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The Ethics of Passive Resistance.

By M. S. Maurice.

"All truth is safe and nothing else is safe; and he who keeps back the truth, or withholds it from men, from motives of expediency, is either a coward or a criminal, or both."

—Max Muller.

Nineteen centuries ago one of the greatest moralists of the world laid down his life in passive resistance to constituted authority in what was then a great centre of spiritual activity. The ground for the resistance was unquestionably valid, as it has continued down to this day a memorable and loving example of loyal submission to human law, where such submission was not in direct conflict with the higher law of conscience. The resistance had reference to an injunction that a living faith in a super-human or divine power was to be abjured, and a claim to spiritual kingship over a certain race of people was to be renounced in favour of the temporal power then existing. "We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King." To Pilated question, after asking him whether he put the question of himself, Jesus said: "My Kingdom is not of this world: if My Kingdom were of this world then would My servants fight." His death on the Cross has ever been a unique episode in the world's history—a magnificent example of what disobedience to the law really meant. There was no question as to the doubtful character of the authority which sought to enforce the decree of death by crucifixion. The illegal nature of the punishment was not in itself a matter of dispute. It was harsh; it was unjust; it was rigorous in the extreme; it was wholly unmerited. But he who found himself placed in subjection to the law as it then operated, and to the authority which asserted itself in carrying out that law, deemed it within his right, in obedience to his conscience, to resist both, but in a passive manner: there was no idea of resisting it by force. A combination of his servants and followers against the law would have been a direct condemnation of his claim by physical means, and would have been derogatory to his moral character and to his high mission. And so the man who had the most powerful force behind him, by virtue of his transcendent moral sway—a force, irresistible in its inherent strength, and overwhelming in its ultimate result, if put into effect—preferred to resist the law by submitting to the dread decree pronounced against him for breaking the law, (to him) an unlawful demand.

During the same epoch of Christian history, and but a few months after the consummation of Christ, a holy man met martyrdom at the hands of his adversaries. His offence was "speaking blasphemous words against Moses and against God." He however, proved a passive resister. His detractors proceeded to pen violence. He was dragged out of the city and stoned to death. Upon the removal of Stephen, a general persecution was raised against the Church people at Jerusalem. Men and women were haled and committed to prison. Thus passive resistance obtained Divine sanction, and men had recourse to it as the only effective weapon against tyranny and injustice and oppression. As martyrdom was a penalty of self-consciousness, born of the deepest convictions, in religious life, so in civil life those whose minds and whose consciences revolt against oppressive laws, against laws which seeks to take away the best of manhood and to degrade humanity, adopt passive resistance as the most effectual salve to their outraged consciences.

"DUTY OF CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE."

"What kind of Society is it which, at this period, has for its base; inequality and injustice? The hell of the poor makes the paradise of the rich. Nor only has happiness not come, but honour has fled." We should be sorry to think with Victor Hugo that this is so. And yet Tolstoy and Hugo shine as two of the greatest minds which have probed into the depths of humanity in our time. Thoreau one of the greatest of American moralists, the author of "The Duty of Civil Disobedience," was a martyr to his principles—principles dictated by the highest sense of duty to the State, as well as obedience to conscience. Human convictions may be right or worng, but there is always a limit to human endurance in the fulfilment of human law. No man to-day will pretend to deny to a modern Japanese the highest form of personal courage and the severest form of moral rectitude. They have been apparent to us of late years in many ways. To us his "Bushido" may seem a blind fetish, but its true meaning, its deep significance is understood and appreciated by the deepest thinkers of our day. They know it touches the deep chords of humanity. When we have grasped the true moral side of Japanese ethics, and realize to ourselves what a changed being a cultured Japanese has become under the law of evolution, it will be easy for us to understand why at moments of great trial when the spirit of patriotism and family relationship is in the ascendant—he passively resists the admonitions of the inner monitor, refuses to save his life, and creates for himself a moral injunction as it were for physical extinction so as to reach up to a spiritual life of national redemption and regeneration.

Passive resistance as a political weapon and a moral action has, therefore, the fullest possible justification behind it. To offer physical force against recognised authority which seeks to enforce any law, good or bad, would be morally wrong. When you however resist the law, not actively but passively, you thereby imply that what is good and just law to some may be bad to others, While human institutions continue, imperect men of strong conscience and rational ideas will adopt this mode of expressing their protest against iniquitous ordinances.

Under any form of government power is relegated to a group of men to judge in righteousness and to rule with enquiry and justice. It does not follow that because men are called to power and are invested with authority to enact laws, they must be considered immaculate or infallible. The often the best men—the most humane, the most just, the most practical, the most considerate—remain subjects, and do not become rulers or framers of laws for their fellowmen. Similarly too often those who attain to power are inconsiderate, tyrannical unjust. If proof were needed it will be found ready to hand from almost every country and from every age. To take a recent case in point from a nation in the front rank, I would cite the passive resistance offered by a large section of highly educated people in England against the last Education Act. Here we have a form of Government which has undergone a purifying process during centuries of civilisation; a Government which, by common admission, has reached almost the highest limit of advanced democracy, in which power is attained by a just and equitable process, by sheer force of intellect and reason a Government which bears on the face of it every element of moral right and expediency. Yet we see a law promulgated apparently in the best interests of the whole community, but which proves in its operation, directly antagonistic to and unacceptable by a large, intelligent and otherwise obedient section of that community Numerous laws are in operation to which it gives willing and unquestioned obedience; but, owing to reasons which have swayed humanity in all ages, it finds that its conscience revolts against the new measure. The new enactment caused a serious conflict in their minds, it warred against their sense of right. It therefore simply declined to do the laws bidding and accepted the consequent penalties.

Laws are said to be mode for the safety, the security and the protection of the interests of the people; they are not made to chastise and oppress. They must be guided by reason, necessity, expediency—in the interests of all. —They must injure none: they must not remorselessly override the domain of reason and conscience. They must act with justice and circumspection. "Render unto Caeser that which is Caesar's" does not mean that men should resign themselves body and soul to the law, at the law's bidding. Three times within my knowledge has a high-minded, law-abiding and intelligent citizen met the laws' injunction by paying the required fine instead of complying with the law which demanded that he should have his child vaccinated. On moral grounds he was right not to set aside his conscientious scruples. To salve his conscience he became a passive resister. In the words of Thoreau this man was a man first and a subject afterwards. He obeyed the law of conscience before blindly complying with the alternative of man-made law. "It is not desirable to cultivate a respect for the law so much as for the right. The only obligation which I have a right to assume is to do at any time what I think right."

"RESIST NOT EVIL."

Passive resistance is indeed an extreme course with an honest man; he is generally driven to that course by the stress of physical power, and hence his action is not unjustifiable on moral grounds. If passive resistance on the part of a minority in a state becomes an imperative necessity, then the majority cannot continue strong for long; it is bound to weaken and become effete as to its action in the matter of enforcing its power or its authority against that minority. And passive resistance of subjects, who are not even legal units of a lawful or legally constituted Government, has all the more reason for its action, in a given case, since such a Government cannot justly impose burdens or restrictions on units which had no voice in its creation. Such imposition of burdens on one particular section of a community would be tyrannical and must ultimately tend to endanger the political fabric of that community. The very 'raison-detre' of the Government would in these circumstances, become open to question.

There is so much force in what Thoreau has written on the ethics of passive resistance that I make no apology for introducing here some of the relevant passages bearing on the subject of civil disobedience. "Unjust laws exist: shall we be content to obey them, or shall we endeavour to amend them, and obey them until we have succeeded, or shall we transgress them at once? Men generally under such a government as this (United States), think that they ought to wait until they have persuaded the majority to alter them. They think that, if they should resist, the remedy would be worse than the evil. But it is the fault of the Government itself that the remedy is worse than the evil. It makes it worse. Why is it not more apt to anticipate and provide for reform? Why does it not cherish its wise minority? Why does it cry and resist before it is hurt? Why does it not encourage its citizens to be on the alert to point out its faults and do better than it would have them?"

"Action from principle, the perception and the performance of right, changes things and relations; it is essentially revolutionary, and does not consist wholly with anything which was. It not only divides States and Churches, it divides families; ay it divides the individual, separating the diabolical in him from the divine."

Speaking of the inconsistent side of the aggregate intelligence placed in authority and power, he says: "After all, the practical reason why, when the power is once in the hands of the people, a majority are permitted, and for a long period continue, to rule is not because they are most likely to be in the right, nor because this seems fairest to the minority, but because they are physically the strongest. But a Government in which the majority rule in all cases cannot be based on justice, even as far as men understand it."

Again: "I think that it is enough if they have God on their side without waiting for that other one. Moreover, any man more right than his neighbours constitutes a majority of one already. . . . Under a Government which imprisons any unjustly the true place for a just man is also prison."

Modern condition have altered the whole face of State administration. The voting system under a party government often, however, places an illiberal group of men in place and power. To meet conditions of this kind, Thoreau exhorts all honest men in this wise: "Cast your whole vote, not a strip of paper merely, but your whole influence. A minority is powerless while it conforms to the majority; it is not even a minority then; but it is irresistible when it clogs by its whole weight."

Upwards of four centuries before the advent of Christ, Socrates of Greece, was reputed to be the wisest moralist of his age. His unflinching integrity made him many enemies. The State, or rather those in power in the State, accused him of corrupting the Athenian youth and of despising the national gods. He was indicted in a regular manner. His chief offence consisted in his heeding the divine voice or inward monitor, which people in those times did not comprehend as clearly as he did. He declared that his demon rebuked him for misconduct, and commended him for every good word and work. He was in advance of his times. And for his originality, integrity and wisdom he was condemned to death. When one in his disciples exclaimed "How shameful to condemn a man so innocent," Socrates asked if his friends would think it less shameful if he were guilty. Here was a man who, abandoning all speculations as regards the material world, fearlessly taught "that the proper study of mankind was man," was derided, reviled and then condemned to undergo the extreme penalty of the law. The law of conscience was accounted nothing in those days as it is still considered of little account in reference to human laws and administrative enactments, under our present forms of civilised Government. The Delphic Oracle pronounced Socrates the wisest of men. To this he made a characteristic declaration: "Whereas other men thought they know something, he alone had attained to this element of true knowledge, he knew that he knew nothing."

Passive resistance is emphatically submission to phyiscal force under protest. 'Resist not evil" said Jesus of Nazareth, and Socrates, by drinking the poison refrained from resisting what he had adjudged in his own mind as evil. How far this consorts with the philosophy of Plato, another brilliant heaten sage, will be apparent from the following prophetic picture of the Man of Sorrows whom the Western world has deified.

"A man perfectly good, virtuous and just; not one who wishes to appear so before his fellows, but one who is really and sincerely so. We strip him of his good name . . deprive him of everything except his intrinsic goodness. Without doing wrong, we will suppose him to be accounted an evil doer, that his virtue may be tried so as by fire..... Neither infamy nor ill usage, neither poverty nor distress, neither the malignity of persecution nor the pain of cruel torture can make him serve from the path of duty. Death stares him in the face, but he remains unshaken; branded as a sinner, he is still a saint. . . To complete the picture we will suppose this godly man to be beaten with bats, scourged with whips, put to the torture laden with chains, nailed to a cross, numbered with transgressors and yet without sin."

Plato wrote thus, three centuries before the advent of Christ. His further definition of a modern passive resister is almost inspired. "A bad man is wretched amidst every earthly advantage; a good man—trouble on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken cast down but not destroyed."

Most men of our day account Count Tolstoy a paradox. By common admission, however, he is a great thinker, is not quite a seer. He has certainly probed into the deeps of humanity He has laid bare many of the human follies and foibles. Upon war, as upon capital punishment, he looks with the deepest horror. An extremist he may be, yet he is a realist—a rationalist. Passive resistance is almost a fetish with him. "We can suffer, we might not break the law. Men do far more harm and inflict far more injury on one another by attempting to prevent evil by violence than if they endured evil patiently. Besides, have you ever considered that it is only by suffering pain, torture, misery and death that you are able to convert men? Do you think Christianity made its way in the world by preaching? Bah! No such thing. No one was ever converted by preaching but martyrdom. It is only when men see other men—weak, sensitive, comfort-lovingmen like themselves—taking joyfully the spoiling of their goods, rejoicing in persecution, and going gladly to death for their faith, that they begin to believe there is something in it. No one ever believes in the truth of anything till he sees that some one is willing to die for it. The prison, the stake, the gallows—these are the great arguments which convince men And if you refuse to submit to these punishments, you destroy your only chance of converting men to your faith."

Count Tolstoy explicitly lays it down that all punishments are in their nature persecution. "If you say man is a trouble and a nuisance to his neighbours, remember that the best of men have been so regarded. Do you think that Christ was not considered as a great nuisance and a trouble by his brothers? The household went on quietly until hebegan to make a stir."

oTlstoy and Thoreau appear to agree in the matter of civil disobedience: they seem to beat one in regard to the claim of conscience on the individual soul. Yet far be it from me to claim human perfection for either of them; they are merely men of advanced thought in the domain of reason, their intellectual pre-eminence claims respect from us for their ideas. Tolstoy holds peculiar views with regard to Christianity. There is much in them which we may discard as inconsistent with his own writings. Still we must admit that there is wisdom in most things he has said. Christianity, to him is a broad humanitarianism: Christ a supreme Rationalist; he subordinated everything to the inner light —"the light that is in you"—that is, the light of reason. This is the deduction upon which all philosophers and moralists base their passive resistance to constituted authority—the conflict of reason with the surrender of conscience.

I think I have now made it clear that passive resistance, as an honourable weapon in extremis to those who are subject to physical force, has high, if not divine, sanction for its exercise. Its ethics in governments and communities of men are plain and unmistakable. I have referred to modern morality. Going further back to antiquity we find Confucius indicating in his moral code the dividing line between active disobedience and passive resistance in simple and homely words: "At first my way with men was to hear their words and give them credit for their conduct. Now my way is to hear their words and look at their conduct. . . . To see what is right and not to do it, is want of courage."

I will conclude in the words of Macaulay so eloquent and so pregnant with meaning.

"The sceptre may pass away from us. Unforeseen accidents may derange our most profound schemes of policy. Victory may be inconstant to our arms. But there are triumphs which are followed by no reverse. There is an Empire exempt from all natural causes of decay. Those triumphs are the pacific triumphs of reason over barbarism; that empire is the imperishable empire of our arts and our morals, our literature and our laws . . . . But not us mistaking her character and her interests, fight the battle of truth with the weapons of error and endeavour to support by oppression that religion which first taught the human race the great lesson of universal charity."

M. S. MAURICE.

LAJPAT RAI

QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Commons in Mail week Colonel Wedgwood asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Indian patriot, Lajpat Rai, may yet be permitted to return from America to this country.

Mr G. Terrell.—Before the right hon. gentleman answers, may I ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether it is quite in order to describe a person of doubtful character as an Indian patriot in a question?

Sir H. Craik.—And may I ask, Sir whether it is not the case that the person whose name is in the question was deported for seditious and treacherous conduct in India?—Colonel Wedgwood.—He was not deported.

The Speaker.—I don't know anything of this. Everybody calls himself a patriot in these days. (Laughter.) Mr G Terrell asked whether Regulation 58 in the Manual of Procdure did not provide that a question may not contain any argument, inference, imputation, epithet or ironical expression and whether the expression in the question did not offend the rule in every way?—Commnder Bellairs (Maidstone, C.U.).—And may I ask, on a further point of order, whether the hon. member is entitled to have ten starred questions on the paper (cheers), and may I point out that he has already asked four supplementary questions? (Laughter). The Speaker.—The remedy is not to call the last two questions on the paper. (Laughter.)

Mr. Fisher, President of the Board of Education who said he had been asked to answer the question on the paper, replied: —The answer is in the negative. If my hon. and grallant friend will repeat his question on the signature of peace, the Secretary of State will be glad to consider the matter further. (Cries of "Why?")

Colonel Wedgewood.—May I ask the right hon. gentleman whether he would take advantage of the opportunity to contradict the allegation (cries of "Order") that this patriot was deported? (Renewed cries of "Order.")

No answer was returned.

MR. PATEL ON BLACK BILL

EXHORTATION TO CONTINUE THE AGITATION.

Ahmedabad, March 26.—The Hon. Mr. V. J. Patel delivered an address yesterday evening under the auspices of the Gujarat Sabha, Rao Bahadur Ramanbhai presiding.

Regarding legislative measures, likely to bring about greater freedom and more contentment and greater well-being of the people, he said, during the two months of the Council sitting at Delhi he regretted none such was passed. On the contrary, the Rowlatt Bill, which in effect commits the liberty of the subjects to the tender mercies of the Executive has been passed. He further stated that we in British India are shocked to hear some rare instances of a ruler of Native States confining some of his subjects without trial for months together. The powers given to Government by Parts 2 and 3 authorise the executive in British India to confine any subject for a period of two years without even the semblance of a trial. We in this country have legislative functions of Government practically vested in the Executive Government. The only relieving feature of the administration is that judicial functions were hitherto vested in the courts of law, though here, too, we have been crying since half a century and more for the separation of executive and judicial functions. We have been contending that judicial officers should not have anything to do with any of the administrative functions. A resolution to that effect was carried in the House of Commons at the instance of our late lamented leader, Dadabhai Naroji, years ago. That resolution has conveniently been shelved in spite of our protests,

In the meantime, the functions of law courts in respect of certain offences are now handed over to the Executive Government. We find in the Rowlatt Bills the three functions of the State, namely the executive, legislative and judicial, combined in one body —a state of things unknown to the legislative history of any civilised country in the world. It is said there are safe-guards in Parts 2 and 3 to protect the innocent. These safeguards, to say the least, are illusory and farcical and will deceive no one. The Executive Government passes the interim order of confinement etc., the Executive Government appoints the investigating authority, that authority is bound to hold the investigation in camera, the accused has no right to appear, he may be called upon at some stage to explain, the pleader is allowed to appear, the accused is not entitled to know all the facts recorded against him, the finding of the investigating authority is not binding on the Executive Government. This means, if it means anything at all, that the Executive Government is the sole master of the situation and could deal with the liberty of any person in any manner they liked.

GOVERNMENT GO BEYOND ROWLATT RECOMMENDATIONS.

Then it is said that the Act applies to revolutionary and anarchical movements only. In this connection, we asked Government to define the word "revolutionary," which according to the dictionary includes a good many innocent things. Government did not yield and asked us to rely on their solemn assurance, of which we have in the past very bitter experience, that the powers would not be misused. We contended that the Act in effect would kill all constitutional political agitation and urged the removal of section 124 A from the schedule. In this connection, we pointed out that even the Rowlatt Committee did not recommend the inclusion of Section 124 A and unless Government gave any satisfactory explanation for its inclusion, all their professions that the Act was not intended to put down constitutional political agitation were empty phrases and people would be justified in drawing their own inferences. Govt. had no satisfactory explanation for exceeding in this respect the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee and yet they would not and did not consent to the dropping of Section 124 A. For what reasons one can easily imagine!

