

The Bengalee Oct 7 1914

THE BENGAL.

CALCUTTA, OCT 2, 1914

THE WAR AND OUR PEOPLE.

THE LOYALTY OF INDIA IN THIS great crisis of the Empire has made a profound impression upon British public opinion. From the Sovereign on the Throne to the humblest British citizen, from the stay-at-home Briton to his kinsman in the overseas dominions, everyone has been deeply touched by a manifestation of devotion to the British connection, for which, we fear, we had just received sufficient credit in the past. Even Anglo-Indian rulers, supposed to be in daily and hourly contact with Indian opinion and sentiment must feel that they had not sufficiently gauged the depth and intensity of the popular sentiment in this respect. The expression of our loyalty and attachment to the British connection with all its overwhelming manifestations of spontaneity, came as a revelation even to outsiders in close touch with us. There was thus a sense of grateful surprise and thankfulness, and a readiness to suitably appreciate a sentiment, so noble and genuine. Even the "Times," as we have seen, has been constrained to observe that as some recognition of Indian loyalty "it will be our part when we have settled our affairs with Germany to make it as the years pass, India takes a more ample place in the Councils of the Empire." It is significant that the "Times" should make such a statement; for it is a change with the times, and the "Times" is no exception to the rule. The great organ of English public opinion has expressed the prevailing British sentiment on this subject; and we rejoice that we are within a measurable distance of the practical recognition of Indian loyalty. To appreciate loyalty in a suitable and substantial manner is really to deepen it, to invest it with the elements of permanence and to make it the heritage of a nation and the strongest bulwark of Imperial rule. Sir William Wedderburn, in an admirable letter which we published yesterday, has indicated the steps that should be taken for the practical recognition of Indian loyalty; and with regard to some of these, he says that there should be no delay. "The first step," he says, "is to make it clear that the Government are not only not opposed to the Indian National Congress, but are in favour of it." (he goes on to say quite quickly) is a speech which incarnates the acceptance of the Indian National Congress as the representative of the Indian people in India. The difficulties of British public opinion in England are due to the delay in granting concessions to the Indian people. Sir William Wedderburn (1) a modification of the Arms Act, so that

these agitations were inspired really by a deep and exultant admiration for British civilisation and British institutions. That old and imitative patriotism has recently given place to a new nationalist ideal, which is proud of India's past history and culture and has a strong faith in the present strength and the future possibilities of the Indian peoples. But even this new Nationalism is very different from the unreasoning and unilluminated conservatism of the masses, which is the real moral and spiritual force behind the new self-consciousness and self-assertiveness of the class of people who formed the main body of the emigrants who sought to go and settle in Canada, and improve their material prospects by working as agriculturists or artisans in that land of great promise and immense opportunities. They have no acquaintance with European history and culture, and no intelligent appreciation of the present British connection, nor any sort of real imperialist sentiment or idealism. The type is essentially mediaeval and feudal, capable of stupendous sacrifice and almost infinite personal devotion to those whose cause they eat, but which cannot understand the abstract idealism of the modern civic life. They are exceedingly clannish in their outlook, and the grievances of any section of their community spread like wild fire from village to village and are capable of working endless mischief. Lord Hardinge understands all this. His Lordship knew that these "Komagata Maru" people would have to be brought back to their homes in the Punjab. He knew that they were coming home with a deep sore in their heart. He saw that each one of these six hundred and odd men would be a centre of very serious disaffection in their own community. And in the interest of both India and the Empire it was absolutely necessary that a reasonable understanding should be arrived at upon the problem which the "Komagata Maru" expedition had brought into such painful prominence. This is why His Excellency almost went out of his way to make a statement on this subject before his Council.

The need of an independent and non-official Imperialist propaganda.

We do not know if the substance of Lord Hardinge's statement in connection with the "Komagata Maru" affair has been translated into the vernaculars of the Punjab and circulated broadcast among the people. We do not know if the signal services which His Excellency has rendered both to these emigrants themselves and to the Empire at large, by preventing the use of armed force for sending

which leads up to these deplorable events should by all means be removed. The time has come when the representatives of the Government on the one side and the leaders of the people on the other must frankly recognise it that not in mutual suspicion and isolation, but in perfect confidence and trustful co-operation between them lies the future peace and progress of the country and the Empire.

