

believe, was gained as head of one of the numerous commissions which of late have spent a few weeks in India.

An ex-Viceroy of India distinguished by the weakness of his Government, by the chaos to which he brought the affairs of that country, and by the commission of an "Indiscretion" that enabled Mr. MacDonald to shelve the Simon report, to ignore Sir John Simon, and contemptuously to put on one side the Act of 1919 with all its boasted "safeguards," safeguards but for which that Act would in all probability never have been passed!

Another ex-Viceroy of India distinguished for his subservience to the then Secretary of State for India Mr. Samuel-Montagu to whose mischievous activities the present trouble in India is directly due, and for his weakness in Government which in June, 1921, allowed Gandhi to publish a "Manifesto" in which he said, "The Ali Brothers like me continue wilfully to break the law of sedition and therefore to court arrest." No action was taken against this man who openly proclaimed himself a seditious.

An Under Secretary of State whose only claims to distinction are the Farcical Franchise he recommends for India and for the commission of an "Indiscretion" which, may quite possibly be as useful to Mr. MacDonald as was that of Lord Irwin.

And with all this wealth of ignorance, ineptitude, weakness and indiscretion (which, however, we may be sure will support the Prime Minister's policy through thick and thin) on the one side, what do we find on the other to balance it? *Nothing*, for independent Conservative opinion has been rigorously excluded from the Conference.

Is not this a very travesty of justice? How can we expect any good to come of the deliberations of a packed Conference?

Why, it may be asked, have men like Lord Salisbury and Lord Lloyd in the Upper and Sir A. Knox in the Lower House been neglected? I refrain from mentioning those members of the Lower House who have actual experience of India either in the "Services" or as Merchants, etc. for it is evident that the one thing that acts as a complete bar to inclusion in the Conference is the fact that a man should have knowledge of India and of its peoples, and experience in dealing with them. (Lord Lloyd comes, of course, under this ban!) That is the sin that all our experienced Administrators have committed—that, and the fact that they would be against Mr. MacDonald's schemes, which, if applied to India will assuredly bring about its destruction.

Are Conservatives going to accept meekly and carry out blindly the orders of the Prime Minister in this great and important matter of the future of India?

Will they allow him at his pleasure *and without one word of protest* to put on one side, and to treat as non-existent the Act of Parliament duly passed in 1919 and for the simple reason that it does not square with his individual wishes?

*By what right* does Mr. MacDonald ignore the Statutes duly inscribed on the Statute Roll? and has the British Parliament lost all semblance of virility that it permits him to do this unlawful thing?—this act that in the opinion of every man who has any knowledge of the subject will ensure the destruction of India and with it of the Empire. Will they allow him once more to juggle with Parliament and force it to carry out his insane policy of obstinate interference in the affairs of a country of which he is completely ignorant? If they do, then the end is both certain and nigh.

The recent addition to the Cabinet of Lord Irwin and the resultant bad effect in India—except in Congress Circles; the comedies staged by the im-