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A Whole Regiment of PRINCES

Lord Curzon's Unique Body of Soldiers Composed of India's Native Monarchs



THE MAJAD OF JAORA



A. SATHI KUMAR GHOSH



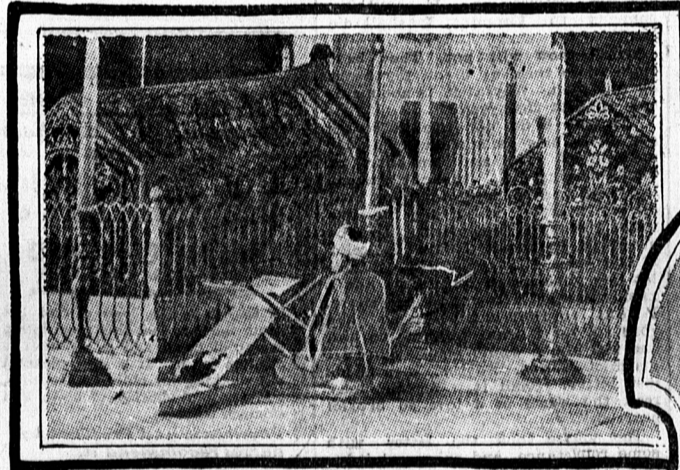
THE RAJAH OF MYSORE



THE PRINCELY MAJAD



THE AMIR OF AFGHANISTAN'S SON, SUDAR INAYATULLA KAHN, IN CALCUTTA.



WHERE THE REGIMENT 'VORSHIPS'



THE RAJAH OF RUTLAN

Militarism is the backbone of all aristocracy. Behind the noble stands always a sword, and that sword which bestows the fundamental sign of nobility is also significant of the fact that but for the sword there would be no aristocracy. Judged by nobility's own trade-mark, the Japanese were, as usual, thoroughly logical when they gave to their nobility not only one sword, but two.

In India, geographically the central point in the British Empire, the nobility who for 20 centuries ruled their own race now rules the same people by the divine right vested in that very worthy and domestic sovereign, Albert Edward, King of Great Britain and Emperor of India. While India is situated on the map exactly in the center of the British possessions, which stretch by land and water around the entire globe, it possesses also the extreme importance of being the military keynote to the British cordon of fleets and land fortresses that encircle the entire 360 degrees that make up the earth.

Thus India, the double keystone to both the physical and military combination of the British Empire, has a double significance and plays a double part in the councils of Great Britain. As a result, Lord Lansdowne, who under the guidance of Joseph Chamberlain, handles the reins and directs the course of the entire British Empire, chose two men, to each of whom is assigned one of the two vital divisions of government in India. To Lord Kitchener, the hero of the Soudan and the real conqueror of the Boers, is assigned the military keeping of India, the key to English domination throughout the world. To Lord Curzon, Lansdowne has once more entrusted the ruling of internal India. Curzon wheedles, bribes and bullies the petty and big rajahs and maharajahs of India. Finding that these

warlike descendants of the Orient grow wearied of being assigned to purely social duties, the Viceroy has long been worried over the restlessness which was so apparent among his princely charges. But Lord Curzon, aided by his American wife, has proved himself a man of resources. In fact, Curzon has violated viceregal etiquette by evolving an idea. The idea has resulted in the formation of all the great and small princes of the Indian Empire, who have been yearning for war into the Imperial Cadet Corps of India, truly the most aristocratic body of soldiery in the world. In Europe kings and emperors and other lesser aristocrats frequently honor some regiment in their own and other countries by becoming titular commanders. Curzon has, however, reversed this aristocratic proceeding by lumping into one corps more princes and kings, nabob, and nawabs than exist in the entire continent of Europe, and at the head of these swarthy monarchs Lord Curzon has placed Major W. A. Watson. So that the Indian rulers of the old regime now parade, march and countermarch at the stern commands of the son of a successful English brewer, who has taught them that, royal or otherwise, an English soldier must obey his colonel without a question or a whimper.

The Imperial Cadet Corps of Indian Princes, then, represents a masterpiece of Lord Curzon's genius; for governing India. For many years the sympathetic administrators of the King's myriads of Asiatic subjects have been trying to devise a scheme that would provide careers for princes and chiefs who, by every instinct soldiers, have under British sway no chance to fight. These spirited young men had long desired to serve their

sovereign in the profession of arms, but what seemed insurmountable difficulties barred the way. They were offered only the sinecure of honorary rank, and when red war, with its honors and penalties, came their eager blades rested unshathed. Lord Curzon has, however, found it possible to grant these youthful chieftains bona-fide commissions in the Indian Army, and thus has removed their patriotic regrets, whilst he presents the empire with some magnificent fighting material. A number of native colleges established for the education of the sons of the aristocracy were first of all generously assisted, and the best possible teaching staff provided. From these colleges the cadet corps is recruited that is intended to train the young soldiers preparatory to their entering the Indian Army as officers. A few highly distinguished youths have, however, been allowed to join the corps who, for various reasons, were unable to attend one of these colleges. The honorary major is Maharaj Dhiraj

tant task of commanding the corps are Major W. A. Watson, commandant, and Capt. D. Cameron, adjutant. Both of these officers have gained experience in the Central Indian Horse. The native adjutant is Traker Dip Singh, a striking instance of a type who do much to render the Indian Army the weighty factor it is in international politics.

The corps is the most aristocratic military body in the world. Serving in its ranks are ruling princes galore. The Maharajah of Jodhpur, the Maharajah of Kisharjah, the Nawab of Jaora and the Rajah of Rutlan are there, while the other cadets are all either of royal blood or scions of the most distinguished Indian families. They are splendidly mounted, the government having provided each cadet with a black Australian charger standing at least 15 hands and an inch. An appropriately simple uniform is worn during instruction, but at state functions these young braves present a gorgeous appearance that is not equaled by any soldiery in all the sumptuous pageantry of the armies of the world. On such occasions a long white "achkan," or frocked coat, with state of India, blue facings and Indian gold embroidery; a blue Kash-

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mir kamarband, with crimson embroidered ends, gold belts; star of India blue and gold turban, with a gold "turrah" or head ornament bearing the corps' cipher and the motto "For the King" supported by chains. That the corps is not merely a show squadron is demonstrated by the vigorous discipline to which the cadets are subjected and the work they do. In the early morning there is a drill on horseback, after luncheon infantry drill, whilst the afternoon is occupied with theoretical instruction. These young warriors play as hard as they work, and every evening is spent practicing cricket or polo. At both games the corps can put a really useful side in the field, especially at polo, numbering amongst its members, as it does, some of the finest riders in Asia.

Brain Fog in Spring

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HIS IDEA
Mr Henderson - Who was that friend with you and your wife at the theatre last night?
Mr Henpeck - That wasn't a friend, that was my mother-in-law.