

# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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THURSDAY, 15th JANUARY, 1931.

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# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 15th January, 1931.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. R. K. Shanmukham Chetty in the Chair.

## MEMBER SWORN:

Lala Jagan Nath Aggarwal, M.L.A. (Jullundur Division: Non-Muhammadan).

## DEATHS OF COLONEL CRAWFORD AND MAULANA MUHAMMAD ALI.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy** (Leader of the House): It would, I believe, Mr. Chairman, be the desire of this House that at the time of our re-assembling we should briefly but sincerely deplore a loss which the House has suffered since we were last assembled in this place. We had all of us expected that in the new Assembly Colonel Crawford would fill his accustomed place in the European Group and would make his own contribution to our deliberations. Colonel Crawford was an able and competent soldier with a distinguished military career. During the war he earned a Brevet-Majority, the Distinguished Service Order and the Military Cross, and was six times mentioned in despatches. He served during the war in no less than six different countries, in France, in Egypt, in Gallipoli, in Iraq, in Persia and in Russia. He held temporary ranks at various times of Lieutenant-Colonel and as Colonel, and on retirement from the Army was granted the rank of Colonel. In the ordinary course, had he remained in the military profession, in all probability a high and distinguished career lay before him. But he made up his mind that he could serve India better, and could serve his own country in serving India better by abandoning a military career and by taking an active part in public life in this country. No one who knew Colonel Crawford, I believe, Mr. Chairman, would think or imagine for a moment that he was actuated by ambition or by any personal motive. I am sure we are all convinced that what underlay his decision was an honest desire to do the best he could for this great country which we are all of us bound to serve. In this House he possessed qualifications different from those possessed, I think, by any other unofficial Member, and had a knowledge of military subjects which no other unofficial Member of the House possessed. He was able always to make a contribution of his own to our debates, which was of great value and of great assistance. Courageous and frank, he expressed his views freely on every subject that came up. But alike those of us who may have shared his opinions and those who did not, none of us, I am sure, doubted either his honesty of purpose or his sincere desire to serve. We mourn his absence today, Mr. Chairman, and we would desire, I am sure, to give expression to that feeling. I for one hope that there will never be a time in the

[Sir George Raŋny.]

deliberations of the Central Legislature of India when members of the community to which Colonel Crawford belonged will not be ready to come forward and render such service as they can to the future of India; and I am sure that any member of that community possessing qualifications based upon military knowledge and experience will always be able to render service of the highest value.

**Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar** (South. Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to associate myself—and those of my non-official Indian friends on this side who knew Colonel Crawford will agree—with almost every word which the Leader of the House has given expression to in connection with the demise of my late friend Colonel Crawford. It is now ten years, Sir, since I knew him. Although he was not then in the House, he was in the Army Department, in the Publicity Department thereof, and as a Member of this House I was invited to several consultations there. I knew him first there. He travelled abroad and then came to Madras, and he was very anxious to make the acquaintance of my Indian friends. We Indians, Sir, seldom come in contact with military officers, and those who do not come into personal contact with military officers have got queer notions about them. But by personal touch and acquaintance we come to know that they are also human, and in that way Colonel Crawford struck us immensely. His personal qualities endeared him to all people who came in contact with him. We forgot that we belonged to different races. Whenever general questions affecting the country arose, he was always of great assistance. I remember as a member of the Racial Distinctions Committee when we visited Calcutta he was of immense assistance to us. Calcutta was at that time known to be the hotbed of Anglo-Indian prejudice. And when we went there I remember Sir Hubert Carr, or Mr. Carr as he then was, and Colonel Crawford rendered us great assistance in solving the very knotty problems we had to face in the year 1921-22. Those were days when we were bent upon understanding each other and in the real spirit of co-operation finding out what real differences there were and how we could set about putting them right; and that committee was one from which very little was expected by the public. But when the Report emerged after our deliberations, we were able to remove a great deal of irritating distinctions which existed in the law.

