

**C.S.  
RANGA  
IYER**

**INDIA**

**IN THE CRUCIBLE**

**AUTHOR OF  
"FATHER  
INDIA"**

# INDIA IN THE CRUCIBLE

By

C. S. RANGA IYER

*(Member of the Indian Legislative Assembly)*

*Cloth.*

*Crown 8vo.*

A Striking Survey of the India of Yesterday, To-day, To-morrow and also the Day-after-To-morrow. There is no lack of informative matter or stimulative manner. The book, while taking note of the gloomiest aspects, is characterized by a cheerful optimism. After a useful analysis of the policy and result of the Minto-Morley and the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, the author ably anticipates the possibilities arising from the findings of the Simon Commission.

To read this book is to become acquainted with the greatest problem confronting the British Empire to-day.

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We no longer talk of holding the gorgeous East in fee ; we invite, in a contrary sense, the diverse peoples of this continent to march side by side with us in a fruitful and harmonious partnership, which may recreate the greatest and the proudest days of Indian history.

(LORD BIRKENHEAD in the House of Lords,  
7th July, 1925.)

## PREFACE

THE policy of reforms in India met with stout opposition from the British people in India on the ground that it was too radical and extravagant. It has not been welcomed by the advanced political parties, who criticised it as "inadequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing." The responsible people who worked the Reforms for what they were worth received no encouragement from their constituencies. The Reforms, therefore, have powerful enemies and feeble friends.

The Extreme Indians will not be sorry if the Reforms are withdrawn; but they will prepare the country for Direct Action, instead of wasting their time in Parliamentary Action, which means all criticism and no responsibility. The Extreme Europeans in India do not suggest the withdrawal of the Reforms, though they will be really pleased if there be a belated dawn of wisdom in Whitehall.

It will be agreed on all hands that there will be no purpose in proceeding with the policy of reforms if it cannot produce zealous workers and an atmosphere of good will. In the following pages the author has tried to present all sides of the picture to enable the reader to form his judgment on the whole.

Even the worst detractors of the Reforms must admit that they have created a democratic surge throughout the country, the repercussions of which have disturbed even the peace of a vast territory where self-government in its medieval and despotic form still

obtains. This consists of five hundred and sixty two States not directly under British rule but governed by the ruling Chiefs. Whatever the political agitator might say to the contrary, barring exceptional States, the administration in this territory, which comprises 23 per cent. of the Indian population (320 millions), and 39 per cent. of the total area (1,800,000 square miles), leaves much to be desired, as compared, or more correctly contrasted, with administration in British India. The finances of the States are scandalously maladministered, most Indian rulers treating the revenues of the State as their own private income. The State itself is looked upon by them as their private estate. The Judiciary is scandalously corrupt as contrasted with Judiciary in British India. Press Act obtains in some States where there is public opinion to stifle, while it has long ago been repealed in British India. This subject, which will have to be treated separately, does not come within the scope of this book, but it is interesting to note that a bye-product of the Montagu reforms has been the disturbances of feeling in the States, where public opinion would rather have the system that obtains in British India, both in regard to justice and administration, than the one to which they have been accustomed for ages.

This fact incidently establishes that the soundness of the policy of Reforms cannot be questioned. Those who have lived under that scheme for the last eight years might have outgrown it, and need a widening of its scope, to enquire into which His Majesty's Reform Commission is touring the country. When they condemn the Reform scheme as inadequate, it only shows that it has proved a good appetiser. Its impartial judges, however, are the inhabitants in contiguous territories who aspire to live under the same dispensation. The legitimacy of that aspiration has been, apparently, recognised in the inauguration by the Government of India of a simultaneous, if separate,

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inquiry under the Chairmanship of that gifted and able administrator, Sir Harcourt Butler. The subjects of the States justly feel that even there Reforms, such as exist to-day in British India,

“.....can spread a charm,  
Redress the clime and all its rage disarm.”

C. S. RANGA IYER.



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