

Saturday, 15th February, 1936

THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1936

(15th February to 25th April, 1936)

ELEVENTH SESSION
OF THE
THIRD COUNCIL OF STATE, 1936



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Council of State

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THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR.
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THE HONOURABLE MR. SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK, } *Members*.
C. I. E.
THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA JAGDISH PRASAD. }

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THE
COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE THIRD
COUNCIL OF STATE.)

VOLUME I—1936.

COUNCIL OF STATE.

Saturday, 15th February, 1936.

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House in New Delhi at Eleven of the Clock, being the first day of the Eleventh Session of the Third Council of State, pursuant to section 63D (2) of the Government of India Act. The Honourable the President (the Honourable Sir Maneckji Dadabhoy, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Kt., Bar-at-Law) was in the Chair.

MEMBERS SWORN :

- His Excellency General Sir Robert Archibald Cassels, G.C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O. (Commander-in-Chief).
- The Honourable Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad, Kt., C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E. (Education, Health and Lands Member).
- The Honourable Mr. William Thomson McIntyre (Burma Chamber of Commerce).
- The Honourable Mr. Maurice Garnier Hallett, C.S.I., C.I.E. (Home Secretary).
- The Honourable Sir Guthrie Russell, Kt. (Chief Commissioner of Railways).
- The Honourable Mr. Arthur deCoetlogan Williams (Government of India : Nominated Official).
- The Honourable Mr. Abraham Jeremy Raisman, C.I.E. (Government of India : Nominated Official).
- The Honourable Saiyid Ishrat Husain (United Provinces : Nominated Non-Official).
- The Honourable Mr. Andrew Gourlay Clow, C.S.I., C.I.E. (Industries and Labour Secretary).

MOTION *RE* EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET ON THE DEATH OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE V, AND CONGRATULATIONS TO HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII, UPON HIS ACCESSION.

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD (Leader of the House) : Sir, I have the honour to move :

" That this Council do place upon record an expression of its deep sorrow on the death of His late Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, and of its heartfelt sympathy with His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary in their grievous loss and do convey to His Majesty loyal congratulations upon his accession and an assurance of devotion to His Royal Person ".

Sir, such is the uncertainty of life that today we mourn the illustrious Monarch when a few months back we were celebrating with such genuine manifestations of rejoicing and loyalty the 25th anniversary of his accession to the Throne. The death of His late Majesty has evoked feelings of universal sorrow, genuine and deep. Countless millions of men and women, not only in the British Empire but throughout the world, have felt the keenness of a personal loss. His late Majesty had enthroned himself in the hearts of the people by the nobility of his life, public and private, by his ceaseless endeavour to improve the welfare of mankind, by his unremitting devotion to duty and by his wide human sympathies. Of him, Sir, I think it could be truly said that he was not only the head but the first servant of his country. His last thoughts were of his Empire which he had done so much to bring together in a common feeling of affection and loyalty to his person. During his reign of over a quarter of a century the world went through one of the most momentous and tragic periods of its history. Nothing could be a greater tribute to his pre-eminence of a wise constitutional monarch than the fact that at the end of it the English Throne and English democracy were more firmly established than ever before. He has gone but his example remains to hearten and guide those whose heavy task it is to maintain and strengthen the bonds of peace, to eliminate the causes of war and strife and to secure to the weaker peoples and nations the opportunities of peaceful and free development.

Sir, I ask the Council to join in the condolences which we offer to our new Sovereign, the expression of our deepest sympathy with Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary and to assure her that in this hour of irremediable affliction our hearts go out to her in deepest affection. To these our feelings of genuine sorrow, I ask the House to add its congratulations to His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, on his accession to the Throne of his ancestors and to assure him of our loyal support and affection. His Majesty enters upon his reign at a critical time in the affairs of the world, but he brings to his kingly task eminent virtues, a close acquaintance with the peoples and problems of his vast Empire, a personality free from affectation, a long apprenticeship in dealing with men and a courage and energy which are already well known to all the world. His Indian subjects feel sure that His Majesty will be a worthy successor to the illustrious King whom we mourn today.

