

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, March 9, 1918.

MIDDLE-CLASS UNEMPLOYMENT

II.

The importance of technical education has been much discussed of late years. Our slow progress in manufactures, it is said, is due to the fact that there are no suitable public institutions in this country for imparting knowledge of the scientific processes of manufacture, and our universities are blamed for not being equipped for fulfilling this important function. There is no doubt a good deal of truth in this criticism. Technical institutions are of special importance in countries which like India are backward as regards the processes of scientific manufacture. Even in industrially-advanced England it is being realised that if she is to keep in the front rank of the march of progress, she must organise her resources for the imparting of technical education. Of all the ways in which the state can help industry, perhaps this is the one which has evoked the least controversy. If this is so in the case of a country like England, how much more so in backward India.

The need for technical education being admitted, it remains to discuss, what stage of this education is the one which is most suitable for this country. In this respect there is the greatest difference between England and India. In England the foundation of modern manufactures is firmly laid; the primary and simpler processes are well-understood by the bulk of the people, and the task before her is to keep abreast of the times. The functions which technical institutions will be called upon to fulfil are to enable English people to invent new processes and to impart the most up-to-date information brought from other countries.

In India, on the other hand, primary education in the manufacturing processes is still in a very backward state. It is not sufficiently realised that in this respect the ignorance of the masses is of far greater importance than it is in the case of literary education. We think that by attaching too great an importance to the establishment of colleges for higher technical training we forget that thereby we insist on beginning to build at the top instead of at the bottom, which is the natural process. Unless the great body of the people are pretty thoroughly accustomed to the use of machinery, a middle class trained in the most up to date processes of manufacture is absolutely useless. As for the training of the middle class, we have access to the technical institutions and factories of other countries. We have already availed ourselves of them to some extent, but the looked-for result has not been forthcoming. This is due chiefly to the fact that the foundations on which great manufacturing industries can be built are absent in this country.

The function which technical institutions will at first have to fulfil in this country is to build this foundation. Many things which are at present done by inefficient hand labour must be done by machinery. The great body of the people must be made familiar with modern implements and modern processes in respect of the more simple industries. The time for higher technical training must come afterwards. In the matter of inventions India must for a long time to come be content to

follow in the wake of the more advanced European nations.

As regards the agency by which this primary technical education is to be imparted, it appears to us, that the best are the municipalities and other local bodies. A technical school in every large town and manufacturing centre is one of the greatest needs of our country in its present state of development.

Technical education is not, however the only thing—perhaps is not the most important thing—we need. The failure of the Agricultural Colleges at Sabour and elsewhere to produce expert agriculturists who start farming on their own account should warn us against expecting too much from mere education. It is not so much the lack of training or the opportunities for training which present the greatest obstacle to progress as the lack of enterprise, of courage to explore new fields of profit, of boldness to undertake new ventures. There are scores of petty trades which do not require great technical skill and which, although they do not bring large fortunes, yet offer ampler remuneration than those which an average graduate gets. Yet these services are left to be done inefficiently by comparatively inferior men, while graduates flock to the already overcrowded professions.

Technical education cannot produce expert business men any more than a university training in law can produce expert lawyers. In both professions a certain amount of patient waiting and practice is of the highest importance. But whereas young lawyers are found waiting patiently year after year before beginning to make headway, it is very doubtful whether, if the universities should equip themselves for technical education, graduates would be found in sufficient numbers who would be willing to venture in business rather than in law. The reason is that the bar is a profession to which generations of the educated middle class have been accustomed, whereas the very idea of an educated Bengali taking to business is comparatively new. This being so, it is of the highest importance that greater attractions should be offered to those who take to business renouncing those professions for which the middle class has hitherto shown greater predilections. What particular form of encouragement will further the end proposed at the least cost is a matter which requires the closest scrutiny.

It may be protective duties, it may be bounties to particular industries, it may be the pioneering of new industries by the state, or it may be the creation of better credit facilities. Any or all of these may be necessary. But it is urgently needed that the present congestion in the employments open to the middle class should be relieved.

The question is not one which concerns the middle class alone, but one which concerns the whole people. Neither is it one which can be considered apart from other national problems. It is a question of the investment of the surplus national dividend. Every year, after satisfying the most urgent needs of the millions and keeping a small proportion of the population in a tolerable degree of comfort, a certain surplus of resources is left—partly in the hands of the wealthier members of the community and partly in the hands of the Government. Now supposing (1) that the national dividend does not increase, (2) that the wealthier members do not curtail their expenditure, and (3) that the Government does not curtail its expenditure,—in other words, supposing that the surplus is constant—the question is, how should this surplus be invested in order that the economic welfare of the whole nation over a number of successive years, say 50 years, may be

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the maximum. Up to this time we have invested almost the whole of the surplus in the establishment of schools and colleges for the middle class. What we propose is that this surplus should be invested in such a manner that it will lead to the production of greater surpluses, in other words in providing productive employment on a much wider scale.

