

MISCELLANEOUS.

CURRENTS OF THOUGHT IN THE ORIENT.

BY B. K. ROY.

When War Shall Cease.

Dr. Inazo Nitobe in his recent lectures on Japanese national ideals and traditions before many academic audiences in different sections of this country, has rendered a signal service in fostering the cause of American-Japanese friendship.

This renowned author of *Bushido—the Way of the Warrior*, writing in the *Japan Magazine* for October on “When War Shall Cease,” says:

“I found that in the various states where duty called me, one of the most frequent questions that harassed me was in reference to whether the Japanese are a peace-loving or a warlike people. . . .

“Of course I always endeavored to convince my interlocutors that the Japanese are in no sense a belligerent race, and that in fact we have never gone to war except when we had to in time of self-defence. I took occasion to inquire of them whether their distinguished ancestors were to be dubbed as warlike because they took up arms to set the thirteen states free from British domination. I could find no American that would admit his forefathers deserving of the epithet warlike on this score. I went on to emphasize the fact that there is not a single example in Japanese history of our nation ever going to war for the mere love of conflict. . . . And I tried to impress upon Americans our love of peace, and how it was one of Japan’s constant concerns to hasten the day when war shall cease.”

By way of rebuttal to the “survival of the fittest” theory, and in proving the debilitating influence of war, Dr. Nitobe has these splendid remarks to make: “As a matter of fact, it is usually the fittest that are destroyed in war, the maimed and the defective being left to multiply and increase the population with a weaker breed. It is a matter of history that the Napoleonic wars reduced the physique and the stature of France by a marked degree, for all the taller and stronger men had been killed off in battle. No nation on earth valued military prowess more than the Spaniards; the nation had its way in war, and since the 17th century it has ceased to produce great men, probably because such ancestry was all killed off in warfare. . . . The martial spirit of Sparta weakened the state and finally destroyed it.

“The amounts now expended by the nations of the world in preparing for war are enormous beyond computation, probably some \$2,250,000,000 annually. This sum is almost enough to alleviate all the evils of mankind, so far as material assistance can do so. One of our schools had 2000 applicants for admission, when only 300 could be accommodated. . . . If all the money now exacted through taxes for armament purposes, and all the men employed in military service, were devoted to the productive enterprises of the nation, how much more wealthy and prosperous would our country be.”

The same is true of all the armed-to-the-teeth nations of the world.

Hindu Grievances in Canada.

It seems from Indian papers and periodicals that the people of Hindustan are having trouble in all parts of the British empire. The Hindus claim that they are mere "helots" in South Africa, from Australia and New Zealand they are altogether "barred," and in Canada their position is "intolerable."

Mr. Nand Singh Sihra, in the *Modern Review* (Calcutta) for August thus complains of their predicament in Canada:

"The Canadian laws have subjected all the 315,000,000 of His Majesty's subjects to a great amount of humiliation, and the unjust, inhuman and unnatural treatment to which that government has subjected them is quite intolerable."

The Canadian immigration law which was specially devised and passed to prevent the Hindus from entering into Canada, demands: "Landing in Canada shall be prohibited of any immigrants who have come to Canada otherwise than by continuous journey from the country of which they are natives or citizens, and upon through tickets purchased in that country or prepaid in Canada."

As there is no way of reaching Canada from India by a "continuous journey" the Hindus are most effectively barred from the Canadian shores. The Chinese and the Japanese may enter the Dominion under the present circumstances.

There are about 5000 Hindus in Canada to-day; they own about \$2,000,000 of real estate. But these unfortunate subjects of His Most Gracious Majesty, most of whom are Shiks and who fought England's battles in many parts of the world, cannot even bring their wives and children from the land of their birth, a land that is claimed by the British statesmen to be the brightest jewel in the British crown.

Mr. Sihra, to substantiate his arguments, quotes from Mr. W. W. Baer, a human-hearted Canadian, who sums up the situation thus:

"I could print a hundred letters telling me of the faithfulness of the Hindu in his service to his employer; the reliance that may be safely placed upon him at his work, and his unshrinking application of his strength to his varied tasks. . . . The Hindu is the most desirable and I can not say that he is in any sense undesirable.

"Now all these things are true of the Hindu as a man. It is fitting that we take a look at ourselves. We permit the Japanese who comes to our country to acquire property, naturalize, vote and have a voice in our affairs, transacting such business as his acumen dictates. We also permit him to bring with him or send home to Japan for his wife and as many offspring, male or female, as he desires to remove to this country. . . . We do not ask him to pay any head tax when he comes to our country; we require only that he shall have \$50.00 in negotiable securities or coin to guarantee us that he will not become a charge on our citizens. We have an *entente cordiale* between the governments by the terms of which no more than 400 Japanese are permitted to emigrate to Canada each year. All of this works very well and smoothly, and the friction of a few years ago has ceased. We are at peace.

"We permit any reasonable number of Chinese—men or women—to come to Canada and enter our ports on payment of a head tax of \$500.00. After they are here they possess all the privileges of our civilization and may

naturalize as easily as the immigrant from anywhere. A Chinaman may come here, acquire property, send home and bring one, two, three or four of his wives with him and live in polygamous relations with all of these, and we do not raise any protest. . . . The Hindu, in general, is a monogamist by tradition and practice, as faithfully so as the Anglo-Saxon. Yet he is not permitted to bring his wife to this country, and no female child of his may come near enough to smile into his eyes. He must move among the sights and hear the happy domestic songs of those for whom he labors, but he must be allowed only to think of those who are equally dear to him and as much part of his own life as are the loved ones of ours. But his are in a far-away land. . . . It is a condition which we do not impose even upon our pet animals, and yet we inflict it upon a people whose religious traditions are older than ours, whose domestic ideals are as pure as our own, and who are men and women of like passions as ourselves."

To quote one from many cases of glaring injustice:

"Mr. Hakim Singh, an ex-trooper in the 19th Cavalry Bengal Lancers and one of the directors of the Guru Nanok Mining and Trust Company, after making a large fortune went to India to bring his family. But his family are still waiting in Hong-Kong, and have been for the last two years, and steamship tickets to Vancouver are not issued to them. This is a most grievous act of injustice to a faithful ex-soldier of the British raj."

The Japanese and the Chinese have their national governments to champion their cause and right the wrongs. But the helpless Hindus are at the mercy of the British raj that notices all their grievances within the empire itself, still says not a word, heeds not their petitions, and does nothing to redress the wrongs.

How true these words of Milton seem to the Hindus: "To be weak is miserable doing or suffering."

In Salutation to the Eternal Peace.

Sarojini Naidu, the Hindu poetess who sings in English, has the following poem in her recently published book of verses called *The Bird of Time*:

"Men say the world is full of fear and hate,
And all life's ripening harvest-fields await
The restless sickle of relentless fate.

"But I, sweet soul, rejoice that I was born,
When from the climbing terraces of corn
I watch the golden orioles of Thy morn.

"What care I for the world's desire and pride,
Who know the silver wings that gleam and glide,
The homing pigeons of Thine eventide?
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"Say, shall I heed dull presages of doom,
Or dread the rumored loneliness of gloom,
The mute and mythic terror of the tomb?

"For my glad heart is drunk and drenched with Thee,
O inmost wine of living ecstasy!
O intimate essence of eternity!"