

THE DAILY PROVINCE

MAY 23, 1908

ANARCHY IN INDIA IS FOUND TO BE VERY WIDESPREAD

Young Malcontents in Foreign Countries Aid in
Fomenting Trouble

PUBLISH SEDITIOUS NEWS

Plots Against British Rule Being Hatched in England

London, May 23 – The discovery of bomb factories in Calcutta is probably causing a great deal more anxiety to the Government of India than the rising on the frontier. Refractory tribesmen can be hammered into obedience, but if the malcontents in Bengal propose to adopt a policy of isolated assassinations it will be extremely difficult to deal with them.

The revelations concerning the widespread conspiracy have come as no surprise to those who have closely followed native political movements. Its operations are not even continued to India.

The existence of a centre in Paris where young Hindus hatch plots against British rule in India has long been known to the authorities. There is more than one such centre in London also, and an Indian newspaper is printed every week in this country which for virulent attacks upon Great Britain is hardly equalled by any journal in Bengal.

This newspaper, the Indian Sociologist, is sent out to India in considerable quantities, and is widely quoted by the native journals. It is printed in English, but receives much attention from vernacular journals.

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It would be a mistake to suppose that incitements to violence and subtle conspiracies to undermine British rule are limited to Bengal. The Bengals are the nosiest of agitators, but are not regarded as the most dangerous. The fact that they have been daring enough to manufacture bombs is, indeed, rather a surprise. It is to the Punjab and to Bombay that one is more accustomed to look for enemies of the administration who are prepared to translate their words into deeds.

Bombay Danger Spot

The Bombay Presidency is the real danger-spot in India, despite its surface quietude. It is the home of the Mahrattas, the last race which actually held great power. The Maharatta Brahmins are notorious, even among Brahmins, for their capacity for guile and hatred. The city of Poona, where they chiefly reside, is known to be the source of much of the mischievous propaganda now circulating in India. The Bengal agitators received their first impetus towards violent measures from Poona. The Poona Brahmins do not figure prominently in the agitation with the solitary exception of the redoubtable Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, who broke up the Congress at Surat; but they pull many of the strings. The blood of warriors flow in their veins.

Nothing reveals more vividly the widespread character of the unrest than the recent disturbances at Tuticorin(?), the southernmost point of India. That the Madras Presidency would give trouble was never even suspected, it was considered a sort of backwater, whose placid surface was never ruffled. Now the Madrasi is ready to riot with the best on very small provocation.

The truth is that unrest has become so general in India that it has more or less permeated all districts and all classes except Rajputana and the Rajputs.

Conspirators in Japan

The fact that the conspirators in Calcuta were able to collect such large quantities of high explosives has occasioned much comment. It is not really difficult, however, to smuggle either arms or explosives into the country. Such

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a vast extent of coastline cannot be easily protected, and the probability is that modern arms are far more numerous in India than is popularly supposed.

Many young Indians are known to have gone abroad in the last year or two to study the manufacture of arms. Most of them went to Japan. Little more than a year ago an extraordinary organization for sending young Indians to Japan to learn the use of arms and the way to make them was discovered and dispersed. The young men, sometimes of good family, were induced to commit dacoities, and the organization turned the proceeds to their thefts into cash. When a young had stolen enough for his maintenance he was sent to Japan.

The secret service of the Indian Government is extremely efficient, as Mr. Kipling shoed in "Kim." And it was through the exertions of its agents that this nefarious organization was broken up.

Citation

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LCSH

India – History – British occupation, 1765-1947

Abstract

This article discusses rising unrest in India against the British occupation, specifically the discovery of a bomb factory in Calcutta. As well as the international scope of the unrest as groups of South Asian immigrants residing in London and Paris have also formed organizations against British occupation.