

Canadian Impressions of India.

[From an occasional Correspondent.]

Perhaps of all the native states of India, Gwalior presents to the English traveller the most interest, not only on account of its historical associations and its intimate connection with Indian annals in the past, but also on account of its present character. Like all native states it retains very largely its purely Indian characteristics unchanged and undisturbed by English connection, and the admixture of English habits and customs; and for this reason possesses an interest not shared in by states purely under English control. It has many fine buildings, among them being the two palaces of the Maharajah Scindia; the Musafir Khana, built by the English resident engineers, at the Maharajah's expense, for the entertainment of English and European visitors; the Serai, a similar place for native travellers, with its Mahomedan and Hindu quarters. These all lie without the town of Lushkar, which is the native town and lies close beneath the rock on which stands the fortress of Gwalior, built by Akbar, and perhaps in old days, before the improvements in modern artillery, the strongest and most impregnable of Indian strong places. The traveller riding into and through the town is impressed by many strange sights peculiar to the East. Outside the gates he sees the lepers soliciting alms, and if he passes in the evening will see them all collected together for the receipt of the daily charitable dole. Within the gates he passes through the street of Bankers, and here most of the business is done. Here are gathered together, at the receipt of custom, all sorts and conditions of Indian men—the priestly Brahmin with clear cut intelligent features and upright scholarly bearing; the haughty Rajpoot, the soldier or noble class, mounted on a gaily caparisoned charger and attended by wild looking retainers armed with tulwars and creeses. The mild looking Baboo or clerk; the business like Parsee with his curious high glazed hat; the native policeman dressed in coarse blue linen and red turban; the low caste Hindu coolies and labourers; all these and many more are here, brought together by their several interests of gain, or greed, or idle curiosity. From this busy scene one passes on into the bazaar, and here the native workmen ply their trades and sell their wares. Each, seated on his heels, with very little clothing, works away at his particular calling, stopping every little while to enter into a noisy and excited conversation with his neighbour, who sits on the next shop board only a few feet distant, for the native shop is but a narrow cell open to the public gaze; since this class of Indian lives his life in full view of his fellow men. Suddenly there is a great commotion, the teeming throngs scatter right and left, children tumble over one another in their anxiety to get out of the way, dogs howl and fly with tails between their legs, the poultry seek refuge in the alleyways, even the sacred bull is disturbed at his meal, made at the expense of the corn dealers who dare not drive him away, and all this noise and hubbub and hustle and commotion proclaims the approach of some native swell who, with an enormous retinue of bangers-on—the rag-tag and bob-tail of his court—dressed in all sorts of semi-military, semi-barbarous and picturesque garbs, is coming from the court of justice, or from the palace after an interview with perhaps the Maharajah himself. This procession is followed shortly by another which makes one believe that crime must be very prevalent in this part of the world, for now comes a string of prisoners numbering 40 or 50, each with heavy chains and anklets, and in charge of native police, who noisily demand a passage way for their miserable looking and wretched charges. Nor are the processions yet done, for this sound of wailing and weeping and wild crying announces the approach of a Hindu funeral on its way to the pyre, and soon the bier, borne on the shoulders of four men and preceded and surrounded on all sides by the howling mourners, comes in sight, passes and is quickly forgotten, for a new sight demands attention. And so the ever-varying kaleidoscope revolves before our eyes, presenting at each turn a fresh interest. Here is a cheetah in the hands of native Shekarris, wild, fierce, untamed looking men; there a snake-charmer, with his basket of cobras and deadly kraits; here a holy man, with shrivelled arms and emaciated frame, proclaims the wickedness of this world; there a seller of sweetmeats, or a dispenser of opium or bhang, preaches the epicurean creed, and cries "eat, drink and be merry, for to-morrow ye die." It is now sunset and the best time to visit the gardens of the Moti-Mahal, or pearl palace of the Maharajah. These gardens are some four miles square and surrounded by a high wall, and in them the Maharajah takes his morning or evening ride. Here he comes to pray at one of the prayer mosques, situated near the water of the artificial lakes, and here he sometimes holds his court. The present Maharajah is only about fourteen years old, has an English tutor, and talks English fairly well. He is shy and embarrassed when talking to strangers, and, judged by Eastern standards, is considered very good looking. His mother, the widow of the late Scindia, lives with him, but of course is never seen by Englishmen. The durbar room of the palace is the largest in India and is very magnificently furnished. It was built

by a French or Venetian engineer for the father of the present ruler, and the curious mixture of Oriental and French styles strike the eye as being very rococo and peculiar, and savouring of tawdriness. It is now dark and time to return to the Musafir Khana, where an excellent dinner awaits us, and where over our wine and trichis (trichinopli cigars), we discuss the curious changes in, and the present complex and interesting situation of, the Gwalior State, and wonder whether the present ruler will ever find himself called upon, as was his father, to play an important part in the history of India.

