The Honourable Sir Alan.
 Ram Chandra, The Honourable Mr.
 Shillidy, The Honourable Mr. J. A.
 Sinha, The Honourable Rai Bahadur
 Madan Mohan.
 Vachha, The Honourable Khan Bahadur
 J. B.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I beg to move:

“That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part IX against item No. 230 for the figures and words ‘25 per cent.’ and ‘17½ per cent.’ in columns 4 and 5 the figures and words ‘20 per cent.’ and ‘10 per cent.’ respectively be substituted.”

Sir, owing to unprecedented economic depression the development of railways in India is practically at a standstill. Although a lot of new colonisation is going on no new railways are being constructed or are under contemplation. Buses and lorries meet a great want of the public for the carriage of both passengers and goods. Therefore the taxing of buses and lorries is most improper because it goes against the development of the country. I know the fate which this amendment will also meet, though the majority of the elected Members are with us. All the same Government seems determined to defeat every amendment because they know they are in a majority. To ignore the needs of the country and particularly its development solely for the sake of revenue is not justified. Government I know will say that they have not increased the duty. I admit that, but I find that by this heavy duty they are retarding the development of the country. They may have some ground to say that buses and lorries compete with the railways and thereby reduce the Government income. That is a controversy on which I am not going to enter. but I must say that if Government were to adopt a right policy as regards rates of carriage by the railways they would be able to achieve their end so far as railway revenues are concerned, and also allow of the development of those areas in particular by lorry services which are not at present served by railways.

With these words, Sir, I move this amendment for the favourable acceptance of the House.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Further amendment moved:

“That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part IX against item No. 230 for the figures and words ‘25 per cent.’ and ‘17½ per cent.’ in columns 4 and 5 the figures and words ‘20 per cent.’ and ‘10 per cent.’ respectively be substituted.”

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: In case you would allow me I would like to make it "12½ per cent." instead of "10 per cent." because that is the standard difference.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think the amendment proposed better stay as it was moved by the Honourable Member and as it has been put from the Chair.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Very good, Sir, it was really a clerical error.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, I am rather sorry that my Honourable friend wanted to make that verbal correction. I thought that in his enthusiasm for the Ottawa Agreement, which I was very glad to notice, he was going to give 10 per cent. where only 7½ per cent. was promised. The argument on this amendment, Sir, has been covered by what I have already said on the subject of motor cars. I do not think there is any doubt but that Government are greatly in sympathy with the principle behind my Honourable friend's amendment.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Why not translate it into action?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: They have already shown that sympathy, Sir, by giving the preference in this case, as in the case of motor cars, wholly by a reduction in the duty. Revenue considerations, as my Honourable friend Sir Alan Parsons has shown, make it quite impossible at the present time for Government to go further than that. We had from him an assurance that Government are very carefully watching this matter and I must ask my Honourable friend to be content with that assurance and with the fact that we have in this case given the preference entirely by a reduction in the duty. Sir, I oppose the amendment.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Sir, I rise to move:

"That in the Schedule in amendment No. 47 in the proposed Part IX against item No. 240 for the figures and words '25 per cent.' and '15 per cent.' in columns 4 and 5 the figures and words '15 per cent.' and '5 per cent.' respectively be substituted."

Sir, my object in moving this amendment is to give an impetus and encouragement to the Indian film industry, and that is a reason which I think would appeal to the Honourable Members of this House to support an industry which has a great future before it and which is at present in its infancy. I hope that my amendment, Sir, will be adopted by the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, this is the second time this morning that we have had the Indian cinematograph industry under discussion and I have already had something to say on the subject. An amendment in the same sense as that moved by my Honourable friend was moved in the other House, and I should like to mention in that connection that the Honourable the Commerce Member gave a special

assurance to the Legislative Assembly that he had particular sympathy with this industry and that it was his intention to watch very carefully over its interests. For the present, Sir, Government are unable to go further than they have gone in the direction of assisting the industry, and it is only necessary for me to mention here again that they agreed to an amendment in the Select Committee which altered their original proposals in such a way as to give the preference wholly by a reduction of the duty on these unexposed films.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: That is not enough.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: But, Sir, I am afraid that for the moment it is necessary to stop there. I must, therefore, purely on revenue grounds, oppose this amendment.

The motion was negatived.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question then is:

“That the Schedule stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: Clause 1.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

“That for sub-clause (2) of clause 1 the following be substituted, namely:

‘(2) It shall come into force if and when ratified by the new Indian Legislature that will come into being under the proposed new constitution for India.’”

Sir, as I said the other day the huge mass of Indian public opinion outside has condemned the Ottawa Agreement, whatever the majority of these two Houses of the Central Legislature may in their wisdom have to say in favour of this Bill. Under the circumstances, would it be proper for us to provide that the Act shall come into force on such date as the Governor General in Council may appoint or would it be more in conformity with public opinion if we left the responsibility of giving or not giving effect to the measure as they pleased to the future Indian Legislature that is shortly to come into being under the new constitution? Sir, I am one of those who share the latter view, not that I am against trade reciprocity or preferential trade agreements with the United Kingdom, but because I strongly feel that India will be in a much better position to deliver the goods to the United Kingdom as an equal partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations than as a subordinate country as she is now. Personally, Sir, I am most anxious to maintain the best relations with the United Kingdom and cannot visualise any other relation with the United Kingdom but that India should become a contented member of the British Commonwealth of Nations; but I am against any form of economic treaty with the Colonies or Dominions until India has got a right to enter into an Agreement with them as an equal partner in the Empire. It will, therefore, be more in the fitness of things if this Bill, which is shortly going to become an Act, came into force if and when it is ratified by our successors of the future Indian Legislature that would come into being before long, I hope, under the new constitution.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, I must confess to having experienced some feeling of surprise when I read the amendment standing in my Honourable friend's name. We understood that he and the members of his Party had no objection of a political kind to this Agreement, but, unless I misunderstood his speech, there seemed to be something of an ancient political flavour creeping into it in parts—

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: Sir, I repudiate that suggestion.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: I am very glad to hear that, and I therefore turn at once from that point and go on to an argument which I think will convince the House that my Honourable friend's amendment is not really in the interests of the country. In the first place, Sir, the effect of postponing ratification of the Agreement would be to deny to the Indian exports which have been given those special preferences which I mentioned in my speech on Saturday and which are to have effect only from the date on which the legislation which is before this House is passed.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: What is their total value in money?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: I am afraid I am unable to give any figure. I am sure that my Honourable friend, with his knowledge of business, will realise that we cannot assess the value of preferences until they have been given. The object of preferences is to increase trade and obviously it is impossible to give an accurate idea of the extent to which the trade will be increased.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM: What is the result of the seven months' working of the Import Duties Act?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Although we have been watching those figures, and watching them with considerable interest, it is not possible within seven months to draw any very useful conclusions and, as I think I made clear in my speech on Saturday, the preferences given by the Import Duties Act are only a very small part of the preferences which India will get from the scheme.

Now, Sir, there is another point which really cuts at the root of my Honourable friend's amendment. An agreement is an agreement between two parties, and is it open to us now to say, "Thank you very much for all you have been giving since the 1st of March and for what you propose to give, but we are not going to give you anything in return for a period of one, two or three years, until we have a different kind of constitution." Really, that is an impossible attitude to take up on an Agreement of this kind. And, indeed, since my Honourable friend the mover of the amendment has assured us that his only objection to the Agreement is on economic grounds, how, I ask him, does he imagine that the new Legislature in the new constitution would be in a better position than this House to assess those economic advantages? As the preferences would not have been in operation the new Legislature would have no more material to

go on than the Members of this House have, and I feel sure that in the matter of economic knowledge and experience Members of this House are in no way inferior to any Legislature which could be produced under any new constitution.

The motion was negatived.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Title and Preamble were added to the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, I move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for certain purposes, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed.”

THE HONOURABLE MR. VINAYAK VITHAL KALIKAR (Central Provinces: General): The Ottawa scheme is so complicated and complex that it is very difficult for a layman like myself to examine it in all its aspects. On this question, there was a disintegration in the Cabinet in England and some of the Liberal Ministers ultimately resigned on account of the disagreement with the other Members of the present National Government. Mr. Wedgwood Benn, the ex-Secretary of State for India, stated clearly that the Government of India should not force the Agreement on India with the help of the officials and the nominated group in the Indian Legislature. The question of Imperial preference was considered long ago in 1903 by Lord Curzon's Government and it was then decided that any scheme of Imperial preference would not be in the interests of India at all. The Fiscal Commission also examined this question in all its bearings and they also came to the conclusion that any scheme of Imperial preference would not be in the interests of India. Even Sir Geoffrey Corbett, who cannot be accused of any political bias in favour of India, declared in clear terms at the last Imperial Conference in 1930, that any scheme of Imperial preference (just like the one under consideration) would not be in the interests of India.