THE AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BIHAR & ORISSA.

The record of the agricultural department of this province is very discouraging. The annual report for the year ending 30th June 1917 evinces a lack of enthusiasm which compares very unfavourably with the vigorous working of the sister department of Co-operation. There is a singular absence of a definite programme and a faith in the possibilities of agricultural development.

The work of the department falls into two classes—(1) Agricultural research, experiment, and education, and (2) propaganda work among the agriculturists. Research and experiment appear to be in their initial stage. As regards education, it is evident that the College at Sabour has hitherto failed to attract a large number of students from the agricultural classes, who desire to qualify themselves for improved methods of agriculture on their lands. We learn from the report that the total number of students on the roll at the beginning of the session 1917-18 was 35, of whom only 7 belonged to Bihar and Orissa. Again out of four students who sat for the Diploma Examination in March 1917 only one obtained the diploma. This very discouraging result is ascribed to the fact that the students have an insufficient knowledge of English and are consequently unable to write notes and understand the text books. With a view to eliminating from the beginning such as are not intellectually capable of taking the college course the Principal has introduced a system of test examinations in English and elementary Mathematics. This is satisfactory though it is strange that such a simple plan was not introduced before.

We cannot hold the Government alone responsible for the fact that a larger number of qualified students are not attracted to the college. It is mainly due to the apathy of our people towards agricultural improvement. The sons of cultivators when they come to English schools seldom have a brighter prospect before them than that of getting jobs in the Kutcheries, railways and so forth. The most ambitious among them never look beyond the Bar or the provincial services. The respectable and educated farmer working in the village and clinging to the land inherited from ancestors is entirely out of their view. The idea that the son of a cultivator after learning "Ungrezi" should revert to agricultural work appears to them absurd. This low estimation of agriculture bred in the homes of cultivators is not effectively combated in any sphere of life which the sons of grihasts enter on leaving their village homes. Teachers of public schools have a grave responsibility in this matter. We are aware that in the High Schools of the mofussil teachers are earnestly consulted by their students about what they are to do on leaving school. The advice usually given to boys on such occasions is to enter colleges or (seeing that the prospects of graduates are so limited) to take up clerical employment early so as to be sure of a secure and moderate income in the future. Our teachers are singularly incompetent to give any useful advice on these matters. But we believe that they do their best according

to their knowledge. It would be a great service to the public if the authorities of the few quasi-technical institutions in the country made it a practice to send their prospectuses to the High Schools in the mofussil. We are told that the Bihar School of Engineering does this to some extent and we would humbly advise the authorities of the Sabour College to do the same. The prospectus sent should not be merely a dry statement of the rules, regulations, fees, curriculum and so forth. It should be in the form of a popular pamphlet. The aims of the institution should be clearly given and it should be distinctly stated that the College is not meant for job-seekers, but for training agriculturists who would carry on scientific agriculture on their own farms. As a means of encouragement it may be advisable to give examples of what scientific agriculture has done in Europe and America.

The propaganda work of the agriculture department is at present suffering from the lack of a sufficient number of officers. One notable instance is that of Tirhut Division where there is no Deputy Director of Agriculture and only one Inspector. The area under him is evidently too extensive, and the work is extremely varied. For instance, the Inspector has got to endeavour to gain the confidence of the co-operative credit societies, to advise the members of the local agricultural association in carrying on demonstrations, and he is also in charge of the agricultural museum. Given a programme of this nature and an area so wide, it is impossible that agricultural improvement should progress at an appreciable pace. The Inspector has to flit from one subject to another and can rarely concentrate his efforts on any point so as to achieve definite results. It is true that the case of Tirhut is exceptional, and that it is the practice to allot a district to each Inspector. But it is evident from the report that a very small number of districts have been provided with Inspectors. We do not think it would be advisable at present to have an Inspector in every district. It would be far better to select typical areas within which conditions of soil, nature of crops and other agricultural conditions are homogeneous, and to appoint an Inspector in every such centre. The area to be worked by an Inspector and his staff should be strictly limited, and the programme should be definite. It is very satisfactory to learn that the agricultural associations of Bhagalpur and Purnea have drawn up definite programmes of work. We shall be interested to hear of the results achieved.

