The Beacon

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WHAT IS INDIA?

ALTHOUGH the mind of the British public is for the moment absorbed with problems nearer home, the question of the future government of India will shortly become urgent. Mr. Montague is going to India within a few months to discuss political reforms on the spot, and as a preliminary to his mission Mrs. Besant, the leader of the Indian Home Rule movement, has been released from internment. She has already been elected to preside over the National Indian Congress in December, a fact which alone furnishes a proof that this Congress is certainly not national in the European sense of the word. If a real Indian nation existed, it would not have to choose for its leader a foreigner who had passed through almost every phase of religious belief—always with equal dogmatism—and taken part in almost every type of political agitation. It is worth while in passing to note that Mrs. Besant was interned on the authority of a distinguished Liberal, Lord Pentland, the Governor of Madras, for refusing to give an undertaking that she would not continue to carry on a seditious agitation. One feature of that agitation was the enlistment of schoolboys in the Madras Presidency to assist in a movement which, whatever the motives of its leaders may be, is in effect, as construed by the young mind, anti-British and deliberately seditious. Proof of this statement is to be found in the adventure of some Punjabi students, who in the earlier days of the war ran away from college to Afghanistan, hoping to get through to Turkey, and in some way cooperate with the German enemies of the British Empire. This, of course, was an act of high treason. These youthful victims of a political agitation were finally captured by the Russians and handed over to the British authorities in India. The Punjab Government have mercifully, and probably wisely, pardoned them; but the fact that Indian boys can be so led astray is a sufficient argument against permitting any politicans to carry on an agitation amongst schoolboys, at any rate during the war.

When we pass to the broader problem of what is called "Home Rule" for India, the question which ought at once to be asked by every Englishman who wishes to form a sound opinion is: "What is India?" People who have never been in India cannot easily liberate their minds from the habit of thinking of India as a compact country like France or Italy or Great Britain. Yet it is impossible to set foot for a day in India without realizing the grotesque absurdity of such a comparison. India is not one country, but a multitude of countries. There is no common language, no common religion, no common race. Take, for example, this small point reported as a commonplace piece of news in Indian papers recently to hand—that a controversy is now in progress in the Bombay Presidency about the script to be used in official documents. In this single province of India there are already no less than six official scripts—Arabic, Sindhi, Gujeratic, Marathi, Kanarese, and English. That is a sufficiently interesting fact. The details of the pending controversy do not concern us. Beyond this language difficulty, which experience has proved to be one of the most insuperable bars to national unity, is the religious difficulty. The main and most patent religious division in India is between Hindus and Mohammedans. This is far deeper and more fundamentrl than the division between Roman Catholics and Protestants in Ireland. The fact that the Moslem League and the National Indian Congress are in political co-operation is no proof whatever that this fundamental difference can be ignored, for both these political bodies consist of English-educated Indians, who draw their political views not from India but from Great Britain, or in many cases from Ireland.

But this is only one of the fundamental religious differences in India. Almost equally far-reaching, and in many ways far more cruel, is the distinction between the different castes of Hindus. Until recent years the Brahmins were almost the only vocal element of the Hindu community. They monopolized all native learning; they alone to an appreciable extent had learnt English; and they filled most of the Government posts. The theological tyranny which they had previously exercised was reinforced by a bureaucratic tyranny. In recent years in Southern India the non-Brahmins have begun to organize themselves. They maintain an evening paper called *Justice*, serving the ordinary functions of a newspaper, but specially devoted to the interests of the non-Brahmins. It is almost exactly the same size as the *Evening Standard*. From copies of this paper recently arrived we will make a few extracts which show how the non-Brahmins of Madras regard what is called the Home Rule movement. One writer speaking of Mrs. Besant says:—

"Naturally, she pleads the cause of the Brahmins, and the Brahmins extol her to the skies. What is the meaning of Home Rule? More appointments for Brahmins, more Brahmin collectors and more district judges. An Ulsterman has said 'Home Rule mean Rome Rule.' Here Home Rule means Brahmin Rule."

