

Sedition in India Severe Fighting Northwest Frontier

The British censorship has very effectively prevented any but the most meager information about conditions to come out of India. One or two despatches couched in the mildest language have hinted at trouble with the great oppressed native population which is largely Mohammedan. A mail despatch apparently uncensored has been received by the New York Times which reveals that the British censorship has been exercised even more drastically in India than elsewhere. Sedition is rife, uprisings frequent, and unrest permeates this great state of the British empire. The despatch, dated Straits Settlements, follows:

"The strictness of the censorship has prevented neutral countries and incidentally the British public from receiving full information of the serious disorders which are proceeding in India and Burma. There is, however, sufficient travel between these and the Straits Settlements to enable us here to gather fairly reliable news of what is going on. Of course it cannot be published, but it is passed on by word of mouth.

Ameer Reported Assassinated.

"The most startling report we have heard is that the Ameer of Afghanistan has been assassinated. This is doubtful, but it is certain that there is severe fighting along the north-west frontier. From four different districts news of trouble has been received, and there is no doubt that the Indian government just now has its hands full. The sedition is probably the result of the bazaar rumors concerning the war and especially of the appearance of the Sultan of Turkey as the ally of the Kaiser.

"The first serious riots are reported as having occurred two days ago at Cawnpur. No details have been allowed to come out, but it is realized by all Anglo-Indians how dangerous a matter an outbreak at this point might be. A considerable number of Europeans live there, and it is hoped that the garrison will prove strong enough to protect them.

"Nine of the ringleaders were shot, 200 others were sent to prison for terms ranging from fifteen to twenty years, and the rest were disbanded. Coming as they do from the extreme north-west of India, it is not likely that the Pathans would be able to do much harm to the British rule among the Burmese, with whom they have nothing in common.

Riots in Central India.

"From the central province of India word has come of riots in four different places. Martial law has been proclaimed throughout the empire. No one is permitted to land in any part of India unless he can explain his business is imperative, and the most strenuous effort are being made to keep the sedition from spreading.

"The rumor that the ameer of Afghanistan, Habibulla Khan, had been assassinated was accompanied by reports of severe fighting along the Afghan border.

"Both Great Britain and Russia have undertaken not to interfere with the internal affairs of Afghanistan, and since they reached their agreement in 1907 Kabul has ceased to be so important a center of intrigue. Probably if the Ameer is dead India would feel it most seriously through the loss of his influence over the tempestuous border tribes.

Raw Troops Face Troubles.

"It is they who, according to what we hear, are giving trouble. Three

regiments of territorials from England, who were sent out to relieve the regulars in the belief that they would not be required for anything worse than garrison duty, have been moved up to the frontier. There they are face to face with conditions that have tried the nerve and skill of veteran Anglo-Indian fighters.

"You may have heard that on Feb. 16, 200 of the Malay States guides of Taiping mutined. These were soon subdued, and the situation is now well in hand."

EXPRESS APPRECIATION

But Calls For Bigger Output

Major-General von Donop, K.C.B., Master of Ordnance, paid a visit to the Birmingham Small Arms works yesterday.

In an address to the men he expressed the pleasure he felt at seeing them at work, and he hoped what he had to say would be passed to those engaged in other parts of the factory, not only for himself but on behalf of Lord Kitchener, the Army Council and the whole Army. He desired to say that the excellent work carried out by the men at the works of the B.S.A. was appreciated to the full. They appreciated, too, the number of rifles that was turned out. He got the weekly returns of the output, which were carefully watched, and they were looking forward to further increases. Although they much appreciated the amount of work they had already turned out they wanted not twice, or three times, but four times as many rifles, and even then he did not think there would be as many as they would want.

"We are all working for the common good," he said, "and you at Small Heath are doing your share. We can compare the British nation working for the British cause to a football team led by a very admirable centre forward, Sir John French the other forwards being the British Army. You and I form the back and half-back lines. Our business is to feed the forwards with the guns, rifles, ammunition and equipment necessary to conduct the war. Our goalkeeper is Lord Kitchener.

"The British nation and the workers might be called the British United team. Only hearty co-operation and thoroughly unselfish endeavor lead to success.

We and the Army at the front must all be united and work together to bring the war to a satisfactory termination. He knew that what they were doing at Small Heath meant working at great pleasure, but he wanted them to work harder and harder, so that the Army at the front could be made to feel that they were giving them all that they required.

The General was heartily cheered by the operatives. He next visited the works of the Birmingham Metal and Munitions Company, at Adderley Park, and also the works of Kynochs, Ltd.

Should Not Go To War

New Haven, May 1.—In discussing the sinking of the Lusitania, Richmond P. Hobson of Alabama in a lecture at Yale asked, "Should the United States declare war on Germany as a result of this tragedy?" Unquestionably no. I believe we should have from the start taken the firm position with all belligerents that we would not tolerate the infringement of our rights as a neutral," he said.

Des Moines Register and Leader.—Also, there's the possibility that England sober will be more anxious for peace than England drunk.

Boston Herald.—President Elliot

hints that we may begin to pray for peace when Belgium does.

AT THE NICKEL, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

"CONSCIENCE"

A two-part social drama, featuring Mignon Anderson and Irving Cummings. A thrilling melodrama in 2 parts, by the Solax Co.

"THE SEWAR"

"RAISING A SUNKEN YACHT"—An interesting subject.