The appointment of a certain number of "Kamdars" to carry on demonstrations before cultivators is likely to be helpful in gaining the confidence of ignorant villagers. We trust they will form a connecting link between the Inspectors and the cultivators. To the same end it is also desirable that the present close association between the co-operative credit societies and agricultural department should be maintained. The great thing is to reach the cultivator. The agriculture department should seek to justify its existence, not merely by carrying on interesting experiments in its colleges and farms, but mainly by bringing the advantages of superior knowledge to exert its full influence on the agricultural life of the village.

Experiment and research are no doubt indispensable, but unless the result can be brought to the doors of the cultivator, they are futile. When definite results have been achieved, it would be a great pity if, for want of the proper organisation, they could not reach the man who is likely to benefit by it. Whatever may have been the case in the early days of the movement, it is beyond doubt, now, that definite results have been arrived

at. Some of the results which have passed the experimental stage are (1) The Pusa wheat No. 12, (2) Green manuring, (3) Destruction of pests, (4) Preservation of potatoes. These improvements alone if applied to the fullest extent, would increase the wealth of the province to no small extent. We agree with the principle laid down in the government resolution at the end of the report that a clearer line should be drawn between experimental and demonstration work, to the latter of which only it is desirable that the attention of local cultivators should be directed. It is a fatal policy to induce the cultivator to introduce crops and methods of which the results are uncertain. For if one such experiment fails in the hands of the cultivator, men will be extremely suspicious of the results of any other. The Inspectors should be able to vouch for the success of a new method and for the quality of the materials (seeds and implements) supplied by the department. To this end it is necessary that experiments should at first be conducted in the central institution, then tried in the local farm and last of all, introduced to the cultivating public.

THE LAST MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

In many respects the meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council held on Monday last was a unique one. The Champaran Agrarian Bill which was passed into law in spite of the formidable opposition of vested interests heralds, let us hope, the dawn of that responsible self-government, to the advent of which the country is now looking forward. Though we wish that some of the non-official amendments were accepted, we must give credit to Sir Edward Gait's Government for the firm determination with which a half-a-century old scandal has been sought to be removed regardless of all considerations save those of justice and fair play. The way was beset with difficulties which have deterred many a strong administrator ere this; and it is the best testimony to the striking qualities of the present Lieutenant-Governor's administration that he has succeeded where so many have failed. We are certainly not unaware of the possibility that we may not have seen the last of the Champaran troubles; no legislation could achieve such a result offhand; but the inauguration of a decisive policy of protection to the helpless raiyats against the unconscionable oppression of powerful proprietors is by itself no mean feat, and we can confidently hope for a distinctly better understanding between landlord and tenant in Champaran now that they have been placed at arm's length. True, as we have already said, the Act would have been better for certain amendments, particularly the omission of the words "to be grown on land of his tenancy or any portion thereof" from section 5, the effect of which is practically to retain the *inkattia* in spirit while nominally abolishing it. It is certainly a pity that this particular amendment was defeated. Nevertheless, taking the Bill as a whole, Government has every claim to our congratulation, while no praise would be too much for the brave fight put up by the non-official members. The nature of the debate on the Bill can be best understood from the fact that as many as 40 amendments stood on the agenda for this little piece of legislation comprising only five sections. The Planters' amendments were all defeated as was the attempt to introduce the obnoxious penal provision of clause 6 which had been deleted by the Select Committee.

The other legislative business before the Council was more or less formal. The amended draft

financial statement for 1918-19 was presented and and the Patna University Amendment Act was passed. Mr. Sahay's Bill was referred to a Select Committee, while another evidence of the new policy of deference to public sentiment was afforded in the acceptance in a modified form of Mr. Naim's resolution for the extension of the jury system to Bhagalpur and Muzaffarpur.