When, in 1851, the Duke of Wellington asked Lord Stanhope, then war minister, as to when the English army first wore red, he was told that the custom dated from the time of Charles II. The duke thought it was earlier, and Lord Macaulay said that he was right, and that the commonwealth army wore red. This was, however, not exactly the case, and the statement was wrong in more than one respect. Major Hon. Harold Dillon, in an article in Colburn's United Service Magazine, shows when this color was first adopted:

During the wars of the Roses the badges of the respective leaders would be the chief tongue and being of one race. However, in 1461, there is evidence of red being adopted, for a small number of men at least, when a contingent for the army of the king maker, the Earl of Warwick, was sent from Rye dressed in red coats. In 1470 a detachment of fifteen men sent from Canterbury for the Calis garrison, and others for London, were supplied with red "jackets" of cloth at 3s. a yard, having on them "roses of white karsey" as badges. Henry VII, in 1485, instituted the Yeomen of the Guard as a kind of a body guard, and they may be taken as the nucleus of the present standing army of England. They consisted of picked men, and were armed one-half with bows and the other half with hand guns. Their dress, as it still continues, was red.

Vice Admiral Sir Geo. Tryon, makes, in the *United Service Magazine*, a "practical proposal" for national insurance in time of war. It is that, under conditions to be arrived at, the State shall guarantee to pay the cost of such vessels and cargoes as may be destroyed by the enemy. Without this guarantee, he says, the sense of insecurity produced by the loss of a few vessels would be such that the rate of insurance would become enormously high, and the result would be that England could not retain trade and commerce in her hands. Sir George Tryon says that, provided vessels avoid positions that are dangerous owing to geographical conditions, and if other positions are guarded, it will not be so easy as some think to interfere with commerce carried in reasonably fast vessels. He would be prepared, as a set-off to the guarantee, to collect a due on arrivals and departures, based on the value of the ships and their cargoes, and to enforce it against neutrals as well as against British vessels. He says: "If the war risks run by the United States merchant ships had been paid for by the State, there would have been no sufficient reason for the indirect losses suffered by that country, and a saving would have been effected vast indeed compared with the paltry sum that represents the losses actually inflicted by the enemy."

Militia General Orders (No. 8) of 20th June, 1890.

No. 1.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1887.

The following has been added as sub-section (2) to paragraph 370:

(2.) If transport is required on militia service for any person not on the strength of the troop, battery or company, the reasons for his proceeding with the corps must be written on the requisition.

No. 2.—REGULATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL DRILL OF 1890-91.

Pay.—The pay of officers authorized for employment on the staff of the camp, except those receiving permanent pay from the Department of Militia and Defence, will be that of their regimental rank or that authorized in paragraph 861 Regulations and Orders, 1887, whichever may be selected by the officer commanding the camp.

Camps.—Adverting to No. 1 of General Orders (6) 23rd May, 1890, the places of the camps of exercise in the following districts will be:—

Military District No. 5 Compton, Que.
do No. 6 St. John's, Que.

The date for camp in Military District No. 6 has been changed to 30th June, 1890.

No. 3.—

5th Regt. Cav.—No. 1 Troop.—Lieut. A. A. Bailey retires retaining rank.

To be Veterinary Surgeon, Jeffery Barton, V.S., vice G. W. Prevost, who resigns.

6th Regt. Cav.—This corps is authorized to have the additional designation of "Duke of Connaught's Royal Canadian Hussars."

1st Brig. Field Art.—No. 2 Bat.—To be Captain, Lieut. H. D. Merewether, R.S.A., vice W. A. Higinbotham, retired.

Durham Field Bat.—To be Lieutenant, 2nd Lieut. C. J. Snider, R.S.A., vice William Twigg, who resigns.

Gananoque Field Bat.—To be 2nd Lieutenant, prov., George Leslie Hough, vice J. B. Robinson, promoted.

Winnipeg Field Bat.—To be Lieutenant, prov., Edward William Henry Armstrong, vice E. Doidge, promoted.