



RIVERSIDE BLANKETS

The name "Riverside" on a Pair of Blankets is a guarantee of quality. Woven from selected wools on up-to-date machinery by experts, these Blankets are light in weight yet give a maximum degree of heat.

THEY HAVE PROVED SUPERIOR TO OTHER MAKES.

THE ROUND TABLE INDIA AND THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

A Quarterly Review of the Politics of
the British Empire—Republished
Under the Above Heading

THE future historian will probably treat September 22, 1915, as a date of uncommon importance in the constitutional development of India. On that day a non-official Indian Member of the Legislative Council of the Governor-General moved a resolution recommending that representation should be made to His Majesty's Government that India should in future be officially represented in the Imperial Conference. Not merely on the ground of the magnitude of her interests affected, the mover claimed that India should in justice have a voice in Imperial deliberations; he urged that the part she had played in the present war showed that she was actually worthy to exercise the privilege for which she asked. The Viceroy, who spoke immediately after the mover, announced that his Government gladly accepted the resolution, and, if the Council adopted it, would readily take action upon it. Indeed, he went further, and disclosed the fact that the proposal had already been considered sympathetically by His Majesty's Ministers. "I am authorized," said Lord Hardinge, "by His Majesty's Government, while preserving their full liberty of judgment and without committing them to principles or details, to give an undertaking that an expression of opinion from this Imperial Legislative Council, in the sense of the resolution that is now before us, will receive most careful consideration on their part, as expressing the legitimate interests of the Legis-

lative Council in an imperial question, although the ultimate decision of His Majesty's Government must necessarily depend largely on the attitude of other members of the Conference." Such an assurance Lord Hardinge thought eminently satisfactory as showing due consideration for the claims of India. He trusted that when right moment arrived the Governments of the self-governing Dominions would also view the question in a generous and statesmanlike manner. After several Indian members had spoken the resolution was carried by a unanimous vote. It is manifest that the motion expressed the feelings of all classes in the country who were interested in the matter, and that the Government's attitude and Lord Hardinge's announcement gave deep and genuine satisfaction.

For a dependency such as India is, however populous and important, thus wholeheartedly to maintain its right to share in deliberations in which only the self-governing nations of the Empire have hitherto participated implies a remarkable growth in the political self-respect of its people, and a strong expectation also that others will regard them in a new and favourable light. No ordinary cause could have worked such effects. They are, in fact, the result of the world-wide war and of the part which India has played in it.

II.
IN any attempt to describe the effect which the war has had on India, it must be remembered that the struggle is not yet over, and no one can forecast its future course with confidence. Statements as to the attitude of India to the war must be taken with an implied reservation that no unforeseen and catastrophic change of fortune occurs. But this is not all. To discuss the thoughts of a people who are at war is in a measure to handle the material of war itself. Here in England has been borne in upon us the unwisdom of either exaggerated optimism or austere truth-telling about the mind of the people or the effort which it is making to win the war. Excess of eulogy may dull, or excess of criticism may dissipate, energies that should be bent to the supreme purpose. On the whole there is little doubt which way the wise man's balance will incline. A good heart is of the very essence of victory, and therefore it is wise to give the people the full measure of credit they deserve. But criticism should always be tempered by remembrance that it may do more harm

than good. These considerations apply with no less force to India. She is assisting us to fight the greatest struggle in which we ever engaged with a wholeheartedness and devotion that calls for most generous acknowledgment. That is the cardinal fact which not merely disappointed our enemies, but surprised the world: no deductions that it might be possible to make in a nice summing up of the total account should be allowed for one instant to obscure our perception or dim our realization of the main truth. We should be unjust to India, and should do our own cause no good either with her or in the face of the enemy, if through sedulous anxiety to omit no detail of the picture we permitted the shortcomings of the very few to impair our recognition of the achievement of the very many.

Eighteen months ago if the question had been asked, "How

would India behave in the event of a vast European war in which Great Britain was involved?" even those who know the country best would have found it difficult to give an assured reply. In their hearts, indeed, they might have trusted that war, being a great searcher out of the minds of men, would show that India valued the Raj more than she knew, and more than the speeches of some of her public men implied. Such a trust would, in fact, have been based on a conviction of the broad merits of our rule, which our critics during two decades have been inclined to belittle; and in proportion as the observer permitted his thoughts to stray from the main truths about our position in India to the criticisms which have helped to obscure them, his doubts would have increased about the answer to the question. There need be no hesitation in admitting that many of the criticisms which our administration in India has

incurred have been fair enough. We have gradually created new conditions in that country, and without warning and advice we should probably have been too slow in adjusting our methods to meet them. But perhaps some of those who reproach us are not immune themselves. They wanted a new heaven and earth at once. The trouble was of a kind that no Government action could directly meet. The King's visit did much to intensify the personal loyalty of India to the Crown; but it could do little to bring official and educated Indians to a real understanding. In general the Englishman stood fast by his own standards, and could not heartily rejoice whenever efficiency as he understood it was impaired in attempts to do things more as the Indians wished them done. No particular concessions made to Indian opinion sufficed to satisfy the advanced Indian. He welcomed them, not by any means as

a final settlement, but as definite advances to a distant goal. Between the two parties there remained a definite and honest difference of opinion, coupled with some misunderstanding of each other's motives, on which it is needless to dwell, and some harsh feelings which that misunderstanding caused. Remembering these things, a modest-minded witness, however sure he might feel about the great majority of the people, might have felt some doubt what the attitude of a section of the educated community would be.

