Amrita Bazar Patrika

REG. NO. C. 59

BI-WEEKLY—PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY

VOL LI CALCUTTA THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13 1919 NO 13

SEDITION BILLS

SIR W VINCENT'S—REPLY TO DEBATE THE VOTING.

Delhi, Feb. 7.

Summing up the debate in the Imperial Legislative Council on his motion to refer the Rowlatt Bill to a Select Committee Sir William Vincent said that the dangers to be apprehended from the Bill were somewhat over coloured by some of the members. He did not think it could be suggested that any action to be taken under the Bill would be against anything but sedition: He did not think there was any case now in Bengal where it could be suggested that persons under restraint were so placed by reason of their taking part in politics. Is members thought the safeguards were not sufficient and they suggested any more which would not impair the efficiency of the Bill the Government would gladly provide them. With regard to the urgency of the measure he drew attention to Sir Henry Wheeler's speech in the Bengal Council in which he stated that the revolutionaries were still engaged in enlisting young boys and fomenting trouble. They were waiting for the expiration of the present law to renew in more serious form their present activity.

Sir William submitted that this Bill had absolutely no connection with the Reforms or with political activity. The Government had as much interest in the Reforms as Hon. Members had. His view was that any recrudescense of anarchical crime would do more to endanger the cause of reform than anything else. He also believed that it would be abuse of power to continue a war measure after peace was declared and it they attempted to take such a course they should be attacked in this Council and with justice for misuse of powers not intended for that purpose. The present Bill was not a war measure. It was simply an Act to suppress sedition. In his judgment delay in passing the Bill would be fatal. There must be time to examine the Bill, and the Government were willing to give time by referring it to a select committee; but if the Defence Act expired and they had no power the consequences might be fatal. All the ground gained would be lost. Law and order would be sacrificed. He thought they would not be justified in delaying the passing of this measure. To suggest that the measure was due to police inefficiency was ungenerous to men who had done excellent work. It might well be said that failure in bringing men to trial was due to lack of moral courage and a sense of civil responsibility, which was fatal to any prosecution in such a case. He admitted that the measure infringed the liberty of the people but the Government were unwilling to impose restrictions unless they were satisfied of their absolute necessity. No other practical measures had been suggested and he submitted that for abnormal crimes they must have abnormal measures.

Referring to the observations of Hon. Members that there would be considerable agitation the Home Member said it would be the Government's duty to endeavour to meet any reasonable suggestions from members to make changes in the Bill without destroying the machinery. He did not hope to appease and conciliate those hostile to the Government. He hoped that the moderate element would assist them in allaying any agitation that might arise. Having replied to some of the charges made by Pandit Malaviya, Sir William said he realised the difficulties with which Hon Hembers were faced. He assured them that he was impressed with moderate non-official opinion and he was anxious to secure their support. He was prepared to make reasonable amend ments in the Bill without impairing the efficiency of it.

Mr. Banerjea:—Will you make it a temporary measure?

Sir William said that would be considered in Select Committee. In the meantime he asked the Council to support the Government in a moment of the greatest importance.

The motion was then put to the house, and on a division being taken it was declared carried by 36 votes against 21.

THE VOTING

Following is the result of the voting on Mr Patel's amendment:—

For the motion; (1) Sir G M Chitnavis, (2) Mr S N Banerjea, (3) Raja of Muhmudahad, (4) Dr T B Sapru, (5) Pandit M M. Malaviya, (6) Mr S. Sastri, (7) Mr. B N. Sarma, (8) Mir Asad Ali, (9) Mr V J Patel, (10) Mr. M A Jinnah, (11) Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy, (12) Rai Sita Nath Rai, (13) Raja Rampal Singh, (14) Rai Krishna Sahaya Bahadur, (15) Raja of Kanika, (16) Mr. Mazharul Haque, (17) Mr M. Shafi, (18) Khan Zulfiquar Ali Khan, (19) Mr G S Khaparde, (20) Mr. Bid Shukul, (21) Mr. K K Chanda, (22) Maung Bath Too.

Against the motion: (1) His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief (2) Sir Claude Hill, (3) Sir Sankaran Nair, (4) Sir George Lowndes, (5) Sir William Vincent, (6) Sir James Meston, (7) Sir Arthur Anderson, (8) Mr W A Ironside, (9) Sir Verney Lovett, (10) Mr F H Howard (11) Sir James Du Boulay (12) Mr A H Ley, (13) Mr H Sharp, (14) Mr R A Mant, (15) Major-General A H Bingley, (16) Sir Godfrey Fell, (17) Mr F C Rose, (18) Mr. C H Kesteven (19) Mr D de S Bray, (20) Lieut.-Col. R E Holland, (21) Surgeon-General Edwards, (22) Mr G R Clarke, (23) Mr A P Muddiman, (24) Mr C A. Barron, (25) Mr P L More, (26) Mr M N Hogg, (27) Mr T Emerson (8) Mr E C Walsh, (29) Mr C A Kincaid, (30) Sir John Donald, (31) Mr P J Fagan, (32) Mr J T Martin, (33) Mr W J. Reid, (34) Mr W F Rice (33) Mr H Monchieff Smith.

The following is the result of the voting on Mr. Banerjea's amendment:—

For the motion: (1) Sir G M Chitnavis, (2) Mr. S N. Banerjea, (3) Raja of Mamudabad, (4) Dr T B Sapru, (5) Pandit M M Malaviya, (6) Mr. S Sastri, (7) Mr. B N Sarma, (8) Mir Asad Ali, (9) Mr M N Hoggs, (10) Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy, (11) Rai Sita Nath Rai, (12) Syed Nawab Ali Chaudhuri (13) Rai Krishna Shahai, Bahadur (14) Raja of Kanika, (15) Mr Mazhrul Haque, (16) Mr M M Shafi, (17) Khan Zulfiquar Ali Khan (18) Mr G S Khaparde, (19) Rai Bahadur Shukul, (20) Maung Bah Too.

Against the motion: (1) H E Commander-in-Chief, (2) Sir Claude Hill, (3) Sir Sankaran Nair, (4) Sir George Lowndes, (5) Sir William Vincent, (6) Sir James Meston, (7) Sir Arthur Anderson, (8) Mr. W. A. Ironside (9) Sir Verney Lovett (10) Mr H F Howard, (11) Sir James DuBoulay, (12) Mr. A H Ley, (13) Mr. H Sharp. (14) Mr. R A Mant, (15) Major-General A H Bingley, (16) Sir Godfrey Fell, (17) Mr F C Rose, (18) Mr C H Kesteven, (19) Mr. D de S. Bray, (20) Lieut.-Col. R E Holland, (21) Surgeon-General W R Edwards, (22) Mr G R Clarke, (23) Mr P L Moore, (24) Mr T Emperson, (25) Mr E H C Walsh, (26) Mr C A Kincaid, (27) Sir John Donald (28) Mr P J Fagan, (29) Mr T. Martin, (30) Mr. W J Reid, (31) Mr. W F Rice, (32) Mr H Monerieff Smith.

DISCUSSION ON SEDITION BILLS. SPEECH OF THE LAW MEMBER.

The Hon Sir George Lowndes (Law Member) in supporting the Bill said that one fact had emerged from the debate and that was a very satisfactory one. The hon members had admitted that the facts as found by the Rowlatt Committee were true. No one had attempted to deny the existence of anarchical and revolutionary conspiracies In view of the inevitable conclusion on the facts found by the committee it was impossible for Government to agree to the suggestion that further powers of repression was not a necessary weapon in the hands of Government. They had created a commission of the highest possible character. They had asked an English Judge of eminence and of the greatest reputation as a criminal lawyer to advise them. The Commission had advised them and they as Government must accept their advice. In fact they would stultify themselves if they did not. Which were they to hear, this Commission presided over by such an eminent Judge and sat upon by eminent Indian Judges and non-official Indians or the non official members of the Council? The Commission's recommendations were unanimous. Could they as a responsible Government refuse to follow their advice and accept the hon members' statements that they should not agree with the conclusions arrived at for eradicating the evil? Government had made their choice and he thought, as member of Government, that they had made the right choice, the only choice possible. The position irresistably suggested itself to be this, there was a sick man, he had tried all the local doctors but they had failed to effect a cure; he brought out a specialist from England and associated with him the leading Indian doctors. Was the patient to follow their advice or was he to follow the advice of the folk round about to take sugar and water? In the ordinary things of life did any of them act like that? The eminent specialist had advised an operation but friends and neighbours said wait for six months. Was that the counsel of ordinary men of the world? To follow Government was to act on lines of commonsense, accepting the best opinion they could get. What had they on the other side? Some hon members had said that the remedy they were providing would be useless or that it would only make matters worse. Here he was glad to see that they had a difference of opinion among non-official members. He remembered Mr Jinnah telling them very frankly from his experience that he did not deny that by the methods proposed they would get rid of the evil. But what practical remedy was put forward by any non-official member?

Continuing Sir George said that Mr Banerjea's suggestion was that they had powers under the Defence of India Act and that they should use those, that they had powers to make Ordinances and that they should use those for six months, that they had Regulation Three of 1818 and that they should use that. If it was a mandate it was a mandate for repressive legislation of a far worse description than they were proposing? What was the other alternative? The member's policy could be summed up in the Asquithian "Wait and See." Government did propose to wait and see, but before that they wished to arm themselves. He would give an illustration of this. A burglar had broken into their house; he had robbed them, nay, he had gone further. They thought he might come again and they were therefore waiting behind the door. Would they in that case wait without a weapon or would they arm themselves? That was what Government proposed to do. Then several members had spoken as if the measure were to be brought in force in India immediately. If that was the idea he would say that the members had not studied the Bill. The measures were to be brought into operation not by wicked Local Governments, not by the wicked executive but by the Governor General in Council. They would come in operation if the burglar came again. He would further illustrate the matter. There was a poisonous snake and it had killed their son. Would they in that case go on charming the snake with music and give it offerings that it might not come again. No, they would in the ordinary way of life kill the snake. That was what Government was proposing to do.

Sir George briefly referred to what he called the exaggerated view hon members had taken of the effects of the Bill, observing that they were led away more by their hearts than by their heads. They had another form of argument which took the form of threats of agitation. That was an argument to which no responsible or reasonable Government would give way. He ventured to think that the agitation in India would be what the politicians chose to make it.

GOVERNMENT'S POWER TO LEGISLATE.

Dealing with the question of Government's power to legislate in the matter, Sir George said there had been the same old arguments raised half a century ago in India but which had never found support on the judicial benches in the country. The point was raised even in England and carried to the House of Lords and the power of Government was affirmed. Of late they had had two very big cases in Patna and the ingenuity of every lawyer from Calcutta to Patna was used; but with the same result. In his opinion there was no shadow of doubt as to Government's power to legislate in the matter. He also briefly referred to the argument about the right of appeal being taken away and pointed out that until a very few years ago there was no right of appeal in England. He also reminded members that even in India there was no appeal when a case was tried in the sessions court of a High Court. Here they were providing for trial by three High Court Judges and therefore there was no necessity for the right of appeal. In conclusion he said that as lawyer he had a hearty dislike for legislation of that kind and he would not have come into it and supported it whole-heartedly as he did now unless he was absolutely satisfied about its necessity

THE ROWLATT BILLS

MADRAS PROTEST MOVEMENT.

The General Committee appointed by the public meeting of the citizens of Madras held on the 30th January, 1919, to protest against the new coercion Bills, met yesterday (Tuesday) evening in the Mahajana Sabha Hall. An Executive Committee consisting of Messrs T V Venkatarama Iyer, B P Wadia, S Kasturi Ranga Iyengar, V A Sundram, T V Gopalaswami Mudaliar, A Rangaswami Iyengar, T. Prakasam, S. Satyamurthi and C. Rajagopalachariar was elected with Dr S Subramania Iyer as the Chairman. Messrs C. Vijayaraghavachariar and C B Govindaraja Mudaliar were elected as Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. After the approval of the draft circular to the mofussil for holding meetings, a resolution was passed to take the necessary steps for the publication of pamphlets containing the Bills and the necessary notes. The Secretary was empowered to make the necessary arrangements for conducting joint agitation throughout India and England, including the putting of questions in Parliament, obtaining legal opinion, etc. He was also entrusted with the task of collecting funds for propaganda work.

MADRAS COUNCILLOR'S PROTEST.

We the non-official members of the Madras Legislative Council having given our anxious and careful consideration to the Sedition Committee Report and to the Bills proposed to be introduced into the Supreme Legislative Council consider that the penal provision and preventive powers under the existing Laws are amply adequate to deal with such crimes as may exist, and we are clearly of opinion that the proposed measures are highly objectionable in principle and detrimental to the fundamental rights of British citizens. They are altogether uncalled-for.

(Sd.) The Hon'bles Messrs M. Ramachandra Rao, V. K. Ramanujachari, Yakub Hussain, T. Rangachari, A. Suryanarayana Rao, P. Siva Rao, K. Rama Iyengar, B. Venkatapathi Razu, K. Chidambaranatha Mudr, K. Suryanarayanamurthy Naidu, B. V. Narasimha Iyer, and A. S. Krishna Rao

FOODSTUFFS FOR MADRAS.

HELP FROM BENGAL AND MYSORE.

Madras, Feb. 8.

The Foodstuffs Commissioner notifies that Madras Presidency can draw Bengal gram from Bengal and the Punjab up to 3,000 tons during February. Priority certificates will be granted to registered merchants on application up to that limit. The Director of Civil Supplies, Mysore, has agreed to allow 1,400 tons of pulses (mostly horse-gram) to be exported to Madras, and priority certificates will be issued on application by registered merchants.

EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

PROTEST FROM BOMBAY. VIOLENT CONDEMNATION.

Bombay, Feb. 6.

A strong representation has been addressed by the influential millowners and merchants of Bombay to the Secretary, the Finance Department of the Government of India urging the reconsideration of the entire question of the Excess Profits Tax. The signatories heading the long list are Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Sir Dinshaw Petit, Sir Dorab Tata, Sir Sassoon David, Sir Cawasji Jehangir, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey, Messrs H. G. Hunt, Mohamedbhoy Currimbhoy, Norottam Norarjee Goculdas W H Brady, A. J. Raymond, Haji Yusuf Sobani and A. J. Billimoria. The memorialists submit that it is neither fair nor just that the country should now be called upon to contribute towords the war charges. It has already suffered the imposition of indirect and direct contribution and taxes of various kind and it was unfair in the extreme to impose such a tax on the retrospective basis when anticipation of profits have in many cases vanished with the cessation of the war. The proposed tax violates the very policy advocated by the Industrial Association and its incidence will ultimately weigh heavily on the consumers of the manufactured goods.

The war has practically ended a year before the time estimated by the Finance Member. Famine conditions are graver to-day than they were in the 10th of September last. Prices have risen to the extent never approached in times of a worst previous famine years, cost of living has risen beyond even abnormal limits, wages have gone up and are still going up, labour almost all over the country is in the most disturbed condition while the epidemic have sapped and reduced its vitality and efficiency and the combined results of all these serious factors are going to be grave dislocation and depression in the trade and industry, the effects of which are already beginning to be felt which are likely to grow in extent and intensity and from which the country will take a long time to recover. To impose an extra profits tax under such grave conditions is not only detrimental to the loan programme of the Government but is positively harmful to the best interests of the country to its recovery from any reconstruction after the war. They earnestly urge Government therefore to withdraw the Bill.

UQESTION OF KHILAFAT

SUPPORT OF THE AGAKHAN MEMORIAL

HOLY PLACES TO REMAIN UNDER SULTAN.

Benares, Feb. 8.

At a mass meeting of the Mussalmans held at the Juma Mosque, Benares, the following resolutions were passed.

(1) This meeting is of opinion that the question of the Khilafat is purely an Islamic question and that no other nation has a right to interfere with the faith of the Musalmans regarding this question.

(2) This meeting supports the view of Syed Amir Ali and H H the Rgakhan which they expressed regarding the fate of Constantinople.

(3) This meeting is of opinion that all the holy places of the Musalmans should remain in the possession and the power of the Caliph, the Sultan of Turkey as usual.—(by wire.)

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREST DEPARTMENTS

SIR HARCOUET BUTLER'S VIEWS.

Allahabad, Feb 9.

In resolution re the administration of the Forest Department Sir Harcourt Butler says. That it is his intention as soon as the agricultural situation permsti to appoint expert committee to consider the Allied questions of the reclamation of ravine and the usar lands of the province and the allocation of suitable areas for the cattle breeding industry. The most important item of the minor forest produce which is now coming into prominence is the Shir tar which has been accepted both by the chemists and commercial firms as equivalent of Stockholm tar and the market for large quantity is assured. The Lieutenant Governor has established a Board of agriculture of 14 members for the United Provinces with the Director of Agriculture as the Chairman. One member each will be elected by Upper India and the United Provinces Chamber of Commerce, British Indian Association and Oudh Zemindars Association, two non-officials will be nominated by Government, other members will be officials. Functions of the Board will be to act as the Adviser of the Government and the Director of Agriculture.

THE VICEROY.

TO VISIT KAPURTHALA.

Delhi, Feb 7.—His Excellency the Viceroy will leave Delhi on the 14th February will visit Kapurthala, returning on the 17th. He will be accompanied by Lieut Col R E Holland, officer on special duty representing the Political Secretary, and his personal staff.

COMILLA NOTES

MUCH STORM OVER TEAPOT. "BISCUITS AND BUTTER."

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Comilla, Feb 8.

We had a great deal of fuss here lately over biscuits and butter. Mr S. C. Sen (Rai Bahadur) occupying the exalted position of the Additional District Magistrate happened to purchase for Re 1-8 or so a tin of Mr K. C. Basu's biscuits from a local shop keeper. Four days after the purchase, his 'Chaprasi' came to the shop and offered to return the tin of biscuits and demanded the refund of the price in a tone of insolence peculiar to his class. The shop-keeper refused and the Additional Magistrate at once issued a notice to the shop-keeper to show cause why he should not be prosecuted for selling noxious articles and asked a doctor employed temporarily by the Comilla Municipality to report as to the quality of the biscuits which were, in the opinion of the Magistrate, "noxious". But the doctor did not see his way to accept the verdict. The doctor and the Assistant Surgeon attached to the local hospital were then summoned to give evidence. The young doctor's report was characterised as 'chalaki', the Magistrate used insulting language towards the doctor. There was verily a tempest in a teapot. The prosecution was however dropped, but the shop-keeper was asked to destroy the other tins of K. C. Basu's biscuits in his possession. Application by the shop keeper for copies of the proceedings was refused as if the British Raj was in danger and state secrets would ooze out. There was then a great flutter among his dovecotes, meetings of his "Deputies" in the Magistrate's chamber. Threats were held out to the shop-keeper who was advised by candid friends to ask for apology from the "Huzoer." But the shop-keeper did not yield.

There was however a change of front all on a sudden. The Municipality was approached to have the biscuits and some tins of butter examined by the Health Officer who declared that the butter was all right and that the biscuits were quite firm to the touch and not affected by damp or air and added that the peculiar smell of the biscuits might be due to its inferior quality. The Magistrate was now in a fix and every thing ended in smoke. We do not know if this 'Hakim' has got anything more important to do. We do not like to pry into the secrets of his chamber, where his "Deputes" meet every day and waste public time. We have however not yet been able to know what special arrangements have been made for the safe custody of the case.

FROM THE RIDICULOUS TO THE SUBLIME.

People have been complaining of the evils resulting from the union of judicial and executive functions in the same officer. The above case in a typical instance. We are tempted to refer to another. The huzoor referred to above dismissed a menial servant of his. But the poor man had the audacity and impertinence to go to his master's house on the day following to demand his pay. This was unbearable. The servant was remanded to custody and subsequently released on payment of Re 1 to the Charitable Dispensary fund.

BLACK CLUB.

We have got a club here in one of the rooms of the Town Hall building dominated by P. E. S. men. It is for the members of the Town Hall Committee to consider whether the club ought to be allowed to disturb the peace of others by the loud noise that members make every evening.

LOCAL BOARD AND DISTRICT BOARD.

The Local Boards of this district have been given the right of election this year for the first time. In one Union Committee the presiding officer could not record the votes and the Commissioner appointed a member. A suit has been instituted for declaring the appointment as irregular and invalid and injunction has been issued by a Munsiff for restraining the Chairman from forming a new Board. In the meantime, brisk canvassing has been going on for elections to the District Board. Almost all the members of the Local Board and some outsiders are candidates for election. The result is being watched with keen interest.

SIGNS OF TERMINATION

Bombay, Feb 8.

The mill strike has now nearly ended and all mills are working in full swing excepting only three, the men of one of them having resolved to resume work from to-morrow. Only the weaving department of the Currimbhoy mill seems to be wavering still.

LORD SINHA

INDO-ENGLISH BANQUET. ON RETURN FROM PARIS.

Bombay, Feb 8.

The London correspondent of the "Times of India" writes that Lord Sinha was expected to take the title of Lord Sinha of Calcutta, as that of Lord Calcutta is barred by the risk of confusion with the Metropolitan, whose signature is "Calcutta." He says arrangements are in progress for a banquet to Lord Sinha on his return from the Peace Conference in Paris the dinner being given by both Indian and English friends. It is understood that the Maharaja of Bikaner will be asked to preside.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

KATARPUR RIOT CASE

THE PROCEDURE ADOPTED.

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT OF TRIBUNAL.

