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# INDIA AND THE EXCISE REVENUE

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## REPORT OF THE DEBATE

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

OF MARCH 13th, 1888.

WITH PREFACE & APPENDIX BY MR. W. S. CAINE, M.P.

PUBLISHED BY THE

Native Races and Liquor Traffic United Committee,

127, PALACE CHAMBERS, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.

## P R E F A C E .

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THE United Committee for the Prevention of the Demoralisation of Native Races by the Liquor Traffic, have decided to print in pamphlet form the debate which took place in Parliament, on the 13th of March, 1888, relative to the excise policy of the British Government.

This debate was raised upon a general motion set down by Mr. SLAGG, M.P. for Burnley, which contained other issues, with which he dealt exhaustively, leaving that portion of his resolution referring to the extension of the sale of intoxicating liquors for revenue purposes, to my care, as seconder. This pamphlet reprints impartially what was said during the debate on this question only, for or against; the charge I make in my speech against the Government of India is the same as that brought against them by the Bishop of London, as president of the British and Colonial Temperance Congress in 1886, which reads as follows:—

“It has been brought to the knowledge of the Congress that habits of intemperance are greatly on the increase in Bengal, and other parts of India, and in Burmah, and that this is largely due to the extension of spirit licenses granted for purposes of excise revenue. The Congress has been informed that the amount of excise revenue in India from spirits *has more than doubled in the last ten years*, and that this is largely due to the system by which the right to license outstills is farmed to the highest bidder, and directly leads to the establishment of shops for the sale of liquor in large numbers of places, where, till recently, such things were unknown, in defiance of native opinion, and unhappily spreading misery and ruin amongst many families of the industrial class.”

The Government of India have formulated a careful reply to these charges. Pending enquiry, debate in the House of Commons would have been useless; but the enquiry having been made, and the reply to the charges having been printed, I felt it my duty to raise the discussion, which is here presented in pamphlet form, and which is worth the careful attention of every social reformer.

I have added a few tables which will throw some additional light on the debate.

W. S. CAINE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

April, 1888.