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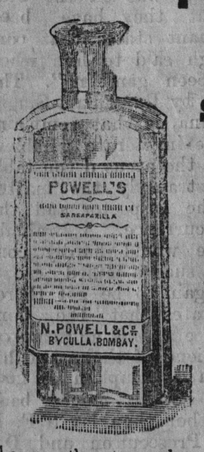

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NEWS LATER THAN THE MAIL.

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION.

HOW IT BEGAN.

FATHER GAPON INTERVIEWED.

London, Jan. 21.

The theory that the firing of a live charge instead of a saluting charge by the Bourse Battery on Thursday, at the St. Nicholas Hall, St. Petersburg, was the result of a plot aimed at the Tsar's life, is gaining ground.

The gunners of the battery, who have been suspended, were, it is stated, connected with the revolutionaries.

It has transpired declares another rumour, that the cannon-shot was actually intended for the Tsar, and its ineffectiveness is attributed to the weakness of the charge which was substitued for the saluting charge.

The "National Zeitung," a Berlin journal, is responsible for the statement that the military officers were alone concerned in the Bourse cannon incident.

They wished, according to the same journal, to intimidate the Tsar against granting reforms, the fall of the Grand Duke Sergius, the ex-Governor of Moscow, having convinced the Russian aristocracy that their power is waning.

Such a plot, adds the "National Zeitung" could only be hatched among the Tsar's entourage.

Father Gapon, who is the chief organiser of the St. Petersburg strike movement, has been interviewed. He admits that he was formerly employed as an agent provacatour, but says that since M. Plehve's death he has been a sincere reformer. The present strike he declares, was not commenced until the Prefect of Police intimated that the men's demands had been rejected. He insists that political reforms must precede economic concessions.

"If", he continued, "the police or Cossacks obstruct us on our way to the Palace, and shoot us, I shall be the first to fall. But our blood will accomplish more than the most successful agitation. We intend to go as loyal citizens to obtain a hearing from the Tsar. If we fail we shall have proved to the world that peaceful agitation is useless, and other means will be tried. We notified Prince Mirski, the Minister for the Interior that we desired to meet the Tsar. If our request is refused, there will be a terrible uprising. We expect half a million people in the vicinity of the Imperial Palace, including 130,000 workmen."

The Prefect of Police at St. Petersburg has warned the people that neither the contemplated gatherings nor processions will be allowed. The strikers of the Putiloff ironworks coerced 170 factories to join them on Friday. The strikers now number 88,000.

A detachment of the Moscow regiment stationed at St. Petersburg yesterday refused to interfere with the strikers at the Shapschel tobacco factory, and were ordered to return to barracks. Although 50,000 troops are on duty night and day, the strikers boast that they do not fear violence, since "the soldiers and workmen are one." The middle class [illegible] sympathise with the strikers.

[illegible] representative meeting of workers was [illegible] in the Palace Square, St. Petersburg, [illegible]day last. They were seeking to pre[illegible]tion to the Tsar, stating—That the [illegible] endurance had been reached. [illegible] were stifled by despotism. [illegible] was ruining the coun[illegible] had not been consul[illegible] which is bringing [illegible]kers [illegible]ful war [illegible] to destroy [illegible]y's downfall." [illegible] with the [illegible]on also urges the Tsar [illegible] of officialdom, and to rule w[illegible] through a constitutional assem[illegible] elected by secret ballot.

The strikers declare that, despite the warning of the authorities that force will be employed against them, they intend to meet unarmed. They wish the Tsar personally to transmit it through the official channel. Father Gapon will head the procession carrying a cross.

St. Petersburg is in darkness, the strike affecting all electric lighting undertakings. No newspapers were published to-day. The printers struck work and threatened to smash the machinery if the managers attempted to defy them.

The Russian Minister of Finance and of the Interior refused to receive a deputation from the strikers. The strike is now rapidly becoming a political movement. A great demonstration opposite the Tsar's Winter Palace is being organised for to-morrow, under the auspices of Father Gapon, who has gained a tremendous influence over the workers.

When six thousand of the Ohukuhoff steel workers struck, General Vlassieff, the director, vainly emphasised the fact that 800 of them were reservists, who had not been sent to the Far East because they were needed in the factory, and were still liable for service. The strike has spread to seven thousand workers from the Alexandrovisky Machine Works and Baltic Cartridge Factory, both belonging to the State, to thousands of Stegliz's and Thornton's cloth weavers and other operatives, to thousands in the paper mills, State playing-card factory, State and private distilleries, rubber factories, soap works, the Imperial glass factory, and the civil employes of the arsenal. Every industry is paralysed, and there have been many disturbances. The troops are kept under arms, and owing to frequent threats of violence and incendiarism, they have been ordered to do their utmost to prevent bloodshed.

Father John, of Cronstadt, a famous priest of the Orthodox Greek Church in Russia, is seriously ill.

It was probably as a result of the collision between the D.A.V. College and F.C. College students in the University Sports Tournament at Lahore, that Mr. Sams, District Magistrate of Amritsar, passed orders prohibiting the carrying of sticks by anybody be he a student or pleader or E.A.C., on the grounds of the cricket tournament which came off at Amritsar on the 1st instant.—"Tribune."

