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INDIAN TROOPS FOR BRITISH COLONIES.

In the reports of the colonial governors just issued in a Blue-book there are some incidental observations on the proposal to garrison some of the British colonies with native Indian troops. Lieutenant-Governor Cairns suggests that there should be a small Indian force, to the extent, perhaps, of a company of Madras Sepoys in Malacca. The natives are all Malays; all the petty rajahs upon the borders are Malays; Malay secret societies either exist by themselves or are affiliated to the Chinese hoeyes. Malay fanaticism is wild, uncalculating, and of rapid growth, and the temptations which chiefs of their own blood and faith might offer would probably be found to tell with fatal effect on their fidelity. The Lieutenant-Governor therefore strongly objects to any scheme by which the garrison should be composed of Malays, whether raised as a local force or brought from Ceylon; indeed, rather than introduce such a dangerous element, he would prefer that the military were altogether withdrawn, and their place taken by a strong police force, properly drilled and equipped, to consist of the same class of men as the sepoy recruited at Madras or in the Punjab, the present Malay police being of course simultaneously disbanded.

On the other hand, Sir H. Barkly, Governor of Mauritius, protests against the introduction of Indians into that island, as it could not fail, in his opinion, to prove a source of constant anxiety, if not of positive danger, looking to the great preponderance of the Indian element in the population. On sanitary grounds, moreover, there is little to be said in favour of such an arrangement, the natives of India being more liable than Europeans to succumb to the epidemic and endemic fevers of the island. In point of fact, it is in the power of the military authorities to place the garrison of the island, however composed, beyond all extraordinary risk on the score of health, by at once erecting the barracks, which have been for so many years talked of, on the elevated plateau of the interior, where the fever has never penetrated.