

# Britain's Army in India; Native Soldiers Great Factor in Restless Life



THE HIGH COURTS AT CALCUTTA

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**C**ALCUTTA, 1910.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The troubles in India continue. All is quiet upon the surface, but every now and then a bomb is thrown, a conspiracy unearthed that shows the volcano beneath. Since I have been here the anarchistic organizations have made attempts upon the lives of many officials, trains have been wrecked and the most barbarous plots unearthed. Several bombs have been thrown at the viceroy, and no high official is safe. In the main the natives are quiet; but the unrest seems increasing and any international complication in which Great Britain takes part may precipitate trouble.

On my way here to Calcutta I traveled with General Pol-Carew, a well known British officer. In speaking of the army, he said:  
 "Our Indian troops will be loyal enough as long as England is in the ascendancy and her power in the far east predominant. If we should have trouble with any other nation, such as Russia, for instance, and should meet with defeat, there would be a danger that the Indian army would fly to the support of the rising sun. As it is now we hold India, because it is a continent of many nations rather than one. The peoples are such that they cannot combine. The members of the various castes hate one another. The races will not mix and the religious sects, if left alone, would fight to the death. It is in this that our safety lies."

Said another general whom I met here at Calcutta:  
 "If the British rule were removed for a week, India would be anarchy. The Mohammedans would swoop down on the Hindus, and the Goorkhas would loot and massacre the towns of Bengal. The only salvation for India is in a strong power at the head, and we manage our army by keeping the castes and sects in such divisions that they cannot combine. We learned that during the Sepoy rebellion and shall never forget it."

**The Soldiers' Loyalty.**  
 I am told that the agitators are doing all they can to stir up sedition in the army. Anarchistic publications are smuggled into the native barracks, and attempts made to create dissension among the soldiers. So far this has been in vain. The soldiers are loyal and stick to the British. Nevertheless, they are thinking and thinking hard. The Japanese-Russian war was watched and discussed in the barracks, and it was a great surprise that the Japanese defeated the Russians. It was the defeat of the white man by the brown man, and the question among the fighting class is, if the Japs were victorious why should not the East Indian be so in some great war of the future? On the other hand, the rebels appreciate the conditions that would obtain should the army, as now constituted, be dissolved. One of the northern chiefs who controls a population larger than that of Great Britain, recently said:  
 "I should like to see the British leave India. If they did I would take a half dozen regiments, and within three weeks there would not be a two anna bit left on the plains of the Ganges. We would loot the Bengalees and capture their women. I tell you it would be sport."

**The Army of India.**  
 John Bull's hold upon India is the wonder of colonial governments. He has here a combination of the most turbulent and most peaceful peoples on earth. He has some whose religion teaches them it is their duty and business to fight and plunder their fellows; and millions who have feuds with each other and who would fight to the death did they not fear the strong arm of the British.

Nevertheless, he controls the country with a military force which averages much less than one soldier to each thousand people. India has a garrison at Aden, Arabia, and a total army, including both British and natives, is only 238,000. This is scattered all over the peninsula. There are eight divisions in the north, a large party of which guard the frontier, and there are four divisions in the south, as well as troops in Burma and a garrison at Aden, Arabia. The army, all told, would be small, even if the country were homogeneous and peaceful. It is nothing in comparison with the great forces which are forming in Europe and in the far east. If India had as many soldiers as Japan has on a peace footing its army would number 3,000,000, and in a war footing it would be more than 12,000,000. The Germans have 1 per cent of their whole population under arms, and in times of war they could put 5 per cent of it into the field. At the same rate India could have 15,000,000 under arms in the great wars of the future, and the only power that might possibly surpass it in numbers would be the Chinese, who at the same rate could muster, perhaps, 5,000,000 more.