A Ludhiana correspondent writes in the "Tribune":—Sirdar Baddan, C.I.E., of Meloti and his son Sirdar Baddan Singh, 2nd Class Honorary Magistrate some time ago brought a defamation case against one Harcharn Singh, son of Kishen Singh, late Deputy Inspector of Police, in the Court of Bakshi Bhagawan Singh, Extra Assistant Commissioner. The case came on for hearing on the 31st when the accused offered an unqualified apology to the two Sirdars, and the matter was compromised. The complainants were represented by Mr. Aziz, Barrister-at-Law, of Hoshiarpur. The District Magistrate has issued orders to all the Julicial officers not to hold court after 5 p.m. at the request of the members of the local Bar.

A SENSATIONAL CASE OF ROBBERY BY THE POLICE.

A sensational case of theft by the Police came on appeal before the Sessions Judge of Patna on the 3 February. The judgment of the lower court was upheld and the appeal dismissed. It indeed reflects great credit on Mr. Tindale, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Barh, to have arrived at the real truth against "the efforts of united thanna," to thwart the course of justice. It is not generally,—specially in this police-ridden province of Behar,—that one comes across a young officer like Mr. Tindale taking so much pains to hold up the police in their true colour and it is for this reason we feel ourselves that Mr. Tindale possesses a heart which revolts at the sight of oppression by the strong on the weak, and we doubt not this tenor of his mind will one day make him a model officer. The judgment is a precious document and we publish it in extense with the hope that it would attract the attention of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

Judgment.

Emperor Vs. Ramgulam Singh Sec. 379 I. P.C. and Harnandan Pathak Sec. 166 I.P.C.

This case is an important one being a serious charge against two town constables of Barh and the junior Sub-Inspector of Barh Thanna. One Munshi Dhanuk of Barh, a Guludar, accused Ramgulam Singh constable of forcibly taking from his hand Rs. 8 and Harnandan Pathak constable of standing by and doing nothing, though it was his duty to arrest the offender. Munshi also states that he went to the Thanna next morning and informed the junior Sub-Inspector who instead of recording his statement tried to compromise the matter and the first information was not lodged till the evening when the constables had definitely refused to give back the money. The case has been returned in C false by the Sub-Inspector approved by the Inspector. Preliminary enquiry was held before the Sub-Deputy Magistrate and he recommended that A form be called for. The accused have therefore been put on their trial. There are three points in the case which must be cleared up first to define the issues: (1) the defence theory that the whole case is the work of Goberdhone Singh Town Head Constable, who had a grudge against the two accused as he believed them to be the senders with others of an anonymous petition against him; (2) The part played by the thanna officials in the case; (3) The real nature of the case. I propose to deal with the defence theory first for this reason that if it is true the case falls to the ground. If not then the prosecution story gains unusually in weight as there are then a set of poor witnesses fighting against the efforts of a united thanna which efforts were certainly exercised to their utmost as wil be shown.

Firstly, Goberdhon Singh had he wanted to attack these constables would not have employed these means. According to the defence theory he must have deliberately spoilt his case prima facie by sending complainant and having the F.I.R. recorded in the evening whereas the offence was supposed to have taken place the previous night for the sole purpose of getting the junior Sub-Inspector into trouble. He summoned witnesses some of whom have refused to depose in court, men of 4 different castes, and all neighbours of Rameshwar in whose house the occurrence is said to have taken place. He got round the Writer Constable and the constable naturally on guard that day to support his statement, a qualified support withdrawn largely in court where the demeanour of these two witnesses has been not that of men who want to break the Sub-Inspector but of men desirous of saying as little as they can in order to save him. He himself ran in a near relative of complainant and one of the principal witnesses in the [illegible] case [illegible] be a crafty mo[illegible] complainant and his wi[illegible] thrown him over as he [illegible] on the case not succeeding, and if he did so he must have known the danger of covering his tracks in face of the inveterate enemy of the Thana staff as alleged by defence. That prosecution is the sign of a united thana determined to break the men who have complained practically against the police as a body. The witnesses are said to have denied the occurence before the police and the Inspector formed an opinion that the case was got up as the result of a quarrel between town and thana. But the Inspector's opinion is based only on his supervision of the investigation which I believe to have been thoroughly honest, but two constables could easily go on ahead and coedce the witnesses at the time if the thanna was united and without that the witnesses, even were the case true, would probably deny it knowing the vengence which was bound to and which has fallen upon them. The Inspector was temporary and had only been in the Sub-Division for 2 or 3 months, most of the constables and the junior Sub-Inspector have a much larger connection with the town. The Senior Sub-Inspector had his attention called in court to his evidence before the Sub-Deputy Magistrate that he had prepared a list of gamblers subsequently to the occurrence in which the names of all the P. W. S. in the case except the constables were entered. When first tackled in my court on this point he tried to shirk the question with the usual phrase "I don't remember whether it was before or after the occurrence." The fact that Goberdhon Singh did not send complaint to the Magistrate but to his own mortal enemies, who could spoil the case mosa effectually, does not look consistent with the infinite cunning and forethought which this case would involve were its nature such as the defence states. There has not been a vestige of evidence to connect either complainant or his witnesses with Gobordhon Singh, Head constable, and his alleged party.

