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### BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

Lord Curzon's speech on the occasion of his visit to London last month, printed in full in the London Times, is a clear and interesting statement of the problems of British rule in India.

Lord Curzon first visited India 17 years ago; 14 years ago he became connected with its administration, and for five and a half years he has been viceroy. The period of his administration has been characterized by an administrative quality of a high order.

The period has witnessed a work of reform and reconstruction. Lord Curzon calls the administration of Indian affairs by Great Britain the "greatest thing the English people have done or are doing now; the supreme touchstone of national duty."

He has set a high ideal and has brought to bear on the task an energy and a grasp of conditions that few, if any, of his predecessors have possessed. What England has done is shown in this remarkable question put straight to his audience:

"Where else in the world has a race gone forth and subdued, not a country or a kingdom, but a continent, and that continent not peopled by savage tribes, but by races with traditions and a civilization older than our own; with a history not inferior to ours in dignity and romance, subduing them not to the law of the sword, but to the rule of justice, bringing peace and order and good government to nearly one-fifth of the entire human race, and ruling them with so mild a restraint that the rulers are the merest handful amongst the ruled, a tiny speck of white foam upon a dark and thunderous ocean?"

The conditions faced and successfully met are such as present a most complex problem, and Lord Curzon reminds those at home that they "have not the perpetual and harassing anxiety of a land frontier 5700 miles in length, peopled by hundreds of different tribes, most of them inured to religious fanaticism and hereditary rapine." It is here that is found the empire's most vulnerable point in the event of an international war. Back of that frontier are quasi-independent native states in a state of decadence, while back of them are massed the powers of Europe. The fall of each of the former brings to India an added menace in the nearer approach of a hostile nation strong in the force of arms and national desire for conquest.

England has a homogeneous population, or one that is relatively so. In India there must be dealt with races of wide differences, with "creeds that range from basest animalism to the most exalted metaphysics; with standards of life that cover the whole space between barbarism and civilization." England is a land of one language, one religion, with few essential differences, and is the home of a people who possess sentiments in common with one another. Contrasted with the mother country is this great dependency, 300,000,000 people against 42,000,000, with a "chaos of languages and stages of mental organization" that cover the whole range from the lowest to the highest orders of society. Hunger does not come to England as a national foe; but a short crop in India means famine. Distress means great discontentment. Then, Lord Curzon says, comes up the haunting question: "What is in the heart of all these sombre millions, whither are we leading them, what is it all to come to, where is the goal?"

But he finds hope in the steady and growing advance in the loyalty of the people of the great colony. He says he has ever preached to them the "gospel of duty, of a high and strenuous aim," believing that the basis of successful British rule in India depends on the "eternal moralities of righteousness and justice;" that without "absolute justice between man and man, freedom from tyranny and injustice and oppression, the empire will not touch their hearts, and will fade away."

The speech shows the viceroy to be a man of high purpose, for he has set the most exalted ideal before his countrymen. He has put before them the problems that confront the empire in its dealings with its

great dependency. He has made clear to England its duty if British rule is to endure.

### MANIFEST PRIDE OF CIVILIZATION.

"Our new possessions" certainly have their pride. The Visayan youths and maidens at the world's fair have drawn out of the model school there, and the reason assigned for their act is because they have been barbarously styled "little savages." The term was applied to them in a folder issued by the advertising bureau of the fair, and they have just found it out. The man who used the expression to describe them was far more of a "savage" than the Visayans, and they have rightfully resented the application of such an epithet to them. The Visayans and most other natives of the Philippine islands at the fair have shown an astonishing intelligence in every way, and their aptitude in the model and other schools has been convincing proof that they are far from being savages. The sympathy of the public will be with the Visayans in this matter.

An apology for the egregious blunder should be forthcoming from the fair managers at once. After having withdrawn from the school, one of the Visayan girls, Miss Teresa Ramirez, wrote a letter to Herbert S. Stone, chief of the department of publicity, describing the cause of offense, and Mr. Stone should have the objectionable expression in the folder eliminated immediately, and substitute something very complimentary in place of it. Some of the Visayan and Igorrote pupils at the Filipino schools at the exposition have learned to make themselves understood in English in a few weeks, and the Visayan belles are neatly dressed in civilized fashion. This should indicate beyond cavil that the Visayans are far and away above savages.

The spirit that prompted the Visayan pupils to resent the classification given them is a laudable one. It is also proof that they are not savages. Savages would not have understood the reflection and would have been indifferent to it if they had. The pride of intelligence and glory of mind here indicated should be encouraged in all the Filipino people. It is one of the uplifting forces, and if it and all other such workings of the spirit of the people of "our new possessions" are duly regarded and fostered, the result will be beneficial to those people and tend to reflect credit upon us.

### CHINESE NEUTRALITY.

In discussing the subject of Chinese neutrality, it should be kept in mind that China has not the physical power to resist and resent acts that violate the neutral position that she nominally occupies. Her disposition to observe the laws and usages of a neutral might be ever so earnest, but if Japan or Russia or any other power sees fit to violate them she is powerless to do more than protest.

That China violated her neutrality in permitting the Japanese to enter the harbor of Chefoo and take out the Russian destroyer Ryeshitelni seems to be undeniable, and the same appears to be true of her action in allowing the Russian cruiser Askold and the Russian destroyer Grozovoi to remain longer than 24 hours in Woosung river without being dismantled. To have tried to prevent the taking out of the Ryeshitelni would have brought down on her the wrath of Japan, while to have tried to expel the Askold and the Grozovoi would have invited the wrath of Russia, and China is in no position to withstand the hostility of either power.

The fact is that violations of neutrality are not an uncommon occurrence. American gunboats made frequent use of neutral ports in the West Indies during the Spanish war to communicate with Washington and with other sections of the American navy, and during the same war the American steamship St. Paul was allowed to remain in a French West Indies harbor for repairs for about a week; yet no charges of violation of neutrality were made. In like manner, the British government granted asylum throughout the Spanish war to the American torpedo boat Somers.

There is the promise that one of the results of the Russo-Japanese war will be the adoption of a new and more definite international code in regard to the rights and duties of neutral nations. The variety of disputes which has arisen during the present war over such questions is due solely to want of a common agreement among the leading nations, and as a matter of self-interest the latter will be prompted to take action to prevent such needless friction in time of war in the future.

Another illustration of the effect of late hours is shown by the automobile out at St. Louis that undertook to climb a tree at 2 a. m. An automobile will always do its best to show its owner that it is not above enjoying a lark with him.

The Russian succession has been settled, but the Russian retrogression in the far east is still in active operation.

It is a very foggy day politically when Chairman Taggart can't sight a new rainbow.

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