

1915

[067]

ATTEMPTS TO SOW SEDITION VAIN

Viceroy Comments on Whole- hearted Loyalty of People of India.

Tranquility in Eastern Empire —Order Restored in Punjab.

London, Oct. 4.—(Through Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—A special despatch from Simla, India, says:

"Lord Hardinge, the Viceroy, made an important speech at the conclusion of the autumn session of the legislative council. Having briefly reviewed the progress of the war, he emphasized the fact that Great Britain's sea power was a decisive factor in the struggle and paid a high tribute to the magnificent courage and tenacity shown by the armies of Russia.

"The Viceroy affirmed that in India tranquility prevailed, the Defense of India Act having succeeded in restoring order in the Punjab, which had been disturbed by emigrants returning from Canada and the United States imbued with revolutionary ideas. His Excellency, in this connection, praised the work of the lieutenant-governor and said he believed the loyal people of Punjab were thoroughly satisfied with the measures taken.

Frontier posts of India, he continued had often been attacked by ignorant and fanatical tribesmen, but the attacks had always been repulsed with considerable losses to the attacking parties. Our own tribesmen were absolutely staunch and loyal. The Ameer of Afghanistan had throughout observed the strictest neutrality, which he would continue rigidly to maintain, but the situation in Persia was disturbed by roving bands armed with Austrian and German rifles, who wandered about endeavoring to make trouble.

No one could look back on the last four months and contemplate the part which India had played in the war with greater pride than he, since nobody could appreciate better than he the deep patriotism and whole-hearted loyalty of the people of India, which was ever-shining as a beacon to illumine the history of the land. But as the war progressed, he presumed, it would be felt more and more, and there might be times of anxiety and depression. If such a time came they must show the world that India is united and the blood of Englishmen and Indians has not been

shed in vain. All attempts to create trouble and sow sedition would prove vain and fruitless.

Lord Hardinge concluded by referring to the question of the extension of his viceroyalty and the desire of many that he remain in office after March next. He said the decision rested with the Imperial Government. He had readily agreed to remain until March (his period of office regularly expiring in November), to meet the wishes of the people of India to make some slight though inadequate return for their sympathy and affection. He asked them to believe that the decision of the Imperial Government was in the best interests of India and he trusted that by next spring the horrible war would be over.

The Viceroy's speech was punctuated with cheers, and at its conclusion

other military preparations.

BELA SINGH IN BOX

Former Hindu Immigration Agent Is Now in Custody as Prisoner.

Bela Singh, a well-known figure in Hindu circles, who while in the employ of the Dominion immigration department as a secret agent, was acquitted a year ago on a charge of shooting Bhag Singh in the temple shooting affray, was a witness this morning against Jagat Singh, charged with the murder of Rattan Singh.

Since his acquittal on the murder charge Bela Singh has been convicted on a charge of assault for which he is now serving a term in New Westminster. He was present in the Granville street store when Jagat Singh shot and killed Rattan Singh. He testified that Rattan had not given Jagat any provocation.

Mr. Geo. E. McCrossan, counsel for Jagat Singh, tried to make Bela admit that he had been a storm centre for trouble in the Hindu colony, but Bela insisted that the cause of the trouble had been resentment at the loyalty of himself and the deceased man and others to the government. He said that at the time of his arrest on the assault charge he was engaged in raising a Sikh regiment in British Columbia to go to Flanders. The trial is continuing before Mr. Justice Gregory, with Mr. A. H. MacNeill, K. C., for the crown.

FIRES IN LOS ANGELES