

Saturday, 30th March, 1940

# THE COUNCIL OF STATE DEBATES

VOLUME I, 1940

*(16th February to 10th April, 1940)*

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## SEVENTH SESSION OF THE FOURTH COUNCIL OF STATE, 1940



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# COUNCIL OF STATE.

*Saturday, 30th March, 1940.*

The Council met in the Council Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, the Honourable the President in the Chair.

## BILL PASSED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY LAID ON THE TABLE.

SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL : Sir, in pursuance of rule 25 of the Indian Legislative Rules, I lay on the table copies of the Bill to fix the duty on salt manufactured in, or imported by land into, certain parts of British India, to vary the rate of excise duty on sugar other than Khandsari or palmyra sugar leviable under the Sugar (Excise Duty) Act, 1934, to vary the rate of the excise and customs duty on motor spirit leviable under the Motor Spirit (Duties) Act, 1917, and the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, to fix maximum rates of postage under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, and to fix rates of income-tax and super-tax, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 29th March, 1940.

## FAREWELL SPEECHES IN CONNECTION WITH THE RETIREMENT OF KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD.

THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT : Honourable Members must have noticed that there is no other work for us today except to bid farewell to our distinguished Leader of the House and I trust many of you will co-operate with me in that connection. As the Leader of the House has got a very urgent appointment after 12, I would request you all to finish your work before that hour.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR LALA RAM SARAN DAS (Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to give expression to the feelings of affection and esteem that we have for our popular Leader, the Honourable Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad. His qualities of head and heart have endeared him to all of us. He has always been polite, obliging and accommodating. During the last five years that he has been Leader of our House he has never got excited or ever lost his temper. He has been kind enough to take our Party into confidence and thus he has given us no chance of any complaint. We all feel sorry on his leaving us on his retirement, but we all wish him peace of mind, sound health, long life and bliss. I hope even in his retired life he will continue to take interest in this House and benefit us by his wise counsel. I need not dwell long, but I must say that in him we had a model Leader and we all wish him an increasingly useful life.

THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SRI NARAIN MAHTHA (Bihar : Non-Muhammadan) : Mr. President, I am thankful to you, Sir, for allowing me this opportunity to say a few words in order to express my feelings on a solemn occasion like this. It is really not for me, Sir, rather a junior Member of this august House of Elders, to arrogate to myself the position of one who

[Rai Bahadur Sri Narain Mahtha.]

is entitled to estimate the work of a man like Sir Jagdish Prasad who has a long and brilliant record of service as a civilian and as a non-official who has held high positions in the hierarchy of the Government of India. But, Sir, I can say one thing and that is this, that he is a patriot and that I have seldom come across anyone who in addition to his high qualities also possesses such winning and conquering manners and who can inspire confidence and can disarm the opposition of those who may not see eye to eye with him on many points. He is in harmony with himself and in harmony with the world around him. I wish him, Sir, a long, peaceful and useful life and hope that he will now devote his abilities and energies to the service of this country as a public man with the same zest with which he devoted himself to his work in the high positions that he has held. He does, Sir, amply deserve the rest that his retirement will bring him ; but, I am reminded of the words of a great Indian, I mean, Sir, the late Sir Pheroze Sethna, who used to say, " If I rest, I rust ", and I hope that he will continue to give his best to the service of his country as much as he can. We all hope and wish, Sir, that he will some day be the Governor of some province (Hear, hear), an eminence which he richly deserves and a height from which he will be able to shed his best lustre on those around him and those whose destinies will be in his charge.

