

DELHI: THE DURBAR CITY

HORACE WYNDHAM

AT Christmas time the city of Delhi will be a centre of world-wide interest, for there on the 12th of December will take place the Durbar at which King George is to be proclaimed Emperor of India. This Durbar (a Persian word signifying ceremonial function) is of special importance, as it is the first one that a Sovereign of England has attended. Like his father, King George has already visited India, but only as a Prince, not as a Monarch.

The city of Delhi, the ancient capital of the Mogul Emperors, has a sort of prescriptive right to be the locale of the forthcoming Durbar. It was there that Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India by Lord Lytton in 1877; and it was there that Lord Curzon accepted the homage of the ruling Princes on behalf of King Edward on January 1, 1903. Apart from these historic precedents, however, Delhi is the only town in India possessing a tract of ground where any considerable concourse can be assembled. The Durbar that Lord Hardinge, the Viceroy, is organizing, will be held on "the Ridge." This is a huge turf-covered plain, just beyond the walls. The civil and military authorities have acquired the whole tract, extending for more than twenty-five miles, and have built on it a series of camps for the accommodation of the multitudes which will flock to the ceremony. In all, there are to be some 400 of these camps, averaging a population 500 apiece. For the time being everybody will live in tents. The scale of charges for accommodation has been fixed by the Government, and varies from forty dollars to ten dollars per head per diem. As added to this will be the cost of a return ticket to India, and railway fares from Bombay or Calcutta, a visit to the Durbar will run into a lot of money. Yet every outward-bound steamer is already full up.

While Calcutta has been described as the "City of Stinks and Statues," Delhi rejoices in the more complimentary description of the "City of Mosques and Palaces." The description of the "City of Mosques and Palaces." The description is well deserved, for it is better furnished with such buildings than any town in the whole of India. Chief among its architectural glories are the beautiful "Pearl Mosque," glistening with white marble domes and slender minarets, and the ancient palace of Shah Jehan. The principal thoroughfare is the Chandni Chank, a broad, smooth street, instinct with colour and life, where orientalism jostles occidentalism at every turn. Up-to-date motor cars, electric trams, and bicycles, together with lumbering bullock-waggons, elephants, and camels are all encountered there. Most of the shops (or "dookans" in Hindustani) are occupied by native jewellers and embroiderers.

The Delhi of to-day stands on the site of many other Delhis, and there is no period in the history of India when a city of the same name did not exist, and in approximately the same place. It was the capital of a mighty empire when the inhabitants of England were walking about in a costume of blue paint and a string of beads, for this "rose red city half as old as Time," was a populous bustling town fifteen centuries prior to the dawn of the Christian era. The British occupation was effected in 1803, and ever since then (with a brief interval of four months during the dark days of the Mutiny) the English flag has floated over its walls. The modern town is of considerable commercial importance, and has a population exceeding 220,000.

With regard to picturesqueness of aspect, Delhi is favoured beyond all cities in India. Round three sides runs a lofty wall of red granite,

above which a number of cupolas, downs and minarets are sharply silhouetted against the sky. At intervals the circuit of the wall is pierced by massive gates; and it is through one of these that King George will make his State entry on December 7. This is the "Shadi Dawaza," an historic gateway reserved exclusively for the passage of the Mogul Emperors. According to the official programme the Royal party will be met at the Fort by the Viceroy and the members of Lord Hardinge's Council. The Fort is a city within a city, and until the Sepoy Revolt, was the residence of the Kings of Delhi. It is a magnificent specimen of Moslem architecture that cost the labour of thousands of workmen for twenty years, and an incredible sum of money. The reception is to take place in the "Hall of Audience," a beautifully designed apartment bearing on its gilded and lacquered walls the proud inscription, "If on earth there be a paradise, it is this!" From the steps of the gorgeous "Peacock Throne" the native chiefs of India will offer His Majesty the homage of two hundred millions of his Eastern subjects.

The actual Durbar itself is scheduled for five days later, on December 12. This is to be an open air festivity, and will be carried out on "the Ridge." Sitting in a specially erected pavilion, King George, accompanied by Queen Mary, and supported by the Viceroy, the chief military and civil officers, and the native princes, will, through a herald, be proclaimed Emperor of India. The Royal Standard will then be hoisted and the massed bands play the National Anthem, the proceedings terminating with the firing of a "feu de joie" by the troops, and the presentation to His Majesty of the ruling chiefs. Other ceremonies connected with the Durbar, and to be spread over a week, are to consist of a military review, an investiture of honours and decorations, and a series of banquets.

New Bishop for B.C.

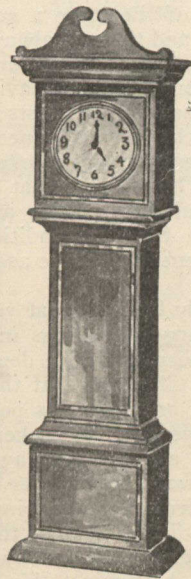
REV. JOHN C. ROPER, of New York, was elected Bishop of Columbia in succession to Bishop Perrin. The session of the Synod, which was held in Victoria, B.C., the second last week in November, was very protracted. Nine ballots were taken before any of the candidates secured a majority of the clerical and lay delegates. Rt. Rev. W. W. Perrin, the former Bishop, was appointed some months ago to the Suffragan Bishopric of Willesden, in the See of London.

Rev. John C. Roper, M.A., D.D., graduated as B.A. from Keble College, Oxford, in 1881, and afterwards M.A. from Brasenose College, Oxford, and received the degree of D.D. from the General Theological Seminary, New York city, in 1898. He was ordained to the ministry in England in 1882 by the Bishop of Chichester, and occupied a curacy in Sussex from 1882 to 1883. He then became theological lecturer at Brasenose College, Oxford, from 1883 to 1885. In 1885 Rev. Prof. Roper came to Toronto, and was professor of divinity in Trinity College from 1885 to 1888. From 1888 to 1897 he was rector of St. Thomas' Church in this city. In the latter year he went to New York, and ever since has been professor of theology in the General Theological Seminary.

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