When war broke out, foreign countries were naturally far less able to see India in its true perspective. The news that had normally reached them from India as disproportionately concerned with agitations and crime, simply because these make livelier reading than reports of moral and material progress. Accordingly our enemies hoped, and some of our friends feared, that the war would lead to serious embarrassments in India. It was fancied, not by the Germans only, that political discontents would gather and come to a head, and that the fanatical and the criminal classes might create disorder which would prevent our sending troops to France, even if it did not shake our hold upon the country and endanger the lives of English men and women. It was imagined that placid villages might be startled by news of disasters magnified by rumour and see in them the fulfilment of prophecies of the downfall of the Raj; and that every desperate or broken man, who had a private wrong to requite or debts unpaid, might spread the word that the Germans were coming and each should help himself, and that the floodgates of panic and anarchy would be opened. In particular some people supposed that if Turkey were lured into the war on the enemy's side, reverence for the Sultan as spiritual head of Islam would embitter the feelings of seventy millions of Mohammedans towards the Allied Powers, and sorely strain their loyalty to their own temporal sovereign.

None of these things has happened. Save where their material interests have been affected, the peasants of India have taken the war with indifference, and shown few signs of panic and none of ferment. The middle classes are genuinely praying for the success of the British arms. The Mohammedans hastened to disclaim any sympathy with or responsibility for Turkey's action. The advanced party among the politicians have shown no sympathy with Germany, but have supported the Government both in word and deed. The whole of the fighting classes of India have responded to the call to arms, and already hundreds of brave men—Jats, Pathans, Gurkhas, Rajputs, Sikhs, and others—have died cheerfully for their King in and before the trenches in France and Flanders. India has made it clear to the world that in this crisis she is with Great Britain, and that her blood and money will be gladly and proudly given. She has surprised even those who hoped the most from her, by the unhesitant and emphasis of her decision. We owe it to her to try to understand why she took it.

Good Sellers!

Outport Store keepers are cordially invited to write for prices on the following goods which are A. I. sellers with the St. John's trade:

PURE GOLD JELLY POWDER.
PURE GOLD ESSENCES.
PURE GOLD ICING.
PURE GOLD COFFEE.
PURE GOLD BAKING POWDER.
PURE GOLD MUSTARD.
WELCH'S GRAPE JUICE.

P. E. OUTERBRIDGE

(Sole Agent for Nfld.)
Commercial Chambers,
Telephone 60.
Sept 7th, Sat. Tues

In Stock

100 Cases
-Valencia Onions,
200 brls. Apples.

and to arrive by S. S. Gracian

75 Kegs

Green Grapes

H. J. Brownrigg

Phone 469.

FOR SALE!

LOCAL AND SCOTCH

Herring BARRELS

—Also—

Splayed HOOPS

for Brls. and Half Brls.

SMITH CO. Ltd.

Telephone 506.

SLATTERY'S

Wholesale Dry Goods House.

TO THE WHOLESALE BUYER—

In stock and ready for your inspection, at
the Lowest Possible Prices:

POUND GOODS

Percale
Lawn
Cotton Tweed
Fleece Calico
Mispprints
Denim
Shirting
Striped Flannelette
White Flannelette

Cheviots
Sateen
Linolette
Quilt Pieces
Mottled Flannel
Cretones
Art Tick
Muslin
Towelling
Blay Calico

YARD GOODS

Dress Goods
Curtain Srim
Curtain Net
Curtain Muslin
Shirting
Blay Calico
Dress Gingham
Apron Gingham

Art Muslin
Bed Tick
Percale
Mottled Flannel
Towelling
Regatta
Cotton Tweed
Lawn

Also the following, many of which are Jobs:—

Men's Underwear
" Braces
" Sweaters
" Undershirts
" Ties

Boys' Hose
" Overcoats
" Suits
" Pants
" Rompers
" Rain Coats

Girls' Coats
" Sleeping Suits
" Gantlers
" Wool Mittens

Ladies' Coats
" Neckwear
" Blouses
" Nightdresses
" Undershirts
" Sweater Coats
" Aprons

Boys' Underwear
" Braces
" Sweaters

Girls' Underwear
" Dresses

Ladies' Underwear
" Corsets
" Corset Covers
" House Dresses

Hair Pins
Dressing Combs
Fine Tooth Combs

Crochet Cotton
Brooches
Hat Pins
Cushion Tops

Toys
Mirrors
Playing Cards

Dress Fastners
Shirt Buttons
Neck Beads, assorted

SLATTERY'S

Wholesale Dry Goods House.

P.O. Box 236.

Duckworth and Georges Sts.

Phone 522.



OUR QUESTION IS,

What will you do if you have a fire and haven't any insurance? Can you stand this loss?

IT'S FOOLISH TO TAKE
YOUR OWN FIRE RISK

When our premiums are so low. Don't take chances, but . . .

HAVE US INSURE YOU

in one of our companies. Why not do it to-day?

PERCIE JOHNSON
Insurance Agent.