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P.

Mountbatten

Signatur

Lady Edwina

Datum

J. Mountbatten
Lady Louis

The Manchester Guardian
31367 24April 47

MEETING IN NEW DELHI



Lady Mountbatten talking to Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, the only woman member of the Inner Cabinet of the National Congress, in the garden of the Viceregal Lodge.

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*Mountbatten
Louis Louis*

The Manchester Guardian

31402

4. Juni 47

THE VICEROY'S MESSAGE

Before the announcement in New Delhi yesterday of the British Government's plan for India the Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, broadcast a personal message to the people of India. He said that, although he had put before the Indian leaders proposals leading to the establishment of two Dominions, he remained convinced that a United India was possible if goodwill were shown among the communities.

"Since my arrival in India at the end of March," he said, "I have spent almost every day in consultation with as many of the leaders and representatives of as many communities and interests as possible. I wish to say how grateful I am for all the information and helpful advice that they have given me. Nothing I have seen or heard in the past few weeks has shaken my firm opinion that with a reasonable measure of goodwill between the communities a unified India would be by far the best solution of the problem." He went on:

For more than a hundred years 400,000,000 of you have lived together and this country has been administered as a single entity. This has resulted in unified communications, defence, postal services, and currency, and absence of tariffs and Customs barriers, and the basis for an integrated political economy. My great hope was that communal differences would not destroy all this.

My first course, in all my discussions, was therefore to urge the political leaders to accept unreservedly the Cabinet Mission plan of May 16, 1946. In my opinion, that plan provides the best arrangement that can be devised to meet the interests of all the communities of India. To my great regret it has been impossible to obtain agreement either on the Cabinet Mission plan or on any other plan that would preserve the unity of India. But there can be no question of coercing any large areas in which one community has a majority to live, against their will, under a Government in which another community has a majority—and the only alternative to coercion is partition.

DIVIDING SIKH TERRITORY

When the Moslem League demanded the partition of India, Congress used the same arguments for demanding in that event the partition of certain pro-

vinces. This argument was unassailable. Lord Mountbatten said he was just as much opposed to the partition of provinces as to the partition of India herself. He continued:

We have given careful consideration to the position of the Sikhs. This valiant community forms about an eighth of the population of the Punjab, but they are so distributed that any partition of this province would inevitably divide them. All of us who have the good of the Sikh community at heart are very sorry to think that the partition of the Punjab, which they themselves desire, cannot avoid splitting them to a greater or lesser extent. The exact degree of the split will be left to the boundary commission on which they will, of course, be represented.

The success of the plan would depend on the spirit of goodwill with which it was carried out. He had always felt that once it was decided in what way to transfer power the transfer should take place at the earliest possible moment. The dilemma was that if Britain waited until a constitutional set-up for all India was agreed it would have to wait a long time, particularly if partition were decided on. If power were handed over before the Constituent Assemblies had finished their work the country would be left without a Constitution. The solution was to transfer power now to one or two Governments of British India each having Dominion status, and the Government had accepted that proposal.

NARROW FOOD MARGIN

Legislation prepared in the British House of Commons would not impose any restriction on the power of India as a whole or of the two new states if there was partition, to decide in the future their relationship to each other and to other member states of the British Commonwealth. The Viceroy ended:

If the transfer of power is to be effected in a peaceful and orderly manner every single one of us must bend all his efforts to the task. This is no time for bickering, much less for the continuation in any shape or form of the disorders and lawlessness of the past few months. Do not forget what a narrow margin of food we are all working on. We cannot afford any toleration of violence; all of us are agreed on that.

—Exchange Telegram.

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The Manchester Guardian

Signatur: *Lady Mountbatten*

Datum: 14. Okt. 1948 *Lady Mountbatten*

Edmonia

31826-

Women in India

Lady Mountbatten, defying doctor's orders, spoke for forty minutes without notes at Overseas House this evening, giving some of her impressions of India. Mrs. Corbett Ashby said afterwards: "In fifty years I have never heard a speech more moving or impressive." For much of her speech Lady Mountbatten dwelt on the great part women had played in the first year of India's independence. From the bottom of "the ladder of emancipation" they had now soared to the top, largely through self-sacrifice and a great capacity for suffering.

When Lady Mountbatten spoke of the Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's Minister of Health, she described her as having "the biggest task any Cabinet Minister has ever faced." For 330,000,000 people there are fewer trained nurses than there are in London. But the Rajkumari has raised the status of nursing by offering university degrees to students, and that step forward has had "a remarkable effect" on recruitment.

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Signatur

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10. März 1949

The Times (London)

Nr. 51326 -

INHERITANCE OF LADY MOUNTBATTEN

BILL FOR REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS

Lady Mountbatten's solicitors have issued the following statement:—

"A personal Bill is shortly to be introduced in the House of Lords, the object of which is to give Countess Mountbatten of Burma greater personal control over her inheritance under the will of her grandfather, the late Sir Ernest Cassel.