Sir, I remember Colonel Crawford was also of great assistance to several other committees of this House. As a peacemaker I do not think he had any rival. He was always ready to give his wise counsel in delicate matters which required tactful handling. I know much of the European political life today in India is due to Colonel Crawford. It was not in the province of Europeans settled in this country to take very much interest in the politics of the country, and I know he went about the country rousing his people to a sense of their position as citizens of this great land and of the duty they owed to this country in taking part in the political life of this country. I remember the lectures he delivered in Madras when he was there on that mission, how he roused the apathetic European public of Madras to a sense of their duties as citizens. I remember the last time I had the honour of sitting with him on the Cinema Committee. There were some acute differences on certain aspects of our Report. He had retired to Calcutta thinking that we had come to satisfactory conclusions; but when he heard that there were still differences to settle, he

travelled back again at great personal trouble to the Nilgiris and gave us his sound advice in arriving at conclusions. I have spent several days with him and travelled with him to and fro. To Mrs. Crawford this must be a great loss. To the country and to the European public generally, the death of Colonel Crawford is an irreparable loss. Nobody who knew him and had seen his physique and admired him ever anticipated that the end was to be so soon. In fact I remember once, when in a humorous mood I remarked upon his age and that he was also as old as myself, he resented it and wanted to be known as a young man. I wish that he had lived with us for a longer time; especially when new reforms are to come, persons like Colonel Crawford will be of immense assistance in solving them. I hope his example will be kept up by other successors of his who grace the European Group with their presence today. His example is one which must be followed by Europeans and by Indians alike. He was a true friend, a genuine patriot, and in his death the European community has sustained a severe loss, nay, more, all of us have sustained the loss of a personal friend and the country cannot afford to lose such people. I associate myself with the expression of sorrow and regret, and I hope a message will go forth to Mrs. Crawford from you as Chairman of this Assembly, conveying our sympathy in her hour of trouble.

**Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz** (West Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, with the untimely death of Colonel Crawford a great personality has passed away. His loss is rare and irreparable. The illustrious deceased was a fine soldier, a very fine speaker and undoubtedly an authority on questions relating to the Army. He was always heard with the greatest respect in this House. We can no longer see Colonel Crawford in this Assembly; but his memory will always be cherished by all those who knew him well. The European community has lost a great man indeed. Sir, I beg you to convey our sincere condolence to the family of the illustrious departed soul.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub** (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on behalf of the Independent Party of the last Assembly I beg to associate myself in the expression of our grief and sympathy on the sad death of Colonel Crawford. My friend, Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar has given you an account of his good qualities and I need not reiterate the same thing over and over again. Those who personally knew him, and had the privilege of working with him, knew that he was not only a true well-wisher of the country but also a thorough gentleman; and his loss at this stage, when the services of peacemakers like him were very greatly needed by the country, is a great misfortune and almost a national calamity. We know that the future of India depends greatly upon the co-operation of the different communities inhabiting this sub-continent; and prominent persons of each community, who try and create goodwill between different communities, are the harbingers of producing good will in the country and making the future constitution a success. Viewed in this light, the loss of Colonel Crawford is still more to be regretted. I again wish to associate myself, and wish you, Sir, to convey on my behalf as well as on behalf of my party, the Independent Party, our sense of grief and our condolence to his bereaved wife and other members of the family.

**Dr. A. Suhrawardy** (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, coming from Bengal, and as one who had exceptional opportunities of coming into frequent contact with Colonel Crawford both in

[Dr. A. Suhrawardy.]

Bengal and recently in England, I rise to pay my personal tribute to the memory of the warm-hearted and gallant Member whose untimely death we all deplore. Courageous, straightforward and frank as he has been described by the Leader of the House, these qualities and his devotion to duty strongly appealed to me; and I daresay the House will long miss the stalwart and stately figure and commanding presence of Colonel Crawford. With these words I wish to associate myself with what has fallen from the previous speakers.

