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CONFIDENTIAL.

NOTES.

POLITICAL DEPOSIT—OCTOBER 1919.

No. 40.

MISSTATEMENT IN THE "LOKASANGRAHA" NEWSPAPER OF THE 13TH SEP-TEMBER REGARDING THE CASE OF MISS SHERWOOD DURING THE RIOTS AT AMRITSAR.

Extracts from the Selections of Newspapers marked by the Director, Central Intelligence. Submitted for persual.

H. C. M.,-11-10-19.

F. J. Nobes,—13-10-19.W. F. Rice,—14-10-19.

W. S. Marris,-15-10-19.

*Vide Appendix I. tings are a month old. * * We should draw attention of the Bombay Government to the misstatement in the "Lokasangraha" and state facts; but the cut-

W. H. V[INCENT],-16-10-19.

A draft letter to Bombay is submitted for approval.

A. L.,-21-10-19.

See my amendment, which should be completed.

H. D. CRAIK,-21-10-19.

The necessary particulars have been added.

A. L., -22-10-19.

Draft for approval.

H. D. Craik,—22-10-19.

W. S. Marris,-22-10-19.

Demi-official letter from C. W. Gwynne, Esq., I.C.S., to J. Crerar, Esq., C.I.E., no. 2296-Political, dated Simla, the 28th October 1919.

I am desired to invite the attention of the Government of Bombay to an article which appeared in the "Lokasangraha" newspaper of the 13th September 1919 about Miss Sherwood's case (which is summarised in paragraph 24 of the Bombay Selections for the week ending the 13th September 1919). The incident has been grossly misrepresented and I am to enclose a copy of the judgment of the Martial Law Commission, which gives the facts of the case. The sentences passed by the Martial Law Commission were afterwards reduced as follows by the local Government:—

- (1) and (2) Transportation for life.
- (3) Four years' rigorous imprisonment.
- (4) Seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

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APPENDIX I.

Extract from "Lokasangraha" of Bombay, marked by Director, Central Intelligence, dated the 13th September 1919—Bombay Selection for week ending 9th September 1919.

The attack on a missionary lady during the Punjab disturbances.

"Lokasangraha" (111).

13th Sept.

24. Referring to the statement of Lord Sydenham in the House of Lords that a missionary lady had received six wounds on her head during the recent Punjab disturbances, the Lokasangraha writes :- If Barrister Chowdhari did not tell a lie at a recent public meeting at Calcutta (and if he had told a lie Government would have

taken him to task), then we can say that the missionary lady instead of having Lord Sydenham's six serious wounds did not receive even a scratch. For these imaginary six wounds, however, not one, nor two, but six Indians were hanged and one woman was sentenced to transportation for life. Lord Sydenham says that if Sir Michael O'Dwyer had not been in the Punjab no European would have remained alive there. All can see whether this was true or false. fact that is truer is that owing to his exploits hundreds, if not thousands, of Indians have lost their lives.

APPENDIX II.

JUDGMENT.

Miss Sherwood is a middle-aged lady, who was Superintendent of the Mission Schools in Amritsar. She is also a Lady Doctor, and as such has spent many years working in the city, where she was greatly respected.

Her story is briefly that about 1 o'clock on the 10th April when she was bicycling from one of her schools to another she encountered a mob which raised cries of "Kill her; she is English." She wheeled round and tried to escape, but took a wrong turning and had to retrace her steps. She reached a lane where she was well known, and thought she would be safe, but the mob overtook her and she was also attacked from the front. Being hit on the head with sticks she fell down but got up and ran a little way, where she was again felled, being struck with sticks even when she was on the ground. Again she got up and tried to enter a house, but the door was slammed in her face. Falling from exhaustion she again struggled to get up, but everything seemed to get dark, and she thought she had become blind.

The evidence deals only with a part of what occurred. The witnesses who are particularly good and have been entirely unshaken in cross-examination prove that towards the end of the chase she was seized by Ahmad Din no. 7, who seized her dress and threw her down. His brother, Jila no. 8, pulled off her hat. Then Mangtu no. 3, Mela, no. 4, Mangta, alias Giddar, no. 5, Lal Chand no. 6 struck her with their fists. She got up and staggered on till Wilayati no. 2 caught her by her hair, and having knocked her down took off his shoe and gave her 5 or 6 blows on the head. She got up and struggled a little further, until she was finally knocked down by Sundar Singh, no. 1, who struck her on the head with his lathi.

On this the savage mob which had been shouting "Victory to Gandhi," "Victory to Kichlew," raised the cry of "She is dead" and then passed on.

Miss Sherwood was afterwards picked up by some Hindu shopkeepers, who too her to a She was conveyed out of the city in the evening where the Doctor who temporary refuge. then attended her thought that she was still bleeding profusely from the scalp which was extensively wounded. If she had not been treated then her injuries would probably have been fatal. She has since gone to England in a critical condition.

The mob which chased and attacked Miss Sherwood was one of those which were attacking Europeans because they were Europeans and the city was at the time in the full swing of murderous rebellion.

All the accused are convicted of the offences with which they are charged.

Some of the prisoners are youths, but at least one of them, Wilayati no. 2, was among the most brutal of a mob whose cruelty it would be difficult to surpass. The crime committed was far worse than most murders, and although Government may perhaps, in the case of some of these offenders, be pleased to exercise its prerogative of mercy, we, as a Court of Justice, are not prepared to distinguish, except in the case of Jila no. 8, who is much younger than the rest. The sentences are as in the schedule annexed. Jila we consider should be sent to a reformatory.

(Sd.) L. LESLIE JONES

The 31st May 1919.

The convicts sentenced to death are informed that they have 48 hours in which to petition for mercy.

(Sd.) L. LESLIE JONES.

The 31st May 1919.

SCHEDULE.

The 14th May 1919.

No.	Name of alleged offender.	Offence charged.	Plea.	Finding, and if convicted, sentences.
1	2	3	4	5
1	Sundar Singh, son of Kala Singh.	Sections 121, 147, 307.	Not guilty	1—7 to be hanged by his neck until he is dead
2	Wilati, son of Daulat Ram Mangtu, son of Sant Ram	307-149 Indian Penal Code,		and forfeiture to Gov- ernment of such pro- perty as is liable to confiscation.
4	Mela, son of Ganga Ram			COMMISCANION
5	Mangta, son of Maghi			
6	Lal Chand, son of Dial Singh			
7	Ahmad, son of Karim Bakhsh			No. 8. transportation for life and forfeiture as
8	Jila; son of Karim Bakhsh			in case nos, 1—7.

T. P. ELLIS,

L. LESLIE JONES,

Convening Officer.

President.

The 14th May 1919.

Exd. by—J.N.M. C1090HD

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- (5) and (6) Four years' rigorous imprisonment.
- (7) Seven years' rigorous imprisonment.
- (8) released.

The Government of India think that, in spite of the time that has elapsed since the article was published, it would be well to have it corrected. They therefore suggest that, with His Excellency's permission, the facts may be furnished to the paper and the editor called upon to correct his account.

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