

INDIA ACCLAIMS THE QUEEN

To arrive in India for the first time: An unforgettable experience to anyone, in any age. How much more so for the Queen for whom the magic of air travel, in a few hours, translated the January gloom of London into the tropical brilliance of New Delhi. President Prasad and other Indian leaders were at the Airport to greet Her Majesty.

Dr. Prasad sincerely spoke for the whole Republic of India in bidding the Royal visitors a most warm welcome. The Vice-President as well as Mr. Nehru and his sister, added their greetings.

Only in the British Commonwealth could the independence of so vast a nation as India have been achieved without impairing friendship with the parent country. On the eleven mile drive from the Airport to the Presidential Palace, close on two million people sought vantage points and left the Queen and Duke in no doubt that they hold them in affection. Half a century has passed since a reigning monarch visited India. 50 years in which India, no less than the rest of the world, has been transformed; but it is perhaps characteristic of India that the Raj Path, the noble highway along which the Queen drove is still called Kingsway.

The Queen rode in the President's car, with the picturesque Presidential Bodyguard in escort.

Mr. Nehru drove with Prince Philip. The Indian Premier remembers in what high esteem the Duke's uncle, Earl Mountbatten, held Mahatma Gandhi, at whose shrine (a very sacred place to all Indians) the Queen and her husband donned velvet sandals. It is the custom of all foreign visitors to the tomb of the Prophet of Independent India to remove their shoes.

13 years, all but a few days, had passed since the Mahatma was cremated at this place. The Queen's tribute took the form of a wreath of 500 white roses.

Mrs. Pandit's simple and affecting tribute was that of a personal deciple of Mahatma Gandhi. What would that apostle of non-violence have thought of the world had he lived to see the present development of the Atomic age? The Queen planted a tree near those of President Eisenhower and Mr. Khrushchev.

## ROYAL TOUR (2)

Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan, was only a short flight away from Delhi, for Her Majesty and the Duke. Here they were moving into scenes recalling the Princely States. Nine young women bearing painted jars on their heads bade traditional welcome to Bhankrota village, a community development project where the new India rubs shoulders with the old. Another part of the ritual greeting was carried out by the offering of tiny lights on a copper tray, by ladies of the Maharajah's family.

The bearded Governor of Jaipur was in the party that accompanied the Queen.

After that very pleasing ceremony the Queen went to see the practical side of the Bhankrota project, the Queen inaugurating a new village water supply.

It is evident that care has been taken to preserve all that is best in the old Indian ways. The Queen saw corn being ground by the Chaki grinding wheel. Who knows for how many centuries Indian villagers have used this method? The Queen and Duke admired the handsomely attired Bullocks used to haul the Maharajah's chariots. Pathe News will include much of the informal side of the tour during the Queen's progress in the East.

Within the gates of the Palace of the Maharajah of Jaipur were waiting half a dozen magnificent elephants, the most splendid of them assigned to convey the Queen and her host. This was the India that recalled the time of the historic Delhi Durbar, held in honour of the King Emperor, George 5th, the Queen's grandfather. Texted in gorgeous silks and brocade, the elephants epitomised Indian splendour.

It must have been an amusing experience, and no royal visit to the sub-continent could have been complete without an elephant ride. There remained the beautiful Rajput welcome to the Palace in which the Queen and Duke received the Tilak mark; the lightly touched vermilion dab on the forehead. Somehow it symbolises the courtesy and graciousness of Indians towards their guests. Already Her Majesty had seen many fascinating sides of Indian life.