Coming to questions, there was as usual a lot bearing on the appointment of Bengalees to the Secretariat, in utter disregard of the fact that the Bihar Secretariat was constituted with the officers from the abolished Eastern Bengal Secretariat, who could not all of a sudden be sent packing even for the very laudable object of making room for young Bihar. The Hon'ble Babu Gopabandhu Das returned to the subject of the compulsory training in Urdu of Hindu teachers in Orissa. It appears that though such teachers have not actually to teach in Mahomedan schools and though it is improbable that any Hindu teacher should now be teaching in such schools yet they have to learn Urdu. Another example of the waste of money and energy which characterises the policy of education in this province! The Hon'ble Babu Maheshwar Prasad did a public service in bringing to light the fact that as many as 199 subordinates of the Survey Department in the Saran District had been dismissed for various offences of which corruption was the chief, a state of things for which, if the official ipse dixit be accepted, "no enquiry by Government is needed"! The Hon'ble Mr. Sahay's question on the existing disqualification of certain Medical practitioners from prescribing or preparing several exciseable drugs was timely. The same member also wanted to know the principle of assessment for the additional police force in Shahabad and the payment to the sufferers in the last riots. It was stated that the levy will be made ratably according to land revenue and rental. It is presumed that all Mahomedan households and such Hindu families as are known to have assisted in the suppression of disorder will be exempted. Several questions were put on the same subject by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath, in answer to which we learn that as many as 3,105 persons in Shahabad were accused, that 960 of them have already been convicted and the number of persons under trial or awaiting trial on 1st March was 1,540. The amounts claimed as compensation in Patna and Shahabad were Rs. 32,000 and Rs. 9,09,000 while the amounts allowed are Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,04,000. In Gaya, Rs. 1,91,000 has been claimed out of which Rs. 27,000 has been allowed on examination of claims amounting to Rs. 46,000. The exact figure of the total cost entailed by the riots was not available. Another member asked for particulars regarding the proceedings under Section 144 and 107, Criminal Procedure Code, instituted at Aurangabad against certain Muhammadans for burying dead bodies in an objectionable and prohibited place. The answers given will, we trust, satisfy the Hon'ble member. The Hon'ble Mr. Jameson was frustrated in his attempts to push the Government into a corner over certain aspects of the Champaran affair. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narain Sinha asked a few but important questions on the expansion of Village Unions, District Board expenditure on railways, and Health Officers in Municipalities in this province. The case of Harendra Lal Bose, let us hope, is the last instance of its kind, and that the shutting out of boys from the benefits of education on the ground of caste, creed or nationality will be discarded once and for all. We learn that the Public Bureau on Sanitation will shortly be reopened. A statement of the existing vacancies in the Provincial Educational Service, which was elicited by the same member, shows that there are as many as 14 vacancies, some of them dating as far back as 1915. Yet

how many officers are there in the lowest grade of that Service who have had no promotion since March 1915? By the way, we notice a curious mistake made by the Hon'ble member in his question on the site of a liquor shop at Jujra. The paragraph of the *Behar Herald* referred to appeared not in 1916 but in 1918, that is, two months and not two years back. The next meeting of the Council will be on the 13th.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

Sir William Meyer's last Financial Statement is one on which he can be congratulated. He described the revenue position as excellent. Railway receipts had broken the record, and the result was that the Government was able to face with equanimity a considerable increase in military charges. The revised estimate for 1917-18 showed a total revenue of £110,401,000, and expenditure £102,320,000, leaving a surplus of £8,081,000, of which £5,800,000 was imperial. This compares with a surplus estimated in the Budget of only £136,000. The net profit on railways was £10,100,000 as compared with the Budget estimate of £5,600,000. Salt showed an increase of nearly £1½ million; Customs increased over £1.7 million; and Income Tax £910,000. Military expenditure was estimated to amount to £28.8 million, an excess of £2.9 million over the Budget, due to war preparations and requirements. The Budget estimate for 1918-19 shows a total Revenue (Imperial and Provincial) of £108,347,000, and expenditure £106,151,000 with a surplus of £2,196,000. Military expenditure is estimated at £27.3 million, plus a reserve of £1.7 million for unforeseen charges. Every penny of the estimated revenue surplus will be needed to meet ways and means difficulties and there could be no question while war continues of reduction of taxation. "On the other hand," said Sir William Meyer, "as our difficulties arise our ways and means, and not on the revenue side, there is no present necessity for adding to the fresh imposts imposed during the last two years. We therefore keep our taxation on the existing level." It is proposed in the coming year to again raise a war loan of unlimited amount probably in the form of short term bonds the proceeds being made over to the Home Government as part of the £100 million contribution.

The Council assembled in full force to hear Sir William Meyer read his Financial Statement. The Viceroy was in the chair and the galleries were fairly full. Special interest attached to the Budget as it was Sir William Meyer's final statement and many people were anxious to hear if any fresh taxation was proposed. Sir William began reading his statement at 11-15 o'clock. The Hon. member said.—

My Lord,—I rise to present the Financial Statement for 1918-19, and as usual there will be no debate to-day. As regards subsequent discussion we are this year, as Your Excellency has already informed the Council at the opening of the session, introducing a modification in previous procedure which will, I think, be appreciated. We propose, that is, before dealing with particular portions of the estimates to have a general debate on the Financial Statement as a whole, which will enable Members to discuss and criticise to more effect than in the debate that has hitherto taken place on the final Budget, and will give greater reality to subsequent Resolutions which are admissible with reference to loan or taxation proposals and grants to Local Governments, or in the later compartment stage. This discussion will commence on the 8th March, and

we shall subsequently proceed to the stages at which specific Resolutions will be admissible. The Budget in its final form, with such alterations in the Financial Statement as may be required by later information or suggested by the discussions in Council, will be presented on the 22nd March. After that there will be no further discussion, the lifeless Budget debate of previous years being superseded by the general discussion on the Financial Statement above referred to, which, as I have said, will enable criticisms to be put forward at a time when our proposals are in a less rigid state.