"CARRY ON THE AGITATION."

After speaking for over an hour to an audience of about 3,000 consisting of all classes of people, Mr. Patel asked them not to lose heart, but be determined at all risks and costs to carry on the agitation for the repeal of the Act and trusted that God would help them as their cause was as just, if not more, as that of the Allies in the war.

LORD PENTLAND.

HANDS OVER THE CHARGE.

Madras, Mar. 30.

The Gazette extraordinary dated yesterday announces the vacation of office of the Governor of Fort St. George by H E Lord Pentland and proclaims that Sir Alexander Cardew has assumed the charge of the office of the Governor of Fort St. George. The Governor in Council has appointed Mr. C. G. Todhunter to be a temporary member of the Council who also took the charge. Following appointments have been made: Mr. T E Moir to be Private Secretary, Captain L M Peet to be Military Secretary and N E Marjoribanks to act as the Chief Secretary.

There was a farewell function at the Banquetting Hall yesterday before the departure of Their Excellencies Lord and Lady Pentland. Gathering consisted of the Judges of High Court, members of the Government, Political Agents, Rajas, Zemindars, Vakils and members of the mercantile community. Their Excellencies moved freely among those present and wished them hearty goodbye. After spending long time in exchanging farewells Their Excellencies left the Banquetting Hall in state escorted by body guard under the command of Captain Rankling.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Sunday the 6th April.

A Day of National Mourning.

Appeal from Bengal Leaders.

The Government have passed Rowlatt Bill No 1 against the unanimous protest of the people. This is a grave infringement of the peoples' rights. Mahatma Gandhi has declared that the next Sunday the 6th April 1919 should be observed as a day of National mourning for penitence and prayer and fasting. We, therefore, call upon our countrymen to observe the 6th April 1919 as day of fasting and prayer. People should fast on that day. They should pray according to their respective religious rites. The Mahomedans should assemble in the Musjids, the Hindus in the temples, and the Christians in the Churches. We earnestly hope that this should be observed in all towns and villages. We also suggest that on the afternoon of that day public meetings should be held in all towns, cities, and villages of Bengal.

Mati Lal Ghose
B. Chakravarti.
Rai Yatindra Nath Chaudhury
Hirendra Nath Datta.
C. R. Das.
Abul Kasem.
Janmuddin Ahmed.
Mujibur Rahman.
Padam Raj Jain.
Ambica Prosad Vajpai.
Jitendra Lal Banerjee.
I. B. Sen.
Bejoy Kumar Chatterjee.

THE SATYAGRAHA DAY AT DELHI

AN AFFRAY BETWEEN THE POLICE AND THE PEOPLE.

(From the Secretaries, Satyagraha Sabha).
Delhi, Mar. 31.

The 30th of March was observed as the Satyagrah Day at Delhi. Every shop, Hindu and Mahomedan, was closed and no business was transacted as protest against the Black Bills. In the evening a meeting of the citizens numbering some fifteen thousands was held at the Congress pandal grounds. The military force twice tried to disturb the meeting. On the second occasion the Chief Commissioner with the Additional District Magistrate accompanied them. The President assured them of the peaceful nature of the meeting. The people remaining firm, the military and the Chief Commissioner retired. Speeches were made and a resolution urging the Secretary of State to withhold his consent to the Black Bill was passed.

AN UNFORTUNATE TRAGEDY.

Prior to the meeting, however, an unfortunate tragedy took place at the railway station at the Chandnichawk. The details so far as known at present, are that some two or three citizens went to the Musafarkhana of the station and requested the shop-keepers there to close their shops. They agreed, but the Station Master accompanied by some soldiers appeared on the scene and asked the shop keepers not to close their shops and put the citizens in the lockup. When the news of this reached to the city people, they proceeded to the station, demanded their release and refused to leave the locality until that was done. An affray took place Meantime the police and the military with machine-guns were sent for. The people were driven into the Queen's Garden by mounted police. On continued provocation the people attempted to come out of the Garden and missiles of brickbats were thrown by some, upon which the military opened fire resulting in some men being wounded. The Satgagraha Sabha received news of the disturbance too late to stop the tragedy. The people having dispersed the military occupied the Queen's Garden to prevent the people in the Chandni Chawk from crossing over to the station or on the other side when fire was opened on the spectators assembled near the Clock-tower, when again a number of men were wounded or killed. The exact number of casualties is not yet available.

MACHINE GUN USED

(Associated Press of India.)
Delhi, March 31.

The day of humiliation and prayer commenced yesterday morning throughout the city. Quiet a large number of people were fasting from early morning. Idle crowds were seen streaming towards the Jumna to bathe. At about 9 A.M. the streets were full of the passive resisters who took upon themselves the task of having stray ships closed the owners of which were not inclined to go on strike but who had to yield to the persuassion of the strikers. By 10 A.M. exery shop in Delhi was closed. The strikers then gave their attention to the tongawalas and induced them to stop from plying. People passing in streets in tongas, carriages or bicycles were made to dismount and walk. By midday not a single conveyance could be seen in the main streets. Crowds of strikers continued to increase in the principal thoroughfares and a tense feeling of coming danger filled the air. At about midday some strikers made their way to the railway station and insisted on the vendors in the third class waiting hall to close their shops. The latter objected as they were under a contract to railway authorities. An altercation ensued and the railway police interfered. The strikers attempted to force their way to the station platform and it is reported that they tried to force open the iron gates. At this two strikers were arrested. This gave the signal for a general outburst. Excitement ran high and acrowd of about 5000 collected and demanded the release of the two men. Brickbats commenced being thrown in all directions. The military with a machine gun arrived on the scene as also Mr Currie, the District Magistrate. The police it is said assured the mob that the arrested men had been released but the former demanded their presence. They were told that the men could not be produced as they had already been released and had got mixed up with the crowd. Nothing however seemed to satisfy the mob which grew dangerous. The Magistrate ordered them to disperse but they showed no signs of obeying thereon the military were ordered to fire. After a few volleys of buck shot in which some of the rioters were killed the crowd dispersed into the Queens Garden and the adjacent streets, afterwards at the Clock Tower and made a rush towards the Town Hall which was defended by the military. A volley was again fired and the rioters dispersed. They then assembled at the People Park and held a meeting condemning the Rowlatt Bill. The meeting passed off quietly and the audience marched in procession through Chandi Chowk. As the procession neared a Bank of Bengal the soldier is said to have fired a shot which however did not kill anyone and the procession passed off without any incident. The city was quiet after the meeting procession at 6 p.m. The streets were empty throughout the night and quiet prevailed. The main thoroughfares were however guarded throughout the night and are still guarded to-day. This morning a few shops were opened to the city but a rumour went afloat that there was to be another scene with the rioters and the military. This promptly led to all shops being closed. Groups of people were seen here and there in Chandni Chowk in the morning but they were kept quiet and the day passed uneventfull. In the afternoon a large crowd consisting of not less than ten to fifteen thousand people passed through Chandni Chowk in a procession carrying to cremation ground dead bodies of those that died of injuries received yesterday.

RIOTING AT DELHI

Simla, Mar. 31.

Some rioting occured in Delhi on the 30th instant originating in an attempt of a mob to force the sweetmeat sellers in the railway station to close their stalls in sympathy with a hartal in the city. The police and military were called in and owing to the threatening demeanour of the mob they had to fire causing one or two fatal casualties and wounding one or two others. Further details are awaited. All was quiet in the city on the morning of the 31st and most of the shops had reopened

THE MEETING OF DELHI RESIDENTS. CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE TO SECY OF STATE.

(From the Chairman of the Meeting.)
Delhi, Mar 31.

The following telegram has been despatched to Mr Montagu:

"Beg to forward the following resolution passed in the mass meeting of forty thousand at Delhi on Sunday evening March 30th and request you to lay it before His Majesty The King Emperor. This mee of the citizens of Delhi assembled after observing a day of fasting and prayer solemnly declares that the passing of one of the Rowlatt Bills into law and the proposal to push the other one in the next session of the Supreme Council of India is subversive of the principle of liberty and justice and destructive of the elementary rights of individuals and requests the right honourable the Secretary of State for India to withhold his assent therefrom and to Move His Majesty the King Emperor to order the removal of these un-British Acts from the Statute Book. Further beg to report all shops were closed and business stopped, but military were called, machine gun and rifles fired and two dozens or more shot. The crowd still preserved order and remained sober and dispersed quietly. Particulars will follow in press. To day there is no stir among the people but machine gun motor is provokingly parading the streets since morning and armed British soldiers are unnecessarily posted between the city and the civil lines. We will suffer everything but will not give up our "Satyagrah" or passive resistance against the Rowlatt Bills.—Shraddhananda, Chairman, Delhi Meeting.

AT FURUKKABAD.

(From a Correspondent.)
March 31.

Yesterday the Farrukhabad people kept fast. The bazar remained totally closed. All business ceased to show resentment for passing of the Rowlatt Bill Acts. 5000 Hindus, and Muslims assembled in the Saraswati-bhavan without previous advertisement. Speeches were delivered on 'Satyagrah.' Telegrams requesting cancellation of the acts were despatched.

AT MADRAS.

(Associated Press of India.)
Madras, Mar 31.

At a public meeting held yesterday evening on the Triplicane beach under the the presidency of Hon Mr K V Rangasvamy Iyengar, Mr Gandhi's message for observation of Satyagraha Day was read. The resolution earnestly appealing to the people of this presidency to observe Sunday the 6th April as day of fasting, cessation of all work and prayer was passed. Another resolution was passed expressing surprise and regret at Mr Fisher's answer in the House of Commons to Commander Wedgewood regarding Rowlatt laws and calling on the Secy of State to use power of veto in respect of the measures.

THE PRAYER DAY

AT HYDERABAD.

(From a Correspondent.)
Hyderabad, Mar 31.

Hyderabad, the ancient capital and the present intellectual and political centre of Sind, rose to utmost heights of enthusiasm on Sunday the 30th March which day will remain immortal in the annals of Sindh. A grand preparation had been made and the city had reasolved to celebrate the occasion of the Satyagraha according to Mahatma Gandhi's instructions when an intimation arrived too late that the date had been changed to 6th April. Mr Jethanand the head merchant and the staunch Congress man, sent a resolution round to close the whole bazar. The officials did their best to thwart it thereatening the withdrawal of licenses but their efforts were futile. The Hindus and the Mahomedans joined together in following the resolution. Not a single shop in the big bazar that stretches over one mile and a half and round about was opened. The butchers, the meat and the fish sellers gladly accepted the orders; People had furnished themselves with the necessary supplies a day before, and most did not need them as the large masses of men women, girls and boys kept fast. People gathered in the temples and passed their time in singing prayers. One common meeting was held in the morning in the Brahmacharya ashrame and lasted till noon. lectures on the Gita Granth and the Shah Latif were delivered. Ladies held their great meeting at 4 P.M. sang Vande Mataram song in chorus and passed resolutions condemning the Rowlatt Bills and expressing their confidence in Mahatma Gandhi and praying God to grant him success.

In the afternoon a procession started from the Home Rule League consisting of many thousands and passed through the entire bazar with Satyagrahis and their sympathisers in the centre bare-headed and bare footed with the Home Rule and black flags in their hands. A decorated carriage with Mahatma Gandhi's portrait followed the people. On the way they performed 'arati' and showered rose petals and sprinkled rose water on the procession. The entire city joined the procession. It moved in perfect order. The passing of the procession was the first victory of the Satyagrahis. The Police Superintendent who had refused the permission for procession withdrew his orders knowing that the Satyagrahis were a force to contend with. Before the procession reached the Homestead Hall, many thousands had gathered in the spacious compound, the audience numbered over ten thousand and many returned disappointed Hyderabad never witnessed such a day. Mr Mukhi Jethanand presided. Dr. Chittram and Mr Jethmal, editor "Hindvasi" delivered stirring speeches. Prayers were offered in the end and the whole bazar at night was shrouded in dark. People returned home full of fervour and broke their fast. The neighbouring small villages also observed the day.

SATYAGRAHA VOW.

OBSERVED AT NAGPUR.

Nagpur, Mar. 31.

Mr. Gandhi's appeal to observe yesterday as the day of humiliation and prayer was announced to the people by holding public meetings and beat of drum by the local Satyagrahis. Yesterday was observed as a protest day. A number of people fasted, closed their shops and assembled in public meeting to offer prayers. Except the petty grain dealers and vegetable market almost all the shops remained closed yesterday.

THE SATYAGRAHA DAY AT AJMER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Ajmer, Mar. 31

Satygrahi Mahatma Gandhi's mandate was observed here by thousands of person on the 30th March. All Bazars were closed and business suspended for twenty-four hours and thousands of persons including some Government servants fasted as a mark of sorrow. The Hindoos and Mohamadens took Satyagraha vow in large numbers. A mass meeting was held in the evening at Ganghat near the cremation ground and grave yards to express profound sorrow and emphatic protest against the Rowlat Acts. The meeting was presided over by Kumar Chandkaran Sarda Radhamdhan, vakil, Chatursen and speeches delivered by Ramchander Vaidya Pundit Vakil Yagyadutta Jiyalal. Futwa of Moulana Abdulbari was read and resolution praying His Majesty and the Secretary of state to repeal the Acts was passed amidst loud cheers and shouts of "Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai". Great enthusiasm prevailed. Prayers were offered It was a unanimous, unique unprecedented and successful strike at Ajmer and surpassed all similar observations at the place in the past.

UNIVERSITY COMMISSION.

REPORT TO BE ISSUED IN FOURTEEN VOLUMES.

We understand that the long-expected report of the University Commission will be in the hands of the public in about another two months. One reason for the delay in the publication is the extremely bulky nature of the report which covers no less than 8,000 pages. These will be distributed over 14 volumes. The work will take up about 70 tons of type!

The details of the Committee's recommendations are of course being kept a close secret. But we understand that on the whole they will be found to be quite revolutionary in character.

Members of the Committee are now scattered far and wide. Dr Sadler is in Agra, as also Mr. Hartog, while Dr Ziaruddin, too, has gone to Agra after paying a visit to Delhi. Dr Gregory has sailed for East Africa. Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee is recouping after his arduous labour in the salubrious climate of Calcutta, while Mr. Anderson (Secretary) is also in Calcutta, looking after the publication of the report. The European members of the Committee will sail for Home on April 5th.

ROWLATT BILLS.

To The Editor.

Sir,—I have never concealed for a moment my detestation of the Rowlatt Bills. My only regret is that I did not make it public before.

There is one new point which I would wish to add to what has been said. A subtle and very deep evil lies beneath the surface of Indian life, especially in the student world; "spying" is already a terror and a dread, but it will become armed with fresh powers of evil, if these Bills are carried into law. Toshow, by example, what I mean,—while I was teaching in College, two of my own students, whom I trusted, were found out to be paid Government spies introduced into College for that very purpose. I had myself the experience of catching red-handed a Government spy in my own room in College searching my private papers. He confessed to me that he had been sent to spy upon me by the C. I. D. I could give a large number of such personal experiences and there are many others who could do the same. If the Government of India is prepared deliberately to increase this "spying" evil and to rely still more upon this weapon, it may do so. But it will lose the respect of those who have wished all along to hold it in esteem.

C. F. Andrews.

29.3.19.

Santiniketan, Bolpur

FIFTH BRAHMIN CONFERENCE AT PUNJAB.

(From a Correspondent.)
Lyallpur, Mar. 29.

The Fifth Conference of the Brahmin of the Punjab was formally opened this morning with Vedpath and Hawan. The Mandap was full of delegates, representing almost every district of teh province and also visitors and number of ladies attended the Conference and watched the proceedings. At about 9 o'clock Mr. Demontmorency the Deputy Commissioner of Lyallpur came into the Mandap shortly followed by the President elect who was received with tremendous cheers and shouts of Jaikaras. The former made a short speech in tolerable Urdu welcoming the Punjab Brahmins to Lyallpur and referred appreciatively to the war services of the Brahmins. Ever since he had attended the All India Brahmin Conference at Delhi in 1915, the Brahmins had begun to join the army in large numbers,—a total of 35000 from the Punjab and the U. P. He informed teh audience that the 9th. Bhopal which distinguised itself so much in France was largely composed of Brahmins. The Brahmin community, he went on, helped the wounded with money and gifts which the Government appreciated highly.

After half an hour he left the meeting and the Chairman of the Reception Committee read out his speech in Urdu lasting about twenty minutes. After having welcomed the delegates he dwelt on the glorious achievements of the ancient Brahmins and advised the audience to prove themselves worthy descendants of their forefathers. He emphasised urgency of the social reform and modern education with out which they could not successfully compete with other communities and remove the reproach of an indolently wasteful life which an average Brahmin led.

Next the formal elcetion of the President was proceeded with. Rai Bahadur Devichand of Jullundur in a short speech proposed amidst loud cheers Pundit Thakei Dutt Sharma of Lahore to preside over the deliberations of the Brahmin Conference. He was seconded by Pundit Hiranand Shastri of the Cashmir Archaeological Survey and Mahant Shanker Nath of Gurdaspur and supported by others amidst resounding cheers the Pundit took the presidential chair and proceeded to read out his learned address in Hindi. It lasted an hour and a half. His delivery was effective and his voice strong. The address was elaborately prepared and covered a vast field and was admitted to be the best ever delivered at this Conference. It preserved the interest of the audience to the last and when it was concluded they expressed their appreciation by tremendous cheers; flowers were joyfully showered. The president contrasted the ancient glory of the Brahmins with their modern wretchedness. Social reform and educational backwardness was also touched and he urged the audience to rouse themselves up from their lethargy and come to the lebel of other communities. He specially emphasised the fact that if the Brahmans wanted to keep their traditional leadership and regard of other castes they had to live up to the traditions or their ancestors.

"BHARATA SHAKTI."

A WORD TO THE SCOFFER.

