

THE HAUNTED MOTOR-CAR

THE motor-car in which the Archduke Francis Ferdinand was assassinated at Serajevo has, in the course of twenty-five years, claimed sixteen victims. A malign fate would seem to have pursued all those into whose possession it came.

On that memorable day, the 28th of June, 1914, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife, the Archduchess Sophia, made use of a red six-seater car to pass through the streets of the little Bosnian town. Their blood bespattered the cushions of the car, while the murderer's bullets shattered the windows and damaged the coachwork. After the outrage the car was placed in the governor of Serajevo's garage. Neither bullet-marks nor blood-stained cushions were removed: they remained to serve as *corpus delicti* against the assassin, Prinzip.

War broke out. Serajevo found itself in the zone of operations. One day General Potiorek, commander of the 5th and 6th Austrian army corps, who was installed in the governor's house, noticed the car and had it cleaned for his own use. Not long afterwards Potiorek lost the battle of Valievo, his command, and his reason. He died insane and in poverty at Vienna. The car once again returned to the governor's garage.

An officer of the Austro-Hungarian staff next appropriated it. A few days after he had taken possession he ran over two Croatian peasants. Then, one evening, during an excursion, the car ran into a pylon and the driver was thrown out and killed.

The Military Governor of Bosnia, a certain Sarcotic, was the next to use the car. He was the only person who did not suffer from the curse attached to it, inasmuch as every time he tried to use it the car broke down. So he exchanged it for another.

The new proprietor collided with an ox-drawn wagon, the

MYSORE LETTER.

Death of the Yuvarajah

Bangalore, 12th March 40.

HIS Highness The Yuvarajah is dead.

The news spread grief throughout the State, the one almost natural observation being the sympathy for His Highness the Maharajah in his bereavement. For the love of brother to brother that tied the ruling Sovereign to his younger brother was a real force in Mysore politics. A unique honour was the late Yuvarajah's of being called "His Highness" along with the Ruler. He was an asset to the State. He was for a time actively associated with the administration as a member of the Government. He was well read, travelled and was a Mysore patriot first and foremost, seeking to spread the greatness of Indian culture wherever he went.

His last trip to London was associated with the excitement of the outbreak of war and anxiety in the royal family as the Yuvarajah had left for Europe with his family. Prince Jayachamarajendra flew back in time for the Dusserah Darbar, while the Yuvarajah returned later and fell ill in Bombay, where he died yesterday morning.

To have a real glimpse of the Yuvarajah, one must go back some years to the time when he had health and the urge to stand by his brother and back him in the onerous task of serving the people of Mysore. It is the peculiar fortune of Mysore that the members of the royal family are always eager to dedicate their lives to them in service. Throughout his speeches on whatever occasion runs the same love of Mysore, the same eagerness to make it more tomorrow than today. But ill health dogged him; last year he was very ill and His Highness rushed to Madras. Today, as his ashes are brought home everyone looks to the bright side of his life that I have described above, and hugs the Yuvarajah who stood high in the love and esteem of the people by his noble qualities and above all, in the reflected glory of his own beloved brother.

Our Dewan's Speeches

driver and two peasants losing their lives.

After the Armistice the car passed into the possession of the newly appointed Yugoslav Governor. In four months he was involved in four accidents, the last of which cost him his right arm. He quickly disposed of the unlucky car to a doctor named Srskis. The latter was unable to find a chauffeur for it, for the news had spread that it was under an evil influence.

For six months the doctor, who laughed at these rumours, drove the car himself without incident. One day he went out to visit a neighbouring landowner. When he did not arrive at the appointed time his friends grew uneasy and a search party was sent out. The car was found overturned at a bend in the road, with the doctor's body lying beside it.

Only slightly damaged, the car was then acquired by a Bosnian landowner, who used it for a year without any harm. Then he committed suicide, probably owing to financial difficulties. The family attributed his suicide to the fatal car, which they got rid of as quickly as possible.

The buyer was one Peter Svestich. He hadn't had the car a week when he collided with another, in which were six people. Four were seriously injured and a fifth was killed on the spot. Svestich escaped with shock, but hastened to sell the car at a ridiculously low price.

The new possessor, a doctor, did not keep it for long. As his patients refused to be attended by him while he owned the now notorious car, he disposed of it to a merchant, who in turn sold it to the Swiss racing driver, Bluntli.

Bluntli set out in it for a holiday trip through the Dolomites. It was his last trip. At a bend the red car collided with another, which was hurled into a ravine. Bluntli, gravely injured, died in hospital the next day.

After this accident the red car once again made its appearance at Serajevo, and became the property of a car dealer. Several

times more it changed hands and was involved in several more accidents. In the end it became unsalable in Serajevo or the neighbourhood.

A certain Hirschfeld, a native of Transylvania, was the next to acquire it and he had it repainted blue. He was driving it to his betrothal ceremony accompanied by five guests and had just explained to them that the car in which they were riding was the one in which the Archduke and his wife were murdered. The guests were vastly amused. The car was doing 50 m.p.h. when suddenly it swerved and crashed into a car coming the opposite way. Hirschfeld and four of his friends were killed on the spot.

After this accident the car was destroyed. This happened in 1927 *thirteen* years after the tragedy of Serajevo.

on anti-war propoganda, and had nothing to do with the strike! The leaders were later taken to Yeravda Jail, Poona.

Government's Poser

The Government of Bombay have recently addressed a letter to the Bombay Millowners' Association on the strike situation. In this letter the Government says "they are anxious that no justifiable step should be left untried which might contribute towards an early settlement, and end a stoppage of work that is causing loss to workers, the industry and the public." Having referred to the actual situation of the strike with the preliminary causes the Bombay Government proceeds: Government have little doubt that a contributory factor is the desire on the part of the worker to share in the profits which, it is the general belief, will accrue to the industry in consequence of war conditions. The Bombay Government further records its opinion in this letter that such an expectation by labour is legitimate and labour should share in such war-profits.

Monday Conferences

Following the letter from the Bombay Government, the Committee of the Millowners' Association it is said, is meeting today (Monday 11th). It is expected to come to a final decision in a

there are grounds for hope that there will be an early settlement of the fortunate strike and the City of Bombay will soon heave a sigh of relief!

Bombay to be Bombed

"About half a dozen buildings in the Fort area of Bombay will be destroyed on March 30 by a bomber with incendiary bombs, of the type which destroyed Warsaw. On that day for the first time, the Bombay public will witness British anti-aircraft guns in action." This announcement sounds like the notorious Lord Haw-Haw of Zeesen, but was in fact made by Mr. Sultan Chinoy, a philanthropic Khoja leader of Bombay, who has arranged a two-night show in aid of the Red Cross on the Brabourne stadium.

A Sad Funeral

The most mournful death of the Yuvaraja of Mysore occurred this morning at his residence, Anchorage, in Bombay. He was suffering from pneumonia and succumbed to it early on Monday morning the 11th March. He was ceremoniously cremated in orthodox Hindu style at the Mahim Hindu Cemetery. The funeral was attended by the President and prominent members of the Mysore Association in Bombay Dewan Bahadur K. Ramaswami, Assistant Engineer P.W.D., Dr. R. Rev M.D., Sir Narayan Mandlik, Mr. N. M. Wadia, and Mr. Shanti Kumar N. Morarji of the Scindia Steam Navigation Co. The 52-years-old Yuvaraja had been staying in Bombay since he returned from Europe in January 1940. He had been suffering from pneumonia for three days.

A Mill On Fire

At 11-30 a.m. on Monday the 11th

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