It is true that the Agreement does not embody a scheme of general preferences but adumbrates a scheme which is limited to selected commodities and based on reciprocity. Taking the Agreement as a whole and the wide range of British imports which are to receive preference in India, it is regarded by Indian opinion that it is nothing but practically a scheme of Imperial preference. In India, the Agreement has been condemned by various commercial and industrial bodies as well as by eminent Indian economists who have given a good deal of thought to this subject.

The Assembly examined this subject in a Special Committee and there, too, we find no unanimous support to the Ottawa Agreement. No doubt, the majority supports the scheme but they have supported the scheme in an half-hearted manner. They say in their Report:

“We wish to add that the time allotted to the Committee for its work has been insufficient for a full examination of that part of the Agreement which relates to the preferences given on imports into India”.

They admit that in case of certain commodities, for example, magnesium chloride, cotton yarn and cotton manufactures, the advantages under the preference scheme should not be exaggerated. With regard to the preferences on certain commodities, such as wheat, coconut oil and linseed,

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they admit that the present scheme will not be of any immediate value. Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, one of the staunch supporters of the scheme, does not know what will be the effect of the scheme on our agricultural produce, on our industries and on the pockets of the consumers. Taking into consideration, the remarks of Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad and the statement about the import side in the Majority Report, one rightly comes to the conclusion that there has been no proper enquiry of the various problems connected with the scheme.

As a layman. I want to examine the scheme from an agricultural point of view and see its results on the Indian agriculturists, the Indian consumers and the Indian industries. The Indian agriculturists would like to increase the production of raw materials but, at the same time, would like to reduce his dependence on overseas markets for the absorption of his exportable surplus and would prefer his raw products being consumed by the industries of his own country. Again, it should be remembered that the Indian farmer who is the producer of the bulk of India's national wealth is also the main consumer of the goods manufactured in India or imported from outside. He, therefore, would naturally like that the money spent by him for purchasing the necessaries of life goes into the pockets of Indian industrialists rather than to the pockets of industrialists of other nations. The economic prosperity of the Indian farmer lies not only in the improvement of Indian agriculture, but also in the regeneration of Indian industries.

I want to examine the scheme and its results on the commodities that are produced in my province. Let us take the case of wheat. I have already stated above that the Majority Report admits that the preference will not be of immediate value to the commodity but it may be of some benefit in future. In view of the fact that we cannot compete with Australian wheat in our own markets, I fail to appreciate the benefit that is alleged to accrue in future. Moreover, under Article 5 of the Agreement, a condition is laid down that the seller should not charge more than the world prices obtaining in the United Kingdom markets. In the case of India, this is a prohibitive condition. If we cannot compete with Australian wheat in our own markets, it naturally follows that we shall not be able to compete with Australia, Canada or Russia in the United Kingdom markets. Then we have to take into consideration the question of railway rates and sea freight. I, therefore, submit, Sir, that just like the Punjab farmer, the agriculturist in my province would not be able to derive any benefit under this scheme.

In regard to India's raw cotton, the Agreement does not give any preference because by the imposition of import duties on foreign cotton, the United Kingdom will increase the cost of production of cloth by Lancashire. At present, England buys very little of Indian cotton. In 1929, the United Kingdom purchased cotton worth Rs. 4 crores out of Rs. 100 crores worth of cotton imported by her. India's chief purchasers of cotton are Japan and China. In 1929, India exported Rs. 65 crores worth of cotton, most of which she sold to these two countries. In Article 8 of the Agreement, we find that the United Kingdom desires to co-operate with India in schemes for:

"promoting whether by research, propaganda or improved marketing the greater use of Indian cotton in the United Kingdom"

Even assuming, that by research and propaganda, India can produce better varieties of cotton, there is ample scope for its consumption by her own mills for the manufacture of superior qualities of cloth and for the higher counts of yarn, for which purpose they now import large quantities of foreign cotton.

So the non-acceptance of the Agreement will have no adverse effects on our export trade in raw cotton and its acceptance will not improve the condition of the Indian agriculturists. If the United Kingdom had given preference to Indian raw cotton then, to some extent, the agriculturists would have derived some benefit under this Agreement.

It is estimated that the Indian Empire (India and Burma) consumes 93 per cent. of the rice produced and exports only 7 per cent. of which 3 per cent. is purchased by the United Kingdom. If Burma is separated from India India's share of the trade will be much less. Though the Indian rice, which supplies one-third of the United Kingdom's requirements, is cheaper than American and Spanish rice, there are other factors which determine consumption, such as methods of packing and polishing which are matters of great importance to the consumers in the United Kingdom. Spain has, besides, peculiar advantages such as cheap transport facilities by coastal steamers and opportunities for direct contact with grocers which will make it difficult for India to compete. Even if India's rice is subjected to import duties, she will not be worse off than America and Spain who will come under the same duties. In my province, the rice that is produced, is practically in Berar and very little or practically nothing is left for export. So even if there is preference, the agriculturist in my part will not be benefited. Taking the case of India, as a whole, even though under the Agreement, she will be slightly profited by the preference, it will be a negligible factor in estimating the effects of the Agreement.

India has a virtual monopoly in certain kinds of oilseeds and the United Kingdom is not a large purchaser thereof. In 1929-30, India exported Rs. 214 lakhs worth of castor seed of which the United Kingdom purchased only Rs. 49 lakhs worth. We have no Empire competitors or any other competitors with regard to this commodity in the United Kingdom and hence preference will be of no value to the Indian agriculturist. As for groundnuts, the United Kingdom takes 6 per cent. while foreign countries take more than 90 per cent. We can expand our trade in this commodity in the United Kingdom market by another 6 per cent. but the question remains about the remaining 84 per cent. If the foreign countries retaliate under the scheme, then we will have no purchaser for this commodity. So under the scheme, the agriculturist is not at all benefited in regard to this commodity.

It is argued by the Delegation and the supporters of the scheme that there is great scope for expansion of our trade with the United Kingdom in linseed. According to the Minority Report, our trade with the United Kingdom was 24 per cent. of the total and showed a decline to 11 per cent. in 1930-31 while France and Italy have increased their shares in this respect. Out of the total imports into the United Kingdom, the Argentine supplied three-fourths of the wants of the United Kingdom in this commodity, while India supplied less than one-fourth. The Argentine is a formidable competitor in the United Kingdom market. The supporters of the scheme are themselves doubtful that the 10 per cent. preference will enable India to displace the Argentine from its strong position. It is possible

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that the Argentine may also enter into a trade agreement with the United Kingdom and if she does so, then it will be impossible for India to expand her trade in this commodity in the United Kingdom. If the Argentine does not enter into an agreement, she can still, with the greater facilities for assemblage and transport and other favourable agricultural conditions obtaining therein, easily get over the 10 per cent. preference and make her linseed cheaper than India's linseed in the United Kingdom market.

I have tried to examine the effects of the Agreement on the agriculturists of my province and I find that the farmers in my province will not be in the least benefited by this Agreement. The cultivators that are engaged in the production of these commodities are unorganized, illiterate and men of very small capital. According to me, even if it is assumed that under the scheme, some agricultural produce will be benefited, there is no chance of expansion of trade in the United Kingdom of the agricultural commodities because the agriculturists, due to various disabilities, will not be able to increase their production according to the increased demands.

Taking into consideration the commercial point of view, most of the articles—raw produce and semi-manufactured commodities—which India sends to Britain are needed for her own industries. A number of new industries have also sprung up under the stimulus of revenue duties and the swadeshi movement and which stand a fair chance of establishing themselves if they are not destroyed by outside competition. If, under the scheme, preference is given to those Empire commodities which our nascent industries produce, it is just possible that our industries would be ruined.