This appeal to Irish conditions has been constant in India, to the personal knowledge of the present writer, for over thirty years, and recently some at any rate of the most active Indian agitators have been drawing inspiration from Sinn Feiners in Dublin. Like most other comparisons between widely separated countries, it fails in many essentials. The Ulstemen who oppose Home Rule for Ireland are an intellectually active and commercially prosperous minority of the population, whereas the non-Brahmins of Madras who oppose Home Rule for India consist of subordinate castes making up an overwhelming majority of the population of the province. The true analogy would be the position of the Roman Catholics in Ireland in the old days of the Protestant ascendancy. People who have not lived in India have no conception of the social and theological ascendancy which Brahmins wield. A non-Brahmin may not even say Brahmin prayers. Several of the lowest castes are treated as altogether outside the human pale. They are significantly known as the "Untouchables." In native States in Southern India inferior castes some years ago were not even allowed to cross the line of vision of Brahmin officials on their way home from the Courts. A crier went ahead to clear the road. Some of the Brahmins themselves are conscious of the intolerable tyranny which they exercise. One of the correspondents of *Justice* writes:—

"I am a Brahmin myself, but I have no hesitation to denounce Brahmins who wish to beguile others, giving a religious color to their selfish preachings."

Another correspondent of the paper writes, after referring to the "Untouchables," who form a very considerable body of the population:—

"Let us hope that the Government of Great Britain will not be so inconsiderate as to entrust the destiny of the smaller classes, though greater in number, of India to the care of the few Brahmin masters who have for ever been notorious in their history for monopolizing all knowledge of religion, letters, and science for themselves."

A more completely characteristic Indian letter contains the following paragraph:—

"Hark! ye non-Brahmins! Nestle yourselves together to bring about a unity which shall be the pride of the parental British Raj. May God bless the Union Jack to flutter forth with grace and power from the heights of the Himalayas to the depths of Kanniyakumari, snatching the trodden ones from the tread, the cruel tread of the miscreant, and give him the Magna Charta of liberty."

The columns of *Justice* are also thrown open to Mohammedans and to Indian Christians. The latter are rather numerous in the Madras Presidency. "A Mohammedan" writes bitterly attacking the Indian Forest administration since Indian officials were substituted for Englishmen, and complaining that it is impossible for poor people now to obtain justice. An "Indian Christain Brother" writes a long and erudite letter on the history of the Brahmins, pointing out how in the past they were the only learned classes, and thus commanded respect and influence, but "as this sort of thing continued Satan, the embodiment of evil, infused selfishness into the hearts of these learned people, and they began to plan a net-work to secure this felicity not only to themselves, but also to their posterity."

Of the practical aspects of Brahmin supremacy many complaints are made. One correspondent, for example, complains that the municipal franchise is so limited that the municipal bodies are dominated by Brahmins, who focus all their attention "on the sanitation of their own streets, and care little for the non-Brahmin streets." The segregation of Brahmins from non-Brahmins occurs in every shape. For example, special hostels have been established in Trichinopoly by private enterprise for the convenience of non-Brahmins. In Trichinopoly, again, an active controversy is in progress because the entrance to one of the bathing ghats for ladies is strictly prohibited to non-Brahmin ladies, and a constable has been posted to watch the entry: "The Brahmin police sub-inspector supervises him daily." Another correspondent deals with what he calls the stock phrases of Home Rulers, such as "Freedom is our birthright," "Home Rule has long been overdue," &c., and after a long letter, with historical references to Aurungzeb, Timur, "and a host of other tyrants," he comes to the conclusion that all the talk about Home-Rule only means that "the Brahmin wants all power in his hands; he is a special creation of Brahma; he has a birthright to lord it over others."

There is now in Madras a definite League called "The South Indian People's Association," championing the cause of non-Brahmins, and *Justice* is its organ. Nor is it only in Madras that there is a definite propaganda against what is paradoxically called Home Rule for India. *Justice* contains the report of an important meeting of Rajas and zemindars (landowners) in the United Provinces, who sign their names and "deprecate in the strongest possible terms the demand for self-government for India." They add: "In this period of strain every energy should be directed solely towards bringing about a successful termination of the war." Finally, both as a sample of the somewhat highfalutin language in which Indians habitually write and of the spirit of the non-Brahmin movement in Madras, we quote the following extract from a letter by "A Kamma Graduate":—

"Such being the domineering spirit and arrogance of the Home Ruler, it is really inconceivable as to how he can administer even-handed justice between man and man of different sects and views, when the administration of the country is entrusted to him under the Home Rule Parliament. That the Almighty Creator may avert the catastrophe of the destinies of the toiling and voiceless millions being handed over by the benign British Government to the tender mercies of such reckless saviours of India is the fervent prayer of the undersigned."—*The Spectator*, Sept. 29.