We note that our Moderate contemporary of Allahabad is disposed to scoff at Mahatma Gandhi because, it says it has not heard of "the movement having received any support so far either in Bengal or the Punjab. Anyway, the movement does not promise as if it would catch on." As Mahatmaji has often said, the true Satyagrahi, when he opposes wrong doing and untruth does not do it with an eye to public approbation and does not wait to see whether other fellowmen of his would back him up. His belief in the triumph of righteousness is immutable and not of a calculating nature. Mahatma Gandhi, as our scoffing contemporary no doubt, knows well enough did not tarry to consult his countrymen as to the chances of his success when he refused to do the unreasonable bidding of the Champaran Magistrate to depart from the province. We do not know if the "Leader" was among those that applauded Maatma Gandhi's step, but our contemporary must know how puerile its criticism of the Satyagraha movement is when it attempts to scoff at the paucity of Mahatmaji's following Leaving alone such childish criticism, it may be asked in what way Indians are better fitted than any other people to demonstrate the power of sacrifice in a just cause. We may refer such questioners to a recently published booklet entitled "Bharata Shakti," which is a collection of addresses on Indian culture by Sir John Woodroffe of the Calcutta High Court, than whom there has been no more informed or more impartial critic of Indian culture and civilisation. As Sir John Woodroffe asserts, "India has a well of strength in the Vedantic truth of the divinity of man. The belief that each man and woman is a Shakti whose power of accomplishment is only limited by their wills, is a faith which will dispel all present weakness and sloth We are what we have made ourselves in the past. We shall be what we will to be Each must realise himself to be a fragment of the great Shakti which is India and then of the Infinite Shakti on whose lap she lies—the mother of the Universe."—"Young India".

GAZETTE OF INDIA

Simla, Mar. 28.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Sir I. H. Marshall, Director General of Archaeology, is granted leave for eight months from 1st March.

Major F. Normal White, Sanitary Commissioner, granted nine months' leave.

The services of Major J. Cunningham, I M S, Assistant Director, Research Institute, Kasauli, are placed at disposal of Government of Madras.

Lieut-Col F H Hutchinson, I M S, Bombay, officiates as Sanitary Commissioner, Govt. of India.

REVENUE AND AGRICULTURE.

Mr. J. Mackenna, I C S, Agricultural Adviser, Govt of India, granted six months' leave from 7th April.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr J Kaul posted as Asst Acct-Genl of Posts and Telegraphs, Calcutta. Mr R .C. Falishib is posted as Asstt Acct-Genl, Madras.

MAHATMA GANDHI'S MESSAGE.

At a public meeting held in Madras under the presidency of Mr. Vijiaraghava Charia, the following message of Mahatma Gandhi was read:

"Friends—This afternoon I propose to deal with some of the objections that have been raised against Satyagraha. After saying that it was a matter of regret that men like myself "should have embarked on this movement," Sir William Vincent, in winding up the debates on Bill No. 2 said, "they could only hope that (the Satyagraha) would not materialise. Mr. Gandhi might exercise great self-restraint in action, but there would be other young hotheaded men who might be led into violence which could not but end in disaster. Yielding to this threat, however woul dbe tantamount to complete abolition of the authority of the Governor General in Council." If Sir William's fear as to violence is realised, it would undoubtedly be a disaster. It is for every Satyagrahi to guard against that danger. I entertain no such fear because our creed requires us to eschew all violence and to resort to truth and self-suffering as the only weapons in our armoury. Indeed the Satyagraha movement is, among other things, an invitation to those who believe in the efficiency of violence for redress of grievances to join our ranks and honestly to follow our methods. I have suggested elsewhere that what the Rowlatt Bills are intended to do and what I verily believe they are bound to fail in achieving is exactly what the Satyagraha movement is preeminently capable of achieving. By demonstrating to the party of violence the infallible power of Satyagraha and by giving them ample scope for their inexhaustible energy we hope to wean that party from suicidal methods of violence. What can be more potent than an absolute statement, accompanied by corresponding action presented in the clearest terms possible that violence is never necessary for the purpose of securing reforms? Sir William says that the movement has great potentialities of evil. The Hon. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya is said to have retorted "and also of good." I would venture to improve upon the report by saying "only of good". It constitutes an attempt to revolutionize politics and to restore moral force to its original station. After all, the Government do not believe in an entire avoidance of violence i. e., physical force. The message of the West, which the Government of India, I presume represent is succintly put by President Wilson in his speech delivered to the Peace Conference at the time of introducing the League of Nations Convenant: "Armed force is in the background in this programme, but it is in the background, and if the moral force of the world will not suffice, physical force of the world shall." We hope to reverse the process, and by our action show that physical force is nothing compared to the moral force and that moral forcce never fails It is my firm belief that this is the fundamental difference between modern civilisation and the ancient of which India, fallen though it is I venture to claim, is living representative. We, her educated children seem to have lost faith in this grandest doctrine of life. If we could but restore that faith in the supremacy of Moral Force, we shall have made a priceless contribution to the British Empire, and we shall, without fail, obtain the reforms we desire and to which we may be entitled. Entertaining such views it is not difficult for me to answer Sir William's second fear as to the complete abolition of the authority of the Governor-General in Council. This movement is undoubtedly designed effectively to prove to the Government that its authority is finally dependent upon the will of the people and not upon force of arms, especially when that will is expressed in terms of Satyagraha. To yield to a clear moral force cannot but enhance the prestige and the dignity of the yielder

It is to such a movement that every man and woman in this great country is invited, but a movement that is intended to produce far reaching results, and which depends for success, on the purity and the capacity for self-suffering of those who are engaged in it can only be joined after a searching and prayerful self-examination. I may not too often give the warning I have given at Satyagraha meetings that every one should think a thousand times before coming but having come to it, he must remain in it cost what it may. A friend came to me yesterday and told me that he did not know that it meant all that was explained at a gathering of a few Satyagrahi friends and wanted to withdraw. I told him that he could certainly do so if he had signed without understanding the full consequences of the pledge. And I would ask everyone who did not understand the pledge as it has been explained at various meetings, to copy this example. It is not numbers so much as quality that we want. Let me, therefore, note down the qualities required of a Satyagrahi. He must follow truth at any cost and in all circumstances. He must make a continuous effort to love his opponents. He must be prepared to go through every form of suffering, whether imposed upon him by the Government which he is civilly resisting or the time being, or those who may differ from him. "This movement is thus a process of purification and penance. Believe me that if we go through it in the right spirit, all the fears expressed by the Government and some of our friends will be proved to be groundless and we will not only see the Rowlatt Bills withdrawn, but the country will recognise in Satyagraha a powerful and religious weapon for securing reforms and redress of legitimate grievances."

PRAYER DAY AT DELHI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Delhi, Mar. 30.

Delhi observed the prayer day on the 30th. All the bazars, Chandnichowk Chaori Jaddar the grain and cloth markets and the mills were closed The Hackney carriages and other businesses were suspended. More than fifty thousand people Hindus, Mahomedans and Sikhs fasted, every community sympathizing with the Satyagrah movement. A mass meeting was held in the evening.

PASSAGES FOR CONGRESS DEPUTATION.

FIFTEEN ARRANGED FOR

Simla, Mar. 29.

Priority certificates for the Congress deputation having been obtained, Mr. Kelkar, secretary, to the deputation committee, has arranged for fifteen passages by which it is expected will become available the end of April onwards.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

Thursday April 3 1919

THE DELHI OUTRAGE.

The incidents which took place at Delhi on the 30th March in connection with the observance of the Satyagraha day have sent a thrill of horror throughout the country. The outstanding event is that the military used machine-gun against an unarmed crowd and the only justification is that the latter refused to disperse and some brickbats were thrown at the former. In England when a bloody riot is imminent, the Magistrate asks the mob to disperse, and if disobeyed, reads the Riot Act, and if the mob still persists in disobeying the order, the police use their batons to disperse the crowd. But nowhere in the civilized world is machine gun employed to disperse an unarmed crowd. This wanton outrage resulted in casualties, some among the crowd having been killed and an unascertained number, more or less seriously wounded. Not a single casualty is reported on the side of the police or the military.

Two versions of the affray have reached us and have been published in these columns. One is supplied by the Secretaries of the Satyagraha Sabha at Delhi and the other by the Associated Press. It is clear that the Associated Press has sent the police version of the affair as their own. In this version, much has been sought to be made of the activities of the Satyagrahis in having "stray shops" closed and inducing some tonga-wallas to stop plying,—in order to create a prejudice against them. They have been described as "idle" crowds who were streaming towards the Jumna to bathe on that day. Epithets like "idle" etc., used with reference to people about whose political opinion the Associated Press can have nothing to do, is, to say the least, highly improper and objectionable. The reader will find, on going through the whole report, that it breathes a spirit of partisanship quite inconsistent with the character of the Associated Press as an impartial news-supplying agency.

If the Associated Press wanted to supply only the police version of the affair it ought to have said so and should not have lent its name to add to the authentic character of the report so as to create a prejudice against the Satyagrahis. It is clear that the Delhi agent of the Associated Press did not see the Secretaries of the Satyagraha Sabha to be in possession of the other version. The only course consistent with the fairness of the Associated Press would have been to supply both the police as well as the Satyagrahist version leaving the public to accept whichever they liked. We trust the authorities of the Associated Press, in the interest of their good name and in fairness to their customers will prevent the scandal, growing in volume of late, of their agents being used as the instruments of the Police.

However that may be, even the partisan report of the Associated press has not been able to take away from the blackness or enormity of the action of the military in shooting unarmed people like sparrows. Leaving aside the irrelevant part of the story as supplied by the Associated Press and the still more impertinent epithets it has employed every now and then without facts to support them, what are the causes which led the military to fire on the crowd? The Associated Press says that two men, whom it describes as passive resisters and strikers in one breath, were arrested by the police in connection with their attempts to induce two vendors at the station to close their shops. Upon this a mob assembled and demanded the release of these persons. Then brickbats began to be thrown in all directions. But this apparently led to no untoward incident and the report does not say by whom were the brickbats thrown. Then the military with a machine-gun arrived as also Mr. Currie, the District Magistrate. Apparently when the military arrived the brickbats had ceased to be thrown. The Associated Press simply says that an altercation ensued between the police and mob regarding the two men who were taken in custody and who, the police maintained, had been released and mixed up with the crowd. The report of the Associated Press continues:

> "Nothing however seemed to satisfy the mob which grew dangerous. The Magistrate ordered them to disperse but they showed no signs of obeying, whereon the military were ordered to fire. After a few volleys of buckshot by which some of the rioters were killed the crowd dispersed etc."

How beautifully vague is the agent of the Associated Press just at the psychological moment! "The mob grew dangerous." How "dangerous," Sir? Did they begin to throw bombs or avail themselves of a few machine-guns? It is precisely here that the faithful chronicler is mute. Beyond the fact that the mob "showed no signs of obeying" the order of the Magistrate to disperse, the Associated Press, or for ought we know, the police, or the military can not put forward any justification for "the volleys of buckshot" which caused the disappearance of some "natives" from the arena of their unfortunate "native" land. Are human lives really so cheap in this country?

But the scene did not end here. There was another hecatomb in which the "natives" alone were the victims. The Associated Press says that subsequently the mob "made a rush towards the Town Hall", for what purpose is not stated, but which was "defended by the military". Why should the military go to defend the Town Hall of all public buildings, is not stated. It would appear however from what followed that a public meeting of the Satyagrahist was to take place there, and this is what the military wanted to prevent. However that may be, no provocation in the shape of throwing of brickbats etc. was necessary here. As soon as the people arrived at the Town Hall they were greeted with fresh volleys of buckshot with the same result as before.

But if the military had arms, the people had determination and moral force. Immediately afterwards they assembled at the People's Park, and held a meeting condemning the Rowlatt Bills. The Associated Press reporter says that "the meeting passed off quietly and the audience marched in procession through Chandney Chowk." We have no doubt that everything would have "passed off quietly" if the authorities could keep their heads cool instead of flying at an unarmed mob with machine-guns and buck-shots.

The Secretaries of the Satyagraha Sabha has sent a short and as the reader must have seen, an apparently impartial report of the incidents. They say that some 2 or 3 citizens went to the railway station and requested the shop-keepers there to close their shops. They agreed, but the station-master accompanied by some soldiers arrived at the scene and asked the shop-keepers not to close their shop and put the citizens in lock-up. Subsequently, some people assembled and demanded the release of these persons and refused to leave the locality till they were released. But they were driven into the Queen's Garden by the Mounted Police. On their attempts to leave the garden and some missiles of brickbats being thrown by some, the military opened fire.

We trust an impartial enquiry will be held into this regrettable affair. Fire-arms have lately been too much in evidence against the unarmed people of the country who, it should be remembered, are neither Germans nor Turks

MR. KHAPARDE'S RESOLUTION ON ROWLATT REPORT.

We confess we read with a feeling of shame, the following proceedings in the House of Commons on March 17:—

"London, Mar. 17.

"Replying to Commander Wedgwood in the House of Commons Mr. Fisher stated that at the request of the Government of India in November Mr. Montagu approved the publication of the Rowlatt Bills with a view to their introduction in the Legislative Council. As far as Indian opinion had manifested itself in the Council Mr. Montagu had no reason to believe that it was opposed to a fair consideration by legislature of legislative proposals embodying the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee. Mr. Fisher pointed out that only two members supported the resolution moved in the Legislative Council on September 23rd favouring a postponement of consideration of the Committee's recommendations."

It will be remembered that on September 23rd last, Mr. Khaparde moved a resolution in the Imperial Council for the postponement of the consideration of the Rowlatt Committee's Report and the appointment of another Committee to examine it. Every Indian member ought to have supported it, for its object was plain to the meanest intelligence. It was quite evident that the Government was very anxious to give legislaive effect to the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee as soon as possible, so that it might be armed with a permanent substitute of the Defence of India Act, which would cease to exist six months after hostilities had come to an end. The object of Mr. Khaparde was to put off the consideration of the same till after the war, when it would be possible to take a more judicious and calmer view of the revolutionary movement in the country and decide how best to control it. True, neither Mr. Khaparde nor the spokesmen of the Government made their respective motives clear in the Council; but it was expected that our old and trained legislators would not find it difficult to divine these under-currents, even without being told of them in so many words. If they did not, then all that can be said is that they should once more go to school to learn the elementary principles and methods of political debates and diplomatic fencings before they seek re-election to the highest legislature of the Indian Empire.

Babu Surndra Nath Banerjea must have been too innocent of the ways of politicians to have viewed Mr. Khaparde's resolution as "inopportune" and protested against it. Did he not know that a Bill had already been prepared incorporating the recommendations of the Rowlatt Report? And did he not know that the non-official members could not alter or amend any official Bill once it was put before the Council by so much as a jot or a tittle so far as its principle was concerned? It is a wonder he could forget it in the face of numerous instances when the non-official members failed to carry out even a most colourless amendment of theirs.

Surely he might have very well asked for a fresh examination of the problem of revolutionary criminalism in the country before any legislation was undertaken in this matter. Indeed, if Mr. Khaparde's resolution had been properly supported, the Government would have possibly felt considerable hesitation in pressing for the proposed legislation. But our innocents in the Council could not see through the plain move of the patriotic and far-sighted Maharatta leader to avert a threatened disaster. On the other hand they combined to frustrate his noble design at the instigation of the Home Member. This is how our great leaders have managed to educate themselves in the methods of political controversy.

Babu Surendra Nath is however more an orator than a politician. How we wish his political wisdom or foresight was as great as his oratorical powers. God, however, made a certain type of orators and speakers and not thinkers. But what about Mr. Srinivas Sastri? He at least is not a born orator. He has the reputation of being a very shrewd and quick-witted politician. How could he also fail to see through the motive of the Khaparde resolution? And not only did he fall in this matter, but he opposed it strongly on a queer ground. Mr Sastri frankly confessed his inability to denounce the Rowlatt report, which had been condemned by the whole country, because two of his "best friends" were associated with it. Alas and alack! We do not know if that was also a reason for Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea's attitude in that connection. If so, then to what a pitiful political situation our political life has been brought!

After such conduct on the part of our representatives in the Council what wonder that Mr. Fisher succeeded in non-plussing Commander Wedgwood in the House of Commons when he wanted to know if non-official Indian members in the Supreme Council had opposed the legislation on the Rowlatt recommendations. Mr. Fisher triumphantly pointed out that only two Indian members voted for Mr. Khaparde's resolution all the rest being against it! What can be more disheartening than this lack of intelligent patriotism and political shrewdness on the part of our leaders? Those who made a parade of their ignorance by opposing the Khaparde resolution, no doubt secured the good opinion of the Government, and official members gave an abundant proof of it by treating them with special consideration during the debate on the Bill, but it is equally true that they thereby also did great harm to the interests of the country. With what enthusiasm they committed this suicide was thus graphically described by the Home Member when closing the debate on the Rowlatt Bill:—

> "The Hon. Mr. Khaparde proposed in September that all action on the Rowlatt Committee's Report should be held in abeyance. No member of this Council supported him. They all said "Oh! no; we never heard of such a thing. Why should we support such a resolution?" Well my Lord, Government thought—it was a foolish mistake of theirs, they were quite mistaken in their appreciation of the attitude of the Council—they thought there were only two courses possible, either to take action on the report or to hold the recommendations in abeyance: and as the recommendations were not to be held in abeyance, according to this Council, we thought, as I say very foolishly, very stupidly, that the Council would, to some extent, support us in putting the recommendations into force.

Nobody can blame the Home Member for his complaint against the Indian members, for their conduct really led him, even many of their countrymen, to suspect that they might also support the Bill. Just mark the nature of the ardent appeal which Sir William Vincent made to them in regard to Mr. Khaparde's resolution:—

> "I earnestly hope that whatever view Hon. members of this Council may take as to the recommendations—I know there are varying views—I earnestly hope they will not consent to such a proposition as this. . . I earnestly hope that the members of this Council, however much they may dislike the various steps in the recommendations of the report, will not support this motion. The time will come when they can object to anything that is put forward, but for their own credit, for the credit of the Council and for the sake of the country, I earnestly hope that this resolution will meet with no support from any responsible member of this Council."

The appeal was irresistible—the Indian members, with the exception of only two—threw Mr. Khaparde overboard, and transferred themselves, body and soul, to the side of the Government. Of course the Home Member assured them that they would have the fullest right of criticising the Bill when it was brought forward, but were the Indian members children that they did not know that it meant absolutely nothing? If they had with one voice supported Mr. Khaparde's resolution as they opposed the Rowlatt Bill, there was every chance of its being postponed till the Council was reconstituted under the reform scheme.

THE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION.

At a special meeting of the Calcutta branch of the European Association held on Tuesday last, the Association deliberated on the steps it would take to make its influence felt at Home. It seems that the Indo-British Association requires re-inforcement in the noble work it is engaged now in England, namely, to create a prejudice against educated Indians and thwart the reforms. Mr. Welby, the Secretary of the Association, told the members that "the Indo-British Association had asked for the assistance of the European Association in the matter of their propaganda work." And not only this. Enquiries have been received from their "Indian friends as to what they were going to do to put their case before the people." Like the Indo-British Association, the European Association claims that it has Indian friends and sympathisers, and its object in common with the other Association is to promote the unity and advancement of Indian peoples. The Maharaja of Bikanir, as we noticed in these columns, had painted in true colour the activities of the Indo-British Association which, he said, "singularly disguised its avowed aim." The Indian public has not been allowed the privilege of knowing the name of a single Indian who was either a member, friend or admirer of the sister associations in England and India. Like the demon Jaksa of the fable who guards his wealth most jealously these Associations have made it a point to keep their Indian members and friends always in the background. The reason is too obvious to require mention.