"Under Sir Ernest's will, Lady Mountbatten, then the Hon. Edwina Ashley, was left a life interest in a capital sum which provided a large yearly income, but the bequest was subject to restrictions which prevent her dealing in any way with the capital and even borrowing upon future income. Such restrictions, it should be noted, apply only to married women. Had Lady Mountbatten remained single or had become a widow they would not be operative.

"An Act was passed in 1935 which rendered void restrictions upon anticipation or alienation of property by married women, but that Act was not retrospective, and, as Sir Ernest died as long ago as 1921, its provisions are not applicable in this case. It is possible for a beneficiary to go to the courts and apply for an order under the general law for the relaxation of such restraints, but Lady Mountbatten has been advised that this would not give sufficient freedom of action in her case, hence the resort to the promotion of a personal Bill in Parliament.

REDUCTION OF INCOME

"As a result of the great increase in taxation, the net income of Lord and Lady Mountbatten has been reduced to one-ninth of what it was following their marriage. This reduction in their income has coincided with an ever-increasing range of public duties which have involved them in unavoidable and heavy personal expenditure. They have accordingly been advised by their legal and financial advisers that, unless the desired freedom is obtained, there will be no alternative to a drastic reduction of their public work.

"No interests but those of Lady Mountbatten are affected by the step which is now being taken. The interests of her children, who are the ultimate beneficiaries, are left undisturbed. The last occasion when this particular procedure was adopted was in 1946, when a similar measure was enacted to deal with the intricacies of an entail concerning the Marquess of Abergavenny's estate."

When Sir Ernest Cassel died in 1921, he left a fortune of £6m. After estate duty of £2,400,000 had been paid, five-eighths of the residuary estate was left to be divided between his two granddaughters—Miss Edwina Ashley, now Lady Mountbatten, and Miss (Ruth) Mary Ashley, now Lady Delamere. This proportion was again divided under the will into eight parts, giving Miss Edwina Ashley five shares and Miss Mary Ashley three. The will stipulated that capital and income should go to Lady Mountbatten's children in the event of her death, or, failing issue, that they should be added to her sister's share.

The Times (London)

51351-

MOUNTBATTEN ESTATE BILL

FAVOURABLE REPORT ON PETITION

The Personal Bills Committee of the House of Lords yesterday considered the petition for a Bill dealing with the estate of Countess Mountbatten. The object of the Bill is to give Lady Mountbatten greater personal control over her inheritance under the will of her grandfather, the late Sir Ernest Cassel. The bequest is subject to restrictions which prevent her from dealing in any way with the capital or even borrowing on future income.

The petition, which was unopposed, was heard by Lord Drogheda, Chairman of Committees in the House of Lords, who presided, Lord Hailsham, Lord Uthwatt, Lord Simonds, and Lord Kershaw.

The Bill, which is entitled the Mountbatten Estate Bill, states that "both Countess Mountbatten and Earl Mountbatten hold and have for many years held very important public positions which have involved them upon many occasions in demands for very heavy expenditure. Such demands are likely to recur in future, and it is therefore particularly necessary that they should have at all times at their disposal financial resources which will enable them to ensure the discharge of their public duties without impediment or embarrassment even though it may involve current expenditure in excess of current income."

"Countess Mountbatten desires and always since her marriage has desired to use the income which she inherited from her grandfather in such a way as would best assist both herself and her husband to give the highest possible public service in the position to which they have been called and to respond without stint to the many claims upon their generosity to which they are unavoidably subject. In the exceptional position in which Countess Mountbatten is thus placed she finds the restraint upon anticipation of her income under the provisions of the will a source of difficulty and embarrassment."

REDUCED INCOME

Sir Walter Monckton, K.C., presenting the petition, said that Lord Mountbatten was president or chairman of more than 100 institutions and Lady Mountbatten herself was president or chairman of a very large number of similar associations.

Up to the outbreak of the last war a person with the capital left to Lady Mountbatten would have been in receipt of an income of £30,000 to £40,000 a year. During the period such a person would have incurred voluntary obligations of various sorts, but since the war because of the taxes the income would be reduced to something like £4,500 a year.

LORD HAILSHAM.—I do not know whether it is an exceptional case, because everybody who has a big income has been taxed to extinction.

SIR WALTER MONCKTON.—I thoroughly endorse what you have said in that respect, but it is exceptional by reason of the services that she and her husband have performed in the past.

LORD HAILSHAM.—Other people have public duties which survive penal taxation.

The CHAIRMAN later announced that the committee would make a report to the House and that it was favourable to the petition for the Bill. The Bill would be presented and read a first time as soon as the necessary formalities had been completed.

The Times (London)

Nr. 51398 -

MOUNTBATTEN BILL

FROM OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

A group of Conservative members last night tabled in the House of Commons a reasoned amendment for the rejection of the Mountbatten Estate Bill. The purpose of this personal Bill is to give Lady Mountbatten greater personal control over her inheritance under the will of her grandfather, Sir Ernest Cassel. The amendment, which stands in the names of Mr. Gage, Sir John Mellor, and other Conservative members, opposes the second reading of the Bill on the ground that the principle of the Bill, if it is sound, should be embodied in general legislation which would give relief to all persons in a similar position.