The World Window Britain's

The Call of the Empire

Presiding in London at a recent meeting of the Victoria League, Mr. Lewis Harcourt, secretary of state for the colonies, spoke in highly appreciative terms of what the oversea Dominions and India

had done in aid of the Motherland at this supreme crisis. He had done in aid of the Motherland at this supreme crisis. He acknowledged, with deep gratitude, the debt owed to every corner—even the remotest—of the Empire for the unexampled response that had been made. There was, Mr. Harcourt said, no sacrifice—of men, of money, of material which had seemed too great for those of British blood, who were wide-flung thruout the world. And not of British bloor or color only. Some illinformed, blind, misguided fools had thought that when Britain was at war, India would be in mutiny, but they were wrong. However, had Britons mistrusted their Indian fellow subjects of the King, these prophets of evil might have proved to be right, for Mr. Harcourt remarked that he had been told a mutiny would have occurred, had the Indian troops not been permitted to fight with their British comrades in troops not been permitted to fight with their British comrades in the trenches. Men, horses, guns, motors, ambulances, all the paraphernalia of modern war has been freely placed at the disposal of the state and had crossed the Indian ocean without mishap, and in perfect security under the convoy of the imperial navy.

Who, then, are these Indian troops who are making for themselves an imperishable record on the battlefields of France and Flanders? An answer-was given in an address before the London

Concerning Our Indian Troops

Chamber of Commerce on "Our Indian Troops at the Front," delivered by a distinguished native of India, Dr. Shaporji Aspaniarji Kapadia, doctor of medicine, barrister-at-law of the Inner Temple and lecturer on the Gujerati language at University College. Introducing his subject, Dr. Kapadia said that the first man to undertake the work of forming an Indian army on the European model was Dupleix, who in the Carnatic, about 1746, raised several battalions of Mohammedan soldiers armed in European fashion. A few years later, Major Stringer Lawrence, "father of the Indian army," enrolled the Sepoys in Madras. At that time India was full of adventurers belonging to various Asiatic races, ready to sell their swords to the highest bidder. After each British advance, the conquered race gave its quota to the army. As an example, Dr. Kapadia cited the Nepal war of 1814, when General Ochterlony's victory was followed by the enrolment of the Gurkhas. So when the Punjab was annexed a force was recruited, now known as the Punjab Frontier Force. The appearation of Nagrore in 1854. as the Punjab Frontier Force. The annexation of Nagpore in 1854 and of Oudh in 1856, gave rise to the well-known Oudh Irregular

India's Warrior Tribes and Races

Dr. Kapadia then explained that the existing soldier tribes and races of India were divided broadly as follows: 1. The Sikhs, who came from Upper India (Punjab), from the races of Jats and Guiars:

jab), from the races of Jats and Gujars;

2. The Rajputs (literal meaning, "Sons of Princes"), and the Dogras;

3. The Gurkhas;

4. The Mahrattas;

5. The Mohammedans from the Punjab; and

6. Afghans, Pathans and Afridis. The Afghans and Gurkhas came from outside the limits of India proper but the remainder inhabited the different parts of the country. Taking first thetSikhs, Dr. Kapadia said a Sikh was baptized into his religion, not born in it, and his value as a faithful soldier depended upon his adherence to the simple tenets and hardy life of his forefathers. No non-baptized Sikh soldier was enlisted in the Indian army. The main aim of the founder of Sikhism was to make the Sikhs soldiers. He prohibited tobacco in order that they might not waste their time and substance unnecessarily, and he would not allow them to cut their hair so that they might look like giants and ferocious when arrayed in the field of battle. The military services and courageous deeds of these men had often been recorded in history. They flocked to the British standard in the time of the mutiny, and ever since have formed a conspicuous section of the Indian army relied upon for their adventurous spirit section of the Indian army relied upon for their adventurous spirit even in distant battlefields.

Taking next the world-famous Gurkha Regiments, Dr. Kapadia explained that the name now applied to all the inhabitants of Nepal was originally limited to a small tribe living in Gurkha, a small

India's Highland Regiment

part of Nepal. The Gurkhas were quite a distinct feature of the Indian army. Then religion was Hinduism of the simplest kind bordering on Buddhism. Thickset and muscular they made most active and disciplined soldiers of considerable fighting value and would be specially valuable in this war as they were very enduring and nearly immune from cold. From another tribe in the west of Nepal, the Garhwalis, came other battalions of fine warriors and good soldiers, the less thickset and muscular than the Gurkhas. the Maharattas had long served with credit and distinction in the the Maharattas had long served with credit and distinction in the Bombay army and had a reputation for great wiriness and endurance. The Dogras were also well-known soldiers from Northern India, coming from the hills between Punjab and Cashmere, and were of Rajput and Brahman tribes, descendants of those old Hindu races who did not embrace Islam and took refuge in the hills. His good behaviour, courtly manners, high courage and physical endurance made the Dogra a soldier valued by all who knew him. The Dogras had invariably acquitted themselves with distinction The Dogras had invariably acquitted themselves with distinction and provided three regiments, the best class being in the cavalry.