**Mr. Arthur Moore** (Bengal European): Sir, those of us who sit in this part of the House are, I think, particularly grateful for the words that fell from the lips of the Leader of the House and Dewan Bahadur Rangachariar and from Maulvi Muhammad Yakub and my two friends in the Central Muslim Group. I think, as the last speaker said, that the whole House will miss that tall soldierly figure, that deep rich voice, and the sense of earnestness and high issues which he always created and carried with him. We in this Group know, though we cannot express, what he did for us in this House and what he did for our wider community outside this House. I think that those of us who had the opportunity of hearing the fine maiden speech which he delivered in Simla, and the moving terms in which he spoke of his long association in peace and war with the Indian soldier, and of his love for India, realise how well he understood that, for our community, at all times, the test is our willingness to serve India. Although the word "tragedy" is very often now used lightly, I think we do feel that in no stereotyped sense but in the Greek sense of the term, it is a tragedy that all those generous hopes and purposes should have been snuffed out prematurely.

**\*Mr. Chairman:** I feel that I cannot let this sad moment pass without adding my own tribute to the memory of the late Colonel Crawford. Those of us who had the privilege of coming into close contact with Colonel Crawford knew full well that inside this House he was an amiable colleague and outside he was a staunch friend. We have lost him at a moment when both India and England can ill afford to lose such personalities, and it shall be my duty, as the spokesman of this House, to convey to the relatives of the deceased the deep sense of sorrow felt by his colleagues at the premature death of one whom this House so well loved.

**Maulvi Muhammad Yakub:** Sir, since we last met in Simla, the country has sustained a very great and irreparable loss in the untimely death of Maulana Muhammad Ali. Although the late Maulana was not a Member of this House, yet this House has never missed an opportunity of expressing its sense of grief at the death of outstanding personalities. The late Mr. C. R. Das was also not a Member of this House, and yet we expressed our feelings of grief and sorrow at his sad demise, as a representative of this country. And, Sir, today, as representatives of the Indian population we the Members of this House are in duty bound to express our sense of deep sorrow and loss which the country has sustained in the death of Maulana Muhammad Ali, who died fighting for the cause of the country in a strange land. The public life and political activities of the late Maulana are so well known that I do not think I need take much time in expatiating on

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\*Speech not revised by Mr. Chairman.

them. He was, as has always been said, a true friend of the country and a true son of Mother India, who spent all his life and all his energy in doing service to the Motherland. Although his health was failing, although he was in a very delicate condition, he never cared for his life and proceeded to England to fight the cause of India and fell there in the battlefield. Sir, this is neither the time nor the occasion for giving the House a sketch of his life. Personally, my feelings are too intense to be expressed in words. We were together as students at Aligarh, and I came to know him first 35 years ago. In spite of holding different political views sometimes, our social relations were never disturbed, and to me he was like a second brother. I remember well, Sir, the time when I saw the late Maulana in the Ripon Hospital in Simla in a very delicate state of health, and as we were leaving he could not get up from his bed. He asked me to go near him, and he embraced me and gave a kiss on my cheek. That was our last parting. I never thought then that we would never meet again, but it has happened so. Sir, I hope this House, as representing the people of India, will join in giving expression to our sense of grief, and convey our heart-felt condolence to the bereaved lady, who was at the death bedside of her husband in England, and to his stalwart brother Maulana Shaukat Ali.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** Mr. Chairman, I desire, on behalf of Government, to associate myself with what has fallen from my friend, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub, as regards the loss which the country has suffered by the death of Maulana Muhammad Ali. Maulvi Muhammad Yakub has been able to speak of the late Maulana with the intimacy of old friendship and intimate acquaintance with his career, and I think we must all of us be glad that he has given us this opportunity of stating in very few words what we feel. As my Honourable friend said, this is neither the time nor the occasion to review the political career of the deceased and the active part he took in public life in various ways; but, certainly, we should all, I think, desire to record our sorrow. At a time when he was in a very delicate state of health and at great sacrifice to himself, he unreservedly laid down his life in order to render the last service he believed he could render to India. The loss of a man like that must clearly be a heavy loss, and I do desire, on behalf of Government, to say we associate ourselves with the feeling which I know is present in the hearts of all Indian Members of the House today.

