

Trinity of Starvation, Disease and Executions Bringing "Peace" to British Controlled India

By AGNES SMEDLEY
Secretary of Friends of Freedom for India.

Britain is bringing "lasting peace" to India. It is the peace of death. The methods are most efficient and very thorough. They may be grouped roughly under three heads: (1) Starvation, (2) Disease, (3) Executions.

The first weapon—starvation—has always been used by governing nations and classes. In India it is used with scientific exactness. In this connection, a few general facts stand out: On April 24 of this year, an India Famine Fund Committee in Canada advertised in Canadian papers stating that 32,000,000 Indians had perished of starvation within the past year, and that 150,000,000 are living on the verge of starvation. The conditions described in the appeals signed by some 25 Canadian publicists, were ghastly. "India is in the deadly grip of plague and famine," they read. "In the central and northern provinces of India, death stalks through the land, taking a toll that makes the actual war's casualty list pale into insignificance. The poor have eaten all their food, and the physical condition of thousands upon thousands is such that they are too weak even to carry their water jars. Others, driven mad with hunger, are eating roots, seeds, kernels of old nuts, or anything they can pick up. The existing conditions are unparalleled in the history of the world."

Immediately, the advertisements were suppressed by the government. Because, of course, the world must know that the British are successful colonizers. Furthermore, the facts might get into the hands of some "fanatical" Hindus in the United States, who would make capital of them. So a dead silence followed and the screen for a unitarian missionary, who came to America to make the Americans weep bitter tears of pity every one that "it's all right, it's all right."

Missionary Silenced.
Next a missionary, Dr. R. H. Hume, came from India and presented a plea to President Wilson, from the Viceroy of India, for help in famine relief. The newspapers began to carry stories. The silence was immediately applied and this missionary, who came to America to make the Americans weep bitter tears of pity every one that "it's all right, it's all right."

TWO STORES

The Chicago Shoe Store

7 S. MAIN ST.

A source of pride to the happy possessor are shoes such as ours.

Buy shoes that are rightly made, from properly seasoned leathers, and they will outwear the ordinary kind several fold.

YOU COME BUT ONCE TO COME AGAIN.

Our shoes hold their shapes to the last, and we fit you regardless of the difficulties of the foot.

GENUINE CHIPPEWA SHOES FOR WORK.

Howard & Foster shoes for dress.

Walton shoes for the boys and girls.

BRANCH STORE
The One-Price Shoe Store
43 E. PARK.

TWO STORES

SAY YOU SAW IT IN BULLETIN

MEN'S HATS

NICKERSON THE HATTER

112 W. PARK STREET

SAY YOU SAW IT IN BULLETIN

Jacques Drug Co.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGGISTS
Phone 999. 1057 Harrison Ave.
Night Bell for Prescriptions
MOTORCYCLE DELIVERY

Agency Webster's Home Remedies
Drugs, Chemicals, Toilet Articles,
Patent Medicines, Cigars
and Candies
Masterman Kodaks and Supplies
Developing and Printing

SAY YOU SAW IT IN BULLETIN

Classic Chili Parlor

210 N. Main St.
CHILI, LIGHT LUNCHES
THE BEST WAFFLES IN TOWN
Open Day and Night

SAY YOU SAW IT IN BULLETIN

as they forked out their dollars for the poor, starving Hindus, has also maintained a silence. The Viceroy of India didn't understand local conditions in America. It would have been much more proper to let the Hindus die in silence than to set the Americans thinking.

Lastly, comes the July issue of the Modern Review, of Calcutta, which tells as much of the truth as it can without being suppressed and its editor imprisoned for life. It displays photographs of the famine-stricken, and tells of conditions in a local section of the country. "Government," it says, "has declared famine in the district of Bankura, Bengal." Then followed an appeal for help—an appeal which should shame the English nation into silence for eternity. Just what it means for Indians to resort to appeals for help is told by Sister Nivedita (Margaret Noble) in her book "Studies from an Eastern Home," published in 1917.

"And everywhere in the famine villages I found the same thing. Here and there as we went about, we would come upon some one whose store of money or provisions was not yet wholly exhausted, some one who was still hoping that public charity would prove unnecessary to his little household. And wherever this happened the personal question was skillfully evaded, and any discussion of the situation quietly refused. It is needless to say that the intense sensitiveness and delicacy of these Indian villagers played its own part in helping to deepen our understanding of the prevailing desolation. Every story told meant so much, pride overcome, so much that a month or two of this year's reaping, therefore, the long slow agony of starvation must have set in among the people. But it was borne in grim silence as long as possible, and only in the middle of June did the terrible word famine make itself heard."