For these reasons and other which will be dealt with I absolutely disbelieve this theory of the defence and reject it as outside all reasonable probability. In that case even supposing the complainant to have been backed up afterwards by some one which there is nothing to show, the case stands as follows. 5 men, neighbours of different castes, and two outsiders are bringing a complaint against the whole Police Department of Barh or rather a complaint which will be resented by the whole body of the police. Compulsion has been put upon them of the most serious kind on lodging the complaint. They have been entered on a black list, prosecued for gambling and forced to prove their case with the prospect of relentless prosecution under Sec. 211 should they fail to do so.

So much for the conduct of the police. The defence has ably attacked two of the statements of the complainant and, I think, has succeeded but only so far as to throw light on the real nature of the case. The complainant's reasons for being at Rameshwar's house was that he was returning from Benarsi Ghat after easing himself at Raja Babu's Bagicha a mile away. It was in the rain and at night. Natives don't generally ease themselves except in the early morning being most regular in this respect. Complainant had a privy in his own house and would just as well have done it there with infinitely less trouble. There are many places open and cultivated intervening on which he might have eased himself. The reasons of his lying on this point is that he wishes to prove his innocent purpose for his being at Rameshwar's. This, too, is the reason for his desperate efforts to account for the comparatively large sum of money Rs. 8 that was on his person at the time of occurrence. He went to pay debts but when he found the people out he did not ask where they had gone to. He had a system of account with men who kept no books and the stress laid upon an otherwise not important fact from the very time of F. I. R. and the beginning is that of a guilty conscience as other facts show. The complainant then admitting these two defence contentions was at Rameshwar's for some reasons he does not like to reveal and with a considerable sum of money. Rameshwar's house is in a little secluded square in a "galli" of the town with an open roofed verandah and steps opening on to the maidan of the square. To this place 2 constables, a Brahman, a Dhanuk a Kahar and others congregate at night, one of them with a considerable sum of money. The place is off the constable's beat. He was on the beat 6-8 months before, but they have been changed. The complainant states that constables Ramgulam Singh said to him when he came "You have been gambling". The whole defence as stated by Ramgulam Singh, backed up by the thanna, is that complainant and his friends are inveterate gamblers and were threatened by the accused constable just before this, but strangely the matter was not reported to the Inspector and the thanna till after the occurrence. A Brahmin and a Rajput constable would hardly condescend to consort with such a mined crowd without some tangible gain to be got therefrom. Rameshwar states that the Constables came to him twice a week and smoked though he was not a friend of theirs and his house was off their beat. Complainant goes to thanna to try and get his money back through the officers rather than lay a F. I. It is plain that both Prosecution and Defence are concealing the fact that the verandah of Rameshwar's was used for gambling on that night as previously, the prosecution because at the time it was generally supposed to be a "place" within the meaning of the act and the defence because even if they proved the case to have originated out of a gambling transaction it would mean departmental punishment for the officers concerned. It is extremely probable that the constables would have committed what was almost an act of robbery in the town openly had they not known that they had a strong hand over the complainant and had there not been some incident beforehand from which they calculated to escape from trouble. The fact that the constable Ramgulam Singh returned Re. 1-2 ans. to the complainant when he came behind them crying and put him off till next day by fair words does not point to the barefaced Zoolum without cause as stated by complainant. There was reason for the taking and the natural reason of that is that the constables had lost while gambling and that they took the winning forcibly from the winner thinking that having engaged in unlawful practices he would not dare to take action against them. From the moment of th[illegible]sation on the steps to the taking up of the enquiry under [illegible] supervision of the Inspector the defence have absolutely failed to shake the prosecution story. No connection has been proved between the neighbours and complainant except the subsequent accusation of gambling. The witnesses to Munshi's prayers for the restoration of his money are the neighbours, the natural witnesses to a scene at 9 p.m. Their stories are quite straightforward and bear impress of truth. The only witnesses to the actual snatching proved in court are complainant and Rameshwar and the defence has laid great stress on the fact that 2 witnesses of his, Ramcharan and Bundi were given up by the prosecution. This is true but having regard to the subsequent relentness prosecution of the complainant and all his friends by the police it is only natural that some of the witnesses should have preferred to make their peace with the thanna which fact had become known to the complainant and his legal advisers and Counsel for the complaintant is not bound to produce a witness in court if he has reason to believe that he will not tell the truth and there were very strong and patent reasons for this belief. Again the witnesses in the lane who heard the cries of Munshi for the return of the money are the "houselodgers" on the way from Rameshwar's to the thanna and they have not been shown to be biased. The evidence of the Writer Constable and the constable of the guard also shows that complainant came next morning and was sent to the junior Sub-Inspector's house across the way. The Junior Sub-Inspector of course denies that he saw the complainant and the Writer Constable says he merely told the constable to show complainant the way to the house and the constable says that he last saw him at the verandah of the house not having gone in at the door up to that time but the Junior Sub-Inspector is bound to lie to save his skin and though the Writer Constable when tackled by complainant in front of the Inspector evidently admitted the fact of the coming of complainant still his evidence and the evidence of the constable of the guard is manifest hedging in view of the fact that when complaintant had come to the thanna for the purpose of sackling the thana officers it is extremely improbable that he would not have spoken to the junior Sub-Inspector and he emphatically states that he did so. I believe him.