Effect on the consumer. The total value of British articles covered by the preferential scheme averaged during the four years from 1926-27 to 1930-31 Rs. 62.20 crores while the total imports of these from all sources averaged Rs. 127.80 crores. It is not to be expected that Britain will be in a position in the near future to capture our entire market, though in the case of some articles, she may improve her position. We shall have, therefore, to depend for a great many of our requirements on foreign countries until we establish our own industries in these articles. The result will be that the already over-burdened consumers will have to pay more for the imported articles and that will be an indirect taxation on them. The chief feature of our foreign trade has been the marked decline in the share of the United Kingdom in our imports, and if we give more preference according to the scheme to the articles mentioned in the Report that would add to the burden of the Indian consumer. It is apprehended by the supporters of the scheme that if India stands out of the scheme and the Import Duties Act passed by the United Kingdom is brought into effect, India will lose her trade in the United Kingdom. India is a debtor country, being heavily in debt to Britain. Britain, in her own interests, cannot afford to discourage the exports of India, for, in that case, India will not be able to maintain her favourable balance of trade. Unless India is able to maintain a favourable balance she cannot meet her obligations.

Taking into consideration all these things, in my humble opinion, India does not stand to gain anything by acceptance of the Agreement but there is every risk that she will lose much if the Agreement is accepted.

The United Kingdom enjoys statutory preference with regard to steel and cotton goods at the present time. Moreover, the gains to the United Kingdom by way of the payment of interest on the capital invested in India and by the manipulation of the currency policy are numerous. If the United Kingdom gives a threat of bringing the Import Duties Act under operation against India, India can well reply by withdrawing the preferences now enjoyed by the United Kingdom on the cotton and steel goods.

I, therefore, think from all points of view the Agreement is not in the interests of India and therefore I oppose the motion.

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, the Ottawa Agreement has been engaging the attention of the public and the Legislature for about three months now. It has been fully criticised in the Press and by eminent Professors of Economics and lastly by a Special Committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly. After scrutinising and examining the Ottawa Agreement, the Committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly—the majority of them—have come to the conclusion that it is for the good of India that the Agreement should be accepted. Sir, it was subjected to criticism from the opposition in the other House as well as in this House. So far as I can find out, the whole basis of the opposition was that the bargain could have been better. Sir, the apprehension in the minds of the opposers is that we had to deal with a nation which has been described by the United States of America as the greatest commercial nation of the world. The opposers are, I think, afraid that they could not drive a good bargain with the greatest commercial nation of the world. Sir, I endorse every point of that opinion that the English are the greatest commercial nation of the world. It reminds me, Sir, of a poster that I saw—and I think many of my friends might have seen it—in the tube stations of London or in the lifts leading to the tube stations—large posters with scriptural texts—and one of them which drew my attention was this text:

“What would you *profit* if you *gain* the whole world and *lose* your own soul?”

And, Sir, the words “profit”, “gain” and “lose” were in red ink. Can anybody deny after that, that the Englishmen are the greatest commercial nation of the world? Sir, I am afraid my Honourable friends in the opposition oppose the Agreement because they think that the Indian Delegation were made fools of by the British Delegation. Sir, it is a matter of common knowledge that a man resents nothing more than when he thinks that he has been made a fool of. After all is said and done, nothing can be said with mathematical accuracy about what the effect of this Ottawa Agreement will be one side or the other. The chances are that it will be for the good of the country, and that is the finding of the Committee of the Indian Legislative Assembly as also of the Indian Legislative Assembly. I do not think we will be far wrong if we accept that decision. The arguments both for and against on the economic aspect of the Agreement have been fully threshed out on the floor of the Assembly as well as on the floor of this House. But, Sir, there is another aspect to which I beg to draw the attention of the House, and that is the political significance of the Agreement. I cannot do better than draw the attention of this House to a portion of the speech delivered by

[Mr. Bijay Kumar Basu.]

Sir Atul Chatterjee at the time of the formal opening of the Economic Conference on the 21st July, 1932. He said, among other things:

“ I must first of all refer to a circumstance which gives this Conference a special significance for India. This is the first occasion on which the Leadership of the Indian Delegation to an Imperial Conference has not been filled by the Secretary of State for India and it marks one more stage in India's advance to complete self-government.”

And I think this House will give credit to Sir Atul Chatterjee that he knew what he was talking about.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Did he have all the materials?

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: That is more than I can answer, but I give credit to Sir Atul Chatterjee, and I do it without fear of contradiction, that he certainly knows what he talks about.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM: Without having the papers even?

THE HONOURABLE MR. BIJAY KUMAR BASU: The portion that I quoted required no papers to support the statement. Anyway, Sir, I am digressing. Then, Sir, my friends forget—at least I do not know if they have seen the latest newspaper reports of the tremendous effect the acceptance by the Assembly Committee of the Ottawa Agreement has created on the conservative opinion in London and business circles in England. As a matter of fact, it has practically changed the angle of vision of the Conservatives, and, if I may say so, of the retired Anglo-Indians, whose nerves have been shattered by the immoderate use of the taxed salt of India. But even their attitude has been changed, and with your leave, Sir, I quote an extract from the Air Mail Letter of the *Statesman* of December the 16th:

“Almost for the first time British Ministers and all those who read the serious press in England, Scotland and Wales are expressing a hope, and almost the faith, that responsible parliamentary institutions may yet be grafted successfully on to the Indian stem. Whereas a year ago the Indian constitutional cause appeared to have suffered irreparably from the irresponsibility, the class particularism, and the petulance too often shown by those who were championing it, today it is true to say that the whole prospect has cleared as a result of this simple indication that the Assembly is capable of tolerant minded solicitude for India's intrinsic well-being.”

And, Sir, if you will permit me I will just quote a few lines which appeared thereafter:

“Incidentally, tangible results of the Agreement are already available in the United Kingdom. By the middle of February a large rice mill will be in operation on the Thames. There is a market amounting to some 70,000 tons of rice, hitherto derived from the Continent of Europe, which it is hoped gradually to derive from India and, the penny duty on foreign rice notwithstanding, to distribute at lower prices than those now prevailing. Another concrete result of the Agreement takes the shape this week of the constitution, by nomination of representative men by trade organizations in Lancashire of a committee to promote the greater use of Indian cotton in the United Kingdom, with Sir Richard Jackson as Chairman.”

This was only when the Assembly Committee had accepted the Agreement and the Assembly had not then ratified it. Sir, if we follow the trend of events in London I think we must agree that the acceptance of the Ottawa Agreement by the Assembly has no doubt strengthened the hands of our people in the Round Table Conference. I have no fear that in the near future we shall be able to realize the hope that we all have to be one of the equal partners of the nations composing the British Commonwealth.

Sir, I would now ask my friends to calculate from these points of view the net profit and loss, taking everything into consideration, the economic, the business and the political sides of the question, and then strike the balance. I am perfectly sure that they would not, after they have done it, think twice before recording their votes ratifying the Agreement and passing the Bill which we have before us.

THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I desire to take part in this debate not because I feel that I am competent to examine the details of the Bill before us, and then cast a balance sheet, and prove by mathematical calculations that the Ottawa Agreement and the Bill before us would result in a profit in terms of rupees, annas and pies, but because I feel that the general effect of the Ottawa Agreement and the Bill jointly will certainly be the best for the country under the present circumstances. I want to make it perfectly clear that I do not share the pessimistic views expressed by my Honourable friends Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, the Honourable Mr. Syed Hussain Imam and my Hindu colleague from Dacca. As I have already said that it will be for the best interests of the country I heartily support the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. ABU ABDULLAH SYED HUSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, it is usual on the third reading not to deal greatly with the details of the measures which it is proposed to pass. Therefore I will not go deeply into details. I have simply got to say something to justify the position which we on this side of the House have taken in opposing the Bill. The Bill wishes to introduce a great change, and it is a fixed principle that those who wish for change must prove their case, especially in a second Chamber, which is a revising Chamber, and is usually conservative, and it rarely permits changes. Mr. Basu—I do not find him in his place—just now cited to us the example of the Assembly Committee. I wish he had the courage of his conviction to ask this House to support the Assembly in all its measures when it goes against the Government as well. When the Supplementary Finance Bill was rejected by the other House, this House did not take that as a precedent. He suggested that we had imputed to the Ottawa Delegation incompetence to deal with these matters. We never said that. Our point has always been that they were not well equipped. If the other partners of the British Empire received their lists from the British Government beforehand, why was not that procedure followed in the case of India? Why was not Indian commercial and industrial opinion consulted beforehand, and why were we not treated in the same manner as other parties to this Agreement were treated by England? He brought the ingenious argument that Sir Atul Chatterjee was very competent. Who questioned that? I should be very agreeably surprised if the Commerce Department

[Mr. Abu Abdullah Syed Hussain Imam.]

would tell us that they have got all information and all statistics necessary to gauge the advantages and disadvantages of preferences. I shall illustrate my point. Has the Commerce Department got statistics of all the industries, cottage as well as local, in India, of their production and of their requirements? Day before yesterday, I asked the Government what they are doing to remove handicaps. I should be agreeably surprised if the Commerce Department show us that in all the commodities which we export, at least in our major exports, they have got statistics to show the prices of our chief competitors in their home towns, of their freights to the ports, and of the shipping charges that our competitors pay. These are the things which are necessary to gauge whether certain preferences given will, in working, result in an advancement of trade or in deflection simply.