Famine Becomes Acute.
"Famine is social paralysis. A civilization that has taken thousands of years to build up may be shattered by a single season of it. For complete destitution of all classes to occur in a given area, is apt to knock out the links and rivets of the social system."

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Intensity of Disasters Increased.
But famine, the great mother, the great humiliator, the right hand of British rule in India, knows no pride. A fact that is not generally acknowledged is that every decade of British rule in India increases the number and intensity of these disasters. They are not altogether due to the failure of rains, nor are they the result of extravagance on the part of the peasants. "Why are we not reservoirs and irrigation systems built?" "Why are not the people educated?" "Who are the British to speak of extravagance?" But there is another reason for the famines, and that is that the people do not have enough money to buy the food. "India has always produced enough to last thru long periods of drought, but even in the worst famine years food has been shipped from the country or held at exorbitant prices. The masses have not had sufficient food, as in past centuries, to store to last over periods of scarcity, nor enough money to meet inflated prices. The London Times of April 25 quoted its Bombay correspondent as saying: 'India, having been swept bare of foodstuffs to meet the exigencies of the war, the people feel that the home government is lukewarm in releasing supplies from outside, and resent particularly the fact that the shipping controller is maintaining high freight on fat and rice from Burma.'"

In connection with this statement Mr. Weston, financial minister to the government of India, in his budget speech, said that in the first six months of the fiscal year 1918-19, 1,596,969 tons of wheat and 5,759,000 tons of cereals had been exported from India, which exceeded by 10 per cent exports of the previous year. He also stated that up to March, 1918, a high tariff was maintained on the importation of foodstuffs. This was done by the shipping controller of the admiralty office in London, and points to the direct cause of the terrible famine in India today.

War Gifts Wrong From People.
The Times did not say that India had been also swept bare of money; that India was bled to death that British imperialism might enslave other peoples; that huge "war gifts" were wrong from the people, much of them by increased taxation.

William J. Digby, a noted British economist, has given in his book "Prosperous British India," a significant list of famines in India during the past few centuries. From 1769 to 1830, there were seven famines, at first local, but gradually becoming more widespread as British capitalists gained a stronger hold on the country, and as the British power tightened its grip. In the 19th century, there were 31 widespread famines, claiming 33,000,000 human beings. Here the population

problem enters in. But an American journal, recently pointed out that India is not so densely populated as many other countries. Belgium has a density of population of 589, Holland 454, Japan 317, China 266, Italy 222, India 211. Yet these countries are not devastated by famine, India has a more fertile soil than they, her birth rate lower, than many of them. The death rate is much higher, however, as is shown by infant mortality rates, which amount in some provinces to 200 to 300 per thousand. In this connection, it must also be remembered that the average length of life for an Indian is 23 years for a man; for a woman still less.

Figures Confirmed.
Commenting upon famines, the Indian industrial commission, in a report recently published by the British government, confirms the figures and quotes from Digby thus:

"During rough, famine and scarities have been four times as numerous during the last 39 years of the 18th century as they were 100 years earlier and four times more widespread."

Indian publicists in America have constantly called attention to intolerable economic conditions in India, giving irrefutable facts about the stupendous cost of British rule to life and money to the Indians. Some of their facts have been given thus: "The annual income of an Indian is \$10 a year. The taxes are, at the lowest, 20 per cent of this income, as contrasted with America's 3 per cent. After 150 years of British rule, 94 per cent of the people are illiterate, and compulsory education are denied. The death rate is 2 1/2 times that of America in normal times. Labor unions are illegal, and the average day is 12 hours, recently reduced from 16 and 17 hours. A drain of \$200,000,000 is annually drawn from the country to pay salaries, etc., of Englishmen, and no return given."

Dutt Gives Comment.
Speaking of this last item, Romesh C. Dutt, writing in his "Economic History of India," says:

"One-fourth, therefore, of all the revenues derived in India is annually remitted to England as home charges. And if we add to this the portion of their salaries which European officers employed in India annually drain out of the Indian revenues to England considerably exceed \$20,000,000."

This was written at the beginning of the twentieth century, when extracting methods were not so scientifically developed as today. Commenting on the above, Mr. Dutt says: "It would be a miracle if such a process, continued through long decades, did not impoverish even the richest nation upon earth."