Border Clans and Princely

. . . The Mohammendans of the Punjab, Dr. Kapadia continued, were chiefly converts from various Hindu tribes who were compelled to accept Islam in the time of the Mohammedan domination. They fur-

the Mohammedan domination. They furnished many excellent soldiers. The Pathans and Afghans were a fine strong race and were believed to have a Jewish descent, as their names, like Jacob, Joseph and Isaac showed. The true Afghans, the Durani clan, called themselves Ben-i-Israel, "The children of Israel." Hardy, active, alert and inured to war, they were endued with considerable courage when well led and capable of much elan. To the best type of Englishmen, their open, irresponsive manner, their delight in all exercises and sports, with their constant high spirits, appealed greatly, and certain types of Englishmen appealed greatly to them. Altho all blood feuds were closed in the ranks by custom and discipline, when on furlough these feuds were revived for over the border it was border law. The Afridis from the Khyber pass, were descended from Aryan stock and also claimed Jewish descent. The Rajputs belonged to the princely clan and were descended from the Kshattryas or soldiers, one of the mree great divisions of the Aryans. They were good warriors and mree great divisions of the Aryans. They were good warriors and had done good service in India. In closing, Dr. Kapadia referred to the enthusiastic rally India had made to the flag and described it as of happy augury for the future of the Empire.

New Armies

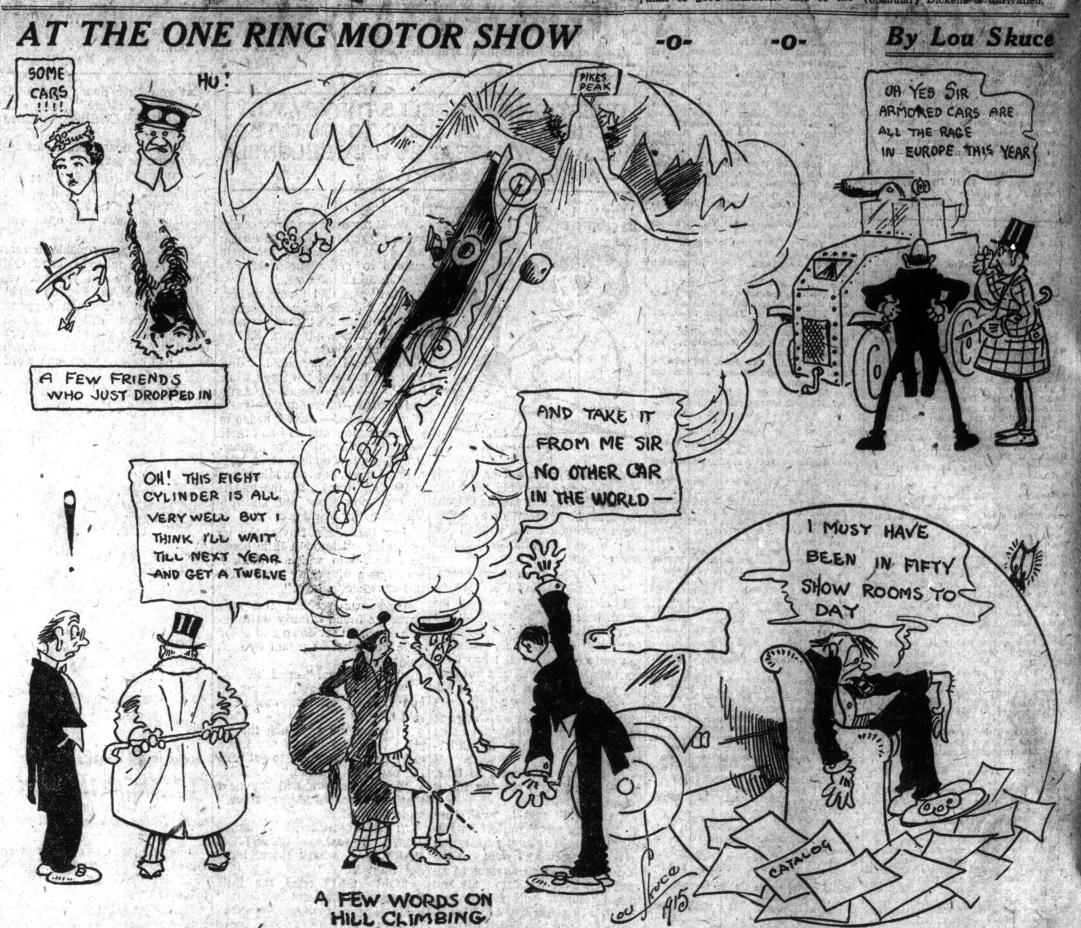
their remarkable and continuously progressive efficiency. Competent observers agree that a wonderful transformation has passed over the men since they came under physical training and military discipline. Members of the French Cabinet, on their recent visit to London, expressed the highest possible opinion regarding the quality of the new armies and their recognition of the part Britain was taking in preparing for the approaching campaign. Both the French and Russian Governments have frankly admitted that the United Kingdom has gone beyond all their anticipations of the share it would take in land operations. One of the principal Italian

One of the principal Italian newspapers, The Messagero of Rome, dedicated an enthusiastic article to Lord Kitchener's men, article to Lord Kitchener's men, describing them as "an army of gentlemen." The article expressed admiration of the ease with which he overcame the difficulty caused by lack of officers, and adds that what seemed a contradiction, has become a reality, for Great Britain, with the smallest standing force has been able to readware. has been able to produce a proportionately greater number of officers than any other European army. "Never in all her long story army. "Never in all her long story of wars," The Messagero continues, "has Great Britain gathered under her colors an army representing like this, the flower of the nation, all that the ancient British race can furnish of the noble and the generous."

Regiments of the once decried Territorials, are now serving in Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt and India, as well as in the trenches. Every-where these volunteer troops have created the most favorable impression. The military authorities in India have been more than pleased by the battalions of the Wessex Division, and of the Middlesek Regiment, holding them as able to do credit to the regular army. Very great praise has been accorded the Dominion contingents—the canadians now at the front, and the Australians and New Zealanders in Egypt. The time has not yet come to understand what this great response from the far-flung nations under the Union Jack means for the future of the Empire. It has already demonstrated the solidarity of the imperial

CRUSTS AND CRUMBS By ALBERT ERNEST STAFFORD

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