THE HONOURABLE SIR PHIROZE SETHNA (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to support the Motion of condolence placed before the House by the Honourable the Leader. It is nearly four weeks since His late Majesty passed away and yet we feel as if that sad event happened but yesterday and the universal expression of sorrow at the

death of King George V is unprecedented in the annals of modern times. His Majesty's death has spontaneously and deeply struck the hearts of all men irrespective of country, race, nationality, religion, class and political relationship. The people of India irrespective of political creeds have all joined together in paying their tribute and in mourning the death of a Sovereign so highly esteemed not only by millions of his own subjects but by the world at large. There is all that affection and regard for his memory because His Majesty King George V during his reign of 26 years endeared himself to all by everything that he did to promote the best interests of his Empire and of his people. He is rightly described as a manly king and a kingly man. We know what the verdict of history will be on his beneficent reign. The more history discusses him the more brilliant will become the lustre of his deeds. His record is like a torch ; the more it is shaken the brighter will it burn and his memory will remain with us like the odour of a fragrant flower bed. His late Majesty was the greatest servant of the people. He was not of Parliament but above and beyond all Parliaments. He was not a law-maker but a personality and an influence not asserting his own will but an inspiration to all men of goodwill, his social and moral force gathering into one centre and person, the loyalty, the constructive citizenship and the aspirations of a whole great Empire.

Throughout his reign he studied how to be the non-partisan arbiter in difficulties of State. With the passage of centuries the previous prerogatives of the Crown, its direct power has gradually and steadily diminished and instead our sovereigns now rule as great constitutional monarchs scrupulously maintaining the noble traditions of the British Crown. It is a commonplace that the British Sovereign reigns but does not rule but it is perfectly true that when occasion arises he is capable of rendering infinite good to the State and there are many such incidents to the credit of King George. His influence on the course of national, inter-imperial and international events had always been just and wholesome and that influence he had exercised by his patriotism, by the nobility of his mind and by his broad human sympathies. In a great treatise on Hindu polity, the *Arthashastra*, its eminent author sums up the essential traits necessary in a noble king in these words :

"In the happiness of his subjects lies his own happiness, in their welfare his welfare, whatever pleases himself he *shall not* consider as good, but whatever pleases his subjects he *shall* consider as good".

King George evidently adopted these very precepts as his own and it is that which made him so popular and so greatly beloved.

We in this country owe our present prosperity in a large measure to our association with the British and the 26 years of the reign of the last King Emperor mark a period of notable advance in the history of India and we cannot but recall with gratitude his constant interest in our welfare of which he has given many proofs. In fact if his freedom of action had not been fettered by his constitutional limitations and if he could have had a freer hand in dealing with the Indian problem much might have happened that would have conduced to yet better relations between India and England. On King George's return to Europe after his first tour to India in 1905 as Prince of Wales he publicly declared that the desideratum of the Indian system of government was wider sympathy

[Sir Phiroze Sethna.]

with the Indian people. Six years later after his second visit to India as King Emperor he sent a message to the princes and people of India promising that the prosperity and happiness of India would be his constant care and concern. Again in the Proclamation he issued in 1919 at the time of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms he expressed sentiments which are always treasured in our memory. After saying that Great Britain had benefitted India in many ways, he observed :

" There is one gift which yet remains and without which the progress of a country cannot be consummated—the right of her people to direct her affairs and safeguard her interests ". And he added, " I have watched with understanding and sympathy the growing desire of my Indian people for representative institutions. It has been stirred with more vigorous life by the ideals for which the British Commonwealth fought in the Great War and it claims support in the part which India has taken in our common struggles, anxieties and victories. In truth, the desire after political responsibility has its source at the root of the British connection with India. Without it, the work of the British in India would have been incomplete ".