The Indian army was made over by

Lord Kitchener. I met him about a year ago here at Calcutta, when he was still in charge of the troops. He speaks highly of the soldiers as a fighting force and says they are loyal to the government, although attempts have been made to corrupt them. Lord Kitchener when he came to India about eight years ago found three armies, each confined to one part of the country. He consolidated these and mobilized them. He made nine divisions, each of which had its own general and staff. These were organized for war and each could take the field intact, leaving enough troops behind to maintain order. Every division had its own transport and supply arrangements, and the divisional generals had great authority. At the same time additional officers were appointed and a military college instituted to supply others. Lord Kitchener reorganized the cavalry and infantry, as well as the departments, and it was during his administration that the army proper was divided from the department of military supplies.

**Military Supplies.**  
 This last department has now its own secretary, and it is one of the great business institutions of the government. It deals with army contracts, the manufacture of clothing and ordnance, the transportation of supplies, and the making of boots and equipment for the soldiers. It also handles the manufacture of field guns, shells and armament of various kinds. It has camel and cattle farms, and it supplies mules and horses and other animals for transport. There are several camel corps, and there are parts of the country where the camel owners are given land free on condition that they hold a certain number of camels available for military service. This department has also to do with elephants, some of which are used for dragging the great guns through the jungles and over the roads. In coming long distances both elephants and guns are transported by railroad.

The chief breeding farms for horses, mules and donkeys are situated in certain selected districts in northern India and the Deccan. The system is to purchase young stock and rear them on the government farms. Horses for the cavalry are also imported from Australia and stallions from Arabia for the improvement of the native stock.

**The Army as an Asset.**  
 The officers here tell me that the army is the best paying asset in John Bull's schedule of East India investments. It is kept up without taxing the people at home, and it gives him a big fighting force which he can shift to any part of the world upon order. He used it against the Boers, and also in China at the time of the Boxer rebellion. In case of an Asiatic war of any description it would be invaluable to him, and upon the whole it makes India worth far more than it costs. This is especially so, as the Hindus pay the total expenses of the military supplies and of the soldiers. The cost amounts to something like \$100,000,000 a year, but this is all raised by the taxation of Hindustan.

The army is not extravagantly kept from a western standpoint. The native soldiers receive something like \$2 or \$3 per month, which is good pay for this part of the world. Moreover, those who remain in the service for a fixed length of time are retired on a pension of 5 cents a day, and, therefore, can luxuriate for the rest of their lives.

**The Police Force.**  
 In addition to the army, India has a large civil police. Every town has its local watchmen, and every city is patrolled by police with clubs in their hands. The local village police aggregate something like 700,000 men, and this would be hardly enough to give one to each village. In addition there are thousands in the cities and on the whole order is fairly well kept. The thugs and other castes, who, in times past made a business and religion of murder and stealing, have been wiped out, but there are still armed gangs who now and then go about committing robbery and housebreaking.

The system of police work is excellent. The watchmen are under the eyes of the head men of their villages, and important crimes are reported to the districts, and in many cases the watchmen are responsible for losses or thefts.

Every place has its own police station and arrangements for patrol day and night. In the larger towns there are police commissioners and at the station lists are kept of released convicts, suspected characters and habitual offenders. Such parties are carefully watched and when they move, their reputations go with them to form part of the black list of their new residence.

Upon such lists are the descendants of

the thugs and members of the other castes, who formerly made crime a business. There are many of these. The Kuru marus are hereditary assassins who first strangled and then robbed their victims. They had their children taught to steal and lie, and they burglarize houses not through the doors or windows, but by digging through the mud walls with instruments made for the purpose.

**Professional Murderers.**  
 The thugs have about disappeared, having been hunted down by the police like wild beasts. They were a caste or band of hereditary assassins who first strangled and then robbed their victims. They had maps of the country with murder stations marked upon them, at which places one could kill with least danger of discovery. They killed by wholesale. In one of the trials a certain thief confessed that he had been engaged in 30 murders.

