

# The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Aug. 24, 1918.

A MEETING WILL BE HELD TO POPULARISE the War Loan, on the 5th September, 1918, at 5 p. m. in the Patna Collegiate School. The Hon'ble Sir Ali Imam, K. C. S. I., Member, Executive Council, Bihar and Orissa, will preside.

THE RECENT STATEMENT OF MR. LLOYD George in the House of Commons that as long as the Allies had command of the seas, Germany could never be victorious has come in for some comment. One writer would accept this statement with some reservation. It is recognised that Germany can never be victorious over Great Britain, the U. S. A., France and Italy. But, it is pointed out, the defeat of her grandiose scheme of Mittell Europa is still to seek. We are at a loss, says he, to discover the means by which the allies can force Germany to restore freedom to the countries she now dominates and oppresses. Even "the determination to keep Germany out of Africa," it is stated, "brings us no nearer the means of compelling her to let go her hold on Eastern Europe and the road to the heart of Asia; on the contrary, it throws us back, for Germany will be more resolved than ever to hold her conquests against her losses. There is only one solution, and, however remote, it must be worked up to if the map of Europe is to be rearranged as the Allies intend it, and that is a peace dictated by the Allied sword in Berlin. How many years of hard fighting it will mean no man can say. If a counter-revolution in Russia could restore some part of her ancient military power, if the successive defeats of the German armies by Foch's disparate forces were to danton Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey into recreancy from their present allegiance, the war would end next year; but if the Central Powers held together in self-defence and Russia continues to be a broken bulrush, with all our supremacy of the sea, it will take a long time to destroy the Hohenzollern domination of Middle Europe."

IT MAY BE TRUE AS HAS RECENTLY BEEN pointed out that the Navy has never decided any of Britain's wars in the sense of ending the war with a knock-out blow. We agree that such blows have always been given on land. But so far as war is a game of attrition, so far as it consists in reproducing the maximum loss to the enemy's resources and communications while bringing down the chances of our own losses and inconvenience in these directions to a minimum, it goes without saying that the record of the British Navy, glorious as it has always been, has never risen to such heights as during the present war. A statement just issued by the Press Bureau gives an idea of the activities of the British Navy. It shows that between the declaration of war and 30th June last the Allies' needs involved the sea carriage of twenty million men, two million animals, and a hundred and ten million tons of naval and military stores. The total losses of men embarked due to enemy action reached the relatively trivial figure of 3,232. The transportation of well over a million Americans to the 27th July involved the organisation of fifty-one British ocean transports and 395 destroyer escorts, and of forty American ocean transports and 335 destroyer escorts. In the course of such duties the British escorts steamed over a million and a quarter miles monthly. Patrol vessels engaged at frustrating submarine activities voyaged at least six million

miles monthly in home waters. Evidence of the success of convoying is shown by the fact that British steamboats exceeding 500 gross tons travelling to and from the United Kingdom on the main oversea routes, of which 308 were convoyed between March and June last, then sustained submarine losses totalling 1.23 per cent. as compared with 5.41 per cent. of losses between April and June last year before convoying was established. Sailings convoyed since 25th May last year, when convoying was introduced, number 6,691.

FROM TIME TO TIME COMPLAINTS HAVE appeared in the papers of forcible impressment of recruits for the army. That these complaints have not been altogether unfounded is apparent from the speech delivered by Colonel Thompson, Commissioner of the Multan Division at the War anniversary meeting held at Multan on Monday last. This was what the Divisional Commissioner said:—"I have recently learnt with sorrow that forcible methods of impressment have been used. As you are all aware I have issued orders absolutely forbidding such methods. I have also heard complaints that there has been a plot of rascality and speculation in the matter of collecting subscriptions to buy recruits. There is no objection to a community subscribing to give *inams* to those of its members who enlist or to provide for maintenance of the dependants of such recruits while they are absent on military duty but from what I have heard some blackguards have been going round forcibly collecting subscriptions from the poor and that a large part of the sum thus collected has been embezzled by some disreputable headman. I hope the complaints I have heard are exaggerated but there is no doubt that they are not without foundation. Please understand that Government never has and never will countenance such objectionable actions. Government hoped that the zemindars of these parts would send their sons into the army. A few have done so, but I am sorry to say very few. Many of the *raises* have tried to help but they have only been able to give a part of the recruits we wanted."

It should be remembered that in this matter of forcible or fraudulent recruitment the offenders have been, not European officers, but their subordinates who, we must admit, to our shame and sorrow are our own countrymen who have committed these excesses without the knowledge of their official superiors. If the culprits are awarded exemplary punishment on satisfactory proof of their delinquencies, then alone the malpractices complained of can be put a stop to.

