

## INTERNATIONAL OPIUM COMMISSION .

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Minutes of the sixth session : 12th February, 1909.

The President took his seat at 10.30 a.m. Dr. Karl Bernauer presented a report on Opium and its use in Austria-Hungary, where the problem is not acute, and he was followed by Mr. M. D. Rizaoff, who read a brief Memorandum dealing with the Opium question as it concerns Persia, and declared his willingness to supply any further information in his power.

Speaking for the Russian delegation and himself, Signor Faraone proposed an amendment to No. 5 of the Rules of Procedure, viz.:

" That after the words 'due cause shown' the following clause  
" shall be added : ' and pending such presentation the work  
" of the Commission shall continue '."

This resolution was adopted by the House, after which the discussion of the report on China was declared to be in order.

Sir Alexander Hosie criticised the figures given by the Chinese delegates relative to the Cultivation of the Poppy and Production of Opium in various provinces, and the percentage of smokers to the population. After putting certain questions ( circulated separately ) to the Chinese delegates concerning these doubtful points, Sir Alexander Hosie made a statement expressive of the views and sentiments of his delegation with regard to the opium evil in China. His remarks are being printed in extenso and will be distributed later.

Mr. R. Laidlaw M. P., having withdrawn the question put by him at the previous sitting to the Chinese delegation, the Chair announced with regret the absence through indisposition of Mr. T'ang Kuo-an, and surmised that the Chinese delegates might in consequence require time to answer any questions put to them.

Continuing the discussion, the Rt. Hon. Sir C. Clementi Smith rose to comment on a statement made in the Chinese report as to the clandestine traffic in opium between Hongkong and China. He stated that the amount of smuggling that took place had for years been exaggerated, and he denied that it existed to such an extent as might be inferred from the report under discussion. The movement of Opium was very strictly controlled by the Hongkong Government, and illicit traffic on a large scale was impossible.