

THE DAILY PROVINCE

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BECOMING ALARMED.

The latest intelligence regarding grave developments of unrest among the native population of India is filling the public mind in Great Britain with anxiety. In the face of the revelations of the last few days it is easy to perceive that there has not been, as it was hoped there would be, a considerable revulsion in favor of British rule. The truth appears to be that only the upper classes of the native population are well disposed towards Britain and that among the masses of the population in every province disaffection is prevalent, leading to outrage, dacoity(Sic), and conspiracy against the established order. That this dangerous movement is led and fostered by the natives whom Britain has helped to endow with the advantages of higher education is undeniable. But to comprehend the causes of this unrest it is necessary to study closely a most valuable series of articles in the London Times. The writer has discussed the problem with great knowledge, and in commenting on his conclusions the London journal says: "He seeks to show that we are in the presence of forces, still only partly visible, which have slowly gathered momentum during many years. They do not spring from, though they may have been partly stimulated by, objection to this or that measure. They have their roots in the aim beginning of Indian history, they derive such vitality as they possess from the very spirit and character of the Indian peoples."

It is obvious then that Great Britain is confronted with a very delicate and complex problem, which is not to be solved by easy going optimism. How deeply disturbed are the relations of the native population and their rulers may be gauged(Sic) by the latest news from India of a large number of arrests for conspiracy subversive of the British supremacy. The suspects include many persons of wealth and education, and this is but the culmination of a long series of political outrages in the two Bengals. The authorities, we are told, think they have unearthed a far-reaching and active conspiracy to overthrow British rule in India, and the foundation of this belief must be exposed when the trials take place. But, whatever the issue of the present

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development may be, such news is most disquieting. We have heard so often of the change for the better in the attitude of the native races towards their rulers, and so much of the pacificatory(Sic) effect of the recent political changes on the native mind, that it must come as a shock to find that the severest measures are still deemed necessary by the Indian Government.

Undoubtedly Britain is in a measure responsible for some of the present difficulties, because she has enabled numbers of the natives to participate in the presumably enlightening advantages of a Western education, and have thus saturated them with Western ideas of liberty. That these principles can be at once grafted on the Oriental stock is palpably absurd; but the ardent protagonists of Indian independence do not realize that fundamental fact. Therein the prime danger lies. It is no doubt a most estimable policy to show sympathy towards all legitimate aspirations, but the peril of such a disposition is that it is liable to be misinterpreted by the mass of the uneducated, in whose minds the seeds of sedition, sown by the cunning and ambitious agitators of their own color, are most likely to open and germinate. Sentiment, however worthy in itself, is wasted when applied to the problems of Great Britain's relations with Indian peoples, for consideration is construed as a sign of weakness and tolerance is accounted craven. The inevitable result of the contact between two vastly divergent civilizations is before us; and when the solvent of Occidental thought is applied to Oriental systems disturbances is certain to ensue.