

mills in Yorkshire, and ascribed the cause to competition from Holland and Germany; but I do not gather that Mr. Hirst has himself been driven out of business. I understand that, as we would naturally expect from a man of his vigour and energy, he is proprietor of a prosperous and flourishing factory. We must look elsewhere than to the competition of Holland and Germany for the causes of the silence of the mills referred to by Mr. Hirst. I also am a woollen manufacturer, contending daily with the competition of Holland and other foreign countries, and I should like to convince Mr. Hirst that they can all be beaten without invoking the aid of preferential tariffs or protection, which is an instrument that would cut both ways.

I would further point out the danger of irritating foreign countries by imposing any form of tariff discriminating against them. For foreign countries are India's best customers. It is not England that takes India's cotton, but Japan and the Continent of Europe, and India's oil-seeds go to the Continent rather than to England. There are many other difficulties to which I might refer, but I must refrain, when I remember that authorities like Mr. Helm, with an unrivalled opportunity of knowing the true bearing of this complex question, are by the rules of this Congress limited to ten minutes for the explanation of their views.

Sir William Holland has been requested to explain the meaning of the words he proposes to introduce. The words seem to me quite free from ambiguity, and if they are left out, I should like to ask those who object to their introduction, the real meaning they wish to attach to the words left in—for they must surely have a hidden meaning—and I cannot conclude that "injury to any" part of the Empire is contemplated.

As between the Resolution and the Amendment, I have no difficulty in choosing. The amendment may possibly be a counsel of perfection, but if measures can be devised that shall avoid injury to India, I am sure my Chamber will be satisfied, and in the words of good old George Herbert—

'Who aimeth at the sky, shoots higher much than he that means a tree.' "

The compromise Resolution, ultimately adopted unanimously by the Congress on the suggestion of Lord Strathcona, reads as follows, the words which Sir W. H. Holland's amendment unsuccessfully sought to introduce being shown in brackets:—

"It is resolved that, in the opinion of this Congress, the bonds of the British Empire would be materially strengthened, and a union of the various parts of His Majesty's Dominions greatly consolidated by the adoption of a commercial policy based upon the principle of mutual benefit, whereby each component part of the Empire would receive a substantial advantage in trade as the result of its national relationship, due consideration being given to the fiscal and industrial needs of the component parts of the Empire (with the view of avoiding injury to any).

"That this Congress urges upon His Majesty's Government the appointment by them of a special commission composed of representatives of Great Britain and her Colonies and India to consider the possibility of thus increasing and strengthening the trade relations between the different parts of the Empire and the trading facilities within the Empire and with foreign countries."

In the course of this discussion Sir Edward Buck made a very interesting statement. He pointed out that any arrangement which would result in stimulating the export of food-grains from India would greatly benefit that country, since it would have the effect of creating what would practically be a reserve