Saharanpur, Feb 6.—The following is the full text of the note read out by the President, the Special Tribunal in court today:—

"The commissioners have read a letter in the "Pioneer" of the 5th February, 1919 relating to the trial of the Katarpur Riot Case. With whatever ulterior object this letter has been written it is clearly intended to create prejudice in favour of the accused, in the eyes of those before whom the proceedings in this case may ultimately come for consideration. We, therefore, consider it our duty to place the following observations on record:—

With the policy of the Government in appointing a Special Tribunal to try this case we have no concern; but with the question whether the procedure observed by us in the course of this case has prevented the accused obtaining a fair trial we are deeply concerned

We would first remark that the writer of the letter referred to appears to have been a party to the production of a Hindu pamphlet, published during the pendency of this case and written with the admitted object of clearing the Hindus charged with participating in the Katarpur riot of all responsibility for that riot; copies of which pamphlet have been sent anonymously by post to the Commissioners. The said pamphlet professes to be issued under the authority of the "All India Hindu Sabha" and the letter in question is signed by a gentleman who declares himself to be the "Honorary Secretary of the All India Hindu Sabha."

Although it was within our powers to frame charges against the accused at as early a stage of the trial as we thought fit and to call upon counsel for the defence to cross examine each witness immediately upon the conclusion of his examination in chief, we delayed charging the accused, and postponed the cross-examination for twelve sittings, by which time twenty five witnesses had been examined in chief, including the six principal witnesses whose evidence was particularly against the leading accused. Further, to enable defence counsel to obtain printed copies of the evidence of these witnesses and to prepare themselves for cross-examination we allowed the Christmas holidays to intervene before cross-examination began; and it was not until twenty six days after the trial had opened that cross-examination commenced.

Cross-examining four out of six principal witnesses Mr Norton had to leave Saharanpur for five days on urgent professional business at Karachi. To enable him to complete what he described as the scheme of his cross-examination we consented to the postponement of the cross-examination of the remining two principal witnesses until his return. That every indulgence was given to the accused in respect of the cross-examination of these six witnesses, on whose evidence the case against the leading Hindu accused mainly depended will be clear from the circumstances set out above, as well as from the fact that the, cross-examination of these six witnesses occupied seventeen court days; and if further proof is necessary to establish the consideration shown by the Court to the accused, we invite a perusal of the cross-examination in question.

Every morning throughout the trial accused's counsel have been given a typed copy of the previous day's evidence corrected the night before by the Commissioners; and thirteen copies of the printed evidence are made over to counsel for the defence as soon as copies arrive from the press.

When the Commissioners realized the disadvantage that the accused suffered from their leading counsel's ignorance of the vernacular and the unsatisfactory efforts that were being made to overcome this difficulty, the President undertook to translate Mr. Norton's questions to those witnesses who had to be examined in the vernacular and their replies were dictated in English to the stenographer so as to be heard by counsel. This procedure has been observed throughout the case. Whether the concessions mentioned above would have been obtained by the accused at a sessions trial under ordinary procedure we leave others to decide.

Regarding the allegation that the accused have no means of knowing "what are the exact charges" brought against them by the witnesses we may point out that separate charges were drawn up against each of the accused, which charges set out the particular criminal acts that each accused is alleged to have committed in the course of the riot, and these charges were read out to the accused by one of the commissioners. Moreover, when a witness is about to identify those of the accused whom he recognized during the riot, he is made to leave the witness box and go to where the accused are. From there he picks out in turn each man whom he says he recognised in the riot, and standing before him states in a loud voice what he has to say about him. One example from the record will suffice.

"This is Dhoom Singh of Jawalapur—Pointed to Dhoom Singh son of Balu Singh No 31. He was one of those who dragged Shabrati to the heap of kandas. I knew him before. His wife's people live in Katarpur."

As to the presence in Court of investigating officers we consider that it is essential to the proper conduct of a trial in any court that those who are instructing the prosecution should be present during the trial so as to be available when it is necessary for the prosecuting counsel to get instructions from them or when the court requires information regarding the investigation proceedings. The approver was not present in court when any of the witnesses whose evidence touched upon his own was in the witness box. When the examination of other witnesses began, counsel for the Crown asked whether this witness who is an educated man might sit in court and hear the case. Mr. Norton was not then present, but as none of the other counsel for the accused took exception to the request and the court saw no objection to it the request was granted. On his return to court a few days later Mr. Norton objected to the pesence of the approver, remarking that on a previous date when the approver had come to court to correct his evidence he had laughed at him while he (Mr. Norton) was cross-examining one of the sub-inspectors. As no objection had originally been taken to the witnesses' presence, and as no good reason appeared for removing him he was allowed to remain. Two days later, however counsel for the Crown in consequence of the objection taken directed the approver to keep away from Court and he has not since appeared.

During the whole trial no complaint has been made to the Court by any counsel of having had any difficulty in approaching his client during the trial to obtain instructions, though Mr. Speirs states that on one occasion when the Court was not sitting, the sub-inspector in charge of the prisoners objected to his talking to one of the accused. It is hard to believe that any court, ordinary or extraordinary, would allow an accused person to leave the dock during his trial in order to speak to his counsel.

The difficulty of enabling all the accused, numbering as they do 172 men, to hear the evidence given by the witness is one which would arise before any tribunal and in any building. As a matter of fact, one of the accused, sub-inspector Sheodial Singh, was permitted to leave his place and sit near to the witness box when a witness, in whose evidence he was interested, was giving evidence. This led to another accused making a similar request which was not granted as the evidence then given did not specially refer to him. Having regard to the fact that the trial is being held in a jail, with the jail routine going on from day to day, it is obvious that the public cannot be admitted to the Court, and a restriction in the number of persons permitted to come into the jail appears unavoidable. The alternative, a building elsewhere, to and from which the 172 accused would have to walk daily would, we venture to think, not be appreciated by the more respectable of the accused. Nor is it likely that any sessions judge having to try 172 men would permit his court room to be crowded by the relations and friends of as many persons. At the request of Mr. Speirs the commissioners granted passes to fifteen "Pairokars" to come into the jail to assist counsel for the defence. It has never been represented to us that any person necessary to the defence has been kept out of the jail by the restriction of passes to the number of fifteen. At the request of Mr. Speirs a number of fresh passes have been issued. We are informed that the building was designed by the district engineer who is a Hindu; and, in our opinion, though its plan might possibly have been improved on, it is, on the whole not inappropriate to the requirements of the situation. Its locality within the jail allows the accused during the mid-day interval a freedom of movement which they certainly would not have in any building situated in any part of the town, for the accused during this are allowed to leave the court-room and move freely about the open space in front of the main door. It is our considered opinion that in no case that we have had any experience of has so large a number of persons enjoyed such comparative ease during their trial as the accused have had in this case. Of thirteen out of the first twenty six days on which the Court sat, one or more of the accused has been absent on account of illness. At an ordinary sessions trial this would have involved an adjournment on each of the thirteen days, but under the rules governing this tribunal, the proceedings continued, no exception being taken by accused's vounsel.

SINN FEIN "ASSEMBLY."
AN EARLY MEETING.

Dublin, Jan. 15 ("Times)."

A report was issued to-night in Dublin of the meeting of the "Irish Republican members of Parliament" at the Dublin Mension House yesterday. A declaration of independence and a message to the free nations of the world was considered and referred back for final revision. Count Plunkettt reported that his invitation to Irish members who do not belong to the Republican Party to attend the meeting of the Constituent Assembly had only brought one reply—from Sir Robert Woods, M. P. (Trinity College), declining the invitation. The draft standing orders and scheme of constitution of the Dail Eireann (or Constituent Assembly) were considered.

The Committee reported that their labours had been interrupted by the raid on the Sinn Fein premises on Saturday by the British Forces. The matter was referred back to the Committee. It was decided to summon the Dail Eireann to meet at an early date, which will be announced next Friday, and that, as 37 members are in prison, all ceremony be dispensed with. It was decided to recommend to the Dail Eireann for approval the names of E. de Valera, Count Plunket, and Arthur Griffith as Ireland's delegates to the Peace Conference. A Committee was appointed to draft a progarmme of constructive work on democratic lines in consultation with Labour leaders, and an appeal was made that the anti-conscription fund should not be dissipated at this critical stage, but should be held intact.

P. R. IN SLIGO.

Sligo is in a state of great excitement. It is the only town in Ireland where an urban election will be held this year, and the election is remarkable for the fact that it is being carried out under the system of proportional representation. Sinn Fein is making a great effort to capture the board, but is being strongly opposed by the local Ratepayers' Association, which is representative of the commercial and industrial interests of the town, and by Labour. For the 24 seats on the board there are exactly twice as many candidates, 18 of whom are being put forward by the Ratepayers' Association and 14 by Sinn Fein. It is difficult to forecast the result of the election. Sinn Fein in view of its declared intention to seize all the public boards in the country, is certain to put forward its strongest effort. The votes will be counted to-morrow.

Home Rule for India.

Real Block Home and India Government.

PRESSURE OF PUBLIC OPINION NECESSARY.

MR. BAPTISTA'S LETTER.

Bombay, Feb. 10.

Mr. B. G. Horniman has received a letter from Mr. Joseph Baptista dated London 16th January in which he says: "I should like to inform you that this country is ready to concede Home Rule for India. I have also no doubt that the House of Commons even as at present constituted would pass any measure of reform that finds expression in efficient bill by an overwhelming majority. The Opposition is negugible. The real obstacle is the Government itself and the Government is influenced by a few men like Lord Curzon. It is intolerable that these few who are custodians of the vested interests should block the way. These few are of course spokesmen of Bureaucracy of India. It comes to this that the passage of Home Rule for India is blocked by the Home Government and Government of India and not by the people or the Commons."

"I do not believe for one moment that any deputation from India will now do any good. What is required is the pressure of public opinion in India upon the Government. Unless people demand with earnestness and Government realise that widespread discontent will result from a refusal to meet their wishes no modification of official proposals is probable. Genuiness and the intensity of the demand alone count and will prove efficacious."

ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

ALLEGED TORTURE BY A EUROPEAN.

Mr. Justice Riggott at the Allanabad High Court on Monday last heard an appeal presented by Mr. Soradji on behalf of a European named Maclarron, lately a Lieutenant in the I A R O. attached to the Supply and Transport Corps, who had been found guilty by the unanimous verdict of a jury on a charge of having tortured two of his servants by branding them with hoop-iron and was convicted and sentenced by the District Magistrate of Jubbulpore to six months' rigorous imprisonment, and fined Rs. 100, which, if realised, was ordered to be paid to the servants as compensation or in default, to undergo one month's further imprisonment.

It was alleged that the accused, who is a married man only 22 years of age, lost from Jackson's Hotel, Jubbulpore, where he was staying, Rs. 120 in currency notes. His suspicion fell on two newly engaged servants whom he handed over to the police. The latter released them on the following day, being unable to bring the charge home to them. The accused, it was said, ordered his trap at midnight, bound the suspected servants with ropes and drove off with them to a lonely spot near the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. He had taken with him two iron rods belonging to a mosquito curtain frame, a "sigree" (over) and some chancoal. On reaching the spot Maclarron, it was alleged, gagged the men and with a view to extorting a confession, branded them with a heated iron. After this he returned to his hotel and was arrested by the military authorities. Later he broke his parole and going to the railway station he is said to have stolen a bicycle and to have made his way to a neighbouring railway station, Mirgunj. The police and the military authorities were after him and the railway servants were kept warned. On reaching Mirgunj Maclarron boarded the brakevan of a goods train and represented himself to the guard as an officer of the Criminal Investigation Department on special duty. He was arrested by the police at Narsingpore and brought back to Jubbulpore. The case was transferred by the military authorities to the civil authorities on his dismissal from military service.

His lordship admitted the appeal.

The accused awaits another trial at the Allahabad High Court on a charge of dacoity along with three Indian sepoys.

SOME QUESTIONS ARISING OUT OF THE ROWLATT BILLS.

To The Editor.

Sir,—The Rowlatt Bills have been referred to the Select Committee inspite of the unanimous opposition of the non-official members of the Imperial Legislative Council. What is to be done now? Should the Hon'ble Members decline to act in the Committee or even in the Council when these Bills are in progress? It is not a question where you are objecting to certain specific clauses of the Bills. But, as Sir George Lowndes representing the Government frankly admitted that they had practically the whole opinion of non-official members against the Bills and further on, he said that in this matter it was impossible for the Government to surrender their judgments even to the unanimous opinion of non-official members, I quite appreciate the Law Member's remarks, but may I ask, how can the non-official members also surrender their judgments by acting as members in the Select Committee? Would this be in keeping with their sense of self-respect and dignity? Moreover we talk of passive resistance in our public meetings. Should it not begin from the right point and moment? Here is another question: Should our Moderate friends still welcome the Reform proposals when the Rowlatt Bills are going to be forced down our unwilling throats?

Pulin Chandra Das
of Chittagong.

Calcutta, Feb. 9.

A public meeting of the citizens of Madras will be held on Tuesday next in the Gokhale Hall to protest against the I C S memorandum.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief will introduce a Bill during the present session of the Imperial Legislative Council providing for the temporary continuance of the Indian Defence Force under new conditions so far as the demands on the members are concerned. The question of the establishment of a permanent system of military training and service for Europeans in India will come up later when the policy to be adopted at Home in regard to this problem is settled. We believe, however that Sir Charles Monro will make a statement on the subject when introducing the Bill at Delhi.

POLICE AND PUBLIC MEETINGS
BEHAR ADVOCATE.

We are not aware whether there is any standing order from the Government that public meetings other than political should be the place where and when the Police should be made to have their presence with a note-book and pencil in their hands getting every and any carriage as well as the name of any and every visitor of the meeting noted down. But from the two occassions when we had to attend the meetings one held on the 22nd December last at Rai Hari Padalal Saheb's house to protest against the Hon'ble Mr Patels marriage bill and the other held on the 13th January 1919 in the local Theosophical Hall, at the instance of the local Sevak Samiti, we have come to know that such an order does exist in Gaya at the command of the Superintendent of Police. On the above two occassions we personally had to note a Police man asking every visitor to give out his name which he at once noted down in his note book and also noting down the owner's name of private carriages. At the last mentioned meeting we had the following conversation with the Police man.

The Police man in plain cloth who was standing in the southern verundah of the hall of the meeting came to us while we were walking there before the meeting begun, and said.

"Ap ka nam ham bhulte hain, ka nam kahatha"

We said—"Editor Bihar Advocate"

The Police man (taking out his pocket book and noting in it ("Bhar Aveate." "Bas ehi noon."

We said. "Ham."

The Police man. "Aur ke ke ba unhkaro to nam batain."

We said:—"Ham sabh kisika nam nahin jante."

"Tum kon ho or kahewaste sub kisika nam puchteho"

The Police man said. "Hum" Writer constable "hain."

We said—"Tumko kisne yah hukum diya" hoi."

The Police man said—"Bara saheb ka hukum hai"

We said—"Keya" Inspector General?

The Police—"Nahi Subar dant saheb."

At this time the meeting began and we left the Police man where he was.

ORDER AGAINST MALIK BARKAT ALI WITHDRAWN.

We are glad to learn that the Punjab Government's order under the Defence of India Rule 3, requiring a pre-censoring of the writings of Malik Barkat Ali, M. A. LL B. formerly editor of the "Observer", Lahore, appearing in that or any other paper, has been withdrawn.—"Tribune."

MR. GANDHI.

Bombay, Feb. 10.

Mr. M. K. Gandhi has completely recovered after an operation and left for Ahmedabad on Sunday night.

EPIPHANY AND THE PROPHET.

To The Editor.

Sir,—With reference to the Press communique published by the Government regarding the Epiphany and moslem Religious feeling, may I enquire through the medium of your paper whether the Editor of this Epiphany gives "the fullest liberty in the discussion of religious and social questions" affecting the Christian religion and the Christian society by a Mahomedan or a Hindu?

Md. Gholam Ali.

MRS WILSON AND THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

Mrs. Wilson it is said, did not curtsey when presented to the Queen, a fact which has shocked our snobocracy. The reason is said to be that the wife of the head of a friendly State is presumed to be equal to our Queen Consort. In former days, we should probably have gone to war over an incident like that, and the howls of horror over the Gaekwar's wrong bow shows how some people feel on the subject. However, the U. S. A. and Great Britain are still at peace and they keep repeating to us daily that the Allies are absolutely unanimous. Mind "absolutely". That is the use of a Publicity Bureau to dispel doubts as the Viceroy has so lucidly pointed out.—"I. D. News".

A mob of fanatical Moplahs has created a serious disturbance in the Pandalore area and after killing seven persons, including minor officials, is reported to have sought refuge on a local hill. A force of police with the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, has gone in pu[illegible]

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INFLUENZA IN RANGOON.

Rangoon, Feb 8.—12 influenza, deaths out of a total of 45 were reported on Friday.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

Thursday, February 13, 1919

ROWLATT BILLS.

THE SO-CALLED CONCESSION.

Some of the non-official members of the Viceregal Council thanked the Government when the Home Member said that, he was authorised by the Government of India to state that one of the two Rowaltt Bills, namely, the Criminal Emergency Power Bill would remain in operation for a period of three years after the conclusion of peace. It was Sir Henry Cotton who used to chide the people of this country for one of their national weaknesses. It is that they are overwhelmed with gratitude even for worthless mercies. Does the assurance of the Home Member to make the Bill a temporary one, mean anything particular? First of all, why should you have such a ferocious law when there is absolute tranquility in the land? Secondly, three years is rather too long a time in all conscience within which period the executive, armed with the proposed powers, if they like, may drive the whole nation to madness. Thirdly, where is the guarantee that the law will be repealed after the expiry of three years? As Pandit Madan Mohan Malavya reminded the Council that, though in 1907 the Seditious Meetings Act was passed as a temporary measure it was made permanent in 1911!

Indeed, if a repressive measure is once in, it is never out. When the Press Act of 1910 was passed, the non-official Indian members, headed by Mr. Gokhale, brought forward a motion, demanding that it should be repealed after three years. The motion was no doubt lost, but the then responsible members of the Government practically gave the public to understand that the Act would disappear within that time if the Press did not indulge in so-called seditious writings. But though the Government admitted that the tone of the Indian papers had improved, what the Executive did was to lead a fierce crusade against them; and applying relentlessly the provisions of the Act, killed many of them and took heavy securities from the rest, allowing only such to exist unmolested as could make salams and say agreeable things to the authorities. And the Press Act now sits permanently as a dread nightmare on the breasts of the Indian publicists.

The "Englishman" thus exposes the hollowness of the "concession" of the Home Member. In his opinion the concession is a "foolish" one. "It is beyond the power of the Government," says our contemporary, "or of any body else to say that at a certain date three years hence or more the conditions that make these measures so necessary to-day will no longer exist." Again: "This foolish concession places the Government in an impossible position. Should it be found, as it quite likely will be found, that the need for some such measures three years hence is quite as urgent as it is to-day, we shall have the same opposition again to attempts, which may or may not be successful, to once more make the safety of the State secure and to re-establish the reign of law and order." Then, again, the decision of the Government of Lord Chelmsford cannot be binding on that of his successor. Even the sacred covenant of the Permanent Settlement, so solemnly given to the landholders of Bengal, has been treated as a mere scrap of paper by the imposition of the Road Cess and the Public Works Cess on land. One need not thus go into raptures over the concession which the Home Member has offered to the non-official members.

And the "Englishman" thus explains the object of this move on the part of the Government. "In this way," says our contemporary, "it is hoped to secure the support of some of the Indian Members of the Council, or at any rate to diminish the intensity of the opposition to the measure." Sir William Vincent himself makes this point very clear in his own words. Says he: "During the debate on the Criminial Emergency Powers Bill some of the non-official members expressed their wish that they would have been in a position to support the measures if it were of temporary nature. Mr. Bannerji had asked him pointedly what were the exact intentions of the Government. Since then he (Sir William) ascertained the views of the Government of India" and he was in a position to say that the Criminal Emergency Powers Bill would remain for three years only. But is this not

A VERY GOOD JOKE?

May we enquire who are the Hon members who entered so fully into the spirit of this joke and offered their support to the Government for the great concession. We may take it, as the "Englishman" points out, that it will open a very convenient way for some of the members who had been forced to show fight against that pernicious measure, to get out of the difficulty of supporting in Committee a Bill, the very principle of which they had so valiantly opposed before the full House. This is practically legislation "by consent."

We congratulate the Government on their foresight and the new training they are putting themselves in, to fit themselves for guiding and controlling the course of public policy and legislation in the country in the coming regime. After the M.-C. Reforms are introduced, we shall have the beginnings of parliamentary government in this country. The Executive will have then to cultivate the leaders of the new legislative councils for getting their measures passed by the legislature. That process has evidently been already started. There seems to be growing an excellent understanding between the members of the Viceregal Council and the Government, without which it seems inexplicable how Sir William Vincent could so readily fall in with the suggestion of certain members and offer to accept their wishes in this matter. We are really glad at this new phase of bureaucratic evolution in India. It shows that the days of absolutism are going in the Government of India. Hitherto the Anglo-Indian traders and merchants and the Indian Civil Service were the only forces that controlled the absolute autocracy of the Government of India in this country. Now we are having another brake in the machinery of government, the agreeable members of the Council. The Government have come to recognise it that they cannot ignore this "moderate" opinion any longer, but must try to carry it with them. The present concession means this confession. This is something upon which we may congratulate ourselves a little.

Apart from this confession, we fail to see what is this concession except a good joke. The Government do not abandon or modify by even so much as a jot or tittle, their fundamental position, namely, that to fight the Indian revolutionary movement there must be a suspension of the fundamental rights of civilised citizenship in India, and the people at large must be placed at the mercy of the police and the executive, so that the powers of the present executive, who own and owe no manner of constitutional responsibility to the people, may be maintained. They do not abandon the principle of these obnoxious measures. All that they do is to find a way to such members of Council as may have been forced by the strength and unanimity of public feeling against these Bills to offer an united opposition to them upon their first introduction to accept them ultimately and not be drawn or driven to load the outside opposition to them. We fail to see how else is this assurance of any value to us.

