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INDIA FACES A GRAVE CRISIS

Deep and Widespread Unrest
Since War

Hard Times and High
Living Cost the Cause—
Many Strikes—Revolution-
ary Preaching—The Condi-
tions Described.

London, Dec. 10.—(A. P. by mail.)—India today is faced with what is generally characterized as one of the gravest crises in its history owing to the deep widespread unrest which has developed since the end of the war. While discontent is the product of numerous causes, in the main it is the result of high cost of living and the consequent hard times for the population. The unrest has recently manifested itself in various and serious ways. There have been many great strikes in the industrial centres, in some cases accompanied by rioting and bloodshed. Anti-government boycotts have been instituted. Moreover, extremists have been preaching revolutionary ideas with the result that, as announced recently in the Commons by Montagu, secretary of state for India, there have been several prosecutions of persons convicted under the seditious writings act. There has been much talk in the stern world of activities by Bolshevik propaganda agents in India. Competent servers state, however, that it is doubtful whether the efforts of the Bolsheviks to stir up trouble have met with success. In this connection it is pointed out that the printed propaganda in which the Bolsheviks depend so much is of little value in India, where the bulk of the population cannot read. Thus the Bolshevik ideals must spread by word of mouth, a considerable task in a country the size of India at the Moscovites have been busy in it, however, there is no dispute. The main causes of the unrest may be outlined thus: The high cost of living, prices in some cases having advanced 1,000 per cent. in incomes, especially of the brain workers, have increased only a small fraction of this. The continuance of the war-time restrictions on the conduct of the people, whereas the government had indicated that these would be removed within six months of the termination of the war. The desire on the part of a large section of the educated classes for a greater role in the government than has hitherto been accorded natives. The allegation that the government is failed to keep its war-time promises of betterment of general conditions and employment. It being charged that these promises were held out merely to gain support for carrying on the war. The decline of discipline and moral standards. The government has been given credit for the "business of India" Indian describes the sentiments of April, 1919, when at three hundred his troops in direct contact with the people, with the result that great numbers were killed and wounded. This decline has been aided by the apparent endorsement in

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England of this policy by some legislators in the debates of parliament, and the subscription to a testimonial to General Dyer got up by a London newspaper, which amounted to £20,000. To General Dyer's statement that he fired on a menacing mob in the belief that he was preventing a seditious outbreak, the Indian replies that the Amritsar crowd was peaceable and intended not the slightest harm. This incident and its sequel have been made known through the length and breadth of the land and undoubtedly have done more to embitter the population of India than anything in recent years. The cost of living has hit the average Indian exceedingly hard, since his main interest in life centres in his food, his business journeys, his periodical pilgrimages to various parts of the country, and in the observance of his religious rites. His place of abode and its furnishings trouble him little or not at all. He is now unable to buy the food to which he has been accustomed, simple as his wants are. Likewise, he can no longer make his journeys, depending on his friends for food and lodging because, forsooth, his friends cannot afford to entertain him. To the nomadic Indian this is a grievous thing. Even religious observances are affected, a most serious matter. The gravity of the situation from the point of view of the cost of ordinary cotton cloth which at one time got beyond the means of the masses. The Mohammedan religion requires that the dead shall be buried in unadorned shrouds. This is one of the cardinal rules, the observance of which, to the members of this religion, of whom there are nearly 70,000,000 in India, is all important. With the price of cotton beyond his reach, the poorer class Mohammedan was compelled to bury his dead in ordinary

clothing which had been worn. To the living this seems to be the limit of sacrifice, and they are terrified of the hereafter. If this appears like a trivial matter to the western mind, one has only to recall that one of the causes of the Great Mutiny in India in 1858 was that Indian soldiers were compelled to bite off the end of paper cartridges which had been dipped in the fat of cows and pigs. The cow is a sacred animal in the Hindu religion and may not be eaten, while the pig is anathema to the Mohammedan. The high cost of living, and all other troubles which may have fallen on the Indian, are attributed by him to the government. This is due to the paternal system which the government has for centuries exercised in India. The government has come to be the all-powerful thing from which come all things, both good and bad. Literally speaking, if there has been a favorable monsoon and the crops have been good, the government has always received the credit of it from the masses, who do not question but that Delhi makes the weather. Since the reverse is also true, the government is now condemned for poor crops or high prices. Thus the government is being censured for all present conditions throughout the country. The present "Rowlatt" regulations, which are causing so many heartburnings, were passed after the war to take the place of those under which the country had been governed during the conflict. They give the government powers almost as wide as those which would obtain under martial law. It had been planned to discontinue such measures six months after hostilities ceased, but when the time arrived the government felt the moment was not ripe for the change. Accordingly another measure of similar purport was passed and still remains in effect. This is resented bitterly by the population. So far as the political agitation is concerned, those who know India well say that much depends on the working of the new Montagu bill, which gives the natives more say in the affairs of government and which will become effective next year. It is said to be acceptable to a large portion of the educated population, although it has some strenuous opponents among the extremists, who say that it does not go far enough. Should the measure fail to work out as has been anticipated by the government, the consequences may be serious. Panathia, a "special feeding camp" where the weakest refugees are sent, has 350 people, and conditions are slightly better. Scuttari, another "special" camp for sick refugees consists of two old churches in which 500 people are massed. At Dehliktache camp, a large Turkish house, formerly occupied by a Pasha and his harem, 463 miserable Armenians lie down. Far better not to risk blood poisoning—use Putnam's Corn Extractor, 25c. at all dealers.