I, for one, Sir, did not wish to object to it on business grounds only. What I stated was that when weighty political reasons were advanced in the other place and by some gentlemen here, Government tabooed them, and when economic reasons were advanced Government, without any adequate reply, brushed them aside as not material. Mr. Benthall advocated that this matter should be viewed from the business point of view. For this reason I confined myself to the simple question of pounds, shillings and pence. The fact that Britain is the greatest commercial nation, as adumbrated by Mr. Basu, is no reason why we should have an inferiority complex, and think that we cannot compete with them. I could not understand the point he wanted to make in bringing in the fact that Britain was the greatest commercial nation of the world; a nation which has been described 125 years ago as a nation of shopkeepers by the famous Napoleon can justly take pride in its commercial enterprise and we are saying that we want to follow in her footsteps and to become a commercial nation as well. That matter has absolutely nothing to do with the Bill and the measure before the House. I, Sir, wish to confine myself at this stage of the day not only to observation about objections that we have, but to constructive suggestions.

We know, Sir, that the Government with its nominated majority will carry this measure through, and our voice is a voice in the wilderness. What we are asking the Government today is in justice to its own people, to those who have supported the Ottawa Agreement, to change its angle of vision and take intensive measures to expand our export trade. Our export trade has been neglected by the Government, because it does not give any direct return in the same manner as our import trade pays through customs. I, for one, Sir, would appeal to the Government to give us an assurance that the items cited in paragraphs 18 and 19 of the Majority Report are being given effect to. I would also ask the Government to assure us that there will be a Committee of this House to scrutinise the facts. I would further also ask the Government, if they wish to push this bitter pill down our throat, to make efforts to bring down railway rates to the level to which our chief competitors have brought them. I would still further also ask Government to busy themselves in bringing down the shipping freights and in short do everything which a National Government would do to expand its export trade and then to justify the Agreement, otherwise the Ottawa Agreement would fail to benefit India.

THE HONOURABLE KUMAR NRIPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (West Bengal: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the Ottawa Agreement is for us but a

leap in the dark. I say a leap in the dark, because the Majority Report of the Assembly does not take us anywhere beyond their dogmatic assertion that the Agreement should be accepted, because it promised to be to the ultimate benefit of the country, in spite of the fact that there was practically no data upon which to vindicate their Report with regard to the imports selected for preference. The Honourable the Commerce Member caused not a little disappointment to us when he simply told us without producing convincing arguments that the Agreement should be accepted, because he could assure us that by doing so we would be doing good to the country.

Sir, we did not fare better either at the hands of the Honourable the Finance Member. Instead of telling us whether our finances would be improved or not by the Agreement, he only sermonised to us when he spoke in the other House that we should join the preference ring for the sake of economic co-operation, conveniently forgetting, for the time being, that political co-operation should precede economic co-operation in order to make it well cemented. Thus, Sir, to our utter misfortune, we fail to obtain any sort of illumination relating to this question of vital economic importance to our country from all expected quarters excepting their fruitless theories as to the would-be potentialities of the Agreement.

On the other hand, Sir, our Indian Government, evidently at the behest of the Conservative Government in England, which has distinctly been following a protectionist policy in trade matters evidently for the sake of British capitalist interests, seem to care very little for the opinions of men like Viscount Snowden, Sir Herbert Samuel and other Liberal leaders, who have resigned their seats in the British Parliament distinctly on the Ottawa issue. Little do they also care, Sir, for what Sir Arthur Salter, an economist of world-wide celebrity, has said about the Ottawa Agreement in his luminous article entitled "Perils of Ottawa". In their extreme anxiety to rush this business they also overlook the significance of the resignation of Sir Walter Layton, also a great figure in the economic world, purely on the Ottawa question, of his office of Delegate-designate to the forthcoming World Economic Conference. They also conveniently brush aside from their consideration all that Mr. Wedgwood Benn, once our Secretary of State for India, advises them in the matter. They also treat more or less with contempt the considered opinions of the different Indian Chambers of Commerce who have in one voice repudiated the Agreement as prejudicial to Indian trade and industrial development.

Again, Sir, although we had not the good fortune either to hear or to peruse the statements made by the several experts, who appeared before the Select Committee of the Assembly, yet reading between the lines of the two Assembly Reports, I can not but believe that those experts too have condemned the Agreement. The result of such an attitude has been that an important thing is practically rushed through the Indian Legislature without affording sufficient time to the interests concerned to have their say in the matter after due consideration of the pros and cons of the proposed preference on the different commodities. We can very well imagine what the consequences will be of such a state of things. Carried against the wishes of the country it will, I dare to say, have the same disastrous consequences as the 1s. 6d. ratio carried against popular wishes is having today in the country.

Next, Sir, the Schedules, when closely analysed, seem to contain serious implications, which, for want of time and adequate publication in the

[Kumar Nripendra Narayan Sinha.]

country, none has yet been able to examine properly. But all the same it is patent, that by reductions of duties on imports from the United Kingdom, the protection to the indigenous products will be considerably lowered, whereas the consumer will have to bear a great burden on account of the increase in duties on non-British imports. In the past he bore his burden for protecting Indian industries, now he will have to bear the same burden to protect British manufactures. Apart from these considerations, other grave issues are also involved in this purely problematic business proposition. The risk of retaliation mentioned in Lord Curzon's Despatch is more real today, as there is over production and not a scarcity of raw materials in the world. Our favourable balance of trade depends not on our trade with the British Empire, but on our trade with other countries. Thus, any threat to this favourable balance of trade means serious complications for our currency system.

Again, Sir, the full implications of the proposed tariff on our customs revenue have not been noticed either in the Report of the
 1 P.M. Indian Delegation or in any published Memorandum of the Government of India. The sudden and large disturbance of trade, industry and finance, inevitable when as many as 168 articles are affected by the Agreement, is sure to lead to grave complications. And all this at a time when the depreciation of the sterling gives England a substantial preference against all gold standard countries and renders all foreign trade a matter of chance and good luck, and when complicated questions of federal finance can only be tackled on the bases of some elements of stability in our chief sources of revenue.

Next, Sir, at the end of the proposed three years there will not only arise immense statutory difficulties but also vehement opposition from the side of vested interests in the way of upsetting this Agreement, if we then really make up our mind to scrap it up in the larger interests of the country. Also it is my apprehension that the proposed Enquiry Committee of the Assembly, no matter whatsoever be its constitution, will fail to exercise that amount of control and supervision that will be necessary in the circumstances over the Government departmental statistics by reasons of their obvious statutory limitations.

Finally, Sir, while it is quite obvious that our tea, rice, and cotton will revive just a little under the preference, I have great doubt about the fate of the very many raw products, whose supply cannot but be quite limited under the present agricultural conditions of the country, because I entertain not the slightest hope of agricultural improvements being taken up either by the people or the Government for some years yet to come. Weighing all the pros and cons of this momentous proposition in an unbiassed way without being actuated by any particular provincial consideration, my conviction is that we should not, for the sake of reviving the prospects of a few commodities only, sacrifice the interests of quite a large number of others having immense possibilities otherwise. It is for these considerations, Sir, that the Ottawa Agreement is for us unprofitable and inopportune and I should be quite reluctant to be made a party to it.