When once the matter had reached the thanna it was hard for the constables to return the money. The temporary Inspector Mahamad Ismail has a reputation for honesty and had only been at Barh for a month or two and had the matter come to his ears and it was known that the men had admitted their fault by returning the money there was every chance of trouble for the two constables. They knew that the thanna must support them as the Junior Sub-Inspector was now in far trouble with them. They had also a whole day to coerce the witnesses before the Inspector came on to the scene for investigating. It was therefore manifestly in their interest to bargain it out as the chances were vastly against 5 comparatively poor people against the police. Unfortunately for them the straightforwardness of the Inspector, a point on which thing the defence lay great stress, was too much for the Writer Constable when confronted with the complainant in his presence and he retracted the fact of the complainant's coming. By the evening the occurrence had become so far a matter of general knowledge that the thanna officers had to record the First Information in self defence relying doubtless on quashing the case in its initial stage. The defence has called no witnesses. All that their cross examination has done is to impugn the statement of Munshi reparding the reason for his carrying the money and his reason for being at Rameshwar's house. They have set up two distinct line of defence in cross-examination—the grudge for arrest for gambling and the enemity of Goberdhon Singh. All they have shown is that the occurrence was in all probability the result of a gambling transaction. As to the legal point whether the forcible recovery of gambling winnings amounts to theft, I think it is clear. There can be theft even of stolen property and when once the money has changed hands at cards or elsewhere the forcible taking of it away is theft............The whole case shows a most digraceful state of affair at Barh thanna since the transfer of Mirza Enayet Karim and taking over charge by the new Sub-Inspector. The thanna officers excepting, I think, the temporary Inspector have backed their men in a piece of Zoolum against the complainant and in so doing have not hesitated to take vengeance on the innocent spectators of the act. The conduct of the junior Sub-Inspector in refusing to record the F. I. when a cognisable offence was brought to his notice deserves severe departmental punishment. I convict Ramgulam Singh under Sec. 379 I. P. C. of theft and sentence him to one year's rigorous imprisonment as he being a public officer has committed the very offences which it is his duty to prevent. Constable Haranandan Pathak played a passive part throughout the proceeding. The crime is one of omission and not of commission. I convict him under Sec. 166 I. P. C. and sentence him to 3 months' simple imprisonment. A copy of this judgment wil be sent to the D. S. P., for such departmental action as he may think proper.

23-1-1905. (Sd.) C. Tindale, S.-D.-O., Barh.

WONDERS OF PLANT LIFE.

From time to time our ultra-imaginative daily and weekly newspaper reporters are unhearthing awe-inspiring wonders associated with plant life. Not long ago some one discovered that some plants in the Bronx Park Botanical Gardens, New York, had been attacked by tuberculosis. There are still to come stories of them suffering from small-pox, the measles, or the whooping cough. Now, however, we are being regaled, from another source, this time Chicago—a city where nothing strange or abnormal causes any excitement—with a story of how a Russian professor has discovered that plants mourn their departed ones, or those from whom they have been separated. The story goes:

"The professor is a botanist and gardener for the pleasure of the work. One morning he was watering some lobelias clustered in a corner of a conservatory when all at once a feeling of sadness swept over him. There was no reason for it that he could define, yet an acute melancholy seized him, and not until he had left that portion of the room did the feeling gradually depart.

"The next morning, while watering these particular plants, the old sensation came over him. It was not associated with the odors of the plants, for these were familiar to him and always pleasant to his senses. The next morning and the next this feeling of acute sadness came over him in the lobelia window, and finally he spoke to his wife of the phenomenon. Suddenly she remembered that three days before a friend had called and been so pleased with the flowers that she had given a pot of them to the friend, who had taken them away.

"The time of the gift and of the resulting sadness in the gardener were identical and the professor set himself to watch. He rearranged the potted flowers, leaving no gap in them that would be noticeable to the eye. Day after day for more than a week he felt the traces of sadness in less degree until finally he could attend the flowers without a sense of melancholy.

"The result of the professor's observations are summed up in the belief that these flowers were in mourning for the plants that had bees given away. This gift caused the emanation of an aura of sadness such as has been recognised as possible to the human body under similar conditions. The professor has always been extremely sensitive to psychic conditions, and it is his conclusion that the aurae of sadness emanating from the flowers were sufficient to touch the psychic something in his own person that responded in kind to the influence of sadness."

There are, of course, times in the life of the florist himself when the sigh of plants does cause a feeling of sadness—to come over him—especially atfer holidays when, not the departure but the presence of his products in too large numbers presents itself. In the case of the Russian professor it is just possible that "the psychic something, within himself," influencing sadness had become more than usually highly pronounced after reading of the target practice of the Japs in the harbour of Port Arthur, and that sadness had been communicated to the lobelia plants. Who can tell?

Another wonder in plant life has lately been discovered in South America, it is said, in connection with a plant belonging to the orchid family. The narrator says:

"The plant has a peculiarity which seems to distinguish it from any other. When it is thirsty it lowers to the water a tube from its station on the tree of which it is a parasite. When it has imbibed the needed amount of water the tube rolls up into a neat coil and takes its place again in the center of the plant."

What an immense amount of care and anxiety to the plant grower would have been removed had Dame Nature been only wise and foresighted enough to have similarly endowed all her vegetable creations, and also vested them with the faculty of knowing when they had "imbibed the needed amount." A lesson for gods and men.—"Harists' Exchange."