The European Association, we find, has made a gallant response to the appeal of the Indo-British Association. It has admitted ladies into membership and several speakers expressed the hope "that the influx of the ladies would result in awakening of the Europeans in this city from their great apathy." We say, amen, to this pious hope and have no doubt that it will have the desired result. But the Secretary, Mr. Welby, told his audience that the ladies were expected not simply to rouse the European population of the city from their great apathy, but also "to use the vast personal influence they possessed" over the electors of England and inasmuch as they went Home oftener and remained longer they could no more usefully employ the time hanging heavily on their hands than by rousing the Englishmen from their apathy regarding matters relating to India, such as how the Indian agitators were clamouring against philanthropic foreign exploitation to the prejudice of the great vested interests and disgust of the white Nabobs, etc. Mr. Welby bitterly complained that passports had been granted to Indian agitators proceeding to England and asks, "when did the abuse of bureaucracy become a matter of national importance"? We have no doubt the Government of India will be chivalrous enough to cancel the passports of Indian agitators to grant them to the European ladies recommended by Mr. Welby, since the abuse of the Indians has become "a matter of national importance."

Mr. Montagu tried to cajole his countrymen, busy in gathering the fruits of the Indian Pagoda tree, to somewhat moderate the ardour of their swift-moving fingers on which the inquisitive attention of the whole civilized world was rivetted. The Civil Service showed him its teeth and in the hands of the commercial community he can not expect to fare any better. One of the speakers at the meeting of the European Association thus cynically refers to the attempts of the Secretary of State to perform what is an impossible feat, in the following words:—

> "It would be noticed that Mr. Montagu had sketched out a brilliant future for the British resident in India who was going to be a missionary to educate the Indians to take charge of their country, and when this was done he was to go away."

To ask a British resident in India who is engaged in an altogether different business to take up the hood and the cowl, like a follower of Jesus of Nazareth, is no doubt offering a gross insult to him for which he will have his remedy in any court to be established in British India by the Cobra Act. Mr. Montagu might as well have asked the Royal Bengal tiger to give up his spots.

Mr. Montagu, in the Sinha dinner, said that Indians could usefully employ themselves during the transition period to develop their infant industries and do something to grapple with the problem of the appalling poverty of India which he frankly admitted had much to do with the "exceptional mortality" in the country. But how can the Indians develop their industries in face of the fierce foreign exploitation with all the artificial support at its command? The Indians are not masters in their own house. They are employed as "hewers of wood and drawers of water," because they have not the power of the state in their hands. Mr. Montagu cannot be ignorant of the attitude of mind of those who have the destinies of India within the hollow of their hands. The utterances of the members of the European Association which we have quoted above represent the typical bureaucratic mind in India. Till the Indians get political power in their own hands, it is impossible for them to develop their industries and prevent the mortality which more than anything, indicates the utter helplessness to which they have been reduced.

HUNGER STRIKE IN HAZARIBAGH JAIL.

We are much concerned to learn from an authoritative source that 30 state-prisoners in the Hazaribagh jail have gone on hunger-strike. The strike began on the 18th March last and is continuing. The prisoners are being forcibly fed from the fourth day. The enforced feeding, we are told, has now and then resulted in assaults on the prisoners. It may be in the recollection of our readers that the state-prisoners in the Hazaribagh jail had previously gone twice on hunger-strike as a protest against the treatment of the Jail Superintendent with the result that some of their grievances were removed; but the Superintendent, it is reported, has reverted to his former practice and another hunger-strike has commenced. The grievances of the prisoners are mainly these:—

(1) They are given insufficient and unhealthy diet. They say that the arrangement regarding their meals should be left to them to prevent misappropriation.

(2) Their clothes are all threadbare, and inspite of their repeated prayers, no clothes have been supplied to them. They are now wearing what are practically rags.

(3) The Superintendent treats them very harshly.

The result of the last hunger-strike was the removal of the first grievance and the prisoners were allowed to have charge of their own stores and accounts. But this arrangement, for reasons not known, did not agree with the jail authorities and they have again taken the stores and accounts in their own hands with the result stated above.

The prisoners, we understand, had to pass the winter of Hazaribagh almost without any warm clothing and now they are on the border of nudity.

We are told that on the occasion of the last hunger-strike, the Superintendent of the Jail, gave his word of honour that he would be courteous in his dealings with the prisoners. As a matter of fact, he kept his word for some months but now he is behaving in a different way. On the occasion of the last visit of the Inspector-General to the Hazaribagh jail, some of the prisoners had approached him with complaints against the conduct of the Superintendent. We are told that as soon as the I. G. had left, the Superintendent summoned one of these prisoners in his office, used some choice expressions towards him and jumped at him with an office roller in hand. The prisoners, it is stated, are punished on the flimsiest of grounds. Talking with other state-prisoners, uttering prayers etc. are within the category of offences; and for any of these offences, the prisoner is punished with solitary confinement ranging up to 14 days and stoppage of letters, incoming or outgoing.

Another grievance is the system of separate enclosures. Five or six men are kept in one enclosure, as if they are a herd of cattle, but unlike the cattle, they are not allowed to have communication with persons of any other enclosure or block as it is called. On the occasion of the last hunger-strike assurances were given that this beastly arrangement would be put an end to. But the promise, like many others, has been kept in the breach.

Periodicals and newspapers, though freely allowed by the Government, are so jealously censored by the jail authorities that the prisoners have been obliged to give up this only one means of recreation.

We understand, there is only one Indian on the visiting committee. This gentleman does not care to visit the jail. The other visitors are all Europeans. Under these circumstances, the grievances of the state-prisoners have very little chance of being presented properly before the Government. We fail to understand why Government should insist on having Mr. Wilson in the Hazaribagh jail when under his administration as many as three hunger-strikes have taken place there. If Mr. Wilson cannot be removed for the sake of prestige or any other reason, why are not the prisoners themselves removed to any other jail? It should be borne in mind that hunger-strike is not a very light business in which one can go merrily. It is a form of passive resistance to which only the desperate and the helpless have recourse as a last resort. The matter is serious enough in all conscience and it behoves the Government to put an end to a situation which cannot but create a painful impression on the public mind. The grievances of the prisoners are well-defined and so far as we can see, there is no unreasonableness or impossibility in any of them. Can't they be removed?

Satyagraha Day at Delhi.

Here are a few more observations on the Delhi outrage. We see from the report that "upon two strikers being arrested" there was a general outburst of excitement and a crowd of 5000 demanded their release, and "brickbats *commenced being thrown* in all directions." The military with a machine gun arrived as also Mr. Currie, District Magistrate. The mob were told that the men had been released but nothing would satisfy them and *they grew dangerous*. Then runs the report:—

> "The Magistrate ordered them *to disperse* but they showed no signs of obeying, whereon the military were ordered to fire. After a few volleys of buckshot in which some of the rioters were killed etc."

The only man who seems to have absolutely failed in his duty is "the soldier who is said to have fired a shot which, however, did not hit anyone and the procession passed off without any incident." Just fancy what a soldier guarding the Bank of Bengal is worth who fired a shot in a crowd thick as flies and managed not to hit. The safe progress of the bullet through the crowd would be interesting to follow and either the man should be at once promoted for scoring an impossible feat, or relieved of his work for gross incompetence as a marksman.

We can anticipate the official homily upon what appears to be a most outrageous behaviour on the part of the authorities. Politicians beware! do not ask for a commission of enquiry. The Magistrate is probably now engaged in writing his report how the mob *grew dangerous*, and though the report says that as there were no signs of *obeying* the Hagistrate's order to *disperse*, volleys of buckshot were fired under his orders. This is sure to grow into a deadly attack upon the keepers of His Majesty's peace and it will soon be revealed how several brickbats, of Brobdignagian dimensions, flew past their olfactory organs and just managed, like the soldier's bullet, not to hit any part of that or any other organ, and how to avert what was threatening to assume the proportions of a general rising and as the only means to escape from sure death and mutilation at the hands of the mob, the order to fire was reluctantly given.

The other aspect is—*Satyagraha* will be characterised as a revolutionary and riotous movement and so must be put down in the name of peace and order. A case had to be made or found and here is one. The courage which enabled the Magistrate to face an angry crowd finds no parrallel except in the way the brave Roman kept the bridge. What is a machine-gun and rifles manned and handled by well-trained men to a crowd in possession of brick-bats and what is more *their mood*? This is what betokened ominous danger, and on account of the abnormal heat prevailing, was likely to flare up into an insurrection and what not. Sovanalla! The prestige of British arms has been vindicated and military crosses should be distributed amongst those who were responsible for its vindication. What is better as medicine and food than lead for such fasting Satyagrahis!! May we shed a tear for those unhappy men whose bodies were carried in procession to the cremation ground—silently and secretly and out of view of the C. I. D.!

A Day of National Mourning.

Thirtieth of Aswin, the day on which Bengal was partitioned, was observed as a day of national mourning by the Bengalis till the Partition was annulled. It must be in the recollection of our countrymen how they observed that day by praying and fasting. The prayer was heard by One who is above Kings and Emperors bureaucrats and autocrats, and who is the friend of the helpless. The united prayer of a nation did what the then Secretary of State, a Radical among Radicals said could never be done. Oriental people, Hindus, Mahomedans and Christians, believe that fasting helps to purify the body and the mind and makes one fit to hold communion with the Most High. Greater than the Partition of Bengal, worse than any measure of repression which it has been the lot of our countrymen to bear is the Rowlatt Act which the Government have passed against the unanimous protest of the people. Shall we submit to it or try our utmost to have it annulled? Satyagrahist or no Satyagrahist there is absolutely no two opinion in our country that the Act must go. What shall we then do? Opinions may differ regarding the method. Some among our countrymen may honestly believe that Satyagraha is impracticable in this country Some others again may be of different opinion. But all are agreed that something must be done and we must be determined in what we do.

It was a divine inspiration which suggested to one of our great men that we should observe the day of the Partition of Bengal as a day of national mourning. How it caught the imagination of our people, what hearty response it met is now a matter of history.

Whatever may be the views of some of our countrymen regarding the Satyagraha vow, there is no Indian who will not bow his head in reverence to that great man whose austerity, simplicity and high character have raised him to the level of saints. He has suggested that the 6th April should be observed as a day of national mourning for the passing of the Rowlatt Act. Let us take his suggestion as a divine inspiration, as we did another suggestion of a like nature, not many years ago. Let us fast and pray to the Almighty God on that day that he may give us strength to defend our birth-right as citizens against the Black Act. Let us also assemble in our hundreds and thousands in every village, town and city to protest against the Act.

Famine at Kathiwar.

Famine is doing a great havoc in Kathiwar and men and cattle are dying in great numbers of starvation. The province has been officially declared by the Government of Bombay to be a famine-stricken area. Practically there was no rain throughout the year and consequently neither food nor fodder has grown in the country. We further understand that Wadhwan Camp, one of the principal towns and entrance to Kathiwar has been suffering terribly from

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this dire calamity. The people are walking naked in the streets begging food from door to door, but practically there is none to respond as all are more or less reduced to the same state. To cope with this frightful condition some 30 or 40 enterprising gentlemen of Wadhwan Camp have opened a Social Service League to help the people of the locality. This League has opened a Cattle Camp where about 400 cattle are at present protected and supplied with fodder. Col Condon the present political Agent of Jhalawad Prant, has promised all possible help to this Seva Samaj. But success of an institution of this kind depends chiefly upon external help and we hope the generous and philanthropic public of our country will come forward with their mite to help the famine-stricken people in their distress. An appeal published elsewhere gives the necessary details.

Bengal Primary Education Bill.

We congratulate the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Roy on the passing of the Bengal Primary Education Bill which was in his charge and which he did much to get through the Council. The country is grateful to him for the singleness of purpose he displayed and the labour he invested in the matter. The principle of the Bill is sound and it constitutes a move in the right direction. But as in many other matters of vital concern to the people, the want of funds, we are afraid, will take away much from the beneficence of the measure. The masses are in abject poverty and the condition of the Bhadralog classes is anything but prosperous. The people are groaning under an already heavy taxation, and the proceeds of this taxation, a considerable portion of which might be usefully employed in promoting the causes of education and sanitation, are devoted to purposes least beneficial to the people at large. So the people must submit to additional taxation if they want education,—the birth-right of every citizen under a civilized government. Able or unable, they must pay more taxes if they want to see the insanitary conditions of their country removed to any appreciable extent.

The maximum of taxation has been reached in this country and we do not know what other sources may be tapped to get more money for education or sanitation. The education cess in the Bengal Primary Education Bill is the last straw on the camel's back. It has been provided in the bill that local bodies, like Municipalities, will have to contribute towards the objects of the Bill. We do not know how these bodies will meet this additional demand on their slender purse. Already many of them can not raise sufficient funds to meet the ordinary costs, and have the Damocle's sword of disfranchisement hanging on their heads.

It is of course very easy to the foreign exploiters to gibe at what they are pleased to call the unwillingness of the people to tax themselves. They have little or no idea how the vast majority of the people in this country manage to keep their body and soul together. They think that because there has been no Bolshevism here as in their own countries, under far more unbearable conditions, the people are quite well off and happy. But the representatives of the people who are in the Councils or the local bodies know the condition of their countrymen very well and are therefore unwilling to put more pressure to throttle their own kith and kin. They would have been less than human if they had felt or acted otherwise. Yet the non-official members of the Bengal Council supported Babu Surendra Nath Roy in the matter of the Primary Education Bill. Because they realised that with education was bound up the best interests of the country, and it would not do to wait till the policy of the government was radically changed in the matter, of which, again, there was very little possibility. They therefore agreed to try it as an experiment. We are afraid that this experiment has very little chance of success if it has to depend on the unassisted exertions and resources of the people. It depends mainly on the Government to make the experiment a success or failure.

The Ethics of Passive Resistance.

The above is the name of an article by Mr. M. S. Maurice, just published by the well-known publishers of Madras, Messrs Ganesh and Co, in a pamphlet form and portions from which are reproduced elsewhere Messrs Ganesh and Co. have undoubtedly done a great service to the public by bringing out the pamphlet at a time when the whole country is interesting itself about the question of Passive Resistance. The article is written by Mr. Maurice in his inimitable way and we trust every public-spirited Indian, will purchase a copy of the pamphlet for his benefit.

Mr. Jinnah Resigns!

The "By the Way" writer in the "Englishman" thus cracks a joke at the expense of Mr. Jinnah:

"What to-day of Mr. M. A. Jinnah who decided to resign his seat on the Imperial Legislative Council if the Viceroy and the Secretary of State give their assent to the Rowlatt Bills? The Viceregal assent has happened. We suppose Mr. Jinnah is metaphorically standing with the rope round his neck waiting for the next blow, in other words, he has got his resignation written, sealed, and stamped and carries it about in his pocket waiting for the Reuter telegram that announces the final act in the farce."

The writer would not have made a fool of himself by writing the above if he had known that not only has Mr Jinnah "got his resignation written, sealed, and stamped" but he has actually despatched it to the Government. Such a powerful letter by Mr. Jinnah, we dare say, will not go in vain Poor Mr Sarma! An invitation to Government House did all the mischief in his case. If he had left Delhi the day he handed over his resignation, nothing would have happened. But he hung on, because of the invitation. And when he met the Viceroy the inevitable happened. Mr. Sarma has a reputation to maintain and may we hope that he will reconsider the matter. Needless to say that if Mr. Jinnah had not left Delhi, but were in close touch with the gods at the Imperial city, even then we are sure he would have done what he has done. For, he is above official blandishments.

Educational Prospects of a Detenu.

Is a released detenu permitted to join an educational institution to prosecute his studies? The following case is an answer to the question. Sriman Kshitish Chandra Basu was a student in class IX of the Serajgunj H. E. School in 1917. On the 1st July of that year he was arrested on suspicion in connection with a murder case. Evidently there was no evidence against him, as he was released on the 27th August next. But this release, as usually happens in such cases, was only for a few hours, for he was again arrested that very day under the Defence of India Act. He was again set free on the 13th Nov. 1917. Of course why he was arrested and kept in internment for 2½ months, no body outside the official groove shall ever know. After his release, he intended to prosecute his studies, but he found to his surprise that the doors of all schools, to which he applied for admission had been barred against him. In despair, he sought the help of the Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Political Department, to consider his case. But the reply he got from the Under-Secretary were just the same with which we are quite familiar. Kshitish was informed that the question whether he was to be admitted to an educational institution rested with the authorities of the institution, who, if they required advice in the matter, might refer it to the District Magistrate of Bankura. As the various school authorities, to whom Kshitish Chandra applied for admission would not care to offend the susceptibilities of the C. I. D. they summarily rejected his application without even referring the matter to the District Magistrate. He then applied directly to the District Magistrate for necessary permission, who, for reasons known to him, kept silence over the matter As a last resource, Kshitish Chandra submitted an application to the Syndicate of the Calcutta University, requesting that the Head Master of a recognized High School might be asked to admit him so as to enable him to appear in the Matriculation Examination in 1920. This time too Kshitish met with no better result, for the Syndicate expressed its inability to help him in the matter. So, the future career of this lad has been ruined for ever, because he had the misfortune of falling under the suspicion of some C. I. D. officers.

A Zemindar in Trouble.

Babu Sakti Narayan Singh, a big Zemindar of Kastras, district Manbhoom, has fallen under the displeasure of the local authorities. At the last meeting of the B. and O. Legislative Council, Rai S. C. Sen Bahadur put a series of questions with a view to give the higher authorities and the outside public an idea of the troubles of the Zemindar. We have already published the questions and the official answers thereto. To-day we shall refer to one of these for the sake of ready reference. The Hon. non-official member asked:

"Whether the Sub-divisional Officer of Dhanbad in his capacity as Additional Deputy Commissioner cancelled four, out of five gun licenses of the zemindar of Katras; and whether, in an interview with Katras zemindar's counsel, the Additional Deputy Commissioner agreed to renew the cancelled gun licenses on condition among others, that the services of the Bengalee manager should be dispensed with and that he should introduce the Hindi language in his zemindari offices."

Here was the official reply:—

"The Sub-divisional officer declined to renew the licenses in question as he had reason to believe that the guns were being used for improper purposes. The Sub-divisional officer promised to reconsider the matter when the zemindar had removed certain violent and lawless persons from the position of trust which they now occupy on his staff."