THE HONOURABLE MR. H. M. MEHTA (Bombay: Non-Muhammadan):
 Sir, circumstances have so changed during these last three years in the world of commerce, and the whole economic equilibrium has been so shaken, that the greatest specialists in finance and economics are trying to find out and put their finger on what ails the world. It is a very

difficult matter. As some of the most eminent surgeons and doctors have found serums and other things to put down plagues and other disastrous ailments, these economists are trying to find out what should be done. They are all putting their heads together all over the world. Some say that the hoarding of gold by America and France has been the ruination of the world. Some say stopping the free coinage of silver has brought about the ruination of trade and commerce. This put the idea into the fertile heads of some who said, let us see if an Empire Co-operation Bill would solve some of our difficulties, free the finances of the world and thus improve trade, manufacture and also the lot of agriculturists. Australia, Canada, New Zealand and others joined together with one voice and India was given a fair opportunity either to join it or leave it. Members of the Legislative Assembly were appointed to go to Ottawa, the able assistance of Sir George Rainy was given to them. Men of the ability of Sir Atul Chatterjee were there and Mr. Shanmukham Chetty of the Legislative Assembly, who is considered to be one of the best coming men in the Legislature, was there to solve the problems and see whether the Ottawa Agreement was going to do good to the country or not. Well, Sir, I do not think anybody in this House can impute the charge that they did not do their duty or that they were dishonest to their country. They did their level best according to their own lights and they returned and told us what they thought of it and asked the Legislature to go into it and say whether it should be carried into effect. Whether it will be the right thing or the wrong thing, whether it will prove a success or a failure, one cannot say at this moment. But what is wrong in giving a trial to a thing which all other countries have adopted and adopted with confidence? If we do not give it a trial, we cannot succeed. No trade, no business, can be built up without the first procedure, *viz.*, that a trial be given. Why do some people think that it will do harm to India? Nobody, neither Professor Vakil nor Professor Mullick of Calcutta has proved to the hilt to the business men of Bombay or Calcutta that *these* are the particular points which are going to harm the Indian Empire and the Indian people in general. They made general statements which were very closely examined not only by the Assembly Members who were chosen by that House, but by many men studying economics in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta with an open mind, and they all, every one of them, are of opinion that it is such a vast subject that nobody can express an opinion positively one way or the other, but there is nothing wrong in giving it a trial and I hope this House will agree to it. (Applause).

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. C. BENTHALL (Bengal Chamber of Commerce): Sir, I have only two points to make. The first is concerned with the Supplementary Agreement which is referred to in the Preamble to the Bill. In paragraphs 82, 83 and 84 of the Delegation's Report, they pointed out that there were three dangers against which provision must be made if the scheme is to work successfully and they also pointed out that Government was to take care to watch against these dangers. In paragraph 85 of their Report, they touch on the method by which this Supplementary Agreement is to be put into force. It is in connection with this paragraph that certain of my constituents have expressed apprehensions that a monopoly might be created to their detriment as importers. I do not believe that it will be so misused because I understand that

[Mr. E. C. Benthall.]

arrangements have been made in London through the exporting company which will re-export the sheets made under this Agreement whereby all importers should be given an equal opportunity to carry on the business which they have carried on hitherto; but I would ask that Government should watch against this danger, though I repeat that I am confident it will not be misused.

The second point which I have to make is an appeal to the Honourable the Leader of the Progressive Party. In speaking on the first reading of the Bill, I made a point that in my opinion this Agreement was definitely of benefit to the eastern provinces of India. I am glad to see that Mr. Ghosh Maulik takes that view. Mr. Banerjee also from the eastern provinces made certain points but having made those points I hope that he will be satisfied with Government's answers and will not press his opposition. With regard to the remarks which fell from the Leader of the Opposition in his very interesting speech in which he put his economic points with very considerable force, he pointed out that, in his opinion, this Agreement was not going to be of benefit to the Punjab because the Punjab was primarily concerned with two products, those of wheat and cotton. Now, listening to the Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das, I was inclined to agree with him that there is no immediate benefit to the Punjab in the matter of wheat. He complains that whereas a few years ago a million tons were exported, now the exports are negligible. The Honourable Member says that he has grown the same quantity of wheat, but he also says that he has not exported it. The question is, what has happened to it? I think the answer is that the Honourable Member has eaten it. But if the areas which are expected to be under cultivation in the next few years do come under cultivation and if the population does not increase too fast to eat up that increase—a matter which I admit is beyond the Honourable Member's control—then the exports will be required again, and I feel quite certain that the Honourable Member will not wish the growers of wheat in the Punjab to compete against Canada and Australia with a difference of 2s. against him.

Then, as regards cotton, in paragraph 49, page 21 of the Report, the Delegation point out that the results of their discussion at Ottawa were to be placed before a Conference of Cotton Trade Associations of the United Kingdom on their return in order that a definite scheme might be prepared. As the Honourable Mr. Basu has pointed out, this is now under discussion at home, and although I am not interested in the raw cotton industry at all, I am in touch with this Committee, and I should be very glad to help him and the Punjab by putting him in touch with this Committee, if he so wishes, or in any other way in which I can be of service to him. I should very much have liked to have been able to support him over the matter of the further reduction of the duties on motor cars and motor lorries and motor buses, especially in the matter of motor lorries, because I think that the reduction of duties on these vehicles is a definitely progressive feature. But much as I should like to support him, I do think that the arguments of Government are sound in that it is not intended that this Bill should be used as a weapon to reduce the duties in a wholesale manner and also because *they have reduced them already to the maximum amount possible. But if this question comes up again in the near future I should be very glad*

to assure him that I will give the matter my most careful consideration with a view to giving him my support. In view of these assurances I would appeal to the Honourable Member not to oppose this Bill, because I do believe that this Agreement is likely to be to the benefit of India as a whole, and especially of the eastern provinces.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR PROMODE CHANDRA DUTT (Assam: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I rise to support this motion. I am the only representative in the House of a province in which the chief industry is tea and which admittedly stands to gain by this Bill. I am not going to inflict a speech. It is not difficult to get up a speech and adorn it with facts and figures borrowed from others. I have not that ambition. I will, however, say a word. The basis of the suspicion on the part of the Opposition appears to me to be that they think that our Delegates to Ottawa were done in the eye. It is not necessary to consider how far that remark is justified. But the fact remains that what they did has been examined in this country at length by people able to discuss these matters and if they have found that the Agreement will be in the best interests of India, I do not see why the suspicion should continue. I shall not say anything more on this. I want, however, to make one suggestion for the consideration of the Government. The Bill is going to be passed within the hour. Very strong doubts and fears have been expressed in this House as regards the probable effect of this Bill. Would it not be better if the Government appointed a Committee representing all shades of opinion in this House and laid before it annually a report about the working of the Agreement? I would also suggest that the same thing might be done after three years, when a report covering that period might be placed before the whole House so as to put it in a position to discuss the question and then decide whether the Agreement should be continued or not.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, the question was put by my Honourable friend Syed Hussain Imam asking the Honourable the Commerce Secretary to inform the House whether Government have accepted the safeguards which were proposed by the Special Committee of the Legislative Assembly. I presume, Sir, that those safeguards have been agreed to. But, Sir, I do not attach much value to these safeguards. In the Agreement itself, in its last clause, it is said that either party will have the choice of terminating the Agreement at six months' notice on either side. But, Sir, these safeguards are undoubtedly suggested in order to ensure reconsideration of the position. We know from the history of such matters how wholly ineffective such safeguards are in practice, particularly in the time of the present Secretary of State. The Honourable the Leader of the House, when speaking on safeguards, spoke in derisive language of the safeguards that have been outlined by the leaders assembled at the Unity Conference at Allahabad. He said—I hope he will correct me if I am wrong—that they were much more in number as compared to the safeguards that were being outlined at the Round Table Conference. Sir, whatever may be the character of the safeguards and the nature of the constitution that are being outlined at Allahabad, they will certainly occupy a premier place in the popular mind than what the Premier in London or the Great Mogul at Whitehall is capable of infusing confidence by any of their pet schemes. Allahabad may not appeal to Sir

[Raj Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das.]