**\*Sir Hari Singh Gour** (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I wish to associate with the Mover of this Resolution, because like the Mover of the Resolution, the late Maulana Muhammad Ali was my lifelong friend, and when he left India on his mission to England, he was going there, as he told most of us when we parted company with him, as a dying man. But in spite of his failing health, in spite of the doctor's advice, Maulana Muhammad Ali went to England because he felt that the call of his country needed it. The work that he did in that short interval before his death in England will leave an imperishable record in the history of this country, and the newspaper reports that were received here at the time show how ably he pleaded the cause of a united India. Sir, this is certainly not the time nor the place when we can pass in review the work of this great departed leader of Indian thought. But this we will say that, whatever differences of opinion there may have been between the members of his community and others there is no one in this House

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\*Speech not revised by the Honourable Member.

[Sir Hari Singh Gour.]

or outside who does not feel his loss as his own. Sir, I strongly support my Honourable friend Maulvi Muhammad Yakub's motion and I join with him in asking you that the terms of this motion may be conveyed to the bereaved members of the deceased's family.

**Mian Muhammad Shah Nawaz:** Sir, Maulana Muhammad Ali died 7,000 miles away from his home and the whole of India is plunged in a deep gloom. The late Maulana was undoubtedly one of the greatest sons of India. He was a fine journalist, a great patriot, a brave fighter, and a staunch lover of freedom. When he went to England, we all knew that he was accelerating his death. When he made his memorable speech at the Round Table Conference, we thought that he was pretty nearly exhausted. He made that remarkable speech against the advice of his doctors. His last words were "Make India free or bury me in England". Throughout his life he worked hard for Hindu-Muslim unity, and we all know that only 12 hours before his death he was preparing a scheme for the Hindus and Muslims as to how to compose their differences. His death is heroic and glorious indeed: it is sweet and glorious to die for one's own country. Maulana Muhammad Ali was born in the East; he died in the West; and his remains are now to be buried in the compound of the famous Mosque of Omar at Jerusalem. India's loss is so great that it can never be replaced. We offer our sincerest condolence to Begum Muhammadi Ali, who became a widow in a foreign land, and also to Maulana Shaukat Ali, the brother of the deceased. To me the loss is indeed very great because the illustrious Maulana was an esteemed friend of mine. He and I in our youthful days were together in England. I know his fine qualities. He was absolutely an honest man, a great friend of India and loved by his own community and country. His death is India's great loss; it is also the loss of the Muslim world. And I pray you, Sir, to convey our sincere condolences and deep sense of sorrow to the family of the illustrious deceased.

**Mr. Arthur Moore:** I think that we here would also very much like to be associated with the motion by my Honourable friend, Maulvi Muhammad Yakub. Personally, I always think of the late Maulana Muhammad Ali in terms of energy—radiant energy—and I have always regretted that he never sat in this House, because he was the embodiment of a man who was always throwing himself into some cause and devoting himself to it. The first time I met him was some twenty years ago when, with the active assistance of Lord Hardinge, he was organising the Red Crescent during the Turco-Italian War. The last time I saw him was, as was the experience of other Members here, when I visited him in Simla in the Ripon Hospital. He told me that he was dying, but that he was determined not to die till he had gone to London and attended the Round Table Conference, and as he hoped, brought about a new understanding. That showed the spirit of the man. I am sure that all of us have read the remarkable speech which he delivered during the opening days of the Conference. I think that during the whole of his life he never did anything which approached that supreme finish, and that in the future Mr. Muhammad Ali's name will always be associated with those closing days in London and with that very remarkable speech.

**Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola** (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I should like to associate myself with the previous speakers in lamenting the great loss which this country has suffered by the sad death of Maulana Muhammad Ali. I have known him for many years, and the one thing which impressed me most was his unbounded patriotism and intense love for his Motherland. India can ill afford to lose at this juncture a man capable of rendering most valuable service to her. It is inevitable that God's will be done, but there is no doubt that India feels very deeply the sad loss which she has sustained by the death of Maulana Muhammad Ali.