THE HONOURABLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR HISSAMUDDIN BAHADUR (Nominated Non-Official) : Mr. President, Sir, I rise to associate myself wholeheartedly with the glowing and richly merited tribute which has been paid this morning to the Honourable Sir Jagdish Prasad by the preceding speakers. I have had the honour of being a Member of this Honourable House for the last four years. During this period I have learnt to admire the ability, the masterly skill and perfect good humour with which Sir Jagdish has piloted the ship of this House through shoals and rocks into safe harbour. His unaffected smile is deliciously disarming, no sort of provocation has ever ruffled his courteous, tranquil and dignified behaviour. Sitting in this House we have always felt an undercurrent of satisfaction and belief that however tangled the problem, however animated and hectic the debate our Leader's soothing influence would act as a tonic and as a restorative.

Sir, the moment has arrived for official parting. Sir Jagdish is fortunate in bringing to an end his term of high office with resounding success and he will carry away our united good wishes for a well earned rest and a happy future. I hope and trust that some day he will return to public life and occupy on that stage a position worthy of his outstanding ability and statesmanship.

\*THE HONOURABLE MR. SHANTIDAS ASKURAN (Bombay : Non-Muhammadian) : Mr. President, I crave the privilege to add my humble tribute to the many eloquent expressions of appreciation which have been made today in bidding farewell to our distinguished colleague, the Honourable Sir Jagdish Prasad who has been associated with us as the Leader of the House for the last five years. His great personal qualities have earned for him a reputation for kindness, courtesy and consideration, which we shall always cherish with grateful memories. He has, indeed, a proud record of many achievements in many fields. Very dear to him was the cause of our suffering Indians abroad. During his time he had many difficult situations to face. I have no doubt that our countrymen settled in Zanzibar, Burma, Ceylon, South Africa and other parts of the Empire will testify to the combined tact

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\* Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

and firmness with which he handled the delicate problems and tried to make the influence of the Government of India felt in their behalf. In the field of agricultural research, vast developments have taken place under his direction. It was also during his term that the Central Advisory Board of Health came into existence and succeeded in tackling some important national health questions. To him, Sir, as it is to us, it must be a source of keen satisfaction and pleasure that in administering the big nation-building departments in his charge he has been able to promote national well-being to this great extent within the short period of his stewardship.

It was his great good fortune that he had in His Excellency Lord Linlithgow a Viceroy to whom these very nation-building activities, agriculture, public health, education, etc., made a strong appeal and to whose zeal, sympathy and initiative so much of their success is due. In Sir Jagdish Prasad His Excellency had an able and experienced lieutenant who was imbued with the same high ideals of public service and who had the same enthusiasm with these nation-building causes.

We in the Council of State will particularly feel his absence, for he was a valued friend and colleague ever ready to assist us with his help and sympathy. I hope and pray that he will have many more years of useful service to the country and that in the larger field of public work to which he now goes, he will have to his credit even greater achievements. I heartily join in wishing him all God-speed in the future which awaits him.

\*THE HONOURABLE SAIYED MOHAMED PADSHAH SAHIB BAHADUR (Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, it is with mixed feelings that I join in the tribute which is being paid to the admirable manner in which the Honourable Sir Jagdish Prasad discharged his onerous duties that devolved upon him during the five years that he has been in this Council. Sir, while on the one hand I am glad to seize the opportunity to give expression to our appreciation of the excellent way in which he conducted himself as the Leader of this House during these five years, I am at the same time bitter at the prospect of parting from one who has been associated with us in this House for full five years. Sir, as was observed by my Honourable friend who has just resumed his seat, the Honourable Mr. Shantidas Askuran, Sir Jagdish Prasad was a very helpful and valuable lieutenant to His Excellency the Viceroy. Both the prosperity and honour of India depended to a great extent on the way in which the Honourable Sir Jagdish Prasad discharged his duties as Member in charge of Indians overseas and of nation-building subjects.

Sir, the problems of Indians overseas more often than not have been beset with difficulties and those of us who had the privilege of working with Sir Jagdish Prasad in the Emigration Committee could not help appreciating the admirable and excellent way in which he handled all those delicate problems. Sir, we can very well testify not only to the great statesmanship and skill which Sir Jagdish Prasad evinced in tackling those delicate problems but also to the genuine sympathy and anxious solicitude that he always evinced for the welfare of our nationals abroad. As has already been observed, Sir, his period of office was also marked by great activity in the department of agriculture and public health.