"RATS"—Billy Quirk in a Vitagraph comedy.

"HER NEIGHBOUR NEXT DOOR"—A fine domestic drama by the Biograph Company, with Jane Vail.

The Usual Great Big Bumper Matinee for the Children Saturday.

MONDAY—OUR MUTUAL GIRL—WEDNESDAY—THE MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY, a continued story by Harold MacGrath, in 46 reels, one episode or two reels each week.

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AT THE SATURDAY MATINEE ONLY, "THE BOER WAR"

will be shown for the children with regular programme. Admission, 5c.

MONDAY—EMPIRE DAY—THE WORLD-FAMOUS "QUO VADIS"—8 parts. Matinee every day at 3—two shows at night—Admission, 10c.

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THE CRESCENT PICTURE PALACE

A Bronco Billy Feature To-day.

"Broncho Billy's Indian Romance"

A Western Drama with G. M. Anderson.

"OUT IN HAPPY HOLLOW"—A Vitagraph feature. Deserted by the man, who should have protected her, she is faithful; his day of reckoning comes, she places her trust in one whose love is deserving of it. "THE PALE OF PREJUDICE"—A great Luibn Drama. "RED HEAD INTRODUCES HERSELF" and "ALL MIXED UP"—Two slashing good comedies.

M. J. DELMONICO—the man with the double voice—sings "In the Heart of the City Without a Heart."

The usual Extra Pictures at the Big Saturday Matinee. Send the Children. The Crescent gives an Extra Big Show on Empire Day.

Canada Scandalized Over Graft Exposures

Recent revelations of graft in high places have set Canada agog and furnished a topic for discussion that occupies a more prominent place than the progress of the war. A parliamentary committee, acting upon orders from the government to investigate charges of dishonesty and graft without regard to the position of persons involved, have brought to light quite a number of shady transactions. Several members of the Dominion Government are involved, and the people throughout Canada are thoroughly aroused over the whole scandalous business.

It has been found in the investigations, for example, that a drug clerk cleared \$6,000.00 on small orders for surgical dressings. A number of motor trucks were purchased at a price of \$1,000 in excess of that charged for others—exactly similar, the profits going into the pockets of an agent in Toronto. Exorbitant prices have been charged for automobile supplies, bicycles, etc., and it has been found that a round price has been

charged the Canadian Government for inferior field-glass and binoculars.

In many cases the boots supplied the War Department of Canada by some Canadian firms were nothing more or less than "blotting paper" and to this is attributed the large number of deaths among the Canadian troops at Salisbury Plain through meningitis. One large manufacturing firm in Quebec was found guilty of having paid a large bribe to a merchant for using political patronage in securing contracts for boots for the Canadian soldiers.

A large number of horses were bought for the army which were practically worthless; in some cases the Government were charged \$90.00 for horses that had been bought for \$10.00. One farmer on oath testified that he had sold a horse for use in the present war that was rejected as being too old for use in the Boer War. The lack of patriotism shown in this matter is deplorable. The burdens of war are heavy enough without forcing the people to contribute large sums to dishonest grafting officials who have given in return inferior articles and equipment which add to

the hardships of the soldiers and less the chances of victory.

Sir Robert O'Brien has promised the people of Canada that the guilty ones will be punished without fear or favor and it is hoped that such will be the case. It is from the labouring class, the farmers, tradesmen and such that the sacrifices have been made in this war through the British Empire. They will have to bear the burdens of war, and for politicians and grafting officials to get rich under such circumstances is nothing short of a crime against which the whole population of Canada has risen to a man in right-

Trouble in England Over Drink Question

There is much murmuring amongst the British people, because the plans of their leaders seems to be collapsing and the Germans are carrying everything before them. For some time the British navy, which was maintained and for by the British people on the understanding that it was at all times equal to any other two navies combined, has not drawn any blood to speak of, whereas the

German ships continue their work of destruction under the very nose of Britannia, and it is only a question of time when this process will end in complete German supremacy.

The British Government is showing its weakness in the way it fails to master the drink question. The leading Officials have declared that drink is keeping the workers from doing their full share, and threats have been made that the traffic will be stopped. But there has been so much opposition to this that the prospect is there will be no positive action taken.

The trouble in England is that the great brewing interests are so tied up with the Government that they dominate it. Even the Church establishment in many ways bolsters up the nefarious system. When for example recently prohibition of drink traffic was proposed, one of the leading church dignitaries announced publicly that he would not agree to abstain, as he had tried it and found that he must have his drink. This illustrates the difficulties that the British authorities have to deal with at home. Unlike the German

leaders, they are supported only half-heartedly, and in many directions there is positive opposition.

London, May 9.—A despatch to the Central News from Holyhead says: "Ernest Comper, a Toronto newspaper-man, asserts emphatically that about an hour and a quarter before the Lusitania was struck a submarine was sighted."

"I was standing with James H. Rogers on the starboard side," said Mr. Cowper, "when all at once we observed the wake of our ship and realized that something was happening when the vessel appear to swerve. We ran to the other side and then clearly saw away on the horizon the conning tower of a submarine. "She was evidently bent on heading us off and sent us right into another one. I have not the slightest doubt that a cleverly laid scheme had been planned and that it was successfully carried out. The torpedoes struck us at right angles."

Providence Journal.—If some of these neutral nations that have been "on the verge of war" so long are not careful they will topple in.

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