Two years later, in 1921, on the occasion of the visit to this country of our present King Emperor his illustrious father sent with him a message to say :

" Your anxieties and your rejoicings are my own. In all that may touch your happiness, in all that gives you hope and promotes your welfare, I feel with you in the spirit of sympathy. My son has followed from afar your fortunes. It is now his ambition by his coming among you to ripen goodwill into a yet fuller understanding ".

And similarly at the opening of the first Round Table Conference and on other historic occasions sympathy was the keynote of all His late Majesty's speeches in regard to India and that is why the whole country mourns his loss and offers its heartfelt condolences to Queen Mary and the Royal Family which we also are doing by this Motion. The Honourable Leader has referred to the present King Emperor. We pray to the Almighty that his son King Edward VIII will tread in the footsteps of his illustrious father. We may recall our new Sovereign's pregnant words in reply to the first address he received in India at Bombay when he said :

" I want to appreciate at first all that India is and had done and can do. I want to grasp your difficulties and to understand your aspirations. I want you to know me and I want to know you. Coming from the West to the East as a young man and a stranger to this ancient and vast country I feel some awe at the difficulty which I may experience in getting to know India, but I am fortified by the thought that sympathy begets knowledge, and my sympathy with India has been aroused since my childhood ".

These sentiments convey a happy augury for the future and we rejoice that His Majesty has decided to visit India again in October next year. We hope that visit will result in a yet better understanding and the ties between England and India will be still further cemented to the greater advantage of both countries.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I whole-heartedly associate myself with the remarks that have fallen from the Honourable Leader of the House and from my Honourable friend Sir Phiroze Sethna. The death of His late Majesty King George V has been a loss as much to India as to any other part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. Indeed to India the loss has been greater than perhaps to any other part of the Empire. Every other Dominion has already enjoyed full freedom and it was only in the case of India that the problem of *Swaraj* was throughout the reign of the

late King Emperor one of anxious concern. The Royal Proclamations issued from time to time have granted to India a position in the Empire which is most valuable. Indeed the Royal word has throughout the history of the 25 years' reign of the late King Emperor been far more soothing than the words of some of the British statesmen who were in charge of British Governments.

I may recall that the words used by His Majesty in the Royal Proclamation inaugurating the new constitution when His late Majesty promised to India fulness of freedom within the Commonwealth. Then again His late Majesty used the term *Swaraj* in the message sent through His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and those of us who were fortunate to be present on that occasion can never forget the touching scene enacted by the message and the thrill of grateful appreciation it sent through the country. Indeed if only we could collect the messages issued by His late Majesty from time to time to his people in India and to the officers of his Government we could find in them a solution of most of the ills that infect the country today and a soothing balm to the bitterness that unfortunately prevails today between the various communities and between the Government and some of its people. No wonder, Sir, India has mourned universally the loss of such a great Ruler of men and we all join in prayer for the soul of our late Sovereign. It is also my privilege to extend to His Majesty the King Emperor, Edward VIII, our loyal greetings and homage and to assure His Majesty of our devotion and affection to his person. I have no doubt that His Majesty the new King Emperor will do his best nobly to see that India attains her rightful place in the Commonwealth.

With these words, Sir, I heartily support the Motion.

THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to join in the tributes which have been paid by the previous Honourable speakers to the revered memory of His late Majesty King George V. Sir, the death of His late Majesty has inflicted a loss not only upon India and the British Empire but also on the whole world which in his unhappy death has lost not only a very great and good ruler but also a very great and powerful personality who strove incessantly for the peace and progress of the whole of mankind.

Sir, there are special reasons for India to cherish His late Majesty's grateful memory. It was during the reign of His late Majesty that the reformed Legislatures were inaugurated in the country, ushering in a new era of advance and progress. It was again during his reign that the new Government of India Act was passed in Parliament last year which, despite its limitations and shortcomings, bids fair to give a fairly large measure of responsibility and power to Indians.

Sir, as has been rightly observed by His Excellency the Viceroy in his broadcast, His late Majesty always closely studied all matters connected with the development and progress of India and always had a deep concern for the well-being of all classes of the millions of his subjects in India. Sir, in the various commissions and committees which during recent years investigated the question of reforms in India, in the several sessions of the Round Table Conferences that were held in London to inquire into this question, in the deliberations of the Joint Parliamentary

[Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur.]

