

Bombay, Once Given Away, Now Busy, Congested Seaport City Known as 'Crossroads of the East'

Population Trebled During Last 20 Years

Bombay - (UPI) - Less than three centuries ago, Bombay was part of the dowry when a Portuguese princess married a British king, but he found it so barren and unprofitable he gave it away.

Today, Bombay is the "Crossroads to the East," a congested seaport city of businessmen, bootleggers and people whose only homes are the pavement on which they sleep.

It is a city without much of a past. Hardly anything within its municipal limits is more than 300 years old. Even most of its real estate was not here 200 years ago. Modern Bombay consists of hundreds of acres reclaimed from the Arabian Sea.

While other Asian cities are proud of their temples, walls and stone Buddhas reputedly thousands of years old, about the oldest thing in Bombay is a crumbling Portuguese fort erected just 350 years ago.

Swamps, Jungles
When the wide-ranging Portuguese colonists arrived here in the 16th century, Bombay was a settlement of rock, swamps and jungles, consisting of seven small islands occupied by a dozen small fishing villages.

In 1661, King Charles II of England married the Infanta Catharina, and the Portuguese gave Bombay to the British as part of the princess's dowry.

Finding it "an unprofitable possession," Charles desperately handed over Bombay to the British East India Company, which had colonized the rest of India. Bombay's population then was 10,000, and its annual revenue a mere \$30,000.

In the last half century, Bombay has exploded into a city of 3.2 million. Its population has trebled in the last 20 years alone, and today the city has 700,000 dirt-poor pavement dwellers who live and sleep on the streets. There is nothing anyone can do

about them; there is just no place to house them. The city's growth has been unplanned and erratic. The

municipality counts 144 slum areas within its limits. Before the government could act, 3,500 factories sprang up. The

order barring any more new industries in the city was unnecessary; there is no more room.

Situated on a narrow, two-mile broad tongue of land pointing south from the Indian mainland into the Arabian Sea, Bombay's growth has been longitudinal.

From end to end, post-war growth has stretched it an incredible 31 miles. The pressure on space is so intense, there are hardly a dozen parks in the city. Its bustling business center is entirely in the southernmost tip, where rents are astronomically high.

To pay their house rent workers are being pushed farther and farther into the northern suburbs. During office hours, suburban trains, packed beyond capacity, bring more than half a million commuters into the city, hundreds hanging precariously on the running boards.

Group Panics
The Bombay State Government's study group on Greater Bombay has frankly panicked at this uncontrollable growth. In June it reported: "Apart from 700,000 pavement dwellers, and people living in nooks and crannies, under public bridges and overhead passes, under staircases, along the fringes between park walls and public streets, large masses of the population live in desperate conditions of overcrowding at the rate of nine persons and even more per 100 sq. ft. of floor space."

In the worst areas of the slums the population density is 1,362 per acre. The city's streets are so congested with more than 30,000 vehicles of all kinds that the study group said, "The physical limits of the streets have now been reached and no more public buses can possibly be added to the existing 1,000 without bringing all traffic to a dead halt."

Teen-Agers Descend
Attracted by the lure of the

city lights, several hundred thousand teen-agers of both sexes descend on Bombay every year. Although numerous industries, tenements and places of entertainment go up every year, there are not enough jobs for everyone. Sooner or later, the girls turn to prostitution, while the boys become procurers or rum-runners.

Strategic Spot
All this makes Bombay the most strategic single spot in the whole country. Finding oil nearby has added to its importance.

Due to the enormous need for living space, no building is demolished intentionally, however old it may be. Residents of condemned, overage buildings continue to stay on, as there is nowhere else they can go. The only "slum clearance" work is done by the monsoons, which cause dozens of structures to collapse every year.

refineries, a modern naval base for the Indian navy, an atomic energy plant with two reactors and a projected naval ordnance depot to manufacture torpedoes and naval shells.

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LIFE IN BOMBAY - Although new government markets are available, peddlers find it cheaper and easier to sell fruits and vegetables in the streets in Bombay, top picture. The presence of dirt and germs in nearby gutters deters neither buyer or seller. Tremendous congestion also makes Bombay a city of 700,000 pavement sleepers, lower photo, who sleep, eat and propagate in the streets. (UPI Telephoto)



BOMBAY HOVELS - Latest estimates indicate that more than 300,000 of Bombay's poor live in hovels such as these, made of flattened kerosene cans and decayed bits of canvas. The only "slum clearance" work in Bombay is done by the annual monsoons, which devastate the shanty towns wherever they hit. But the inhabitants, having no other place to go, are forced to remain and rebuild their hovels. (UPI Telephoto)

Bison Get Along With Farm Cattle

Ogden, N.Y. - (UPI) - Mr. and Mrs. James Ryan, owners of Shamrock Farm, assured the passing motorist he wasn't seeing things—there really are buffalo grazing on their land.

The bison, one male and one female, were purchased along with a herd of Holstein cattle by Jerome Miller of Spencerport, who rents part of the Ryan pasture.

Miller said the man who sold them to him said they were three years old and had been given to him by a zoo when the animals were still calves.

Miller said he bought the bison because "they're some-

thing different." They were tame, he said, since they had been raised with cows.

Farmer Ryan reported that the other cows on his farm were startled when the bison were first sent into the pasture, but "they get along fine now."

ACCOMPLICE

San Rafael, Calif. - (UPI) - A highway patrol car chasing a speeder swerved to avoid a deer and crashed into a tree here recently. The two officers suffered minor injuries. The speeder—and the deer—escaped.

"All The Homes I Build Will Have Electric Heat."

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Robert Pettus, Mt. Shasta Contractor, has electric heat in his own new home. This is not surprising, since Mr. Pettus says:

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