

INDIA'S SILENT REVOLUTION



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TORONTO

INDIA'S SILENT REVOLUTION

BY

FRED B. FISHER

Author of "Gifts From the Desert," "The
Way to Win"

WITH THE COLLABORATION OF
GERTRUDE M. WILLIAMS

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1920

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TO
E. J. F.
FELLOW TRAVELER

FOREWORD

This volume endeavors to present from the American viewpoint the economic, social, political and religious situation in India. No attempt is made to treat Indian history except where the historical setting adds clarity to the presentation of modern movements. The war is taken as a starting point because by a peculiar combination of circumstances it brought India to the threshold of her national desire.

It was my privilege to reside in India during that portion of Lord Curzon's régime when the partition of Bengal precipitated the extreme nationalist agitation. A few years later a trip to Great Britain gave opportunity for inquiries concerning Indian movements from the standpoint of British administration. It was again my fortune to visit India at the time of the recent governmental tour of investigation conducted by Hon. E. S. Montagu, the present Secretary of State. The demand for Home Rule, coupled with India's vast and effective participation in the world war, made this a particularly opportune time to gain fresh and vivid impressions.

Obligation must be acknowledged to the long list of authorities on India. Likewise to friends who as government officials, missionaries, and Indian gentlemen, representing the Christian, Hindu, and Mohammedan communities, have helped interpret the spirit of this land of ancient charm and marvelous future. Special gratitude is due Mrs. Williams for her efficient collaboration in research and in the preparation of the manuscript.

FRED B. FISHER.

New York,
January, 1919.

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INDIA'S SILENT REVOLUTION

I

INDIA AT THE CROSS ROADS

OBSCURE and uncertain, the perpetual process of adjustment between East and West looms in the background of every effort to secure a basis for permanent world peace. India, involved in any potential balance of power in Asia emerges from a dilemma within the British Empire to claim world attention and significance.

Pan-German and Pan-Islam are familiar terms. Since 1905 there has been an embryonic Pan-Asia which could easily assume formidable proportions. In the long succession of civilizations, this is the white man's day. Ethnologists prophesy that the next may be the brown man's. A glimpse of the Orient, a sense of the plodding patience of China's millions, and the aggressiveness of the Japanese gives the traveler a vivid consciousness of such a possibility. It is not surprising that the dark-skinned races, rebelling against the subtle sense of superiority which the white race feels and shows, should look forward to turning the tables.

This hope, as alluring and deeply rooted as the will-to-live itself, received an unexpected fillip in 1896 when Abyssinia's victory over Italy gave Oriental troops their first taste of dominance over the whites for at least three centuries. In 1905 came more emphatic confirmation of

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The author is a professor in Hangchow Christian College, is a friend of the Chinese Republic, and writes with sympathy and understanding of Chinese affairs.

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