A PASSER-BY

WHITHER, O splendid ship, thy white sails crowding,
Leaning across the bosom of the urgent West,
That fearest nor sea rising, nor sky clouding,
Whither away, fair rover, and what thy quest?
Ah! soon, when Winter has all our vales opprest,
When skies are cold and misty, and hail is hurling,
Wilt thou glide on the blue Pacific, or rest
In a summer haven asleep, thy white sails furling.

I there before thee, in the country that well thou knowest,
Already arrived am inhaling the odorous air:
I watch thee enter unerringly where thou goest,
And anchor queen of the strange shipping there,
Thy sails for awnings spread, thy masts bare;
Nor is aught from the foaming reef to the snow-capped grandest
Peak, that is over the feathery palms, more fair
Than thou, so upright, so stately, and still thou standest.

And yet, O splendid ship, unhailed and nameless,
I know not if, aiming a fancy, I rightly divine
That thou hast a purpose joyful, a courage blameless,
Thy port assured in a happier land than mine.
But for all I have given thee, beauty enough is thine,
As thou, aslant with trim tackle and shrouding,
From the proud nostril curve of a prow's line
In the offing scatterest foam, thy white sails crowding.

DR. ROBERT BRIDGES, Poet Laureate
(Born October 23, 1844)

RECRUITING IN NEW BRUNSWICK

The official report of the result of recruiting in the Province of New Brunswick, for home and overseas service, for the week ending Oct. 13, is as follows:

St. John County—		
62nd O. S. Draft	4	
C. A. S. C.	2	
No. 2 Forestry Depôt	2	
Canadian Engineers	1	
Royal Flying Corps	6	
8th Field Ambulance Depôt	6	
U. S. A. for Imperial Army	59	
	—	80
York County—		
9th Siege Battery	11	
236th Battalion	10	
8th Field Ambulance Depôt	5	
No. 2 Forestry Depôt	1	
	—	27
Carleton County—		
65th Field Battery	9	
No. 2 Forestry Depôt	3	
9th Siege Battery	2	
8th Field Ambulance Depôt	1	
	—	15
Charlotte County—		
Canadian Engineers	1	
236th Battalion	1	
65th Field Battery	3	
	—	5
Restigouche County—		
Royal Flying Corps		1
Northumberland County—		
9th Siege Battery		1
Albert County—		
9th Siege Battery		1
Westmorland County		0
Gloucester County		0
Victoria County		0
Madawaska County		0
Queens and Sunbury Counties		0
Kent County		0
Kings County		
		130

Of the twenty-seven recruits shown for York county for the week, twelve were secured in the United States.

"Since Cholly was run over by that auto his mind has been a perfect blank." "Why didn't he sue for damages?" "He did, but couldn't prove that he had been damaged any."—*Boston Transcript.*

TOWN COUNCIL

Town Hall, Thursday, Oct. 11, 1917.

A quarterly meeting of the Town Council was this day held in Chambers at 3 o'clock, p. m.

Present: Aldermen Caughey, Douglas, Denley, Finigan, Gillman, Malpas, McFarlane, McLaren.

Absent: The Mayor, out of Town. On motion, seconded and unanimously carried, Alderman Douglas was called upon to preside.

On motion, seconded and carried, reading of the minutes of the last monthly meeting was dispensed with.

Communications from Major A. J. Lomas, A. D. S. & T. M. D. No. 6, at Halifax, N. S., requesting that accomadation for medical board to examine men under Division, Military Service Act, be provided, etc., etc.

Aldn. Finigan reported viz., That in the absence of the Mayor he had made inquiry and had selected provisionally rooms in the building owned by Mrs Henry Irwin, the rent of which would be twenty ($20) dollars for the time specified, and that the military authorities at Halifax had been advised by telegram that the accommodation needed could be supplied—

Moved by Aldn. McLaren, seconded by Aldn. Denley, that the arrangement made by Aldn. Finigan for the accomodation of the medical board, etc., etc., be confimed. Carried.

Moved by Aldn. Malpas, seconded by Aldn. McLaren, that the Clerk advise the military authorities at Halifax by telegram that accommodation had been secured, and request advice of date when needed.