The road poisoners of today are said to be the descendants of or allied to the thugs. They work in small gangs, following the pilgrims and travelers and using poison that they may be able to rob and make their escape. One of the most common drugs is a mixture of opium and another drug, which produces insensibility and death. The latter comes from a plant common all over this country. It is one of the famous poisons of ancient India, which kills without trace. One of the most expert poisoners of recent times used this drug. He was a poleman, who had learned the trade in jail. At his trial he confessed that he had poisoned hundreds of people, and he gave the details of sixty-nine murders.

**Baby Killers.**  
 Until very recently one of the most common crimes in India has been infanticide. It is still practiced in some localities, being most prevalent at the times of famine. Such infanticides are usually girls. Many of long ago it was shown that of the girls under 13 years of age of certain castes, one died in every 1,000 were missing.

**A Gentleman Publisher.**  
 HIS September American Magazine contains the following sketch of Charles Scribner, which is here quoted in part:  
 "One very good way to gain a correct impression of what Mr. Charles Scribner is like is to think of him as the operating mind in the publishing business which he and his brother, Arthur Hawley Scribner, have guided through the considerable changes which which sometimes come in this industry. He has developed the business upon the principles which under lay his father's eminent success, and part of his constant care has been always to co-operate with his brother in maintaining the principles—principles which money in this publishing business—to give the Scribner imprint only to such books as deserved publication on their own merits, as nearly as his judgment and that of his advisers could be confident. Often he has published books for which no great sale could be foretold; never, an unworthy book simply for the sake of the money it would bring in. The general estimate—in the trade, and even of the public which cannot judge so acutely—of the value of that imprint is pretty good guarantee of the quality which it marks. For if a single word may be chosen to express the deepest spring of his actions, it would perhaps be the word 'fastidious,' and this refers, naturally, not only to his attitude toward literature, but to his whole outlook in the world."  
 "One of the most jog-trot of the virtues is also one not always found even among generally successful men—patience. But in this respect Mr. Scribner is highly endowed. As a sister to his instinctive courtesy, it has much to do with the understanding of his character which is held in his offices. He has doubtless had many experiences with business rivals as well as business associates which have tried his temper; the publishing business is enough to try anybody's temper. Of strong convictions and vigorous ideas, it may be said that he is slow to wrath, yet slow in no other process of his mind. He is eminently a just man, and punctiliously careful of other people's rights. Just now he is in the greatest activity of his middle life, and his strong personality is a guiding force not only in his own office, but throughout the body of American publishers."  
**Ingalls Met His Match.**  
 Whenever you have time to while away in Atchison and can get together a number of the older men of the town get together on "reminiscing" about Senator



INDIA HAS SEVERAL CAMEL CORPS



A BOMBAY POLICEMAN



NATIVE PRIVATE

This would mean the killing of four girls in 100, a large percentage, indeed. Among the Rajpouts of northern India the surplus female children were once destroyed at birth, and I am told that this still occurs now and then. In and about Benares there is a tradition that if a girl baby be drowned in milk it may come into the family next year as a baby boy. Such beliefs made infanticide common in many parts of India until the British administration took hold. One authority relates that in some of the tribes of Oudh not more than one in twenty of the baby girls were allowed to live, and many castes and tribes threw their surplus of children into wells or tied them to trees, where their eyes were picked out by the crows. In the Upper Ganges valley the British had to pass special laws for the clans supposed to be addicted to child murder. The police were sent to these areas and girls corresponded to that of the rest of the country. Even today everywhere throughout India girls are less prized than boys, and the girl baby is not as well cared for as her baby brother. She is not so well fed and not so well treated for sickness. It may be that this has caused in some degree the difference in the numbers of the infants of the two sexes.

**Jails and Convict Labor.**  
 All such capital crimes, however, are decreasing, and in the British states have almost disappeared. The police have a record of every professional of the criminal classes, and in the rogues' galleries their photographs and finger print records. The railway has its own police and there are guards about every station. There are certain jails everywhere, and the criminals now in prison are about 100,000.

