

Montagu's action was the cause of the present trouble in India: of that there is no manner of doubt.

Mr. Samuel-Montagu's next move was to release the woman, Annie Besant. She had been conducting, through the Home Rule League, a violent campaign against the Government and had been interned because a High Court composed of three Judges (*of whom two were Indians*) had condemned as dangerous and seditious, the paper in which she had been conducting this campaign. Immediately on her release the Home Rule League began a still more violent campaign against the Government.

In November, 1917, Mr. E. Samuel-Montagu went to India. Meanwhile, sedition worked up by Germany and the Bolsheviks among the disaffected small educated party in India had reached such a pitch that in December, 1917, the Government had decided to appoint a Committee "to investigate and report on the nature and extent of the Criminal Conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movement in India." The Committee reached India in December, 1917, a month after the Secretary of State, and its business was carried out under the Presidentship of Sir Sidney Rowlatt—a Judge of the English High Court of Justice.

The report known as the "Rowlatt Report" was ready by the 15th April, 1918, but was not published in England till October! The official reason given for this extraordinary delay was that of an "oversight;" the real reason seems to have been that the revelations contained in the "Rowlatt Report" on the subject of revolutionary activities in India would have roused public opinion to such an extent that it would not have been possible to push through the House, Mr. Samuel-Montagu's scheme *for causing discontent in India*.

As it was, the Rowlatt Report, having been temporarily burked, Mr. Samuel-Montagu's scheme (the Montagu-Chelmsford Report) was, in July, 1918, rushed through a House of Commons that did not contain twenty members who had any knowledge of Indian affairs. It was after this fashion that Mr. Samuel-Montagu foisted his scheme on to the House of Commons. Well, this piece of work having been completed in July, the "Rowlatt Report" (*ready, you remember, in April 1918*) was allowed to appear in October, 1918 and the Government proposed to take action in accordance with the proposals made in it. Thus, there were two conflicting reports: the one urging the necessity (to use Mr. Samuel-Montagu's own words) of "stirring the people of India out of their contentment;" the other proclaiming the "urgency of repressing sedition." A pretty state of things, indeed.

As soon (February 1919) as the "Rowlatt Bill" entitled "Anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act" was placed before the Legislative Assembly in India, the now notorious Ghandi issued a manifesto against it. Now for a few words about this man. Mohan Dass Karam Chand Ghandi is an old agitator by caste a Bania. He was born in 1868 in the Native State of Porebandar, and is not a British-Indian subject; he received the usual "English" education went to England and passed his exams for the Bar of the Middle Temple. Returning to India he practised as a lawyer in Bombay. In 1893 he went to Natal, where he was imprisoned several times for instigating "Civil Disobedience" among the Indians who had migrated to that colony. If anyone of you fancies that this man Ghandi is a "fanatic" or a "saint," just disabuse your minds of the idea. He is a cunning lawyer and a cool-headed politician. To call him a saint is absurd, while the term "Mahatma" as applied to him is equally ridiculous. Ghandi is not and never was, a religious teacher. He is, and always has been, a "smart" lawyer and a vio-