Since then, Babu Sakti Narayan has submitted a memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor of Behar in which he has contradicted the above allegations. What happened, he says, was this. He was asked by the then S. D. O. of Dhanbad to dismiss his Dewan Manager. He however did not find his way to comply with this request, inasmuch as the Manager had been faithfully discharging his duties since his father's time, paying off large debts due on the estate and helping the zemindar to establish a High School, a Charitable Dispensary and other institutions of public utility by his good and economic management. This refusal evidently offended Mr. Luby and Babu Sakti Narayan was sought to be humiliated in many ways. In January last, Babu Sakti Narayan applied for a renewal of licenses for his five guns; but he was permitted to keep only one wretched muzzle-loading gun, and orders were passed to confiscate his good guns.

The refusal of Mr. Luby the renew the license has been sought to be justified on the ground that the management of the zemindari was oppressive. The latter refutes this allegation in his memorial to the L. G. in the following words:—

"That the allegation of oppression and its details that the fire-arms are used by the executive officers of the estate for intimidating tenants have come upon the memorialist as the greatest surprise, no such complaint having been in reality even heard of at Katras. The memorialist respecially challenges the police or any other officer making the said allegation to prove the same in a court of justice or at the enquiry prayed for."

We trust Sir Edward Gait will make a searching inquiry into the complaints of Babu Sakti narayan, for they are very grave indeed.

SECOND MUSIC CONFERENCE OF THE GANDHARVA MAHA VIDYALAYA

The 2nd Music Conference of the Gandharva Maha Vidyalaya will be held at Bombay on 4th, 5th and 6th May 1919, and the 3rd Exhibition of Musical Instruments will be opened on 3rd May 1919 in the Vidyalaya, Sandhurst Road, Bombay. Musicians intending to attend the Conference, or wishing to take part in the musical concerns to be arranged on the occasion, and manufacturers of musical instruments wishing to exhibit their instruments at the Exhibition are requested to communicate with the Secretary before the 25th April 1919.

SUNDAY TRAGEDY AT DELHI

SUGGESTION OF A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE.

(Associated Press of India.)
Bombay, April 1.

The "Bombay Chronicle" Delhi correspondent states that at a meeting of the leading citizens it was decided to appoint a private commission of enquiry for collecting available facts concerning the Sunday's tragedy. Leading Hindu and Musalman citizens are going to assemble under the Clock Tower this morning to exchange fraternal greetings and friendly tokens to seal their unity.

A message from Hyderabad (Sind) says: Sunday was observed there as the national protest day. The Superintendent of Police who had at first refused permission for the procession subsequently withdrew his order.

FURTHER DETAILS.

(From a Correspondent.)
Delhi, April 1.

Further details of yesterday's tragedy disclose that the number of citizens who went to the railway Musafirkhana to request the shop-keeper to close the shop was three. The Station Master's behaviour was said to be rude and provoking from the beginning. He and the soldiers from the canteen on the station ignored the exhortation and belaboured the citizens, it is reported, with canes and detained them forcibly. The people who assembled to request for release were totally unarmed. Few approached the station authorities but were, it is reported kicked and caned which excited their comrades outside, some of whom beat assailants back. At this stage four Satyagrahis arrived on the scene and tried to pacify the authorities and the public, but the presence of a machine gun and the attempt of the mounted police to push back the crowd provoked excitement, frustrating the attempts of the Satyagrahis and missiles were thrown. It is doubtful if the Riot Act was read. The Additional District Magistrate is reported to have asked the crowd to disperse which demanded insistently the release of the men detained in the station. Shortly after the firing began. Opinion prevails and incidents are mentioned to show that the situation was not such as to demand shooting. Besides there was no semblance of justification. The military opened fire without the order of the Magistrate, and the first to be shot was a young boy. Even the people who went to remove his corpse were shot at. The feature of firing worth notice is that the majority of cases received wounds in chest or head. The total casualties estimated approximately at 60. Impartial evidence shows the people's attitude, well within the bounds of law. Pickets of soldiers with machine guns were however posted round the whole city. The cavalry and infantry were stationed at the Queen's Carden and armoured car patrolled in the Chandni Chawk provokingly. By the evening the excitement subsided, and the people were returning home when the sudden appearance of the military with machine guns at Imli Basjid Ballemaran to demand the corpse of a Musalman lying there created considerable excitement. The Mussalmans refused to hand over the dead body then but promised to let the police examine it the following morning. The military retired and night passed quietly.

Next morning the public refused opening shops until all the dead bodies in possession of the authorities were handed over to them. Considerable excitement was caused by the appearance of the armoured car and the military patrol but the members of the Satyagraha Sabha and Hakim Apral Khan pacified the feeling and controlled the situation. Fifty thousand Hindus and Mussalmans took part. Swami Sardhanand and Hasikalmulk delivered speeches at the grave yard to pacify the people. At 2 o'clock a deputation of Messrs Hazikulmulk Sultansing Abdur Rahman, pleader, and Peary Lal waited on the Chief Commissioner to request for delivery of the corpse and permission for removal of the wounded and withdrawal of the soldiers from the city. The Chief Commissioner accepted their demands. Five corpses, three Hindu two Mussalmans, were delivered and carried in procession to the Clock Tower accompanied by 80000 people. Here prayers were offered for the Muslim dead and the procession dividing proceeded one to the cremation ground and the other to the grave yard, the Hindus joining the Muslims and the Muslims joining the Hindus.

A meeting of the leading citizens held at Mr Hazikulmulk's house in the evening appointed a commission of Mr Hazikulmulk Rai Bahadur Sultan. Singh, Rai Sahib Peary Lal, Abdur Rahaman pleader, Mr. Sheonarain, pleader, Mr Peerzada Mahammad Hussain retired Judge, Rai Sahib Sheo Narain, retired Judge, with Mr Tarachand pleader, as Secretary, to enquire into the whole affair and present report to the public and the Government.

The Commission begins work to-morrow. The situation is quiet.

THE SITUATION AT DELHI.

(Associated Press of India.)
Delhi, April 1.

The city is quiet. There have been no further disturbances. The total casualties are 6 killed; 2 died of wounds and 12 injured. It is believed some wounded managed to get away unnoticed.

RESULT OF ENQUIRIES.

Detailed enquiries regarding local riots go to show that few days before Sunday last it was given out that Sunday would be observed as day of mourning and humiliation for passing of the Rowlatt Act. Nothing definite was, however, known until Saturday evening when the promoters of the movement after house to house visitation felt certain of a large following and they decided to observe the vow of passive resistance on Sunday to the extent of starving walking on foot and not doing any business. The authorities got scent of this too and they took necessary precautions by ordering out reserves. The night passed off quietly. On Sunday morning a British police officer of high rank patrolled the city and he reported that things were pretty quiet. Shortly after reports were received that those who had joined this movement were harrassing others by stopping tongas from plying and pulling out those who were riding in tongas or tram cars. On receipt of this report Mr Marshal, Supdt of Police, motored to that part of the town but the mob had evidently moved on in two different directions and all that he could see was harmless collection of the people uttering low familiar shouts on such occasion such as 'Bharat Mataki Jai.' Mr. Marshal proceeded to Lal Char Bazaar. At this time he had with him seated in his car the City Inspector and a British police officer. The car on being sighted was mobbed it is alleged by young boys who were egged on by ruffians behind to do so. The result of this might have been very serious but for the presence of mind displayed by Mr. Marshall who backed his car and thus got out of the difficulty. This mob was subsequently dispersed by a party of police that have gone there for assistance. From this spot Mr. Marshall proceeded towards the railway station and his version is that he was absolutely unaware at the time that a serious riot was in progress there. It appears that more violent mob had proceeded towards railway station. A number of them got in and asked a vendor of sweets to desist from doing any business. On meeting refusal they started a fracas which resulted in the arrest of two of their party by the police at the station. This was enough provocation for the rest of the men to invade the station when they broke the windows and glasses besides doing considerable other damage. They also succeeded in rescuing the two arrested men At this time Mr. Marshall was near the Duffering Bridge and from here he sent his police force to the station and himself went to the Chief Commissioner. While they were discussing the situation, information was brought to them that the situation at the station was very grave. All the police reserve were thereupon immediately dispatched and Mr. Marshall himself repaired to the station with seven men of the mounted force. It was about 2 p. m. now, the actual fracas having commenced about noon. On arrival Mr. Marshall noticed that a small party of about 25 British Infantry who were requisitioned in his absence and about 30 or 40 men of the police force were being heavily pressed on all sides by inturnated mob. He actually saw one of the mob trying to snatch the rifle from one of the infantry which had had to scuffle and in confusion that followed that party were pelted with stones and bricks Mr. Marshall charged the mob with his mounted force.

AN AEROPLANE ACCIDENT

MACHANIC BURNT TO DEATH

MACHINE BURST TO DEATH

(Associated Press of India).
Karachi April 1

A Jacobabad vernacular paper gives particulars of an aeroplane accident there last Thureday. Eight aeroplanes on way from Sita to Sibi alighted at Jacobabad for petrol resuming journey Sevan startad safely from the tent but the eighth in taxing along the ground was confroned by a mound. The pidot endeavoured to rise steeply to surmont the obstacle but the tail of the machine fouled and the machine fell upside down, petrol tank burst and the vapour caught fire, the whole acroplane being quickly enveloped in flames. The officer pilot escaped with slight injuries but mechanic William Adame was burst to death.

FAMINE AT KATHIWAR.

AN APPEAL.

A great famine is raging in Kathiawar and the people and the cattle are suffering from hunger. Possible measures are being taken by the concerned citizens but owing to the country being not a rich one can not cope with the precarious condition it has been placed into without the help of other philanthropic people. Wadhwan Camp one of the principal towns and an entrance of Kathiwar is under a pitiful condition and hundreds of cattle are dying from hunger and many poor people of the local place together with those of 30-40 small villages have no food and clothes. To minimise these difficulties of this unprecedental nature about forty citizens of Wadhwan Camp have formed a Social Service League called the "Seva Samaj" This Samaj has opened a Cattle Camp where about 400 cattle are protected at present and every day many more are coming. The body of Seva Samaj has been comprised of gentlemen who work honcrary The Samaj had collected locally about Rs. 10,000 (Rupees ten thousand) but all having been spent the deputation has come to appeal to the rich and philanthrophic for pecuniary assistance. The hay is very dear in that part of Kathiwar but the members after labourious attempts have been able to contract for 4 lac lbs of hay and can get more when required but unless desired help is not received many lives will be perished. A rough estimate to keep 1000 cows and the poorest people of the local and surrounding villages alive is about one lac of rupees. It is also learnt from the deputation that many people are seen naked without clothes and it is our duty to give a share to these people who are our bretherns. If a man sees with his eyes this situation we are sure he will be moved with the deepest sorrow. The donations received up to the present moment from Calcutta are as under and the deputation is very highly obliged to them. We request our readers to stretch their philanthrophic hand to this laudable cause and take blessings of the dumb animals and the poor people.

Messrs Oosman Jamall and Sons Ld	Rs. 500 0 0
Sheth Buldeodas Jugalkishore	Rs. 500 0 0
One Parsee Gentleman	Rs. 151 0 0
Messrs. Amarchand Madhowjee and Co.	Rs. 101 0 0
Seth Jetha Jechand	Rs. 101 0 0
Messrs Jeewanlal and Co	Rs. 101 0 0

The philanthrophic donors who desire to contribute please send the money to K R Seth C-o Messrs Amarchand Madhowjee and Co of No 6 Aga Kerbala Mohomed Street. Calcutta.

PUNJAB CHIEF COURT

RAISED TO HIGH COURT OF JUDICATURE.

(Associated Press of India.)
Lahore, April 1.

The Punjab Chief Court which was opened in 1866 ceased to be a Chief Court and was raised to the status of a High Court of Judicature from this morning. Imposing arrangements were made on the ground of the Court for the opening ceremony.

THE 6TH APRIL.

DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED.

Wanted 250 youngmen to organise Satyagraha day at Calcutta. Gentlemen willing to co-operate are requested to attend at the Home Rule League Office (College Square) to-day, Wednesday, at 5.30 P.M.

CALCUTTA GAZETTE.

April 2.

Babu Mahendra Nath Gupta, Dy Magte and Dy Collr is posted to Nadia sadar

Mr M Thorp, is appointed substantively to the second grade of Jt Magtes and Dy Collrs from the 17th Mar.

Maulvi Aub Saleh Muhammad Ibrahim, Dy Magte and Dy Collr is posted to 24-Parganas sadar.

Mr. Kedar Nath Chaudhuri, Addl Sub Judge and Asst Sessions Judge Dinajpur, is appointed to act as Dist and Sessions Judge Dinajpur, Jaipaiguri and Darjeeling until further orders.

Babu Sushil Ch Ghosh, Dy Magte and Dy Collr Bagerhat, is appointed to be Dy Collr of Calcutta

Mr. R N Reid, is appointed temporarily to act as Third Addl Dist and Sessions Judge 24-Parganas.

Babu Praphulla Ch Sen, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Pabna sadar

Babu Sachindra Nath Mukharji, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Jessore sadar.

Maulvi Saiyid Ahmadullah, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr is posted to Dinajpur sadar.

Babu Nitya Gopal Ray, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr is posted to Chittagong sadar.

Maulvi Khundkar Ali Taib sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr is posted to Chittagong sadar

Babu Gopendra Kumar Ghosh Chaudhuri, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Asansol, is appointed to have charge of the Bagerhat subdivision

Babu Girish Ch Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Collr is posted to the Asansol subdivision.

Mr. A A Patterson Addl Under-Secry to the Govt of Bengal, in the Pol Dept, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Dist and Sessions Judge, Rajshahi and Malda

Mr. Herbert Graham Offg Jt Magte and Dy Collr Narayanganj, is appointed temporarily to be Addl Under-Secry to the Govt of Bengal in the Pol Dept.

Mr. O. M. Martin Offg Jt-Magte and Dy Collr is appointed to have charge of the Narayanganj subdivision.

Babu Binod Bihari Das Gupta, Dy Magte and Dy Collr on leave is posted temporarily to the Bakarganj sadar

Maulvi Atai Ilahi Dy Magistrate and Dy Collr, is allowed an extension of leave on medical certificate for seven days.

Mr. R R Garlick District and Sessions Judge Dinajpur Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, is allowed leave up to the 17th April 1919.

Babu Atul Ch Guha Dy Magte and Dy Collr Malda is allowed combined leave for three months, viz privilege leave for forty-three days, and leave on medical certificate for the remaining period.

Mr. C H Mosley Dist and Sessions Judge Rajshahi and Malda is allowed combined leave for twelve months.

Babu Nalini Nath Sen Asst Commissioner of Police Calcutta, is allowed leave for six weeks.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. Surendra Nath Bhattacharji Sub-Dy Collr is posted to the Burdwan Division.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Asst Surgeon Pashupati Mitra, Medical Officer E B R Khulna is appointed temporarily to act as Civil Surgeon of that district in addition to his own duties during the absence on leave of Babu Sarashi Lal Sarkar Officiating Civil Surgeon.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

The powers of a Magte of the third class, in the district of Rajshahi is conferred upon Kumar Prativa Nath Roy and he is directed to sit as a member of the Natore Bench.

The powers of a Magte of the third class, in the district of Howrah isconferred upon Dr. Hassan Subrawardy and he is directed to sit as a member of the Sadar Bench.

The powers of a Magte of the first class, in the district of Tippera is conferred upon Kumar Nabadwip Chandra Deb Burman an Hony Magte of the Comilla Bench.

POLITICAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA.

POSITION IN POLAND.

GERMANS AND THE BOLSHEVIKS.

London, Mar. 26.

In the House of Commons Mr. Churchill reviewed the situation in Russia. He said that there was very little fighting on the Marmansarchangel front. This immense front was held with the greatest economy by means of block-houses. The movement on the Dvina was at present impossible but dispositions had been taken to carry out any decision. The Esthonians and the Lithunians had appealed to us for protection against the Bolsheviks. This had been promised and the Esthonians partly supplied with British arms had made stout fights and had shown the weakness of the Bolsheviks. We were not discouraging the operations of the German force moving towards Windau and possibly Riga. He had not received the official confirmation of the Bolshevist invasion of Hungary.

The position in Poland was anarchic and might degenerate under the Bolshevik attack. The position in Rumania was anxious. He hoped that energetic efforts would be made to succour Rumania which was our great buttress against the advancing tide of Bolshevism. Events in the Unkeranine during last two or three months had been more disastrous. The French were confronted with the superior forces and by popular feeling which must be reckoned.

As showing the danger of rash and ill-considered action Mr. Churchill mentioned that ten thousand Germans attacked by the Bolsheviks defended Nicholaieff with some success but owing to the mishandling of the situation some Germans gave up their arms. Others joined the Bolsheviks. Our policy was, to support General Denikin's army without involving the British troops. Mr Denikin's left flank had sustained a heavy reverse in advance on Novotcherkask though a more recent attack in the west had been more successful and by striking back to the Caspian general Denikin took thirty thousand prisoners. The British fleet remained in command of the Caspian and an inferior Bolshevik fleet was ice bound at Astrakan. We had small detachments of troops stretching towards the frontiers of India holding back the Bolshevik Emissaries without serious fighting. The advance of Koltchak's Siberian armies had prospered in the north but had not gone too well in the south where we had only a handful of men under Colonel John Ward as a symbol of authority of the Koltchak Government which the Allies, particularly Britain were assisting. The British officers had Koltchak's troops with very large number of rifles and other weapons also guns and munitions. It was intended to continue the support and send technical instructors and experts

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Indians in England.

SCENES AT A MEETING

PROPOSAL TO CONGRATULATE LORD SINHA DEFEATED.

London, Mar. 6.

Sir Muncherjee Bhownaggree issued a circular in which he stated that "a large number of ladies and gentlemen" had requested him to call a meeting of "all the people of India resident in the United Kingdom for the purpose of giving them an opportunity to express their joy and gratitude to His Majesty and the Prime Minister" at the appointment of Lord Sinha to the Under Secretaryship and for elevation to the British Peerage. "And also for congratulating the Right Hon Lord Sinha."

The meeting was fixed for the 24th February. The majority of Indians who do take keen interest in Indian affairs were evidently not in sympathy with the objects of the meeting. They regarded the matter of such vital importance that "contingents" of young men came, for the day to raise their protest, from Oxford Cambridge and other University centres It seems they convened meetings at their own centres where they passed resolutions of protest and elected their delegates to be present at the meeting personally to protest against the objects of the meeting. To give only one instance the Oxford "contingent" came armed with the following resolution:—

"The Indians resident at Oxford assembled at a public meeting held on the 23rd February, put on record their disapproval of the objects set forth in the circular issued by Sir M M Bhownaggree."

Long before 4 o'clock the Indian community had mustered strong in the Lincoushire Room at Westminister And when it struck four no sooner had the conveener of the meeting announced, that now it was open to the meeting to elect its Chairman one Oxonian "youth", with a dramatic touch rushed to the platform like lightening and with a thundering voice proposed Mr. K. P. Mehta son of the late Sir Pherozeshah to the Chair. The nomination of Mr. Mehta was hailed with most enthusiastic acclamation "amidst uproarious cheering." However, the admirers of Sir Muncherjee Bhownaggree proposed his name also. He obtained a mere handfull of votes and Mr. Mehta was elected by an overwhelming majority, the Chairman of the meeting.