During my stay here I visited some of the jails. There are many of them scattered throughout British India, and not a few contain several thousand prisoners. In nearly all contract labor is done. The prisoners work about nine hours a day. There are three classes of labor, hard, medium and light; they are allotted according to the physical capacity of the men. Much of the work is in manufactures of various kinds, and as far as possible in the making of things for the government. A great deal of the clothing and tents for the army come from the jails. The criminals print most of the government blanks, and they also make furniture for the public buildings. In some jails trades are taught. A great deal of weaving is done and some of the finest carpets of the world are made in the jail at Agra. The prisoners are forced to work, and should they shirk they are punished. Among the punishments are various forms of confinement, working in chains and whipping. There are two rewards for industry and good conduct, and the orderly criminal can thus cut down his term.

There are boys in most of the jails; but they are kept in separate wards and receive an education of the manual training order. There are also reformatories for both girls and boys, and in some provinces the jails have special departments for girl criminals.

## Gossip and Stories About People of Note

**John James Ingalls.** It will pay you, says the Kansas City Journal.  
 In a little group of this kind on a recent evening in Atchison, talk switched on to the famous senator, and one of the group declared that Ingalls had met his match one time in quick repartee and pointed irony.  
 "How was that?" asked the others.  
 He told the story of a man named Charles S. Draper who had been an employee of the United States senate for many years, and was employed during Ingalls' occupancy of a senatorial seat, was delegated by other employees to try and get Ingalls to favor the issue of an extra month's wages to these employees.  
 Ingalls had made a vitriolic speech against 'e plan when it was proposed on the floor of the senate, and had frequently interjected into his remarks: "There is no precedent for this, Mr. President; there is no precedent."

**The Birth of Tombstone.**  
 John Hayes Hammond, the mining engineer, tells the story of how Tombstone, Ariz., came into being.  
 Two brothers, named Schefflin, Ed and Jake, had been prospecting for gold in Arizona, and they finally hit the locality which was later to be known as Tombstone. They had got down so deep that Jake had to dig the earth and load it in a bucket which Ed would draw up by working a windlass on the surface. One day Ed called down to Jake that he saw some Indians in the distance.  
 "Then skip," called up Jake, "because this is going to be a great gold camp, and you can't save me from those devils. But when it's safe come back and put up a tombstone over my grave."  
 Neither one had to skip and they finally struck it rich. A few years ago Mr. Hammond was talking to one of the Schefflin brothers and asked to see the original papers locating the claim to the mine. He read it and Tombstone was spelled "Tomb-stoon."

## Rise of a Great Railroad Builder

**HERBURN S. MERRILL.** who died in 1885, was by far the greatest railroad builder and manager of his time in the west.  
 A native of Vermont, he served as a brakeman and freight conductor and in other subordinate positions in his state before going west. He reached Milwaukee with only a few dollars in his pocket fifty-eight years ago.  
 Mr. Merrill was one of those everlastingly workers who inspire those under them to their best efforts, and it is not strange that he broke down soon after he was 90 years of age. He had a rough exterior. His nature was that of an army commander and he was plain spoken and at times inclined to be savage, but his heart was as tender as that of a woman. His good deeds were scattered along all of his lines, and today there are few men who are more frequently discussed and whose acts are more heartily commended than this great railroad chief, who began as a foreman of a gang of graders and reached the highest station that the west could confer upon him.  
 He despised shirks and thieves. If he discovered an untidy station he would drop in upon the agent unexpectedly and say to him, "Let me never again see this station look as shabby as it does today." It was all that was necessary to keep the station clean and wholesome during the term of that agent. Telegraph operators who slept in their on duty walked out without ceremony as soon as the "old man" heard of it.  
 It happened on the St. Paul, as it is supposed to have happened on other roads, that there were men who were suspected of "knocking down." Mr. Merrill heard of a suspicious case and sent for the suspect. When he came to headquarters Mr.