ONE CAN UNDERSTAND IF NOT APPRECIATE the joy and delight which our Anglo-Indian contemporaries express at the what they choose to call the "split" in the Congress. From the manner in which some of them were going at the Montagu Scheme this "split" would appear to be a godsend to them, providing as it does the silver lining to the sable cloud with which the Report had overcast the Anglo-Indian horizon. In promoting and bringing about discord among Indian leaders, the Calcutta and Madras Furies have been more or less true to their role but the performance of the grandmother of Allahabad is quite a volte face. It was not very long ago that we had the following pronouncement from the Allahabad oracle:—"If we find it impossible to agree quickly with our opponents let us at least try to assume that they are honest. Let us deliberately set ourselves as an act of war sacrifice to refrain from uttering opinions which tend to call forth personal and party feeling, even though we may be convinced, not only that these opinions are true, but that we are perfectly entitled

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The whole of the cash subscriptions received will be given to His Majesty's Government for the prosecution of the War as part of India's £ 100 million contribution.

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- 5½ per cent. Income-tax Free War Bonds, 1921 Repayable on the 15th September 1921 at Rs. 100 per cent.
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Interest : Payable half-yearly at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum on the 15th March and the 15th September.

Advance interest from the date of purchase to the 14th September 1918 will be paid at the time of purchase of Bonds.

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Interest of War Bonds 1921, 1923, 1925 and 1928 will be income-tax-free but will be taken into account in determining the rate at which the tax levied on other income and will be liable to super-tax.

Form of Securities: War Bonds will be issued in the form of (a) Inscribed Stock Certificates, or (b) Promissory Notes. These will subsequently, if desired, be exchanged, free of cost, for Bearer Bonds when the latter are available.

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Rs. 387-8.

to give expression to them. *Even the shadow of unity is preferable to the substance of discord etc., etc.* This apostle of unity now gloats over the prospect of discord among Indian nationalists and welcomes the fact that the moderates are "no longer content, in the interest of a *spurious and superficial unity*, to be dominated" by the "irreconcilables." Strange, if not quite unexpected, perversion!

TO BE FRANK, HOWEVER, WE MUST SAY THAT we are not very much concerned about the so-called "split." The Chelmsford-Montagu proposals have been offered for criticism; and as Mr. Montagu himself has clearly pointed out, they are not final in any sense. We are of opinion that those that really consider the scheme as a substantial step towards responsible government are as much entitled to express their opinion as those who have been disappointed and dissatisfied with it. It does not really matter very much whether these opinions are expressed from the same platform or from different platforms. We have certainly criticised the would-be "abstainers" from the Special Congress but that is because of the "reasons" with which their action is sought to be explained. It is certainly unreasonable for any person to make it a condition of his joining any meeting that the other persons attending it should accept his views. This sort of tyranny would be intolerable in every civilised society. But saving that, every one is welcome to have his own opinion. Whether certain persons join the Congress or not cannot affect the weight of the decisions of the Congress provided they are reasonable and correctly reflect the views of the majority of the Indian people. The question of acceptance or rejection will arise when the country gets or does not get what it wants. We may wilfully shut our eyes to the real facts and say that this association or that person does or does not truly voice the feelings of the country, but if it be a fact that the Reforms have been necessitated by the growing demand of Indians for the right of self-determination, the ultimate success or failure of whatever reforms are introduced will depend upon the degree to which they satisfy the aspirations of the people as a whole. There is great danger in failure, and it should be the duty of every loyal citizen to point it out at the moment when opinions are being freely invited. There could be no more short-sighted policy than to attempt to force or manufacture ready-made opinions on questions so vital to the well-being of the state.

THE ANGLO-INDIAN PAPERS, AS MIGHT HAVE been expected, have strongly endorsed Sir Valentine Chirol's plea for communal representation. Sir Valentine refers to certain alleged subtle forms of oppression of the peasantry and the depressed classes by landlords and money-lenders, and asks how these classes can be protected except by a system of communal representation. The position assumed is really astounding. For here even the plea for the representation of minorities will not serve. It is a known fact that the Brahmins and the higher castes, landlords and the moneyed classes are in comparison with the peasantry in a very small minority. If then the depressed and neglected classes have their communal interests uppermost in their minds, the best thing for them to do will be to come to the polling booths alongside of better situated classes. Being in the majority they can without any difficulty swamp the votes of the upper classes. Clearly here is a case for communal representation of the so-called Brahmin oligarchy. It is impossible to see any consistency in the demand for communal representation for Mahomedans and the same for the peasantry and the depressed classes.

1918.

AUGUST 24,

"DITCHER" SOME VERY THOUGHTFUL remarks in *Capital* on the position of the non-official European Community on the question of communal representation. "As a broad principle of statesmanship," says he, "Mr. Montagu's argument is unassailable, but as a working plan in India in the present conditions I am afraid it is dismally impracticable. The racial animosity engendered by some recent unhappy agitations and by the arrogance of a Bureaucracy mostly British, is still too strong to give any Britisher a chance with any but a sectional electorate. How then are the interests of the European Community, whose material interests, it is admitted, are out of all proportion to its numerical strength, to be represented?" DITCHER'S answer is that the only satisfactory way to provide security to the European Community's interests is to give them communal representation. The European Community is specially strong in the industrial centres, particularly the capitals of the three presidencies. The Presidency towns are according to him likely to have a number of votes in the Provincial legislatures. If in that representation, says DITCHER, a certain number of seats were reserved for Europeans, the European Community would have no cause to grumble.