Sir, it is unnecessary for me to dilate upon the great qualities of head and heart which he evinced as the Leader of this Honourable House. More than anything, one quality which does deserve mention is the invariable

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\* Not corrected by the Honourable Member.



[ Saiyed Mohamed Padshah Sahib Bahadur. ]

courtesy which he always evinced towards every section of this House and the tranquil equanimity which he was always capable of maintaining even in the most trying hours in this House. There were several occasions when, while storms raged on the floor of this House, in spite of that Sir Jagdish Prasad kept calm and unruffled. Sir, his genial disposition and his transparent frankness have endeared Sir Jagdish Prasad to everyone here and I hope I am echoing the feelings of everyone present here when I say that we shall miss Sir Jagdish Prasad very bitterly in this House but, at the same time, I hope, Sir, that he will bear in mind the happy memories of his association with this House for the five years he has been with us, and I can assure him that we will always give him a privileged corner in our hearts.

One or two of our Honourable friends expressed the hope that Sir Jagdish Prasad might one day obtain a Governorship. I shall be very glad if he does get that office which he richly deserves. But, at the same time, I wish that before attaining to that height of glory or after, Sir Jagdish Prasad would not allow his great experience to waste away but join the ranks of us non-officials and work for the benefit of the country.

THE HONOURABLE SIR DAVID DEVADOSS (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, it would take a very long time to recount all the achievements of Sir Jagdish Prasad. He came to us with a high reputation and he fully maintained it here. Sir, my experience of this House extends over ten years and I may say that there was no other Leader of the House who took the House into his confidence as Sir Jagdish has done. He lightened your labours also by consulting the Leaders of Parties as regards dates, hours of sitting, and so on. That not only added greatly to the calm atmosphere of the House but also considerably facilitated the work of the House. I am sure he is not going to rest content with his past achievements. Surely he will do something which will carry him on to greater heights in future.

With these words, Sir, I have much pleasure in wishing him long life and prosperity and success in every walk of life.

THE HONOURABLE MR. J. H. S. RICHARDSON (Bengal Chamber of Commerce) : Sir, I regret that my colleague, the Honourable Mr. Parker, is unavoidably absent from today's proceedings, as, were he here, I feel that his long association with this House and with the Honourable Leader would perhaps enable him to express our sentiments more effectively than my short experience enables me to do. However, speaking for both of us, I wish to say how fully we associate ourselves with all that other Honourable Members have said in expressing their appreciation of all that Sir Jagdish has done during his tenure of office. The other day I happened to be reading the proceedings of this Council which took place on the presentation of the Mace. On that occasion, the Honourable Leader used these words when concluding his remarks. He said :—

" May the Legislatures in India grow from strength to strength drawing within their fold all that is best and wisest among the peoples who inhabit this ancient land, and may today's symbolic ceremony strengthen us in our determination to oppose that ideal of the State which makes force the arbiter of our destiny ".

Sir, these words seem to me most aptly to reveal the spirit of our Leader and I join with regret in saying farewell and offer him our sincere good wishes.

\*THE HONOURABLE RAI BAHADUR SATYENDRA KUMAR DAS (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, as one hailing from Bengal, I consider it a

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\*Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

proud privilege to pay my highest tribute to the Honourable Sir Jagdish Prasad, not only for his highest qualities of head and heart but also for the exceptionally courteous manner in which he treated all with whom he came in contact. I wish him the Governorship of a province in the future. We not only wish, but we pray incessantly to God for this. Tennyson has said that wonderful things can be wrought by prayers than the world dreams of. We wish that our prayers materialise in the office of a Governorship for Sir Jagdish Prasad in the very near future.

**THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON** (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, it is but natural that on a farewell occasion like this, certain feelings and sentiments should find expression in this Council. But the feelings and sentiments that find expression today, I venture to think, are not a mere expression of a cultivated sense of form but have a deeper origin in our judgment and emotions and have a full and ample justification in the circumstances of the case. We feel very sorry at the thought that Sir Jagdish, who has been with us for the last five years, will no longer be in our midst. During the five years that he has guided the deliberations of this Council he has enjoyed the confidence, esteem and affection of every section of this Council. The explanation of this striking achievement is not very difficult to find. Even the most casual observer would have noticed his rare courtesy of manner. His speeches have always been marked by felicity of phrase, moderation of tone, cogency of argument and, above all, by the entire absence of anything which was likely to wound or to irritate. With these qualities of manner and speech he combined a very welcome disposition to appreciate, reconcile and accommodate points of view different from the official point of view. It is not surprising, therefore, that he achieved a position of unusual popularity and influence in this Council which is always appreciative of good qualities. The position of an Indian Executive Councillor in a semi-popular assembly is not a very easy one. But I think every one in this Council will agree that Sir Jagdish has maintained his position not only with dignity and credit to himself but with dignity and credit to the Council as well.

As one belonging to a somewhat despised group of Members in this Council, whose constitutional position would seem to place it between the devil and the deep sea——

**THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM** : Who is the devil ?

**THE HONOURABLE SIR RAMUNNI MENON** : I have not studied the title deeds relating to these regions sufficiently well to make a pronouncement on that matter. As one belonging to that despised class, I would like to express my very warm appreciation of the very liberal spirit that has characterised the relations between our Leader and his immediate followers. I may assert, and I am sure every one of us can assert, that we have all been enjoying Dominion Status of the Westminster variety, with the natural result that every one of us ran to the support of the Leader whenever the occasion demanded. I join with other Honourable Members in wishing Sir Jagdish a very long life of prosperity and of useful service to his country. I hope he will carry away with him pleasant memories of his work in this Council.

**THE HONOURABLE SARDAR BUTA SINGH** (Punjab : Sikh) : Sir, I rise to associate myself with the previous speakers in paying my tribute to the Honourable Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad. It has been his to watch that bounteous hand of nature does not fail or falter and India enjoys health and

[Sardar Buta Singh.]

our production of food continues to increase. It was in the fitness of things that he was given the portfolio of Health and Lands for only those who are directly concerned know the problems of land and can work for their solution. Sir Jagdish Prasad comes from a class—the landlord class—whose position and prestige is under liquidation. It is this class that in the past gave security and stability to the country and in future can save India from desolation and disaster. We feel proud that we have men of the calibre of Sir Jagdish Prasad who has won distinction in positions of responsibility and trust. He played an important part in making Dyarchy a success in the United Provinces. He has been an ornament of the Indian Civil Service. He came to the Government of India rich in knowledge and experience. We know nothing of his activities behind the official secrets veil which is never lifted. I am however sure he could have never failed to advance our best national interests and to strengthen the links that bind India and England. It is in the realisation of a greater unity between the two that the paths of progress can be secured. Sir Jagdish Prasad's unfailing courtesy, his personal charm, his eloquence and, above all, his sincerity, have created an atmosphere of friendliness in this House which can be felt but cannot be described. We shall miss him. Our consolation is that when Sir Jagdish Prasad lays down the reins of his office he will devote his energies to organising the classes all over India, unite and vitalise them, to secure a balanced representation of classes as well as masses in the Provincial and Central Assemblies.

