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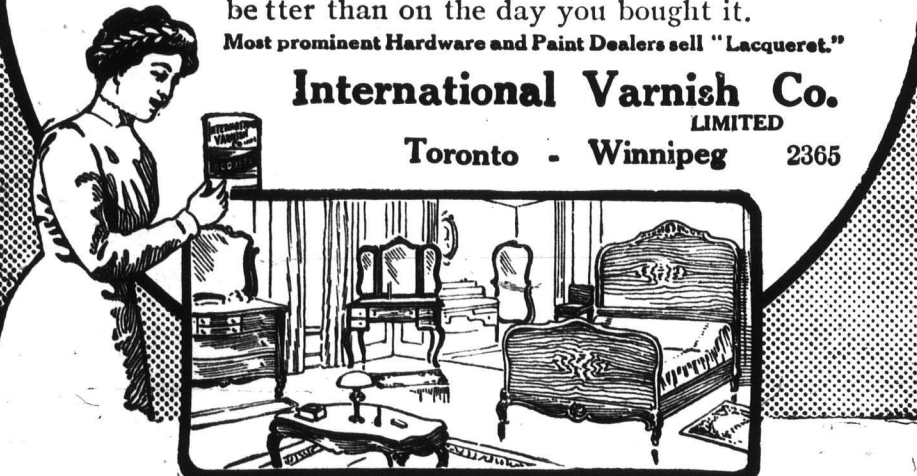
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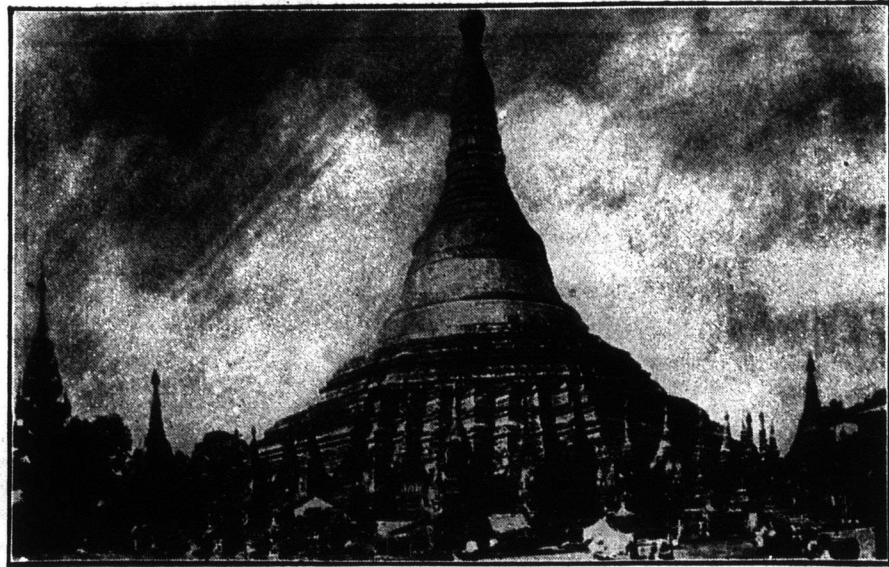
Pictures of the Empire—India.

By Herbert Dunk, Winnipeg.

In these days of wars and rumors of wars in the far East it is possibly not amiss to give some information and perhaps enlightenment to those whose eyes are directed towards that triangular piece of land set in the Indian Ocean and whose thoughts lead them through a maze of speculation as to its future. Naturally enough these articles would be very differently written if coming from the pen of a native of India or from that object of Kipling's scorn—the Globe-Trotter—but they are by neither of these and will deal with In-

bers who know not God there were only about three millions of Christians—including, of course, people of every colour. The remainder of the Indian population is composed of small tribes and sects, such for instance as the Todas in the Neigherry Hills.

It would be well possibly to break off here from dry statistics to give a very brief idea of the forms of the various Indian religions themselves. Taking Hinduism first therefore as the most important. The fount, one might say of this religion is composed of a triad



The Shive Dagon Pagoda—Rangoon.

