

ANCIENT RITES FEATURED IN INDIAN WEDDING.

The State of Junagarh proclaimed a three-day holiday to celebrate the wedding of the heir apparent. Indian ceremonial which dates back many centuries marked the proceedings. From the Palace His Highness drove in state to the marriage pavilion. Nearly all the forty thousand inhabitants of the state capital, also named Junagarh, lined the route. A small regiment of carriers was needed to bring the wedding presents, which came from all parts of the state. By this time Europeans would have been all agog to see the bride but the Prince's religion ordains that she shall not be seen in public till some days after the wedding. Some G.I husbands reverse that procedure and dispense with the wife afterwards. But even with no bride it was quite a wedding.

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INDIAN NEWS PARADE No.149.

BURMA UNDER RECONSTRUCTION.

Near Toungeo in Central Burma, Father Tombacini, a Roman Catholic Missionary and some Indian Army Officers discuss plans for rebuilding devastated schools. During their retreat the Japanese destroyed everything and now it is their duty of the Missionaries to help in the gigantic rehabilitation and reconstruction programme for Burma.

Burmese boys helped by priests, begin to clear the awful mess. If life in Burma is to return to normal, schools must be rebuilt.

Brick structures cannot be built. In their place, bamboo and straw bakhas are constructed. It is an art in which the Burmese excel and very soon the bakhas are ready for habitation.

A nun escorts Burmese girls to the new school house. Burmese children have almost forgotten what school is like. While the Japs ruled, no schools functioned. Now after three years and a half, children from all over the country make their way to these new educational centres...

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INDIAN NEWS PARADE No.149.

A WEDDING AT JUNAGADH

Junagadh State was in festive mood. The streets were crowded with revellers, celebrating the marriage of the Heir Apparent. Wedding gifts of all kinds were taken in procession through the streets. Distinguished visitors, guests and officials followed the procession - and cavalry, formed the Guard of Honour. Coming out of the Palace, the bridegroom prepares for the ceremonial drive through the streets.

Led by the palace guards, the wedding procession makes its way towards the venue of the marriage ceremony. Inside the marriage pandal, guests of honour together with the Nawab ~~xxxx~~ of Junagadh and the Resident wait for the ceremony to begin. The Jam Sheh of Nawagar was present. The marriage proceedings themselves were short and simple and the bridegroom, flanked by a Guard of Honour gets down from his decorated chair to receive the wedding presents.

A princely wedding is based upon ancient ritual and many small ceremonies go to complete the marriage. Later, songs, and music break the stillness of the night. Dances such as these won the applause and ~~xxxxxxxx~~ patronage of princes who ruled many centuries ago.

The guests begin to leave and bid farewell to the bridegroom. The revelries over, the bridegroom returned to the palace. But the festivities were not yet over....Next day, a garden party was held. Princes, guests and courtiers mingled freely. It had been a royal wedding. Gifts had been presented to important institutions, The ~~xx~~ poor had been fed and clothed. And most important of all reforms had been announced.