THOUSANDS OF ARMENIANS IN CONSTANTINOPLE

Refugees From War Ravaged
Countries South of the
Black Sea

Reported to Live in Indescrib-
able Squalor in Old
Churches and Other Build-
ings—Always Hungry.

New York, Dec. 24.—(Associated Press Correspondence)—Three thousand Armenians, driven from their homes in the war ravaged countries south of the Black Sea, are concentrated in old churches or other refuge buildings in Constantinople, says a report received here by the Near East Relief from one of its workers. Their fate is described as wretched. Work is at a premium in Constantinople because of the influx of 100,000 Russian refugees from the Crimea and numerous Greeks from the fighting zone in Anatolia.

The buildings in which the Armenian refugees have been herded are characterized as unsuitable in almost every conceivable way for housing so many. There are five of these refuge centres, called camps.

The relief worker reports that sanitary conditions in these camps are almost indescribable. The buildings are crowded, dirty and wet. The refugees, most of them country people unused to the ways of the city and huddled by their misfortunes, sit around stupefied against the walls. The women have dull, sad faces and the little children are blue and pinched with the cold and too miserably ill-fed to cry.

Terrible Conditions.
The women make an effort to keep clean, but it is hard to wash either bodies or clothes when there is no soap, about one pan or kettle for ten families, and all the water from one well.

Host of the refugees have arrived in Constantinople with almost nothing except the clothes on their backs, and many are barely covered.

Even greater need exists for blankets than warm clothing. One family of five, for instance, sleeps on a bare stone floor under one thin, ragged half cotton blanket.

At Haskruy camp, located in an old Armenian church, 300 people, from government and insured, 225 of them women and children. They are hungry most of the time. Every two days the camp receives 100 loaves of bread and one case of milk from the Central Armenian Committee. The milk is reserved for the babies and the sick. They cook over two fires and with the constant rain and mud, dry twigs are hard to find.

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Mix four tablespoons FRY'S COCOA with two cups powdered sugar; then add two tablespoons melted butter, two tablespoons of milk and a teaspoon of vanilla. Beat until smooth, when it will be ready for your cake. Try it once—you'll want to make icing this way OFTEN.

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These laws, he said, were promulgated by men of wisdom and experience, who knew human weakness and society evils. They also applied to the present day styles.

2,000-YEAR-OLD OAK.
London, Eng., Dec. 29.—Many of the historic houses ask comices and trusses, which supported the roof of the Westminster Hall from 1389 until their removal during the re-roofing of the building, have been presented to museums. Antiquarians who examined the timbers declare many are from 1,200 to 2,000 years old.

CONDEMNATION OF MODERN DANCE.
Quebec, Dec. 29.—(Canadian Press)—A severe condemnation of modern dances was pronounced here by Rev. J. E. Laberge, pastor of St. Jean Baptiste church. He affirmed that those who indulge in the modern dances were unworthy of approaching the Holy Table, and declared that the laws of the church which condemned dancing today were the same laws as those enacted two centuries ago and re-enacted by the present diocesan authorities.

A VICTIM OF NAPOLEON.
Paris, France, Dec. 29.—A skeleton has been discovered lying at full length in a cave in a quarry at Vincennes. It was identified as that of an unknown British officer killed in the Napoleonic campaign. Forty years ago the skeleton of a Russian officer killed in that campaign was found near the same spot.

Every Suit, Every Overcoat, Every Pair of Trousers has gone back to the Price Days of 1913

Here's the chance for a man to get a real New Year's Gift at practically gift prices. The period of readjustment so long heralded is here. The drop in prices is here—for this great stock of Semi-ready Tailored Clothes, with all their pride of quality and superiority, will just pocket their pride for a few days.

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