WE HAVE SHOWN IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE WHY this fear that the minority in the Presidency towns will not be adequately represented in a system of general election is unfounded. All that is required is that these towns should return several members each and that every voter should have as many votes as there are members to be elected. What we propose is slightly different from proportional representation with a single transferable vote which has been suggested for adoption by Sir Theodore Morrison. The system that we advocate is one which already prevails in many municipalities where there are several members returnable from every ward. The voters there have the option of giving all their votes to a single candidate or to divide them among several candidates in such manner as they think fit. The result has been as we have shown in our last issue, that a substantial minority like the Mahomedans which feels communally, can always be certain of returning a fair proportion of their candidates. The results at the last Calcutta elections would also lead us to expect a similar result in the case of Anglo-Indians and Europeans who muster strong in Presidency towns.

CONSISTENCY MAY BE A VIRTUE IN MANY spheres of life, but in politics it seems to be just now at a discount. We have referred to the *Pioneer's* somersault, but the pranks of Lord Sydenham beat the *Pioneer* hollow. His Lordship is just now playing the role of an advocate of communal representation, his heart apparently having been overflowing with sudden but overpowering tenderness for the minority communities. As satrap of Bombay, how- ever, he had undoubtedly other views for in a speech on the eve of his departure he read the following homily to the Mahomedans:—"In the political sphere, so far as the Legislative Councils are concerned, you have received communal representation for which you asked. As you know, I never thought that the principle was good for you or for India. I am not convinced that I was wrong or that you may not some day agree with me." It is also well known that under Lord Sydenham, the Bombay Government steadily refused to extend communal election to local bodies. His present outburst of interest in the Deccan ryots must therefore be taken at its face value.

THE ANTICLIMAX WHICH MARKED THE ALMOST forgotten attempt of His Excellency the Governor of

Bengal to essay the melodramatic by picturing what would happen if the Kaiser came to Calcutta is just now recalled by the elephantine humour of a Madras Legislator (genus, commerce) who, replying to a suggestion that the City Municipal Bill should be postponed till the creation of the reformed councils, remarked that it was as good as saying that the matter should not be considered till the much talked-about German occupation of India. What a head for discovering similarities!! We think that it is high time for the non-official European Community to send up lawyers as their representatives to the councils as lately suggested by *Capital*. Exhibitions like that of Sir F. Barber may produce some sort of entertainment, but are quite out of place in the dignified and decorous atmosphere of council chambers.

ONE OF THE ARGUMENTS USED BY MR. Montagu to show the impracticability of the Congress-League Scheme of making resolutions of the Legislature, binding on the executive was to show that in the House of Commons itself, the Commons' real control of the Government is exercised in other ways,—by the debate on the Address; by questions; by motions to adjourn and so forth. So far as motions to adjourn are concerned, judging by what happened at a recent session of the Madras Legislative Council, the Government apparently can make short work of them. The incident is described by the *Bombay Chronicle* in the following words:—

"The conduct of Lord Pentland in over-riding the motion of the Hon. Mr. Narasimha Iyer for the adjournment of the Madras Legislative Council, once more, demonstrates the viciousness of the system which enables the head of the Executive freely to thwart the exercise of the private member's rights. Rule No. 4 confers the right to move for an adjournment of any meeting or business. It is a right which is rarely exercised. Nevertheless, Rule 4 of the Rules for the Conduct of Business states:—

A motion that any meeting or business be adjourned or postponed or that the Council pass to the business next in order in the statement of business may be moved at any time (italics ours) and without previous notice as a distinct question etc.

"When a member chooses to exercise this right on an occasion which, in his opinion, demands its extraordinary application, it becomes on the part of the President an act of pure arbitrariness to abrogate it. As the 'Hindu' observes, 'There is no provision in the Rules which authorises the President to disallow such motions.' Lord Pentland did not pretend to suspend the Rules, but coolly declared the Hon. Mr. Narasimha Iyer's motion out of order. The procedure is unconstitutional, but it is a melancholy reminder that the Councils have sham rights which can be thwarted or tolerated at the whim of the presiding officer."

We think however, that our contemporary is wrong in using the words "sham rights" for if there is a right it can and ought to be asserted and declared in a Court of Law.