The proposed Bills are of such a nature that after they are passed no honest and vigorous constitutional agitation will be safe or even possible in this country. The leaders of one province will be restrained from helping the political education of the other provinces. And, even in their own province they may be restrained by executive order from writing or speaking upon public questions. This is what may be in store for inconvenient public men. The position of the youths of the country will be far worse. Any young man may, simply upon the report of police spies, be detained in prison or within specified limits in selected localities, as is being done now under the Defence of India Act. The exceptional circumstances, under which people are living now, will be continued by these new measures, for three years after the conclusion of peace! A happy prospect indeed! And this is the conecssion which some of our amiable legislators have so greedily accepted with such exuberant gratitude. But they are very much mistaken if they think that the public will follow them in this matter. The only effect of it will be to strengthen popular agitation against these Bills with the possibility of it being deprived of the leadership of some weak-minded politicians who might put some brake upon the antagonism of the more ardent patriots. This concession will not abate the agitation or opposition to these Bills, but will only embitter the present struggle. We hope the Hon. members of the Viceroy's Council will seriously consider all this and do everything in their power to compel the complete withdrawal of these barbarous measures.

THE ROWLATT BILLS AND THE SITUATION BEFORE US.

The Government must have by this time seen the strength and extent of the public feeling in the country in regard to the two Sedition Bills which they propose to force through the Council in the course of the next few weeks. "Extremists" and "Moderates" are both equally up against these legislations. Out of a total strength of 27 elected members of the present Viceregal Council it seems that 25 were present at the last meeting, the two absentees being the Maharajah of Cossimbazar and Sir Dinshaw Wacha, and it seems from the list of voting published in the papers that at least 23 out of these 25 opposed the passing of these measures in such haste. Mr. Patel's amendment to defer the consideration of these Bills until six months after the expiry of the term of office of the present Council, was supported by all the Indian members present with the exception of Nawab Nawab Ali Choudhury. But even he did not vote with the Government on this amendment. Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea's amendment asking for the presentation of the Select Committee's Report six weeks after the Reform Bill was passed by Parliament, was supported by Nawab Nawab Ali Chowdhury and Mr. M N. Hoggs, one of the representatives of the Chambers of Commerce and by eighteen other elected members. Four of those who had voted for Mr. Patel's amendment did not vote one way or the other on Mr. Banerjea's amendment for reasons stated in the telegram of our own correspondent at Delhi. Taking the voting of the two amendments together it may be said that every Indian member present (with the exception of Sir Sankaran Nair who had of course as an Executive Councillor to vote with the Government) voted against these Bills. We hope the Government) realises the significance of this vote, and the effect which it is bound to produce upon Indian public opinion.

The voting in the Viceregal Council, however, is only a feeble index of the strength and unanimity of public feeling in the country against these two Bills. So far the leaders of the people alone have spoken against it. The agitation against these Bills is just now confined practically to the educated classes. But the proposed legislation will affect not only the rights and liberties of the educated classes alone, but in an equal measure of the masses as well; and it will not be long before this agitation extends to every section of the Indian community. Of course, the Bureaucracy, conscious of its own unlimited powers, may not pay any heed to this agitation and may pass the Bills, absolutely regardless of Indian public opinion in this matter. But they will consult their own prestige and the peace of the country better if they consider the consequences of carrying such an unpopular measure through the Council by the solid vote of the official majority. Lord Curzon did the same thing in connection with the Partition of Bengal and we know what was the result of that ill-fated measure.

The Partition of Bengal was, in the first place, as we have recently pointed out in these columns, a provincial affair. But the present Bills concerns the whole of India. In the next place, the Partition of Bengal was opposed mainly on grounds of sentiment only. That measure did not affect the daily life of the Bengali people nor did it offer any menace to those elementary rights and liberties of British citizenship to which the people of that Province had been used ever since the establishment of the British administration. The present Bills are opposed not merely, if at all, upon any sentimental grounds. They concern the every day actualities of the life of the people. The inevitable result of the new legislation will be to increase almost infinitely the powers of the Police.

We wonder if Lord Chelmsford and his advisers understand what the extension of this Police rule will mean to the masses, and how it will affect the attitude of the teeming populations of the country towards the present Government. Not even Sir William Vincent will contend that the Police in India occupies the same position in the estimate of the people which the police in civilised countries occupy in the eye of the general mass of the populations of those countries. By an irony of fate the Indian Police are not looked up to by the Indian people for the protection of their rights and liberties, but are, whether rightly or wrongly, looked upon in a very different light. It is notorious that Indian villagers prefer, in nine cases out of ten, to silently suffer from thieves and robbers rather than seek the protection of the Police against these enemies of society. Few people therefore care to come into any sort of contact with the Indian Policeman. The character of the Indian Police is largely responsible for the indifferenee of the Indian people to the criminal administration of the country and their general unwillingness to help that administration in any way. This difficulty will not decrease but immensely increase in consequence of the new legislation. Has the Government considered this simple thing?

In the anti-Partition agitation in Bengal the Government managed to set up a Mahomedan opposition to it, specially in East Bengal, through the influence of the late Nawab of Dacca and a few other Moslem Zemindars. But we are afraid they will find it impossible to create any body of opinion in the country in favour of the present Bills. Even those who just five months back lent their support to the Rowlatt Report and the administration of the Defence of India Act, have now openly come out with unqualified condemnation of the present measures. When Mr. Khaparde brought a motion at the Simla session of the Council, asking for keeping the consideration and disposal of the Rowlatt Report in abeyance until a searching enquiry was made by a mixed committee of officials and non-official Indians into the working of the Criminal investigation department, almost all the Indian members present with the exception of the Hon Pandit Sukul, voted with the Government in throwing that Resolution out. But to-day every one of those very Hon'ble gentlemen has come to recognise the evil that lurked behind that Report.

In the debate on Mr. Khaparde's motion Sir William Vincent referred to the Chandavarkar-Beechcroft Report, as supporting the conclusions of the Rowlatt Committee. He said "My Lord, I do not wish to speak at any length of the admirable work rendered by the Police, but I will quote an article from a magazine edited, I believe by an Indian:—

> "Those who hasten to treat lightly the Rowlatt Committee's Report will have to revise their views, now that two judges of such high standing as Sir Narayan Chandavarkar and Mr Justice Beecheroft have pronounced their opinion on each of the cases of internment examined by them, as members of the Bengal Advisory Board, and found only six cases out of 806, in which the evidence was not sufficient to warrant internment. The result of the enquiry redounds greatly to the credu of the much abused C. I. D.

But even Sir Narayan Chandavarkar has been forced by these two Bills to warn the Government against forcing them through the Legislature by an official majority. "If the Bill is passed" he says, "by an official majority although not backed by public opinion . . . . they will unconsiously fall in with the anarchists' view of the Government, namely, that law and government are based on physical force and violence, and not public opinion.

> "On the basis of the answers he got to his questions while on the Advisory Committee and the character and proclivities of 85 per cent of the interned youth, he has come to the conclusion that our whole political and social policy was at the root of the revolutionary crime. He urges it to be changed first, as it is going to be changed, and till then the legislature, as representing public opinion, at least Indian public opinion, which ought to count above all in the matter, should decline to pass any measures on the lines of the Defence of India Act."

The Government should take timely warning from Sir Narayan's words and hasten to withdraw these Bills, at least for the present, because, any attempt to force them through the Council will be bound to throw the whole country into an agitation the consequences of which cannot be either for the good of the people or for the Government.

The leaders of the people themselves should lose no time to try to save the situation by making it clear not only to the Government here, but, which is far more important, to the Secretary of State and the Government in London, that the inevitable result of the passage of these two Bills by a solid official majority will be a recrudescence of the unrest following the Partition of Bengal in 1905.

THE ROWLATT BILLS: AND THE DUTY OF THE LEADERS.

The whole country is deeply grateful to the non-official Indian members of the Viceregal Council for the bold stand they took against this new menace to the fundamental rights and liberties of His Majesty's subjects in India. The Bureaucracy have thrown out a challenge not only to these Indian members of the present legislature, but also to the whole country, by carrying the motion for the introduction of these pernicious Bills against the unanimous voto of the Indian members, through the solid official majority which the constitution of the Council provides to the Executive Government. The division of last Friday was upon the principle of the Bills. Those who voted against Sir William Vincent's motion refused to accept the principle of these measures. And we feel bound to say that Messrs Patel and Jinnah by refusing to vote on Mr Surendra Nath Banerjea's motion which agreed to the reference of the Bills to the Select Committee, but only asked that Committee to present their report after six weeks after the passing of the proposed Reforms Bill by Parliament, acted with perfect consistency. Perhaps, those who voted for this motion thought that if they could carry it, they might defer the mischievous enactments until the Reforms were introduced, when possibly, these might have to be passed through the reconstituted Council. But the Government did not fall in even with Mr Surendra Nath Banerjea's views; and his amendment was also thrown out by the solid official vote like Mr Patel's. The plea which might have justified their voting on Mr Banerjea's amendment and thereby practically accepting the principle of these Bills cannot hold good now. And the question is, what do they propose to do now?

If they are really serious about it, if, in other words, these Hon'ble members are seriously convinced that these Bills, if passed into law, will not only offer a real menace to the liberties of His Majesty's Indian subjects but frustrate the very ends which they have professedly in view, namely, the control and eradication of the revolutionary movement in the country, then it is surely their distinct duty to do all that lies in their power to prevent the passage of these Bills through the legislature.

How, it may be asked are they to do it? We think there is only one way left to the Indian members of the Council in this matter. Pandit Madan Mohun Malavya raised this point when he wanted the Government to place the correspondence that has passed between the Government of India and the Secretary of State for India on this subject upon the table of the House. No Bills can be introduced into the Indian Legislative Council without the sanction of the Secretary of State for India. Now it seems reasonable to infer that the Secretary of State's sanction to the Rowlatt Bills must have been obtained before the present Government was constituted in London, and Sir S. P. Sinha was appointed Under-Secretary of State for India. So that it is most likely that the Government of India has not had before it the opinion of the present Cabinet on these measures. We do not know what advice Lord Sinha would give to the Secretary of State in this matter. We do not really know how the sanction of Mr. Montagu was obtained in favour of these Bills. And, it is just here that we feel that there is a very great opening before the Indian members of the Viceroy's Council to work for the withdrawal of these Bills.

We can safely surmise that the Secretary of State had been assured by the Government of India not only of the urgency of these measures, but also of the general support of so-called "Moderate" Indian opinion to them. We cannot blame the Government of India if they gave this assurance to Mr Montagu. They were reasonably led to expect the support of the "Moderate" members of the Indian Legislative Council by the vote they gave last September on Mr Khaparde's Resolution on the Rowlatt Report. Every Indian member present at that meeting of the Council with the exception of the Hon'ble Rai Bishnu Dutt Sukul Bahadur, voted against that Resolution. All of them accepted the conclusions of the Rowlatt Report. Messrs. Surendra Nath Banerjea, Sreenivasa Sastri, Mahomed Ali Jinnah, Dr Tej Bahadur Sapru—all of these gentlemen declared Mr Khaparde's Resolution as inopportune. And it was that debate which naturally encouraged the Government to expect that any necessary legislation based upon the Rowlatt Report would meet with the general support of these Hon'ble members. Last week's debate and vote must have, therefore, come as a very painful surprise to the Government. We have a suspicion that the correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State which was called for by Pandit Malavya could not be produced for the simple reason that it would reveal the misdirection which the former gave to the Secretary of State in this matter. The Government is not alone responsible for creating that misimpression in the mind of the Secretary of State, our own leaders must candidly share it with the Government.

But now that they have come to realise the gravity of the menace which these Bills offer both to the Government and the people, it seems to be their clear duty to make haste to remove that wrong impression. And the only effective way in which it seems to us, they can do so, is to withdraw from the Select Committee of these Bills in a body, and let the Government carry out their own policy with their solid official majority. Babu Pulin Chandra Das, whose letter is published elsewhere, also makes this suggestion. And he pertinently points out that the Hon'ble members may very well keep themselves aloof from the Select Committee on the same ground which the Government urges for its inability to yield to the unanimous official opposition. This withdrawal will at once indicate the seriousness of their opinion in this matter and may very likely lead the Secretary of State to instruct the Government to shelve these Bills, in any case for the present. We can, however, only hope the disposal is in the hands of the Indian members of the Select Committee who, we hope, will seriously think out this idea which is being very widely talked about among the people.

The Black Bills and Non-Official Members.

The result of the non-official voting on the two Sedition Bill amendments must have given a rude shock to the Government. Even such members as Nawab Syed Nawab Ali Chowdhury, Mr Moung Dah Tow, Mr M. M. Shah, Khan Zulfiquar Ali Khan forsook the Government and joined the popular party. This shows that there is yet hope for India. The adage goes that "even a mad man understands his interest." What the Government members asked their non-official colleagues to do was to practically lay a knife across their throats and those of their nearest and dearest kith and kin. Indeed, for them to accept the monstrous Bills is to place their lives, liberty and honour at the tender mercy of the Police. Even the dullest among the Indian members could see it. How could they then agree to this unnatural arrangement, unless they had gone stark mad or been reduced to the lowest depth of degradation? The very fact that members of the Council, to whom opposition to Government has ever been something like a sacrilege, paid no heed to the earnest appeals emanating from such august authorities as the Viceroy, the Home Member, the Law Member and went against them in a body proves conclusively that unless the proposed legislation was really black in its nature they would never have adopted this unusual course. The Government, if it had not been under a passion, would have dropped the Bills immediately after the result of the voting was declared. But where is the party to give wisdom to the Government? Its power is unlimited and irresistible. It can even pass an Act to-morrow making it compulsory for Indians to walk on their heads. All the same autocracy has its dangers. In the matter of the Rowlatt Bills at least, the action of the Government has made the whole country united and stand in direct opposition to it as one man. Is it possible for any civilised Government to get on for a long time without the co-operation of the people over whom it rules? Such a trial of strength between the people and the Government is always undesirable. It weakens both the parties and brings seething discontent in the land. Blinded by a feeling of Zid, the Government is yet unaware of the mischief it is going to inflict on itself and the people, by its short-sighted and suicidal policy; but, it will not be long before it will have to realise the true situation and then it will find very difficult to undo the unmitigated harm it has done to the Empire by driving the people to go mad, without rhyme or reason.

The Absent Members.

A few Indian members did not attend the meeting of the Imperial Council when the Rowlatt Bills were taken up for discussion. Those who failed to do so deserve censure unless they can show good grounds for their absence. Sir Dinshaw Wacha was naturally very much missed. Possibly he could not come owing to his old age and bad state of health. But he sent a telegram to the Viceroy strongly condemning the Bills. Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Iyenger could not attend the meeting of the 7th owing to some unavoidable circumstances but he more than compensated his absence by being present at the first meeting and making a good speech, a short report of which will be found in the telegram of our own correspondent at Delhi published elsewhere. Of the Bengal members Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy was absent. He owes an explanation to his constituents why he kept himself away from the Council Chamber at Delhi when such a revolutionary measure affecting the liberty of the Indian people was being forged. Like Sir Dinshaw Wacha he might have wired a protest against the Bills if unavoidable circumstances prevented him from going up to Delhi. The telegram of our own correspondent explains why Mr Patel and some other members did not find it possible to vote for Mr Banerjea's amendment.

The Burglar and Sir George Lowndes.

From the speeches delivered at the Imperial Legislative Council on the Sedition Bills, it seems that the official members were disposed to take the whole matter in a light-hearted manner. Arguments which would ill become boisterous club houses were employed in support of the Bills in the Council of the Indian Empire. Sir George Lowndes, for instance, gave certain illustrations which however creditable they might be to his sense of humour, spoke very little in favour of the quality of his head. He said in the course of his speech:—

> "A burglar had broken into their house. He had robbed them, nay, he had gone further. They thought he might come again and they therefore waited behind the door. Would they in that case wait without a weapon or would they arm themselves? That was what the Government proposed to do."

We have no hesitation in recommending Sir George Lowndes to take his lessons in Logic from any callow College student. He would tell him that politics is too complicated a subject for analogy with trite illustrations like the one advanced by Sir George. The conduct of a burglar and that of a householder in particular circumstance were not sufficient reasons to filch away the liberty of 300 millions of loyal subjects of His Britannic Majesty. Such illustrations are fallacious, nay, childish. But taking Sir George and his illustration seriously for

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purposes of argument, any of the non-official members might retort by saying that the burglar had indeed gone away. But Sir George waiting behind the door in expectation of the return of the robber—of which there was very little possibility—might run amock with the weapon in his hand mistaking innocent passers by for the robbers. This was the apprehension which weighed with the non-official members when they presented a united opposition to the liberty destronging Bills. The speeches of the official members remind one of the story of the fogs and the pelting children in Aesop's Fables. While official members like Sir George Lowndes were talking glibly of "water and sugar," the "charming of snake with music" and such other sportive nonsense, the non-official Indian members must have realised in their minds that what was apparently a play to the Indian bureaucracy was death to the liberty of the Indian people.

Prospect of Indian Reforms.

An English gentleman of leading position in England who is in touch with the Ministry writes a private letter to a friend by the last mail from which we cull the following passage:

"The question of Indian Reforms is in abeyance for the time being pending the Report of the two Committies now at work in India, especially the Committee on Indian electorates whose recommendations will of course be vital. Some people think that the large conservative element in the new parliamentary majority which has issued from our general election will unfavourably affect the final scheme. I don't myself believe that that will be the case, and I sincerely hope that it will not, for I hold that though no doubt there are many difficulties and many risks in the new departure foreshadowed by the M-C Report, Britain's position all over the world has been so immensely strengthened by the triumphant results of the war, that we can more than ever afford to look difficulties in the face and even to take considerable risks in dealing with the Indian problem".

In the concluding sentence the writer makes a statement the importance of which cannot be exaggera d. If the rulers in this country had realised it they w uld have never resorted to such un-English and atrocious measures as the Rowlatt Bills to eradicate the so-called anarchism from India. The "triumphant results of the war", as the writer points out, have made England the first power in the world. This is plain to the meanest intelligence. Every one of the other four great powers, even America, cannot but acknowledge the superiority of England over them in men, money and other resources. That being so, India can never escape from her grip if it ever wishes to sever her connection from the British Empire. A few Maxim guns and aeroplanes are more than enough to keep the three hundred millious in this country at bay, disarmed, disorganised and disease-stricken as they are, if they want to regain their freedom by force.

Do not the rulers, therefore, make themselves ridiculous when they show such nervousness for a handful of so-called Bengali anarchists, who are not only absolutely unarmed but to catch whom the myrmidons of the C. I. D. have been let loose? Do they not also proclaim their own worthlessness when they want more power—powr which even angels in Heaven tremble to possess and exercise—to cope with these few misguided Indian youths, especially when the whole country is against them? Verily the wise rulers have lost their sense of proportion and balance of mind. If God has given England the foremost place in the world, she should make a good and not bad use of this great blessing. And in what better way can she express her gratitude to Him than by dealing fairly with her great Indian dependency? But, alas, the Black Bills introduced in the Imperial Council of India show that the English rulers have not yet been able to outgrow their deep-rooted suspicion and prejudice against the educated people of this country and realise the nature of the boon which Heaven has bestowed on them.

Christ or Clausewitz.

The remarkable article by A. G. G.—(Mr. Gardiner, editor of the "London Daily News")—reproduced elsewhere, will be read with profound interest by all. It was written during the last Christmas and deals wih the probable result of the Peace Conference. If Christ preached peace Clausewitz preached war. Whose teaching will prevail? Mr. Gardiner discusses this point and comes to the conclusion that inspite of the earnest efforts of President Wilson the world is not likely to be a whit the better than it is. A prophesy like this was not needed from the renowned editor of the "Daily News"—every child could see it. The fourteen points with which Mr. Wilson came to Europe in his pocket have, one by one, been already practically scattered to the four winds. Mr. Gardiner, in his simple and impressive language, shows how, even before the sitting of the Peace Conference, which was to establish brotherhood and good-will among the nations of the world, Clausewitz was roaming over England, America, France and securing influential adherents to his side. They scoff at the "League of Nations" and proclaim the "League of Hate." What did the English talk about in the last election? "We talked about hanging the Kaiser, we talked about squeezing the lemon, about taking (Sir Eric Geddes) every gold or silver trinket that the Germans have, about 'firing them out' (Mr. Lloyd George), about dumping and so on. Was there one word from any responsible statesman in office that rose above the level of Mr. Bottomley or that suggested that having destroyed the gospel of Clausewitz we were going to try to give the world a better gospel to live by? I do not recall one." But Mr. Gardiner is a little unreasonable. How can you expect millenium in Europe or for the matter of that America also, when poor God has been deposed in those continents? They have set up Mammon in the place of Sri Krishna—the God of all-love, all-beauty and all-sweetness.

Sir Michael's Latest.

The Government of Sir M. O'Dwyer is in evidence before the public, because of its wonderful performances. Its latest act is to declare forfeited to His Majesty all copies, both in English and in vernacular, wherever found, of the address delivered by Mr. M. A. Ansari, Chairman of the Reception Committee of the All-India Moslem League at Delhi, in as much as it contains "matter which is likely to incite to acts of violence and disloyalty to King Emperor etc." Of course, the Press Act has placed unlimited power in the hands of the Executive to condemn and seize and destroy any sort of writing and for which the aggrieved party can have no remedy in the highest judicial court of the land. But in the present case His Honour perhaps has overshot the mark as his condemnation of Dr. Ansari's address casts a reflection on the loyalty of the All-India Moslem League as a body. Mind this utterance of Dr. Ansari was delivered from the platform of the All-India Moslem League, which had the enthusiastic approval by all the assembled Mahomedan Delegates. That being so, the condemnation of the speech means nothing shrt of a scathing indictment of the League which represents the views of the educated Moslem in India. We are yet to see if this action of the Punjab Government is to go without a strong protest from our Mahomedan brethern.

England's Mission.

