THE PROVINCE

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SEVERER PUNISHMENT.

It seems reasonably certain, now, that the bandits who held up the railway train at Ducks were American criminals who no doubt imagined that they would without difficulty pull off such an affair in British Columbia. Their failure and the prospect that they may, those of them who are yet alive, be captured and punished will probably have a tendency to deter these desperadoes, from the United States, making Canada a field for their villainous enterprises.

The frequency with which these train robberies are occurring in the west, both in Canada and the United States, would indicate that this form of freebooting is appealing more and more to the more daring among the criminal classes. Usually when such a hold-up has been successfully accomplished the plunder is larger than what could be obtained in any other way, while the chances of escape are fairly good for those who have studied the country.

But that train robbing is, or appears to be on the increase, makes it imperative not only that precautions against attack from this quarter should be doubled, but that some form of punishment should be devised which would strike terror into the perpetrators of these crimes. A simple sentence of imprisonment for a long term of years does not seem to act as a check.

It is only recently that newspapers of standing in the United States seriously discussed the question whether kidnapping should not be made a capital offence. The crime was becoming so prevalent that no family, able to pay a big ransom, felt that their children were safe. The result was that the death penalty was advocated by very humane and conservative people.

To hold up and rob a train cannot be regarded as less iniquitous than kidnapping a child. It is impossible to say what consequences may not flow from such a deed—consequences more serious far, perhaps, than the mere pillage of valuables. The act is one which only the most abandoned and reckless brigands will dare to commit and it may be taken for granted that such men have not the crime of murder already to their

upon the British public that nothing but trouble was to be expected from the tendency on the part of a class of public men in the mother country to urge the Indians to agitate for native control. Kipling, who understands the Indian character, points this out time and time again, and other writers, less popular and less widely read, deal with the question more in detail and sound an even more decided warning.

And it may be well not to forget that the class responsible for giving encouragement to the native agitation are in the main supporters of the present government. Most of them are men of the type of Mr. Lloyd-George, whose undiscriminating Liberal proclivities are more destructive of orderly conditions than the aggressiveness of the Radicals.

If it was unavoidable that Sir Curzon Wyllie's murder should occur, it is well that the crime was committed in London. It will bring home to the British public as it could not have done had it taken place in India, the peril with which the empire is confronted. We have been assured that India, as a whole, is not ill-affected, and that is probably true. But when such organizations, for the purpose of assassination exist and carry on their operations in the very heart of the empire, it is difficult to believe that there is not a very considerable body of native opinion behind such a murderous campaign.

Be this as it may, however, it is impossible that the British public can look on complacently while leading public men are threatened with assassination from such a source. And the remedy to be applied to this evil condition of things must be applied in India as well as in London. Not only must these murderous societies be rooted out and their members be put under ban but the disaffected in India must be treated with a strictness which will convince the natives that they have nothing to hope for in revolt. But the British encourager of disquiet among the Indians should be taken in hand at once and disciplined into silence if not into sense.

SPANISH PROSPERITY.

America enriched Spain in the two centuries following the discovery of the New World by Columbus. Then America impoverished Spain by her attempt to retain the colonies, until finally Cuba became a drain on the treasury of the mother country. Not only was money poured into the island, but Spain was robbed of her brawn, her greatest asset, in the young men who were conscripted for military duty and wasted the best years of their life. Once more America has enriched Spain by going to war with her, depriving her of her colonies both in the west and in the east, cutting off the necessity for a large military establishment, and letting the young men stay at home to develop the rich resources of their native land.

The Spanish nation is being recreated. Its industries are flourishing in a remarkable way. Agriculture is encouraged by the introduction of new methods. In a short time Spain will be among the granaries of the world. Barcelona is taking $99,000,000 worth of raw cotton from America every year. This is being woven into fabrics which are being sent over the world.

Spain, which for half a century or more seemed to be a dying nation, floats on the topmost wave of prosperity. She is looking abroad for new markets for her products. Unlike Germany, she has no military aspirations in connection with the develop-

THE EMPIRE OF INDIA

I. The Great Unrest.

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN.

