

information on the subject of Indian affairs, let me earnestly recommend to you the writings and speeches of Lord Sydenham and Lord Lloyd. I may as well say that I have never even seen either of these two gentlemen and my name and very existence is unknown to both of them. But both have been Governors of Bombay and I realise that both are experienced Statesmen who know their subject and whose opinions are worthy of the most careful attention. These opinions are in refreshing contrast to the vain fancies and theories of some of our politicians led by the Prime Minister whose ignorance—if allowed to prevail by the Conservative Party—will bring about the rapid destruction of the Empire.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. MACDONALD,

Lieut.-Colonel, Indian Army (retired.)

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## Lecture

**B**EFORE I begin my lecture, I want to assure you that I am a sincere friend of the Indian and of India. I have spent the whole of my working life, that is, I have done the whole of my service in India, and I have had the advantage of serving in many different parts of the country. I have also had the very great advantage of being in positions which made it possible for me to make friends with Indians of all grades and ranks, and to have been in very close connection with them—from the rulers of Indian States, both Hindu and Mohammedan, down through all grades of society, official and non-official, and through country gentlemen down to the peasantry. I am very sincerely attached to them, and it is not in a spirit of one of a “conquering alien race” that I speak to-night. On the contrary, what I say is for the good of a country and a people that I love—a country and a people which I know far better than I know my own.

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Before we begin to consider the present situation in India, it will be well to spend a few moments in remembering what India is. It is not so much a country as a continent. It is as large as Europe without Russia. It comprises more than 1,800,000 square miles, of which some 1,100,000 are British territory, and about 700,000 are the territory of Native States. It will perhaps give you a better idea of the country if you remember that from Bombay to Calcutta is a journey of 1,500 miles—or about the distance of Salonika from Birmingham: that from Cape Comorin to Peshawar is about 2,350 miles, or as far as Suez is from Birmingham, and that from Karachi to Rangoon is about 2,450 miles, or about as far as Suez from Edinburgh.

The population of this Continent is about 350 and a half millions—of whom some 70,000,000 are in Native States. The whole may be divided roughly as follows: Hindus, 230,000,000; Mohammedans, 80,000,000; Buddhists, 15,000,000; Animists, 15,000,000; Christians, 6,000,000, (of whom some two and a half millions are of the R.C. Church); Sikhs, 3,000,000; Jains, 1,500,000; Parsees, 100,000, and Jews, 20,000.

And out of this great population of 350 and a half millions only about