SIR MUNCHERJEE WITHDRAWS.

Thereupon the Chairman called upon the conveener of the meeting to explain how he proposed to hold the meeting in the name of "all the people of India resident in the United Kingdom," when as a matter of fact only a few individuals were consulted and the opinion of Indians resident outside London was not taken into consideration; and demanded the names of the signatories of the so-called petition which is said to have requested him to convene the meeting. Sir Muncherjee came forth to give an explanation but declined to recognise the Chairman and address the Chair. The audience shouted "address the Chair." Sir Muncherjee said "there is no Chairman." He was thereupon, hooted by the audience and he withdrew from the hall along with a few of his followers. Their departure was greeted with laughter and delisive cheers, and shouts of "Let them go; shut the door" (The Daily Telegraph). The seceders seemed inclined to disturb the meeting; therefore five "stewards of the peace" were appointed to keep order: and Mr. B D Dube proposed that any one who persisted in disturbing the meeting be ejected.

"The Chairman" after order was restored remarked "that he did not know that they wanted to congratulate anybody muchless any particular individual, or that they had anything to be grateful for. The meeting should decide whether they would go farther or not." (D T.) The proceedings having begun "one speaker though congratulations were not in order when their countrymen were shedding tears of blood, and mankind was trying to shake off the tyranny of oppression; and another urged that they should have the courage of their convictions and register their sense of the needs of modern India".

Mr. Saklatwala moved a resolution condemning the circular and censuring the convener of the meeting. In a convincing and eloquent speech he pointed out the unwisdom and undesirability of holding such a meeting. He also hoped that no further attempt will be made to call such a meeting. The resolution was enthusiastically carried. Other on this memorable meetings which was the largest ever held in London. The "Daily Telegraph" said very truly that "there was a large attendance from the outset, however it was evident that the majority, who included a number of young men students was out of sympathy with the objects of the meeting . . . . the opposition elected their own chairman . . amidst uproarious cheering. The "Times" under the heading "Discord at Meeting", "Young students opposition" wrote:—"The obstructive attitude of a large number of young Indians, including strong contingents from Oxford and Cambridge frustrated the objects of the meeting". The "Daily News" published partly misleading account under the title "Indians in Office," speakers who ventured to suggest that they might at least congratulate Lord Sinha as an individual for the honour he had received excited such interruptions from the audience that had anybody ventured to propose the congratulatory resolution it would have been outvoted by an overwhelming majority.

ADJOURNED SINE DIE.

Finally, one young man, an Oxonian realising that young men had carried the day, and that it was better to be magnanimous and content with unmeasured victory rather than accept the challenge moved that the meeting be adjourned sine die. The motion for adjournment was duly carried by a very large majority one of those voting with the minority shouted "We are not Bolsheviks". The meeting dispersed amidst scenes of great enthusiasm and sense of gratification on the part of those who took a serious view of the whole matter. The victory thus attained by men of independent character and sincere well wishers of their country will form a great landmark or watershed in Indian political life.

No Indian event or affair has ever been so much taken notice of in the British Press. The following day February 25th, almost every London daily published accounts of and passed comments in an indirect manner "Noisy Scenes at a meeting at Westminister." "The Globe" came out with head

(Continued on next Column)

REUTER,S TELEGRAMS.

SITUATION IN HUNGARY

OPINION OF HOME PRESS DIRECT CHALLENGE TO ALLIES.

London, Mar. 26.

Newspapers regard the action of Hungray as a direct challenge to the Associated Powers and demand firm action in order to establish the control of the situation.

They attribute the decision to hold the conclave in Paris to these events describing the meetings of the four statesmen in Paris as in effect a Council of war.

THE CRISIS IN HUNGRAY

MANY CASUALTIES IN BUDAPEST

Copenhagen, Mar. 25

A telegram from Berlin says: It transpires that there was firing in Budapest on Friday and Saturday. Many casualties occured. There was plundering of food shops and jewellers' shops.

London, Mar. 25.

A telergam from Budapest, dated March 24th, says: The city is quiet. The Government has proclaimed martial law for plundering and armed resistance to the Soviet Government, and has prohibited the carrying of arms by anyone except the Workers' Guard. The sale of alcohol is prohibited. The Bourgeois papers appeared on Saturday uncensored. Resistance by the Bourgeois is nowhere visible. The Solvak Government has ordered the mobilisation of five levies.

THE DISMEMBERMENT OF GERMANY. ERZBERGER'S PROTEST.

Copenhagen, Mar. 25

A telegram from Berlin says: At a demonstration to protest against what was described as the dismemberment of Germany, Herr Erzberger declared that Germany would not sign a peace involving the annexation of Dantzig, West Prussia and part of Silesia.

FUTURE PEACE PROCEDURE.

London, Mar. 26.

Paris.—It is understood that a Council of four will continue to meet twice daily either at President Wilson's or M. Clemenceau's or Mr. Lloyd George's residence until positive results are reached on the majority of points, except the total to be demanded from Germany on which the financial experts differ. The Supreme Council will decide this. Other questions discussed were the spread of Bolshevism in connection with the Hungarian revolution and the growing disorders in South East Europe especially towards Odessa and Franco-German frontier. Marshal Foch attended yesterday's meeting.

ENTENTE MISSION TO BUDAPEST.

London, Mar. 25.

A telegram from Vienna says: The British mission has notified the Austrian Government that the food supply will be materially increased if orders is maintained in Vienna. It is reported that all the members of the Entente mission in Budapest have been interned.

A telegram from Paris says:—The Matin reports that the Russian Bolsheviks asked the Hungarian Soviet Government to hold the French members of the mission with a view to their exchange for the Soviet mission which the Bolsheviks declare the French detained at Salonika.

A telegram from Budapest says that ex-Premier Wegerle has been arrested.

London, Mar. 25

A telegram to the Times from Vienna says: It is officially declared that the Entente mission have quitted Budapest Foreign officer were disarmed and their decorations removed when the revolution broke out on Friday. A French and British detachment of twenty-four men was disarmed on Saturday. The frontiers are now closed. Little news is being received.

Prague, Mar. 25.

It is reported from Budapest that Colonel Vix the head of the French military mission is wounded and a prisoner. Major Freeman of the British military mission escaped from Budapest. An unconfirmed report states that Count Karolyi has been assassinated.

RELEASE OF ALLIED MISSIONS.

FROM HUNGARY.

London, Mar. 27.

Reuter learns that the Hungarian Government has released all the Allied Missions excepting the French Mission the members of which are being held as hostages against the Bolsheviks in the French hands. The French Government have demanded their immediate release.

LINE OF DEMARCATION NOT AS POLITICAL FRONTIER.

London, Mar. 26.

Copenhagen.—A message from Budapest states that the Allied mission has inofrmed the Hungarian Soviet Government that the line of demarcation laid down in the earlier ultimatum is not to be regarded as political frontier in accordance with the new decision. There will only be established a neutral zone for the purpose of preventing a collision between the Hungarian and the Rumanian troops.

(Continued from previous column.)

lines: "Indians Frolic," "Meeing adjourned before patriotic resolutions could be carried." "The Star" published a brief account under the heading, "Indians in London", "Uproar at a Westminster meeting." "The Daily Sketch" used for its title, "Indian Unrest," "Disorderly scenes at a meeting called to thank the King". The "Daily Graphic," which was evidently invited by the convener of the meeting, published a photograph of the meeting with these words at the foot of the picture: "It had to be adjourned owing to the opposition of a number of young Indians." But the fact is that, having frustrated the objects of the meeting, the "Young Indians" themselves adjourned the meeting, instead of publicly condemning Sinha and exposing the camouflage of appointing an Indian an Undersecretary and putting a temptation in the way of public men of India in the form of Peerages to be conferred if they behave like the first Lord of Raipur.—"Bombay Chronicle"

LABOUR SITUATION

HOPE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

London, Mar. 25

In spite of the action of the Rhondda strikers, who now number twenty-four thousand, the labour situation is hopeful owing to the belief that the conference between the Government and the miners will secure a final settlement. Moreover, Mr. Bromley said yesterday evening that he was optimistic as regards a railway settlement. He said that to-day's conference reached a general agreement although it was not a final settlement. He was more confident than ever that the negotiations would achieve the desired results in a few days.

London, Mar. 25.

The latest official news from Egypt is that a detachment of troops from the Sudan has been sent to occupy Assouan. The situation in Egypt is steadily improving.

London, Mar. 26

At a conference between the executive of the Miners' Federation and the Government. Mr. Bonar Law, in the course of a long conciliatory statement dealing with modifications of the Sankey Report proposed by the miners, said that the Government was unable to go beyond Mr. Justice Sankey's chief recommendations. Mr. Bonar Law pointed out the great benefits accruing to the miners if the report was accepted and a strike averted, and from the anticipated fall in the cost of living before the end of the year. Moreover the Commission would continue to sit and issue interim reports regarding the betterment of mining conditions.

Mr. Smillie replying undertook to submit fully the position to the miners' conference on March 26. He thought that the continuation of the commission probably opened a new era which it was possible would do more to bring peace and prosperity to the mining industry than anything hitherto had done.

London, Mar 26

The unanimous report of the provisional joint committee appointed by the Industrial Conference on February 27th to consider the causes of the present unrest and the questions of hours wages and unemployment and the promotion of co-operation between capital and labour, recommends inter alia legal establishment of the principle of forty-eight hour week, discouragement of systematic overtime minimum time and rates of wages organised short time in periods of depression acceleration of Government housing schemes, State development of new industries, adequate provision for unemployment sickness, infirmity and old age, and the establishment of a permanent National Industrial Council to advise the Government, consisting of four hundred members elected equally from trade unions and employers. In the event of the Conference on April 4 adopting the report the committee urges the Government to give effect to it forthwith.

BOLSHEVIK INVASION OF HUNGARY. NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.

London, Mar. 28

In the House of Commons, reviewing the situation in Russia, Mr. Churchill said there had been very little fighting at Muramansk, where block-houses had enabled the Allies to hold an immense front very economically. The success of the Esthonians, who were partly supplied with British arms, showed the weakness of the Bolsheviks. There was no official confirmation of the Bolshevik invasion of Hungary, but the position of Rumania was menaced by the Bolshevik advance and was disquieting. He hoped that energetic efforts would be made to succour Rumania, which was a great anti-Bolshevik buttress. Mr. Churchill detailed British efforts to support General Goltchak in Siberia and General Denikin in south Russia with arms and instructions without involving British troops. He mentioned that we had small detachments of troops stretching towards the frontiers of India and holding back Bolshevik enemies without severe fighting.

POLES AND UKRAINIANS

London, Mar. 25

A telegram from Warsaw, dated March 23 says:—The Entente mission is going to Lemberg to try again to ararnge a Polish-Ukrainian armistice. The military situation at Lemberg has greatly improved since the Poles drove back the Ukrainians from the Sadowa Wisznia Grodek railway, but the Ukrarnians still surround Lemberg, which is being bombarded daily and is very short of food. The Ukrainian troops are mostly commanded by highly paid German artillery officers

PEACE AND BOLSHEVISM IN AUSTRIA.

Paris, Mar. 28.

The Havas Agency says reports from Vienna urge the necessity of a conference bringing about an effective peace before Bolshevism gets upper hand in Austria. It is stated on good authority that there is liklihood of four treaties with Germany, Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria and Turkey being amalgamated into one document, the whole being interwoven with the League of Nations convenant so bringing about peace within a shorter period than if treaties were taken consecutively. French official circles, however, state that the Joint Peace will indefinitely postpone the peace. The French fear that with collective treaty grave questions confronting France might not receive due consideration. The British delegation takes the same view that it would be better to conclude one treaty with Germany as quickly as possible.

The New Orient Express linking Paris with Balkans without passing Germany and Austria is due to start on April 15th. It will travel via Lausanne, Simplon Tunnel, Venice, Agram, Zinkovoo, Diziding and thence to Bukharest, Odessa, Constantinople and Athens.

LIBERAL LEAGUE FORMED AT MADRAS

Madras, Mar. 31.

A new political organisation called the Madras Liberal League has been formed under the presidency of Sir P S Sivaswamy Iyer. The League is also authorised to send delegates to the next All India Moderate Conference at Calcutta.

MADRAS TRAMWAY STRIKE.

ASSISTANT TRAFFIC SUPERINTENDENT ASSAULTED.

Madras, Mar. 29.

The Assistant Traffic Superintendent of Tramways Company was seriously assaulted by a striker near the ice factory as he was going on duty yesterday morning. The matter is under enquiry.

TROUBLE IN EGYPT

GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION.

London, Mar. 25

Mr. Harmsworth stated in the House of Commons that there was every indication that the general improvement in the situation in Egypt was being maintained. The acting High Commissioner reported that the firm action of the authorities was having due effect and that Cairo and Alexandria continued quiet. In the Behara province agricultural work appeared to be proceeding normally except in the district between Damanhour and Kafrelzayat, but possibly the Bedouins in the western district of that province might indulge in further marauding expeditions.

FRESH DISORDERS IN CAIRO.

Cairo, Mar. 25.

The car drivers have struck Fresh disorders have occurred in Cairo in which the military dispersed crowds attempting to storm the Government printing works. Unsuccessful attacks were made upon Helouan railway bridges, lines and telegraphs.

London, Mar. 24.

In the House of Commons at question time, Mr. Harmsworth stated that the latest report showed that railway communication between Cairo and Alexandria and telegraphic communication between Cairo and Tanta had been restored. Wireless telegraphy was being used between Cairo and Alexandria Mr. Harmworth emphasised that General Wingate was remaining in England to afford valuable advice and assistance to Government, who would fully support General Allenby in dealing with the situation. He did not think General Wingate was in any way superseded.

Cairo, Mar. 24.

General Watson summoned leaders of Zaghlour's party whom he told he held responsible for the excesses and called on them to exercise their utmost influennce to prevent disturbances. He said that the British army had up to the present dealt lightly with the situation but if disorders did not stop stronger measures would be necessary. The leaders protested their innocence, declared that the agitation was beyond their control, and expressed their anxiety to carry out General Watson's demand.

SERIOUSNESS OF EUROPEAN SITUATION.

Paris, Mar. 25.

In view of the seriousness of the European situation a big effort is being made to have peace treaty ready within a week Practically all the terms have been formulated and Mr. Lloyd George, President Wilson, M. Clemenceau and Signor Orlando are concentrating their efforts on the final shaping of the treaty.

Paris, Mar. 25.

The conference between President Wilson Mr. Lloyd George, M. Clemeanceua, and Signor Orlando continued till late in the afternoon. The secretaries and stenographers were present. It is understood that good progress was made with the peace treaty.

SITUATION IN UKRAINE OBSCURE

London, Mar. 25.

At question time in the House of Commons Mr. Harmsworth stated that the situation in the Ukraine was obscure but it was reported that the Petlura Government had collapsed before the Bolsheviks, who had advanced in certain sectors There was no immediate danger to Odessa, which the Allies did not intend to evacuate. (Cheers.) The Allied forces were under the control of a French commander who was taking the necessary measures to deal with the situation.

London, Mar. 25

Telegrams from Omsk, dated March 11, state that General Koltchak's army pierced the enemy front on a width of thirty miles and advanced nearly forty miles along the right bank of the Kama river between the already captured towns of Okhansk and Ossa. The Red Army was being pursued in three directions and was abandoning large quantities of war stores. A large number of prisoners was taken and three Bolshevik regiments were annihilated. The enemy's situation was precarious.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN EGYPT.

London, Mar. 24.

Replying to Mr. Ormsby core in the Commons. Mr. Harmsworth stated that it had always been the Government's intention that as soon as possible full Enquiry should be made regarding what constitutional and department changes were necessary to give effect to the declared policy of the Government with regard to the future administration of Egypt. Responsible Egyptian public opinion would have every opportunity of being heard at such an enquiry.

GERMAN TRADE DESIGNS IN AMERICA FAILED.

Washington, Mar. 27.

The Washington Government has taken an important step to combat German designs for reconquering American markets by notifying users of dyes, chemicals, fertilisers, and other products which originated in Germany that importations from Germany will be subject to prosecution as infringement of patents licensed under the Enemy Trading Act. Opinion is expressed that this action will block German plans for dumping large accumulated stocks with the intention of underselling new American industries.

SELF GOVERNMENT FOR INDIA.

London, Mar. 18

The "Manchester Guardian" states that a committee of members of the Parliament with Mr. Wedgwood as Chairman has been formed to press the claims of India to self-government and keep Indian matters prominently before the Commons. The membership is confined to those accepting the principle of full self-government for India.

LORD WILLINGDON'S.

London, Mar. 18.

Lord Willingdon left the Victoria Station this morning for Madras Via Paris. Many friends were present at the station. Mr. Malcolm, Seton, A Lawley, J D Rees and of I C S. Others present included members of the India Council, H H the Aga Khan, Lord Brassey, Sirs Thomas Holderness Malcolm, Seton, A Lawley, J D Rees and Bhownaggree, Generals Sirs S V Cox William Birdwood, W Marshall and Mr. Jeejeeshoy

INDIAN DELEGATION TO PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, Mar. 19.

In the commons replying to Mr. Wedgwood Mr. Fisher emphasised that the Indian Delegation to the Peace Conference was fully cognisant of the special interests of the Indian Mohomedans in the Peace Settlement and Mr. Montagu gave assurance that he and his colleagues charged themselves with the advocacy of the Indian Mohomedan interests in connection that these formed an essential part of the interests of India.

London, Mar. 28.

Paris: It is officially announced that the Council of Four is continuing the deliberations of the preliminary points of the peace treaty with Germany. It would appear that its attention is at present concentrated on the question of the Polish frontier and the left bank of the Rhine. Regarding the former the Council is not yet in complete agreement concerning the annexation by Poland, of the territory inhabited by 2 or 3 million Germans. Concerning the question of indemnities to be imposed on Germany, it is probable that the entente will settle the question more rapidly than the question of the Polish frontier. The "Temps" says that the Council of the Foreign Ministers has dealt with the provisioning of Esthonia.

REDUCTION IN FARES FROM INDIA.

London, Mar 19.

In the House of Commons Mr Rees asked: Could Mr Montagu announce any further reduction in fares from India?

Mr Rees affirmed that the rates at present were prohibitive for the public servants and their families in many cases.

Mr Fisher referred to his reply on Mar 12

NO GERMAN OFFENSIVE IN COURLAND

London, Mar 28.