Mr. Hornell, Marine Biologist and Inspector of Pearl Banks, in his exhaustive report to Government on the Biological results of the Pearl Fishery of last year made certain recommendations, among which was the establishment of a chank fishery on Government account and under Government management in the neighbourhood of the Aripu Pearl Banks Ceylon. It may be stated that a chank fishery of considerable profit to the Madras Government is carried on annually on the Tinnevelly and Madura coasts.

SCHOOLGIRLS WHO ARE WIDOWS.

STRANGE STORIES OF RUNAWAY WEDDINGS.

One of the most interesting cases of American children who have been married at an age when they could scarcely tell the difference between the Marriage Service and the Catechism, and who, by fate, have been deprived of their husbands while yet in the schoolroom, is that of Miss Helen James, of New Hampshire, who at the age of thirteen ran away from school with Mr. Willis Green, a young gentleman of sixteen, and was duly married by an accommodating magistrate. The newly-wedded couple had only sufficient money to last a couple of weeks, and at the end of that period they returned to the bride's parents in Harrisville and remanded forgiveness, together with a little ready cash to tide them over their difficulties.

Both these very reasonable requests, however, were refused, whereupon the bridegroom left his bride with a kindly-disposed aunt and managed to secure a job in an electric lighting firm, where he worked hard for the not extravagant remuneration of 5dols. 50c. a week. He had not been in his new employment more than a couple of months, however, when, by a somewhat extraordinary accident.

HE WAS KILLED BY AN ELECTRIC SHOCK.

The sad news was conveyed to the child-wife, who cried a good deal, and a few days later returned to her old school. The fact that she was a widow gave her a tremendous interest for the other girls, and in the end Mrs. Green rather enjoyed the sensation she created.

Most of the papers published paragraphs about the youthful widow who was still learning to read and write, and so popular did she become that, had she been so inclined, she would have found no difficulty in changing her "state," for she received many offers.

Miss Agnes White, of Newark, although but sixteen years of age, is both a widow and a wife, having been first married at the age of fourteen to a youthful sweetheart named Dutton. The marriage was a runaway one, and took place while Miss White was attending the Newark High School.

After her marriage she went to a New Jersey watering-place for a holiday. While there a sad tragedy occurred which deprived Mrs. Dutton of an affectionate husband. It seems that the couple were bathing in the surf, when Mr. Dutton, who was a powerful swimmer, swam out a considerable distance and was soon seen to be in trouble. The life-saver went after him, but the distance was too great for him to reach the drowning man before he sank, and, although the rescuer dived for him repeatedly, the body was not recovered for an hour afterwards. Meanwhile the young wife was frantically

RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE BEACH,

and it was with the greatest difficulty that she could be prevented from going after her husband, although she was quite unable to swim.

After the funeral Mrs. Dutton went back to her home in Newark, and as a means of distraction returned as a pupil to her old school. There she received much sympathy from her former school-fellows, but she had not been at her studies more than a couple of terms when she met an old friend called Henry French, who had been in love with her before her marriage. He renewed his protestations of affection, and soon the pair were "off and away" to the marriage bureau, where they obtained their license without any difficulty and were afterwards married by the registrar.

The young lady who, in the matter of marriages and widowhoods, probably holds the record even in the States is Miss Ethel Roberts, who, though only now seventeen years of age, has been three times married, once divorced, and once a widow. When she was fourteen Miss Roberts was at school at Hartford, where, instead of attending to her lessons, she was thinking about a boy friend called North, who

HAD EXPRESSED HIS LOVE FOR HER,

and was desirous of obtaining her consent to an elopement. For some time she refused, but ultimately the young man's gift of oratory prevailed, and the two ran away and were duly married.

For two months nothing was heard of the runaways, when the young bride returned to her parents with the information that her husband was dying of pneumonia and that they had nothing in the house. The father at once accompanied his daughter to her "home," where he found the husband raving in delirium and evidently seriously ill. A doctor was called who stated that the only chance of saving the young man's life was to take him to the nearest hospital, so an ambulance was called and he was conveyed thither. He never rallied, however, but

DIED THE FOLLOWING DAY.

The young widow returned to her parents, who sent her to school again, in spite of the warning of apprehensive friends. As they had anticipated, the widow had not been many weeks at her studies when she again eloped, this time with a man of twenty-five. The marriage was a failure, and after a few unhappy months the young wife secured a divorce.

By this time the child was nearly seventeen, and had been heard to declare that if ever she married again it would be to an elderly man. Her friends laughed at her, but she was as good as her word, for three months later she became engaged to the wealthy proprietor of a big dry goods store,

A MAN SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE.

To this gentleman the widowed and divorced lady was married last November. The old man is said to be devoted to his young wife, and has given her a beautiful home. The bride, too, seems to be fond of her ancient bridegroom, and all the neighbours predict for them a very happy, if not a very lengthy, married life together.

The attention of the Burma Government has been drawn to the large number of warrants of arrest employed in Burma for the collection of the revenue as compared with the other provinces of India, and it was explained that most of them were due to the existence of a capitation tax in Lower Burma, a tax which is unknown in other Indian provinces, and indeed in all British possession, we believe except Fiji. In event of default capitation tax can only be collected by the issue of a warrant of arrest, as the defaulters are usually men of no property and often of no fixed residence in the district where they are assessed. Another fact which tends to increase the total is the practice of counting as a separate process a fresh warrant issued when the first warrants are returned unexecuted.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE

Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 12, 1905.

