

China from treaty compulsion to allow the opium traffic to continue.

It is felt that the present moment is particularly opportune to again bring the matter to the attention of the British Government, in view of the fact that, with the close of the Russo-Japanese war, the whole political status of China will come up for discussion. As the voice of Canada is becoming increasingly powerful in the councils of the Empire, it is to be hoped that all true patriots will unite to bring pressure upon the British Parliament, to wash its hands clean of this monstrous evil. A special committee of the British House of Commons has been appointed to deal with the matter of the opium trade as it affects China and India, and there is every prospect that the former country will have some redress of her wrongs in this matter in the near future.

The present Prime Minister, the Secretary for India, Mr. Morley, and three hundred members of Parliament, says *The Christian World*, are known to favor a reversal of the policy which seventeen years ago was supported by the report of a Royal Commission. Leading British journalists, as well as publicists, are now in line with what has been the missionary opinion for decades, and it seems likely that before many years—possibly only months—have passed the attitude of a nominally Christian nation will be more in harmony with the ethics of Jesus. The contrast between the ideal and the actual is made more acute, of course, by the policy of Japan, the non-Christian nation, which as far back as 1838 faced the matter seriously and decided to protect her people from the curse. Australia, also, has prohibited the importation of opium, save for medicinal purposes, and the United States has gone about ridding

the Philippines of the traffic in a right summary and scientific way. The argument for retaining the traffic, doubtless, will be one of revenue, but, as *The Scottish Review* says, if the traffic is morally wrong it must be abolished and the deficit must be made good, not by India, but by the great and wealthy nation which paid twenty million pounds to free the slaves.

The following objections to the opium trade are formulated by Joseph G. Alexander, LL.B., Hon. Secretary of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade: First, it is a state monopoly misused. The cultivation of the poppy (which is carried on under Government license and stimulated by Government advances), the preparation of opium (which is carried on in Government factories), and the sale of opium, both wholesale and retail, are, in British India, a monopoly of the Government. Such a monopoly can only be justified by strict regulations, intended to prevent the improper use of a dangerous drug. But, as regards the opium sold for export to China and other countries, no such regulations exist. On the contrary, this opium is expressly prepared for sensual indulgence, not for medical use.

Second, the opium trade has produced, and is continually producing, amongst the Chinese people, widespread demoralization and ruin.

The Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, to whom it is largely due that the Central and Southern Provinces of China did not join in the recent Boxer movement, and who has thus helped to save a large number of Europeans from massacre, in his remarkable "*Appeal to China*," written shortly after the war with Japan, says of opium: "It is spreading devastation everywhere, wrecking the minds and eating away the strength