Copenhagen, Mar 26: A message from Weimar states that in the National Assembly Mr Noske denied that the German troops attacked the Russian Soviet troops as stated in the Tchitcherin's message to Budapest. The German Govt would undertake no offensive in the Courland or Lithunia. A certain safeguarding of the eastern frontier was unfortunately still necessary, but the Govt only wished to live in peace and in good neighbourhood with Russia.

EXPORTS PROHIBITED IN GERMANY.

London, Mar 28.

Paris: The list of commodities which Germany is prohibited from exporting comprises war material of all kinds including war ships, also gold and silver and securities. The exports permitted conditionally include coal, livestuffs, various products of iron and steel, sugar, windowglass, electrical and certain other machinery and allied Govts are entitled to purchase these articles and representatives of the Allies will proceed immediately to Cologne and other places to arrange prices etcetra with the Germans. Purchases by the allies must not exceed two thirds of the surplus of any of these commodities which Germany has for sale. Germany will be free to export the remaining one third as she wishes but the proceeds of all exports will be devoted to the payment of German Food Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

JAPANESE COMPETITION WITH LANKASHIRE.

London, Mar. 24.

Replying to Mr. Waddington in the House of Commons Mr. Bridgeman stated that the Board of Trade was giving careful attention to the Japanese competition with Lancashire. The question of ceasing to issue licences for the import of cotton cloth while Lancashire operatives were unemployed would naturally come before the Committeee on Imports.

THE ROWLATT REPORT AND LALA RAJPAT RAI.

London, Mar. 19.

In the House of Commons Mr. Yate suggested that in view of the statements in the Rowlatt Report regarding Mr. Lajpat Rai the Secretay of State should reconsider the offer to consider the question of granting Mr. Lajpat Rai a passport to return from America on the signature of peace. Mr. Fisher replied that the Secretary of State was not prepared to give any undertaking and reserved freedom of action in the matter.

GENERAL STRIKE AT BARCELONA.

MARTIAL LAW PROCLAIMED.

Madrid, Mar. 25.

A general strike broke out at Barcelona on March 23rd and martial law was proclaimed next day. Martial law may possibly be extended to the whole of Spain.

Madrid, Mar. 26.

Martial law has been proclaimed through out Spain.

IMPROVED SITUATION IN SPAIN.

London, Mar. 28.

Madred.—The situation throughout Spain is improving. It is expected that trouble will soon be cleared up.

AN AUTOGRAPH LETTER OF EX-KAISER.

London, Mar 27.

The Berlin "Deutsche Zeitung" published an autograph letter from the ex-Kaiser to the ex-Crown Prince, dated November 9th, which begins: My dear boy.—After the Court Chamberlain advised that he could do longer guarantee my safety at Main Head quarters and that the troops were no longer trustworthy I resolved after a severe mental struggle to leave the army which had remained and go to Holland. I advise you to stick to your post until the conclusion of the armistice. I hope to see you again in happier times.

Your faithful and deeply afflicted father Wilhelm".

Thereupon the Crown Prince wrote to Ebert requesting permission to remain at his post, undertaking to bring the army home in a well disciplined and orderly manner. Ebert refused the request and the Crown Prince in the course of a lengthy letter to Hindenburg justifying his action said he had decided with deep emotion after a hard struggle to go to a neutral country. He pointed out that no renunciation of the throne was either demanded from or made by him.

The "New Herald" of Lahore has been required to deposit security of two thousand rupees.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Mr. Patel's warning to Government.

"PASSIVE RESISTANCE, THE LAST WEAPON OF DESPAIRING PEOPLE."

The following is the speech of the Hon. Mr. V J Patel at the final stage of the Rowlatt Bill:—

My Lord,—We have now reached the final stage of this extremely unpopular measure. The Government remains as unbending as ever in total disregard or rather defiance of the unanimous protest of the entire Indian opinion both in and outside this Council. We did our best to pursuade the Government to abandon the measure or, at any rate, to postpone its consideration till the passing of the Reform Bill into Parliament. We failed. We did all that was possible to have some of our important amendments accepted in order to make the Bill less dangerous, less obnoxious and thereby perhaps less unacceptable. But our appeals and our prayers fell on deaf ears. We confess we miserably failed in all our endeavours It remains for us now in this Council to enter our most emphatic protest, in the clearest manner possible, against the passing of this Bill into law. In doing so, I propose to place on record once again some of my reasons in brief.

I am of opinion, my Lord, that it is not within the competence of this Council to enact this law. In any case, the question is not so free from doubt as the Hon. the Law Member would have the Council to believe. In this connection, three points arise for the consideration of this Council:—

(i) Section 65 of the Government of India Act (1915) says that "the Governor-General in Legislative Council has not, unless expressly so authorised by Act of Parliament power to make any law repealing or affecting any part of the unwritten laws or Constitution of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, whereon may depend, in any degree, the allegiance of any person to the Crown of the United Kingdom." Now what is this bond of allegiance referred to in the section? It is that the Crown protects the subject against arbitrary executive power and that the subject is entitled to be tried according to the recognized forms of law before he is deprived of his liberty. The proposed Bill in parts II and III substitutes the authority of the executive for that of the judiciary in respect of certain offences and thus infringes upon the fundamental liberties of the subjects of his Majesty in India thereby repealing the unwritten laws and constitution of the United Kingdom whereon depends the allegiance to the Crown. It is a question, therefore, whether the Indian Legislative Council has the power to enact this law.

SEC. 106 OF GOVT. OF INDIA ACT.

(ii) Section 106 of the Government for India Act (1915) provides that "the several High Courts are Courts of Record and have such jurisdiction, original and appellate—and all such powers and authority over or in relation to the administration of justice—as are vested in them by Letters Patent". The section further states that "the Letters Patent" establishing or vesting jurisdiction, powers or authority in a High Court, may be amended from time to time by his Majesty by further Letters Patent. Part I of the Bill ousts the jurisdiction of the High Court and vests it in a specially constituted tribunal. The Judges of the Indian High Courts derive their authority from the Letters Patent signed by His Majesty, and their powers could not, in my opinion, be curtailed for any reason by any enactment of the Indian Legislative Council as it is proposed to be done under this Bill.

(iii) Section 32 of the Government of India Act (1915) enacts:—

(a) That the Secretary of State on Council may sue and be sued by the name of the Secretary of State in Council as a body corporate (b) Every person shall have the same remedy against the Secretary of State in Council as he might have had against the East India Company if the Government of India Act (1858) and this Act had not been passed, while section 65, clause 2 provides that "the Governor-General in Legislative Council has not unless expressly so authorised by Act of Parliament, power to make any law repealing or affecting any Act of Parliament passed after the year 1860 and extending to British India". The provisions of these two sections read together make it clear that the Indian Legislature has no power to enact a law depriving any British Indian subject of his right to sue the Secretary of State in Council, in cases where such a right existed prior to 1858, and yet we find that clause 41 of the Bill says that "no order under this Act shall be called in question in any Court. This view is supported by the authority of the well-known Moment's case decided by their Lordships of the Privy Council confirming the judgment of the Chief Court of Burma. They held that the provision of section 41 (b) of the Lower Burma Town and Village Lands Act (Burma Act IV of 1908) was ultra vires. The clause of the Act in question runs thus:—"No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to determine any claim to any right over land as against the Government".

The Government of India thereupon moved his Majesty's Government for a repeal of of Sec 65 of the Act of 1858 which corresponds to Sec. 32 of the Government of India Act, 1915, with the result that an amending Bill was introduced in the House of Lords. The Bill was referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses and after full discussion of the pros and cons of the question, the Committee recommended the deletion of the clause in question. The discussion is very interesting and I will quote a few extracts from it so far as they are relevant to the question we are considering:—"Chairman.—It might be as well to state from the juridical point of view how this matter stands. When an Imperial Act of Parliament has been passed and this law is applicable to India and the self-governing Dominions and to every corner of the British Empire, when an Imperial Act has been passed which refers to a Dominion or Colony or Dependency then unless there is power given in the Imperial Act the local legislature cannot pass a law which is in contravention of that. The Imperial Act of Parliament is one very convenient method in the management of the affairs of the Empire, as, for instance the Canadian Act, 1867. The Canadians came and asked for the Imperial Act of Parliment they got it, and no local legislature in Canada can act against it. They come to the Imperial Parliament; which is always ready to meet them. In the case of India, the law allowed anyone to sue the old East India Company; it was not the Crown at all, it was the Company Act of 1858, chap 106, Sec. 65, enacted these words:—

The Secretary of State in Council shall and may sue and be sued as well in India as in England by the name of the Secretary of State in Council as a body corporate and all persons and bodies politic shall and may have and take the same suits, remedies and proceedings, legal and equitable, against the Secretary of State in Council of India as they could have done against the said company; and the property and effects hereby vested in Her Majesty for the purpose of the Government of India, or acquired for the said purposes, shall be subject and liable to the same judgments and executions as they would, while vested in the said company, have been liable to in respect of debts and liabilities lawfully contracted and incurred by the said company."

A SPECIFIC ENACTMENT.

Therefore that was a specific enactment and the Privy Council apparently—I have been looking at their decision and I now recollect it—the Privy Council quoted that, and then said that the effect of that Section was to debar the Government of India from passing any Act which could prevent a subject from suing the Secretary of State in Council in any case in which he could have similarly sued the East India Company. The origin is the principle which I have mentioned, and that was the decision, and that was the only decision. They applied it to the case of land. Then Mr. Roberts tells us about inconvenience which has arisen."

* * *

Lord Islington.—I should like to repeat and enforce what Mr. Roberts has said. It will place the legislatures in India in a very embarrassing position indeed unless something is done, and I want to appeal to the Committee on that score; as to whether it should take the form of the wording of the proposed amendment or whether it should undergo modifications, is a matter we could decide upon here; but I think the Committee, after what they have heard and in view of the position of affairs in India with regard to these thirty odd Acts which have been passed by local legislatures, are and in view also of the number of Acts amounting to hundreds, before the decision which would also be open to appeal to the Privy Council will realise that the position is a very serious one not only for the legislation which has been passed, but in view of any legislation that is to be proposed with the object of being passed in the future.

. . . . .

Chairman.—Then the real point is that local legislatures in India have passed Acts or think that they ought to be able to pass Acts, which do interfere with the right of an individual to sue the Secreary of State.

Sir C Ilbert.—Which may interfere? I have a long list here. It may be convenient to have copies of this list circulated for the information of members.

Chairman.—I think it will be very useful. It has evidently been very carefully thought out and it will enable the Committee to see how the point arises as, for example, in the first case, in the Defence of India (Criminal) Act of 1915, there is a clause saying that the judgment of the Commissioners shall be final and conclusive. It might be that the Commissioners would say that the Secretary of State for India had done right, and then it might be pleaded that he had been pronounced to have done right, and, therefore, could not be sued. That is the kind of thing you mean?

Sir C Ilbert: Yes.

RIGHT OF SUING SECRETARY OF STATE.

Chairman: It looks as if provision had to be made for that sort of thing. Very likely there are a great many others; but I think it will be desirable that the Committee should have an opportunity of seeing these instances. It is a very difficult matter The remedy you prescribe is to enable the legislature of India to abolish altogether the right of suing the Secretary of State.

Lord Islington: Yes.

. . . . .

Sir John Jardine.—The natives especially in the Presidency towns, where the English law since 1726 has been in existence, with certain modifications (and the same thing applies to Rangoon and some other towns) have got very much that feeling too. As far as I know, they have always thought that the power given by enactment like that of 1858, which empowers the subject to sue in Courts that are beyond all suspicion, is a valuable thing for them to have it increases the confidence of the people under our Government and as far as I know, does no harm at all. It is irritating to a Government to lose a case, and the Revenue Officers do not like it much but that is a small thing compared with the immense matter of governing the people according to their own notions. That is a matter, so far as the policy is concerned, to be determined by the feeling—the carefully expressed feeling—of the people.

. . . . .

Lord Islington.—I should like to say a word about the subject of our discussion last week, clause 2, sub-clause (d) which bars the right to sue the Secretary of State in particular cases. Since we met last week this sub-section has been the subject of careful consideration by the India Office both in the light of the memorials which have come from various parts of India and England, and also in the light of the discussion that took place here last week, which clearly showed that there was a very strong feeling against the principle which is embodied in this proposal being inserted in this Bill. The India Office, therefore, have considered that perhaps the wisest plan, on the whole, under all the circumstances and in view of the fact that this is regarded as a proposal of a controversial character, and as controversial matters are, as far as possible, to be barred during the war, is to omit this provision from the Bill. We discussed it in all its different bearings, first of all as to whether some modification might be made with a view to dealing with this difficult subject in the future without at the same time removing the proper appeal under proper circumstances. We discussed the various proposals put forward, and especially the one put forward by your Lordship: but there were so many difficulties that presented themselves, even with that proposal, that we felt obliged to abandon it. Then came the question of modifying it to the extent of making it retrospective, namely, confining it to the validating of existing legislation and, on consideration, we came to the conclusion that even in that case it might lead to more trouble than might at first be anticipated.

* *

Of course, the question may crop up in the future, and then it will have to be dealt with, but probably it had better be dealt under the circumstances by an outside measure. That is the general view of the Advisory Committee. If this commends itself to this Committee, I hope I shall be able to hear of its approval.

COMPETENCY OF INDIAN LEGISLATURE.

I have already observed that the question whether the Indian Legislature is competent to pass this measure is not free from doubt, but I would go further and say that is certainly not a question which should have been lightly treated or summarily rejected. Indeed, the learned authors of the Rowlatt report themselves in the concluding para, have expressed their doubt and made no attempt to solve this difficult question. They say "in making suggestions for legislation, we have not considered at all whether it could be argued that such legislation is in any respect beyond the competence of the Governor-General in Council. We have no authority to lay down the law on any such point and any provisional assumption, as the basis of our proposals, would only cause embarrassment. We have proceeded, therefore, on the basis that any suggestions of ours, which it may be decided to adopt, will be given effect to by some legislature competent for the purpose."

SUMMING UP.

To sum up, my Lord I protest against the Bill for the following among other, reasons:—

(1) It is not within the competence of the Indian Legislature to pass this Bill into law.

(2) It casts an undeserved slur on the loyalty of 300 millions of people and amounts in fact, to an indictment against the whole nation.

(3) It substitutes the rule of the executive for that of the judiciary and thus destroys the very foundations on which British liberty rests.

(4) It will kill all political life in the country and thus make "ordered progress" impossible.

(5) It will intensify and not mitigate the evil complained of. It will drive all agitation into hidden channels with the result that consequential evils will follow as surely as night follows the day.

(6) It is utterly subversive of the order of things hitherto recognised and acted upon in all civilised countries. It is unparallel in the legislative history of any such country.

(7) It is being passed in definance of the unanimous Indian opinion both in and outside this Council.

(8) Repression is not the remedy for eradicating anarchical and revolutionary crimes. These crimes are the outcome of political stagnation which has resulted in untold miseries to the people of this country. Remove the root cause and anarchy will disappear.

(9) It will plant in the minds of the people harsh memories which even time will not soften.

(10) Stability of British rule in India depends and must depend on the peoples' will and not on force.

(11) The Bill is being passed into law on an incomplete and invalid report of the Select Committee. All the proceedings of the Council, since the presentation of such report are therefore, invalid and illegal. Law passed in that manner would be ultra vires.

No wonder then that under these circumstances you find that some of us, who care for liberty, who believe in liberty, who love liberty are prepared to disovey laws of this character and submit to the ponalty of such breaches. Passive resistance my Lord, is the last and the only constitutional weapon of a despairing people. It is my duty to warn your Excellency's Government against the consequences of driving the peaceful and law-abiding people as the people of India are to resort to Passive Resistance. I do so my Lord in the best interests of India and the Empire.

MARWARI AGRWAL CONFERENCE

ARRIVAL OF PRESIDENT ELECT.

(From a Correspondent.)

Wardhaganj, April 1.

Seth Khemrajji the proprietor of the Venkateshwar Press, Bombay, the President elect of the All India Marwari Agrwal Social Conference reached here yesterday morning by the Nagpur Mail. Rai Bahadur Seth Jaminalal the Chairman of the Reception Committee with the members and a huge following received him. He was garlanded amidst loud and prolonged cheers of "Bharat Mataki Jai" "Sabhapatiki Jai." Outside the station assembled a large multitude of people. The procession started with the President in a finely decorated motor car followed by many furnished carriage. A beutiful band followed by 10 volunteers in the uniform occupied the van The road was decorated with flags, arches and buntings. The procession entered the town by Rai Bahadur Bachhraj Road. In the way houses were tastefully decorated. The President was garlanded at 20 places. About 400 delegates have arrived and a large number is expected to-day the proceedings beginning at 3 P.M. to day.—(By Wire.)

THE "UNWRITTEN LAW."

At Manchester in Mail week Mr Justice Roche sentenced Vivian Corydon, Royal Garrison Artillery, to seven years penal servitude for shooting Walter Davies. This was the second time that Corydon had been indicted for shooting Davies. On the first occasion the jury acquitted him. It was stated that Davies had had illicit relations with Mrs Corydon during her husband's absence in the Army. On Wednesday, for a repetition of the offence, the jury found him guilty. The Judge, in giving sentence, said he regarded Corydon as a poor, misguided fool with a villainous temper.

It is understood that Mr. Marr, I C S., would succeed Hon'ble Mr. J. Donald, as Financial Secretary to the Government of Bengal when the latter goes to act as Chairman of the Corporation.

Satyagraha Demonostration.

THE DAY OF NATIONAL MOURNING.

OBSERVANCE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

OBSERVANCE AT AMRITSAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

Amritsar, April 1.

Two successful public meetings and demonstrations were held in Bagh Jallewalian to protest against and express public grief at the passage of the Rowlatt Bils in the teeth of the vehement public opposition. The first meeting was held on the 29th. Mr Girdhari Lall of the General Flour Mills presided. The audience numbered approximately 20000 souls. Dr Satyapal, Mr. Kitchlew, Pundit Dina Nath and Mr Kotumal addressed the meeting Mahatma Gandhi's message to the nation was read over and appeal was made for the observance of Sunday the 30th as a day of public mourning, fasting and prayer. On response all the shops were closed. The whole town did no business. The shop keepers, hackney carriage drivers and some of the railway porters did not work. Some people refused to sell provisions even for their weight in silver. Both Hindu and Mahomedan ladies and gentlemen including children co-operated and observed the fast and abstained from food and drink for the whole day. It was an unprecedented "Hartal" in Amritsal in the living memory of the oldest people. In the evening the greatest public meeting and demonstration ever held in Amritsar was held under the presidency of Dr Kitchlew. The audience assembled may be estimated from 35 to 40 thousand. The black flag of mourning was hoisted. The volunteers wore the mourning crape. The national poems were recited by Messrs Nurashi, Baiza Khan and others. Maharshya Rattan Chand recited stirring Punjabi couplets. Pundit Kotumol conducted the national prayer. Pundit Dina Nath of the Waqf and Swami Anudhava Ananad made thrilling speeches. The Chairman moved resolutions which were unanimously carried with acHon'ble the Secretary of State to withhold his consent to the Bill already passed and to advise the Government to drop the second Bill altogether. The President's concluding remarks were highly appreciated. The proceedings throughout were punctuated with shouts of "Mahatma Gandhi Ki Jai." Inspite of such a large assemblage and great enthusiasm there were no disturbance anywhere although the police patrol of the streets was unusual. The public were most orderly in every place.