THE LATEST STORY OF THE "EMDEN."

NORWEGIAN BOAT STOPPED NEAR COLOMBO.

Another story of the German cruiser "Emden" has come to light with the arrival in Calcutta of the Norwegian steamer "Ocean" (2,872 tons). It appears that this vessel which left Bombay for Calcutta to fetch a cargo of coal, was held up by the "Emden" on September 25th so near to Colombo that the reflection of the harbour search-lights was distinctly visible. Being a neutral ship and carrying no contraband she was allowed to proceed on her way unmolested. Captain Christianson, the skipper of the "Ocean", recounting the incident to a "Statesman" representative yesterday, bore further testimony to the polite behaviour of the commander of the "Emden".

"We were nearing Colombo at about 9 p.m. on the 25th," he said, "when suddenly I heard someone hailing us. At first I could see nothing for it was a dark night, but gradually I perceived the outlines of a three-funnelled two masted cruiser with a steamer, looking very much like a 'Hansa' liner—standing by I stopped my boat and went full speed astern, and then the cruiser made signals in the Morse code, asking for our nationality and port of destination. I replied correctly but her commander, apparently not fully satisfied, brought his ship right alongside and I had a conversation with him. He was most polite and spoke perfect English, so that at first I thought it was a British warship that had accosted us. Eventually I asked him it might proceed, and he replied 'Certainly.' With that we went ahead and he turned round and went at full speed to the westward, with the other steamer alongside. I was hardly certain then that it was the 'Emden,' but, after hearing that British ships were sunk close by there that night, I am convinced that it was her work. I remember now that her paint was of a much lighter grey than that of British warships."

THE BUDGE-BUDGE RIOT.

SIKHS ARRESTED NEAR TARAKESWAR.

Information having been received by the District Police at Hughly that about 80 Sikhs in two batches proceeded through the Sheekhala-Chandital Road towards Arambagh on

THE LOYAL JEWEL.

ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION IN ENGLAND OF INDIA'S GREAT OFFER.

(From a Correspondent.)

London, Sept. 11.

The magnificent demonstration of loyalty which all India has given this week has touched the imagination and stirred the hearts of the people of England, from King down to peasant, like nothing else which has been since the war began. The spontaneous and generous competition amongst the Princes, the rulers and the people as to which can the more readily give himself and his treasure to the Empire has left us breathless and staggered, and only now are we beginning to realise that war has indeed made us one people.

Little has the Londoner, or the average Englishman known of India or of our Indian fellow-subjects. In general he has thought vaguely that all the races of the Great Peninsula were made up of men who had but scant love and less respect for us and our governance. To him the terms Indian and seditious were almost synonymous; he believed, and to an extent our Press and Indian speakers in this country fostered and encouraged that belief, that India was a seething mass of discontent and unrest. He magnified the few cases of dacoity which occurred until the ratio, the proportion, which the number of such outrages bore to the 300,000,000 people of India was lost sight of altogether and so he brought himself to the "knowledge" of the disloyalty of India.

Now has the Londoner and the stay-at-home Briton received the most pleasant surprise of his life, and he can do nothing but talk his satisfaction all the time. India's noble action was the one topic in the House of Lords and the House of Commons during this week's sittings, not only during the official announcements, but wherever Members congregated within the precincts, and the key-note of it all was that of all the triumphs which have fallen to the nation during the heavy month of troubled war, none is so great as this demonstration that we have won and hold the hearts of all our Indian friends. India, we have been told, has quickened towards our Western manners, and frets at the laggard pace of our acceptance of their need in this direction. The greatest reform movement which India has ever fostered began when the cables dashed off to us the glorious news of her rally to the Flag, when the Flag was facing rude and strong assault. In that second India leaped a hundred years nearer to us, and the distance between us can never be as great again as it has been in the past. That moment brought us an understanding of the Indian heart, and placed us under a debt which will be paid, even, though not in the same manner, as our debt to India.