Fazl-i-Husain and the Allahabad scheme may not become a reality in the days of the present Leader of the House. But, Sir, I do hold that it will be a working reality in the time of many of us. If India decides to apply safeguards the present Secretary of State will never allow their application. That is our apprehension. Under the circumstances the risks are great and ought to be avoided. My esteemed friend, the Honourable Mr. Benthall, referring to my remarks about wheat has said that we practically eat all the wheat that we produce in India and that there thus is no surplus. I think he was not present when I spoke on the Bili last when I said that even if the production of wheat all over India does not materially increase the increase from the Sukkur Barrage alone will be over one million tons annually. That new area will also produce $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs more of cotton bales. The same colony will also give $3\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs tons more of oilseeds. I will not deal with the Sarda project in the United Provinces, the Sutlej Valley project in the Punjab, or of the production from the Colonies in Bikaner and Bahawalpur States which are now being developed fast. So far as wheat is concerned, in the very near future our produce will be increased by not less than one million tons. So that we have an exportable surplus on hand almost immediately. India's consumption is between 8 and $8\frac{1}{2}$ million tons of wheat, and for our surplus we must export to any country who will take it. But the preference given to us on wheat by the United Kingdom is on a par with that given to the Dominions, and I can assure my Honourable friend that when we cannot compete with Australia, even in their wheat shipped over here it is impossible for us to compete with it in the United Kingdom. With these preferences in force. British goods in India will have practically no competition. We, on the other hand, will have to compete in the United Kingdom with every other Dominion in the British Empire. That is the point on which I want to lay stress. The Honourable Mr. Benthall has said that so far as cotton is concerned there is a likelihood of our exports to the United Kingdom increasing. I have said before that India is now producing a fairly big quantity of medium staple cotton and we expect that the United Kingdom will give our cotton preference over foreign countries. I spoke about no preference being given by the United Kingdom for our cotton seeds, but I got no reply from the Honourable the Commerce Secretary. I told this House that a big quantity, 700,000 tons of cotton seeds was being imported by the United Kingdom and which was worth more than Rs. 5 crores, mainly went from Egypt. The Honourable Mr. Mehta has said that we should give it a trial. Nobody opposes the trial, but what we say is that as it is a business proposition we must have full value in reciprocity. In the division which I demanded on one of my amendments, out of 15 elected Indian Members present, 10 voted for it. This fact shows, Sir, what the feeling of our House is in the matter. This Bill, I know, is now going to be passed. It is for future historians to say whether those who supported the Government were right or those who opposed this Bill. We did not make this a party question. Every one had freedom to vote as he liked. Even so you will find that all the Members were not unanimous in regard to every clause of the Bill.

I hope, Sir, that the suggestion made by my Honourable friend, the Honourable Mr. Dutt, will be accepted by the Government and that this House will be represented on the Vigilance Committee, or on any other

Committee which is to see how we fare under this Agreement in regard to the return from these preferences in money values. I hope that the claims of this House will not be ignored, as I find that is generally done. I hope, also, that, in the event of our being able to make out a strong case for the withdrawal of some preference or for the grant of some preference or for a change in the quantum of preference, Government will give full consideration to any such representations and act in the best interests of our country.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD (United Provinces Northern: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I permit myself to congratulate my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhole, on his personal success. I am sorry I do not find him present in this House today, but most of my observations today are going to be addressed to him as it is he who, being the Commerce Member, is really in charge of the subject. Anything that goes to contribute to the success of the present Commerce Member I shall gladly support. But the success, I am afraid, is of a dubious character, for I think it is for the future to appraise the work and worth of his success over this Bill. I do not think even Sir Joseph Bhole wants us to tell him that he is cent. per cent. correct in the step that he, or the Commerce Secretary for the matter of that, advises us to take, for I noticed in the speeches of the Commerce Member delivered in the Legislative Assembly that on the question of imports, which is a great factor in our calculations about this Bill, he has been very restrained in his optimism. Before proceeding further, I desire to make my position as well as that of my friends on this side of the House clear with regard to this Bill. The Honourable Mr. Benthall in the course of his speech on this Bill on Saturday last was pleased to observe that the opposition to this Bill was mainly based on the principle of opposition to Government. I suppose, Sir, that these remarks of his were directed mainly to the Progressive Party, to which I belong. He also observed the other day, perhaps, on a previous occasion, if I understood him correctly, that we, on this side of the House, came here with our minds made up. Sir, with regard to the first allegation, namely, that our opposition to this Bill was based on the principle of opposition to Government, may I ask the Honourable Mr. Benthall if this charge against us is not repudiated by the fact of our having supported the Bengal Terrorist Outrages Bill, which furnishes one more example, if an example were needed at all, that my Party supports or opposes a Government measure on the merits of the measure and is not guided by any such idea as was alleged by my Honourable friend? (Hear, hear.) As regards the other charge, Sir, that we come here with our minds made up, I may be permitted to say that our minds are made up by ourselves, and in supporting or opposing a measure we try to make up our minds on the basis of the public opinion prevailing in the country with regard to that particular measure as in duty bound we have to do, being representatives of the public. But can the Honourable Mr. Benthall, I ask, say with his hand on his heart that the minds of those who always support every Government measure, whether good, bad or indifferent, are equally made up by themselves, or are they made up by others who are so closely associated with them on the opposite benches? I am afraid, Sir —.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. C. BENTHALL: I can say with my hand on my heart that we make up our minds for ourselves, but I was not

[Mr. E. C. Benthall.]

quite certain whether, from the Honourable Member's speech, it was he who made up his mind or whether it was public opinion which made it up for him.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: I am glad to know that, Sir. I am afraid, Sir, that in the case of this Bill also my attitude as well as that of some of my friends on this side of the House is going to be in conformity with public opinion outside.

Sir, now I come to the merits of the measure before the House. Sir Joseph Bore had, I believe, eight experts specially summoned to help him in studying the Agreement and in providing him with facts and figures to pilot this Bill, but we, in this House, have been given no help and we are asked to proceed upon the *ipse dixit* of the most conscientious Indian Commerce Member, because forsooth some people have started a propagandist theory in England that under this Agreement India gains more than Britain. Sir, I have tried to be in touch with public opinion on this question. I find that, except in the Legislative Assembly and the Council of State, not one person outside the two Houses has supported the Bill; on the other hand, condemnation has been universal throughout the length and breadth of India except in the Council House of New Delhi.

THE HONOURABLE NAWAB KHWAJA HABIBULLAH (Bengal: Nominated Non-Official): Does the Honourable Member mean to say that the Members of the Assembly do not represent public opinion as he does here?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: Sir, I am coming to that. It is true that the Assembly has passed this Bill by a majority and the Assembly under the present constitution can no doubt be called as representing public opinion, but I have a suspicion that in this matter the Assembly has erred and the Government in its conscience wants us to put the seal of approval to a wrong decision and we, in this so called revising Chamber, are powerless to revise that wrong decision.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal: Muhammadan): Why do you underrate the House?

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD: If ever there was need for this House to exert its influence on the side of the right, it was on this Ottawa Bill as passed by the Assembly. I do not say that the Assembly was hasty in its judgment but I have a feeling that in this matter the wideawake and the so-called popular Assembly has been successfully bluffed, though time alone can prove the truth of my assertion. I do not make any complaint, as one of my friends here did the other day, that there has not been any Member from this House on the Ottawa Delegation. I am glad in a way because the odium which posterity is sure to attach to the initiation and the passage of this Bill will be left entirely to the Lower House under whose auspices and with the blindly enthusiastic support of a section of which the Ottawa deal is becoming the law of the land. Sir, it was a Member of this House, the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri, who described the Rowlatt Bill as the "Unblessed mother of a monstrous brood of evils." I fear that this Bill

in its operation will be found to be an equally reprehensible measure. I feel it is too late in the day to cry against this Bill in this House. And while I am prepared to have faith in the belief of the conscience-stricken Sir Joseph Bhore, I am afraid I have not got the same belief in the wisdom, in the present instance, of course, of the first Indian Commerce Member.

I generally do not complain against the Assembly. It is often described as the popular House even by Government Members. Sir, we here may belong to an unpopular House and we, in this Party today, might be taking up an attitude which to the Government Members here may not be popular, but I ask whether the Members of the Special Committee or the Select Committee of the popular House were supplied with all the facts that they desired to have in order to arrive at the truth. Is it not a fact that, as the Committee observed in their Report, they could not be put in possession by Government of more detailed material as regards certain points? I ask whether these Committees were supplied with a record of the daily proceedings of the Ottawa Conference which led to the Agreement between the Delegation from India and that from Britain. Sir, as a careful reader of the newspapers I must draw the attention of this House and the country to the fact that after the speech of Sir Atul Chatterjee which was perfectly unquestionable on the opening of the Ottawa Conference not one word was known in India for weeks and weeks till immediately after the close of the Conference the Agreement with India was the first to be published throughout India and even the rest of the world. There is a saying "Beware of Greek hospitality" and when I find the Government is extolling the virtues of this Bill, Sir, it is an alien Government which, through the first Indian Commerce Member, is piloting the measure which, rightly or wrongly, no Indian publicist except the Legislative Assembly has supported. I know Sir Joseph Bhore has not left his conscience in the anti-chamber but I ask him to consult his conscience now and let me know whether India can terminate the Agreement under any constitution at six months' notice. Supposing, for instance, next year the Agreement is found to be not working to the advantage of India, will he himself have the courage to move for the termination of the Agreement or would he want the initiative for it to come from the Assembly or the Council of State? Sir, I do not want to question my Honourable friend's chivalry but Sir Joseph knows as much as I do that, for some reason or other, we Indians have yet to develop that national character which requires not only conscience but also determination to fight on such a vital issue and even to resign if our calculations go wrong. Sir, I am afraid not the present Commerce Member in six months' time but even his great-grandsons six generations hence only might think of terminating the Agreement which he has asked us to ratify.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR DR. SIR NASARVANJI CHOKSY (Bombay: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I am not a business man; I am not engaged in trade or commerce, I have therefore taken a detached and common-sense view of the Ottawa Agreement. This Agreement was arrived at by men, most of whom have spent their lifetime in studying India's commercial problems. They knew what they were talking about. They also knew whether the Agreement that was arrived at was reciprocally beneficial to Great Britain and India. If they had had the least suspicion that it was going to be detrimental to Indian interests, I do not believe that they would have been false to India and have made up an Agreement