WE CONFESS WE ARE SURPRISED AT THE BENGAL Provincial Congress Committee's support of the introduction of the bicameral system in the Government of India. DITCHER has the following comment on the proposed Council of State:—"I confess I have my doubts of the utility, from a popular point of view, of a Second Chamber that is not wholly elected. In the proposed Council of State, which would be the supreme legislative authority for India on all crucial questions and also the revising authority upon all Indian legislation, the Government will always be sure of a majority which is bound to be

crystallised into a bloc prepared at all times to bow to the hookum of the Viceroy and his cabinet. With a Viceroy like Lord Curzon—the type is not extinct—the Council of State would become the instrument of personal tyranny, benevolent mayhap but destructive of constitutional freedom." We are apt to forget that in India, the Government of India constitutes a strong second Chamber, while there is a third Chamber in the British Parliament, no less strong. People who talk glibly about the utility of Second Chambers should always bear this fact in mind.

AMONG THE MANY SINS WITH WHICH THE "politically-minded" classes in this province can be charged is their supreme indifference to the helplessness of the masses against the depredations of wild animals and snakes. We do not remember to have seen within recent times any demand coming from the Bihar press or platform for immediate and vigorous steps being taken to check or reduce the large number of deaths that annually occur in this province caused by wild animals and snakes. And yet from year to year, the official reports disclose a harrowing tale indeed. Fancy, in 1917, as many as 2,176 persons were killed in India by wild beasts, while the mortality from snake-bite was 23,918. Though the first figure represents a decrease of 102 or 45 as against that for 1916, it is higher than the corresponding figures for 1912, 1913 and 1914. The mortality from snakebite in 1917 showed an increase of nearly 300 over the figure for 1916. The corresponding figures for 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915 are 21,461; 21,770; 22,990; and 26,406. Of the total deaths in 1917 due to wild animals, tigers were responsible for 1,009, leopards for 335, wolves and bears for 280 and elephants and hyenas for 89, a similar figure being assigned to pig and 199 to crocodiles or alligators. Bihar and Orissa once more tops the list with 655 deaths of which 378 were due to tigers, the corresponding figures for 1916 being 847 and 630. The decrease is said to be due to special measures being taken in the forest regions of the Chota Nagpur plateau, where alone 488 out of the 630 deaths from tigers occurred in 1916. As regards snakebite, the United Provinces reported the largest number of deaths, the total being given at 6,481 while Bihar and Orissa reported 5,885 and Bengal 4,393. The figures of destruction of wild animals and snakes do not however show that progress which we might expect. Neither does the issue of arms licenses show any satisfactory expansion.

ULSTER WILL FIGHT—THE REASON WHY.

The Manifesto issued over the signature of twenty gentlemen of Bengal, apparently constituting what they call the Moderate party, provides curious reading. The statement has been issued in order to explain the reasons for the abstention of the 'party' from the Special Session of the Congress to be held next week at Bombay. We have seldom come across a document presenting so many fallacies and inaccuracies as the one under consideration. We have gone through it carefully and have given it a most earnest consideration, chiefly out of respect to some of the names appended to it, names which have so long been rightly held in profound respect and veneration all over the country. Notwithstanding the fact that we yield to none in our appreciation of the great and signal services rendered to the nation by men like Messrs. Surendra Nath Banerji, Ambica Charan Majumdar and Baikuntha Nath Sen, we have come definitely to the above conclusion as regards the merits of the statement they have thought fit to issue.

It is necessary to state that we should clear any misunderstanding that might exist as regards the standpoint on which we would argue the question. Moderation and sobriety have been our watchwords ever since this journal was started. To us, personalities have always been taboo, and we have on principle consistently and uniformly refused any considerations of a personal kind to influence our views. We, therefore, do not pay much attention to the very small number of signatories to the manifesto, nor to the fact that there are family groups among them. Even if there was only one signature, and that of a person quite unknown, we should have treated the statement with respect, provided we were convinced by the reasoning that some sort of a case for abstention was made out. The "moderate" manifesto fails signally in this respect. That the so-called reasons for the abstention were not clear is practically admitted when it is found necessary to "explain" them in a lengthy statement. It is also admitted that the considerations set forth "may not appeal with the same force to all who abide by the decision." It is not surprising that when we come actually to examine the ipse dixits—it would be lending them an unmerited dignity to call them "reasons"—with which the manifesto abounds, we find nothing but a most amazing perversion of facts. Thus the attitude of the country is sought to be damned with these words:—"Disappointment and dissatisfaction are the notes invariably struck; the ideas that responsible government should be introduced at the very start and widened by successive stages, embodied in the Imperial Cabinet's declaration of August last are unheeded if not expressly set aside and the modifications demanded amount to a practical rejection of the official scheme in fundamentals."

According to the signatories of the manifesto, they would have joined the Congress, probably, if "disappointment and dissatisfaction" were not the notes invariably struck at the numerous conferences and meetings where the Reform Scheme has been discussed,—a rather curious position to take for those who pose as representing the majority and as champions of free discussion. As regards the other points they raise, it would be better to examine them with reference to the details.