But figures do not catch the imagination; they are not romantic. It takes the starvation of millions of men, women and children before the "justice" of British rule in India is questioned. While the British enter as food; the savings of life are scattered to the winds. Economic relationships that seemed inherent in the social organism are broken to pieces.

Intensification of Disasters.
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percent of India's entire revenue will be spent to develop militarism of the British empire; nothing will be spent to develop industries which might compete with English industries in England; less than \$2,000,000 is given for education, American spent \$700,000,000 from public revenues in 1918, with a population one-third that of India, practically nothing is done for agriculture, while the greatest items are given to the army and to the railways—thus linking imperialism and capitalism.

From the above-mentioned budget, where is provision made for sanitation and health? At the most, it could be included in education. Who is he who still wonders how India can carry off 6,000,000 people within eight weeks? Perhaps private enterprise will provide health measures? But such help must come in the form of charity from a few wealthy princes, most of whom are, naturally, allied with the British ruling class, and whose help is haphazard and dependent upon whims. The money, extracted from the people as revenues, is not used for their betterment, but for further imperialistic capitalistic exploitation.

Executions for "Peace."
Still another method used to keep India "peaceful" is the execution of Hindu patriots. The British rule of revolutionary conspirators, recently published by the British government, gives the number of Indian youths hanged or shot within the last few years as upward to two hundred. Aside from these, thousands were imprisoned and hundreds sent to the Indian Siberia, the Andaman Islands, for long terms or for life. Many died in prison as the result of torture, solitary confinement, outside and disease contracted because of prison conditions. The report does not include Indians officially killed outside of India, such cases as that of Dr. Manthura Singh, who escaped from the British, was captured in Russian Territory (neutral territory), taken to Kashmir and shot, or is mention made of the disposition of the Hindus who, though they were buying their lives by coming to America, under military guard, to testify against Hindu revolutionists, but who were returned to India.

A recent list of executions would include those consequent upon the revolutionary outbreak last April, and continuing today. The number of trials during this period would, perhaps, amount into the thousands. In one province alone, the Punjab, 276 deaths have been reported, with the following results: (Incomplete list, compiled by the Kasari, of Bombay Presidency, of June 26. The government does not give out facts either as to the number of trials or the results of trials. All trials are secret—Star Chamber proceedings, held under the Rowlett Acts.)

Death penalty 73
Transportation for life and 147
aman Islands
Rigorous imprisonment terms ranging from six months to 14 years 204
The Kasari also states that thousands are awaiting trial.

Leader to Die.
Late reports carry the news that Dr. Muhammad Durrani, a Nationalist leader in Amritsar, Punjab province, has been sentenced to death, under Sections 121 and 124A of the Indian penal code, while Har Kishan and Duni Chand, barristers-at-law in Lahore, together with Rambhaji Dutt Chowdhury, barrister-at-law, and a nephew of Tagore by marriage, as well as several other influential leaders in the Punjab, have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for life to the Andaman Islands, and their property confiscated. Two others have been sentenced to three months rigorous detention, with three months solitary confinement.

The Press Association of India in a recent telegram, says that 500 publications have been suppressed, and 300 newspapers have been compelled to deposit securities of \$20,000,000 to the amount of \$20,000,000. This is all done under the infamous Rowlett Acts, which has succeeded all other acts. The aged editor of the Lahore Tribune, Mr. Kahi Nath Roy, has just been tried by court martial (one-third of India being under martial law, under section 124A and convicted of sedition. Sedition under section 124A was interpreted thus:

(1) To say that government has expended itself to severest criticism at the bar of public opinion;
(2) To protest against the use of an act which is in operation;
(3) To say in connection with any measure of the government that its action is unjust and unwarrantable;
(4) To sympathize with people who have been shot dead by the military forces of the government by calling them martyrs;
(5) To attribute "blazing indiscretions" to the ruler of a province;
(6) To publish the report of an incident which gives new facts or contradicts in any way any official communication on the subject."

Thus, Kahi Nath Roy, whose hair has grown white in the service of his country, finds himself a convict because he has spoken the truth, because he has loved his countrymen who have given their lives for India, because he has protested against the actions and the power of their assassins.