[Dr. Sir Nasarvanji Choksy.]

for the benefit of Great Britain and British interests alone. Thus the real test, Sir, is whether this Agreement is beneficial or not. That can only be proved by experience. It must have a fair trial to enable the people to decide and the Government also to decide whether it is ultimately for the good of India. I do not think that any premature or hasty conclusions at this stage are of any value to the success or the operation of this Bill. We have to take a broad outlook, to see how far Indian industries are encouraged or developed on account of the preferences that are given. If we find, on the one hand, that they are prejudicially affected, why, Sir, then there will be ample time to denounce the Agreement or to make such changes as are required therein. The statements that have been placed before the public were, some of them, *ex cathedra*, others without proper judgment, and were carried away simply by political bias. Now, in a business agreement we have to look at its business side alone and not to the sentimental or the political side. Neither politics nor sentiment must have any say in the matter. We should look only to the business interests of both the parties concerned. Therefore, Sir, I say it must be given a fair trial before we decide finally. It is premature to cry "Wolf". It will be time enough when we come to the Rubicon and devise measures to cross it should the Agreement prove a failure. I therefore cordially support the Bill.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: Sir, I shall be very brief, for, indeed, at this time there is really nothing left for me to say, except to reply to one or two special points that have been made by speakers.

Sir, I should like to say this with regard to what fell from my Honourable friend, Mr. Hussain Imam, on the question of the data supplied to the Indian Delegation. I wonder, Sir, if my Honourable friend heard the remarks that were made by Mr. Shanmukham Chetty in another place with regard to the way in which the Indian Delegation were equipped with information. It was the general opinion that of all the Overseas Delegations at Ottawa the Indian Delegation was by far best equipped with information of every kind. Then, Sir, the same speaker made a reference to the Majority Report of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly on the Agreement and he wanted to know whether Government were prepared to accept the recommendations of that Committee. Well, Sir, all that I need say to him is that two Members of the Government of India signed that Report. Then, Sir, there was a small point made by my Honourable friend, Mr. Benthall, about the Supplementary Agreement in regard to iron and steel. As he pointed out, in the Delegation's Report were contained certain recommendations regarding the way in which Government should safeguard the operation of that Agreement, and my Honourable friend expressed the hope that, if there were any danger of a monopoly in the hands of importers of galvanised sheets, Government would see that such steps as could be taken were taken to prevent such a state of affairs arising. Well, Sir, I repeat what he told the House, that that Agreement is based upon an agreement between the manufacturing industries concerned, and the Government understand that the Agreement is a satisfactory one all round. They are, however, perfectly prepared to do whatever may be possible to prevent anything happening to upset the working of that Agreement in the most equitable manner, should a danger of any such happening be made known to them.

Then, Sir, there is just one point I should like to mention which was made in the speech of my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Progressive Party, because he complained that he had received no reply in regard to it from either of the speakers on this side. I mean his reference to cotton seed and the reason why no preference was given on it. I would invite his attention, Sir, to paragraph 9 of the Majority Report of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in which it was said:

"We consider it a matter for regret that preference was not secured on cotton seed and we recommend that the Government should as soon as possible open negotiations with His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom with a view to the inclusion of this commodity in the preferential scheme."

As I have just mentioned, Sir, that Report was signed by two Members of the Government of India.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS: Has the Government acted on that proposal?

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. C. B. DRAKE: They have not yet acted on it, Sir, but they have not had very much time in which to do so. Now, there is just one more point, and that is a very important one: in the very last half hour in the debate on this Bill certain Honourable Members have raised the question of a Committee to examine the working of these preferences. Well, Sir, I should like, in the first place, to clear up any misapprehension there may be on this subject. There has never been the slightest intention on the Government's part to ignore this Council. What actually happened was that when the Bill was before the Legislative Assembly the Assembly expressed a desire to have a Committee of that House and Government agreed. Now, Sir, I do not suppose that there would be the slightest objection on the part of Government to appoint a Committee of this House also to examine such figures as Government can place before them and generally to report on the operation of the Agreement. The only thing I would suggest, Sir, is that there would be in any case practically no work for the Committee to do for some time, and that it would appear, therefore, that the most appropriate time to raise this question would be, say, early in the next session because one cannot work for results from these preferences for about a year, and that was the reason why, in another place, it was agreed that there should be annual reports and examination of those reports:

Now, Sir, before I sit down, I should merely like to say that if my Honourable friends opposite were able to withdraw their opposition to this measure it would certainly be most gratifying. My Honourable friend, Lala Ram Saran Das, said himself that it would be impossible to know what would really be the result of this measure for some time and that it must be left to future historians to judge. Sir, I am more optimistic than that, and I believe that in a very short time it will be possible for my Honourable friend himself to say that this measure has been in the interests of India.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, for certain purposes, as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

VINDICTORY SPEECHES ON THE RETIREMENT OF THE HONOURABLE SIR HENRY MONCRIEFF SMITH.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR MIAN SIR FAZL-I-HUSAIN (Leader of the House): Sir, this is the last meeting of the session and this is the last meeting over which you will preside, and, presently, you will be saying good-bye to the Honourable Members of this House. I have no doubt that Honourable Members would like me to say a few words on this occasion.

You have, Sir, presided over this House for full eight years, and you came to the Chair of this House after having been in the Legislative Department of the Government of India for no less than nine years in different capacities. Before that you had spent as many as 17 years and perhaps a little more in working in the heat of the plains as executive officer, as judicial officer, acquiring experience in dealing with problems of day to day administration and thus equipping yourself for work at the headquarters of the Government of India. When you came to Simla and Calcutta—not Delhi in those days—there was the old Legislative Council in which you worked. Your work in the Legislative Department was not limited to the Reformed Council; you were also familiar with the working of the pre-reformed Council. As President of this House, Sir, we have been very much impressed indeed by certain characteristics, if one might say so, that have distinguished you during your term of office. Your uniform courtesy and undisputed impartiality have been admitted on all hands. These are the two features—courtesy and impartiality—which are the essential requisites of this office. Those possessed of them can always look forward to close and genuine co-operation from the House. Your experience as a judicial officer perhaps enabled you to prevent the very natural tendency in all Members of Legislatures to ramble—episodes, digressions, general remarks which are not always relevant to the question under consideration—and thereby enabled this House to restrain and control that very human tendency of digressing. I am sure this is one of the features of this House of which the House may well be proud. Speeches, whether written or oral, are as a rule short, and I am told by Members opposite also sweet. We try to reciprocate the compliment. Besides these characteristics, one thing which is peculiarly yours is, that wherever there is a discretion with the Chair, you have invested the House with that discretion and allowed it to express itself freely and fully before you decide the matter. Whether it is a matter of sitting on a particular day or at a particular hour, you have always asked the House to say what they would like to do, and having listened to various parts of the House, you have invariably interpreted their wishes in a very fair and just manner. Thus, one might reasonably say that the House has been invested by you with an authority in such matters, and this convention we trust it will be the privilege of your successor to continue to follow. You have kept up the dignity and privileges of the House at a high level. It is one of the things that this House is particularly—if I may use an ordinary expression—famous for, and this good repute we owe to no small extent to your guidance.

