

Then we went to Lahore, that great old city, not the largest but perhaps one of the most interesting we did visit. Unfortunately the Governor, His Excellency Mian Aminuddin was indisposed but his Begum and members of the Government met us at the airport and took us to Government House where we were magnificently entertained and made most comfortable. There was a large dinner party given that evening, perhaps not only on our account, but it was the next to the closing day of the annual horse fair and agricultural show at Lahore. There were many people who had come, not because there was going to be a visitor from Canada, but to see the very interesting show that was being provided. Among others at this dinner there was the Prince Ali Khan, His Highness, the Maharaja of Jaipur, the Maharani of Jaipur, Prime Minister Malik Khan Noon and other members of the Government. It was a very impressive oriental dinner party in magnificent surroundings. We have not the like of these palaces that are being used by the native governors and were formerly occupied by the representatives of the controlling powers.

I went for about half an hour to this horse show the next day, really more to see what a holiday oriental gathering was like than to follow the incidents on the programme. I found there is not very much difference between the appearance of a holiday crowd in the East and the appearance of a holiday crowd in our own country. I saw there another confirmation of the fact that men, women and children are much the same all over the world. I saw something also that made me still think of home. It was a musical ride by the Governor General's guard. It was very well done, but I remembered the musical ride I had seen performed by the R.C.M.P. at the time of the coronation in London. I think I would be very hard put if I had to decide which was the more impressive of the two. In both cases the performance seemed to me to be perfection. There was exactly the same rhythm in the bearing of the men and the action of the horses. They were beating the time much better than I was doing when I was reviewing those guards of honour that were lined up at most of the places where I stopped.

Then, of course, we saw some of the beauties of that spot, the Shalimar Gardens. These gardens were laid out certainly more than a century before those of Louis XIV at Versailles, which might seem to have been the pattern. Then when we got to India we saw the gardens that had been laid out around the palace at New Delhi, which was built only a quarter of a century ago. They are perhaps more like the Versailles Gardens than the Versailles Gardens are like the Shalimar Gardens, so it would seem these things can move from East to West and back to the East. Everything that is done by man, not to mar the beauties of nature, but to make the beauties of nature more apparent and striking is much the same all over the world.

I also had an opportunity to see for the first times these great red forts that were erected in the sixteenth century and afterwards by the Moghul emperors. This country must have been extremely prosperous at one time because these red forts, the temples they contain, the palaces and different apartments that are provided are of a splendor that cannot be other than the reflection of a state of considerable prosperity at the time they were provided.