Committee, in the discussions and deliberations that took place in Parliament and in the British Cabinet in regard to this momentous question, in all these His late Majesty always took a deep and keen interest. Sir, in all the work which has been done in recent years to give a new constitution to India, which has been embodied in the Act of 1935, His late Majesty's hand was at work, endeavouring ceaselessly to meet as far as possible the wishes and ambitions of the people of this country. Sir, it was the sincere and active solicitude which His Majesty evinced in the well-being of his subjects in every part of the globe that had given him a firm hold on the affections of his people everywhere and had enthroned him in their hearts. It was due to this universal esteem and affection in which His Majesty was held by all his subjects all the world over and the implicit confidence and loyalty which His Majesty commanded from all his subjects in every part of the globe—it was due to this that the English Throne came out perfectly unscathed through all the revolutions and political upheavals which raged all over Europe during and after the Great War and shook empires and pulled down principalities and powers. Sir, the reign of His late Majesty will go down to posterity as one of the greatest epochs in the history of the British Empire, in having so successfully and gloriously emerged out of the storm that raged all the world over.

Sir, as has been stated by the Honourable the Leader of the House, His Majesty was thinking of the Empire even on his death-bed. Almost his last words were: "How is the Empire?" Sir, it is needless for me to say anything more about this in view of all that has been said in this House and outside.

Sir, I join with my Honourable colleagues in offering our sincerest and heartfelt sympathy to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary, His Majesty King Edward, Emperor of India, and other members of the Royal Family.

Sir, I also associate myself with my Honourable colleagues in offering our sincerest congratulations to His Majesty, the present King Emperor, and assuring him of our loyalty and devotion to his Person and Throne. Sir, His Majesty has already given proof of the deep interest he takes in this country by the visit which he paid to this country. Sir, in view of the assurances which the present King Emperor has already given and in view also of the sentiments which he expressed when he visited India and to which reference has been made by my Honourable friend, Sir Phiroze Sethna,—Sir, in view of all this, and in view also of the noble traditions which have been handed down to him by his illustrious predecessors, we feel every assurance, Sir, that the present King Emperor will extend to this country the same sympathy and support which have been extended to it by his illustrious father and other forbears.

THE HONOURABLE MR. R. H. PARKER (Bombay Chamber of Commerce): Sir, had it been my lot to have the honour of speaking on this Motion on that Tuesday morning a few weeks ago when we first learned of the death of His Majesty the late King Emperor, I feel that I could have spoken only of the sorrow then felt by millions at the loss of a great King and a great friend, and of our sympathy with His Majesty King Edward, Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary and all the members of the Royal Family in their grievous loss. Even the short time which

DEATH OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE V AND CONGRATULATIONS 7
TO HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII.

has elapsed since then makes me feel that we should think also of the gratitude we owe for a long and noble life lived in the service of the people.

As at the time of His late Majesty's Silver Jubilee last year, the thought that is uppermost in my mind is that had every ruler done his duty as successfully the world would have been an immeasurably happier and better one than it is today! Had every living being in the last seventy years been actuated by equally high motives I am convinced that the state of the world would have been so greatly better that it is impossible for us to conceive the difference.

We can do no greater service to the memory of His late Majesty, to his successor, and to the world, than to realise the wonderful example which he set and follow it, confident, as we are that His Majesty King Edward will do so, aided in every possible way by Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary.

The HONOURABLE RAJA CHARANJIT SINGH (Punjab : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I join with the Honourable the Leader of the House in offering my respectful sympathy to His Majesty the King Emperor, and Her Majesty the Queen Mother, on the death of His late Majesty King George V, Emperor of India. The enthusiasm which marked the Silver Jubilee last year, and the profound sorrow with which the sad news of his death was received, bear witness to the affection with which our late Sovereign was loved not only by his people throughout the Empire but all over the world. The message of hope which His late Majesty gave in his weighty and impressive summary of the Imperial problems thirty years ago is still fresh in our memories. In fact his reign can be summed up in the famous speech which he delivered in 1911. This is what he said :

" The welfare of my people will ever be the first object in my thoughts, and I trust that by God's blessings my reign may be marked by peace and prosperity throughout the Empire ".