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of permanent and stable in the heritage of a nation and the strongest bulwark of Imperial rule. Sir William Wedderburn, in an admirable letter which we published yesterday, has indicated the steps that should be taken for the practical recognition of Indian loyalty; and with regard to some of these, he says that there should be no delay. "No delay, dat" (he gives twice who gives quickly) is a proverb which incarnates the accumulated wisdom of mankind. Half the difficulties of British statesmanship in England are due to the delay in granting concessions which were over-due. Sir William Wedderburn suggests (1) a modification of the Arms Act, so that licenses may be equally necessary in the case of both Europeans and Indians, (2) the enlistment of Indians as volunteers (3) the grant of commissions to Indians in the army, and lastly an amnesty for political prisoners, for which we have so often appealed in these columns. "All this country," adds Sir William Wedderburn, "Royal clemency has been extended to political offenders, and the opportunity should be taken to extend similar clemency to political offenders in India." Sir William's list is not indeed exhaustive. But these are the concessions which, he thinks, should at once be made for there are other questions which await solution in the near future. There is the Press Law, then we have the question of the separation of judicial and executive functions and above all there is the problem of provincial autonomy, guaranteed by the Despatch of the 25th August 1911. These last may perhaps take a little longer time for their solution, but some of them are indeed over-due, notably the question of the separation of judicial and executive functions and a modification, if not the actual repeal of the Press Law. India, loyal to the core, awaits with interest and expectancy the action of the Government in regard to these questions.

Viceregal wisdom justified.

The unfortunate disturbance at Budge-Budge between the disappointed passengers of the "Komagata Maru" and the officers of the Calcutta Police force, must have convinced even the most unimaginative Indian or Anglo-Indian publicist of the superior wisdom of the recent Viceregal pronouncement upon the question of Indian emigration to the Colonies. The deep political discontent which broke forth in this reprehensible riot, must be carefully handled and ended, in the interest of the present peace and future progress of the country. It is not the kind of educated discontent that had hitherto inspired all our political agitations. However irritating these agitations may have been to the bureaucratic mind, at least they have always been more or less honestly loyal to the present British connection. The men who led these agitations are not only educated but largely pro-British in their aims and ideals. At no time

minence. This is why His Excellency almost went out of his way to make a statement on this subject before his Council.

The need of an independent and non-official Imperialist propaganda.

We do not know if the substance of Lord Hardinge's statement in connection with the "Komagata Maru" affair has been translated into the vernaculars of the Punjab and circulated "broad-cast" among the people. We do not know if the signal services which His Excellency has rendered both to these emigrants themselves and to the Empire at large, by preventing the use of armed force for sending this "Komagata Maru" back to Japan, and also by financing the return of its passengers to their own homes in India, have been communicated and explained properly to these men. But this was, evidently, what his lordship wanted. This was the motive of making this statement at this time when people's minds are almost completely taken up by the story of the present war in Europe. The object has not been fully realised, or we would not have had the exceedingly regrettable affair that happened early this week at Budge-Budge. But there is yet time to "samlao" the people in regard to this matter. To do this work with any abiding result, we must have a genuine Imperialist propaganda in the country. This propaganda must be carried on by the leaders of thought of the people themselves, and particularly by men who are in no way connected with the Government. In the present temper and attitude of the people any such propaganda carried on under direct or indirect official patronage will be liable to be misunderstood. What is wanted, therefore, is an independent and non-official Imperialist propaganda.

The necessary conditions of a successful Imperialist Propaganda.

The primary condition of a successful Imperialist propaganda is a considerable relaxation, if not a complete withdrawal, of the irritating and suspicious surveillance to which every political worker in the country, and specially those who go to work among the masses, are subjected by the C. I. Department. The problems that face the Indian Administration just now, of which his matter of Indian emigration to the Colonies is only one, can never be satisfactorily solved without the mutual confidence and co-operation of the Government and the people. And it should be clearly understood by the responsible rulers of the land that the presence of the existing C. I. D., makes the growth of this mutual confidence and co-operation exceedingly difficult, if not absolutely impossible. However deeply we may regret and condemn the folly of the men who caused this riot at Budge-Budge, we cannot conceal from ourselves the idea that the ignorance and misunderstanding

which accompanied it, was the result of the fact that we went ahead and he turned round and went at full speed to the westward, with the other steamer alongside. I was hardly certain then that it was the "Emden," but, after hearing that British ships were sunk close by there that night, I am convinced that it was her work. I remember now that her paint was of a much lighter grey than that of British warships."