Parting, Sir, is always associated with regrets, but with your permission, I want to strike a note not one of sadness but in a way of gladness. You have, Sir, after 35 years of continuous, meritorious and well-appreciated service, completed a long career most successfully, and this House has had the benefit of your being in the Chair for eight years. It is a matter on which the House can congratulate itself and also tender its congratulations to you. You have, Sir, if I may, with the permission of the House mention it, not been enjoying your leisure hours in the usual acceptance of the term. You have occupied yourself with presiding over the Executive Committees and Managing Bodies of Associations whose one concern is to allay, as far as it lies in their power, human misery. I am referring to the work you have done as Chairman of the Managing Body of the Red Cross and the Executive Committee of the St. John Ambulance Association and half a dozen or more similar institutions. I have no doubt that on retirement from service, your activities in the cause of public welfare will keep you occupied and you are not going to settle down to what is conventionally called enjoyment of your well-deserved leisure. I have no doubt you will occupy your time in continuing the activities which have taken up a great deal of your time during the last six or seven years, and may I express the hope that we will not be altogether forgotten. I assure you, Sir, that the House will count upon you as not only one of its ex-Presidents but as one of its friends, and when and where the occasion may arise we have faith and trust in you that you will say the right word and do the right thing in the interests of this House as well as of the country which this House represents. (Applause.)

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, as one who has enjoyed your friendship for a number of years I desire on my own behalf and on behalf of the Progressive Party to associate myself in bidding you farewell. I, and the members of our Party, wish you peace in your retirement and we venture, Sir, to hope that when occasion arises you will endeavour to help the cause of India, the country which you have served for over 35 years.

THE HONOURABLE SAYIED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras: Muhammadan): Sir, as one who has had the privilege of being in this House all through the time that you have been its President, I stand here to give expression both on my behalf and on behalf of my Party to our grateful appreciation of the excellent manner in which you have discharged the onerous duties of President of this Honourable House.

Sir, great is indeed the sense of loss which we feel on this occasion when we are parting from you who have done so much to lay such strong foundations for the proper procedure to be followed in this House.

Sir, as rightly remarked by the Honourable the Leader of this House, the high level which debates in this House invariably maintained was in no small measure due to the admirable manner in which you conducted the proceedings, which was mainly due to the judicial mind you brought to bear on your work which resulted in the avoiding of much irrelevant matter.

Sir, in the discharge of the delicate and difficult duties attaching to your high office here you displayed great firmness and ability, intimate knowledge and perfect mastery of the rules which govern the procedure in this House.

[Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.]

Sir, there never was any occasion when a point of order was raised in this House and a ruling sought from the Chair when, with your characteristic readiness, you did not succeed in giving a prompt decision which invariably used to be perfectly reasonable and fair.

Sir, during all the years that you have presided over the deliberations in this House you have above all succeeded in maintaining an attitude of perfect impartiality and fairness to all sections of the House.

Sir, this is a very important occasion, an occasion which marks an epoch in the history of this Council. Hitherto the control of this House was in the hands of official Presidents. It is now being transferred to non-official hands. Therefore, Sir, this is a very important occasion, an occasion which, while it closes a glorious chapter replete with great services rendered by the official Presidents here, also opens up a new chapter which promises to be equally glorious and which bids fair to yield to none in its glory and its splendour and which will recount the great services that will be rendered to the country by its non-official Presidents in their endeavour to build up traditions which will deserve to be cherished and kept up in the reformed Legislatures under the new constitution.

Sir, in handing over the control of this House to your successor in office you may rest assured that you are giving to him something which carries behind it a noble history, a history in the making of which you have played a very conspicuous part.

Sir, we are afflicted with a sincere feeling of regret at parting with you and I feel, Sir, that I am echoing the feelings of every one of the Honourable Members present here when I say that when you go away from here you will carry our best wishes for your future.

Sir, I wish you a long life, every prosperity and happiness.

THE HONOURABLE MR. E. C. BENTHALL (Bengal Chamber of Commerce): Sir, I wish to associate myself with every word that has fallen from the Honourable the Leader of the House and my absent colleagues would, I know, wish to join in that also. Sir Maneckji Dadabhoj specially asked me before he went away on Saturday to associate his name with any words which were spoken in this respect, and I have no doubt that the other gentlemen on these Benches feel the same. We wish to thank you, Sir, for your loyal and very full services to the State and to wish you every happiness in the future.

THE HONOURABLE MAJOR NAWAB SIR MAHOMED AKBAR KHAN (North-West Frontier Province: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, being one of the oldest Muhammadan Members of this Honourable House since 1921 I feel it my duty to join this House in its expression of gratitude for your services, which you have rendered to this country during your long term of office extending over a period of 8 years as President of this Chamber. Prior to your coming to this high office on the 12th December, 1924, I had the privilege of seeing your goodself working as the Secretary of the Legislative Department since the inauguration of the reforms in this country. The services that you, Sir, have put in during your office of President of this House are, I may say without any fear of contradiction, well worthy of pride to the Government as well as to each and every Member of this House. The value and importance of these services is further augmented by the fact that neither of your predecessors

in this high office had the opportunity to remain in it for so long a period as your goodself. All through your tenure of office you have been very obliging and courteous to every one of us and I think that I will be voicing the feeling of the House in saying that your knowledge of Parliamentary ways in conducting the business in this House has been quite a matter of satisfaction and appreciation to every one of us. Besides this, we have also had the privilege of enjoying your kind hospitality each and every year of your office as President, although by a mere chance such occasion usually coincided with, or happened to come during, the fasting month of Ramzan. Even on such occasions we have always been pleased to see that your goodself had been very obliging and considerate to us in extending your hospitality to the orthodox Mussalmans to a considerably late hour in the evening and in providing us with separate covers to suit our convenience. Such a careful regard towards the feelings of others in your private capacity have been very pleasing to each and every one of us, and on every such occasion we have always left your house with nothing but praise and gratitude for your kind and careful behaviour with us. The separation of such an individual as your goodself will undoubtedly be a matter of remorse to every one of us who came in contact with you and the regret which we are feeling now will be further increased when we will not find you in our midst as President. Although not amongst us, I beg to assure you, Sir, that wherever you are we will always remember you as a worthy President of this House and a kind and affectionate friend of every one of its Members.

THE HONOURABLE RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH (Punjab: Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I rise to associate myself with what my Honourable friend the Leader of the House has said about your work as President of this Council. I would also like to thank you for the courtesy and consideration which you have always shown during the time you have held this high office. Your knowledge, Sir, of the procedure has been of very great value to this Council and I can assure you we are all very sorry that the time has come for you to relinquish this office. In bidding you farewell, we wish you the best of luck for the future.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT: I think I had better intervene at this stage before the Council indulges in further irrelevancy! I need not assure Honourable Members that I am deeply touched by the kind things, the embarrassingly kind things, that have been said from both sides of the House, and I know there will be no necessity to assure them either that if my remarks are very brief it does not indicate that I do not deeply appreciate what has been said. As the Honourable Sir Fazl-i-Husain has mentioned, I am now within a day or two of completing eight years in my present office. In fact I think I am right in saying that two days hence I shall have completed eight years exactly to the day. They have been eight very happy years, partly because I have enjoyed my work and partly because I have made such a large number of very good friends among the Members of the Council. I need hardly say that it is a sad occasion for me that those eight years are coming to an end. I am not going to talk about losing my friends. I know that the opportunities for seeing them will in some cases be very rare—they will be few and far between—but I shall always hope that I shall be seeing some of my friends of the Council of State at some time in the future. No

[The President.]

One would assert, I think, that the office of a President of a Legislative Body in India is a bed of roses, but I can claim that mine has been. I have had no difficulties at all to contend with here. As I said, I have liked the work, but what has made it so easy for me throughout has been the friendship of Honourable Members of this Council, their courtesy and their co-operation throughout. It may not be, as I say, in all cases that Presidents will find the office an easy one, but I would ask Honourable Members to make the work as easy for my successor as they have made it for me by extending to him the co-operation and the courtesy which they have extended to me. Before I adjourn the Council, I would ask Honourable Members to do me the honour of coming to the Chair and giving me the privilege of shaking them by the hand and saying good-bye for the last time.

(Honourable Members then shook hands with the Honourable the President.)

I wish the Council good-bye collectively and I now adjourn it *sine die*.

The Council then adjourned *sine die*.

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— by the Honourable the President that on previous occasions Bills have been laid on the table on the same day in which they have been passed by the other House, that the practice was adopted solely for the convenience of Members, and that the Chair is prepared to rely on the practice which has hitherto been adopted in applying rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules and to hold that the Bengal Suppression of Terrorist Outrages (Supplementary) Bill was legally laid before the House. 432.

— by the Honourable the President that Question time is an opportunity for Members to ask questions and seek information and not to place papers on the table. 125.

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— by the Honourable the President that the question of placing a letter before the House and reading it was a matter for the Chair, and not Government, to decide. 126.

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