THE HONOURABLE PANDIT HIRDAY NATH KUNZRU (United Provinces Northern : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, I have known the Honourable Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad not merely as Leader of this House but in many other capacities. I made his acquaintance for the first time in the year 1921. He did not then look on the failings of politicians with the indulgent eye which he turns on their faults now. Perhaps he was tempted occasionally to regard them as an unnecessary evil. But he was then a member of the Indian Civil Service. Perhaps no other explanation is needed to enable us to understand his point of view at that time. He had to support the traditions of a service which thought that the last word in wisdom lay with Government and that its critics were the embodiment of irresponsibility. But my Honourable friend, even when disagreeing heartily with the politicians, always thought it his duty to keep in touch with public opinion. I remember no occasion when, whatever his own opinions might have been, he did not assiduously try to know the temper of the people and to understand the atmosphere in the country. The advantage of maintaining this attitude became manifest when he became Chief Secretary to the Government of the United Provinces. We then saw what an advantage it was to the province to have a Chief Secretary who had made it his business all through his official life to understand the popular point of view even when disagreeing with it. This quality developed more fully when after resigning from the Indian Civil Service he became a Member of the Executive Council of the Governor of the United Provinces. As the Home Member of the United Provinces Government he won the admiration of all Parties in the House. The ability and breadth of view which he brought to bear on his task made it difficult for many Members, as they themselves put it to me, to recognise in him the same person with whom they had crossed swords a few years earlier in the United Provinces Legislative Council. We see, a further manifestation of the same quality and continuance of that

growth in his work as Leader of this House. During the time that it has been my good fortune to work with him as a Member of this House I have learnt not merely to respect him, for I always respected him for his independence of opinion and his individuality, but also to appreciate the broad national outlook which he brought to bear upon his duties as a Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council. I remember no occasion, Sir, when even though disagreeing with him we did not feel that the advice tendered by him was the result of honest and of prolonged thought. We all felt that we could always rely on his word. We found in him a man of character and could therefore be absolutely certain that in guiding the House he would not give expression to views which were not honest. Apart from this, Sir, we are grateful to him for the indulgence which he has extended to us in respect of the expression of our views. I remember many occasions on which he could have used his power to prevent the discussion of many an important topic, but he never took advantage of his position to prevent the discussion of topics on which we were bound to express views widely different from those of Government. Indeed, I remember two occasions when with the fairness characteristic of him he helped us to give expression to our point of view so that it might not be thought that the Government whom he represented wanted to use this House for the expression of one kind of views only. Those who have been members of the Emigration Committee and have therefore come to know him more closely than the other Members will further testify to his broad and national outlook. The tradition of the Emigration Department during the last 20 years has been one of co-operation between Government and the representatives of the people, but I am on solid ground when I say that my Honourable friend has carried that co-operation a stage further and taken us still more into his confidence than his predecessors did. Sir, when I look back on our association with him during the last three years I find nothing that I regret and I find everything which I have reason to remember with pleasure. I wish him the best of luck in his retirement. I know that peaceful retirement would not suit a person of his temperament and I am sure that everyone here will be genuinely glad if circumstances enable him to place his valuable knowledge and experience at the disposal of the country.

\*THE HONOURABLE MR. P. N. SAPRU (United Provinces Southern : Non-Muhammadian) : Mr. President, as one who comes from the United Provinces you will perhaps allow me to say a few words about our retiring Leader of the House, Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad. Sir Jagdish Prasad came to the Government of India with a reputation behind him in the United Provinces. He was the first Indian Chief Secretary of the United Provinces Government ; he was the Home Member ; and in both capacities he had distinguished himself greatly. He has during the five years that he has been here not only maintained but considerably enhanced the reputation with which he came to this Council. He has worked hard and he has worked patriotically for the furtherance of Indian interests, not only the interests of Indians abroad, but Indian interests, and presided over the Department of Indians Overseas with distinction. Times have been difficult. He has had to deal with problems which tax the resources of statesmanship, but he has, if I may be allowed to say so, always risen equal to the occasion. He has worked earnestly, he has worked sincerely, he has worked patriotically, with no axe of his own to grind, for a solution of present-day Indian problems and he has come to be respected for his very tolerant, patriotic, approach by all those who do not agree with him. He succeeded as Leader of this House a remarkable man, a parliamentarian of