First comes the extraordinary statement that "to those who have watched how the Home Rule Leagues and their branches have captured the various Provincial Congress Committees in the country and the All-India Congress Committee there is now little reason to doubt that the Special Congress to be held in Bombay will repeat, with

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perhaps a few... resolution of the Madras Conference. We happen to have some knowledge of Congress organisations and the method of their working. The component parts of the Congress organisation are:—

- (a) The Indian National Congress;
- (b) Provincial Congress Committees;
- (c) District Congress Committees;
- (d) Sub-divisional or Taluka Congress Committees affiliated to the District Congress Committees;
- (e) Political Associations or Public bodies recognised by the Provincial Congress Committees;
- (f) The All-India Congress Committee;
- (g) The British Committee of the Congress; and
- (h) Bodies formed or organised periodically by a Provincial Congress Committee, such as the Provincial or District Conferences or the Reception Committees of the Congress or Conferences for the year.

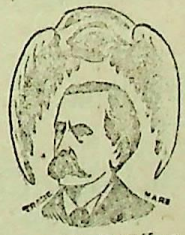
To ask the country to believe that such a vast organisation as this has been captured by the Home Rule League so as to shut out all other voices requires much greater proof than a mere ipse dixit, even though it comes from no less a person than Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee. As a matter of fact, the statement is not accurate so far as this and several other Provinces are concerned. It is true that more persons are now taking interest in these organisations than was the case formerly, but it is absolutely untrue that anywhere in any of these organisations has any attempt been made to shut out any respectable person from membership because he happened to have 'moderate' views, on, for example, the lines on which the Indian Association excluded a number of persons of the highest respectability from its membership. And even if in all these organisations, a certain class of views are uppermost, what does it show? Unless the framers of the entire organisation deliberately intended that it should be such as to exclude any other view save that of those who held the strings, that is to say, unless Messrs. Banerjee and his party are prepared to admit that the constitution they themselves have been boosting for the last ten years as being truly representative of Indian opinion was not really so representative, the suggestion that certain views now pre-dominate in the Congress organisations, if true, affords the strongest proof that the opinions of India as a whole are in accord with those views. It is in fact one of the strangest ironies of fate that rules 14 and 22 of the Congress Constitution, which were framed (by those very persons who were now seceding from the Congress) in order to have greater power to defeat the least attempt of the "extremists" to create trouble, have now been cited by them to show that the minorities are absolutely nowhere under the Constitution. It is never that the consideration for the minorities is not evincing itself when Mr. Banerjee and his following were in the majority. Verily, constitutions like curses, come home to roost.

For a part, we consider it extremely incredible that if a referendum were taken of the country's opinion, the majority would be found to be on the side of Mr. Banerjee and his party, and yet in the Congress, the same party would be in a minority. For the decisions of the Congress depend upon the votes of delegates. The right of electing delegates is vested under Article XX of the Congress Constitution in (1) the British Committee of the Congress; (2) Provincial or District or other Congress Committees or Associations (3) such Political Associations or Public Bodies of more than two years' standing as may be recognised by the Provincial Congress Committees; (4) Political Associations of

British Indians resident outside British India of more than two years' standing and recognised by the All-India Congress Committee; (5) Public meetings convened by the Provincial or other recognised bodies; and (6) Public meetings convened under the auspices of any Association which is of not less than two years' standing on the 31st December 1915 and which has as one of its objects the attainment of Self-Government by India on colonial lines within the British Empire by constitutional means. The Home Rule League was not in existence on 31st December 1915, and in fact many of its branches were not in existence more than two years ago. It would be impossible for that organisation to command an overwhelming majority in the Congress if it were a fact that the "moderates" constituted a majority in the country. Moreover, it ought to be remembered that the resolutions to be passed in the Congress are framed in the Subjects Committee which consists of representatives elected by the Provincial delegates, besides the President of the year's Congress, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, all Ex-Presidents and Ex-Chairmen of the Reception Committees, the General and the local Secretaries, and all the members of the all-India Congress Committee as ex-officio members, and five persons nominated by the President. We must also remember that both the Presidentship and the Chairmanship of the Reception Committee of the Special Congress were offered to "moderate" leaders. How can any one say that the "moderates" if they are really in the majority cannot find that majority in the Congress? It is said that "the very nature of their views disposes them as a class to be

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more acquiescent and less demonstrative than the others." If this is true, we are sorry for them, for in a crisis like the one through which the country is now passing it is a political crime which denotes total unfitness for any kind of political responsibility for any class of publicists who believe that theirs is the right view to remain acquiescent. Of what worth are men from the public standpoint whom even the widespread ferment of the present moment does not induce to "appear on the surface?"

