

Britain, Colonial India and Gothic Fiction

Source 1: An illustration of the “Koh-i-Noor Diamond” on display at the Great Exhibition (1851) and Queen Victoria attends the “Indian and Colonial Exhibition” (1888)



One of the most famous attractions at The Great Exhibition of 1851 was the Koh-i-noor jewel from India. At 186 carats, this is one of the largest diamonds in the world and now sits in the crown of the late Queen Mother. It was “surrendered as a ‘gift’” to Queen Victoria as part of a treaty that annexed the Punjab to British rule in 1849.

The Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886 was held in South Kensington in London, and intended (in the words of the Prince of Wales) “to stimulate commerce and strengthen the bonds of union now existing in every portion of her Majesty's Empire”. The exhibits included art, architecture, economic goods, silks and anthropological studies.

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Source 2: An Advert for Lipton's Tea (1892)

SEPT. 17, 1892 THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS 383

LIPTON'S TEAS

Direct from the Tea Garden to the Tea Pot.
No Middlemen's Profits to Pay.

RICH, PURE, & FRAGRANT.

1/- and 1/4 per lb.

THE FINEST TEA THE WORLD CAN PRODUCE.

1/7 per lb.

NO HIGHER PRICE.

OVER ONE MILLION PACKETS SOLD WEEKLY.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—Delivered Carriage Paid for an extra 1d. per lb. to any address in Great Britain on orders of 5 lb. and upwards. Samples sent free on Application.

LIPTON,
Tea & Coffee Planter, CEYLON.

So's Proprietor of the following celebrated Tea and Coffee Estates in Ceylon—Dambatenne, Laymatotte, Monerakande, Mahadambatenne, Hossakelle, Pooorrasse, Hanapulle, and Giggrella, which cover thousands of acres of the best Tea land in Ceylon.

Tea and Coffee Shipping Warehouses: Maddema Mills, Cinnamon Gardens Colombo.

Ceylon Office: Upper Chatham Street, Colombo.

Indian Office and Shipping Warehouses: 5, Lyons Range, Calcutta.

General Offices: **BATH ST., CITY RD., LONDON, E.C.**

LONDON BRANCHES.

Angel House, Islington, N.; 203, Old Street, E.C.; 19, High Street, Kingsland; 240 and 212, Edgware Road, W.; 95, Westbourne Grove, W.; 417, Erixton Road, S.W.; 87, Crisp Street, Poplar; 18, St. John's Road, Clapham Junction; 98, Bye Lane, Peckham; 321, Walworth Road; 144, Trafalgar Road, East Greenwich; 13, High Street, Deptford; 243, High Street, Camden Town; 128, Lambeth Walk, Lambeth; High Road, Tottenham; 18 and 29, Strutton Ground, Westminster; 233, Wandsworth Road; 11, Seven Sisters Road, Holloway; Angel Lane, Stratford; High Street, Harelesden, Willesden Junction; 151, King Street, Hammersmith; High Street, Walthamstow; 233, North-End Road, Falloway; 44, North-End, Croydon; 85, New Cut, Lambeth; 182, High Street, Stoke Newington; 6, Little Pulteney Street, Soho; 11, Chapel Street, Somerset Town; 1, Hare Street, Woolwich; 143, Salmon's Lane, Limehouse, E.; 284, Barking Road, Canning Town, E.

AND BRANCHES THROUGHOUT GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.



Tea was first sold in Britain in 1657, with the first tea imported from China. In the eighteenth century, tea became a staple and Britain imported 15 million pounds of tea annually. In 1823, tea was discovered growing in northern India and by the 1880s, Indian tea supplanted Chinese tea in the British market. Soon afterwards, Indian tea was the most popular tea everywhere.

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Source 3: A photo of King George V inspecting Indian troops during WW1



1.3 million Indian troops served Britain during the First World War and as many as 74,187 Indian soldiers died. The British raised men and money from India, as well as large supplies of food, cash and ammunition, collected by British taxation of Indians and from the nominally autonomous princely states. In return, the British had insincerely promised to deliver progressive self-rule to India at the end of the war.

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Source 4: A newspaper article objecting to the “Rowlatt Act”, passed in India in 1919

IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BLACK BILL NO. I “PASSED.”

THE HON. MR. SARMA RESIGNS.

SOLEMN MOCKERY OF THE DEBATE.

ROWLATT BILL NO. I

Sir William Vincent says more than the bill an echo with the anarchical and revolutionary aims as amended is passed.

SIR WILLIAM VINCENT.

Sir William Vincent then moved that the anarchical and revolutionary crime bill as amended be passed into law. He said in making this motion, he quit as the house express his great regret at the spite of the important modifications they had made in the bill and in spite of their attempt to meet the wishes of the Hon. members, Government were not able to secure more support for this measure. He, however, hoped that most of the members would admit that the attitude of the Government was not unreasonable and that they had done their best to meet them in making important modifications. At the same time, he quite realized the feelings of the Hon. members. Their extensive dislike of the measure was based on the apprehension that the powers under this bill might be abused. There were possibly other members who were actuated by other motives but he did not address his words to those members. He was addressing those words to those whose cooperation Government sought. He asked them to consider the position from the point of view of the Government. Government had examined the petition from their point of view, and had done all they could to meet them and had made changes in the bill.

[The Black Bill No. I was passed at Tuesday's meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council, 30 members voting for it and 20 against. Immediately after the passage of the Bill the Hon. Mr. B. N. Sarma of Madras offered his resignation. At this meeting the Black Bill No. II was also taken up. Sir William Vincent moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the second Rowlatt Bill be republished. Mr. Patel and Mr. Malaviya moved amendments which the bureaucracy refused to accept.]

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)
Delhi, March 18

A meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council was held today. There was a very large attendance of visitors including Sir George Hoos Keppel. The Viceroy presided.

On His Excellency calling upon Sir Fazlulay Carrimkhan to put his question Mr. Patel raised point of order that the meeting being not a law meeting but an adjourned meeting, questions could not be asked. His Excellency said he was sure Hon. members desired their question to be put and answered and he therefore proposed to allow questions to be put.

in the rules to suggest that the motion of which notice was given must be moved.

Sir William Vincent said he was perfectly willing that the Hon. member, if he so desired, should move that motion.

Mr. Patel said he only raised the question as it affected the privileges of the members of this Council. He did not desire to move it.

His Excellency ruled against Mr. Patel.

RESIGNING OR ABSENTING.

Mr. Patel, supporting Pandit Malaviya's amendment, said three of the members of the Select Committee did not move on the Select Committee and they resigned. Sir George Lindsay rose to a point of order saying that no member went in his resignation. They merely absented themselves. Mr. Patel was proceeding to say

After the end of WW1 in response to increased unrest in India, the “Rowlatt” Committee recommended that the government use emergency powers, which included the ability to try cases of sedition without juries, exaction of securities from suspects, and the power for provincial governments to arrest and detain suspects without trial. This headline is from a nationalist newspaper in India. Although all non-official Indians on the Legislative Council voted against the Rowlatt Bills, the government was able to make them law by using its majority