We must again, unfortunately, assume that the war will continue throughout the coming year. That means a continuance, in probably aggravated form, of some of the special problems which I shall presently have to describe to the Council; and as I have said on previous occasions the constantly changing circumstances of the war materially add to our difficulties in estimating. We must go cautiously, and when the results turn out better than we anticipated, it is a matter for congratulation and not for criticism.

The general situation I have now to describe is in many ways similar to that outlined in my speech last year. The revenue position is again excellent. Our Railway receipts have once more broken the record, and far exceeded the figure estimated in the current year's Budget. The result is that we are able to face with equanimity a considerable increase in military charges. Our financial embarrassments, as I shall presently show, are mainly due to ways and means questions. We have had to incur here on behalf of His Majesty's Government constantly increasing expenditure which is repaid to the Secretary of State at home. Simultaneously there is serious and growing demand on our resources to finance the shipment of materials required for the prosecution of the war and of the food-stuffs which the Allies and many portions of the Empire are drawing from India. The account which I shall give later on of the calls which we have had to meet will be a sufficient indication of the anxieties which the year now coming to a close has brought with it. To meet these demands we have had to ask the trading and financial community to submit to restriction on their operations, and to share to some extent in the general financial burden. I fully recognise and acknowledge the spirit of co-operation with which these restrictions have been accepted. But I may quite legitimately claim that we on our part have at all times taken our full share in responding to the calls in question. We have been materially assisted in this endeavour to meet our responsibilities by the continued expansion in our currency note circulation, by the gratifying results which have been achieved by the War Loan, by the substantial success of our issue of post office cash certificates, and, latterly, by the material addition to our resources which we have received through the sales of Treasury Bills.

Our satisfactory revenue position is largely due to favourable agricultural conditions. The south-west monsoon of the current year was exceptionally bountiful and prolonged, and such damage as has been sustained by crops, as regards cotton for instance in some provinces, has been due not to deficiency of rainfall but to excess. The recent winter rains have been defective in the north and centre of India, but, speaking generally, the copious south-west monsoon has rendered this deficiency far less serious than would otherwise have been the case. I may add that the area under wheat, which shows an increase of 3 per cent. over the area finally reported last year, is the highest on record.

Trade conditions have on the whole been very satisfactory, in spite of the shackles placed upon them by difficulties in respect of railway transport and ocean and coasting freight, and the restrictions which military and political considerations have required us to impose on a variety of imports and exports. The total volume of the private sea-borne trade in 1916-17 was much the same as in 1915-16, though, as a consequence of the rise in prices, the recorded value shows an excess of about £40 million of which one-third occurred under imports and two-thirds under exports. The excess of exports over imports reached the record figure of £54 million as against £40 million in 1915-16. The financing of this large excess at a time when the ordinary adjusting method of imports of specie on private account is precluded has been, and remains, one of the principal problems which we and the commercial community have had to face.

The current year, so far as this can be gauged from the figures of the first nine months, shows little variation from its predecessor. The exports and imports of merchandise show a balance of £38 million in favour of India—reduced to £24 million by private imports of gold, which, however, as I shall shortly explain, have been acquired by Government. Practically the whole of these gold imports have come to us from Japan and America in liquidation of payments due from these countries for purchases of our products which they have not been able to adjust through exports of merchandise to India. Speaking roughly, of £108 million of exports in the first nine months of this year—grain, pulse and flour represent £27 million; raw and manufactured cotton £25 million; raw and manufactured jute £21 million; and tea and tanned hides between them £10 million. Over half our imports represent yarns and cotton goods, and sugar. The available results of this year's trade operations have thus disproved the gloomy prophecies made in some quarters as to the prejudicial effect on trade of the restrictions which for the reasons explained in my speech last year, we found ourselves compelled, in view of the larger interests involved, to impose on the Secretary of State's Council drawings. Similarly, there is nothing in the trade statistics to support analogous apprehensions that the raising of exchange in August last would re-act on our export trade. As I have said on previous occasions, these factors are of minor importance compared with the difficulties of obtaining freight, and cannot affect the demand for our produce and manufactures so long as war conditions secure these against the competition which India would ordinarily meet with in the world's markets.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR BIHAR AND ORISSA FOR 1918-19.

The Provincial Financial Statement was presented on the 4th instant.