It is needless for us to go through the other gems of the precious collection, for example, the fear of being roughly handled (and these are missionaries out for the salvation of their country!), "the compulsory retirement from the Akola Conference of such leaders as the Hon. Rao Bahadur R. N. Mudholkar," (this gentleman himself says that he withdrew of his own accord when his compromise was not accepted by the majority of the Subjects Committee,—but this is by the way), and last but not least, the impression that would be produced in this country and in England. This last is the most precious of all, considering how apt all "friends of India" are to hang on the isolated utterances of this or that congressman in support of their views that India is not nor ever will be ripe for self-government. One wonders what would be the impression if the names and addresses of the ten thousand or more persons who will surely attend the Congress from all parts of India were published side by side with those of the dozen or two that will stay away. Nor can we calculate the degree of happiness which it will cause to India if these dozen or two have their wishes and the ten thousand do not have theirs. A very lucid comment is offered by one of the arguments used by the "abstainers." Clause I of the "extremist" manifesto is objected to because, "the idea of the Congress-League Scheme is revived." When matters have come to this pass that the revival of the idea of even the Congress-League Scheme becomes a *causis belli*, there is no profit in discussing the "reasons" for abstention from Congress. But we still sincerely hope the prodigal will yet come home.

### LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

THE name of Mr. P. C. Manuk is mentioned as a likely successor to Sir Ali Imam on the Patna High Court Bench.

OUR province has at length beaten the Central Provinces in the matter of subscriptions to the War Loan. Unless, however we redouble our efforts we may yet lose our place. Go on, Bihar!

WE do not see what purpose is served by Government issuing a communique denying certain silly statements in connection with what is known as the Chapra grave-digging case. The statement never got the publicity which is now given to it by the communique, which practically rakes up a matter forgotten long since.

THE services of the undermentioned ladies from this Province have been brought to the notice of the Government of India for valuable services rendered in connection with the war up to the 4th August 1917:—Mrs. Adami, Lady Chamier, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Hammond, the Dowager Maharani of Hathwa; Mrs. Johnston (wife of Mr. J. Johnston I. C. S.), Mrs. Maude, Mrs. Peppé (wife of Mr. A. T. Peppé, Manager to Maharaja of Chota Nagpur, Ranchi), Mrs. Swain, Mrs. Vernede Mrs. Walst, and Mrs. Wardle.

THE Government of Bengal is contemplating to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act. Opinions have been invited on the various suggestions made therein. The proposal include one that suits for produce rents should be instituted every six month or at most every year. Another proposal is that it should be made penal for landlord or a tenant to interfere in any way with pasture lands, water courses, reservoirs, paths and that even with their mutual consent they should not bring such lands under cultivation. Infringement of this rule should constitute an offence against the public and should be punishable as such. The amendments proposed cover a considerable number of sections.

THE Lieutenant-Governor in Council has heard with deep regret of the death in England on the 9th August of Mr. Herbert Coupland, I. C. S., late Revenue Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

Mr. Coupland joined the service in November 1895 and two years later was attached to the Bihar Settlement, on which he remained for nearly nine years, displaying marked powers of organization and mastery of the intricate problems presented by the operations. The great strain of his settlement duties caused a general break-down of his health from which he never completely recovered. He was appointed Revenue Secretary in 1914 and acted as Chief Secretary in 1916. A few months ago his health again broke down and he was compelled to proceed to England on medical leave. His untimely death is a great loss to Government and to the Province, and is sincerely mourned by his colleagues and by all with whom his work brought him in contact.

IT will be remembered that last year, in response to complaints appearing in this paper, Mr. Ganguly, who was then additional District Magistrate of Patna, made enquiries about the extortionate prices demanded for fish in the local market, and took drastic action in the matter. A schedule of prices was laid down under which small fish was to be paid for at three annas per seer, medium sized fish at four annas and *rahu* at six annas per seer. It was also ordered that a certain quantity of fish must be reserved for local consumption. This salutary action checked for a long time attempts at profiteering, but we are sorry to note that the fishmongers are at it again. Prices ranging from six annas per seer for small fish to ten to twelve annas per seer for *rahu* are freely demanded, and woe betide the unhappy being who has the temerity to quote the schedule. We are also given to understand that the ticcadars are exporting almost the entire supply without reserving a sufficient quantity for the local market. We invite the attention of Mr. Ganguly to the matter, and hope that the action taken by him will be such as to prevent any recurrence of similar complaints.

### KARAMAT OIL.

It is by experience a wonderful remedy for deafness and all ear troubles. Price per phial Rs. 1-4.

### KESHAVA KISHORE OIL.

It causes the hair to be smooth, soft and curling with unparalleled fragrance, restores mental power and cools the brain.

BALLABHA & Co.,

PILIBHIT U. P.