THE REVOLUTIONARY CHARACTER OF THE NEW MEASURE.

THE change which the short Universities Bill, called "The Universities Validation Bill," contemplates to introduce, is of such an extraordinary character that it will take sometime before the general public can realize its significance. The change affects not the University alone, but the whole administration of the country. The position taken up by the Government is this. The Universities Act of the last year, authorises the Chancellor of each of the Universities to make directions with a view to the appointment of the Provisional Syndicates thereof. Various directions have been made by the Chancellors in pursuance of this authority and Provisional Syndicates have been constituted and appointed thereunder. Doubts have been, however, raised as to the validity of some of the directions as well as of the constitution and appointment of the Provisional Syndicates; and hence it is expedient to remove such doubts.

It is therefore going to be enacted that all directions, declarations and orders made as aforesaid shall be deemed to have been duly made under the Universities Act, 1904; and that the Provisional Syndicates constituted and appointed as aforesaid, shall be deemed to have been duly constituted and appointed under the said Act.

The objects and reasons of the Bill are stated as follows:—

"The object of the Bill is to remove doubt as to certain points which have arisen in the construction of the provisions of the Indian Universities Act, 1904, relating to the constitutions of the Senates and Provisional Syndicates. The Bill effects this by declaring the various orders issued by the Chancellors of the different Universities in connection with this subject to be valid."

The above reads quite innocent. But, it assumes a quite different aspect, when the history of the measure is told. It was some members of the Bombay University who discovered that the notification, issued by their Chancellor for the appointment of the Provisional Committee, was illegal. Clause (p) Section 12 of the Universities Act lays down that each Provisional Syndicate is to be appointed by the Senate in such manner "as the Chancellor directs." The Chancellor, however, directed in the notification that the Provisional Syndicate should be appointed by the Faculties and not by the Senate. This direction of the Chancellor, and consequently his notification, was illegal. And the Government by a fresh Act means to declare that the direction of the Chancellor was legal!

When the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale in his speech said that the notifications were illegal, the Legal Member protested against the allegation. It is thus quite clear that, it is by a simple protest that the Government seeks to extricate itself from the awkward position which it has created for itself. The contention of the Government is that the action of the Chancellor, in constituting the Provisional Committee under clause (p), is not illegal at all; some doubts as regards its legality have only been raised, and its object is to remove these doubts and not to legalise an illegal act, by an enactment. But who is to decide whether the action of the Chancellor is legal or illegal?

It was not with a light heart that the independent members of the Bombay University brought the charge of illegality against the action of their Chancellor. They consulted lawyers, and three eminent counsel of the locality gave their unanimous opinion that an illegality had been committed. They submitted this opinion to the Vice-Chancellor, who, disregarding, it, constituted the Provisional Syndicate under the illegal notification of the Chancellor. As a last resource, the protesting members filed a suit before the Bombay High Court for a judicial pronouncement on the point.

In the meantime, the independent members of the Calcutta University, headed by "a distinguished ex-Judge of the High Court," to quote the words of the Law Member, took exactly the same view of the notification as their compeers in Bombay did. The protest of Mr. Richards that the action of the Chancellor is not illegal thus counts for nothing.

So it comes to this. There is no doubt, though the Government may deny it, that an illegal notification was issued by the Bombay Chancellor for the appointment of the local Provisional Syndicate, and that though this was pointed out to the Vice-Chancellor and his attention was drawn to legal opinion on the subject, yet he, in a most arbitrary manner, trampled this protest under foot, and had the Syndicate constructed at his sweet will. It is these illegal and aggressively high-handed proceedings of executive officers in Bombay and elsewhere that the Government is about to white-wash by the help of the Legislature.

Nor is this all. When the legal opinion of eminent counsel at Bombay had no effect upon the Vice-Chancellor, the protesting members brought a suit for a judicial interpretation on the action of the Chancellor Now this would have at once set the matter at rest. If the Judges had held that the notification was illegal, the Chancellor might have issued another according to law, and thus the scandal, which the introduction of the Bill has given rise to, might have been avoided. If they had found it legal, all controversy in this connection would have also ceased at once.

But the Government was determined to make its power felt, and, forgetting fairness, nay, decency, brought forward the bill as soon as the suit had been filed, the inevitable effect of which was to hamper the course of justice. As a matter of fact, the divisional bench of the Bombay High Court, before whom the suit was pending was apparently so overawed by the attitude of the Government that it refused to proceed with the case and the trial was postponed sine die. The action of the Government had thus a disastrous result in another direction also, namely, the muzzling of the High Court.

The Government may now very well snap its fingers at the oppositionists; for, it has both the Legislature and the High Court at its beck. This is quite true, but are the responsible rulers aware where are we drifting to? If the illegal and high-handed acts of executive officers can be legalized in this manner, where is the limit to be drawn? In the present case the illegal actions of Chancellors or Vice-Chancellors are going to be made legal. Following this principle, the action of a favourite police officer, resulting in the brutal death of a human being may also be rendered justifiable. Nay, by a further development of the principle, the Legislature may be summoned for passing an Act for exempting executive officers from the operation of all laws of the land!

