

How Afghan Rising Was Furthered

CALCUTTA, India—The Englishman recently published the following narrative relating to the events which preceded the attempted invasion of India:

"In 1916 three Indians, who had been provided with a little money from some unknown source, arrived in Kabul. They let it be known that they were the heads of a conspiracy that had been formed to overthrow the Government of India. The conspirators included a Sikh, who styled himself Administrative Minister of the Provisional Government of India, one A. H. Aziz, said to be an inhabitant of Kasur, who styled himself Assistant Administrative Minister, and Burkatullah, the well-known ruse-ade, who acted as secretary of the organization. The conspirators also had a president, one Mahendra Pratap, who was sent to Kabul from Berlin.

"In the autumn of 1918, Mahomed Tarzi, a wild and venturesome spirit, joined the revolutionaries. The Ameer Abdur Rahman had banished him from Afghanistan, and for years he had been a refugee in Russian Turkestan. On the death of Abdur Rahman, he returned to Kabul with his family and soon got into the good graces of the Ameer Habibullah.

"Mahomed Tarzi consolidated his position in the Afghan court by marrying his daughter to that son of Habibullah who is now Ameer. He is, therefore, the father-in-law of Amanullah. In 1917 he disappeared from Kabul on some secret mission. In 1918 he returned, wearing a fez cap, calling himself Mahomed Tarzi Bey, and with a very large sum of money obtained from Bolshevik sources. He joined the revolutionaries and it was as the result of his suggestions that money was sent into India to stir up sedition and revolt.

"Enver Pasha and a people's commissioner named Kumaroff who had given Mahomed Tarzi his money, wanted the Afghans to undertake an invasion of India, and they sent messages to the Provisional Government to say that it must do something more startling and effective than it had yet done. But Ameer Habibullah, though he no longer treated the conspirators with contempt, refused bluntly to take any direct action. After the passing away of Ameer, the conspirators put a nominee of their own Amanullah Khan, upon the throne. They had money to spend and they spent it in bribing the army, and they had, more over, the help of Amanullah's mother, a princess of the blood royal and a woman of great force of character.

As Clay in Others' Hands.

"The Ameer Amanullah is untraveled and inexperienced, and he is as clay in the hands of his father-in-law. They describe him in Kabul as a visionary and idealist, who has eagerly imbibed the Socialistic and Bolshevik theories cunningly laid before him by Mahomed Tarzi and the other conspirators. They told him stories about British and capitalistic tyranny and they dangled before his eyes the vision of himself, as the leader of a great central Asiatic democracy and possibly of the millions of India also. The conspirators soon found to their delight that not only was the Ameer willing to help them, but that all the resources of the Afghan treasury were open to them. They had only to fix a date for the Afghan invasion and the invasion would take place.

"But first it was necessary to start trouble in India, and money was poured into this country for the purpose. Two agents were selected in India to distribute money to seditionists and malcontents. One of these was Abdur Rahman, the Afghan representative at Simla, the other was

Gholam Hyder, the Afghan postmaster and agent at Peshawar. Abdur Rahman seems to have been timid and unwilling, but Gholam Hyder was a man of another stamp. He was generally known in Peshawar as a great collector of Persian and central Asian carpets and rugs. . . . Secret and strange people visited him at night and went away with money, and it was in his brain that was hatched the plot for an Afghan brigade forced the Khyber Pass.

Another Conspiracy.

"It happened that at the very time their own plans were getting ripe another set of people were busily engaged in fomenting trouble in India. The bulk of them knew nothing about the Kabul plot. The Rowlatt Act disorders and riots, there is reason to believe, were entirely independent of inspiration from Mahomed Tarzi. The conspirators had fixed a date late in May for the Afghan invasion and the upheaval in India. The Rowlatt trouble started in April. Exaggerated stories of what was happening in India reached Kabul and the conspirators decided to act at once and to make the Rowlatt Act, or rather what they believed to be the act, their excuse for the invasion of India.