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\* Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

[Mr. P. N. Saprū.]

rare distinction and a Leader of tact and wisdom, and worthily has he maintained the tradition he inherited. His courtesy, his genial temperament, his generous hospitality, his kindness, have endeared him to us and we part with him with regret. Now, Sir, that he is a free man, may I express the hope that he will enrich the public life of this country by actively joining it? Sir, I do not wish him a retired life. Retirement is not for him. I wish him an active life, a life of greater usefulness as a free man in the service of his country and his India. Sir, we have great expectations of Sir Jagdish Prasad now that he is a free man. I am rather glad in a way that he is a free man and we hope that he will enrich the public life of our province and of our country by joining it and leading it actively.

\*THE HONOURABLE MR. HOSSAIN IMAM (Bihar and Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to associate myself with the well-merited and amply deserved tributes that have been paid to the Leader of the House. He came with a meritorious character in a brilliant service. It seemed that destiny had selected him for his high post which he occupied. If the Honourable Mr. Kunzru's diagnosis is to be believed he has gradually drifted from the extreme right to the centre mentally and I have also drifted from the extreme left to the left centre physically. Sir, the manner in which he carried on the work of leadership of this House was not only most satisfactory and very well done, but he also tried always to accommodate even those irreconcilable and irresponsible people, the oppositionists. I shall gratefully remember the many occasions when he accommodated us and was courteous and gave every possible facility for our work. Sir, I wish him a happy life and a brilliant future as a public man.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GUTHRIE RUSSELL (Chief Commissioner for Railways) : I should first like to apologise to you, Sir, and to the Honourable the Leader for being slightly late in reaching here on this great occasion, but I can assure you that my lateness was quite unavoidable. I believe, at least so far as the official Members of this House are concerned, that I am the father and that is the reason that I have the honour of adding my little quota to what has been said by other Honourable Members. It seldom falls to a Member sitting on this side of the House to give unqualified support to everything that has been said by the other section of the House. That is my privilege today and I do it gladly. That this is possible just goes to show that whatever our opinions may be in other matters—very divided opinions we have sometimes when we are up against a problem—in a matter such as our respect and admiration for our Leader we are undivided. It has been said that the House of Commons is the best club in London. I think we can justly claim that the Council of State is the best club in India. (Applause.) Often Members on these benches have been hard put to it to reply to subtle supplementary questions put by, say my Honourable friend Pandit Kunzru or my Honourable friend Mr. Hossain Imam. Heat may have been engendered, but when we met in the lobby we met as friends and all the heat is forgotten. Can there be any better proof of the *camaraderie* that exists in this House? And to this spirit of friendliness no one has made a greater contribution than the Honourable the Leader of the House, Sir Jagdish Prasad. (Applause.) I would like to express on behalf of the Government Members the real regret we feel that he is leaving us. If I had to sum him up in two words, I would say that he is a

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\* Not corrected by the Honourable Member.

"great gentleman" and leave it at that. We shall all look back with great pleasure on our relations with him and always remember the inspiring lead he has given us and the example he has set us. We wish him peace in retirement but not an inactive life.

**\*THE HONOURABLE MR. ABDUL RAZAK HAJEE ABDUL SATTAR** (West Bengal : Muhammadan) : Sir, I rise to associate myself with the tribute which is being paid to the Honourable Sir Jagdish Prasad. Sir Jagdish is one of the most popular Members of this House, even though an Official Member. He has qualities of head and heart and has always shown great skill and ability in discharging his duties as Leader of this House. During the five years that he has been with us in this House he has by his great skill and tact earned the admiration of all of us here and has also by his courtesy and kindness won for himself a privileged corner in our hearts. I in my personal capacity will be always grateful to him for the kindness and obligation he has done to me in my Cutchi Memon Law Bill. He did me a great favour in that respect and I cannot sit down without expressing my feelings of gratitude. I pray that the Honourable Sir Jagdish Prasad may enjoy long life and happiness and prosperity, and I hope after he goes from us he will continue to do great public and national work.

