

The Chairman said that, as he understood it, the present proposition was in an entirely different form from the original one, although he stood open to correction: that in the negatived resolution the scope of the enquiry was restricted to the consideration of the subject as presented in the reports given by the different Delegations, whereas the present resolution had a much broader meaning. Whether the House desired or not to widen the scope of such enquiry was for it to decide.

Mr. T'ang begged leave to explain that when the negatived resolution was proposed, both the Chairman of the Chinese Delegation and he himself were absent, consequently they had had no opportunity of expressing their views on the subject.

Continuing, he said :-

"We consider that this question is only second in importance to the suppression of opium in China. We think it would be futile for us to attempt to stop the smoking habit while we continue to use the drug in other ways such as eating it in the form of pills, etc. Therefore, if this Commission is going to justify its existence, and is bent accomplishing results which will be at all satisfactory, it is necessary in our opinion that this matter should be thoroughly discussed. To show with what importance the question is regarded by everyone, I beg to state that His Britannic Majesty's Minister in Peking has frequently asked our Government what benefit China would derive from restricting the cultivation of Opium were the Opium evil in other forms (by which he meant the use of Anti-Opium pills, etc.,) to be allowed to spread all over the Empire.

I therefore venture to beg this Honourable Commission to take the matter into careful consideration in order that it may not only fulfil its duty in part but in whole, for I do not think it is the intention of the Government of my country, or of any other country represented here, that we should discuss matters connected with the cultivation of Opium only.

On the contrary, I understand that we are here to tackle the question in every form and phase ; and this idea has also been expressed by the Anti-opium Societies and by the people of all civilised countries. In bringing forward my resolution therefore, I beg most earnestly to ask for the co-operation and support of this Commission."