Calcutta, India, June 10.—The people of India are discontented. All over this vast empire there is a disturbed condition of affairs which has come to be known as "the unrest." This unrest has found its expression in the serious and respectful protests of leading Indian statesmen, in the solemn resolutions of the Indian national congress, in the boycott of English-made goods, in the pistols of assassins and in the bombs and infernal machines of Indian anarchists. The British goverment has met the protests and demands of the super-Indian public with important concessions looking toward self-government, in what is known as Lord Morley's reform scheme. It has met the violence of the extreme fanatics with stern measures of repression.

It is idle to deny the serious condition of affairs in India at the present moment. Hardly a week passes that does not record bomb outrages and attempted assassinations. Every newspaper is filled with accounts of trials of rioters and anarchists. Every day the police search the houses of suspected persons, finding and destroying all books, journals, newspapers, or what not that may have the slightest taint of sedition.

The railway trains that run from Calcutta to Barrackpore, a suburb where a great many prominent Englishmen have their homes are guarded night and day by lines of soldiers. Fifteen bombs have been exploded in trains along this line since the unrest began. Singularly enough, not one of the bombs found its intended victim, although several natives were killed and many injured.

Each outrage is followed by wholesale arrests of suspected persons, but in the great majority of cases there is no evidence whatever against the prisoners and they are liberated at the preliminary examining trial. Others are taken before the higher courts, but it is very difficult to obtain proof against them, and the only convictions of importance have followed upon the heels of proud and defiant confessions.

It is sometimes said that the unrest is manifested only in the province of Bengal, of which Calcutta is the capital and metropolis. Yet it is true that within the last few weeks riots and bomb outrages have been reported from the very southernmost portion of the peninsula, searches and seizures have occupied the time of the police in every town in the Bombay presidency at the west, the disturbances on the Afghan frontier at the north have become so serious that the Khyber pass has been closed to commerce for an indefinite period. Bengal is the easternmost section of India proper, so it is evident that the unrest pervades India from coast to coast and from the mountains to the cape.

English education has reached a greater number of people in Bengal than in any other section of the country, and Bengal has a special grievance on account of the partition of the province by Lord Curzon in 1905. Therefore the Bengalese have been more prominent in the revolutionary movment, and the situation is most serious in their province. And this in spite of the fact that Bengal, alone of all the provinces of India, has no complaint to make of the onerous taxes imposed by the British government.

It is now a crime for a Bengalese to sing his national anthem, Bande-mataram or Motherland. To shout the name of the song on the street means swift and sure imprisonment. The native newspapers are so watched and hedged about that they hardly dare to express a positive opinion upon any political subject for fear of suppression and punishment for sedition. Public meetings and associations are strictly forbidden and any attempt to hold one would be frustrated by the vigilant police.

But the police are not equal to the task of coping with a boycott that extends all over India. Clubs and unions in every community and in almost every village have been organized to support the swadeshi movement. That means that they will buy no goods except swadeshi goods, that is, goods

native daily papers in Calcutta printed in English. They were the first newspaper offices in India to install linotype machines. But the average Englishman doesn't know of their existence except from the comments in his own papers, and it is impossible to find a copy of either for sale in the European section of the city.

It is this English habit of declining to know anything about the natives that has contributed no little to the present unrest. The Englishman is but a bird of passage in India. He comes here to stay three years or five years or ten years. He is always going home. He is always thinking of home. He looks upon India only as a place from which money may be extracted. He lives with his own people, he knows nothing beyond his club and his sports. He declines to consult the wishes of the Indians either in governmental administration, or in business. Therefore he must now face the problem of a great discontent in the political world, and the rapid rise of two great rivals for his trade.

The Germans and the Japanese are crafty merchants. They have gone to the Indians and have asked what the Indians wanted. They have made and sold goods according to the Indian notions, and they have never made the British mistake of attempting to force English goods of English patterns upon a people who wanted something else. Take the instance of scissors. English scissors are made with the thumb and finger hole of the same size. Indian tailors demanded scissors with a larger aperture for the thumb. The English factory, even upon advice of their agent in India, declined to humor the foolish whim of the absurd barbarian. Whereupon India now buys its scissors from Germany. The British merchant will not change his ideas of business to suit Indian ideas, any more than he will change his woollen underwear and yarn socks to meet the difference between the

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