Mr. Jinnah Resigns.

Black Cobra Act.

Unbecoming of Civilized Government.

SCATHING CONDEMNATION OF LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE.

VIOLATION OF PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE.

CO-OPERATION WITH GOVT IMPOSSIBLE.

Bombay, Mar. 31.

Mr M A Jinnah in resigning his membership of the Imperial Council has sent the following letter to H E. the Viceroy.

Bombay, Mar. 28, 1919.

Your Excellency,

The passing of the Rowlatt Bill by the Government of India and the assent given to it by Your Excellency as the Governor General against the will of the people has severely shaken the trust reposed by them in British justice. Further it has clearly demonstrated that the constitution of the Imperial Legislaive Council which is a legislature but in name, is a machine propelled by a foreign executive in which neither a unanimous opinion of the non-official Indian members nor the entire public opinion and feeling outside has met with the least respect. The Government of India and Your Excellency, however have thought it fit to place on the statute book a measure admittedly obnoxious and decidedly coercive at the time of peace thereby substituting the executive for the judicial. Besides by passing this Bill Your Excellency's Government have actively negatived every argument they advanced but a year ago when they appealed to India for help at the War Conference and have ruthlessly trampled upon the principles for which Great Britain avowedly fought the war. The fundamental principles of justice have been violated at a time when there is no real danger to the State by an overfretful and incompetent Bureucracy which is neither responsible to the people nor in touch with the real public opinion and their sole plea is that powers when they are assumed will not be abused. I therefore, as a protest against the passing of the Bill and the manner in which it was passed tender my resignation as a member of the Imperial Legislative Council for I feel that under the prevailing conditions, I can be of no use to my people in the Council nor consistently with one's self-respect is co-operation possible with a Government that shows such utter disregard for the opinion of representatives of the people in the Council Chamber and for feeling and sentiments of the people outside In my opinion Govrnment that passes or sanctions such law in times of peace forfeits its claim to be called a civilized Government and I still hope that the Secretary of State for India Mr Montagu will advise His Majesty to signify his disallowance to this Black Act.

Yours truly, M A Jinnah.

BRAHMIN CONFERENCE AT PUNJAB.

(From a Correspondent.)

Lyalpur, Mar. 31.

The Saturday afternoon and the whole of Sunday was taken up with discussions on a score of resolutions effecting the social and educational welfare of the Brahmin community. They were moved and supported by leading men and learned Pandits from all parts of the Punjab. On Sunday afternoon an appeal was made for the education fund which was cheerfully responded. Rs. 260 per month has been promised to help the poor Brahman students in the form of scholarships and about six hundred rupees were collected on the spot. Among others the following resolutions were passed:

That in the opinion of this Conference the Sanskrit is the language of the sacred Shastras whose knowledge is indispensable for the Brahmins consequently it is determined that every Brahmins in particular and every Bramanical institution should do their utmost to promote and diffuse it as well as preserve the old manuscripts and rare books. That in the opinion of this Conference "Tamas Dan" is not sanctioned by the Shastras consequently the Brahmans are forbidden to offer or accept the "Tamas Dan." That in the opinion of the Conference Hindi is the only language well fitted to be the common medium of communication in India therefore every Brahman should consider it his first duty to learn and teach it to others and address their private correspondence in Hindi scripts. This Conference notes it regretfully that there is no proper provision in the Post Offices of the Province to handle the Hindi letters satisfactorily which is a source of good deal of inconvenience to the Hindi knowing people, therefore, it is but desirable to request the Post Master General that an acquaintance with Hindi Urdu and Gurmukhi should be made indispensable for the Post Masters with a view to remove the grievance. That this Conference respectfully requests the Local Government that summons and other court proceedings in future may be recorded in Hindi characters as they are done in the U. P. that Government of India may be approached with the request that the value of the currency notes and coins may also be denoted in Hindi along with other characters and figures so that the Hindi knowing people may not suffer unnecessary loss through this deficiency as they do now. That the Local Government may be requested to make Hindi the alternative for Urdu as per code of education. That this Conference notes with deep regret that among the Brahmans the female education is in a very poor condition, therefore, it is determined that the leaders of the community may take early steps for the religious and secular education of Brahmin girls. That in the opinion of this Conference it is the first duty of each good Brahmin not to participate at all in marriage festivities if they are likely to be accompanied by the natch girls or if there is probability of meat eating or drinking liquor. That in the opinion of this Conference the child marriage is the root of all evils therefore it is determined that the Brahmins must not marry their children until they are quite grown up at least boy should be of eighteen and the girl thirteen years of age. In the opinion of this Conference the custom of marriage and death should be so modified as to curtail unnecessary expenses and stop extravagances and money saved therefrom may be devoted to the education of children. That very old men are married to young girls which is against the teachings of the Shastras and so it is determined that no Brahman should officiated at the wedding when ever the bridegroom is an old man. That this Conference asks the Brahmins of Amritsar to invite the All India Brahmin Conference on the occasion of the Indian National Congress next December. That in the opinion of this Conference invidious distinctions among the subcastes of the Brahmins and notions of seniority are harmful, therefore, they should be completely abolished and obstacles in the way of intercaste marriages should at once be removed in order to promote the feeling of unity and solidarity among the Brahmin.

7,354,000 MEN KILLED.

According to figures compiled by General March, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, the number of men of all nations who were killed in battle or died of wounds is 7,354,000. These losses are divided among the nations as follows:—

Russia	1,700,000
Germany	1,600,000
France	1,385,000
Austria	800,000
British Empire	706,000
Italy	460,000
Turkey	250,000
Belgium	102,000
Bulgaria	100,000
Rumania	100,000
Serbia and Montenegro	100,000
United States	50,000

The number of men in the United States Army transported before the signing of the armistice was 2,500,000. Total discharges from the United States Army to date number 1,300,000. Orders issued to date for demobilization number 1,800,000.

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DISTRESS IN BRAHMANBERIA

An esteemed correspondent writes to a friend:—

Distress is acute and wide-spread in the sub-division of Brahbanberia and that several places in the northern part of the sub-division under the thanas of Sarail and Nobinogore are most affected and that its severity is not a little due to high prices of food-stuffs and cloths.

Up to this time relief work has been started in several places and I understand it will be started in two other villages very shortly.

In some of the relief centres women are cutting earth with men and even children have joined them and they are all in rags. It is said that 1000 men are working daily in these various places of whom nearly two hundred are women. The Hon'ble Mr. Cumming during his tour visited the relief works at Mulla and Mergunta in the Nabinagore thana, Dattakhola near Brahmanberia and Chaulpur and Baghi in the Nasinagar thana. In the two last named places the scenes are very pathetic.

Almost 500 famine-stricken persons gathered at Chaulpur before the Hon'ble member. At Baghi 147 women were working along with men and 100 cloths were distributed in his presence from a pvviate fund but many were still wanting. The Government grant of one lac and a half for agricultural loan and only 5,000 for gratuitous relief are not enough. Much more is needed. Organisation of private charities is urgently necessary to grapple with the situation. It is more so for providing cloths to thousands of our mothers and sisters who are practically naked.

RAILWAY COOLIES ON STRIKE

THROW STONES AT A PASSING TRAIN

Madras, Mar. 28.—About one hundred gang coolies of the Madras and Southern Maharatta Railway working between Madras and Arkonam have struck work as they received no reply from the District Traffic Superintendent to the representation regarding increase of wages owing to rise in the prices of foodstuffs. They were alleged to have thrown stones yesterday at a running passenger train.

TRAM STRIKERS
REFUSE TO ANSWER 14 POINTS

Madras, Mar. 28.—At a meeting this afternoon of tramwaymen who are on strike a resolution was passed expressing gratitude to Mr. Kumaraswamy Chetty, president of the Tramwaymen's Union. Another resolution protested against Sir Clement Simpson's remark that tramwaymen disobeyed the president in going on strike. Resolutions were also passed agreeing not to answer the 14 points put foward by Sir C. Simpson through the president of the Madras Corporation, leaving the work of answering the companies' 14 points to the Union president and calling attention of the Commissioners to the importance of the Trawaymen's Union being recognised by the company and authorising the president of the Union to communicate the resolutions to Government, the Commissioners and the President of the Corporation

MADRAS TRAMWAYMEN'S STRIKE.
THE COMPANY'S FINAL DECISION.

Madras, Mar. 29.—The following notices under the signatures of the joint managers of the Tramway Co., under to-day's date was posted on the notice board of the company's office:—"The Tramway Company is not prepared to modify the terms offered on the 25th instant. Men desirous of accepting those terms should report for duty to-morrow morning, the 30th instant. The company is quite prepared to recognise a Tramway Union formed of and led by tramway men only."

Before Mohamed Ebrahim Sahib Bahadur, Presidency Magistrate Egmore, D. Krishnaswamy a motorman in the service of the local Tramway Company now on strike was charged by the police with having assaulted Duraiswamy Naidu, Traffic Superintendent of the company. While going to office yesterday morning, it is alleged accused struck Naidu, saying: "While we are all of us on strike what is the meaning of your going to office?"

The case stands adjourned to Monday.

THE VICEROY IN SECUNDERABAD.

Secunderabad, Mar. 29.—His Excellency the Viceroy last evening passed through James Street, the principal business centre in Secunderabad.

In the evening the Resident and Lady Fraser gave a dinner in honour of His Excellency at the Hyderabad Residency. After dinner His Excellency held a reception in the Durbar Hall and persented the insignia of their respective Orders and decorations to recent recipients.

This morning His Excellency visited the new High Court buildings and later had a private interview with His Exalted Highness the Nizam at the Falakanama Palace.

THE HON. MR. B N SARMA

REASONS OF HIS WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION.

Madras, Mar. 28.—In a communication explaining the reason which induced him to withdraw his resignation, the hon. Mr. B. N. Sarma says that he is as persistant as ever in his attitude towards the Rowlatt Bill. He writes: Several official colleagues pressed me to reconsider the question. Considerable weight had to be attached to the argument that I might be unwittingly doing harm to the cause of reform as I conceived it and that I would be introducing further complications in the unhappy conditions existing in Madras. And later information convinced me that I had perhaps underrated the importance of such considerations. I shall not say more on the subject. Holding the view that the best interests of the country would be served by respecting and following the advice of his Majesty's representatives in India whenever it is possible, I have not pressed my resignation

FATE OF CALIPHATE.

MEETING AT CHHINDWARA.

Chhindwara, Mar. 29.

Chhindwara Muslmans passed a resolution strongly supporting once more the Moslem League resolutions regarding the Caliphate Jazeeratalarab the holy places and the restoration of cordial relations between the British and the Ottoman Governments based on justice and equity and urged the Government, in view of the clear expression of the Moslem opinion from all sides, to support it in the Peace Conference and arrange the early evacuation of Jazeerata Arab, the holy places and the Turkish territory and restoration thereof to the Caliphate. Another relosution respectfully appealed to the rulers of the Moslem Indian States such as His Exalted Highness the Nizam and Their Highness the rulers of Bhupal, Rampur, Bahawalpur Junagad, Jam, Palampur to interpret at this critical juncture the universal sentiment of the Islam and assist the Government of Great Britain with their emphatic and true advice since the religious and communal sentiments of the British Moslem subjects were shared to the full by the Moslem subjects of Their Hignnesses' States and their interpretation of these sentiments and advice would certainly have more weigh and they would thus render great service not only to their own people but also to great nation. This appeal will be duly submitted to the various rulers of the States.—(By wire.)

DR. VARADARAJULU'S APPEAL.

A SPECIAL BENCH CONSTITUTED.

It is understood that a special bench of the Madras High Court, consisting of the Chief Justice, Justice Ayling and Justice Sadasiva Iyer, has been constituted to hear Dr Varadarajulu Naidu's appeal against the conviction and sentence of imprisonment by the lower court. The hearing of the appeal is posted for Monday next (to-day).

We understand that Sir James Meston will shortly leave for England in order to assist the Secretary of State with the Indian Reform Scheme that will shortly be introduced in Parliament. It is understood in Delhi that Mr. Howard will act for him during his absence, but no definite arrangement appears yet to have been made.

INDIAN REFORMS

MR. BAPTISTA'S PROPAGANDA WORK IN ENGLAND.

Bombay, Mar. 29.—A crowded meeting was held this evening to welcome Mr. Joseph Baptista after twenty months' stay in England for carrying on political propaganda. The Hon. Mr. G S Khaparde presided. The Indian Home Rule League presented an address to Mr. Baptista recognising with gratitude his services to the country at much personal sacrifice.

Mr. Khaparde eulogised Mr. Baptista's work and explained the difference between the work of past Indian deputations to England and Mr. Baptista's mission. He said the first Indian deputation in eighties mainly aimed at placing India's case before the British public, leaving action to the sense of fair play and justice inherent in Englishmen. The second deputation of which Mr. Gokhale was the principal figure, mainly depended on negotiations with the statesmen in power. It resulted in the Minto-Morley reforms Experience had proved that mere propaganda work and negotiations with statesmen were futile because supporting the Indian cause was not a paying business politically to any party in Parliament. Mr. Baptista's mission was to make common cause with the Labour party in England, who were rapidly rising to power, and to make them include self-government for India in their party programme which Mr. Baptista had achieved.

Mr. Baptista, in addresing the meeting, said that the war had come as a reformer in England and had succeeded in wiping out the spirit of reaction. The British auxiliary of the Home Rule League for India had immensely helped him in his work, and for this the people's gratitude was due to Mrs Besant. He had addressed many labour meetings. Although he found a good deal of ignorance concerning India among his audiences, he noticed their earnestness to understand India and to do justice to her. They had every sympathy for the Indian cause and would support any demand put forth by the Congress. The Labour Party would be the governing party before long and it had made self-government for India a part of its programme. The Coalition Party would not last long. Its success was due to the people's gratitude to Mr. Lloyd George for winning the war. Even the present Parliament was not reactionary and any scheme of Indian reforms brought in by the Government would be passed without much opposition. There was no danger to the reforms in Parliament. It was not necessary to support the Montagu-Chelmsford reforms to get them passed. Mr. Tilak had told Mr. Montagu that whatever reforms he might carry through in Parliament Indians would make the best use of the main taining their right to agitate for the full measure of self-government. The principle of diarchy contained in the Montagu reforms was objectionable and they must be weary of supporting it. They must have an alternative to the Reform Scheme. The speaker then strongly urged the need for unity in India in demanding the full measure of self-government as put forward by Congress. The burden of his message was:

"Be united and you will achieve."

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS.

COMMISSION CONSTITUTED BY GOVERNMENT.

Simla, Mar. 29.

In order to make Government records more accessible to the public for purposes of historical research, the Government of India have issued a resolution suggesting certain changes into their treatment. The Government have also decided to constitute an Indian Historical Records Commission, consisting of (1) The Secretary to the Government of India Department of Education ex-officia President (2) The Keeper of the Records of the Government of India, ex-officio Secretary. (3) The Curator of the Madras Record Office ex-officio member. (4) The Keeper of Records Bengal ex-officio member. (5) Professor Jadunath Sarkar member. (6) The Ven Archdeacon W K Firminger, member. (7) Professor L F Rushbrook Williams member. (8) Mr. B K Thakore, member. The ex-officio members will be permanent but the rest of the members will hold office for a period of three or five years The headquarters of the Commission will be at Delhi and it will ordinarily meet twice a year, the routine work between meetings being carried on by the Keeper of the Records of the Government of India at Calcutta permanent Secretary to the Commission.

The duties of the Commission would be of a purely consultative character. It will make enquiries and recommendations regarding. (1) The treatment of archieves for the purpose of historical study in all provinces of India, and in such Indian States as may seek their advice. (II) The scale and plan on which the cataloguing calendaring and re-printing of each class of documents should be undertaken. (III) The sums required for encouraging research and publication in respect of unpublished documents. (IV) The extent to which, and the manner in which, documents should be open to inspection by the public. (V) The training of Indian students from the universities in the methods of historical research, and the selection of competent editors and assistants for the publication of documents

PUNJAB LAWYERS.

ANXIOUS ABOUT THEIR INTERESTS

Lahore, Mar. 29.—A conference of members of the legal profession in the Punjab was held to-day in the Town Hall, Lahore, under the Presidency of the Hon. Mohomed Shafi The President in the course of his address said that the tendency which had lately manifested itself in some Punjab evidence before the Public Services Commission to decry the just claims of the legal profession for judicial appointments, the prejudice that existed against lawyers being adequately represented in the legislative councils which found expression in paragraph 84 of the Montagu-Chelmsford Reform proposals, and the regrettable absence of harmonious relations between the bench and bar on many recent occasions all necessitated the proper organisation of the ranks of the legal procession and the present conference had been summoned for the protection of such interests in the administration of the country's affairs. Continuing the speaker emphasised the need of absolute harmony in the relations of the executive judiciary and the bar, which, he said, could be maintained by friendly discussion and cooperation and for this purpose a central standing committee of the provincial bar might be constituted There were altogether 17 resolutions before the conference embodying the above and other suggestions.

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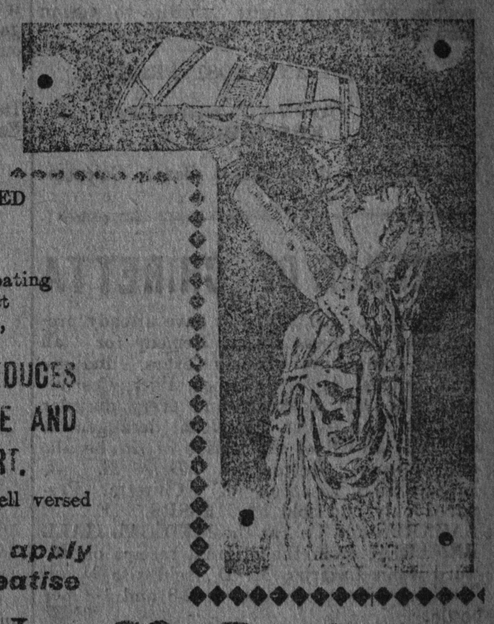

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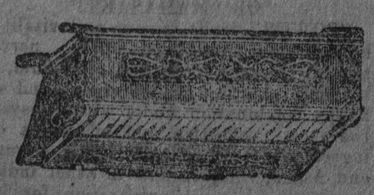

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