There could be no higher ideal for kingship, and we all know that His late Majesty throughout his reign lived up to it not only in letter but in spirit as well.

I also join in offering respectful congratulations and unswerving loyalty to His Majesty the King Emperor our new Sovereign on his accession. The Sovereign is the embodiment and the only embodiment of imperial unity. His visits therefore to India, and the other parts of the Empire added that personal touch, which is everywhere remembered with affection and gratitude and which can never vanish or grow dim. His Majesty brings to the great task those kingly qualities which we most desire to see in our Monarch, and we have no doubt he will use them to the utmost and to the full. We pray that he may live long to reign over his people.

I beg, Sir, to second.

THE HONOURABLE MR. G. S. KHAPARDE (Berar Representative) : Sir, in India, divinity and sovereignty have not been so distinguished as they have been elsewhere. The limits of the two have always met, not only during the Hindu and Vedic times but also during modern times and even to this day. The words " Dev " and " Raj " mean one and the same thing. " Dev " means one who shines and " Raj " means one who is beautiful and that is the sovereign, and between them they

[Mr. G. S. Khaparde.]

cover the whole field of divinity and sovereignty. This has been so from time immemorial. When I began to study English for the first time, I began to study the Howard Series and the first lesson in it was the Proclamation of Queen Victoria on taking over the government of India. So, my knowledge of all things—logic, philosophy, science, etc.—is mixed up with loyalty and religion. The English doctrine is : “ The King is dead, long live the King ! ” What this means is that the king is immortal. Just as in India we worship images. We purchase an image and worship it for some days ; if this image breaks, we put another in its place and worship it. It means that God is there in both the images. So also is the case with the British Government. “ The King is dead, long live the King ” means the king never dies at all. One body may be dead, but the king in it has got into another body. Our whole Hindu philosophy also is based on that. It means continuity of knowledge, continuity of experience and continuity of good fortune. The Hanover line, which is now the Windsor line, has been most fortunate. They have always prospered, always increased their kingdom and their influence, and above all secured the loyalty of all their subjects taken together. Personally, I have not come in contact much with royalty, but I have done so only indirectly and that in an amusing way, which may be told on this solemn occasion. It was when the Duke of Connaught was the Commander-in-Chief here. He was going to Nagpur and he had to halt at a place where I happened to be a magistrate at the time. The funny part of the thing is that we had nobody else there except the daughter of a gentleman there, and I induced her to offer a cup of tea to His Royal Highness. She brought that cup, but on seeing him, she dropped it and ran away. We laughed over it. The Duke of Connaught remembered this incident all the time. Even after he came to India and I came to the Council, he remembered it. One of the secrets of royalty appears to be that they do not forget anything at all. They remembered my name and everything else connected with that incident. From the day Queen Victoria assumed the government of India and we came under British administration, what has happened is that the goodness of one has gone into the goodness of another, and the goodness of this other has gone into the goodness of a third, and the goodness of the third into the goodness of a fourth, and this is the fifth generation that I see myself. As this goodness proceeds, loyalty increases and everything goes on increasing and I hope that as long as the sun shines this continuous progress of loyalty, of confidence, of friendship and of love will increase. I will conclude by saying, “ Long live the King ! ”

THE HONOURABLE SARDAR SHRI JAGANNATH MAHARAJ PANDIT (Bombay : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, it is with profound grief and sympathy that I record today the very sad demise of His Imperial Majesty King George V, a great Sovereign who guided our destinies with wisdom and courage for so many years.

Little did we know then that soon after the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of His late Most Gracious Majesty, we would have the misfortune to mourn the great irreparable loss of our most beloved King Emperor, who lived and died in the service of his people.