THE Chamber of Commerce and Bar Association gave a successful tea party to Mr. F. F. Madan I. C. S., Sub-Divisional Officer, Dinapore on the eve of his joining the military service. There was a fair gathering of the gentry of the town. The party was held at Bungalow No. 5, Dispensary Road. The compound was nicely decorated with flags and festoons. The passage leading to the table of the honoured guest was carpeted. Mr. Madan on his arrival was received by the members of the Bar Association headed by Mr. A. Aziz, President, Mohammad Sayeed, Vice-President and Naurangi Lal, Honorary Secretary. There was an English band in attendance at the gate. Mr. Madan was conducted to his seat and garlanded. The guests were treated to a sumptuous tea. At the end of the function Mr. P. C. Bose, Pleader, in a very little speech described the manifold qualities of Mr. Madan who had in a short time endeared himself to the members of the Bar by his sweet temper and genial disposition. Mr. Madan feelingly gave a suitable reply to Mr. Bose's speech. The success of the party was largely due to Mr. Haji Hassan who helped a good deal in decorating and making various arrangements.

THE hand of death has been busy exacting a heavy toll from the Bengalee Community of Patna. On Monday occurred the death of Babu Jotindra Nath Palit, a Retired Engineer, and a popular member of the local Bengalee society. He left behind several children yet in their teens and a widow, who is a daughter of Dr. S. Bose, L. M. S., the well-known Homoeopath. On Tuesday, our friend Babu Surath Kumar Barman, proprietor of the celebrated book-selling firm of Barman and Co., lost his wife who died of a sudden but brief illness leaving behind several infant children. On Wednesday morning came the shocking news that Babu Kiran Chandra Sen, pleader, in the local District Court, had died of war fever after an illness of four or five days! Kiran Babu was in the very prime of life and had established a steady practice, while he had not neglected literary pursuits, and was for a long time an occasional contributor to this and other journals. He was married to a grand-daughter of the late Rai Bahadur Sansar Chandra Sen of Jaipur. He himself came of a highly respectable family, two of his maternal uncles, Babu Sarat Chandra Sen Gupta, Deputy Magistrate, and Dr. Jyotish Chandra Sen Gupta being just now in Patna. The worst part of the story is that he was the only child of his old and invalid parents and was the sole bread-winner of the family. We do not know how to console all these bereaved families for the loss they have sustained, and we pray to the Almighty Father to give them strength and comfort in the hour of their trial.

the Patna Municipality abdicated its function in respect of controlling hackney carriages and eke? Repeated complaints have appeared in this and other papers and once, a numerously-signed representation was submitted about the high-handed methods of the Patna Jehu, all apparently to no purpose. A cursory visit to the Railway Station or the stables will afford concrete and convincing illustration of the manner in which the *gharrywalla* flouts all Municipal byelaws and tariffs. There is growing up another dangerous practice, namely of allowing mere novices and little boys to drive the *gharrys*, a practice which leads to very frequent accidents. Cannot the Municipality do something to see that the laws and rates it lays down are respected at least to an appreciable extent? Is it not its duty to ensure the safety of the citizens by compelling all carriages to be driven by licensed

and capable drivers? The Municipality has certainly a guilty conscience when it faces the carriage owners. The disgraceful condition in which it keeps the streets has very often resulted in disaster to the wheels and springs of the carriages. It is probable that if the Municipality moves against the *gharrywallas*, they might retaliate by suing it for damages, and as there is probably no judicial officer who has not experience of the miserable state of the city roads, the chances are that the *gharrywallas* would succeed in getting heavy damages. And so, the long-suffering citizens have to suffer on in silence while the Municipality gets fat with what they pay in rates and taxes.

IN referring to the kerosine oil difficulty last week, we are sorry our passion for brevity led us to some verbal inaccuracies. Our remarks about the curtailment of supply covered, of course, only the cheaper varieties of white oil, such as the Rising Sun or the Gold Mohur or the Elephant Brand, which are usually in demand among average people who require oil for lamps. So far as yellow oil and the dearer varieties of white oil are concerned, they were and are available in fair quantities. On enquiry, we have come to learn that there is really a dearth in the supply of the cheaper white oils, mainly on account of the arbitrary action of the Oil Companies who have, while increasing the supply all over the province, actually reduced that for Patna. And out of this reduced quantity the major portion goes to supply contracts with the Municipality, the Electrical Engineer, New Capital, and other bodies. The Elephant brand being the only variety of cheap oil available, the authorities have very reasonably ordered it to be sold only in bottles so that those who cannot afford to buy whole tins may not go without decent oil. The only other variety of comparatively cheap oil is the Monkey brand the price of which is only four annas more than that of the Elephant brand, and we commend it for consumption to those who would have white oil in tins. As regards the allegations against the officers responsible for the issue of the permits, we find that only one officer issues the permits, and against him there is no complaint. The dealers generally say that they get less supply than the demand of their locality. This, as we have seen, cannot be helped, and as a matter of fact, is the reason why control has been necessary. We have, however, examined particular cases of complaints and have found them to be not well founded, as one dealer, who frequently says that he has not the requisite supply, had the largest supply on this side of the City. We understand that the authorities have approached Government to influence the Oil Companies, to supply larger quantities of the cheaper varieties of white oil and we trust that their efforts may be crowned with success.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

#### NOTICE.

Owing to the reduction in Passenger Train Services and the demand for conveyance of Urgent Military and Government Traffic, the Railway Administration cannot guarantee the despatch of Motors, Horses, Carriages, Palanquins, &c., &c.,

by Parcels Express or Passenger Train when booked at Coaching rates.