The following are the salient features of the statement:—

The Provincial Revenues seem to have recovered from the temporary depression of 1914-15 and 1915-16. The revised estimate for 1917-18 anticipates an increase over the Budget Estimates of 2,52 thousand, and the Budget Estimate for 1918-19 anticipates a further increase of 9,41 thousand.

Under the principal heads of revenue, increase in the Revised over last year's actuals is most noticeable under:—

Stamps—	1,39 thousand.
Excise—	5,05 thousand.
Forests—	1,21 thousand.
Jails—	,68 thousand.

The steady increase in Stamps has been notice-

able since the establishment of the High Court apart from the actual receipts of the Court itself. The growth in the Excise Revenue is mainly due to the high license fee. The increase under Forest receipts is mainly due to the requirements of timber for the Military Department. The increase in the Jail receipts is due to the orders of the Military Department for tents and blankets.

On the expenditure side the following items will be of interest.

The High Court.—The net expenditure in the Revised is 6,34 thousand, and in the Budget 6,54 thousand. This is after allowing for receipts and represents the deficit under which the High Court is working.

The University.—The Patna University was established on 1st October, 1917. Including the Vice-Chancellor's pay and allowances and contribution to the University fund, the Revised and the Budget have been passed for 25 and 43 thousand respectively. These will be taken against the Imperial recurring grant of 1,00 thousand for the University sanctioned in 1913-14. The balance of the University grant after deduction of Revised and Budget expenditure will be 9,92 thousand.

Government Colleges.—The Revised and Budget have been passed for 2,89 and 2,94 thousand respectively, against the sanctioned estimate of 3,15 thousand. The savings are chiefly under salaries, as several members of the Indian Educational Service have gone on Military duty.

Police.—Provision has been made for a further recurring expenditure of 1,74 thousand under this head. For this the public have to thank the late disturbances in Shahabad and Gaya.

Medical.—A lump sum of 70 thousand is made for the Bankipur General Hospital which is to be made a provincial institution from 1st April 1918.

The New Capital.—The Government of India sanctioned for 1917-18 an expenditure of 21,36 thousand. Of this sum it is expected that 18,71 thousand will be expended.

Public Works.—The Public Works Department have estimated the expenditure on buildings connected with the High Court to be 1,47 thousand this year, and 1,25 thousand in the next.

The current year opened with a balance of 148 lakhs. The closing balance is estimated to be 140 lakhs, showing a deficit of 8 lakhs for the current year. The estimated closing balance for 1918-19 is 124 lakhs, showing a further expected deficit of 16 lakhs in the coming year. Under the orders of the Secretary of State, the balances of the Local Government are not available for present use except in special cases which must be approved by the Government of India.

NOTES.

The Bengali Regiment.

After deducting a certain number of men invalided and discharged, the Bengalee Regiment has now a strength of just about 2000 men, or 100 short of the full number required to enable it to maintain itself on service.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

WE are glad to learn that the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham, Commissioner of Patna, has changed his mind and is not going on leave as previously arranged.

WE understand that Dr. Surendra Nath Sen Gupta of Buxar will officiate for three months as Civil Surgeon of Shahabad during the absence on leave of Dr. Suresh Chandra Mitra.

WE are glad to learn that the proposal to raise the Patna City latrine fees from 6¼ per cent. to 7½ per cent was rejected by a majority of the Municipal Commissioners at the meeting held on Thursday. An attempt to refer the whole thing to a Committee was also defeated.

WE are extremely grieved to hear of the premature death at Ranchi from sudden heart failure of Mr. Jnananjan Shaha B. A., B. E., Executive Engineer, Public Works Department. The deceased gentleman who some time back was at Patna went on transfer to Cuttack where failing health compelled him to take leave. The late Mr. Shaha was an extremely capable officer while his genial personality made him an acquisition wherever he went. We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.

LAST week there was a very successful *Purdah* party given by Lady Gait in the Government House to which many Indian ladies were invited. The distinguished hostess was all attention and courtesy to her numerous guests. She mixed freely and had a kind word to every one of those present and personally showed them round the rooms in the Government House. There was an interesting lantern show given by Miss Parsons the popular Lady Principal of the Female Training College. There were light refreshments. On the whole the lady guests passed a very enjoyable afternoon in the Government House and came away with very pleasant impressions.