His Majesty's deep love for his dear subjects in all dominions in the Empire, earnest and sincere desire for Indian constitutional progress and his administrative talent will never be forgotten.

I had the good fortune of seeing His Majesty in 1924 in London at the time of the Empire Exhibition. I still remember the personality which commanded respect from all.

With these words, I tender my deep and heartfelt sympathies in this great bereavement and tender my most loyal and respectful homage to His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India.

THE HONOURABLE RAJA RAGHUNANDAN PRASAD SINGH (Bihar and Orissa : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to associate myself wholly with the sentiments expressed by the Honourable mover of the Motion which I most heartily support. The sense of grief and loss caused by the sudden removal by the cruel hand of death of His late Majesty is so deep and universal that everybody in the great Empire feels tongue-tied and unable to give adequate expression to the great qualities of head and heart which characterised him. He not only filled the rôle of a constitutional monarch most successfully and worthily but by the magic influence of his unique personality was able to achieve feats in the domain of international politics which are truly wonderful. The 25 years of his reign were marked by unstinted all round progress of science, *e.g.*, development of the wireless, long-distance telephone, conquest of the air, improvement in machinery, etc. We had the greatest war known in history as also a prolonged economic depression. All these have been factors which did not fail to produce far-reaching results all round the world. It stands to the eternal credit of His late Majesty that amidst such adverse circumstances he was able not only to preserve intact but add fresh lustre and strength to the Crown of England by dint of his outstanding personality and character. His personal qualities, his genuine love for his subjects throughout the Empire, his active sympathy with their wants, aspirations, ambitions and sufferings, his detachment from all party politics and his never-ceasing efforts to help to fulfil those ambitions and to mitigate those sufferings will remain indelibly imprinted on the tablets of countless hearts throughout the length and breadth of the great Empire. He evinced on every occasion a deep attachment to our country. He was the first Sovereign in the annals of the British connection to pay a visit to our land and the spontaneous outburst of loyalty and love that it evoked all over India was a sight for the gods. Everybody remembers the message of hope and encouragement that he was pleased to send to us through His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught on the occasion of the inauguration of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms—a message which promised *Swaraj* to India in fulness of time. He kept himself fully informed of the proceedings of Commissions on Indian affairs, round table conferences, deliberations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee and subsequent debates in the Houses of Parliament and the memorable words spoken by him when opening the first Round Table Conference can never be forgotten :

“ The material conditions ”, said His late Majesty, “ which surround the lives of my subjects in India affect me nearly and will be ever present in your thoughts during your forthcoming deliberations. I have also in mind the just claims of majorities and minorities, of men and women, of town-dwellers and tillers of the soil, of landlords and tenants, of the strong and the weak, of the rich and the poor, of the races, castes and creeds of which the body politic is composed. For these things I care deeply. I cannot doubt that the true foundation of self-government is the fusion of such divergent claims into mutual obligations and in their recognition and fulfilment. It is my hope that the future government of India based on this foundation will give expression to her honourable aspirations ”.

[Raja Raghunandan Prasad Singh.]

Memorable words these which, every one of us feels confident, will be translated into action by his worthy successor, our present King Emperor whose interest in India and solicitude for her welfare and prosperity are already matters of common knowledge. It is but meet that the Motion before the House should offer sincere condolences to the Royal Family and at the same time tender loyal congratulations to our reigning Monarch, King Edward VIII, Emperor of India. May His Gracious Majesty live long and happily to rule his matchless Empire and rule it even more gloriously than did his late illustrious father of sacred memory.

With these few words, Sir, I beg to support the Motion just moved.

THE HONOURABLE KHAN BAHADUR NAWAB CHAUDRI MUHAMMAD DIN (East Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, India has lost a loving Emperor who had won the hearts of his people of all classes and creeds and who was universally loved by the princes, peasants, the rich, the poor and the weak. We mourn the great loss to the Empire and pray to God that his illustrious son may be given a long and healthy life to make a reality of the comity of nations for which his noble father had striven all his life.