Elsewhere is published an extract from Mr. Eardley Norton's Reminiscences now appearing in the "Looker-on"—which, we have no doubt, our readers will read with deep interest. He shows how the great Englishmen who laid the foundation of English education in India clearly foresaw and encouraged the result which would accrue from the policy they adopted, how they knew that when the hour of fulfilment of their mission was struck "England was to hand over this wonderful continent to its indigenous owners and herself retire proud and happy on the completion of a task impossible under Heaven to any nation but herself." Mr. Norton has not forgotten to mention how the subsequent generation of Englishmen became jealous of the educated Indians and the power the latter displayed in every sphere of life in which they competed with the Englishmen. This jealousy, we know, has begot distrust and out of this distrust has sprung repression, the culmination being the latest measures—the Rowlatt Bills. This change in the outlook of the Englishmen has thus been hit off by Mr. Norton:

> "The older generation of Englishmen would have met and won the rising conflict by leading and directing it. Not so the modern. He met the call for progress with contumely; he sneered at the hopes of reform: he hunted with obloquy the men who banked the rising intellectual tide of young India: he tried to account for phenomena he had never studied by imputing to vanity and sedition that which his own statesmen had foreseen and fostered."

This attitude of the present day Englishman in India is at the root of all troubles. Long enjoyment of power, prestige and princely emoluments have made him mortally afraid of the mighty tide which is rising before him. This accounts for the Civil Service revolt. Like Canute the Englishman in India cries halt and finds to his anger that he is not obeyed. The August announcement led us to hope that if the Englishman in India was blinded by self-interest and prejudice, the Englishman at Home would make Canute to see that it would not do for him to disregard the inevitable. But the surrender of the Viceroy to the Civil Service rebels and the adoption of the Black Bills in the teeth of an unprecedented opposition show that better counsel has not prevailed and Canute is determined to fight to his last breath.

Rowlatt Bills and Peace Conference.

The adoption of the Rowlatt Bills in the teeth of the unanimous opposition of Indians of all shades of opinion raises an important issue for the consideration of the Peace Conference. This issue arises out of the following statement of President Wilson made in the course of his opening address in the Conference and with which Mr. Lloyd George representing the British Empire expressed his cordial agreement:

> "We are masters of no people but are here to see that *every people* in the world shall choose its own masters and govern its destinies, not as we wish, but as it wishes." (The italics are ours).

The statement is of course a very wide one but it includes the question whether a government can, inspite of the unanimous opposition of a people, pass any measure. Mr. Wilson's statement would suggest that it can not. The significant words in the passage quoted above are "every people." Ordinary English language, of course, does not present any ambiguity in the word. "Every people" means and includes people all over the world irrespective of latitude and longitude, colour and creed. But there is a tendency among stronger nations to ignore this ordinary meaning of ordinary English words. This well-known attitude of the more powerful nations makes it imperative that the Peace Conference should say once for all if by the word "people" it understands only the white peoples.

If the Peace Conference is not willing to put a limitation in the meaning of the word, "people," it must ask Mr. Lloyd George if the manner in which the Rowlatt Bills are passed is compatible with the objects of the Peace Conference as understood by him in common with President Wilson. It is no answer that this question involves a domestic matter concerning the affairs of a State. If it had been really so, the disposal of German colonies should have been treated as a domestic matter concerning Germany. The fate of the Czecho-Slavs and Jugo Slavs should have been left to Austria. In deciding to pass the Rowlatt Bills against the wishes of the people voiced by their representatives, the bureaucracy has acted contrary to the spirit of the Peace Conference—and for which the British Prime Minister owes an explanation to the assembled representatives of the Peace Conference.

An Appeal to Justice Sir E. E. Fletcher

We invite the attention of Sir E. E. Fletcher to an appeal made to him by the Pleadership examinees, which is published elsewhere. It goes without saying that the grievances complained of by the examinees are real and Sir Justice Fletcher would prove a true "ma bap" to the former, if he find his way to remove them, especially, as the Pleadership examination will cease to be held from 1922.

The New Judges of the Patna High Court.

We have great pleasure to announce that Mr. P. R. Das, the distinguished Barrister of the Patna bar has been appointed as a Judge of the Behar High Court. As the reader is aware, he is a brother of our esteemed friend Mr. C. R. Das. Mr. P. R Das is a prominent political leader in Behar. His elevation to a High Court Judgeship is no doubt a gain to the Government, but it is a loss to the popular cause. We need hardly say that, though as an official he will not be able to take part in politics, his heart will always be devoted to the welfare of his mother-land. We offer our sincere thanks to the Government of Behar and Orissa for selecting Mr. Das to fill up the vacancy in the bench of the Patna High Court.

CALCUTTA GAZETTE.

Feb. 12.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Satya Charan Haldar, Sub-Dy Collr Satkhira, Khulna, is allowed leave for two months, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Maulvi Fazlul Azim, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr is allowed combined leave from the 30th October 1918 to the 31st January 1919.

Babu Tarapada Bhattacharji Sub-Dy Magte Patuakhali, Bakarganj is vested with powers under section 133 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babu Birendra Nath Bose, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr Dacca, is posted to the Burdwan Division.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Babu Surendra Mohan Basu, Dy Magte and Dy Collr on leave, is posted to 24 Parganas sadar.

Mr. S. E. Stinton, Addl Dist and Sessions Judge, Dacca, is appointed to be Dist and Sessions Judge, Midnapore.

Mr. C. Bartley, Offig Second Addl Dist and Sess Judge Dacca, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Addl Dist and Sesss Judge of that district.

Mr. L N Bavin, Asst Supdt of Police, is posted to the Serampore subdivision and is appointed to have charge of the police work of that subdivision.

LEAVE.

Babu Tara Prasanna Acharji, Dy Magte and Dy Collr 24-Parganas, is allowed combined leave up to the 15th Nov 1919.

Mr. W. N. Delevingne, Dist and Sess Judge Midnapere, is allowed combined leave for one year.

The powers of a Magte of the third class in a district of the 24-Parganas has been conferred upon Mr. G S. Gi Vernon for a period of three years. He is directed to sit as a member of the Ganden Reach Bench.

The powers of a Magte of the third class in the district of Rangpur have been conferred upon Babu G C Roy for a period of three years. He is directed him to sit as a member of the Kurigaon Bench.

The powers of a Magte of the third class, in the district of Bakarganj has been conferred upon Maulvi Muhammad Hafiz Chaudhuri for a period of three years in respect to such cases as may be made over to him within the limits of the Dakshin Shahzadpur subdivision.

The powers of a Magte of the third class, in the district of Mymensingh has been conferred upon Babu Jogendra Chandra Chakrabatti for a period of three years in respect to such cases as may be made over to him within the limits of the Tangail subdivision.

The powers of a Magistrate of the second class, in the district Mymensingh has been conferred upon Babu Jatindra Kishor Roy Chaudhuri for a period of three years in respect to such cases as may be made over to him within the limits of the Sadar subdivision.

The powers of a magte of the third class, in the district of Midnapore has been conferred upon Babu Jagadish Ch Dhabal Dev, for a period of three years.

RESIGNATION OF TEWFIK PASHA CABINET.

London, Jan. 28.

Salonika—A message from Constantinople states that Tewfik Pasha Cabinet has resigned owing to vigorous allied demand that Turkish Government shall end its terrorism of unredeemed Greeks and Armenians and immediately restore unlawfully, the confiscated property of hundreds of thousands of Greek and Armenians who were deported during the war. The Sultan himself is under taking the reconstruction of the Cabinet.

London, Feb. 9.

Constantinople, Feb. 6.—Courtmartial has began of the first party accused of instigating Armenian massacres. The party includes Kemal Bey, ex-Governor of Baghazlay and Tewfik, ex-Commander of Gendarmerie at Yazghad and Fenazal. An official of Yozghad, Public Prosecutor, emphasied the necessity for punishing instigators of crimes which had horrified the whole of humanity. The Armenian lawyer gave evidence that victims numbered 3700 including women and children.

MY REMINISCENCES

(By Eardley Norton.)

In 1885 the Indian National Congress held its first sitting in Bombay and in 1887 I joined it at its third sitting in Madras. By education and sentiment I had always been a Liberal. Forty years in India have hardened me into a Radical. But I have never been a blind idoliser of men. The best cannot withstand the shock of power. Place demoralises them, rank unsexes them. They frequently deteriorate into "congerics" of old women in trousers. But they remain always a political danger—but at times a political nuisance. In England their errant malfeasances are checked by the criticism of a Press too numerous to be bought and the chastening influence of members in the House who, under pressure of their supporters, throw light upon dark places and not infrequently redress a wrong. In India such bridles upon official eccenricity do not exist. At the time of which I write the social influences of Government House paralysed the Press. Free criticism was not compatible with dinners at Guindy or dances at the Banquetting Hall. There were always wives to be considered—so the husbands said—and over the horizon was creeping that small black cloud of official decoration which to-day places a solid and permanent phalanx of support at the disposal of Authority. What matters it to the Government whether the elected members shall have a majoriy or not in the Imperial or any other Council? So long as there is a

BOTTOMLESS RESERVOIR OF KNIGHTHOODS

and Rai Bahadurs available for distribution, so long as Authority can dip its hands into the Lucky Bag and fish out, at will little tinsel decorations to hang round the necks of obstinate patriots, so long may Government smile at a majority as terrible in its thunder as were of old the forked lightnings of avenging Jove. The wiles of Juno may not appeal to the Honourables of to-day, but no Government need harbour anxiety as to the fate of a bill so long as it is entitled to plaster political heroes with assorted transmutations of the English alphabet. The "Extremist" is to the Government, we know, "Anathema Maranatha." It is questionable whether in its heart or hearts the Government is less inimical to the "Moderate." But of the two parties the latter is supposed to be less intolerable—for the time. So the Moderate is used as the lash wherewith

TO SCOURGE THE EXTREMIST

and as I look on the one hand at the serried ranks of belted Knights (I omit for the nonce the lower orders of local chivalry) who, forming a stockade of defence round Lord Chelmsford and Mr Montagu, hold the bridge over which Reform must pass to its Throne or its Pyre; and, on the other, observe that the Extremist party can only muster to its clarion-call two men in shining armour of whom one has lately returned his lace and casquet to a scandalised administration; when I look upon this contrast, and philosophically wonder whether decorations are the cause or the effect of recognised political morality, it is borne in upon me that it is time for all trimmers finally to set ther sails in the direction of the flotilla whence the steerman shout, in Parliamentary usage, "the Knights have it." To which I will only add, "and they will keep it."

But in 1887 the country was only on the eve of political debauchery. Knighthoods were sparse. Men still pretended to believe in a C I E. and women went contentedly to sleep with a Kaiser-i-Hind. Now woman kind scorns any bed fellow under a Member of the British Empire. Progress has not found the weaker sex loth to copy the foibles of the sterner. But this was not so when the Congress launched its barque upon the stormy waters of Reform.

GREAT ENGLISHMEN

bred in India as at home, had long enunciated and practised the principles upon which India was to be governed. The devout proclaimed this country a gift from Providence. The lawyers christened it a trust. But all alike agreed that England was to flood India with its education, was to rear it on its own political and economic theories, was to ground it in its own love of freedom. The ultimate result was foreseen and encouraged. When the child had reached manhood: when the germs of England's tuition had leavened the mass of Indian superstition and prejudice and had slid a backbone into the moral framework of its society, when the hour of fulfilment struck England was to hand over this wonderful continent to its indigenous owners and herself retire proud and happy on the completion of a task impossible under Heaven to any nation but herself. English statesmen never blinked the end. If they ran great risks they not only faced them like men, but met them like gentlemen. From her appointed task England never withdrew. Her evangelists spread her gospel through the land. Through every channel, religion, commerce, literature, the law, the ideals of England were unfolded for India's adoption. The Indian schoolboy was taught in English to admire the example of Hampden's resistance, to reverence the fervour of Milton, to regard parliamentary institutions as the last word in political carpentry. So India drank in the lessons of the West and, in a great measure, assimilated them. In her infancy she was encouraged and those who in India stood sponsors for the gradual realisation of Indian aims faithfully interpreted and illustrated the text from which English statesmen preached.

Then slowly

THINGS CHANGED.

Year by year the number of Indians educated in English methods increased. They began to compete, especially in the law where they made their mark. Competition brought success, and the Indians' success brought astonishment and jealousy to the Englishman. Preserves supposed to be the exclusive property of ourselves were trespassed upon by our pupils. They began to hunt our foxes and bag our pheasants. At the first, the Englishman regarded this as a mere flash in the pan. He recalled the apothegm of the rocket and waited for the stick. Unfortunately the stick never fell. England had educated better than was supposed and the natives (the synonym "Indian" had not then been invented) were apter pupils than their professors had believed. When the native shouldered the Englishman on equal terms, the Englishman did not like it. This was one rift within the lute. Contemporaneously there arose another. The older race of civilians, whether Collector or Ju was left undisturbed in its Districts for many years in succession. When I first came out I knew officials who had remained for fifteen years at a stretch within their jurisdictions. One result was they knew their respective charges thoroughly, were on bowing terms with all their neighbours, on terms of comparative intimacy with a large number and in close friendship with many.

THE COLLECTOR

was then regarded as "parens patriae" in a sense now unattainable The zemindars and smaller squires, the local gentry and those who conceived themselves gentlemen were not left as now to kick their heels outside the Collector's gate in their carriages or relegated to the obscurities of a verandah to be regaled there by the Baba's rocking-horse or the Mem Saheb's tailor sitting cross-legged on a mat. He was ushered into the Collector's library and treated as a friend. Courtsy begat confidence and confidence intimacy till the Collector, proud of the respect and affection he had inspired made himself the human barometer of every fluctuating change in the social and political rivalries of his District.

Nomination had its defects and competition has its virtues. One virtue, however does not possess collectively. It has no manners. If we are to trust successive Viceroys the Civilian of To-day is such a prodigy of political sagacity and prescience so wrapped up in his efforts to better the condition of his fellowmen, so lost to all sense of self, that either, he has never had time to acquire manners or, having acquired them, has never had time to put them, into force. In ancient times Haileybury copied Winchester, "Manners maketh Man." I can dispense with the statesmanship which, "pace" the Viceroys, does not exist. I regret the manners to which, as a pure piece of altruism and self-sacrince I conceive myself entitled. The advent of the overland route shook the foundations of organised society in India. Men now ventured home at short intervals who had previously always spent their leisure in India.

MONEY,

formerly distributed locally was now hoarded to be spent in England. The old cordiality vanished. It was replaced gradually by a thin veneer which deceived no one. The Indian accepted it, as he accepts so much, silently under protest. He said nothing. But he remembered and he regretted Haileybury and the passage round the Cape.

Lastly, the Englishman resented the new school of Indian critic. He resented the Indian newspapers published in English. So long as he was derided in vernacular "rags" he cared little. But he flinched when the treasure houses of his own language were ransacked for a vocabulary in which to indite his own short-comings. He had forgotten the pledges of his country, he had forgotten the teachings of England's emissaries. He thought it possible, and just to educate a foreign continent up to a limit of his own choice and then to call

"HALT."

He believed he could more fortunate than Canute. He fretted at Indian ingratitude. England had taught India to think. Was not that enough? Was India entitled to translate thought into language? Surely not. Was not that equivalent to looking gift horse in the mouth? But that was not the worst. Was the pupil justified in picking holes in the Professor? Was not that obnoxious to the Shastras? Was not the Preceptor entitled always to unquestioning reverence? Was not he indeed in the list of heirs? And so with devious questions always shirking the right issue, the Englishman blinded himself to the genesis of new forces summoned and equipped for the coming fight by the country which to-day has justified once more with her blood her right to be called the Sentinel of Freedom. The older generation of Englishman would have met and won the rising conflict by leading and directing it. Not so the modern. He met the call for progress with contumely; he sneered at the hopes of reform: he hunted with obloquy the men who banked the rising intellectual tide of young India: he tried to account for phenomena he had never studied by imputing to vanity and sedition that which his own statesmen had foreseen and fostered. The few Englishmen who joined the Congress Movement in India he dubbed traitors, the Indians as seditionists and he bracketted the two in one catastrophic death sentence,

"CONGRESS WALLAHS"

So labelled he hoped they would either be stoned to death or perish of internal combustion. His great stand-by was the fanaticism of the Mahomedan, who in his view loyal and a man, while the Hindu Vakil was neither a man nor loyal. So he unchained the tame pack which Simla always kept ready for emergencies, and while Sir Henry Cotton was finishing the proofs of "New India," Lord Ducerin cheered on Sir Syed Ahmed and the Raja of Bhinga to make mince-meat of the contemptible mobs assembling from the North and the South and the East and the West of India to make common cause against a system which arrested national growth repudiated the promise of English statesman and tore up the Queen's Proclamation of 1857. My recollection is that the Viceregal hounds came badly managed out of the fray. Like another and a more famous army, the Contemptibles survive to-day and are flourishing, while the old Congress Wallahs will never forget or forgive the Viceroy's unfounded attack at a Scotch banquet in Calcutta upon the honour and life's work of the man whose memory they still love—Allan Octavius Hume.—"The Looker On."

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

KUSHADAHA SAMITY

ANNUAL MEETING.
A VILLAGE ORGANISATION.

The first annual meeting of the Kushadaha Samiti was held on Wednesday last with great eclat on a spacious maidan in the village Ichhapur, about a mile from the Gobardanga Railway Station, E. B. Ry. A large number of representatives from the neighbouring villages as also the leading residents of Gaipur, Gobardanga, Khantura Matikomra, etc., and some gentlemen from Calcutta attended the meeting. A huge Samiana was erected and being decorated with flowers, leaves and flags presented an imposing and gala appearance. Nahabat discoursed sweet music on the top of a bamboo stockade at the gate.

Rai Jadu Nath Mazumdar Bahadur, the President-elect, arrived in the morning and was received at the station by the organisers of the meeting. Before the holding of the meeting he, as the Chairman of the District Board, was shown round several places to see if he could remove some of the public grievances through the District Board.

On the first day the meeting was held at 2 P.M. and the proceedings opened with a delightful song, specially composed for the occasion, and sung by Babu Bireshwar Chaudhury. The next item was the Mangala Charan which was elegantly read by Babu Durgadas Banerji, one of the principal organisers of the Samity. Two little boys then recited a few stottrams in Sanskrit.

The Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr N C Ghattak, the late Municipal Magistrate and Hony Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, delivered a neat little speech extending a warm welcome to the delegates and assembled gentlemen. He recounted the past glories of Kushadaha and hoped that better times would come again.

The President then delivered a lengthy and instructive address which was much appreciated.

As the Rai Bahadur had to attend another important meeting at Daulatpur on the following day he had to leave the meeting to catch the train before the proceedings were concluded. Babu Suresh Chandra Pal, editor, Tambuli Samaj, therefore, proposed a vote of thanks to the chair and the Rai Bahadur left the meeting amidst applause.

Babu Piyush Kanti Ghose, thereupon proposed Babu Jagat Prasanna Mukherjee, Zemindar and Chairman of the Gobardanga municipality, to the chair. And on his occupying the chair the proceedings commenced again. The President called upon the Secretary, Dr Nagendra Nath Mukherjee, M.B. to read last year's report. The report gave a history, the object and the activities of the Samity. From the report we glean the following facts:—

The Samity was started on the 28th 'Pous' of 1324 B. S. The aim and object of the Society is to cultivate good feelings among the inhabitants of Kushdaha and to focus their energy with a view to employ that in the service of Kushdaha.

This is a non-political and non-sectarian association. It has an executive committee of 13 members, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary and a treasurer.

The Samity in order to facilitate work has prepared a map of the portion of the country to which they for the present intend to confine their activities. It comprises all the villages included in the Kushdaha Bramhan Samaj, the Kushdaha Pergana and the Kushadwip of old days. The tract of country is bounded on the North and East by the Ichhamati, on the West by the Gopalpur-Chowberia Road and the boundary line of Habra thana, and on the South by the river Ichhamati and the Gour-Banga Road.

SECOND DAY.

On the second day the meeting was presided over by Babu Piyush Kanti Ghose and a number of resolutions were adopted. The first resolution related to the sad bereavement of our King-Emperor and Queen Empress in the death of their beloved son Prince John and the meeting expressed its deepest regret and offered its humble condolences to the Royal family. The resolution was adopted by all standing. The second resolution expressed joy at the termination of the war, victory of the Allies and prayed for the long life and prosperity of the King-Emperor.

The other resolutions referred to the founding of branches in different centres of Kushadaha and the registration of the Samity under the Company's Act for which a sub-committee was appointed.

As in the course of the presidential address Babu Piyush Kanti suggested the appointment of an agent to carry on the work of the Samity in an organised way in different villages from year's end to year's end a resolution to that effect was also adopted.

It was announced at the meeting that at the instance of the Samity Babu Satish Chandra Roy, Zemindar of Ghonja, promised Rs 3000 for a charitable dispensary within the jurisdiction of Kushadaha. It was also announced that a certain gentleman promised to make a free gift of land for a road from Chandpara to Beldanga and the Samity was asked to carry out the scheme with the help of the District Board.

On the second day also a touching welcome address was read by Babu Brajakisore Mittra, Secretary, Reception Committee, and a number of speeches were delivered dwelling on the necessity of improving the sanitation, education, industry, agriculture, etc in the villages.

With the usual vote of thanks the meeting terminated. Refreshments were served to the delegates and the assembled gentlemen.

SPARTACIST OUTBREAK IN BERLIN.

GOVT TROOPS OPEN FIRE.

London, Feb 10.

Paris: A message from Zurich states that there was serious Spartacist outbreak in Berlin on the evening of February 8. Soldiers and sailors commanded by Elenhorn occupied an important thorough fare and the Government troops fired killing eight and wounding forty. Strict censorship is being enforced.

PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, Feb. 9.