Aldn. Malpas called attention to the need of repairs of tank covering, corner Montague and Mary Street, near Wm. Carr's.

Aldn. McLaren suggested the advisability of taking some action to check encroachment on the sidewalks in several places at the present time. On motion, seconded and carried. Ordered that the Street Committee be requested to investigate and take such action as may be deemed necessary, etc.

On motions, seconded, the following bills were passed, viz.:

C. Herbert Greenlaw, 3 mths. salary to Sept. 30,	Con.	$20.00
Edwin Odell, supplies,	Poor	10.45
		$30.45

Meeting adjourned.

E. S. POLLEYS,
Town Clerk

BRITISH PARLIAMENT REASSEMBLES

London, Oct. 16.—Parliament reassembled to-day after a recess of two months, and began grappling with a big grist of legislative and administrative work. Its most important duty will be the passing of a new vote of credit. This probably will bring up for discussion the general war situation, but it will be a few days before that business is reached.

For to-day there is nothing more exciting on the schedule than the second reading of the bill giving the government control over all petroleum, and the consideration of the titles' deprivation bill, which is aimed at those who took up arms against Great Britain and her allies. Chief interest centered in the proposal that the government will take advantage of the opportunity to announce the general policy of its air service, a subject which has been brought into the foreground by the recent raids over London.

RECORD OF "CHIPMAN" LONG AND FAITHFUL

QUARANTINE BARQUE LOST IN HURRICANE ENJOYED INTERESTING CAREER

There is scarcely another craft in Mobile port or adjacent waters that has weathered successfully as many storms as the old barge *Chipman*, which until Friday a week ago was stationed at the Fort Morgan quarantine station.

The *Chipman's* life has been ended. It was lost in the hurricane that hit Fort Morgan on September 28 after she had become grounded off the coastal reservation. The *Chipman*, a veteran craft which had served many years as the fumigating vessel at the gate to the harbor, was forty years old. In addition, she possessed a record that is exceedingly interesting to know about.

Mr. Louis Donald, steamship agent and broker here, tells about her in this way:

"For many years one of the first objects to meet the gaze of mariners on incoming vessels at the entrance to mobile Bay was a large barge painted yellow, which was used at the quarintine station at Fort Morgan.

It was equipped with fumigating apparatus for fumigating vessels from infected ports. This old barge at one time was a fine clipper, barque rigged sailing vessel that had made voyages in many seas.

"She was called *Chipman* after the firm of well-known shipowners, Messers. J. D. Chipman & Son, and was built in 1877 at St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada. Her gross tonnage was 1,124 tons, and she was 1,083 tons net register. She was advertised for sale at public auction, to take place on August 25th as the quarantine station did not require her any longer, but before the sale took place she got aground at Fort Morgan, and in the hurricane of September 28 this veteran old craft was totally destroyed."—*Mobile Register* Oct. 7.

LORD SHAUGHNESSY ON THE MILITARY SERVICE ACT

Montreal, Oct. 16.—A statement warmly endorsing the Military Service Act and urging its extension, if necessary, to all branches of industry furnishing supplies and war material, and demanding the punishment of frothy jingoes whose only contribution to the war is their language, was issued by Lord Shaughnessy to the French press in the province of Quebec to-day. Lord Shaughnessy, who has sometimes been referred to in French papers as opposed to the Military Service Act, was urged to make his announcement by a number of French-Canadian gentlemen.

Lord Shaughnessy says in part:

'All our independence, all our hopes and aspirations and those of our children for generations to come, are bound up indissolubly in the defeat of our enemies.

"To the accomplishment of this purpose, let us continue to act, withall our energies. Notwithstanding the apparent margin provided by the number of men sent overseas, our military authority, having the most accurate information, declare that further reinforcements are requested, and that they cannot be secured by voluntary enlistment. In these countries conscription, however pronounced may be our antipathy to legislation of that discipline, should be accepted not as an invasion of the personal liberty of the subject, but as a measure designed to preserve it. We must continue to equip, arm and support our own troops and to give such material assistance to the Allies as is possible by most strenuous effort. Indeed, if it be necessary, the scope of the conscription bill should be so enlarged as to compel service in all branches of industry furnishing war material and supplies.