**Mr. C. C. Biswas** (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): That we Indians should mourn the loss of Maulana Muhammad Ali is only natural; but it is refreshing to find that my European friends and Members of the Government, both here and abroad, should be so unstinted in pouring out their tributes to his memory. Maulana Muhammad Ali was a fighter. He was a fighter first, he was a fighter last, he was a fighter all his life. And it is a remarkable tribute, I say, to his personality, to his strength of character, to his courage, that those whom he had been fighting all his life should be so gushing in their tributes to his memory. That, I should like to feel, betokens a welcome change in the angle of vision of our rulers.

Sir, Maulana Muhammad Ali was a man who had a dynamic personality. He was one who knew how to bend others to his own purposes. He was a man who believed in what he did and did what he believed in. He never shrank from the consequences of his own actions. He had the courage of his convictions and had the courage to act up to them. Such a man is always a national asset. Whether or not we agree with all his political views, there is no doubt that a man of such indomitable will, a man of such fearless courage is always an asset in our national life. By his death, therefore, Sir, India is distinctly the poorer. He was a patriot, a patriot in whom patriotism rose to the height of religion. The tragic circumstances of his death lend pathos to the closing scenes of his life. That he should pass away, away from those who were near and dear to him, away from his co-workers and co-adjutors is one of those ironies of fate which we can never explain. Such a man has passed away in Maulana Muhammad Ali, and we are glad to feel that, in the closing days of his life, a man whose whole life was perpetual warfare, if we might say so, should have pleaded so passionately for peace, and as I had occasion to remark elsewhere, it would be a welcome day—and the Maulana would not have died in vain—if India could build on his grave a temple of concord, peace and amity.

**\*Mr. Chairman:** I desire to associate myself with the warm tributes paid from the various quarters of the House to the memory of the late Maulana Muhammad Ali. He was indeed, as has been just remarked, a dynamic personality in India's national life. His life was one of service to his country and on his death-bed he breathed his last in the service of his country. In life as in death, he cannot but evoke the admiration, love and gratitude of his countrymen. It shall again be my duty to convey to Begum Muhammad Ali and Maulana Shaukat Ali the feelings of this House in regard to the loss that the country has sustained in the premature death of Maulana Muhammad Ali.

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\*Speech not revised by Mr. Chairman.



## THE INDIAN MERCHANT SHIPPING (AMENDMENT) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy** (Member for Commerce and Railways): I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, for certain purposes.

What this Bill seeks to do, Mr. Chairman, is to make such changes in the law as are necessary in order to give effect to certain International Labour Conventions which at various times have been under the consideration of the House. I do not propose to go into any detail, because a full explanation is given in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir George Rainy:** Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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## THE PUNJAB CRIMINAL PROCEDURE AMENDMENT (SUPPLEMENTARY) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar** (Home Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill to supplement the Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Act, 1930.

This is a very brief measure containing only two points and at this stage I do not propose to add to what is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** I introduce the Bill.

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## THE BENGAL CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT (SUPPLEMENTARY) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar** (Home Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill to supplement the Bengal Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1930.

With regard to this and the succeeding items on the List of Business, I would merely state, Mr. Chairman, that these are important measures, but at this stage I do not propose to add to the summary of the salient facts which have moved Government to introduce this legislation contained in the statement accompanying the Bills.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** I introduce the Bill.

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## THE INDIAN PRESS BILL.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar** (Home Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the better control of the Press.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir James Orerar:** I introduce the Bill.

## THE UNLAWFUL INSTIGATION BILL.

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar** (Home Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide against instigation to the refusal of the payment of certain liabilities.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir James Crerar**: I introduce the Bill.

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## THE SUPPRESSION OF COUNTERFEITING CURRENCY (INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION) BILL.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster** (Finance Member): I move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the International Convention for the suppression of counterfeiting currency.

The Government of India, having signed at Geneva in April, 1929, an international convention for this purpose, it is necessary, before ratifying the convention, that the Indian law should be brought into line with its provisions. The details involved in this legislation are clearly explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and it is not necessary for me, at this stage, to enlarge upon this measure further.

The motion was adopted.

**The Honourable Sir George Schuster**: I introduce the Bill.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 16th January, 1931.