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Lord Hardinge's Farewell to the People of India

Lands—Patriotism of India's People to the Empire—Tells of the Zealous Loyalty Displayed by Her Princes and People and the Devotion of Her Soldiers—India Has 300,000 Soldiers Fighting the Battles of Britain and Freedom

Lord Hardinge's farewell speech as Viceroy of India, delivered before the Imperial Legislative Council at Delhi, proved to be a frank discussion of Indian problems, mingled with high praise for the loyalty of the princes and peoples of the Empire. Parts of his address dealing with matters of more than local interest, are reproduced from the Calcutta Englishman:

"Turning to foreign affairs nearer home, it is pleasant to be able to state that in Persia there has been a very distinct improvement in the situation. We are on the most friendly terms with the Persian Government, who have at last realized the danger to which their country was exposed by the machinations of German and Austrian hands, and are doing their utmost to suppress them. I need hardly say that in their efforts to restore order to Persia the Government will continue to have our hearty co-operation and assistance in any way that they may desire. Our friend and ally, the Amir of Afghanistan, continues to maintain very friendly relations with the Government of India, and has recently renewed his assurances to bove an attitude of strict neutrality, and we have implicit confidence in his royal word.

"On the frontier perfect tranquility has for some time prevailed, except for raids by gangs of Mahsuds in the Dera Ismail Khan district. The cup of their misdeeds is already overflowing, and the day of retribution is at hand. As soon as our preoccupation elsewhere is relieved, and when it suits our convenience, it will be necessary for the Government to take drastic steps to put an end forever to the campaign of murder and plunder that has disgraced the Mahsud tribe during the past few years.

"Except in Bengal, where, I am sorry to say, there has been a regrettable number of murders and dacoities which dim the fair fame of that province, and which every effort should be made not only by the Government but by the people themselves to suppress, the internal situation of India could hardly be more favorable, and it is a source of profound satisfaction for me, on the eve of my departure, to feel it in Europe, but we have had to be able to say so. We do not feel the shock of battle here as the nations ample evidence of German designs to create trouble in India, which have so far proved abortive, based as they were on the fallacy that India would be disloyal to the Empire. During the past twenty months of war, the people of this land have displayed a loyalty and patriotism deeply appreciated by the Empire at large, that have been beyond all praise and have entirely justified the confidence and trust that I repose in them. Heads of Government have told me that never in their experience have the relations between the government and the people been closer or of greater confidence, and I readily believe it. When I hear pessimistic prophecies or apprehensions as to the future of India, I ask myself who, twenty years ago, would have predicted the magnificent loyalty of the ruling princes and the people of India which we have seen since the outbreak of the war? None ever doubted the valor of the Indian army, British and Indian, but who would have said twenty years ago that it would be possible to send out of India to the different theatres of war army after army of brave and experienced soldiers? When it is remembered that the largest expedition that ever left the shore of India before the present war numbered only 18,000 men, and that since the outbreak of the war India has dispatched about 300,000 soldiers overseas, and has contributed several million pounds' worth of war materials to the Empire. I think we have everything to be proud of the efforts that India has made, and of the situation on and inside our frontiers that have rendered such efforts possible. Many gallant men have died for their country. Of these the whole Empire is the tomb."

"During the past few months, I have seen mention made in speeches at meetings in the country and in the press of self-government, colonial self-government, and Home Rule for India. I have often wondered whether those speakers and writers fully realized the conditions prevailing in dominions such as Canada or Australia which render self-government possible. A study of the history of the dominions would show that the development of their self-govern-

ing institutions had been achieved not by any sudden stroke of statesmanship, but by a process of steady and patient evolution which has gradually united and raised all classes of the community to the level of their enhanced responsibilities. I do not for a moment wish to discountenance self-government for India as a national ideal. It is a perfectly legitimate aspiration and has the warm sympathy of all moderate men, but in the present position of India it is not idealism that is needed, but practical politics and practical solutions to questions arising out of the social and political conditions in this country. We should look facts squarely in the face and do our utmost to grapple with realities. To lightly raise extravagant hopes and to encourage unrealistic demands can only tend to delay and not to accelerate political progress. I know that this is the sentiment of many wise and thoughtful Indians. In speaking thus frankly it is far from my intention to create a feeling of discouragement, for nobody is more anxious than I am to see the early realization of the just and legitimate aspirations of India. But I am equally desirous of avoiding all danger of reaction from the birth of institutions which experience might prove to be premature. During the past five and one-half years I have steadily kept this aim in view, and as far as I am able will do all in my power to help the course of Indian progress in the future. Nothing that has occurred during the past four and one-half years has made me change by a hair's breadth my views as to the soundness of the policy defined in that much-disputed third paragraph of the despatch of the Government of India of August 25, 1911, the re-

