

INTERNATIONAL OPIUM COMMISSION .  
-----Minutes of the Ninth Session (19th Feb/09.)

The Session opened at 10-30 A.M. the order of the day being the further consideration of Mr T'ang Kuo-an's resolution of the previous day, which ran as follows:-

"That a Committee consisting of five Delegates be appointed to consider and report on the medical aspects of the Opium question including the best methods of curing the Opium habit without recourse to the drug or any of its derivatives."

The Rt. Hon. Sir Cecil Clementi Smith, rising to continue the discussion, said that the action which he took on behalf of the British Delegation in opposing the appointment of a Committee in the first instance was one not in the least directed against a practical enquiry on the important subject under discussion, but was based solely on the fact that he did not consider that the Commission included a sufficient number of men competent to deal with the question. He declared that no one in the Commission was more in sympathy with the object which Mr T'ang had in view than he and his colleagues, and he thought it would be agreed that the British Government had shown a desire to help China in dealing with the Opium problem; but he considered that whatever assistance was to be given to China should at least take a practical form, and one that would be universally recognised as such.

He emphasized the fact that the Commission was not appointed with a scientific basis. He thought he was right in stating that beyond Dr Hamilton Wright and the distinguished scientist on the Japanese Delegation there were none amongst them fitted to deal with such matters as Anti-Opium Remedies, etc.; and it was holding that view in the strongest possible way, and yet feeling at the same time that it was a subject of great urgency which had perhaps been left on one side too long, that the British Delegation desired that some steps should be taken. He referred to the fact that although the Chinese Government had issued regulations in which it was distinctly laid down that Anti-Opium pills should not consist of Opium or Morphia, it was well known that pills containing a large proportion of the forbidden drugs were being sold broadcast in China. He thought that  
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