Merrill in his savagery manner, said: "Look here, Blank, I have very good reason to believe that you are not giving this company its share of the fares collected."  
 The conductor manifested his surprise and indignation and told Mr. Merrill that he defied him and all of his spies and officials to put a finger on a place where, or name a time when he had taken a penny of the St. Paul's money.  
 Mr. Merrill fixed his eyes upon a brilliant diamond that the conductor wore, and said: "It is not necessary for you to boil over and get indignant over a little business matter, Mr. Blank. It looks to me very much as if that glintstone on your shirt front indicated that what I said is true—that you have been taking funds that you ought to have turned in to the company."  
 "Look here, Mr. Merrill," replied the conductor, laughing. "I will admit that does look suspicious, but you must remember that the company gives me a pretty fair salary and pays me regularly. Out of that salary I have been able to save enough to buy this trinket, which you regarded as of vast value. I have had it as long as I care to wear it, and I will give it to you for just what it cost me. It is a very ingeniously constructed piece of glass, and I paid \$1 for it. You can have it for that amount."  
 Mr. Merrill laughed. "I guess, Blank, you are all right, after all," he said.  
 "I know I am all right, Mr. Merrill."  
 "Well, if that is so, you had better hurry over to your train. It is nearly time for you to pull out."  
 On his way to the train the conductor stopped to talk to a jeweler. "I wish you would tell me," he said, "how much this

trinket is worth and how much you are willing to give for it."  
 "It is worth \$1,200; I will give you \$1,000," was the answer.  
 "That is a remarkably good guess. I paid \$100 for it."  
 One day Mr. Merrill was on a train when a new brakeman called out in a loud, harsh voice the name of a station. Mr. Merrill motioned to the brakeman to approach him, and the young fellow came up in a half insolent way.  
 "Can't you call a station without bellowing like a mad bull?" the manager asked.  
 "What is it to you how I call stations, you old hayseed? Besides, do you expect an opera singer for \$30 a month?"  
 The new brakeman turned his back on the manager. When the conductor came along Merrill told him to "quietly train this yahoo in the manner of calling stations."  
 The editor of an up-country daily gave Mr. Merrill for an annual pass.  
 "I see no reason why I should give you a pass," was the manager's answer. "I do not know you and never heard of your paper. How long has it been printed? What kind of a paper is it?"  
 "My paper has been printed longer than you have been trying to run this railroad, and is better known than either you or your railroad," answered the editor. "Besides a few years ago, when I was a member of the legislature, I voted for all of the legislation you and your company called for, and the bad taste of some of the votes is still with me."  
 Manager Merrill called for Ben Lennox, his private secretary, and said: "Give this gentleman an annual for himself and wife."—A. J. Watrous in Record-Herald.

**The Courts of India.**  
 Indeed, law and order now mean more in India than in any other country of Asia, with the exception, perhaps, of Japan. There are courts everywhere, and every native has the right to bring suit. The Hindus are fond of the law, and they spend freely in defending their rights. Something like 2,000,000 civil cases are instituted each year. The officers of the courts number almost 2,000, and the civil justices and the majority of the magistrates are natives. There are many trials by native juries, and the native lawyers, who usually are graduates of the universities, are both able and efficient. There is a regular system of appeal courts, and in Madras, Bombay, Bengal and the united provinces there are supreme high courts, which have the right of appeal to the privy council in England.  
 I have before me some recent statistics which give one an idea of the work of the original courts, and show how well the British are keeping law and order in Hindustan. The country, as you know, is thickly populated. Its inhabitants number 300,000,000, but among all these last year there were only two in each 1,000 convicted of crimes sufficiently grave for sentences of imprisonment. There was only one murder in each 200,000, and only one in each 500,000 received a sentence of death. In one year in this population, three times as large as that of the United States, there were less than 50,000 convictions of theft, and only 1,700 men transported to the penal colonies of the Andaman Islands. I submit that this record is far better than that of most of the countries of Christendom.

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