**\*THE HONOURABLE SIR A. P. PATRO** (Nominated Non-Official) : Sir, after the high and deserving tribute paid to the Leader of the House from all sides of the House it is unnecessary for me to add more, but I should personally state what I feel in the matter, that I think the whole case has been admirably summed up by the Honourable Sir Guthrie Russell when he said that the Leader was a great gentleman. That sums up all his qualities of head and heart and we all appreciated that very much during the period he was our Leader. I beg to associate myself with all that has been said about him.

**†THE HONOURABLE CHAUDHRI ATAULLAH KHAN TARAR** (East and West Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, firstly, I feel much pleasure and pride in the fact that Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad who has been spoken of so highly by the Honourable Members of the House belongs to my zemindar community. Sir Jagdish in his long service has proved how ably the zemindars can hold even the highest Government offices. Secondly, it is a common practice with the people to shower praises as a matter of routine on officials who either retire from service or are transferred. But in the present case in my opinion whatever has already been said about Sir Jagdish by either the official or non-official Members represents the feelings coming out from the depths of their hearts, and is quite unlike the usual customary farewell speeches. They are in fact based on realities. The present and future Government officials should try to follow in the footsteps of Sir Jagdish and take a lesson from his great example. Thirdly, Sir Jagdish won the confidence of the Opposition and other Parties on account of his statesmanship, ability and charming manners which has never before been won by any other Leader, at least to my knowledge.

As there is very little time at my disposal and the Honourable the President and Honourable the Leader of the House have yet to speak I take my seat with the prayer that the Almighty God may grant Kunwar Sir Jagdish Prasad many happy and healthful years to serve the Government and the country.

**THE HONOURABLE THE PRESIDENT** : Honourable Members, on an occasion like this we must all feel very sad to part not only with a friend but

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\*Not corrected by the Honourable Member .

†Translation of speech delivered in Urdu.

[Mr. President.]

with a Leader of the House who has rendered conspicuous services to this Council for a period of five years. Yesterday evening at another place, I had an opportunity of expressing my sentiments and my feelings and I presume the feelings of all of you in parting from a consummate Leader of great ability and tact like Sir Jagdish Prasad. It is needless for me to dilate on his official life in the United Provinces. I will refer to it only so far as to mention that he came up to this Council with a rare official equipment and culture behind him. After serving with great distinction in the United Provinces in many capacities as Education Member, as Reforms Commissioner, and as Chief Secretary, he retired before his time in that province in order to render public service by accepting the appointment of Home Member there when the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms came into operation. He did wonderful work during that period and I have had the pleasure of hearing from his Governor at the time what valuable work he did in that province, how greatly he was respected, and with what friendly feelings they cherish his memory in that province.

Coming to this high and exalted office with that equipment, we all expected that he would serve his stewardship here with the same masterly ability as his predecessor, who was very well known in this Council and who was regarded as one of the most able and diplomatic leaders of the House. I associate myself with all of you in the high compliments which you have paid him today. He thoroughly deserves them. He leaves us with a record of wonderful service and especially his services in connection with the overseas people will be remembered with gratitude by all of you. There is not a subject in connection with the overseas question with which he is not intimately acquainted and the people in those parts of the world will also be very sorry when they hear that a gentleman who took such genuine and sympathetic interest in their welfare had to leave the Government of India only because his term of office had expired.

I do not wish to detain you because I must give the Honourable the Leader of the House sufficient time to reply and I shall therefore only wind up by expressing my feelings, in which I know you all join, and wishing him the best of health and happiness in his retirement. We hope some day when he finds time and when his health is thoroughly restored that, as many of you have expressed, he will render further services to India in other capacities. Sir, on behalf of myself and on behalf of this Council, I bid you a respectful and affectionate farewell.