Paris.—Pichon in an interview with Reuter explained the scope of the Supreme Economic Council. He said the Council was an important step in transition to peace conditions and might possibly become permanent under the League. Pichon personally thought the Parinkipo Conference would not meet unless further acceptances were received. He pointed out that the Bolsheviks' reply did not answer the Allies' invitation but merely intimated that the Soviets were ready to negotiate whereas the Allies had advised them that if all the Russian Governments ceased fighting and foregather at Prinkipo the Allies would meet and help them to settle their grievances.

London, Feb. 10.

Paris, Feb. 9.—Esme Howard and Carton De Viart, British delegates to Poland, left to-night Allies attach great importance to the mission to Poland, regarding the establishment of strong independent State of Poland as one of the chief means of circumventing Germany's ambitious designs of becoming mistress of Eastern Europe.

London, Feb. 9.

Paris, Feb. 8.—It appears that the Supreme War Council this afternoon reached the agreement regarding the necessity in view of Germany's attitude of making the condition of renewal of armistice more severe by instituting the control of demobilisation and production of factories which were previously engaged on war work only. The ways and means of securing the execution of these conditions remain to be settled and it is thought that the sitting on 10th should suffice for this. "Temps" states that Ukrainin Soviets have accepted the invitation to confer with the Allies but prefer Paris to Prinkipo and a later date than Feby. 15th.

EXTENSION OF THE TERMS OF ARMISTICE.

London, Feb. 7.

A Communique from Paris says that great Powers and representatives on the Supreme War Council to-day discussed the terms of extension of the armistice with Germany. Discussion will be continued to-morrow. International Labour Legislation Commission discussed the representation which should be given to Governments and to the organisation of employers and work people in the proposed permanent International Conference The Resolution was passed that women should be equally eligible with men as delegates to conference.

London, Feb. 8.

Paris Feb. 7th.. Foch Wemysh and Generals Bliss and Weygand attended to-day the Supreme War Council which considered new conditions for armistice which falls to be renewed on February 17th and measure necessary owing to Germany's failure to deliver the rolling stock to place German merchantmen at the Allies' disposal to surrender all submarines and her refusal to certain demands which are indispensable to the application of Armistice. The Council deliberated as regards the relative proportions of Allied force to be maintained in occupied territories of Germany and Turkey. Opinion is expressed in a well informed French quarter that associated Powers may consider the question of the occupation of Dantzig also Dantzig thrown railway.

SUBMARINE IN WARFARE.
TOTAL PROHIBITION OF USE.

London, Feb. 8.

With reference to the suggestion for abolition of submarines which has been before the Peace Conference, Reuter learns on high authority that the British admiralty strongly favours the total prohibition of submarine building and use of submarine in warfare. This would naturally be subject to general international agreement and rigid guarantees and safeguards. This attitude of British navy has all more point in view of the fact that Britain is far ahead of all other nations in regard to actual possession of submarines and potential production.

END OF RAILWAY STRIKE.
SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT.

London, Feb 6.

The Railwaymens' representatives to-day had a conference with the President of the Board of Trade. The latter made a certain offer, which the former are discussing to-night, and are meeting Lord Stanley again to-morrow. One delegate thought that an early amicable settlement could be arranged

London, Feb 7.

The Press Bureau announces: The President of the Board of Trade states that he has come to an agreement with the locomotive engineers and firemen that, pending consideration of the general condition of railway service, underground trainmen will work an eight-hour day, meal times not being included, but all reasonable facilities will be given to meet men's physical needs

London, Feb 7.

The Secretary of the locomotive Engineers' Society, in the course of an interview stated that notices had been issued at midnight closing the strike, and that all workers would be working early to-day. The arrangements for the national railway strike which was fixed for noon to-day, have been cancelled. Mr Bromley added that, if some consideration had previously been given to the physical disabilities of men working continuously, there would have been no strike.

London, Feb. 9.

Balc.—A telegram from Kovno says owing to the successes of Lithuanian troops and the advance of Finnoesthonian troops the Bolsheviks have evacuated Vilna.

A big man-eater is reported to have lately made its appearance in the vicinity of Khurda Road Junction. The animal has already killed several person

STRIKE AT HOME

RAILWAY SETTLEMENT.
NO CHANGE IN GLASGOW AND BELFAST.

London, Feb 7.

It is still uncertain how the Railway settlement will affect other movements. The Electrical Union sat continuously in London yesterday conferring with representatives of transport workers, locomotive engineers, licensed vehicle workers, and other unions, and the secretary of the Electrical Union repeatedly came out and announced. "All out." He also denied the report that the strike was postponed or called off, nevertheless work was carried on at the power stations last night, and the action of union did not appear to interfere with the comfort of the metropolis. There were temporary spasmodic strikes of electricians in a few establishments, but the public services were in no way affected. The authorities are nowhere perturbed while engineers whose London branches recently, decided to strike had till a late hour taken no action.

SOME AGREEMENT ARRIVED AT.

London, Feb 8.

The Board of Trade announces that a Conference between the Executive of the National Union of the railway men and the management of the Underground Railway Companies resulted in an agreement by which services will be resumed as soon as possible. The London branch of the Electrical Union last night ordered the immediate resumption of work pending national action.

CLYDE SHIPYARDS STILL IDLE.
NO SETTLEMENT YET IN BELFAST

London, Feb 7.

Though a few more engineers resumed on the Clyde yesterday the shipyards are still idle. Boilermakers, blacksmiths, and shipwrights belonging to various Clyde towns held meetings and passed resolutions in favour of remaining on strike for a forty hour week. There will be a conference of national delegates in Glasgow on Saturday to review the forty hour movement in England and Scotland and decide upon their course of action. The strike leaders talk of extending the strike to the whole of Scotland, but events in England and the effect of Government action may counsel a change of policy.

Discontent is spreading amongst the Belfast strikers owing to failure of leaders to effect a settlement, but the fact that Lord Pirrie is still in Belfast, ready to confer with the men's delegates, as Controller General of Merchant Shipbuilding, is regarded as hopeful.

Engineers in Manchester have declined to strike in favour of a forty hour week and have called a special meeting to enquire into the methods by which the agitation for a forty hour week was begun.

London, Feb 8.

A mass meeting in Glasgow Govan and Clydebank passed resolutions to continue the strike for a forty hour week and called on the Executive Councils to co-operate with the strikes or resign. Goven favoured immediate payment of the strike money. The strikers joint committee issued a militant statement claiming that only a few faint hearts had returned to work and asserting that the committee was more confident than ever of victory. The statement also alleged that Glasgow carpenters and joiners had decided to strike. The Municipal employees have decided not to strike. The Scottish miners have all resumed work, pending the result of the conference of miners federation of Great Britain at South Port on February 12th to receive the Government's reply to the miners' demand for a thirty per cent advance of wages a six hour day, nationalisation of the mines and full wages for demobilised and unemployed miners.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN NATIONAL

UNION AND UNDERGROUND RAILWAYS SETTLEMENT ON CLYDE DOUBTFUL. MENS' DETERMINATION TO STICK.

London, Feb. 8.

The agreement between the National Union of the Railwaymen and the management of the Underground Railways came too late to permit resumption of the work on tubes to-day. The agreement provides that the Union shall nominate a man for each Underground Railway to co-operate with the representatives of the Companies in seeing that facilities are provided to meet, physical needs of the motor men which will be included in eight hours day.

Early settlement on Clyde is regarded as doubtful. The Committee states that men are determined to remain out until their demands are acceded to. Hunger is now entering as a factor in the strike of twenty five thousand engineers etc on the northeast coast for forty four hours week which has lasted for five weeks. The strikers' funds are low and there is much distress especially among the dependents of the labourers. The strike is contrary to the advice of the London Executive of the amalgamated society of the engineers who had agreed To give forty seven hours week a trial.

SOCIALIST CONFERENCE.
THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

London, Feb. 7.

Berne, Feb. 6.—At the Socialist Conference the resolution of Mr. Henderson in favour of bringing the greatest influence to bear on the Peace Conference and uniting the working classes in an internationale, also the resolution of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald that the League should be composed of Parliamentary representatives of different countries and the resolution of Mr. Huysman in favour of the equality of all nations were unanimously adopted. Eisener, representing Bavaria strongly appealed for the League of Nations and urged the insertion of a clause in its constitution, prohibiting taking up of arms against the League. He appealed to the German Majority Socialists not to demand the citizen army. He said the abolition of armies was only a possible solution.

LONDON STRIKE

PREMIER ON THE SCENE.
GREAT UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS IMMINENT.

London, Feb 9.

Everything was ready for the resumption of the tubes yesterday. The Power Stations were working but the strikers were apparently desirous of having another day's holiday. The National Union of the railway men officials stated last night that the meetings held in various London centres had decided almost unanimously to accept agreement reached on Saturday morning.

Mr Lloyd George arrived in London last night and went to the Downing Street where he immediately investigated the strike trouble. It is expected that he will take prompt steps to conciliate the Labour nationally.

The Clyde Strike Committee yesterday issued a manifesto to the British Labour declaring that a great unemployment crisis was imminent unless the unemployed were absorbed by means of shorter hours. The Committee decided to continue forty hours movement and to organise throughout the country. Negotiations in Belfast continued yesterday and were adjourned until Monday.

London, Feb. 9.

Tube men are returning to work and it is hoped that the service on tubes and district railway will be partially resumed this evening. The premier since the early morning has been conferring at 10 Downing St. with ministers including Mr. Bonar Law, Sir Robert Horne, Sir Alberistanley, and numerous officials. It is understood that besides dealing with labour situation the premier also inquired into the recent trouble among the soldiers. Mr. Thomas. M. P. Secretary of Railwaymen's Union conferred with his executive in London this morning. Mass meetings of Railwaymen are being held in London this afternoon to discuss the national situation.

London, Feb. 9.

The Underground Railways Company announces that the tubes are resumed with reduced services. It is expected that there will be full services on all lines on Feby 10th.

London, Feb. 9.

A mass meeting held in Glasgow amalgamating the number of unions passed a resolution condemning the action of the authorities and demanding public enquiry and release of arrested strike leaders. Glasgow operative bakers decided not to strike but to negotiate for shorter hours.

STRIKE IN U. S. A.
FOR HIGH WAGES AND SHORT HOURS

London, Feb 9.

New York: A message rom Butt (Montana) states that the meetings organised by the industrial workers of the world passed a resolution to strike for higher wages and shorter hours as a counter stroke to mine owners' reduction of wages by a doliar daily. The armed labour pickets prevented the miners from working. Agreements have been reached in the great textile strikes in New Jersey (Massachusetts) but the striking of engineers and bricklayers as a retort to the employers' threat to lock out striking carpenters will probably suspend work of buildings in the leading cities of the Eastern United States.

MR CLYNES ON STRIKE SITUATION.
FORMULATION OF DEMANDS NECESSARY.

London, Feb 7.

Addressing a large meeting of the postal workers in London this afternoon at which resolutions favouring shorter hours, higher wages and full civil rights were adopted, Mr Clynes emphasised the desirability of formulating and discussing the demands before striking in order to keep the sympathy of the public. He declared that a far higher standard of living must be obtained before there could be peace in Britain but these things could not be settled by mob law. The workers' wishes must be translated by trusted delegates. (cheers)

ALLIED COMMISSION ON REPARATION.

London, Feb. 5.

A Paris 'communique' says: The Allied Commission on Reparation met under the chairmanship of Klotz and exchanged views regarding the establishment of the principles governing the right of various nations represented to the reparation for damages caused by the enemy. Delegations are submitting memoranda to the Secretariat in this connection. At a meeting of President Wilson the Premiers and Foreign Ministers of the Allied and Associated Powers with Japanese representatives, it was decided to appoint a commission comprising two members each for France, Britain, Italy and United States to examine the technical aspect of the question of Czecho-Slovak Republic.

NEW GERMAN CABINET.

London, Feb. 9.

Copenhagen—According to "Vossiskhe Zeitung", the New German cabinet will be composed of sixteen members of whom social democrats shall have the President and ministries of defence labour economy nutrition and demobilisation and democrats shall have Vice-President and Ministers of the interior and finance. The centre shall have ministeries of justice, treasury and posts while the Democrats and Social Democrats shall each have the minister without portfolio. The foreign ministry shall be neutralised

London, Feb. 10.

The "Daily Mail" states that Viscount Grey is blind and is learning Braille reading and writing.

London, Feb. 9.

The Republicans have captured the towns of Lamego and Vizeu. The Royalist leader Paiva Couceiro has been wounded.

ALLEGED LIBEL.

TILAK VS. V. CHIROL.

CASE IN THE KING'S BENCH.

London, Jan. 29

A number of Indians were present in the King's Bench to-day at the opening of the libel action brought by Mr. B G Tilak against Sir Valentine Chirol and publishers Macmillan and Co. respecting certain statements in Chirol's book "Indian Unrest". The defendants pleaded that part of the attempts were true and others privileged. Sir JohnSimon for Mr. Tilak said that Mr. Tilak had been for many years what was unkindly called an imitator. He had undoubtedly been a terrible nuisance to the authorities but had done a great deal of devoted public-spirited work. The alleged libels related to Cow Protection Societies Gymnastic Societies, and accusation that Tilak blackmailed Indians in the Tai Maharaj case and murderers of officials, Rand and Ayerst and civilian Jackson. The suggestion that Tilak started Cow-Protection Societies' order to provoke Moslems was unjustified. The defendants must have known that the Bombay Govt. refused to accept the view that these societies caused riots in Bombay in 1893. As regards Gymnastic Societies the insinuation was that Tilak organised them as a part of the plot to turn the British out of India. The book entirely misrepresented Tilak's action as a trustee of widow Tai Mahraj. This was very bad example of the recklessness with which the book was written. The Privy Council had upheld Tilak's action in the matter. Other alleged libels practically accused Tilak of the responsibility for murder. The case was adjourned.

SERIOUS POSITION OF TRADE WITH INDIA.

London, Jan. 29.

The London Chamber of Commerce has convened a meeting of the Indian Indent merchants at Cannon Street to-morrow to discuss the possibility of the joint action in connection with the serious position of trade with India owing to attempt to cancel commitments. The Board of Trade has informed the Liverpool Cotton Association that trading in future is now permitted with all neutral countries.

FRANCE'S INDUSTRIAL OUTLOOK

A GLOOMY FUTURE.
HEAVY WAR DEBT.

London, Feb 10.

New Work: Interviewed by the correspondent of the Associated Press in Paris, M Clemenceau emphasised the difficulties connected with the reconstitution of France industrially whereas the German factories were ready to produce immediately. He also mentioned that while Germany's war debt was almost entirely domestic, France was confronted with the necessity of paying regularly abroad immense sums in interest. M Clemenceau indicated that these aspects of the situation and the gradual demobilisation of the British armies and the Russian chaos which suited Germany were all accountable for France's caution as regards the League of Nations and her insistence upon the solid safeguards and securities. He admitted, however, that President Wilson had given the heartening reassurances in this connection.

HINDENBURG PLANS A COUP D'ETAT.

Paris, Feb. 10.

Newspapers explaining the decision to make the armistice conditions more severe declare that Marshal Foch was recently compelled to use threats to make the German plenipotentiaries attend the sitting of the Armistice Commission.

The attitude of German plenipotentiaries has changed during the last fortnight. They now declare they will only accept peace without victory. Moreover, French military authorities believe that the Germans have stopped demobilising and have concentrated 18 divisions on the Eastern front under Hindenburg, hence the Allies consider that Germany must be brought to realise the impossibility of resisting the peace terms offered her. The papers state that Marshal Foch told the Supreme War Council that the Germans were beginning to forget they were beaten. They had been slow in handing over transport and were making other difficulties. Marshal Foch advised the Allied occupation of Essen.

London, Feb. 10

A telegram from Berne says Herr Haase before leaving the Socialist Conference for Weimar said that Hindenburg was organising a volunteer army of 600,000 in Pomerania and East Prussia with a view to a reactionary "coup d'etat." His headquarters were Tolberg on the Baltic coast which was a stronghold of Prussia junkers. Herr Hasse advised the Powers to watch the movements of Hindenburg's army closely and if necessary insist on limitation of its strength.

Cologne, Feb. 7.

The Dusseldorf strike of middle-classes is officially declared over, the Spartacists conceding the chief demands of the bourgeoisie strikers.

London, Jan. 29

The Liverpool Cotton Association announces that commencing from February 2nd trading months in cotton futures are extended to September inclusive under special new contract terms.

London, Feb. 7.

Constantinople.—Hope is expressed that salutary measures which the Allies have applied in Constantinople in arresting the prominent young Turk leaders will be extended to provinces where the Turks are spreading the reports of the impending further massacres with the object of inducing numerous Greek and Armenian witnesses of the awful wholesale massacres during the war to flee country. The Turks thus not only hope to expel undesirable witnesses but to retain the spoils of Christian population.

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C M S COLLEGE IMBROGLIO.

STRONG FEELING OF STUDENTS. MR. JOHNSTON'S VERSION

The following notice of the governing body, C M S. College, has been hung up:—

The Governing body have considered the question of Saraswati image. There are two incidents involved:—

(1) The unauthorised and secret introduction into the Hostel of a Hindu image.

(2) The placing of the image in the dust-bin.

(a) The Principal regrets that his indignation at the desecration of a Church College and disobodience of the College rules led him to act in a way that would hurt Hindu feelings.

(b) He cannot allow College rules to be ignored and disobeyed.

In consultation with the governing Body he has come to the following decision:—

(a) All students who are discontented with the College rules and wish to leave the College may leave.

(b) Those who are well-wishers of the College, appreciate the spirit and ideals with which it has always been conducted are asked loyally to rally round in support of the College.

(c) In future and in the past while individual liberty of conscience will always be respected, it must be clearly understood that all corporate acts of worship must be Christian in a Christian College.

At about 11 a.m. yesterday, Pandit Rajendra Nath Vidyabhusan of the Hindu Sanskrist College delivered a sermon on the aggrieved students asking them for a compromise. He is the only Hindu gentleman. who has openly come on the scene to bring about a harmony between the parties, as far as we know. It is said that his son also had applied the previous day for transfer and he came to see Mr Johnston to tell him that as the father of the boy he had no consent to his son's application. He said in the course of his lecture that the Rev. Principal has been for long his personal friend—an amiable gentleman—their teacher (Acharyya)—a father in the eyes of the sastras. Hence is was proper to have a compromise and forgive him. The speech did not produce any good result. As soon as his lecture was over, about 40 students hurried to the office, handed over about Rs. 800 to the cashier and wanted their transfers. As there is only one clerk in the College and the task was too heavy for him yesterday, no further money could be received from any other students who had applied for transfer previously.

The Principal, we understand, has stopped paying any money for the messing of the Jani Ali Mess (where the image was brought in) and as there was no cooking yesterday noon, these boarders there had to be the guests of the other Hostel (St. David) and it was about 1 p.m. that they finished taking their meals.

In the meantime, Mr. Johnston was to teach the 5th year English class in the University and we are informed that no student was present in his class.

It is expected that other Hindu students of the 1st and 3rd year classes will bid adieu to the C. M. S. College to-day. The C. M. S. College gates have been closed for all time to all outsiders, even friends, relatives and guardians of the boarders of the Hostel.

MR. JOHNSTON'S VERSION.

The following statement has been made by Mr. Johnston before a representative of the "Statesman."

On Thursday, Feby. 6, 1919, an image of Saraswati was placed garlanded in the Mess room of the Jani Ali Hindu Mess. It is well known that no religious rites, etc., except Christian services, are allowed in the compound of the St. Paul's College. That point has been settled on previous occasions. I presume it is a desecration of Saraswati to bring her image into a Christian compound. The letter entirely ignores the desecration of a Christian compound by introducing a Hindu image. If the Christian attitude to images is not known Isaiah XL. 12-26 or Isaiah XLIV. 8-20 may serve to reveal how contrary idol worship is to Christian principles. The students not only brought in the image, but set it up garlanded in the Mess room. The convener of the Mess, Nirode Sanyal, says that he did not authorise its introduction, nor any member of the Mess Committee; and he and they cannot find out who brought the image in.

It was thus, it seems, the lawless action of a minority, who are afraid to be known. Cowardice is not a quality most people will admire .The image was confiscated and put outside the compound by the Principal himself, whose touch is said to have defiled the image. If idols are brought into a Christian compound confiscation and their expulsion is the natural result.

In regard to the statement as to the words used by Mr. Johnston to the coolie, he said he called the Mess convener, and gave the order in front of him.

(A letter published below will show what the students have got to say about this statement. Ed Patrika.)

STUDENTS' VERSION.

To The Editor.

Sir,—The public mind has now been deeply touched owing to the placing of the 'Saraswati' in the dustbin and in this connection, one or two points, not yet clear to the public, requires elucidation from the students' point of view. Some have asked—why did not the immersion ceremony take place on the usual day and why was the image at all brought into the compound from outside where the Puja was held?—The students had to hold the Puja in an outside place under exceptional circumstances and difficulties, some students who were in charge of the Puja pressed for the custom of their native districts—which was to have the immersion on the 3rd day and not on that day. In the meantime, the owner of house which was hired for the time being insisted that his rooms should be cleared off without any delay, because (we now have come to know) he had already let it to a tea-vendor who was expected there every moment. Under these circumstances the students in good faith and innocently removed the image for that night only to their Hindu dining hall and not to the "mess-room" within the compound without ever thinking that it in any way might come under Mr. Johnston's law of confiscation. They never "hid it secretly." It was placed in the open and spacious dining hall of the Hindu students (in one corner) where there have been already some pictures of other Hindu gods and goddesses. The dining hall was just beside the main stair case—its doors always remained open—to that the idea of concealing the image is absurd. They did not 'set it up' there for doing any religious rite, as Mr. Johnston suggests, neither they had any necessity of 'garlanding' it there, as it had been already profusely garlanded during the Puja, Students had no idea that it would "desecrate the Christian compound" by its merely being kept there for the night. There was no defiance on their part and as soon, as the Principal ordered its removed, they promptly obeyed him by sending it away through a Hindu servant and not "a coolie," as Mr. Johnston suggests. It being 10 p. m., and the hostel rules prohibiting the boys from leaving their rooms for any purpose at that late hour, no one of the students felt the necessity of accompanying the servant then. Nor could they ever dream that anybody would desecrate the image in that way in these days of toleration. Thus it was how the Principal taking advantage of his official position on a servant could lay violent hands on an image outside the compound in the absence of any of the interested boys. The boys got the news of the desecration from that servant sometime after everything was over. So the statement of Mr. Johnston that the image was "put outside the compound by the Principal himself" is never correct. Was the image of their Saraskati left by the careless students as an unclaimed property on the lawn of the compound so that it needed the removal by Mr. Johnston to a safe receptacle in a dustbin? Everybody understands it that no Hindu student would ever allow his sacred image to be dealt with in that way so long as he has breath in him and so long as he is present on the scene. That at once brings out the falsity of the Principal's version. The Principal presumes that "it is a desecration of Saraswati to bring her image into a Christian compound." Had it been really so the students would not have willingly brought it within the compound to get the image desecrated in that way.