'Frothy jingoism and incendiary speeches, emanating as a rule from those whose only contribution to the war is in the form of language, and which may tend to encourage domestic strife, should be suppressed, and every utterance that savors of disloyalty should bring prompt punishment to the offenders.

"Conscription is now the law of the country, and no matter what his views about the policy of government or the motives and methods alleged to have attended our recruiting and other war activities during the first two years of the war, it is now the sacred duty of every good citizen of Canada loyally and willingly to assist the authorities in putting the selective conscription law into effect with smoothness and impartiality, reserving his criticism of policy and practice until the war is over."

Muriel—"So Judge Merryman proposed to Alice last night!" Ethel—"Yes, and he made an awful break. When she asked him for time to consider his proposal, he gave her sixty days."—*Judge.*

DANGEROUS WOMAN SPY MEETS FATE

Paris, October 15.—Mlle. Mata-Hari, the Dutch dancer and adventuress, who two months ago was found guilty by a court martial on the charge of espionage, was shot at dawn this morning.

Mlle. Mata-Hari, long known in Europe as a woman of great attractiveness and with a romantic history, was, according to unofficial press dispatches, accused of conveying to the Germans the secret of the construction of the Entente "tanks," this resulting in the enemy rushing work on a special gas to combat their operations.

She was said to have left Paris last spring and to have spent some time in the English town where the first "tanks" were being made, afterwards travelling back and forth between England and Holland and later going to Spain, where she aroused suspicion by associating with a man whom the French secret service long suspected. When she re-appeared in Paris she was arrested, a contributing circumstances, it appears, being the fact that she was seen there with a young British officer attached to the "tank" service.

Her conviction was confirmed by a revision court, and on September 28 the supreme court confirmed the previous findings.

SENT TO PRISON FOR SINKING GERMAN STEAMER

Aiken, S. C., Oct. 11—Paul Wierse, editorial writer of the Charleston, S. C., *American*, and Captain Klattenhoff, of the German steamship *Liebenfels*, were convicted in federal court to-day of conspiracy to sink the ship in Charleston harbor, and sentenced to two years in federal prison at Atlanta and to pay a fine of $1,000 and costs each. The *Liebenfels* was snnk just before the diplomatic break with Germany, presumably on orders of the German government.

SULTAN KAMEL DEAD

DEATH OF THE EGYPTIAN RULER IS REPORTED IN LONDON

London, October 10.—The *Daily Telegraph* says it learns that the Sultan of Egypt died at noon Tuesday.

Hussein Kâmel was chosen by Great Britain in 1914 to succeed his uncle, Khedive Abbas, as ruler of Egypt, simultaneously with the proclamation of a British protectorate. His father was Khedive from 1865 to 1879.

The British Acting High Commissioner in Egypt, in his letter notifying Hussein Kâmel of his appointment, said there was ample evidence that Abbas Hilmi had thrown in his lot with the enemies of Great Britain, with the result that "the rights over the Egyptian executive exercised by the Sultan of Turkey and the late Khedive are forfeited."

NEW SULTAN OF EGYPT

Cario, Egypt, Thursday, October 11.—The accession of the new Sultan of Egypt, Ahmed Fuad, was marked to-day by great pomp and ceremony. He rode in an open carriage, accompanied by the Premier, through flag-bedecked streets. The equipage was escorted by Egyptian cavalry, and the streets were lined with English and Australian infantry as a guard of honor, while guns boomed and crowds cheered. After the procession, Sultan Ahmed Fuad received in reception many notables.

JAPANESE LOAN TO CHINA

Peking, October 15.—China and Japan have signed an agreement concerning the lease of the Kirin-Chang-chun Railway, Manchuria. Japan will loan China 6,500,000 yen at 5 per cent. for a period of thirty years. The revenue of the railway will be held as security for the property during the term of the loan. The Kirin-Chang-chun Railway will be under the management of the South Manchuria Railway Company.

UNTERRIFIED AND READY.

The associate editor of this paper has been promised a good whipping by a certain young man of this town, that is, if we ever used his father's name in this paper. We promised, when we started out on our newspaper career, to give the news without whitewash, fear, or favor, and we expect to do it, regardless of any and all threats. We are like Zacharias of old little of stature, but if this young man gets to feeling too good and wants to try us a few, we are ready any time.—Dalonega (Ga.) *Echo.*