THE Sessions Judge of Patna and a special Jury were engaged in the hearing of the trial of 16 accused on charges of murder, grievous hurt and rioting with deadly weapons, for causing the death of one Makhdum Bux and hurt to another man Jaohar Ali. The case for the Crown was that while Jaohar Ali was reaping a 16 k. plot of land in his village within the jurisdiction of Phulwari, he was attacked with a mob of 50 or 60 men led by one Inderdewan Singh and Ram Bhagwan of a neighbouring village on the 9th November last. The Police after enquiry sent up 22 people. The main defence was the denial of any occurrence on the alleged plot of land, and a plea of *alibi* on behalf of the principal accused Inderdewan and Rambhagwan. The trial lasted for 10 days and created some sensation as the principal accused were well to do people belonging to the Kurmi caste. The Jury unanimously found 8 of the accused including Rambhagwan guilty under § 326 and 148 I. P. C.; and Inderdewan, a 3rd year class student, B. N. College, and 7 others were given the benefit of doubt and found not guilty. The Judge agreeing with the unanimous verdict convicted the 8 accused and sentenced 4 to 5 and the others to 2 years rigorous imprisonment and acquitted the others. Babu Mihir Nath Roy, Public Prosecutor, assisted by Messrs. Akbari and Ahmad Ali represented the Crown; Mr. Syed Hasan Imam and others defended all the accused.

MUCH sympathy will be felt for Mr. Ananta Nath Mitra, Assistant Sessions Judge, Bankipur on the shocking bereavement he has just sustained at the sudden death of his wife due to hæmorrhage after child birth. The deceased Mrs. Santa Mitra, B. A. Saraswati, was a highly accomplished and educated lady and was universally liked and esteemed for her kindness and amiability. We offer our sincerest condolence to Mr. Mitra.

A Deadly Enemy.

It is the continual dropping that wears away a stone. In the same way the continued twinges of Rheumatism, causing acute suffering with each appearance will wear away the strongest human system. The first shooting pains seem trivial, but as they continue they grow worse and the constant racking torture is more than human nature can endure.

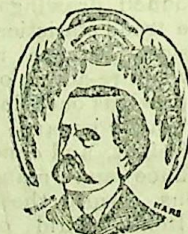
Stop before you reach this stage—buy a bottle of Little's Oriental Balm to-day. It has cured thousands of cases, saved thousands even in much advanced stages that the sufferers had given up all hope. It is pronounced the greatest of all blessings by those who suffer.

Little's Oriental Balm will positively relieve and cure Rheumatism even in its worst stages and is equally effective in cases of Neuralgia, Sciatica, Sprains, Strains, Bruises, Lumbago, Headache and other bodily aches and pains.

Sold at Re. 1 per bottle. Of all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

Getting the Best Out of Life.

The man or woman with chronic indigestion, liver and stomach troubles is getting no pleasure at all in life. Constipated for days together, then weak and unnerved by sudden diarrhoea,



TRADE MARK on every genuine package of Doan's Dinner Pills

or made miserable by bilious attacks, headaches and dull pains between the shoulder blades, there is for such no comfort until the cause is corrected.

There is no time to waste. Neglect may lead to jaundice, inflamed stomach, or bowels, or incurable diseases.

Regular exercise, good plain food, and avoidance of stimulants are steps towards a cure. The bowels should act at least once a day, but it is important to avoid violent purgatives.

A gentle laxative that acts equally upon the liver, the stomach and the bowels is the safest remedy, and Doan's Dinner Pills exactly meet this need.

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OUR Bhagalpur correspondent writes:—The spirit of awakening has also affected the hitherto neglected castes. In fact we are covering the track of centuries in the course of weeks. Who ever expected that the *Koeries* (who have up till now exclusively applied themselves in growing vegetables etc.) would rise from their sleepy languor so soon? These people in fact met last week for the first time to devise means for their uplift. The conference lasted two days and a number of instructive speeches were also delivered and the usual resolutions condemning the social abuses were also adopted. This clearly demonstrates that the present awakening is not only confined amongst the educated few (as is generally put forth by the Anglo-Indians and their organs of opinion) but has affected the people in general and is one of the strongest pleas for Home Rule.—The Marwari student who was arrested under the Defence of India Act has also been released. The local Collège has after all been closed for the present for a fortnight only. The locality being still badly affected, there is every probability that a further extension will be granted. This is just as it should be. The climate of this place is very much the same. Despite the fact that more restrictive conditions have been imposed upon the exercise of franchise, the municipal election will on the whole be a contested one, only ward VI being uncontested.

DARBHANGA NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PLAGUE IN LAHERIASARAI.

More than a month hence, cholera broke out in Darbhanga and Laheriasarai and had its full share of victims. The people had hardly recovered from the terrible shock when plague appeared in Darbhanga and worked havoc and so far, therefore, the brunt of plague attacks was borne by Darbhanga proper alone with the exception of a few stray cases here and there at Laheriasarai. Now, the regular fall of dead rats at Laheriasarai for the last few days is the unmistakable sign of the undoubted approach of the monster in the midst of the poor people.

