

THE DAILY PROVINCE

JULY 5, 1909

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## THE DAILY PROVINCE, VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA.

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### ENCOURAGERS OF AGITATION.

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In a cable despatch from London received on Saturday it was stated that "a strong feeling has been aroused against a number of the members of the house of commons and others who have encouraged the Indian agitation against the government." It is to be hoped that that feeling will take such definite form that the men who have been guilty of influencing the Indian population against British rule will be compelled to take to cover.

One of those men whose names will at once be associated in the public mind with the agitation which has resulted in the murder in London of Sir Curzon Wylie, is Kier Hardie and he certainly deserves all the approbium(?) which can be cast upon him. As a member of the British house of commons he spent some weeks touring India for the express purpose of stirring up a spirit of revolt among the natives. How far the crime of last week is indirectly due to his mischievous campaign it would be impossible to say. That there is a direct connection, however, between the encouragement given by a certain element in Great Britain and the present ferment in India, there can be no doubt.

For a quarter of a century now students of Indian life and character and of the conditions prevailing in that great imperial dependency have been impressing, or attempting to impress upon the British public that nothing but trouble was to be expected from the tendency on the part of a class of public men in the mother country to urge the Indians to agitate for native control. Kipling, who understands the Indian character, points this out time and time again, and other writers, less popular and less widely read, deal with the question more in detail and sound an even more decided warning.

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And it may be well not to forget that the class responsible for giving encouragement to the native agitation are in the main supporters of the present government. Most of them are men of the type of Mr. Lloyd-George, whose indiscriminating Liberal proclivities(?) are more destructive or orderly conditions than the aggressiveness of the Radicals.

If it was unavoidable that Sir Curzon Wyllie's murder should occur, it is well that the crime was committed in London. It will bring home to the British public, as it could not have done had it taken place in India, the peril with which the empire is confronted. We have been assured that India, as a whole, is not ill-affected, and that is probably true. But when such organizations, for the purpose of assassination exist and carry on their operations in the very heart of the empire, it is difficult to believe that there is not a very considerable body of native opinion behind such a murderous campaign.

Be this as it may, however, it is impossible that the British public can look on complacently while leading public men are threatened with assassination from such a source. And the remedy to be applied to this evil condition of things must be applied in India as well as in London. Not only must these murderous societies be rooted out and their members be put under ban but the disaffected in India must be treated with a strictness which will convince the natives that they have nothing to hope for in revolt. But the British encourager of disquiet among the Indians should be taken in hand at once and disciplined into silence if not into sense.