

# LETTER FROM INDIA TO LOCAL Y. M. C. A.

Matheran, India, Jan. 20, 1922.  
General Secretary Y. M. C. A., St. John,  
N. B., Canada:

Dear Sir,—In the course of a visit to India, some impressions of which are outlined in the enclosed letter, I went to Madras, spending several days there. The Y. M. C. A. building is one of the earliest in the far East, is still a centre of great activity in spite of its need for alterations to modernise it. A government official, whose business takes him to all parts of South India, has recently said that in any community where there were men interested in the good of their fellows he would be certain to find them formerly connected with the Y. M. C. A. Hostel in Madras or the Madras Christian College. Mr. H. C. Herman, the general secretary, is a leader who has access to all classes in Madras, which is a centre not only of the Christian forces of South India, but is also of large political and economic significance.

The association is not only strong in its student work, but has a well-established educational department and its physical programme is rapidly being extended through all parts of the city.

Faithfully yours,  
EDWARD C. JENKINS.  
Delhi, India, Jan. 7, 1922.

Dear Friend,—Your newspapers are probably carrying only a few lines about the visit of the Prince of Wales to India, but to us he seems a storm centre, passing over this vast area, around which the political atmosphere swirls and black clouds gather. We hear no objections to him personally—how could there be? But he represents the British Raj, and thousands in this land are passionately devoted to the task of sweeping away that Raj as it at present functions in India, and substituting Swaraj, self-government, either within (in the form of full "dominion status") or entirely outside the British commonwealth of nations. Among masses who cannot read or write, whose lives are spent in high fruitless toil, living close to the hunger line, there is a vague feeling that when Swaraj comes, taxes will be greatly lessened, there will be more to eat, and life will be easier all round. Among the small percentage who are educated, Swaraj is regarded as coming—options differing as to how and especially when. I have talked with men of all shades of opinion, and they are divided into three main groups.

On the right are those who somewhat grudgingly support the reforms, i. e., the present governmental machinery, which is working according to plan. In this group are the European business men, the big Indian merchants and money lenders, the landed proprietors, and all those, generally, who stand to benefit by keeping the status quo. To them British control is absolutely essential to the welfare of India, and (though admitting that the reforms have a useful purpose) they are convinced from experience that India will not be ready for self-government for an indefinite period.

Antagonistic to the right is the group demanding Swaraj forthwith. They call themselves Nationalists, but they are called by the conservative press "Extremists." Numerically strong, they are held together by the powerful personality of the Mahatma, M. K. Gandhi, a great figure whose moral leadership is tremendous. He is idolized by the masses as a medieval saint, and his name is potent with uncounted millions. He controls completely the Indian National Congress and his policy aims to paralyze government by non-violent but complete non-co-operation and thus force it to grant Swaraj. The most recent application of non-co-operation was the series of Hartals, that is, cessation of work of all kinds, while the prince has been touring the country. I was in Calcutta during the Hartal of November 17 and can testify as to the thorough completeness of the tie-up. The government has declared the non-co-operators' societies illegal and thousands are put in jail for illegal agitation, many going joyfully as martyrs, others too deservingly because they take advantage of Gandhi's great influence to work their selfish will on peace-loving citizens.

The non-co-operators have made common cause with the Khilafat party, which is agitating for a revision of the treaty of Sevres, so as to give more favorable terms to Turkey. The Moplahs of Malabar, whose cruel activities are being rigorously suppressed by the troops, are chiefly Moslems who are making the Khilafat agitation an excuse for murder and rapine.

The middle of the road is held by the Moderates, who seek Swaraj along the path staked out by the reforms. This party is not so strongly influenced by self-interest as those to the right nor so captivated by a single mastering idea as those on the left. Generally the Moderates are well educated; they know their history; they distrust revolutionary processes. They are accepting seats in the councils and assemblies and, while they freely criticize policies and specific acts, the Moderates are soberly at work on



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the constructive side, expecting that in due time India will govern herself through her own sons.

Outside these three general groups, politically, are those who want to see Swaraj come, but whose present concern is to help to create an atmosphere of goodwill in which antagonisms can be harmonized and revolution avoided. Just here the Y. M. C. A. is a factor of great importance. Its extensive service for Indian and other troops in the war has made permanent friends everywhere. Its able Indian leadership has demonstrated the capacity which only needed opportunity to be recognized. Its broad policy of helpfulness, such as participation in the Malabar Relief fund, has attracted much favor. And, above all, it is known as an Indian movement, which, through literature and in other ways, seeks to reflect the best in India. While keeping its Christian character and programme right in front, this movement has the respect and confidence of leaders in all the political camps. The Y. M. C. A. is an influence for good out of all proportion to its size as an organization. The friends in Canada and in

the United States who have steadily backed the Indian Y. M. C. A. may now be sure that at this critical time the movement is standing the severe tests and is serving India in the truest way.

Faithfully yours,  
EDWARD C. JENKINS.

TRINITY CHURCH W. A.