A Student.

C M S COLLEGE TROUBLE.

"BENGALEE" CONTRADICTED.

To The Editor.

Sir,—I am really surprised at the comment of the "Bengalee" yesterday on the C. M. S. College incident. It has been said that "the students of the College have transgressed some of the elementary obligations in going about to all sorts and conditions of people in the city with a view to create bad blood and racial animosity and taking umbrage under the Civil Rights Committee" The above statement is absolutely false. They have done nothing to prejudice anybody against any particular person, not to speak of any race. They have from the very outset, so far as I know, viewed this as a purely religious question and not in any other light. It is utterly condemnable to attribute to them feelings of "bad blood" etc. Such an interpretation of the matter gives a false colouring to the whole thing and may put the students into difficulties. There students have been living with other European Professors on perfectly good terms and even now their relations with one another have not been strained in any way. The statement that the students have gone "to all sorts and conditions of men" is never true.

As I understand the aggrieved students went for advice to Sir Rash Behari Ghose, Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee, Mr B Chakravarty, Babu Moti Lal Ghose, and are these the persons whom the 'Bengalee' refers as "all sorts and conditions of men?" Whom else might the students go to in Calcutta for guidance? Are they the "some designing people" who are likely to "create bad blood and racial animosity"? If some of the above gentlemen are the members of the Civil Rights Committee, that is a pure coincidence. The boys approached them not as members of the Civil Rights Committee or as the Judge of the High Court but as the leaders and friends of the student community in Bengal. They have also been to the authorities of the "Bengalee" with their melancholy news, who did not care to publish their matter—until full four days have completely elapsed. Do they too fall to the category of all sorts of men? If the notice of any persons has been attracted to this incident, it is only through its publication in the newspapers and the gravity of the situation. So far as I know, to nobody they went except to the above gentlemen and the Principals of other Colleges to enquire if they could kindly provide them with seats. Their religious feelings have been seriously wounded and they can't possibly stay any more in that College. To interprete it otherwise is mischevous and untrue.

11-2-19. Sympathetic.

P. S. A copy of this letter has been sent to the "Bengalee" for publication.

MR. JOHNSTON AND THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.

The feeling engendered by Mr. Johnston's act of desecration of the image runs high and unabated. The students of the University postgraduate classes where Mr. Johnston is a lecturer did not enter the class-room. All of them kept away in a body including a brilliant scholar of the distinguished Christian family of Ramhagan. It was a silent and dignified protest of the post-graduate students. After the recent strange feats of the Professor, it is no wonder if the students decline to sit before him as his pupils and receive their lessons from him. Mr. Johnston, on entering a vacant class-room, was faced with mere wooden benches without their occupants and so he had to turn back in despair and hurriedly left.

TALUQ MAGISTRATE'S COURT AT MADURA.

(Before Mr K Narayanaswami Aiyar.)

ALLEGED RIOTING IN MADURA.

Maudra, Feb. 7.—The case was taken yesterday for hearing in which thirteen persons stand charged by the Town Inspector of Police with the offences under some half-a dozen sections in the Indian Penal Code, of having formed themselves into an unlawful assembly in the Collector's Office compound on the evening of the 27th September last, and committed rioting, caused hurt and thrown stones at the Police. Mr. S. Rangaswami Aiyanger, the Town Inspector of Police and the C I D Head Constable Paramanayakam Pillai were examined for the prosecution . The Prosecution story as narrated in the First Information Report sent by P W 1, is as follows:—

"On 27-1-18 the sedition case against P. Varadarajulu Naidu was heard in the Madura Deputy Magistrate's Court situated in the Madura Collector's Office upstairs. Thousands of people from Madura and other places thronged in the compound of the Collector's Office, from noon and were trying to get admission into the Court Hall which was already fully packed. These people were kept out by the Reserve Police in charge of the Reserve Inspector and two sergeants with great difficulty. In the after noon the crowd became enormous. About 10,000 people gatheed in the compound and in the Managiri Road adjacent to the main entrance of the Collector's Office. In spite of the best efforts of the Reserve and local police, the mob refused to move away, assumed a defiant attitude and pelted stones at the Police on duty. As soon as the Court rose for the day at 4-50 p.m., P. Varadarajulu Naidu came out and when he got into the carriage the crowd approached him in large numbers, making great noise. The Reserve Police tried to keep out the crowd and as soon as the carriage moved into the road beyond the gate way, the whole mob assembled in pound began to attack the Reserve Police-all places within and without the compound all places within and without the commen in a body and pelted stones causing injuries to the Police on duty and hitting many of them. Thereupon the Reserve constables who were armed, fired at the above mob. One of the Reserve constables, No. 1053, Krishna Nair, was wounded in the head accidentally and fell down and died. One Sourashtra named Neelamegam Subbiah was wounded and sent to the hospital immediately for treatment but he subsequently died. Even after firing the riotous mob attacked the Police men and the officers and pelted a number of stones at hem. The District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police dispersed the crowd. The accused among several others who could be identified took prominent part in the rioting."

The trial is proceeding.

CONGRESS DEPUTATION COMMITTEE.

(Associated Press of India.)

The Congress Deputation Committe met at Delhi on the 9th instant under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya . Out of 11 members of the committee 8 were present. We understand that in all 33 gentlemen have been elected. Of this 16 among whom are included several prominent congressmen and 2 ex-presidents from the first batch which is to said for England in April and the second list consists of gentlemen who will go at a later date if more passages become available or as substitutes for any of those in the first list who may for any reason be unable to proceed.

AN APPEAL TO JUSTICE SIR E. E. FLETCHER.

BY THE PLEADERSHIP EXAMINEES.

To The Editor.

Sir,—The ensuing pleadership examination will be held on the 25th and 26th February. Every one knowns with what strictness the examination is conducted resulting in a large number of failures every year. Mind to pass the examination the students are required to keep 66 per cent marks in the aggregate, whereas the B. L. examination the pass mark for a first class is 60 per cent and 50 per cent for a second class!

The grievances of the students have been further aggravated by the announcement that the pleadership examination will cease to be held from 1922. As there are only three chances left for the students after which their fate will be sealed for ever, we earnestly pray to the President of the Board of Examiners to see that the examinees be given the same facilities as the B. L. examinees for their appearing at the examination. The candidates of the pleadership examination labour under a great disadvantage as their exmination is not held by compartments like the B. L. Examination. It is also to be noted that alternative questions are not set in their case whereas in the B. L. and all other University Examinations alternative questions are set thereby giving B. L. students more facility in answering questions.

The present President Justice Sir Ernest Edward Fletcher is well-known for his keen sense of justice and we fervently pray that he would be pleased to kindly consider the cases of this unfortunate examinees who for their straitened circumstances could not go up for the B.A. and B.L. but are obliged to take up the Pleadership course.

We earnestly pray that the President be pleased to ask the papersetters to set alternative questions as in the B.L. examinations.

Pleadership Examinees.

Calcutta, 11-2-19.

SOCIAL REFORM IN BURMA

MRS DIXON'S LECTURE.

RESOLUTION AGAINST PROSTITUTION.

(Associated Press of India.)

Rangoon, Feb 11.

At one of the largest and most representative gatherings of women of Rangoon assembled last night at the Empire Theatre an address was given by Mrs Dixon on the social reform question. After a very telling address by the lecturer the following resolution was passed unanimously: This meeting believing that the existence of brothels always involves exploitation and degradation of women, protests against their continuance in Burma. It further pledges itself to study and promote such legislative, administrative, social, educational and hygienic reforms as will tend to encourage the sound public opinion upon the subject of prostitution.

MESSRS C. R. DAS AND VAIDYA AT AKOLA.

FIGHT OUT THE BLACK BILLS.

PASSIVE RESISTANCE ONLY COURSE.

Akola, Feb. 10.

Messrs Narayanrao Vaidya and C. R. Das arrived here on Sunday and were given a hearty public welcome. They addressed a large crowd at the local theatre on the present political situation. Refering to the Black Bills, Mr. Das said that the ways of the Bureaucracy were inexplicable. During the war we were declared to be the most loyal people on earth. As soon as the war ended the two Black Bills were hurled against the Indians inspite of the great opposition and feeling of resentment. He asked whether that was the right way of putting down the revolutionary movement. Passive resistance was their only course to be followed. He warned the Bureaucracy of the consequences. Speaking on the Congress Mr. Das protested against the articles in the "New India". He said the National Congress was India's Congress.

DAMAGE SUIT AGAINST A DISTRICT MAGISTRATE.

SUIT DECREED WITH COSTS.

(Associated Press of India.)

Purnea, Feb. 9.

Yesterday the Subordinate Judge passed orders in the two damage suits brought against Mr. A Garrett, formerly District Magistrate of this place, and others. The first case was brought by Messrs Forbes and Chapman, barristers against Mr. Garrett and the second one was brought by Babu Sasibhusan Konar, Secretary, Bar Association, against Mr Garett and Babus Jyotish Chandra Bhattacherjee and Khagendra Nath Roy, pleaders. In these cases the defendants moved the Patna High Court for transfer but without success. After that the suits were referred to arbitration, Mr. Hassan Imam who represented the plaintiffs being appointed the sole arbitrator. The defendants having expressed regret the arbitrator awarded that in the first case the defendant should pay Rs. 900 and in the second Rs. 200 to the plaintiffs towards costs. The Subordinate Judge passed decree in the terms of the award.

NEW GOVERNOR AT MADRAS.

PROBABLE DATE OF ARRIVAL

Madras, Feb. 11.

A Press Communique says: Information received during the last few days indicates the second week of April as the probable date of the arrival of Lord Willingdon in Madras and the departure of Lord Pentland. Early official announcement of more definite particulars may no doubt be expected.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONGRESS COMMITTEE AND THE ROWLATT BILLS.

At a meeting of the Council of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee held at the Committee's office on the 11th February last, the following resolutions were passed on the motion of Babu Satyananda Bose, seconded by Mr Mujibur Rahman.

The Council of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committees strongly protests against the two bills (the Indian Criminal Law amendment Bill and the Criminal Law Emergeney Power Bill of 1919) introduced in the Indian Legislative Council in the face of the united opposition of the whole country, as subversive of the fundamental rights and liberties of the people.

The Council is further of opinion that the Bills even as temporary measures should be strenuously opposed both within and outside the Imperial Legislative Council and calls upon the non-official members of the Imperial Legislative Council and the country at large to oppose the Bills persistently until they are abandoned.

ALLEGED INSULT TO PROPHET OF ISLAM.

CASE AGAINST "EPIPHANY."

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Burdwan, Feb. 11.

Babus Jogendranath Roy and Bhawani Das Mujumder on behalf of Hon'ble Abul Kasem moved the Joint Magistrate against the printer of "Epiphany" for publishing alleged insulting remarks about the Prophet of Islam. Mr Lethbridge issued summons. 20th February was fixed for appearance of the accused.

MRS. BESANT AT KARACHI.

(Associated Press of India.)

Karachi, Feb 11.

Mrs Besant is at present in Karachi and has delivered a series of lectures.

THE LATE PRINCIPAL PURI SANSKRIT COLLEGE.

Puri, Feb. 10.

Pandit Biswa Nath Mohapatra, Principal of the Puri Sanskrit College died on the in force hitherto.

TELEGRAPH STAFF

INCREASES OF PAY FOR ALL RANKS.

THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S COMMUNIQUE.

Delhi, Feb 10.

The following communique has been received from the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs:—

For some time the Government of India have had under consideration proposals for raising the pay and emoluments of the telegraph staff. An increase in the pay of telegraphists has already been sanctioned from the 1st January 1919 and the orders of the Government have now been received sanctioning with effect from the 1st March 1919 substantial increase of pay and improvements in the prospects of other ranks up to and including the superior traffic branch, 2nd division. The following is a brief summary of the principal revisions which have been sanctioned.

(1) The grant of allowances of Rs 10 and Rs 20 to all sanctioned supervisory appointments held by telegraphists.

(2) An increase of Rs 30 a month in the pay of all Telegraph Masters (general and local service).

(3) The raising of the maximum pay of technical supervisors, inspecting telegraph masters, and inspecting telegraphists to Rs 300.

(4) The raising of the allowances of inspecting Telegraph Masters and inspecting telegraphists to Rs 40 a month.

(5) The raising of the pay of all Deputy Superintendents 2nd class, on Rs 250—325 to Rs 300—400.

(6) The raising of the pay of all Deputy Superintendents 1st class on Rs 325—300 to 400—500.

(7) The promotion of Deputy Superintendents, Traffic 1st class, on Rs 400—500 to the superior traffic branch, 2nd Division, on Rs 500—800.

(8) The increase of the number of appointments in the superior traffic branch, 2nd division from 27 to 35 and the raising the minimum pay of these appointments from Rs 250 to Rs 300.

For men already in the superior traffic branch increases of pay corresponding to those for Deputy Superintendents have been sanctioned.

(9) The creation of superior engineering and technical branches in the 2nd division of pay Rs 300—600. Deputy Superintendents 1st class (engineering and technical) Rs 400—50o, will be promoted to the corresponding superior branch Rs 500—600.

SEDITION BILLS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Delhi, Feb 9.

In view of the unanimous opposition of the non-official Indian Members the authorities are considering the desirability of making the Rowlatt Bills temporary. Those who are expected to know what happens behind the scenes say that the authorities tried to persuade some of the Members to accept the measure "in their own interests." The Bill, they said, would not be accepted by the more representative Legislative Assembly that would come into existence after the passing of the Reform Act, and the Members would do well to accord their support to it now. This argument, of course, had no effect on the "irresponsible" representatives of the people who stuck to their guns. The day previous to the meeting of the Council a Conference of the non-official Indian Members was held in which they agreed to oppose the Bill. It was a pleasant surprise to find Nawab Nawab Ali Chaudhuri refraining from voting on Mr. Patel's amendment and thus giving the non official minority his passive support. What was still more suprising was that he, together with Mr Hogg, voted for Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee's amendment. We hope the Nawab now realises that it is never too late to mend. All the nominated non official Indian Members—including Mr Maung Bah Too, opposed the measures. But it had no effect on the majority. It is however, in the air that the authorities are trying to rally the Moderates and some of them have already been consulted to bring about a compromise. The intention now is to make the measure temporary for two years or so.

It is a pity that at least five non official Indian Members were absent when the Rowlatt Bill was introduced in the Council at Delhi. Captain Ajab Khan is on Field Service and could not come. But we do not know what prevented the other four being in their places on such an important occasion. The Hon Khan Bahadur Saiyed Allahando Shah (Bombay) and the Sikh Sardar Sunder Singh Majithia (Punjab) were absent Sir Dinshaw Watcha the Moderate leader of Bombay did not consider it necessary to attend the meeting and enter his firm protest against this repressive measure. But the most unkindest cut of all came from Maharaja Sir Manindra Chandra Nandi (Bengal) From the attitude of his paper it is evident that the Maharaja is not in love with the proposed measures; and it would have been graceful if he himself had been at his post on the day the Bill was introduced. Will not the Bengal Zemindars, whose representative he is, regret his action on the present occasion?

CHOLERA AT BALASORE

Balasore, Feb. 10.

Cholera is raging in the Balasore town in epidemic form.

Delhi, Feb. 11. With reference to the announcement made by the Foodstuffs' Commissioner on the 30th January regarding the reduction in the rates of freight for rice shipped from Burma to the Indian ports, the Government of India desire to explain that the difference between the rate to Bombay and that to Malabar ports is attributable to the fact that facilities for working steamers on the coast are not comparable with those of Bombay where steamers discharg in docks. As steamers are discharged i open roadsteads on the Malabar coast, ser ous delays have occurred and the prese difference is in proportion to that which w

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fortunate country where such things could happen and personal liberty trifled with, was no place for honest men to live in. Yet, when necessity arose we gave our unstinted support to a measure which empowered the executive in this country to do such things. But I hope the time when a permanent drastic measure like the Defence of India Act could be considered necessary has passed away. The Allies have achieved a glorious victory and normal times have returned. At the present moment India is enjoying complete peace and there is no sign of internal disorders. Moreover, the sacrifices in men and money that India has made in the war cementing with the blood of her sons a brotherhood in arms with the Allied nations fighting for a glorious cause has given her sons, as Your Lordship has put it in the Reform Report, "a new sense of self-esteem." The other day the Secretary of State for India recounted the services and sacrifices of my country and pointed out that during the war there had been recruited 11,67,789 Indians, the grand total of all ranks sent oversea from India was 12,15,338, the casualities sustained by this force was 101439. "Nobody", said the Secretary of State, "could say that India did not bear her part in our victory and shewn herself to be (?) as in future she must be treated a partner of the British Empire." The Reform proposals made by your Excellency conjointly with the Secretary of State after the announcement of August 1917 have raised new hopes and aspirations in the Indian mind and dispelled dissatisfaction. Under the circumstances it would be a rude shock to the feelings of the people to rush a permanent drastic measure like this through a Legislative Council whose sands of life are fast running out and whose term of office has been extended only to smooth the advent of a larger and more representative Legislative Assembly. The Defence of India Act is still operative and though peace is within sight the war, technically, is not at an end. Then to deal with persons whom the Government may consider dangerous you have Regulation 111 of 1818. Moreover, Government has the power to issue Ordinances and to bring in a fresh Bill when necessary; so with these three strings to their bow Government can certainly wait and see how the new policy of conciliaion and trust works,—whether the release of a large number of detenus would have a sobering effect on the misguided youth of the country, which I hope it would. The Rowlatt Committee in recommending emergency preventive measures said that every order authorising any interference wih liberty must be made for a limited period.

My Lord, to make my position clear I beg leave to say that I might have been willing to give my assent to a temporary measure to last for a short time in order to keep lawless element in society under effective control provided the necessity for the measure had been proved, but as the Defence of India Act is still in force and is to run six months after the war, I fail to see the necessity for hurriedly enacting a permanently measure which will hurt India's sense of self-esteem and cast a slur on her loyalty and which, I am sure, will go to neutralise the high hopes and aspirations raised in the Indian mind by the proposed Reforms Scheme.

INDIA'S AGRICULTURE OUTLOOK.

DR. MANN'S OPTIMISTIC VIEW.

(Associated Press of India.)

Bombay, Feb 11.

Speaking to the students of the Poona Agricultural College at the farewell entertainment given to him, Dr Harold Mann, the late Principal of the College and the present Director of Agriculture, Bombay Presidency, said that in 1900 when he was working in Assam with a commercial body like the Tea Planters Association he saw a vision of glorious future for India and he had realised the force of it in the last 11 years during his principalship of that College. It was his firm belief that the condition of the Indian agriculturists could be improved very rapidly, that the people now encumbered in debt could live a prosperous life, and that the soil of India could produce crops to compete with any other nation in the world. His vision had not yet realised and he was going to work for it. He urged the graduates of the Agricultural College to help him in its realization as in their hands lay the future agriculture of India.

HIGH PRICES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES

APPEAL AGAINST TRANSPORT RESTRICTIONS

Nagpur, Feb. 10.

At a public meeting held to-night, Khan Bahadur H. M. Malak presiding the following resolution was proposed and carried unanimously: That in view of the exorbitant rise in prices of food grains in these provinces the Government of India be pleased to remove the restrictions placed on transpot of foodstuff from one province to another. That if it is deemed not expedient or possible to remove such control Government should take immediate steps to provide reasonable facilities for easy transport of food grains to this province from outside by supplying wagons in sufficiently large numbers to enable requisite quantities to be imported and also prevail upon railway and navigation companies to reduce the freights. It was also resolved that the above resolution be communicated to Government of India and local government. A deputation of seven members was formed to wait upon the Hon. the Chief Commissioner to place before him the causes of high price of food grains and suggest remedies.

Governor's visit to Metropolition Institution.—His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay paid a visit to the Metropolitian Institution on Tuesday the 11th instant. His Excellency was pleased with the working of the Institution and granted a week's holiday in honour of his visit.

Christ or Clausewitz.

(BY A. G. G.)

To-morrow we enter Christmas week. If the season has any meaning for us other than that if a pagan festival of gaiety it should be the most memorable Christmas in the lives of any of us. For four years the world has repudiated Christmas. Its pale ghost has come into our midst like a reminiscence of some childish dream. The angels' song has been drowned in the roar of ten thousand guns and we have been so busy killing each other by the most approved methods of science that we have almost forgotten what we started killing each other about. And, judging from the spectacle that the world presents to-day, we are still in grave doubt. Peace has come, but we are not at all sure that we mean it to stay. Peace has come, but "good will to all men" lingers and without the spirit of good-will peace is only a transient phantom. Perhaps the coming season will help the world to make up its mind whether it is going to live by good will or hate. One principle or the other must govern society, and according as we choose we shall have "Peace on earth" or "War on earth." "War is only an extension of policy," said Clausewitz. That is one of the profoundest sayings ever uttered. Its corollary is obvious. "Peace is only an extension of policy." Which policy is the world going to live by in the future, the policy that guarantees war or the policy that guarantees peace? That is the question we may very well ask ourselves next week as we listen to the beautiful legend that will be told in a hundred lands and in a hundred tongues. Christ or Clausewitz? There is the choice.