"An extraordinary deception was practised upon the Government of India by its own spies. These people brought a story, which was apparently believed by both Peshawar and Simla officials, that the Ameer at a Durbar had said that as a consequence of the riots the rich fields and wealthy bazaars of India lay at the feet of Afghan invaders. It was added that the Ameer had spoken in glowing terms of the prospects of loot that lay before his army. It has now come out that the Ameer never said anything of the kind. He did hold a Durbar, but he spoke in a idealistic and visionary vein, rather after the style of Sirdar All. Ahmed at the Peace Conference. After the Durbar, the conspirators met in secret and decided that May 10 was to be the great day for the massacre of the British garrison at Peshawar and forcing of the Khyber.

A Tame Surrender.


"The plot became known. The authorities at Peshawar acted swiftly. The outbreak was to take place on Saturday. On Thursday, Peshawar city was surrounded by General Clime. Gholam Hyder and his creatures surrendered in the tamest way possible and were bundled off to Rangoon and the Afghan brigade which had moved up to the mouth of the Khyber decided to stay where it was. "In view of these facts it is to be hoped that the government will not believe that the peace recently signed at Rawalpindi means the end of the Afghan trouble. All the conspirators are still at large and behind them are the ever busy fingers of Enver Pasha and the Bolsheviks. The recent troubles on the frontier may be only a warning of a storm compared to the storm that is being brewed, of course, but we should not remain unprepared for it."

HIGH SILK HAT AGAIN COMING INTO ITS OWN

The silk hat was first seen in this country about the year 1820, says London Tit-Bits, but being made of long-napped English silk on a felt body. It was very heavy and clumsy. Twenty years later the present style of high hat was introduced from France, with Lyons silk as now used. A drawback to the French hat was its fragility and liability to be dented at the slightest touch. But an English hatter hit upon the happy idea of stiffening the body with varnish, and the problem of a light, strong, durable silk hat was solved, and soon the hats made by London hatters were famous all over the world.

Quite within living memory the high hat reigned supreme; practically it was the only hat worn by every man from prince to ploughman. Cricketers played in it, boating men wore it on the river, sportsmen on the moors, and holiday-makers on the sands of Margate and Ramsgate.

An interesting and convincing proof of its universality is seen in the well-known print of the prize fight between Sayers and Heenan in 1860. Everyone in the crowd wears a topper of the chimney-pot pattern except the members of "the fancy" acting as ring-keepers, who wear caps. Now, after having been temporarily obscured by the war, it is coming into its own once more.



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The Worm Turns


In these troubled times when the mind of man is bewildered by the freaks of politics worried by the disparity between income and expenditure, irritated by the cynicism of profiteers, and depressed by the weight of uncertainty a sense of humor is a valuable possession. The writer of the following letter to a New York paper is probably saved from a suicide's grave by a fine sense of the humorous side of life even at its darkest and we pass it on in the hope that the similarly-affected may see the advantage of clinging to a straw:

Dear Sir—I have your letter requesting a donation for what you consider a very worthy cause. I flatter myself that I have a spirit of loyalty and generosity. I have contributed to each and every object that has been presented to me, but I certainly have to decline to help this cause for the following reasons:—
 I have been held up, held down, sandbagged, walked on, sat on, spat on, rolled over, flattened out and squeezed, first by the Government for the war tax, the excess profits tax, the Liberty Loan bonds and the bonds of matrimony; the State of New York

for the State tax, the highway tax, the income tax, surtax, the auto tax, school tax, dog tax, cat tax and syntax. I have been held down to brass tacks by every society and organization that the mind of man can invent to attract what you have or may not have, from the Society of St. John the Baptist, the G. A. R., the Women's Relief Corps, the Men's Relief, the stomach relief, the wifeless, the husbandless, the childless, the conscienceless, the Navy League, the Belgian Baby League, the Red Cross, the Green Cross, the double cross and every other cross of all colors, and by the Children's Home, the Dorcas Society, the various hospitals, including the lying-in hospital, the lying-out hospital, as well as some other lying institutions.

My income has decreased in volume owing to government restrictions and persecutions of properties. I am interested in, and because I will not sell all that I have and go to beg, borrow and steal. I have been cussed and discussed, boycotted, talked about, lied to and about, held up, lung up, robbed and nearly ruined, and the only reason I am clinging to life is my curiosity to see what in hell is coming next.

—Yours truly,



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When ever the flies congregated. In the morning she asked the servant girl if there was not a great many dead flies in the kitchen. "Yes, there are, mum," replied the maid. "The room's alive with them!"



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