

ROYAL TOUR FROM INDIA TO PAKISTAN

Obviously Karachi had made up its mind that Pakistan would not lag behind India in the fervour of its welcome to the Queen. More than a million people live in this great seaport-city, and most of them seemed to be along the route from the airport to the Presidency. With Her Majesty drove the head of the Republic, President Ayub Khan, in the uniform of Field Marshal.

In the garden of the State Guest House Karachi's Society women held a "Ladies Reception" to meet Her Majesty. They included the wives of soldiers and Government officials. The eastern beauty of Pakistani dress was glitteringly displayed in a costume show. And where is the woman (of whatever rank or part of the world) who would not delight in such gorgeous array.

Both traditional and regional dress was displayed. Among the traditionals was the Chust Pajama, with its tight pajamas, shirt and dupatta.

It was all much to the liking of the very fashion-conscious Royal visitor. These elaborate and bejewelled dresses belong to an age and way of life far removed from our present day Western World. But how arresting and lovely they are to behold.

Perhaps nowhere else could so much human feeling have been given to the presenting of a bouquet, conveyed to the Queen by a little girl who is blind.

Before leaving for Karachi the royal tourists had the unforgettable experience of visiting Udaipur, where their host was the Maharana. Here, to the Queen and her husband, were presented 56 nobles, and it all seemed like stepping into the India of the past. For the remarkable modern progress of the Sub Continent does not in Udaipur, dim the lustre of the Maharana's dynasty, with its unbroken succession of more than fourteen-hundred years. The present ruler is the 75th of his line.

How different was all this from the general atmosphere, half a century ago, when the Maharana's grandfather refused to attend the Delhi Durbar, and forbade any of his family to enter Delhi, so long as India remained under British rule. Today, the Tilak, the mark of welcome that had been touched upon Her Majesty's forehead, symbolised the genuine friendship now existing between Britain and independent India, partners in the Commonwealth of which the Queen is the gracious titular head.

Udaipur is sometimes called the Venice of India. On one of its lakes stands the Maharana's Water Palace. Her Majesty was now on her way there. With good reason the 55,000 people regard their city as the Glory of the State of Rajasthan.

To the island on which the palace stands the party went by launch. At the waterside, as everywhere along the route from the Maharana's principal Palace, people crowded to watch. Even at this early stage of the royal tour, millions have given the Queen a warm place in their hearts. And what profound impressions the diversified wonders of India must already have made upon the Queen.