

Kashmir Times, May 23, 1982.

The letter that shook Hari Singh's throne

Sir,

Mr. BP Sharma needs to be congratulated for his excellent research work. The title of the work does not, however, seem to be in tune with its contents.

Even after going through the entire series one is left guessing as to which was the letter that shook Hari Singh's throne. On the other hand the documents produced clearly showed that Hari Singh was in complete control of the situation.

The 'Quit Kashmir' movement launched with the aim of dislodging Hari Singh from his throne found few sympathisers, besides Pt. Nehru, within the Congress or the All India States People's Conference and it fizzled out no sooner than it started without achieving anything.

Indeed the letter written by Sheikh Abdullah to the Maharaja disowning any intention on his part to dislodge him from his throne and professing loyalty to the person of the ruling dynasty at a time when the days of the princes were numbered, as it was, came as an anti-climax to the 'Freedom Struggle' in Kashmir.

It is well known, though not on record, that Mahatma Gandhi was shocked when this letter was shown to him by Mr. Mehar Chand Mahajan at the behest of the Maharaja.

Obviously while selecting the title for his work the journalist in Mr. Sharma got the better of the scholar in him.

**K Brahma Singh
219 Palace Road
Jammu**