By order,

GENL. TRAF. MANGR'S } C. M. PEARCE,  
OFFICE, } General Traffic Manager.  
Calcutta, 12-8-1918. } 2-2

**EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**Sale of unclaimed property.**

NOTICE is hereby given that unless the undermentioned goods are removed and all charges due thereon paid before the 31st August 1918, they will be sold by Public Auction and the proceeds disposed of in terms of the Indian Railways Act IX of 1890.

Consignment.—one wagon load loose straw Ex Madhupur to Katrasgarh Invoice No. 3 R/R No. 7767 dated 2-12-17. Sender—Pachkari Singh. Consignee—Babu Ram Sukul Singh Raghunund Singh.

By order,  
Calcutta, } C. M. PEARCE,  
Dated 13-8-1918. } General Traffic Manager.

**EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**

**Sale of unclaimed property.**

Notice is hereby given that unless the undermentioned goods are removed and all charges due thereon paid before the 3rd September 1918, they will be sold by Public Auction and the proceeds disposed of in terms of the Indian Railways Act IX of 1890.

Consignment—one wagon load lime Ex Dehri-on-Sone to Digha Ghat Invoice No. 2 R/R No. 5792 dated 26-5-1918. Sender—A. Haq & Co. Consignee—Hari Choren.

By order,  
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,  
Dated 16-8-18. } General Traffic Manager.

**YOUNG AND OLD**

necessarily have different points of view. Light-heartedness and enthusiasm are so natural to youth as judgment is to more mature years. But there are numbers of men and women who, neither old nor young but in the prime of life, sometimes feel they have not the zest and the capacity for work or enjoyment which they ought, normally, to experience. It is said, with a good deal of truth, that a man is as old as he feels and a woman as old as she looks. In each case it is largely a matter of health. Fortunately the majority do not as a rule suffer from exceptionally serious illness: yet minor ailments are distressingly common. Digestive disturbances, of one sort or another, occur from time to time with every one irrespective of age, sex or constitution. Nor is this very surprising. Even the healthiest individual

now and then get a little out of sorts. People of all ages therefore undoubtedly

**OCCASIONALLY NEED**

a little corrective medicine. Beecham's Pill will be found of the utmost value in all cases of disturbance of the stomach, liver and bowels, or poor appetite, discomfort after eating, acidity, heartburn, wind in the stomach, irregularity of the bowels, feverishness, depression of spirits, and want of tone—these indicate some functional irregularity which it is unwise and often dangerous to neglect. Composed of the finest and most gracefully selected ingredients, of vegetable origin and proved curative value, Beecham's Pills are an unsurpassed remedy for the relief and cure of derangements of the digestive organs. You will feel ever so much better and brighter after taking a dose or two of this excellent medicine. Many people feel themselves always "fit" and up to the mark solely by its use. You also certainly will benefit if you take

**Beecham's Pills**

Prepared only by  
THOMAS BEECHAM, St. Helens Lane.  
Sold everywhere in boxes at  
As. 8, As. 12, and Rs. 2 each.  
Sole Agents for India, Burma & Ceylon.  
**C. ATHERTON & Co.**  
8, CLIVE STREET, CALCUTTA.

**NOTICE.**

We beg to inform our kind constituents and the Public, that our aerated Water Factory situated at No. 71 quarters near Freemasons Lodge Dinapur Cantt. is under Medical supervision. Our Waters are Manufactured with the greatest care and cleanliness, and with filtered Water, procured from the Station Hospital's well. Our rates are moderate.

We solicit the kind support of our Patrons, and to those who have not used our Waters we respectfully solicit a trial. We supply the Station Hospital, Club Officers, and Gentlemen of Dinapur Cantt. as well as to the Club Officers, Gentlemen &c., of Bankipore and Patna City.

Soda large	@	Rs. 0 9 0	per dozen.
Soda small	" "	0 6 0	"
Lemonade	" "	0 14 0	"
Gingerade	" "	1 0 0	"
Tonic	" "	1 0 0	"
Coloured (all)	" "	2 0	"

Dinapore, February 2nd 1918.

I have inspected the Soda Water Factory of Messrs Baluck Ram & Co., today and am satisfied that all the possible care is taken to ensure the Aerated Water being pure. The water is taken from tap specially laid on from the military works supply, the empty bottles are washed with permanent solution before being re-filled.

(Sd.) F. P. MAYNARD, MAJOR, I. M. S.  
Civil Surgeon of Patna.

**BALUCK RAM & Co.,**

Bankipore Branch.  
Inquarter of the Behar National College,  
near the old Hospital building.