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EDITORIAL

## THE UNREST IN INDIA.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**I**N the House of Lords, last year, Lord Curzon sought to explain the “unrest in India” with “the victories of Japan over Russia, which were a thunderclap, that reverberated through the whispering galleries of Asia.”

The report of the British Army Qualifying Board on the result of the examination of candidates for the Army, held in September, contains these remarkable passages:

“English essays . . . mediocre.

“Dictation . . . uneven; some of the candidates made the most grotesque mistakes both in orthography and in punctuation; others lost marks by pure carelessness and inattention.

“The précis-writing was in most cases unequivocally bad. . . . The vital defects were recklessness in misstatement and an apparent inability of the writers to read a simple narration with any degree of care and intelligence.

“The results of the examination in geometry were very poor indeed.

“There is still an unduly large proportion of candidates who know practically nothing of geography.

“A lamentable ignorance of sound elementary knowledge of French was shown.

“Of the ten candidates offering German not one was really good, and some were very bad.

“Only a small proportion of the candidates in Latin are safe from making blunders of the most elementary description.

“The one candidate in Greek sent up a half-a-dozen words of no value.”

The truth on the cause of the “unrest in India” is to be found in a combination of the cause mentioned by Lord Curzon and the condition of things revealed by the Army Qualifying Board.

Of course, back of these there are other causes—so-called “remote causes”—without which the victories of Japan and the intellectual state of the Army would be of little account. Nevertheless, so-called “near causes” have a determining

effect upon events, grafted though they are upon the more basic, or “remote” ones.

Revolutionary movements are symptoms of a double evolution—an evolution upwards, on the part of the oppressed, and an evolution downward, on the part of the oppressors. The explosion takes place when the two evolutionary movements draw near enough to collide. At that moment the “near” causes act like sparks to the powder magazine of the “remote,” or fundamental ones.

India is going on through such a process. From below there is a positive evolution upward in train. From above there is a corresponding evolution downward taking place.

What is going on in far away India is going on nearer home. The intellectual decline of the Ruling Class converges with the increasing class-knowledge of the Ruled Class. The point of contact is the point of Revolution.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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