THE HONOURABLE MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH OF DABHANGA (Bihar and Orissa : Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, I associate myself with every word of what has been said by the Honourable the Leader of the House in support of his Motion. The glowing tributes that have been paid to the sacred memory of our late Sovereign in every corner of this country—nay in every part of the British Empire—clearly demonstrate how deeply his people—irrespective of caste, creed and race—loved and respected him. It is needless for me to tell this House, Sir, how His late Imperial Majesty King George V by reason of his devotion to kingly duties and charm of his unique personality made every one feel that he was to his subjects, scattered round his vast domain, what a father was to his family. He has merged his thoughts into those of his people and that was the secret of the success of his reign. He guided the destinies of his Empire at one of the most critical periods of the history of the world, and enhanced the glory of the Crown amidst strife and turmoil. In war or peace he played a conspicuous part in the national life of his subjects.

His visits to India as Prince of Wales and as King Emperor left an indelible impression on the Indian mind and while affording him a first-hand knowledge of the country and its people, established that personal touch, which intensifies loyalty and deepens admiration. He, as we know, always sympathised with Indian aspirations. During his reign this country underwent great constitutional changes, and our claim for equal partnership in the Commonwealth of Nations under the British Crown has been recognised. His gracious message, delivered personally, while inaugurating the Indian Round Table Conference is still ringing in my ears and will ever remain a source of great encouragement and hope.

Sir, we mourn the loss of such a benign Sovereign, along with so many of our fellow-subjects in other parts of the Empire, and offer our heartfelt sympathy to the Royal Family in their dire bereavement. To His Majesty King Edward VIII, our new Emperor, we offer our loyal homage on his accession to the Throne. As Prince of Wales he has travelled all over the Empire and equipped himself fully for the discharge

of the duties which he has now been called upon to perform. He has as we all know resolved to follow the footsteps of his royal father. I pray to God that he may live long and have a prosperous reign. I have no doubt, Sir, that the House will unanimously accept the Motion of the Honourable Leader of the House.

THE HONOURABLE MR. MAHMOOD SUHRAWARDY (West Bengal : Muhammadan) : Sir, I desire to associate myself with the sentiments expressed on the floor of this House by those who have preceded me in support of the Motion moved by the Honourable the Leader of the House. Sir, the whole Empire mourns the death of our beloved Sovereign and into this universal grief politics and political differences cannot find a place. Sir, the deep sympathy of our hearts go out to the loneliness which Her Majesty the Queen Mother must now be suffering. Our heartfelt sympathy also goes to His Majesty the King Emperor, who ascends the Throne at so critical a time in the history of India and of the world. Sir, I beg to offer our respectful congratulations to His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, on his accession to the Throne with an assurance of our loyalty and devotion and feel confident that His Majesty will carry to a still higher level of statesmanship the high traditions of his illustrious House, and we hope and pray that he may live long and during his beneficent rule India may grow in prosperity and power from day to day.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : The Honourable Leader of the House and Honourable Members, it is with profound sorrow I desire to associate myself with all that has fallen from the Honourable Leader of the House and from many of you Honourable Members. As you have all referred to the great qualities of our late Monarch, it is scarcely necessary for me to speak at any considerable length. However it is almost impossible to adequately express one's feelings on a mournful occasion like this. The genuine character of the grief expressed all over India and the spontaneous tribute paid to His late Majesty clearly demonstrates the love and affection in which the people of India regarded him. It was not only the love and affection of the people of India, but His late Majesty was ever ready to reciprocate those feelings and during his reign of 25 years on more than a dozen occasions he expressed his great solicitude for the welfare, progress and the prosperity of the Indian people. It was by the sheer force of his character and personality that he succeeded in obtaining an enduring place in the hearts of his Indian subjects. He did not represent any class, sect, creed or party, and devoted his extensive and powerful influence not only for the maintenance of peace and concord in Europe but he did his utmost for peace in this country and for the advancement of the people of this country.