The spectacle which the Government presents is so unique that we do not remember to have witnessed one like this in the course of the last thirty years. To tamper with laws is to court disaster. A Government which utilizes the Legislature for serving its officers places itself absolutely above law. It is the law which is the sovereign power in the State. The executive officer is as much amenable to its jurisdiction as the layman. If the Legislature can, however, be used as an instrument for condoning the illegal acts of the executive officers, then the reign of law will be replaced by that of anarchy. If the Government can legalise an arrangement made illegally, it can also illegalize one which is based upon law. In short, if the Government can legalize an illegal act and vice versa, the High Court has no need to exist. It can be easily shown by a few concrete examples how the Government by availing itself of the principle underlying this short measure can create a revolution in the land, and revive the days of "Hang legality and hang procedure, and let us get to work."

AN ALLEGED IMPORTANT SECRET DOCUMENT.

IT is alleged that the Indian Universities Act of Lord Curzon was founded upon a secret minute Written by His Lordship. Nay that alleged minute has been placed in our hands for publication. Of course there is a law which makes the publication of a secret document penal; but, as we think, the said minute, published below, is not a real document at all, but a piece of waggery evolved out of the fertile imagination of an idiot, there is no fear of any one being punished for its publication. Here is the alleged minute by Lord Curzon dated,—

THE MINUTE.

One of the greatest works of the Government is to train the people in principles of loyalty to British rule in India. If this can be accomplished, not only does the administration of the country become easy, but the permanence of our Empire is assured. The mischief is, it is we who have taught and are teaching sedition. In our philanthrophy we try to convert the Indians to Christianity; but without any disrespect to that holy book, the Bible is scarcely fit reading for them. Then our earnest desire is to impart education to the people of this country; that is to say, to educate them in English literature and science, without realizing that this is a fruitful source of mischief; for English literature is saturated with seditious ideas and sentiments.

To begin with the Bible. The holy book teaches that God is the Father of all men. This leads the Indian to come forward to claim the privileges of a brother from us. Fancy the situation, the Natives claiming to embrace us as their brethren! We cannot make that concession to them for obvious reasons, and hence mutual misunderstanding. Then what is English literature, but unadulterated and concentrated sedition? Take for instance English history. It teaches that there are tyrants, and it is the duty of every good and honest man to put them down. Indeed we have been doing it, that is to say, putting down tyrants, from the beginning of our [illegible] nation. But if we are doing [illegible] to tell it to the Indians, [illegible] follow our example. It is we [illegible] ing the Indians that "resistance [illegible] is obedience to God". English history teac[illegible] them the couplet, that,

When Adam delved and Eve span,
Who was then the gentleman?

After teaching the people of India these dangerous doctrines, we have no right to blame them if they, now and then, betray symptoms of discontent in regard to our rule.

The Victoria memorial is a work which will accomplish, to a great extent, our object and nourish loyalty in India. The memorial will not only impress the Indians with the greatness of British power, but also the excellence of British rule. Has not nearly a crore of rupees been raised for this purpose? How can this vast sum be better spent than in purchasing marble and mortar, bricks and beams? It will serve to "cement" the ruled and rulers in the same way, as the bricks of the memorial hall will stick to each other.

But to plant the principles of loyalty in the minds of the people of India in an effective manner, what is needed is to take the education of the youths completely in our own hands. That is impossible so long the educational institutions are in "disloyal" hands. I use this expression, "disloyal," not in an offensive sense, but to express my ideas clearly. The educational institutions must be brought thoroughly under the control of the Government. For this purpose we must introduce a law expelling all malcontents from the Universities and replacing them by officials, and a sprinkling of non-officials of tried loyalty.

It will be possible for the Universities, when brought practically under the control of the Government, to teach the people what is wholesome food, and reject that which is mischievous. Thus the study of the Bible, as it is, may be prohibited, and an expurgated edition of the holy book may be prepared, and introduced for use in India. If bigotted missionaries object to such a procedure, we may disregard their protests; but if they prove too strong, we may introduce a Bible with foot notes, explaining the passages which carry dangerous meanings. For instance, when it is said in the Bible that God is the Father of all mankind, we may say in the explanatory note that the passage does not entitle a native to hug an Englishman as a brother; for, the phrase that God is the Father of all men, is meant to convey the idea that God created everything, even the pig that we eat. We don't however permit a pig to call us brothers because God created it!

Having brought the educational institutions under Government control, we can introduce only such books in our schools and colleges as are proper and loyal. Such books are however rare—perhaps non-existent. In that case we must prepare them; indeed, we must have a curriculum of school books especially prepared for the use of Indian youths. We can appoint a committee for the purpose of manufacturing such books, and we can appoint even a few natives of tried loyalty and excellent scholarship on that committee as, for instance, Professor Bhanderkar.

We think we must begin with the beginning. Thus, we have not one geography fitted to the necessity of India. All geographies make England a small island with a small population. How can the inhabitants of a big country like India, where they are 280 millions strong, be led to feel the needed awe for a small island with a small population?

So, in the geographies, to be introduced into Indian educational institutions, we must make England a much bigger country than what is shown in our unpatriotic books on that subject. We must make England at least twice as big as India, and put down its population twice as large as that of this country. Needless to say, if the people of India are taught that the Englishmen are more than five hundred millions strong, sedition will no longer find a place in their hearts.