THE SPIRIT OF CLAUSEWITZ.

And do not let us fob ourselves off with illusions. Do not let us suppose that Clausewitz is dead because Germany is beaten. Clausewitz is a spirit like Christ and he is no more confined to Germany than Christ was confined to Judea. He is the spirit of war and he lives in all countries and has his prophets in all languages. His dominion flits about from shore to shore. There is no race immune from his spirit. A century ago it was embodied in Napoleon and the French. two centuries ago it was embodied in Louis XIV and the French, three centuries ago it was embodied in Philip II. and Spain and so on. Yesterday it flamed heaven high in Prussia. To-morrow it may flame heaven high in England, in France, in America—who knows where? Who shall give a certificate of immunity to any of us? The spirit of war and warlike domination is as easy to catch as Influenza, and, like Influenza, it knows no geographical boundaries.

Look at the English Press, the French Press, the American Press and you will see the disease as rampant as ever. It only talks a different language—that is all. Our "Morning Post" is a daily debauch of Clausewitz. It was in an English paper, "The Times" that Sir Conan Doyle preached last year his Christmas sermon of "Hate." These are the prophets of the educated and Bottomley with his "League of Hate," is the idol of the mob. You can see in powerful sections of the French Press the spirit of revenge and greed mounting with a sort of fury that stupefies the mind. It scoffs at the League of Nations. like our own militarists, and seems to regard the Fourteen Points as only a sort of convenient bait for the armistice which, having served its purpose, has lost all meaning. It discusses annexation with as contemptuous a disregard of Self-Determination as the Prussians showed in 1870 and puts in a modest claim for a thirteen-thousand-million indemnity at the same time that the financiers are preparing their plans for the economic suppression of Germany and the hotel keepers of Paris are passing a ten years' exclusion law against all German visitors.

OMINOUS SYMPTOMS.

You turn to Italy and the same ominous spirit meets you. In the speech of Signor Tittoni published this week the Italian claims to compensation no longer stopped short at Italia Irredenta or Trieste. They ranged over sea and land and penetrated into the hinterland of Africa and to the mineral deposits of Asia Minor. If we were to have the German Colonies was not Italy to have—this, that, and the other—compensation in Somaliland, in Libya, in Eritrea? And what about the treaty in regard to Asia Minor that Russia, France, and England made in 1916 without the knowledge of the Italian Foreign Minister? Is not Italy, after helping the Allies to "systematise" the Western Mediterranean, not to have its share in "systematising" the Eastern Mediterranean? And the correspondent who cables the message significantly adds that there is a belief that "Influences are at work to prevent the realisation, on the part of the Allies, of Italy's efforts, sufferings, and achievements."

Or you turn to Belgium and you see demands springing up for "compensation," not from Germany—that is just and accepted—but from Holland. Or to Russia, and through the cloud that hangs over that tragic land you see vague and shadowy movements shaping themselves for unknown adventures inspired by unknown motives. Can we feel assured that the motives are honest or the adventures wise? Has the record of the Allies in regard to Russia since the Revolution been one to inspire plain men with confidence? Has it not, on the contrary, from the day that Mr. Bonar Law, in the very act of welcoming the Revolution, paid compliments to the fallen Tsardom, been cold and inimical, ignorant or foolish? It is well that we should repudiate Bolshevism and prepare to stem that devastating flood. But are the Allies innocent of promoting the cause of Bolshevism by their chill aloofness to Free Russia? Have they done anything to sustain Free Russia from within, to give it help in the greatest agony that has ever befallen a nation? Are we sure that their motives are disinterested to-day, that they have nothing to do with the claims of French bond-holders and the expectations of financial groups? I do not say that the claims of bondholders are dishonourable claims. They are legitimate and just. If world credit is destroyed, the bond of society is destroyed and we shall all suffer from the industrial anarchy that will follow. But the Allies have a grander task than underwriting bonds. They have to underwrite Freedom. And if they do that we shall not need to worry about the bonds. If they don't do that no bonds will stand—nor ought they to stand.

AT HOME.

Is the outlook here more hopeful? We have just passed through a whirlwind election, ostensibly to discover the mind of the country on these great matters—to find out whether it wants to live by Clausewitz or Christ. What did we talk about in that election? We talked about hanging the Kaiser, we talked about squeezing the lemon, about taking (Sir Eric Geddes) every gold or silver trinket that the Germans have, about "firing them out," (Mr. Lloyd George), about dumping, and so on. Was there one word from any responsible states man in office that rose above the level of Mr Bottomley or that suggested that, having destroyed the gospel of Clausewitz, we were going to try to give the world a better gospel to live by? I do not recall one. But I recall that we saw the election come and go without an unequivocal pledge against Conscription being given and with admissions and revelations (e. g. the letter disclosed by Mr. Thomas, in which the War Office scheme for Conscription was given in detail) which show why it could not be given.

AMERICA.

Or America? Is Clausewitz dead there? Unhappily he is very much alive. He is organising all the anti-Wilson forces, the vested interests, the big money, the newspaper monopoly which he controls even more tyrannously than he controls our own Press, to defeat the President. Mr. Roosevelt is only the Kaiser in a frock coat. He thinks as naturally in the terms of the big drum and the big stick as the Kaiser did. He scoffs at the League of Nations (although he advocated it in the Outlook at the beginning of the War), demands Conscription exalts militarism, decries peace screams for a great navy with the apoplectic fervour of our Mr. Hughes. I have before me a precious document sent to me by the "American Defence Society, Inc.," of which I see Mr. Roosevelt is the President. The secretary says it has "occurred to him" that "The Daily News" might like to publish it. It has occurred to him, I suppose, because the President is here and a nice way of stabbing him in the back is to float an opposition policy. This policy, Mr. Roosevelt's policy, is contained in "Twelve Points," of which I give samples:

7. Germany should not be admitted to the Peace Conference as a member, or with any voice in the settlement of the terms of peace.

9. If any League of Nations should be formed at the Peace Conference Germany shall not now be admitted thereto.

10. The right of blockade is not to be abridged.

II. Economic barriers must be maintained against Germany in order to diminish her power for a long period to wage war.

12. The party of law and order in Russia should be heard at the Peace Conference.

That is how the world is to be redeemed according to Mr. Roosevelt. That is the sort of "good will" with which he is going to bring Peace on Earth.

A REMINDER.

And do not let us, while getting rid of illusions, suppose that all is well because Germany is out of the way—that in arming the world afresh on a more magnificent scale we are only going to arm as a demonstration of mutual affection between Allies. We can always find enemies. The Press will take care of that. The armaments rings will take care of that. Clausewitz will take care of that. Allies do not always love each other. Nothing indeed is more common than for them to quarrel. They nearly came to blows at the Vienna Congress and but for the escape of Napoleon from Elba, would probably have done so. They did come to blows in the Balkan League and turned from slaying the enemy to slaying each other. And if the Clausewitz gospel survives we may expect similar things to happen in the future. We all agree that war should be unthinkable between England and America. Mr. Roosevelt only wants the second biggest navy in the world. We must be first and America second. It is not a menace to us—of course not. How could it be? Aren't we Allies? But I seem to remember two things: (1) that Germany always said she only wanted to be second to us at sea, (2) that less than twenty years ago when Mr. Roosevelt was President he waved his big stick rather truculently at our heads, and warned the Balfour Government off the course—quite rightly as I then thought and still think. I only mention the fact as a salutary reminder. And there is another thing to remember. The economic interests behind Mr. Roosevelt are very pro-British just now, when they want to slay Mr. Wilson; but these interests will have no disinterested passion for British competition in the future. Whether we like it or not, the commercial aims of the two countries will not harmonise, and as wars to-day always have their roots in economic causes we must not be surprised if assuming that Clausewitz wins, trouble comes in the fut—

CHRISTMAS OR CLAUSEWITZ.

If this survey represented all that was to be said about the outlook at this memorable Christmas we should have little hope of inaugurating the region of good will without which peace, as I have said, is only a passing phantom. We should have to come to the conclusion that the world is heading straight for more wars. Fortunately there is another side. President Wilson has raised the issue of whether the world is to live by the spirit of hate or by the spirit of good will, by competition or by co-operation, by force or by freedom, by the sanctions of violence or the sanctions of reason. His argument has been before the world for two years. It has triumphed in Germany and overthrown the Kaiser from within. It is accepted by the general heart of the world. It has made him the leader and the hope of Democracy in every country—in those which have been our enemies and those which have been our friends, and not least, in neutral lands also. Powerful influences are mobilising against him on all sides—in his own country, as we have seen, as well as in European countries, for Clausewitz is a drag on with many heads. But the forces hind him are greater than those in front. They have only to be mobilised to assure him the victory, and the Christmas season should bring to his standard such reinforcements as will put the issue of the battle beyond doubt.—("Daily News.")

EXCESS PROFITS TAX.

B. I. ASSOCIATION 'S VIEWS.

The following are the extracts from the observations submitted by the Hon'ble Raja Reshee Case Law, C.I.E., Honorary Secretary to the British Indian Association.

To Under Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department, Calcutta.

In moving the Resolution regarding financial assistance to be given to His Majesty's Government in respect of the cost of military forces raised or to be raised, in India, at the meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council held on the 9th of September 1918, Sir William Meyer stated in his speech that the financial assistance which would be offered to His Majesty's Government in the event of the Resolution being passed would be "proportioned to the duration of the war so that, if, contrary to expectation, peace should come speedily, India will have to pay less than would be the case if the war should last" till the end of 1920-21. Sir William Meyer then estimated that for the year 1918-19 the cost of the measures contemplated in the Resolution would be about £12.7 million, while for 1919-20 the figures would be £14.7 million and for 1920-21 £7.7 million assuming that the war would continue so long.

Now as regards the £12.7 million required for 1918-19, my Committee are of opinion that the sudden cessation of hostilities is likely to reduce the amount to a certain extent. But even if this anticipation were not realised, we have before us Sir William Meyer's declaration that the Government of India can meet the whole of this sum of £12.7 million from their existing resources, having regard to the fact that notwithstanding the poor agricultural situation in some parts of India and the probability that India's military charges will be much larger than the £2½ million estimated for in the budget, owing to large receipts from railways, the gain by exchange and other causes. Therefore no extra taxation will be necessary for the current year. In 1919-20, the cost of the financial assistance to be given to His Majesty's Government will be considerably less than the amount which would have been required, had the war not been brought to a termination, while the cost for 1920-21 will be almost insignificant.

The Committee note that the proposed Excess Profits duty will be imposed for meeting the cost in 1919-20 and that it will be limited to one year only. The Committee submit that there is no reason to apprehend that the surplus which may reasonably be expected in 1919-20 will not suffice to enable Government to meet the cost for that year without resorting to additional taxation. The exchange for instance, is not likely to be less favourable to India in 1919-20 than it was in 1918-9 and the receipts from railways will not be much less than in the current year In the circumstances the need for additional taxation in 1819-20 is not apparent. If however additional taxation is still found to be necessary, then my Committee approve of the decision of the Government of India and of the Legislative Council that the proposed temporary tax should "fall largely upon the well-to-do and specially upon those who have made large profits from circumstances arising out of the war." An exception may however be made in the case of industries which had been struggling before but have been steadied under war conditions.

The question next arises as to whether the imposition of a duty on excess profits, as proposed in the Bill, will be the most suitable form of taxation to meet the limited requirements of the case. The proposal has elicited strong opposition from the mercantile community in general and the European mercantile community in particular and it is for the Government of India to consider whether it is not possible to devise a measure which will be less open to objection and at the same time serve the purpose of Government equally well. In this connection my Committee venture to submit an alternative proposal namely, the enhancement of the rate of the Income tax on a sliding scale in the case of those industries and businesses which have made very large profits in the war. It would at any rate possess the great merit of simplicity and be less unpopular than the Bill which has been circulated for public criticism.

TROUBLE AT PANDALUR.

FANATICS AND POLICE AT GRIPS & CASUALTIES.

Calicut, Feb. 10.

The Moplah fanatics yesterday occupied strong position at Pandalur and refused to surrender. They were then fired upon, eight being killed and one wounded. Attacking force had no casualties. The force is comprised of Malapuram Special Police and A I Force with machine gun. No further trouble is expected.

BOSE INSTITUTE LECTURE

WOUNDED PLANTS.

Sir J. C. Bose in the course of his discourse last Friday said: It is a little over four years now that the Embodiment of world tragedy stalked over Western Europe. The fair field of France and the bright sky was under a pall of battle-smoke. Our sight could not penetrate through the dense gloom, and the mortal cry of the wounded and dying, drowned by hoarse roar of a thousand cannon, did not reach our ear. But from the time the Sikh and the Pathan, the Gurkha and the Bengali, the Mahratta and the Rajput flung themselves in front of battle from that day our perception has become intensified. The distant cry of those whose life-blood has crimsoned the white field of snow, has found reverberating echo in our heart. What is that subtle bond by which all distances are bridged over, and by which an individual life becomes merged in larger life? Sympathy is that bond by which we come to realise the unity of all life. Before us are spread multitudinous plants, silent and seemingly impassive. They too like us are actors in the Cosmic drama of life, like us the play thing of destiny. In their checkered life, light and darkness, the warmth of summer and frost of winter, drought and rain, the gentle breeze and whirling tornadoes, life and death alternate. Various shocks impinge on them, but no cry is raised in answer. I shall nevertheless try to decipher some chapters of their life-history.

When a man receives a blow or shock of any kind, his answering cry makes us realise that he is hurt, but a mute makes no outcry. How do we realise his sufferings? We know it by his agonised look by the convulsive movement of his limbs, and through fellow-feeling realise his pain. When a frog is struck it does not cry, but its limbs show convulsive movement. But from this it does not follow that the frog is hurt, for some would urge that there is a great gap between us and lower animals. One who feels for the humblest of His creatures alone knows whether the frog is hurt or not. Human sympathy always aspires: it is sometimes extended to equals, hardly ever to inferiors. And so it happens that many would doubt, whether the lowly and the depressed possess the fine sense of the exalted to feel the same joy and sorrow, and to resent social tyranny. When human attitude is so finely discriminative as regards different grades of his own species, it might be extravagant to believe that the frog could have any consciousness of pain. A concession might however be made that the frog perceives a shock to which it responds by convulsive movements. It is as well that we should be careful about the use of terms for an eminent biologist insisted that animals never felt any pain; when an oyster is swallowed alive, it did not, according to him, feel any pain but rather a sensation of grateful warmth at contact with the alimentary tract. The question will remain undecided for no one has as yet returned from the gastric cavity of the tiger to expatiate on the exquisite sensation.

TEST OF LIVINGNESS.

Responsive movement being a test of life, we shall try to construct a scale with which the height of livingness may be measured. What is the difference between the living and the dead? The living answers to a shock from without; the most lively gives the most energetic, the torpid or dying the feeblest, and the dead no answer at all. Thus life may be tested by shocks from without, the size of the answer being the gauge of vitality. The answer of the strong will be violent and almost explosive in its intensity, while the weaking will barely protest. The responsive movements may be recorded by suitable apparatus. The successive responses to similar shocks will remain uniform, if the living tissue remained always the same. But the living organism is always in a state of change for environment is always building us anew, and we are changing everyday of our life. We are thus subject to change, some day we are in a state of high exuberance, and other time in a state of lowest depression: we pass through numerous phases between the two extremes. Not merely does the present modify, but there is also the subtle impress of memory of the past. The sum total of all these characterise one individual from another. How is the hidden to be made manifest? To test the genuineness of a coin, we strike it and the sound-response betrays the true from the false. The genuine rings true and the other gives a false note. In this way perhaps the inner history of different lives may be revealed by shocks and the resulting response.

EFFECT OF WOUND.

There are three separate investigations that have been carried out on the effect of wound on plants. The first is the shock effect of wound on growth: this generally speaking retards or arrests growth. In the second series of investigations the change of spontaneous pulsation of the leaflet of the Telegraph plant was recorded. Death begins to spread from the cut end of the leaflet, and reaches the throbbing tissue which becomes permanently stilled on cessation of life. Experiments are in progress to arrest their march of death, and the cut leaflet which died in 24 hours has now been kept alive for more than a week.

PARALYSIS OF SENSIBILITY.

Another series of investigations were carried out on the paralysing effect of severe wound. A leaf of Mimosa was cut off from the plant, and the subsequent histories of the wounded plant and the detached leaf are curiously different. The cutting of one of its leaves had caused a great shock to the parent plant, and an intense excitation spreads over to the distant organs. All the leaves remained depressed and irresponsive for several hours. From this state of paralysed sensibility, the plant gradually recovers and the leaves begin to show returning sensitiveness. The detached leaf, when placed in a nourishing solution soon recovers, and holds up its head with an attitude indicative of defiance, and the responses it gives are energetic. This lasts for twenty four hours, after which a curious change creeps in the vigour of its responses begins rapidly to wane. The leaf hitherto erect, falls over. death had at last asserted its mastery.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Imperial Legislative Council.

Black Bills.

Second Bill to be Permanent.

FIRST BILL FOR 3 YEARS AFTER PEACE

(Associated Press of India.).

Delhi, Feb 10.

The Imperial Council re-assembled at 11 o'clock to-day, H. E. the Viceroy presiding Sir William Vincent announced the Government's intention that the Rowlatt Bill would remain in force for three years after declaration of peace. This, he added, was consistent with the British precedent since the first coercion Bill was enforced for three years.

SIR WILLIAM VINCENT'S SPEECH.

Delhi, Feb 10.

Sir William Vincent said that before proceeding with the motion which stood in his name (introduction and refcrence to the Select Committee the Bill to provide for amendment of the Indian Penal Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure 1898) he would like to state that during the debate on the Criminal Emergency Power Bill some of the non-official members expressed their wish that they would have been in a position to support the measures if it were of temporary nature. Mr Banerjee had asked him pointedly what were the exact intentions of the Government. Since then he (Sir William) had ascertained the views of the Government of India and he was authorised to state that the Criminal Emergency Power Bill would remain in operation for a period of three years after the conclusion of peace.

He next introduced the Bill to provide for the amendment of the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. He said he had nothing much to say. The provisions of the Bill were based on Rowlatt Committee's Report. The Bill was intended to make permanent change in the criminal law of the land. Clause 3 merely empowered the Magistrate to order an enquiry by the police but the prosecution could not be undertaken without Local Government's permission. Clause 4 was found necessary to offer protection to the men affraid of the anarchists. Clause 6 intended to check the criminal activities of persons released. He also moved that the Bill he referred to the select Committee consisting of Sir George Lowndes, Pandit M M Malaviya, Mr Shafi Mr Muddiman, Mr Khaparde, Mr Banerjea Mr Pagan, Mr Patel, Sir Verney Lovett, Sir James Duboulay, Mr Emerson and himself.

Sir William Vincent in explaining the Criminal Law Amendment Bill said that all provisions of the Bill were based on the recommendations of the Rowlatt Report. The first clause of the Bill was based on Rule 25 A of the Defence of India Rules which had been in force for some time. The Clause three merely authorised the District Magistrate to direct preliminary inquiry by the police in case of certain offences, the prosecution of which could not be launched without the sanction of the Local Government. It was necessary to have such inquiry made before the Local Government decided whether the prosecution should be launched. The Clause four was intended to make the amendment in Section 343 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The Section 343 prohibited the offer of threat inducement etc to the accused persons to make the statement. It had been found this provision of the law interfered with the promise of protection of the accused person who was willing to become the approver but was really afraid of violence and intention here was to enable the Government to offer such protection to the persons about to become witness. Sir William then briefly explained the other clauses of the bill and introduced it.

MR. PATEL'S SPEECH.

The Hon Mr Patel next moved the amendment that the consideration of this Bill be deferred till six months have elapsed after the expiry of the term of office of this Legislative Council. He expressed satisfaction at annouacement of Sir William Vincent about time limit to the Criminal Emergency Power Bill.

The Hon. Mr. Patel in moving the amendment thanked Government that the previous measure was to be made ttmporary. He said clause 2 made the possessions of seditious literature criminal and so created a new offence. He traced the gradual tightening of the bond and said that the next measure perhaps would be to penalise a man who thinks sedition. The trial of a person accused under provisions of this law would not be in an ordinary court of law. The war proposed to make association with the offender prejudicial to the accused. These innovations were highly objectionable. Even the first offender under this law would be treated harshly and not leniently as under the existing law.

MR. BANERJEE'S SPEECH

Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea asknowledged on his own behalf as well as that of his colleagues the fact that Government had shown great deference to the public opinion in this country. Their opposition to the Bill however remained and their attitude would be largely determined by the shape the Bill took in the Select Committee. It was no use denying the fact that bill had created great alarm and anxiety in the public mind. He asked the Home Member to make specific declaration that the Bill would be only confined to anarchical crimes. The section about the possession of seditious literature was a dangerous weapon which was liable to be misused. He appealed to Viceroy to drop the Bill altogetner.