The Honourable Sir Phiroze Sethna has very appropriately referred to some of his speeches. I shall only draw your attention to two small passages which show his feeling and regard for the people of this country. You all remember that during the autumn session of 1930, which was memorable for the first session of the Round Table Conference, His Majesty very pertinently said in welcoming the representatives from India :

"Ten years is but a brief span in the life of any nation, but this decade has witnessed, not only in India but throughout all the nations forming the British Commonwealth a quickening and growth in ideals and aspirations of nationhood which defy the customary measurement of time".

[Mr. President.]

Again, speaking from his Palace at Sandringham when he sent his Christmas greetings to India in December, 1934, he very appropriately said this :

"Let my voice being the assurance of my constant care for them", that is, speaking of India, "and my desire that they too may ever more fully realise and value their own place in the unity of the family. If I may be regarded as in some true sense the head of the great and widespread family, this would be full reward for the long and sometimes anxious labours of my reign of well nigh 25 years".

It has been rightly remarked that throughout his reign His late Majesty was animated by feeling and sentiment, that he was the supreme head of the nations constituting the British Empire and that Providence has called upon him to share in the happiness of his subjects all over the Empire and to share also in their troubles, trials and anxieties. It is impossible to delineate at any length the character and virtues of a great King like King George V. He was a wise ruler ; he was a sympathetic ruler ; he was a constitutional ruler ; and above all he dearly loved his subjects. We mourn the passing of a great Monarch and his subjects in all parts of his wide Empire will ever remember him as a great man constantly steadfast in duty and to the highest ideals of kingship. The loss of such a King to India is especially great and as my Honourable friend Mr. Khaparde has pointed out, in India there is no distinction between divinity and kingship. The tradition of kingship is ever so strong even today in India as it was centuries ago.

I also join the Honourable Leader of the House in offering our respectful congratulations to His Majesty King Edward VIII on his accession to the Throne. He has succeeded to a great and mighty heritage, a responsible and onerous heritage. Well equipped during his life by first receiving a splendid education at the University of Oxford and then receiving military and naval experience and training and having visited the Empire, far and wide, and having come in contact with all his subjects all over the Empire, he is in a unique position to perform the great duties of kingship which has now fallen on him.

I will not detain you longer, but will only say that we extend the deepest sympathy of our hearts to Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary and all the members of the Royal Family, and with these words it will be my melancholy duty to put to you the Motion. But before I do so, I have to mention one fact. When the sad and tragic news of His Majesty King George V's death was broadcasted all over the world and when I first came to know of it and as I thought that considerable time would elapse before the holding of the session of the Council of State, I took the responsibility on myself as your President in anticipation of your approval to send His Majesty King Edward VIII the following telegram through the Viceroy of India :

"Pray convey to His Majesty the King Emperor Edward the Eighth Queen Mother and the members of the Royal Family the poignant grief and sorrow and respectful and heartfelt sympathy and condolence of the Members of the Council of State and my humble self and the sense of the irreparable loss which the Empire has sustained by the passing away of His late Majesty King George the Fifth.

MANECKJEE DADABHOY".

To this I received a reply through His Excellency the Viceroy :

"I am commanded to transmit the following message :

'I am most grateful for your kind message of condolence. Edward R. I.'

Ends.

VICEROY".

DEATH OF HIS LATE MAJESTY KING GEORGE V AND CONGRATULATIONS . 13
TO HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VIII.

I will now put to the Council this melancholy Motion.

Motion made :

"That this Council do place upon record an expression of its deep sorrow on the death of His late Majesty King George V, Emperor of India, and of its heartfelt sympathy with His Majesty King Edward VIII, Emperor of India, and Her Gracious Majesty Queen Mary in their grievous loss and do convey to His Majesty loyal congratulations upon his accession and an assurance of devotion to His Royal Person".

The Motion was adopted unanimously, Honourable Members standing.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Now, Honourable Members, as a mark of our respect to the revered memory of His late Majesty King George V, I have decided in consonance with your wishes to adjourn the House. The Council will now adjourn.

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 17th February, 1936.