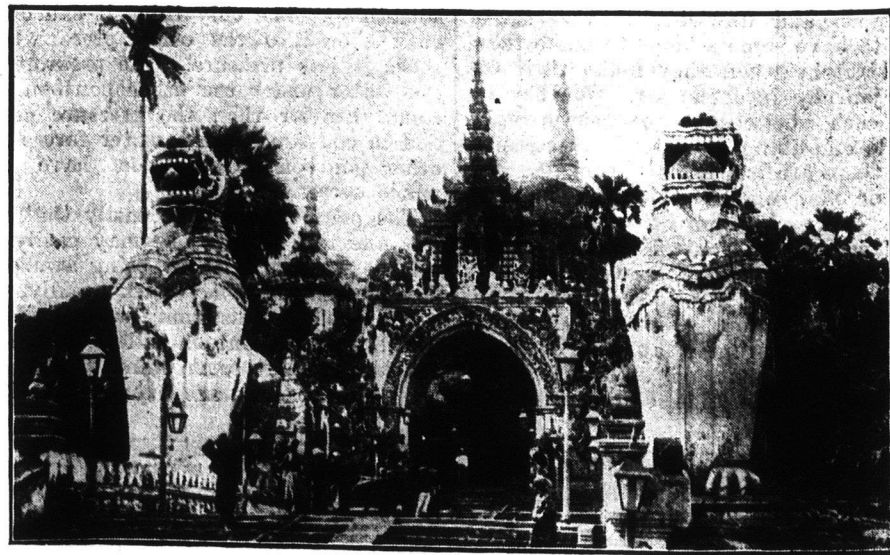
dia as viewed through that caricatured appurtenance of nationality—the eyeglass of a long-resident Englishman.

To thoroughly appreciate the present situation and make it clearer one is forced to go somewhat into what is generally considered as mere "dry as dust." Facts of geography and history and finance and commercial relations do not appeal to the majority of people but are as necessary in a subject like the present one as slices of lemon to hot whiskey toddies—you cannot understand either without them.

At the census of 1901, on which the writer was very actively engaged, there were 292 millions of people recorded as resident in British India and when these are split up into groups differing entirely from each other by reason of caste, or language, it can hardly be imagined what a surprising result would be obtained. It cannot be said that the

of gods, the first of which is Brahma,—regarded as the creator of all things and the amoeba, one might say, from whom the whole universe has sprung. Brahma is not actually perhaps worshipped but viewed by his devotees as the subject of meditation.

Then the second of the triad is Vishnu—the Preserver—who passed a succession of incarnations the best known of which was that of Rama (of whom a most wonderful epic poem called the Ramayana has been written) and Krishna which was Vishnu's eighth and final incarnation and—speaking theosophically—his Mahatimna. This second deity is as it were the opposite of the last of the trinity, Shiva. The former being thought of as death from life and the latter as life from death. Shiva is the destroyer—the one who kills in order that he may make alive. This idea is represented in Psalm XC



The entrance to the Shive Dagon Pagoda—Rangoon.

various nations have mixed to any extent and to-day the Hindus—who numbered over 200 millions and are partly of Aryan or Indo-European stock—certainly Aryans by language—are as distinct from the Mohammedans who only totalled about 62½ millions as, say the French are from the Germans. Apart from these two great divisions there are in addition the followers of Gautama Buddha of whom the last census showed nearly 10 million adherents and the Parsees (or Zoroastrians) numbered about 100,000 and about 2½ millions of Sikhs (pronounced Seekhs not Sykes). Amongst the tremendous num-

and at the third verse and the god's symbol is either the pistil of a flower or a cylindrical stone—emblematical of the source of all power in nature. The whole religion is to a large extent meditative and it is surprising to learn how the various deities are regarded in anything but an abstract or spiritual form, but are looked upon with an intensely personal view.

After dealing so briefly with Hinduism and, concerning which, volumes might be written, there next follows for treatment the subject of Mohammedanism. As every one knows Mohamet, who was born in A.D. 571 and died in