THE BUDGE-BUDGE RIOT.

SIKHS ARRESTED NEAR TARAKESWAR.

Information having been received by the District Police at Hughly that about 80 Sikhs in two batches proceeded through the Sheekhala-Chanditala Road towards Arambagh on Thursday a special with about 100 troops proceeded to Tarakeswar. Mr. M. L. Cassey, Assistant Superintendent of Police Serampore, was present at Tarakeswar. The troops proceeded towards Arambagh and at Sodepur at night they found some Sikhs sleeping in a meadow surrounded by tanks on all sides. The troops rounded the Sikhs who it is alleged opened fire and then attempted to escape. Before they could do so 17 of them were arrested. Two of the Sikhs were, it is alleged, subsequently arrested at the village of Purusara near Arambagh.—"Englishman."

AN ARREST IN MIDNAPORE DISTRICT.

One of the stray Punjabees of the "Komagata Maru" gang, it is reported, has been traced to near the Chandrakona Road Station in Thana Salboni of the Midnapore district. He had revolver with him and eluded arrest. He has however, since been taken in custody. The Police are very vigilant and money prizes of Rs 100 have been proclaimed by beat of drum for each arrest.

PASSENGERS OF "KOMAGATA MARU"

Out of the 321 passengers of the "Komagata Maru" only 5 are now evading arrest. Of the others sixty went quietly to their homes in the first special train and the remainder except those already mentioned as casualties are under arrest.

INDIA AND THE WAR.

RESOLUTION BY THE LIVERPOOL

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce passed the following resolution at a special meeting: "The Liverpool Chamber of Commerce desire to place on record their deep sense of admiration and gratitude for the magnificent rally made by the Indian Empire to the side of the mother country in this time of trial for the whole British Empire. They desire especially to state that the splendid contributions the Indian Empire are giving to England in men and material are appreciated warmly by the business community not only of the City of Liverpool but throughout the whole of the United Kingdom."

It is understood that the next session of the Bihar Provincial Conference, to be held at Chapra, will meet during the Basant Panchmi holidays.

that we have seen and heard the hearts of all our Indian friends. We have been told, too, that towards our Western members, from the lagged pace of acceptance of their need in this time. The greatest reform movement which India has ever fostered when the cables dashed off to the glorious news of her rally to the when the flag was facing such strong assault. In that second leaped a hundred years nearer, and the distance between us can be as great again as it has been the past. That moment brought an understanding of the Indian and placed us under a debt will be paid, even, though not in the same manner, as our debt to many, in full.

For the moment even the Press not understand the fulness of the message from the New India, but the beginning men who have laboured in India, like Lord Roberts, understood and rejoiced. Great little General, our most perfect soldier, is more than pleased; he now that the two things for which long he has laboured—the avowal of his countrymen to their needs and the closer union of between ourselves and India—accomplished, and though the first lit is likely to cost us much blood and others with him, that the to be paid is small beside the fit which the Empire is to reap to many men is it given to live men's time to see the dreams of life accomplished and Lord Roberts happy beyond belief.

Another Roberts there is.—Mr. Les Roberts, the Under Secretary of State for India, and he it was to feel the honour of telling the of Commons the story of patriotism. The "Times" says Mr. Roberts's story that "it on the easy like a romance from East, with all its variety, movement and colour. It was accepted as one of the finest tributes ever paid to the Imperial ideal."

There was not a man in the of Commons who did not envy Lord Roberts the joy of being the piece through whom the representatives here of the British people led that the people across the Seas, which spread between India, were at one with us at the moment of our stress. He leaped forward to catch the pre-words; they broke in again and with cheers as the slow tale unfolded, as the pageantry of chivalry was spread before them the soft concrete sound of names fell on their ears. The prodigality of the offers made Princes and Rulers, the retreat of the simple words "All I can do" "All my resources" taught me like nothing else that India knew the time for selfishness was past, counted nothing as its own but belonging first to the Motherland.

Even in the more solemn House of Lords, where decorum is the principle, the Peers were more enthusiastic when Lord set forth, quietly but happily, the measure of India's love, than he been known before. Lord set down his dignified thanks; he just that measure of greater "highness" which the occasion