Patriots Flogged.
Some 35 or 40 other Indian patriots, prominent citizens, whose crimes are the same, have been flogged in the public streets. One can well imagine the indignity. It means the same as if Englishmen took men in America—such as Senators Johnson, France or Borah, or publicists like Oswald Garrison Villard, or men like Justice Brandeis, and flogged them in Central park in New York City, and continued such actions with men all over the country. Men of the same intellectual caliber and high moral standards have been flogged in India. The principle upon which it is done is the principle upon which savagery is based; the act itself is the act of cowardice and curs. And the government under whose auspices it is done is an outlaw government whose acts

are born of depravity; the men who carry out such orders are mentally and morally diseased, and the nation to which they belong should be held responsible and should be shunned as a nation beyond the pale of human civilization.

Yet the same British government which lashes to death Indian patriots finds justification for grabbing territory and demanding indemnities of other nations when some insolent British missionary is killed. If a Mexican or a Chinese pulls down a British Union Jack, large indemnities are demanded or a province is placed under the jurisdiction of the greatest of "successful colonizers."

There is another and a more fundamental phase to British rule than any mentioned in this article. British rule in India is based upon force. It is the rule of a powerful foreign ruler over another people. It is the rule against the wishes of the Indian people, a people in revolt. Yet British rule in India is recognized in America and other nations today. Therefore, the rule of violence and savagery is approved and sanctioned. By such a principle the British have the right to kill every man, woman and child in India if they wish, or to spend all the revenues for exploitation of the country if they desire. By such a principle, famine, disease and executions are justifiable as weapons. While such a principle is recognized, to present figures, facts, and arguments, is useless; they but present the sides of justice; and justice is repudiated, while force sits on the throne. Operating under this law of jungle, Britain has, perhaps, done as well as any other jungle Power could do. So long as she remains in India, an economic drain will be necessary, militarism will be necessary, bombing from airplanes will be necessary.

To recognize the right of British rule in India is to recognize the right of a foreign people to rule another if they are strong enough. That principle does not stop with India, but is applicable to America. If, by British force or by other means, tomorrow, she wishes and if she is strong enough, or if she can buy or prostitute American brains to do it for her, and she generally does. Then she can floor to death any American who objects to British rule, even those who have been her tools.

Indians Challenge Brute Rule.
It is because this idea of brute rule is being challenged by Indians that India is under martial law, and it is because of this challenge that British agents are at work in America, using their influence to deport Hindus who have challenged that

idea. Americans are being used to deport the Hindus, who have done no harm to American institutions, and who have been interested solely in the freedom of India. America is being used, even in this small way to hold India in subjection to a power that is repugnant to her.

These Hindus in America, Bhagwan, Gopal and Santokh Singh, Dhirendra Sarkar, T. N. Das, and others have stood as centers of information about conditions in India; they challenged British rule, as they had a right to do. They have a right to use brute force to overthrow British rule in India so long as both British and American and other "civilized" nations recognize brute force in its application to India. Judged by American and British standards of virtue, of right and wrong, these Hindus are noble men; the only flaw in their nobility is that they did not succeed, that they did not use enough force. Judged by spiritual standards, they have more right to use force to overthrow British rule in India than Britain has to use force in keeping it.

Because it is their country, and the Hindus are their people; their motives are not personal or selfish, but in behalf of their countrymen. If their attempts at violence are to be condemned then the most logical thing to do is to start on the British, who are arch-assassins in India. There cannot be two standards—one for the British and one for the Hindus.

Yet the fact is that they are not using force in America. They are telling the truth about India, baldly, frankly, and without trimmings. They are not agitating against American or American institutions. Their denunciation is urged by British agents chief of whom is A. Carnegie Ross, British consul at San Francisco. The vicious circle continues, for the charge upon which they are held for deportation is that they were convicted and imprisoned for violating neutrality laws; that imprisonment was secured, largely by British money, by British legal aid, and by witnesses brought by the British to America from foreign countries; their conviction was made possible because British spies had caused, and helped, arrest them in America for an "offense" committed long before America entered the war.

And Philip Francis, an American journalist, has at last spoken the truth by saying that the British actually paid the wages of the agents of the United States government prosecutor and superintended the trials exactly as if they were in authority here and the British government was ruling America. Yet the Hindus were convicted of "violating neutrality laws," and sent to prison shortly after two agents and

co-workers of A. Carnegie Ross (instigating the deportation of the Hindus), now British consul in San Francisco, were convicted of the violation of neutrality laws by recruiting soldiers on American soil. But, of course, President Wilson speedily pardoned Ross and his accomplices.

British Spies at Work.
The British spies at work in America were legion. Chief among them was George Denham, head of the spy system in India, upon whose head rested the blood of unnumbered Indian youths, most of whom were students in their early twenties. With George Denham was a spy named Nathan, who placed American citizens under the "third degree" to ascertain their loyalty to Great Britain.