THE HONOURABLE KUNWAR SIR JAGDISH PRASAD (Leader of the House): I am beholden to you, Mr. President, and to Honourable Members that our leave taking should be couched in such graceful terms. During the five years that I have been in this House I have received nothing but kindness and consideration from all Parties, for which I am profoundly grateful.

I should like, Mr. President, to wander away from the personal theme and to consider for a moment things of graver hue and aspect. It has struck many impartial observers that not a few of us in India seem to think and act as if the world were at profound peace. We almost give the appearance of forgetting that one of the most momentous wars in history is being waged and that we in this country will be profoundly affected by it. I wish there were a more correct appreciation of values. We would then concentrate more on a united effort to defeat a philosophy of government which we detest rather than propounding a system of government which may throw us back centuries. It is tragic to see how at this grave moment constitutional issues are generating heat and passion that threaten to disrupt India and which, if allowed to grow in intensity, may lead to a state of things akin to

civil war in the not distant future. Are all the struggles and sacrifices of the past, all the dreams of political emancipation, to end in the wilderness of internecine discords? Is the spectacle of Europe to be repeated in India? Do we realise sufficiently how easy it is to foment communal and racial hatreds, and what weary years it takes to restore friendly feeling and good neighbourliness? I think it is about time that we took a more realistic view of things. The war may be distant from us today, but who can predict with certainty in which direction it will spread? Past experience proves that as war proceeds there are periods of alarm and uneasiness. We shall have to go through them in this country. It is, therefore, all the more incumbent on us to do everything possible to maintain a calm atmosphere. There is enough of violence in this country. Let us not by word or deed encourage this spirit. We have had bitter experience of it in the past and have seen its brutal consequences recently in some parts of the country. Let us not get into the mood that a peaceful solution of our difficulties is now out of the question, that events must take their course, that things must get worse before they can get better. Let us do all we can not to allow things to get worse. Let us help those in whose hands the supreme decision rests to find a peaceful solution, and in this task Honourable Members can play a valuable part. At the same time let us not forget the tension under which people in England are working, the strain on their nerves, their concentration on the war and its problems, and let us not omit to take note that the highest placed Englishmen and women in this country who are carrying on their daily work with such composure have nevertheless a haunting anxiety for the safety of those nearest and dearest to them who are braving the hazards of war on land, at sea or in the air. In the discussion of political questions these psychological factors must be given due weight, otherwise there will be no possibility of mutual understanding. The man facing a crisis will apply his own standards to distinguish between friend and foe, and as the struggle deepens, mere expressions of sympathy with certain ideals, without concrete help, will only increase distrust and misunderstanding, and are likely to lead to consequences gravely detrimental to the future interests of large sections of the people of this country. A false step now would indeed be a calamity. I should like to utter one more word of caution. It would, I believe, be dangerous to assume that because the present machinery of Government is working with unexpected smoothness it will continue to do so for a prolonged period. I think I am not far wrong in my conjecture that the reason for this apparent calm is that there is still hope among large sections of thinking men and women that the deadlock will be resolved before long. Once that hope vanishes it is far from likely that people will be prepared willingly to accommodate themselves to a form of government over a considerable part of the country which takes them back 50 years at least. I will not dwell further on this gloomy prospect because I cannot bring myself to believe that all our love of country, our great intellectual gifts are to end in frustration. I am still not without hope that with patience and goodwill we may yet get the machinery of constitutional government going once again, so that we can devote all our energies to fighting our external enemies rather than to preparations for internal commotion. I earnestly trust that Honourable Members and others of good purpose and intention may meet with greater success in this patriotic task of reconciliation and assured progress than has fallen to the lot of some of us who have tried and failed. And it is with that abiding hope that I bid you, Mr. President, and my Honourable friends farewell. (Loud Applause.)

The Council then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 2nd April, 1940.