

[Mr. W. S. J. Willson.]

certain from my own observation that a good deal of professional gentlemen's money is lost in that way.

**Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** Sir, I can quite sympathise with the Honourable Member from Bengal. He has put his finger upon a real difficulty in India, namely, that in India we have not got, as we have got in England, a very powerful financial press to watch and criticize the prospectuses of new companies, and that is precisely the reason why, departing from the English practice, we have taken up this question of amending the Companies Act. But I think that the Government of India will be extremely chary of attempting any sort of supervision of the newspapers in the matter of their examination of prospectuses issued by company promoters.

**Dr. H. S. Gour:** Sir, in view of the assurance given by the Honourable Member in charge, I wish to withdraw my motion.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

#### DEMAND No. 40—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta** (Bombay Northern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am sorry my friend Mr. Das is not here to move the reduction of which he has given notice, that is, "that the demand under sub-head 'British Empire Exhibition' be omitted." But, as the British Empire Exhibition is included in these Demands for Grants, I consider it my duty to oppose this, apart from the general principle. Why do I oppose this? Why do we need this British Empire Exhibition? India at least ought to have no interest at all in this Exhibition. (*A Voice:* "Why?") Because, what is India now? India is the maid of the Empire. India has a most humiliating position in the Empire and the least that India should do is to throw out any suggestion of association with this Empire Exhibition. The object of this is professedly in the interests of Indian trade and industry. But at bottom, this is a political propaganda on behalf of those who are our masters. I have read a pamphlet which was a sort of introduction to what was going to happen when the Exhibition was held. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, I suppose, is the President of the Exhibition Committee, and it was stated in that pamphlet that this Exhibition was held for the promotion of industries in the Empire. That was, of course, one of the objects. But the chief objects stated there was to show to the world that the British Empire which was one in war is one in peace. That was the object. Is the Empire one in peace? It was one in war. India was made to be one with the Empire in war. But to-day India is certainly not one with the Empire in peace, because India is not allowed to be. And therefore, Sir, it would be derogatory to the self-respect of any Indian Member of this Assembly, whether he is an

official, a non-official, elected or nominated, or by whatever name he goes, —for any Indian to associate himself with this grant. Sir, I can only call him an accomplice of his own national humiliation. Therefore, I consider it my duty to oppose it wholeheartedly.

**Mr. R. D. Bell** (Bombay: Nominated Official): Sir, I should like to say just a few words in qualification of what my Honourable friend has said about the objects of this Exhibition. He is quite correct in saying that the sole object of the Exhibition is not the promotion of this Empire in trade. But, when he said that the object of the Exhibition was to show that the Empire is one in peace as well as in war, he did not state that object quite correctly. It is true, Sir, that the Empire was one in war, and not only the Empire but a great many countries outside the Empire. And the reason of that unity was that we had a common cause and believed in the justice of that cause. Now, as a result of the war, there were, as the House knows, certain movements. In the political sphere there was a movement which resulted in the League of Nations. In the industrial sphere there was a movement which led to various conferences which had the object of improving and rendering more uniform the conditions of labour in various parts of the world. It is not uncommon to hear scoffers at the League of Nations and at other movements of a similar kind, but after all, whatever criticism may be made as to the practical value of such organisations, the ideals behind them are high. Now, Sir, it was such an ideal which led to the first steps which were taken so long ago as May 1919 to promote the British Empire Exhibition.

It was recognised by a number of people—you may call them idealists or by any other name you choose, but it was recognised by a number of people—that the example which the war had set should not be lost altogether and that some effort should be made for giving the Empire an opportunity to realise certain ideals which were common to all parts of it, so that, if any one is not acquainted with any other part of the Empire, this Exhibition provides him with an opportunity of finding out what he has in common with strangers and even antagonists, and when you find out what you have in common with others, you go a long way towards an amicable settlement of differences. In that sense, Sir, it is true that the British Empire Exhibition is the result of a political movement, but a political movement in the highest sense of that term, and that its object is not entirely the development of industry and trade. Looking at it in that way, it seems to me at the present time to be entirely in the interests of India to participate in the Exhibition. A very notable Indian, on his recent return from a world tour, said to his fellow-countrymen in Bombay, as the result of that tour, that it was time that Indians recognised that they were not the only nation in the world, and he added to these words that there was work to be done outside India as well as inside India; and I would add to these words a comment which was made quite recently in the London "Times" that for India at the present time there is probably more work to be done in London than in this country.

