

BOMBAY

THE METROPOLIS OF THE EAST.



BOMBAY. 1931 Printed and published by H. W. Smith for Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd., at the Times of India Press, Bombay.

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- A WORD TO THE READER.

Probably all of us have felt annoyed at one time or another when, away from home, we have had to listen to some pompous, unseeing traveller dismiss our native village, town, or city, in an inadequate phrase which plainly tells that at the most he has spent one night there-and most of that night supporting the hotel bar or Miss Greta Garbo. Should Birmingham become the subject of conversation he automatically remarks: "Oh yes! The Black Country." But the Birmingham man sits silent, thinking of the glow of foundry furnaces against the night sky, of autumn in the Lickey Hills or by Olton Pool, of the dusty second-hand book shops in John Bright Street, and of a hundred surprising haunts where he knows just the right hour to discover interest and beauty.

The first thing, therefore, that the visitor to Bombay should be told, is that he or she can get to know very little about the city during a stay lasting only a day or a week. Bombay is generally acknowledged to come after Constantinople as the second most cosmopolitan city in the world. Beside the multitude of Indians (divided into Hindus, Mahomedans, Sikhs, Parsis, Goans, and other diverse communities) living in the city, there are Afghans, Americans, Arabs, Chinese, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, Italians, Japanese, and Scots—the majority with their different languages, different attire, different ways and places of worship, and different clubs. Further, Bombay by day is not the same as Bombay by night, nor Bombay in fine weather the same as Bombay in the monsoon.

Having thus put the reader into an appropriately humble state of mind, we must confess that it is yet possible for a traveller to see many unique and fascinating sights in Bombay, even though his stay may last only twenty-four hours; for being compactly situated on a smallish island, the city can be traversed and encircled in quite a short time. The purpose of the following pages is to enable travellers to make the most of their stay in the city, however brief.

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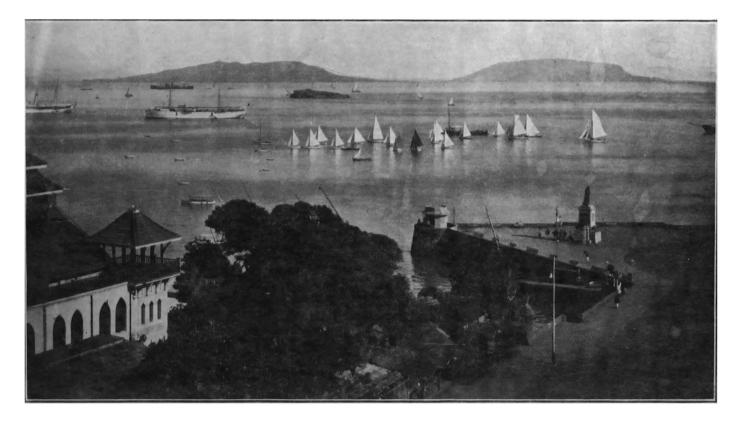
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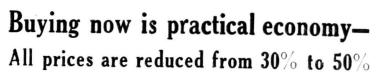
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