

THE KING'S PROCLAMATION.

THE ENGLISH PRESS.

A CHORUS OF APPROVAL.

(REUTER'S SPECIAL SERVICE.)

LONDON, December 24.--Commenting on the King's Proclamation, the "Daily Telegraph" says:--Future generations will regard the Government of India Act as the most momentous work of British statesmanship during the first year of peace. It is hard to over-estimate the effect of amnesty, as no measure or policy could do so much to secure an auspicious beginning for the new system under which the highest hopes of innumerable minds throughout a vast territory have been set. The reception of the Prince of Wales there may well be the most memorable occasion of its kind in the history of the Eastern Empire.

The "Daily Chronicle" says:--All practical and constructive reformers in India now have an immense opportunity. May they rise to it.

The "Daily News" says:--The Amnesty is a wise and statesmanlike attempt to mitigate the memory of the black times through which India has been passing.

The "Daily Mail" says:--No representative of the King could express so fitly or acceptably as his son the gratitude of this country to the princes and the people of India for their invaluable assistance in the war.

(REUTER'S AGENCY)

LONDON, December 24.--The "Times" commenting on the King's Proclamation points out that Britain is readily relaxing a considerable degree of guidance hitherto exercised in Indian affairs, believing that the people of India can safely be trusted with a large share of direct responsibility for the administration of their own affairs. The "Times" does not doubt the possibility of further transfer of internal authority within a measurable space of time.

The Journal recalls India's fervent reception of His Majesty, the most widely travelled Ruler in the world, crowned or uncrowned, with a personal knowledge of India exceeding that of almost the whole of His Ministers, adding that the welcome to be accorded to the Prince of Wales will be no less hearty.

The "Times" considers that at such a historic moment amnesty with reservations would not be weakness, but the highest wisdom.

BOMBAY, December 27.--Commenting on the position developed by His Majesty the King's Proclamation, the "Rangoon Times" says, that while the European community will not hesitate to accede to His Majesty's wishes, there must of necessity be an attitude of watchfulness and caution, so that the best interests of India may not be injured. The paper supports the "Pioneer's" suggestion for an all-round amnesty, cessation of anti-British speeches and attacks on the British officials, also clear recognition by the Indian leaders of the meaning of membership of the British Empire.

The "Rangoon Gazette" says:--The Proclamation should inspire all Indian parties with greater regard for the King's interests in Indian Reform Bill as the first great experiment of the new era. Whether it succeeds or not, it is difficult to forecast, but the royal proclamation emphasises the duty of the British and the Indians alike to give it a fair trial.

Individual Opinions.

(A SOCIATED PRESS OF INDIA)

AMRITSAR, December 28.--Interviewed by a representative of the Associated Press in regard to the Royal Proclamation, Mrs. Besant said:--I think the Royal Proclamation is a noble and truly Royal document and that the King-Emperor has justified his claim to sympathy with an understanding of the growing desire of India for representative institutions by declaring that without the right of India's people to direct her own affairs and safeguard her interests, the progress of a country cannot be consummated. This is a pledge to India which I believe will be carried fully into effect before many years have passed over us. No better proof of the reality of the Emperor's affection and devotion could be given than the amnesty to political prisoners and the removal of all restrictions on liberty imposed by special and emergency legislation. For the first time since India came under British rule, India is free. Thousands will bless the name of the King-Emperor for thus striking off India's fetters. The Emperor asks us to try to obliterate bitterness as far as possible. Everything is possible to love. Let us all try to co-operate with this wish and trust to British justice so to act as to render impossible of the repetition of the ghastly story revealed by the Hunter Commission.