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes**: Sir, I understand that no motion for reduction has been moved and that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta was, so to speak, merely letting off steam. In the circumstances, the House will perhaps excuse me if I treat the matter somewhat briefly. The first consideration I should like to place before the House is that a democratic Assembly inevitably inherits from its predecessor certain obligations in the matter of

[Sir Charles Innes.]

policy. Now, in everything that we have done in regard to the British Empire Exhibition, we have had the Indian Legislative Assembly behind us. On the strength of the votes and the Resolutions passed by the last Legislative Assembly, we have entered into commitments and contracts, and it would not be in accordance with the honour of India if by withdrawing at this stage the money necessary for carrying out our obligations in regard to this Empire Exhibition, we were unable to honour our contracts. That is the first and most material ground which I have to place before the House. For the rest, I would only express my profound disagreement with everything that Mr. Jamnadas Mehta said, and my conviction is that in all that he has said he has taken a wrong-headed attitude and view. I believe that India would have done herself incalculable harm if she had stood out of this Exhibition. I believe, Sir, that, if India adopted in regard to a matter of this kind an attitude of non-co-operation, she would injure herself not only with the British people but with every other part of the Empire. After all, the complaint which is so often made by India is that she is misunderstood, that when her people go abroad they are thought to belong to a nation which is not fully civilised. Could there be any better opportunity of dissipating these foolish suspicions or these foolish views than by participating in an Exhibition of this kind and showing to all the world what India can do in the way of art and in the way of industry? Sir, as I have said, there is no motion for a reduction before the House. I wish that there was one, for I believe that the House would adopt my view and unhesitatingly reject that expressed by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:** I am sure my Honourable friend, Sir Charles Innes, will withdraw the word "wrong-headed" which he used in criticising the views of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta.

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I substitute the word "wrong" for that.

**Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya:** The question which has been raised by my Honourable friend, Mr. Mehta, is not so easy to dispose of, rather it would not be so easy to dispose of if we had a full House. The view that the Honourable Sir Charles Innes has put forward is a view entitled to consideration, but the other view is also entitled to consideration. Unfortunately, as the matter stands now, I do not think that any good will result from a discussion of the view which has been advanced by Mr. Mehta because there is no definite proposal before the House. But I wish to say in regard to what Sir Charles Innes has said regarding the opportunity now given to India to show what she possesses and what she stands for, that such opportunities have been abundant. Such an opportunity has not availed it in the previous exhibitions. Such an opportunity has not availed it in the fields where its gallant sons gave a proof of their valour. It has not availed India in the fields of civilisation, of spiritual knowledge, of the knowledge of arts, crafts and other industries of which India has given the world many exhibits. And it has not availed India in the Imperial Conference where the best talents of India have shown that they can measure their strength intellectually with the best Premiers of Europe. I do not think that India is going to get much benefit from this Exhibition, but, as I have said, the proposal is not in a definite form before the House and there is no use in discussing it. I only wish Sir

Charles Innes to know that there is another side to this question, and that there are many who feel that, if they had any power, they would abstain from sending anything of India to this Empire Exhibition in order to make known throughout the Empire the grievance which India has that even within the Empire His Majesty's fellow-subjects will not treat us as equals. They have refused to treat us as equals and I wish we could show to those who have done so, that we do not regard them as equals even for the purposes of an Empire Exhibition.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Does the Honourable Member think that the Bombay Council has been foolish in accepting a motion to that effect?

**The Honourable Sir Malcolm Hailey:** The Honourable Member has used a very apposite expression.

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** Then, Sir, I have been "foolish" in very good company.

**Mr. K. Venkataramana Reddi** (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I want to ask one question: I had read, Sir, in the "Daily News" that a member of the House of Commons drew the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that attempts were being made to secure Lama dances for the Exhibition at Wembley, and the Under Secretary of State answered that he was in communication with the Government of India in this matter. I want to know, Sir, how the matter stands.

**The Honourable Sir Charles Innes:** I will answer that question at once. We did get information to that effect. We wired at once to the Political Officer, Sikkim, to find out whether there was any objection. As far as I know, we are waiting an answer to that.

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** I understand that there is no definite motion of reduction on account of the British Empire Exhibition, but my Honourable friend opposite is suggesting the throwing out of the whole demand. I wish to point out to the House that this demand No. 40 . . . .

**Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta:** I am not going to a division.

**The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee:** I am glad to have that assurance. I was just going to point out to the House that this demand No. 40 includes not only the British Empire Exhibition on which there may be, I do not say there ought to be, a difference of opinion, but it also includes the Indian Stores Department to which I believe a very large number of Members of this House attached some importance. It also includes the Department of the Controller of Patents and Designs which has been completely Indianised and also the Department of Explosives which is very important, if my Honourable friends want to be saved from sudden death while travelling in railway trains and so forth.

**Mr. President:** The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,47,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1925, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments' . . . ."

The motion was adopted.