Recently, a sister of Dr. Jaigopal Dey, highly respected and popular medical practitioner of Laheriasarai and the mother of Moulvi Hassan Jan M.A., B.L., Vakil of the Patna High Court died of plague. The Municipal authorities may resent—and resent unjustly—exposure, in Newspaper columns, of their empty boasts—but we cannot help it, for we know to our cost that no good can be expected to come out of them unless they realize, and realize also to their own cost, that the Municipality exists more for attending to the sanitation of the town and the health of the people than for presentation of periodical addresses "of self-praise, no recommendation".

It is high time now that Mr. Johnston District Magistrate of Darbhanga, who is a very kind and popular officer here, should interest himself in the matter of sanitation of this town and come to the rescue of the dumb millions committed to his charge.

GOKHALE AND PARANJPYE IN BIHAR.

There is a strong rumour afloat here that two members of the Darbhanga Bar viz Babus Brajakishore Pershad and Dharnidhar will give up their practice and serve as teachers in some National Educational Institution proposed to be shortly started by Mr. Gandhi at Motihari. What an enchanted land? Are we in Behar or in Poona?

DARBHANGA MUNICIPAL BY-ELECTION.

Of late, the vacancy for a Municipal Commi-

ssioner for Ward VII caused by the sudden and untimely death of the Mokhtar Babu Adaya Persad brought in the field two candidates, Mr. Barhamdeo Narain member of the local Bar and Mr. Abdul Jalil B.A. of this town, for election. The contest, though keen, was anticipated to end in the victory of the latter who defeated his adversary by over-whelming votes. Mr. Jalil is not only a distinguished graduate of the Calcutta University but he is also a man of bold and independent views and his presence on the Board is bound to whip it into new life and fresh activity for the good of the civic population.

ISLAMIC HOSTEL IN PUSA.

Pusa is a noted place in the sub-division of Samastipur, District Darbhanga. It enjoys an exceptionally salubrious climate all the year round and lying as it does in the interior, it is quite free from the bustle and noise of towns and cities. Since the establishment there of an Imperial Agricultural Institute, lots of highly educated Indian gentlemen of the Punjab, Madras, Bombay and elsewhere, besides Europeans, have been holding respectable and responsible posts and the place has become a veritable centre of activity. Though our benign Government has established a first rate High English School there, probably, for the education of the children of the employees of the institute, it has very generously kept its door open for the boys of the general public. The Moslem students, who have up to date obtained admission in the school, can be counted on fingers and they even have been putting up in the villages on the outskirts of Pusa for want of an Islamic Hostel, with the result that the door of the school is closed against them on the outbreak in the villages of one epidemic or other. In this way, the Moslem boys go practically without education more or less for six months and this deplorable state of things has been keeping the Moslem boys of and about Pusa from the benefits of education so generously placed within their reach. It is a matter therefore of sincere gratification and satisfaction to note that Haji Maulvi Md. Salim alias Bholu Babu (Alig) a reis and zamindar of Shahpur Baghouni within the Sub-Division of Samastipur has taken it into his head to remove this long and keenly felt want and with this object in view, proposes shortly to move in the interior to raise sufficient funds for the construction of a suitable Hostel. Popular as he is amongst the people of all ranks and positions, his entry in the arena is bound to secure to the movement the active support and sympathy of all well-wishers of the Moslem community.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Bihar and Orissa Forest Service.

One nomination will be made for the Provincial Forest Service Course 1918-21 commencing at Dehra Dun on the 1st April 1919.

Further particulars are published in the Bihar and Orissa Gazette.

Ranchi,
The 6th Feb. 1918.

H. H. HAINES,
Conservator of Forests,
Bihar & Orissa.

(3-3)

NOTICE.

Applications are invited up to 1st April 1918 for the permanent post of an Estimator in the Divisional Office. Pay up to Rs. 60 according to qualification. A passed Upper Subordinate and who has had previous experience in estimating need apply. The candidate selected will be on probation first and will have to join immediately.

Preference will be given to a native of the Province or one domiciled in it.

Apply with full particulars to the undersigned.

CUTTACK, } K. R. BERY,
The 5th March } Executive Engineer,
1918. } Mahanadi Division.
4-1

NOTICE.

GATECHISM ON THE INDIAN PENAL CODE.

By S. N. Singh Esq. B.L. An excellent guide to examinees for the B. L., the Departmental and Mukhtearship examinations. Price Re. 1/- to be had of the author S. N. Singh Esqr. Assistant Manager Hathwa Raj.

WANTED.

At once six good mine carpenters for mica mines near Kodarma E. I. Ry. Salaries according to qualifications. Only good and experienced men need apply. Box No. 37/18, Advertisement Department, Behar Herald. 3-1

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ALEX. SMART,

Agent, Patna Branch.