A year of success was reported at the annual meeting of the W. A. of Trinity Church held yesterday afternoon. Holy Communion was celebrated in the morning, followed by a short business session. In the afternoon reference was made to the death of the following members during the year: Mrs. W. Smith, Mrs. C. R. Clarke, Mrs. A. W. Golding, Mrs. R. Humphrey, Mrs. J. S. Harding and Mrs. J. V. Ellis. Mrs. G. R. S. Keator was enrolled as a life member. The report of the mite box treasurer, Mrs. W. S. Fisher, was received.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. L. R. Harrison; first vice-president, Mrs. F. J. G. Knowlton; second vice-president, Mrs. J. J. Gordon; third vice-president, Miss K. Allan; corresponding secretary, Miss

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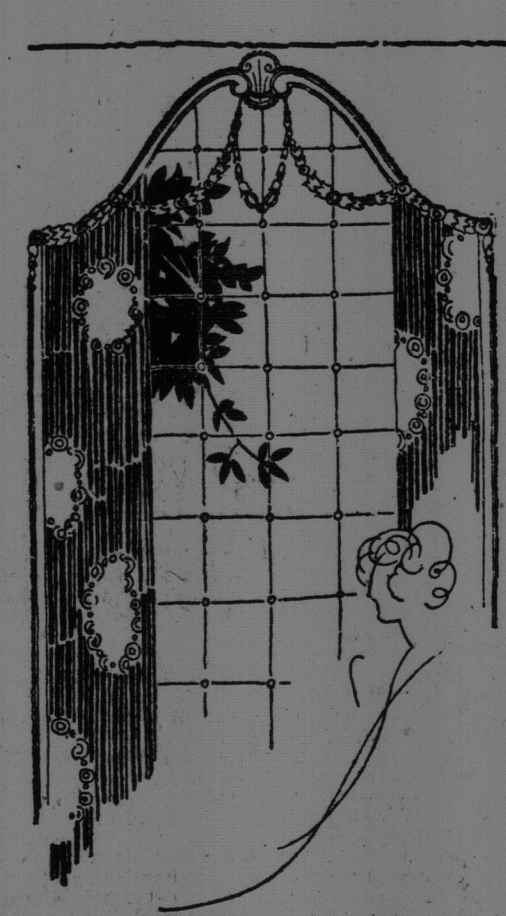
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### RECENT DEATHS

General William A. Bancroft. The death of General William A. Bancroft occurred on Saturday night at his residence in Boston. He was formerly president of the Boston Elevated Street Railway, and was prominent in athletics.

John Friel. John Friel died in the Moncton City Hospital yesterday. He was born in Garton, County Donegal, Ireland, and was in his eighty-fourth year. He came to this province in 1857 and attended Normal school, after which he taught in many country districts. He is survived by two sons, Albert, an employee of Dorchester penitentiary, and James Friel, K. C., of Moncton.

### WOULD CHANGE THE RULE OF THE ROAD

This and Other Resolutions  
of N. S. Good Roads Con-  
vention.

Halifax, N. S., March 15.—At the Nova Scotia good roads convention held here last night resolutions were adopted urging the provincial government to institute a system of road patrols, change the rule of the road from left to right, adopt a uniform system of assessment throughout the province and provide better ferriage across the Strait of Canso.

S. L. Squires, chairman of the executive of the Canadian Good Roads Association said that while the average tax the farmer paid for highways was \$48 per 100 acres in Ontario, it was \$6 in Quebec and only \$2.75 in Nova Scotia. G. Fred Pearson was elected honorary president and R. H. Murray president for the year.

### COMMON COUNCIL

At the meeting of the common council yesterday afternoon Commissioner Jones submitted a report from the city engineer, containing plans and information regarding a proposed new thirty-six-inch sewer in the North End, at an estimated cost of \$12,000. The delegation from the Chautauqua committee appeared before the council again, but their request that the tax of \$10 be not levied was set over until a later date. A communication from Industrial Canada publication, asking the city use the magazine for advertising, was left with the mayor. The report of the committee of the whole was adopted. It contained recommendations that the commissioner of public works be authorized to call for tenders for 175 tons of asphalt and that the sum of \$87 be paid to Frank H. Gardner for damage sustained to his property through the discharge of dynamite by city workmen in January last. The resignation of William E. Dem-

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Our Corsetiere, Miss O'Neil, having previously taken a course of fitting in the "Modart School" and received her diploma, has just now returned from a further course in the "Gossard School" and comes home equally enthusiastic over the Canadian made "GOSSARD."

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Yours truly,

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ings from No. 2 Salvage Corps was accepted and confirmed.

Commissioner Jones, in referring to an inquiry received from W. I. Fenton regarding the possibility of having water and sewerage facilities on the land formerly occupied by the Sacred Heart Convent on Mount Pleasant, said that the elevation was too high to receive water without the aid of a pump.

### HOUSING IN HALIFAX.

The report of the secretary of the Housing Commission as furnished to the city council shows that during 1920 89,450 and \$8,800 was allotted in loans, twenty houses were built at a cost of \$80,000 and there remained then to be allotted \$5,250. The twenty houses built at Richmond were all sold and occupied. During last year \$550,000 was borrowed and the \$5,250 balance of 1920 added made available \$555,250. From this 130 loans amounting to \$540,275 and two of \$8,800 were made, leaving \$5,275 to be

allotted. The Commission had 185 the commission. About 60 per cent of houses under control at the end of the year, 133 of them built and occupied, soldiers, 80 per cent of them mechanics, forty-three under construction and six in no case was a loan made to anybody to be erected. The secretary's opinion was that 90 per cent of the houses would total of \$23,609.55 had been paid in to not have been built without the aid of the provincial secretary under the Housing Act.



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