



## Obituary

A.C. Yate

To cite this article: A.C. Yate (1920) Obituary, Journal of The Royal Central Asian Society, 7:4, 126-127, DOI: [10.1080/03068372008724780](https://doi.org/10.1080/03068372008724780)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03068372008724780>



Published online: 25 Feb 2011.



Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)



Article views: 3



View related articles [↗](#)

## OBITUARY.

### MR. T. HART-DAVIES.

It was my good fortune during my twenty-six years' service in India to be constantly brought into touch with Mr. T. Hart-Davies in Sind, in which province our lines were laid. I cannot do better than quote here the tribute paid to him in *The Times* of January 9, 1920. This, as far as it goes, is quite true to life. It runs thus :

#### "MR. T. HART-DAVIES.

"Mr. Thomas Hart-Davies, formerly Liberal M.P. for North Hackney, died at Jersey on January 3, aged 73.

"A son of the late Archdeacon Hart-Davies, he was educated at Marlborough and Pembroke College, Oxford, where he was an exhibitioner. Passing the I.C.S. examination of 1867, he served for 28 years in the Bombay Presidency, chiefly in Sind, where he was successively education inspector, manager of encumbered estates, district magistrate, Judge of the Karachi District, and Acting Judicial Commissioner. He unsuccessfully contested Rotherhithe in 1900, but in 1906, at North Hackney, was one of half-a-dozen retired Indian civil servants to enter Parliament on the flowing tide of the Liberal revival.

"Mr. Hart-Davies was progressive in his views of Indian administration. He joined the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, and supported the Morley-Minto reforms. A poor speaker, diffident in manner, he made no marked impression in the House of Commons, and few of his colleagues came to know how many-sided were his gifts. He lost his seat at the General Election of January, 1910.

"Long furloughs from India and bachelor freedom had enabled him to travel widely. He had been round the world at least eight times, and knew well remote countries, such as Siberia, Persia, and the least accessible South American republics. A good linguist, he had translated works from Russian; the possessor of a dry humour, he had written readable short stories for magazines. He was fond of music, conjuring, fishing, and golf.

"In 1913 he married a daughter of Mr. George Boothby, R.N., and widow of Colonel G. B. Wauhope, of the Lancashire Fusiliers."

Strange to say, it omits all reference to "India in 1883," which Mr. Hart-Davies brought out in 1883—the cleverest thing he ever wrote,

and in its cleverness a mark of his genius. When he gave me a copy he told me that he had refused to let a second edition appear because the publishers had absorbed all the profits of the first. "Profiteering" is a windfall of the pagoda tree. When I saw that the author of "India in 1983" had joined the Indian National Congress and entered Parliament as a follower of Campbell-Bannerman and a sympathizer with the Morley-Minto Reforms, I confess that I was surprised. Mr. Hart-Davies translated Catullus—whether with success or not I cannot say. Of his translation of Relatief's Voinarovski he gave me a copy. Voinarovski was a nephew of Mazeppa, and his aspirations to the dignity of "Hetman" ended in Siberia. Of Mr. Hart-Davies as a conjuror I have vivid recollections. If he was no orator in the House of Commons, his "patter" in his own drawing-room, when he was juggling with a pack of cards, was quite delightful. His talents were not those which conduct to high official employment.

A. C. YATE.

#### THE EARL OF DARTREY

THE death of the Earl of Dartrey took place on June 14 at Dartrey, Monaghan, at the age of seventy-eight. He succeeded his father, the first Earl, in 1897. As Lord Cremorne he represented Monaghan in the House of Commons from 1865 to 1868. He served in the Coldstream Guards, retiring as Lieutenant-Colonel in 1876.