

GROSVENOR HOUSE,

LONDON, W.1.

31st December, 1930.

My dear Stanley,

I wired you an acknowledgment of your message of good wishes, a message which I very much appreciate.

The time has flown and I am leaving to-morrow just after noon to catch the boat which sails from Marseilles on Friday the 2nd. On January 16th I shall be in Bombay where I stay for 3 days with Governor Sykes whom I knew in War days, and who married the daughter of the late Bonar Law. Then I go to stay for 3 days with Sir Phillip Chetwoode, the Commander in Chief, whom I also knew during the War. We are then taken for a 2 weeks' tour and it looks to me like the usual tourists tour, after which we return to New Delhi where we stay with the Viceroy for 8 days, on six of which the inauguration ceremonies take place. I perform on the second day, February 10th at 11 o'clock in the morning, when I unveil the Canadian column and make my little speech.

After leaving New Delhi we go to Benares, Calcutta and Madras, and other places, arriving at Colombo, Ceylon in time to catch the Japanese liner sailing for Hong Kong on February 24th. We arrive in Hong Kong on March 9th. I can get a boat across to Vancouver - "The Empress of Russia" - on March 21st, but it may be that I shall wait for the "Empress of Japan" on April 4th. I would like to see something of China and I could hardly do that in 12 days, which would mean that I would have to cut out altogether Pekin and also Japan. I thought I would spend three or four days in Hong Kong, about six between Shanghai and Nankin, a week in Pekin, and a few days in Tokio.