

Up, India!

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Once more attention is being drawn to India. We make no apology for filling our front page with the Connaught Rangers' cartoon as it ought to concentrate the workers' minds not only on Ireland, but also on India. It was a gloriously stupid piece of folly for the War Office to send Irish soldiers to India as it is now learning to its cost. No better place could this dramatic and significant incident have happened in.¹

The incident itself is pregnant with great historic results. That typically capitalist rag *The Manchester Guardian*, stimulated by the "down guns" of the Connaught Rangers, wrote a "leader" pointing out the coming disaster in Ireland. It warns the government to be cautious, since Irishmen in large numbers are to be found in every regiment and battleship. If a civil war starts, the M.G. sees the possibility of every regiment being rent in twain and a mutiny in every vessel of the navy, as well as an Irish out-burst all over the Empire. We see, further, that other soldiers will learn the C.R. lesson and refuse to shoot their class when called upon — and even take labour's side. That happened in Russia and elsewhere on the Continent, and is bound to become an increasing practice the more revolutionary workers become in thought and action. The Irishmen in the bosses' army and navy will be the centre of such revolt. The Irish situation, obviously, is the most revolutionary that has ever arisen in British history, but unfortunately lads who fancy themselves the only revolutionaries are too stupid or too obsessed with some little crotchet to see with sufficient clarity the tight corner the Irish are placing Britain in.

The Irish Sinn Feiners, who make no profession of socialism or communism, and who are at best non-socialists, are doing more to help Russia and the revolutionary than all we professed marxian Bolsheviki in Britain — Smillie, Mann, Williams even being included in the "we".

The Russians have undoubtedly largely benefited by the Irish situation; the British are afraid to send too large forces against the Turks; and their blessed Connaught Rangers have done more to wipe out the discouragement ensuing on the massacre of Amritsar than all the meetings the Hindoos ever could have held.

Every Indian heart will have been uplifted, every Indian inspired to act as the Irish are acting. The Indians must and will break up the native police force, a force of Indians established by Britain to keep Indians under Britain's bloodstained heel.

Then the Indians may inspire Indian soldiers to do more even than the Connaught Rangers have done. They may incite them to leave the British Army en masse, and thereafter form the nucleus of a genuine Indian Army.

After that they may propagate the other British Tommies...

And, last of all, they may invite the co-operation of the Bolsheviki who now are rightly entitled to break up the British empire since Britain has done her level best for two years at least to overthrow Russia.

Should the Russians help the Indians, it would not be an attack on the British people, but a fight to help a vast people to gain national and racial independence.

The only atonement Britain can make for the slaughter and injury of perhaps more than three thousand people at Amritsar is self-determination for India. It is very cunning to give a report of the Amritsar massacre more than a year after the bloody deed, dismiss the murderer, General Dyer, and then discuss him in the House of Thieves. The Thieves have confirmed his dismissal (with a very fat pension and probably secret gifts galore for "saving India") and expect the world to believe that this compensates for the cold-blooded massacre. It won't do. The only reparation is independence for India, and nothing less.

ⁱ ["On 28 June 1920, a company of the Connaught Rangers stationed at Jullundur on the plains of the Punjab refused to perform their military duties as a protest against the activities of the British Army in Ireland. On the following day, the mutineers sent two emissaries to a company of Connaught Rangers stationed at Solon, about twenty miles away in the foothills of the Himalayas. The soldiers there took up the protest as well and, like their counterparts at Jullundur, flew the tricolour of Ireland, wore 'Sinn Féin' rosettes on their British Army uniforms and sang rebel songs."] <https://www.historyireland.com/commemorationnationalism-empire-and-memory-the-connaught-rangers-mutiny-june-1920/>