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sponsibility for which rests especially, upon myself in conjunction with my late friend, Sir John Jenkins. The meaning of that paragraph has been much discussed, but as it is written in plain English I see no necessity for explaining it. I only wish to emphasize the fact that it was not contemplated that the policy adumbrated should be fulfilled in its entirety in the immediate future or within a specified period of time, but that the progress towards the foreshadowed goal should be steady and gradual. Speculation as to the rapidity with which progress is to be made or the precise definition of the goal to be achieved would be profitless.

Changes After the War.

"The fact that at the conclusion of this great war question of far-reaching importance to India will arise, provoking discussion and requiring sympathetic decision, is patent to all. Many such questions have had my most earnest consideration, and the Home Government are in possession of my views as to how they should be solved in a generous measure. But this is neither the time nor the place for dwelling upon them. I was glad when I read Sir Satyendra Sinda's speech at the National Congress last December in which he strongly deprecated treating the satisfactory solution of such questions as a concession in return for Indian loyalty. Loyalty has no price. It is priceless. It is not an object of exchange and barter. Whatever change may in due course be made will be owing to the fact that they are justified by the indomitable bravery of our soldiers, by the patriotic attitude of the people of India during a period of difficulty and stress, and by their political progress and moral development during the past few years. I will only say this—that the question of the improvement of the status, position, and prospects of the Indian officers and men of the Indian army is one that should have precedence over all others. For it is they who have borne the danger, heat, and burden of the day and have nobly maintained the honor and fair fame of India in the vanguard of the British and Colonial armies in Flanders and other theatres of war. I would urge, further, that special provision should be made by Government for those who had suffered permanent injuries as well as for the education of the orphans of Indian soldiers who have perished during the war, and that the future prospects of such children should always be a matter of concern to the Government and people of India.

At Imperial Council.

"As regards the position of India within the Empire the announcement which I made in this Council last September to the effect that India's demand to be represented in future on Imperial Conferences would be sympathetically considered by his Majesty's Government is, I think, likely to become historic, for it marks the beginning of a new era and the growth of more liberal ideas in regard to India not previously entertained. At the same time the reception by the colonial press of the resolution relating to the representation of India at the next Imperial Conference, proposed in this Council last September by the Hon. Mr. Mohamed Shafi and unanimously accepted, was most encouraging, and was a good indication of the change in the angle of vision of our fellow-subjects in the dominions towards India and the place that India should hold in the councils of the Empire. I feel confident that the statesmen of the self-governing dominions, recognizing the splendid services rendered by India to the Empire during the war, will generously seek a modification of the constitution of the Imperial Conference so as to admit the properly accredited representatives of India to sit side by side with them at the Imperial Council table on terms of equality. I rejoice in this matter to leave India with the high opportunity before her to take a place in the Imperial Council of the Empire.

Brave Little Mother At Home.

A lonely mother gazing at a picture on the wall,
Of a soldier boy who left her to answer duty's call.
She proudly bade him go and do his bit for country dear,
Now fond memories to her clinging bring to her eye a tear.
For 'tis sad and weary waiting while her heart is filled with pain,
To hear the troops come marching back to see her boy again.

Chorus—

We love the boys in khaki, we love the boys in blue,
Who fight for King and Country as every man should do.
Let us not forget another who is waiting all alone,
With a tear and a sigh for her bold soldier boy.
Some brave little mother at home.

Our soldiers who are far away on some foreign strand,

Take Baby For a Ride.



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To the broken-hearted mothers who are waiting all in vain.
May Heaven look with pity on the mothers left alone.
Sadly waiting, sadly praying for their boys across the foam.
When with joyful shouts of victory the troops come marching home. Some mothers hearts will beat with joy, some others fill with pain.
When she hears her brave young soldier is numbered with the slain.
'Tis not long since he left to fight the cruel and treacherous Hun.
He gave his life for England's cause that freedom may be won.
When the cannon cease to rattle and drums no longer sound,
Bay Roberts, May 27. L. F.