Through Colonial Spectacles

Margaret Allen

University of Adelaide.

Abstract

Australian travellers in India in the late nineteenth-century often aligned themselves with the British Imperial power and surveyed the Indian scene from that position.

David Walker has charted the growth of a more anti-imperial position around the turn of the century. Alfred Deakin describe India as a ?conquered country? and Louis Esson ?mocked the Anglo-India for seeing "sedition" everywhere? (Walker, Anxious Nation, 1999, 35).

Another rather curious position was taken by a journalist of The Adelaide observer who reported from India during 1902-3, covering the great Durbar of 1903 as well as many slices of life in British India.

This paper will explore his series, ?Through Colonial Spectacles? and the way he positioned himself in relation to the British, the Indians and the Anglo-Indians.