Dr. Sapru in supporting Mr. Patel's amendment to the Criminal Law Amendment Bill said he did not wish to cover the same ground as was covered on the last occasion. So far as the questions of policy of the expediency were concerned they were dealt with at great length on the last occasion and he submitted the same consideration applied to this Bill as did to the last bill but there were just one or two matters connected with this Bill he wished to place before His Lordship and the Council. After the announcement that had just been made by the Home Member they found the first bill was going to be of temporary character. So far as this Bill was concerned it had just been stated it was going to be a permanent addition to the Statute book. The leading feature of this Bill was it created absolutely new offence. Clause two of the Bill first of all made it penal o possess seditious document and in the next place it cast burden of proof that it was for the lawful purpose on the accused. He did not think that any of them however highly placed would be safe from molestation under the provisions of this section. He ventured to submit even the Home Member would not be safe. Every day he had to deal with seditious documents and in council meeting he had often to read them and if the enterprising police officer wished to make himself immortal in the history of the Council he could do so by laying his hands on the Home Member for being in possession of the seditious document and he would have to call His Excellency and them all to prove that he was holding these documents for lawful purpose. He would ask the Home Member to imagine position like this. He submitted this was the most vital and far reaching change and he begged His Excellency's Government consider whether it was wise to rush measure like this without giving the country opportunity to consider its provisions. Why not circulate it to Local Governments for opinion? Why not invite criticisms from the Judges of the High Court? Why not invite public criticism? He did not think the Present Bill stood on the same footing as did the last Bill. That Bill was intended to deal with Emergency that had arisen or that might arise and it was considered necessary from the point of State that there must be mere speedy and summary procedure to deal with cases of that character. Those considerations did not rise in the case. He thought the country was entitled to ask for time to consider the provisions of measure like this. On the last occasion Sir William Vincent had said these bills were intended to grapple with anarchical and revolutionary movement If that be so why not make it clear? The preamble of this Bill contained the words "In order to deal more effectively with certain acts dangerous to the State." He would much rather that they were more definite about certain acts dangerous to the State and say plainly the acts of anarchical and revolutionary character. That would enable the courts of law to interpret the bill in the manner it should be interpreted. Clauses five and six were also novel provisions of far reaching consequences. The more one considered the Bill the more one was inclined to think the Bill was conceived in a hurry although it might be it was the result of the report of the Rowlatt Company. On these grounds he strongly supported Mr. Patel's amendment and urged His Excellency's Government out of deference to public opinion in the country to republish the Bill at least if they were not prepared to drop it as he would very much like them to do.

PANDIT M. M MALAVIYA.

Pandit Madan Mohon Malaviya in supporting the amendment hoped the Government would further consider the matter and drop the first Bill altogether. He wished to point out the danger. In 1907 the Seditious meetings Act was passed as temporary measure and was made permanent in 1911. With regard to the present Bill there was no occasion for hurry. Request came with greater force in this case because here it was proposed to make permanent additions of novel and dangerous character. As every speaker before him had pointed out the section about the possession of seditious documents was very wide departure from the rules in force under the Defence of India Act. In these Government defined what documents were seditious. They had prohibited the possession of certain documents. Everyone therefore knew what they were and it was easy to avoid them. The present section left it to every individual to decide whether the document was seditious or not. Everyone knew how very difficult it was to decide whether the document was seditious or not. Even courts had differed and it was rather hard and positively unfair to ordinary citizen that the possession of the document which might be interpreted as seditious be made penal. Now who were persons likely to fall victims? The Rowlatt committee had said those evilly inclined sought to convert the young. If seditious leaflets were circulated among tudents were they expected to judge whether the documents were seditious? He thought a lot of poor students would fall victims to this provision. He submitted remedy was worse than disease They ought to find measures which would have public sympathy and support to deal with this matter. He criticised other provisions and in conclusion urged the Government to limit the scope of proposal to only introducing the Bill to-day and to refer the Bill to the Select Committee during the Simla sessions.

MR. B N SARMA.

Mr. B N Sarma said he wished the Government had come to the same decision with regard to this Bill (Criminal Law Amendment Bill) as the Criminal Emergency Power Bill in keeping it in operation for three years. He hoped it was not too late. He criticised at length several provisions of the Bill and concluded by appealing to the Viceroy that the Bill should be dropped.

RAJA OF KANIKA.

The Raja of Kanika speaking on Mr. Patel's amendments said he viewed the Bill (the Criminal Law Amendment Bill) with great degree of misgivings. The possession of a seditious document alone should not constitute an offence. Protection of an innocent person was the first duty of the state then to punish a criminal. No one would be safe from the unwise operation of the Bill.

MR. CHANDA.

Mr. Chanda thanked the Home Member for his announcement. He associated with the view expressed by Mr. Banerjee and Dr. Sapru that the operation of the Bill should be confined to anarchical crimes. The fact that the Government of Bengal were able to release about one thousand detenus clearly showed that the situation was far better than commonly imagined. He read an extract of a letter which he had received from a prisoner in the Andamans dated 27th October last in which among other things it was said that now the Government work of revolutionaries was finished. Mr. Chanda said this clearly showed that with such an attitude of mind coming into so called revolutionaries the necessity of such repressive laws no longer existed. He criticised the provisions of clause 2 Section 5 Clause B which he styled as very dangerous.

MR. KHAPARDE.

Mr. Khaparde said that to make the possession of seditious literature punishable was dangerous. Even in case of receiving stolen property it was necessary to prove "guilty knowledge." Here that was not necessary, mere possession was liable to endanger a man.

SIR GEORGE LOWNDES.

Sir George Lowndes then addressed the Council. He dealt with the objections raised by the non-official Members against the various clauses. He first took up the question of clause two and said in drafting the clauses he intended to make penal possession plus intent to publish. He had tried to put it in plain English language but if it was thought the section went beyond that it was a matter to be settled in the Select Committee With regard to other difficulties raised he said they existed under the present law also. They were not creating any new difficulties, People who dealt with rather doubtful matters had got to take the risk of being prosecuted. What Government wanted was to prevent the mischief being done and any means which could prevent the seditious matter getting out would commend themselves to every member. They all wanted to do the same thing and how best it could be done could be discussed in the Select Committee. Dealing with the clauses about associating with persons convicted of offences against state he said the answer to Mr. Banerjee's argument was that the relevancy or admissibility of evidence were two different things. Many things were admissible in evidence but they would have no weight when proved. When it was proved that A and B were brothers evidence would have no weight.

In conclusion Sir George referred to Mr. Khaparde's speech in which he had reiterated the metaphor of rose and thorn and reminded the Hon'ble Member that there was no rose without thorn and that thorn was the provision of nature in order that the beauty of rose might not be dispoilt.

Sir William Vincent who spoke next in opposing Mr. Patel's Amendment on behalf of the Government said the first point on which he was asked to give assurance by the members was as to the scope and intention of two bills brought before the Council.

Pandit Malaviya said his point was that Government had under that rule proclaimed objectionable documents and it was therefore easy to avoid them.

Sir William said that provisions contained in clauses two were exactly the same as those in rule 25A but he was quite prepared to examine this matter further. Dealing with clause 5 relating to association he said principle of clause was based more or less on section in Evidence Act but matter could be examined in the Select Committee. What Government had attempted to do was to put down all the recommendations of very powerful committee for prima facie consideration of the Council. Dealing with the amendment he said he was affraid he was unable to meet the wishes of the mover. The principles of the Bill had been before the public for a considerable time and had been criticised at great length and no useful purpose would be served by the republication and delaying the reference to the Select Committe. At the same time he realised this Bill stood on different footing from emergency measure and it seemed to him the most convenient and advantageous course was to refer the Bill to the Select Committee at once.

After the Committee had examined the details of it if there were considerable changes they would consider the necessity of republishing it.

Sir George Lowndes replied at length to the criticisms of some provisions of the Bill made by several members.

Sir William Vincent summing up the debate said that any suggestion brought forward in the Select Committee will receive careful consideration of the Government. He was unable to concede to Mr. Patel with regard to the point of deferring the consideration of the Bill. It would serve no useful purpose. The most convenient way was to refer the Bill to the Select Committee at once and let them examine the Bill and make suggestions.

Mr. Patel's amendment was put to the Council and lost.

Pandit Malaviya strongly urged the republication of the Bill.

Sir George Lowndes said "The regular course was that if the Select Committee made that recommendation, the Government would consider it."

Mr. Banerjee's amendment was put to Council and lost.

Mr Chanda's amendment was also put and lost. Mr. Chanda withdrew his second amendment.

The Viceroy next put the original motion of referring the Bill to the Select Committee which was put and carried.

The Council adjourned for lunch.

AFTER LUNCH.

PENSION AND GRATUITIES BILL.

Council reassembling after lunch the Viceroy presiding Sir Sankaran Nair introduced the Local Authorities Pension and Gratuities Bill. He said the object of the Bill was fully explained in statement of objects and reasons and he had nothing to explain. The statesment of object and reasons was as follows: Provision already exists in some of the enactments relating to local authorities for the grant of pensions and gratuities to employees who may be wounded and to the families of employees who may be killed in execution of their duty but it is not open to a local authority to grant a pension or a gratuity to an employee or to his family when he has been incapacitated or has lost his life in the service of the state. It is proposed to permit any local authority which so desires to grant a pension or a gratuity in such a case and in order specially to provide for cases where those who had been in the employ of local authorities proceeded on active service during the great war. It is proposed that the measure should be applicable in case of injury disease or death which have occurred since the 4th August 1914. The Act will be an enabling act the provisions of which can be made applicable by such local authorities as care to avail themselves of it to any case covered by the terms of the Act the sanction of the local government being required in each case.

Sir George Lowndes in moving that provincial insolvency amendment be referred to Select Committee said on the whole opinion received has been favourable. The question of fixing the sum to be realised had been raised and opinion was divided on the point This he said should have to be decided by the Select Committee. He moved that bill be referred to Select Committee. Motion was put and agreed to. Viceroy said council would now adjourned till 19th February on which date the Excess Profits Tax Bill will be introduced.

The Council stood adjourned.

MR. SRINIVAS SASTRI'S SPEECH.

At the Council Meeting held on February 6, Mr. Sastri supported Mr. Patels' amendment with the following.

REPRESSION LEGISLATION

In the first place it was not in accordance with the practice of other Governments to bring forward repressive legislation long before the necessity for it was made clear. The Home Member had rather overstated the case when he said that the Government must not be left naked and defenceless. Government was not left in that helpless condition. It was in full possession of the powers, it needed to put down wrong of any kind. It would take long before the power under the Defence of India Act expired and if it pleased the Viceroy he could continue it for another year. Then the Law Member relied on the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee but he was unable to find any thing in the report suggesting that any measures proposed must be of a permanent character. Emergency measures were recognised. In his opinion it was hardly necessary to frighten the country by saying that Government must be armed with powers of a permanent character. When in the course of time the Defence Act expired and it became necessary to have these powers it was quite open to Government to call a special session of the Council and he did not think that when Government took such a startiling step of convening the special session of the Council to deal with a dangerous movement there would be any body who would raise his voice against it. When everything was all right, when wrong doing was under full control, when peace and tranquility were secured to say now, long before the necessity arose that they wanted to arm themselves with a weapon of repression was in his opinion simply to set the country in an unnecessary state of excitement. Then they were told that powers would not be placed in the hands of small officials and if every word of what Sir George Lowndes said was carried to its logical conclusion and if every case of misexercise of powers by official could be brought to book there was no reason why in the permanent law of England or of France or of America there should not be legislation of similar character. That was not the way reasonable people looked at things. They knew also with sad experience that such measures were often put in force sooner than necessary, that they were exercised more harshly than necessary, that they were withdrawn with utmost reluctance long after their necessity ceased after enormous mischief and after frightful hardship had been borne by the people. If the measures were passed it would lower the political tone. Responsible Government would be mockery and bureaucracy armed with repressive measures would reign unchecked under the frame of democratic Government

ROGER CASEMENT.

The speaken then referred to the case of Roger Casement and observed, the wicked man as he was he too was given an opportunity to clear his character and was tried in open court.

"CONVENTIONAL REGRETS."

Continuing the speaker referred to Sir Verney Lovett's remark about conventional regrets and observed that when the members reprobrated the wicked deeds it was in no conventional way but they did abhor those wicked deeds just as every other member of the Rowlatt Committee did. Might he then turn back and say that the proposal of Government as brought forward betrayed a callous disregard of the people? He would take back the word callous. It was said it was a hard expression and he hoped Sir Verney would take back the word "conventional." Sir Verney in explaining said what he meant to convey was that the expression of regrets for tragic occurrence which were not followed by systematic attempts to secure that such tragic occurrence shall not happen seemed to him to be worth nothing more than conventional regrets.

SUPRESSING POLITICS.

Continuing Mr. Sastri referred to the House Member's observation that the Bill aimed at purification of politics and remarked that it came dangerously near suppressing politics. They could not place on the Statute Book such a drastic legislation without placing in the hands of the enthusiastic officers short cuts to administrative peace.

Referring to Sir William Vincent's remark about their test he said they had had many tests. They had given their consent to many repressive measures of legislation, they had given their consent to a gift of 100 millions sterling they had given their consent to 45 millions wanted by the Finance Member the other day. What test had been really applied to them through which they had not cheerfully gone through? They had been bidden to bring the milk of beasts of prey, they had brought jug-full of milk of tigress. Were they going to throw it and say 'bring milk of male tiger'? That was not fair. Yes, there would be many people in England who would test them and pronounce upon them, but he hoped that there would be two or three clear sighted shrewd people in England who would say that the I. C. S., the administrative of India, the Executive were really on teir test that they professed to be preparing India for very early beginnings of responsible Government. When would they be willing not to impose their will on legislature but to take the will of legislature, to be servants of legislature and not masters? Were Government prepared to carry the Bill through in spite of their opposition? Whom had they behind them?

"NOMINATED MEMBERS HAD NOT GIVEN THEIR BLESSINGS TO THE BILLS.

The tragic history of their rule in India could be said in one sentence. They had governed the country in isolation. At this supreme moment whom had they behind them? Nominated members had not given their blessings to the Bill. Zemindar members had not given their blessings, lawyer member, none had supported them. He admired the owrage of the Law Member: He admired the candour with which the Law Member had said Government had responsibility to-day,—the members had none of that responsibility. He realised that they had none and he refused to believe that when the case was placed before the public of England they would say they had responsibility and they had shirked they had none. Referring to the feeling in the country Mr. Sastri said he did not think the Law Member could have meant all he implied when he said that some of the members were indulging in threats of agitation. Surely none of the Moderates had power to go and stir up agitation in the country. Agitation must be there already.

FACING GRAVE SITUATION.

In conclusion Mr. Sastri said that if their appeals fell flat and Government went through with the Bill he did not believe there was anyone here who would be going his duty if he did not join in the agitation. If was not a threat but the fact that they were to face with a grave situation. How was it possible for him with the views he held to abstain from agitation? He for one could not abstain (applause from non-official members).

SPEECH OF THE HON RAI SITA NATH RAI BAHADUR ON THE HON MR PATEL'S AMENDMENT.

My Lord.

I beg to question the desirability of permanently placing on the statute-book a drastic measure which, I am sure, will be distasteful to the whole country. Though I must freely admit that the internment policy has been attended with very satisfactory results, as would be evident from absolute cessation of murders and dacoities which were so rampant in the country only a few years before, I cannot, in view of the proposed Reforms and in the face of what India has done in the war and the sacrifices in men and money made by her, welcome a permanent measure which will seriously interfere with the personal liberties of the people of this country. The Defence of India Act was an emergency legislation and a temporary measure adopted at a time when the British Empire was engaged in a life and death struggle—the greatest war that history has ever known. We accepted it to deal with a special situation. At a time when the energies of the empire were engaged in bringing to an end the rampant militarism of Germany and when it was necessary that all internal disorders should be effectively kept under control and crushed out, we readily assented to a measure calculated to put an end to the mischievous activities of the anarchists. Police officers were shot dead in the streets, and daring dacoities became frequent. I am personally aware of several atrocities perpetrated in the houses of my own relatives when thousands of rupees were lost by honest and innocent men who were helpless before gangs of desparadoes armed with loaded revolvers. It was in the house of one of my near relatives that a dacoity of a most atrocious character was perperated in the presence of thousands of men who had assembled to enjoy a theatrical performance and the appearance of masked marauders were considered to be a part of the programme of the theatrical party, till they made their intention clear by forcing their way into the inner apartments and demanding from the ladies their ornaments after which they successfully decamped with booty worth rupees thirty thousand. I might cite another instance in which another relative of mine carrying on business near my Calcutta residence was the victim of a daring dacoity and was quietly relieved of rupees twelve thousand by a band of armed ruffians. I might cite numerous other instances but they are so well-known that I need not weary the Council by reciting them. Whether it was in Calcutta or in the interior of the country, it was always the case that the victim of these nocturnal raids had always been the members of the community to which I have the honour to belong. So it will be easily realised that I should naturally feel inclined to uphold any measure intended to keep under complete control the marauders who masquerade under the borrowed plumage of "patriots" but whose pleasant past time it was to rob their own countrymen of their hard-earned money.

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Desecration of the Saraswati in C. M. S. Hostel

SENSATION IN THE CITY.

(From a Correspondent.)

As the readers remember, the 'vasan' immersion procession consisted of about 600 to 700 students of all the different hostels and messes in Calcutta. The news of the desecration of the image ran like wildfire throughout the whole city and for the last two days it has become the talk of the town. Great sensation prevails not only among the Hindu boarders of the C M. S. Hostel, and the students of other messes and hostels in Calcutta, but the whole Hindu community and even some of the prominent Mahomedan leaders have expressed their great indignation at the conduct of Mr Johnston. The situation has been aggravated by a notice (given below) of the Principal hung up on the notice board of the hostel on the 8th instant. There is a strong rumour that all the first year and 3rd year students of the C M S. College, both internal and external, are going to apply for transfer to-day. The authorities of the Samabay Buildings have been approached to give the boarders of the C M S Hostel a residence for the present. The matter has attracted the serious noice of the Civil Rights Committee and it is expected that due and vigorous steps will be taken without delay.

The following notice has been hung up on the notice-board of the three hostels of the C M S College, the Jani Ali Mess, the St. David Hostel and also the annexed hostel, since the morning of the 8th inst.

"AN IDOL IN THE JANI ALI MESS.

"I want to make one or two remarks about the introduction of the idol into this compound and my removal of it from this compound.

(1) While with regard to the people who brought in the image and hid in secrecy, and all who were privy to the bringing in of the image, I feel that they have no claim to any consideration in my disposal of the confiscated image, yet

(2) the position is different with regard to other Hindus who knew nothing about the matter. They may fairly feel hurt at the placing of the image in the dustbin, and to them I would say that the image was merely placed there as the nearest receptacle for anything not wanted. But I feel that it was an unjustified slight to Hindus who had nothing to do with bringing the image in, and for their sake, as mutual respect is the essential foundation of spiritual fellowship, I would say that I am sorry I placed the image in the dustbin.

Those who brought in the image will have to be dealt with later.

(Sd.) A. B. Johnston
St. Paul Chathedral College."

8-2-19.

OUTRAGE ON HINDU Sentiments

(C. M. S. College).

SITUATION AGGRAVATED.

STUDENTS WANT TRANSFER.

Almost all the Hindu students of the C. M. S. College, both internal and external, applied for transfer certificates at 11 a.m. yesterday (Monday). Be it noted that the 2nd and 4th year classes have already been dissolved. The wording of their applications runs as follows:—

"To the Principal, C. M. S., College

Sir,—I beg most respectfully to state that as the most sacred feelings of mine as a Hindu have been most seriously wounded by the recent occurrence, I wish as a self-respecting member of the Hindu community and also as a man of conviction to take transfer from your College. I hope therefore you will kindly grant me the same.

Yours obdtly etc."
X.

10-2-19.

The difficulties and the various troubles that the students will now have to undergo can better be imagined than described. It is said that the Principals of the various Calcutta Colleges have very kindly and sympathetically agreed to accommodate these boys as far as possible. The palatial Samabay Buildings have been placed at their disposal for the present. It is understood that the Civil Rights Committee have already taken some steps in the matter and more are in contemplation. There is a strong rumour that the 2nd and 4th year boys also will leave the hostel shortly. The four papers "A. B. Patrika," 'Nayak,' 'Narayan' and 'Sabujapatra' have been proscribed in the common Room by the Rev. Principal as they are "unclean papers." The sensation in the city continues unabated. Some guardians have peremptorily asked their boys to have nothing to do with such a College and to leave it at their earliest convenience. The matter is expected to be taken up by the different Hindu communities in India. Mr Johnston has expressed his willingness to grant the boys their transfers and it is expected that before the sun sets to-day, many of the rooms of the C M S hostel will be empty.

SCARCITY OF FOOD AND CLOTHING

BOMBAY FAMINE RELIEF FUND'S APPEAL.

Bombay, Feb. 7.

In an appeal issued by Bombay Famine Relief Fund it is stated that the part cancellation of Government restrictions against inter-provincial movement of food grains has not operated so far and no news of depatches has been received although priority cirtificates were secured from the Director of Civil Supplies about the 20th January. The reduction of freight on Rangoon rice is still insufficient and the reduction of freight stage by stage has scared merchant from handling large stocks. The committee urges the immediate release of fodder held in stock by the Military department for export. Next to grass the most urgent demand is for clothing from almost every part of the affected areas. Some districts report that the condition of women is pitiable and everywhere the cold weather makes clothing an urgent necessity.

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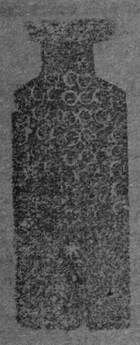
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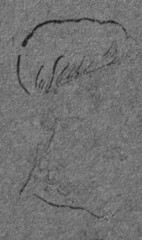
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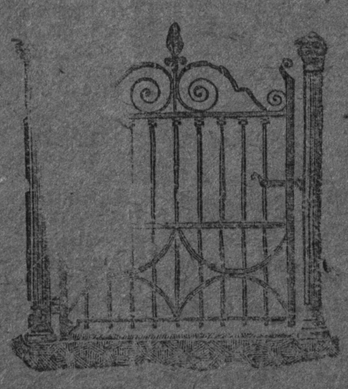
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Printed and Published by T. K. BISWAS, at the "Patrika" Press Nos. 19 and 20 Baghbazar Street and issued by the "Patrika" Post Office Calcutta.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta