

THE REBEL MINISTER

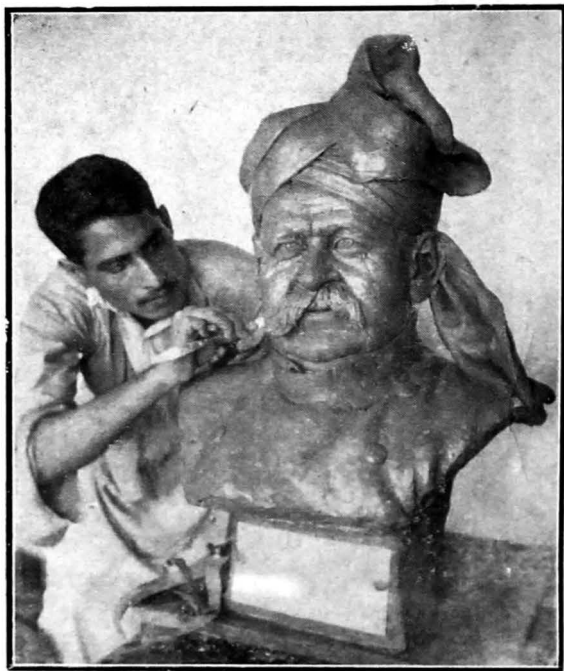
By the same author

The Prophet of the Desert

Uncle Sam 29th imp.

This England

His Highness 3rd imp.



The Rebel Minister

THE
REBEL MINISTER

The Story of the Rise and Fall
of
LALA HARKISHEN LAL

by his son
K. L. GAUBA

1938
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To
Father and Mother
IN MEMORY

*What! Have I not received
powers, to the limits of which I
will bear all that befalls? Have I
not received magnanimity? Have
I not received courage? Have you
not given of endurance?*

—*Epicurus*

P r e f a c e

I have nothing to complain of as to the reception accorded to my previous books; but will be surprised if I am not abused in some quarters now. What is the use of writing of the dead? Why mention the living? Has it not become a fashion to appoint ex-convicts as Ministers (though Lala Harkishen Lal still holds the records as to sentence) and why praise a 'Napoleon of Finance', when Bombay has half-a-dozen financial Hitlers and Mussolinis?

But a great number of persons feel that the story of Lala Harkishen Lal's contribution to the national awakening of India deserves a more permanent mausoleum than the columns of the daily press—hence—' *The Rebel Minister*'.

There may have not been unanimity as to his methods, or as to his viewpoint at various stages of his life, but few who came into contact with him failed to be mesmerised by his remarkable personality. In spite of its multifarious defects, few who read this book will fail to be touched with the astounding story of Lala Harkishen Lal, the man, who after an amazing career as financier and politician, preferred to break rather than bend.

This book has been written at the request of the *Harkishen Lal Memorial Committee*, but the responsibility for the contents is entirely the author's.

Owing to the enterprise of printers and publishers, it has been found possible to publish the book without indenting on the funds collected by the Committee, and which may eventually find expression in a statue or library.

It is always difficult to adequately appreciate the achievements of an outstanding personality at a narrow proximity of time. It is all the more difficult when author and subject are closely related by ties of blood ; it is still more difficult when the book has to be written at very short notice, in the midst of a great legal battle.

Some important questions in connection with the second Peoples Bank are *sub judice* and no opinion on the merits of matters in issue there can be expressed at present.

Subject to these extenuating circumstances, this book is tendered as the respectful and affectionate tribute to the memory of one, who was, in the words of his contemporaries, " one of the makers of Modern Punjab ".

LAHORE :
October 1937.

K. G.

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