Among the American spies who carried out the work of the British were such men as Lieut. Col. Nicholas Biddle, head of the military intelligence bureau in New York City. The London Times of July 4 (anniversary of American independence), praises Lieut. Col. Biddle's noble work.

Thus India's fight has extended to America, and American citizens have been bought or prostituted to do Britain's dirty work. It is thus easy to see how closely India's enslavement affects America.

It is understood by few Americans that the root cause of the fight between Germany and England was to control the sources of raw materials, and that the control of the routes to Asia was necessary in order to hold India and control these sources.

India is the gateway to, and the heart of Asia. India is also the strategic position for military operations in Eastern Africa, Asia, and all the islands of the South Pacific. The enslavement of India is absolutely necessary to the maintenance of British imperialism and the British empire.

The deportation of the Hindus from America is a part of that war against India's fight for independence to see how closely India's enslavement affects America.

All for the sake of Peace in India.

Bulletin Want Ads Get Result. Phone 52.

The Progressive Shoe Shop
For first-class Shoe Repairing
This is no second-hand cobbling shop. First-class work only.
1721 Harrison Ave.

SAY YOU SAW IT IN BULLETIN.



BAIL IS WANTED WITHOUT FAIL FOR THE MEN WHO ARE IN JAIL

Hundreds of workers are literally rotting in the jails of this country because of their activity in the cause of Labor. Many of these victims of the world-wide class war are awaiting trial—and have been waiting for many weary months for the speedy trial guaranteed them by the United States Constitution. Others were tried and sentenced to terms ranging from one to twenty years during the period of war hysteria, and appeals in their cases are now being taken from King Capital drunk to King Capital sober.

Some of the prisoners have escaped by death, others are dying, many have contracted tuberculosis and other loathsome diseases, and all are suffering untold agony from close confinement in the fetid atmosphere, from insanitary and unhealthy surroundings, from poor and insufficient food, and from inhuman treatment accorded them by brutalized guards. Past attempts to secure bail for all of these workers in jail have not been attended with great success because of the lack of system. Individuals sought to secure bail for their personal friends, and failing to get the necessary amount they returned what had been collected, thus making their entire efforts fruitless. This was the condition facing the delegates from all the western district organizations of the Industrial Workers of the World when they met in conference on July 3 and 4 in Seattle. The delegates solved the problem by an unflinching means—Organization.

A Bail and Bond Committee was elected to systematize the work of collecting bail and a nation-wide drive has been started to secure the loan of cash. Liberty Bonds and property sufficient to gain the release of all class war prisoners. With practically no advertising Six Thousand Dollars were raised in the first five days. More than Two Hundred Thousand Dollars are needed to release those now being held for their Labor activity.

Sums of Five Dollars and up are accepted as loans, and all cash, Liberty Bonds or property is tabulated in triplicate, one copy going to the person making the loan, another being retained by the Bail and Bond Committee, and the third being filed with the Trades Union Savings and Loan Association of Seattle, with whom all funds, bonds and property schedules will be banked.

Only those who have been proved loyal and trustworthy are being sent out as collectors. Everything possible has been done to safeguard this bail and bond fund, from the selection of the committee to the choice of the bank. A portion of the fund is being set aside to return loans on demand in case persons who have made them are forced to leave the country or have other reasons for making a withdrawal.

Bail will be used to release specified persons where that is desired, but otherwise the release will take place by a blind drawing of names, thus insuring fairness to all prisoners. By common consent the men in Wichita, Kansas, jail will first be released, as they have been held the longest and jail conditions are worse there than anywhere else in the entire country. This bail has nearly all been subscribed, and the men will be made accredited collectors when released, and their speedy release will help to set others at liberty.

No necessity exists for argument. Your duty is clear. If your ears are not deaf to a call from your class, if you feel that an injury to one is an injury to all, if there burns within you the faintest spark of humanity, you will see that the men do not remain behind the bars an unnecessary minute because you withheld your support.

THEY ARE WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR YOU! ARE YOU WILLING TO LOAN YOUR DOLLARS TO THEM?
Send all cash, checks and bonds to John L. Engdahl, Secretary of Bail and Bond Committee, Box W, Ballard Station, Seattle.
Property schedules should be filed with Attorney Ralph S. Pierce, Room 607 Central Building, Seattle.

Butte Office, 318 N. Wyoming St., A. S. Embree, Bond and Bail delegate.