In the same manner, English history is full of incidents which ought to be kept concealed from the natives of India. At the outset we see that the inhabitants of England were conquered by Romans, Saxons, Danes and so forth. Well, as the English people were then barbarians, no great harm is done if such things are known in India. But to tell them that the Duke of Normandy, only a Frenchman, conquered England and killed Harold the English leader is the height of folly. Fancy the absurdity! It is we who do all this! Either we must make Harold gain the victory of Hastings, or establish that Normandy is only a part of England, inhabited by Englishmen. They in India, have a notion that Englishmen are invincible; let us not, by our own folly, remove it.

It may be contended that this will be falsifying history, but are not histories generally full of fiction? Whoever heard of a truth being found in history? The Frenchmen glorify their nation, and we do the same. The Germans contend that it was Blucher who saved the British troops from annihilation by Napoleon, but we declare that it was we who crushed him in the battle of Waterloo. One of us must have told an untruth; we could not both be right.

For excellent reasons, which need not be enumerated, the Indians should never be permitted to read the history of America. If they must be told of a Washington, let him be Washington Irving, and not George Washington. We have no need to make any change in pure mathematics, but as regards mathematics applied to——.

* * * *

The rest of the document is not forthcoming.

A POPULAR notion is that Lord Curzon has a definite object in bringing education under the control of the Government, which, it is believed by foolish people, is to inspire our youths with feelings of loyalty towards the British Government. The following is what is called Russian method. The Poles are never allowed to know that they had at one time a country of their own, or that the Russian system of Government has any defect. Any book which contain so-called disloyal sentiments is not allowed to be read to them. But has this sort of training made the Poles at all loyal to the Russian Government? The British Government had done everything in their power to win over Dhulip Sing, who was separated from his kith and kin, when a lad, and taken to England, where he was taught politics in a way which would gladden the hearts of the most enthusiastic supporters of the University measure of Lord Curzon. He was led to forsake his own religion and made a pervert. He was married to an English lady, and everything possible was done to Anglicise him—even to [illegible] an Englishman. But the [illegible] prove at all satisfactory. [illegible] we all know, and [illegible] ssary to recapitulate it [illegible]. Certain it is, he was not won over. For any statesman to think that by falsifying history and geography, it is possible to make an Indian feel like an Englishman is to prove that he is insane. Give the Indians a good rule, and they will remain loyal for ever. Akbar was only a Mussalman, but he was loved by the Hindus more ardently than many of their own kings.

MR. J. M. MACLEAN concludes an interesting article, "England, Japan, and Russia" in "East and West" with the following remarks:—

"I notice that one of your correspondents falls foul of me for speaking of the immemorial superiority of Europeans to Asiatics. I thought I was simply repeating a common literary formula. I acknowledge fully the great outburst of energy which made the successors of Mahommed the masters of the world from the Oxus to the Pillars of Hercules. Everyone familiar with the glowing pages of Gibbon must have followed with admiration the establishment of magnificent monarchies at Baghdad, Damascus, Cairo, Constantinople, and Cordova, and must have smiled as the historian records, with a half regretful sigh, that, if the Moors had not been checked at Tours, we might now be listening to the calls to prayers of Mahomedan priests from the summits of the towers on the colleges of Oxford. But this avalanche soon exhausted itself. European superiority over the Asiatics, first asserted in the Trojan war, was confirmed by the victories of the Greeks over the Persians at Thermopylæ, Marathon, and Salamis, and was finally established by Alexander's conquest of the Persian Empire. The Moorish reaction was broken in the first place by the Crusades, which destroyed the military activity of the Saracens, and it did not survive the battle of Lepsanto and the expulsion of the Moors from Spain. In modern times the history of Asiatic monarchies has been nothing but one unbroken series of humiliations. Turkey, the most powerful of them all, has been stripped one of all her most cherished possessions—of the Crimea, Servia, the Danubian Principalities, Greece, and Egypt, and Constantinople itself would have been taken from her years ago, if Mr. Disraeli had not intervened to stay the hand of the Russian conqueror. Meanwhile, England and Russia have continued their victorious march across Asia, and have not hitherto found a Power strong enough to resist them. It is possible that Japan may now have arisen to stem the tide, but it seems to me that she is more likely to arouse an outburst of European sentiment such as the world has not witnessed since the days of the Crusades."

If the superiority of nations is decided by brute force, then certainly Mr. Maclean is right in his conclusions. The Europeans are superior to the Asiatics, because, the former conquered the latter: that is the view of Mr. Maclean. At one time the Mussalmans were a superior people, because, they displayed "an outburst of energy." From this point of view the Romans were superior to the Greeks, and the Gauls to the Romans. And were not the Afghans superior to the Indians whom they had conquered? From this point of view Jengis Khan, Tamerlane, and Nadir Shah were superior men whom their followers should worship. Brute force is the god that is now worshipped in the civilized world; and no wonder, Mr. Maclean should, being confessedly an imperialist, be a worshipper also. But the Hindus also at one time displayed an outburst of energy, which Mr. Maclean ignores either from choice or ignorance. The Hindus sent expeditions to Thibet and conquered it more thoroughly than Lord Curzon was able to do. They also conquered China in a equally effective manner, certainly more thoroughly than the combined forces of all Europe had been able to do half a dozen years ago. They then conquered Japan which has humiliated Russia. Here did not end the "outburst of energy" of the Indians. They penetrated into America, long before Columbus was born, and founded colonies there, evidences of which are now being discovered by scientists. The Hindus however did not achieve their conquests by Maxim guns, but moral force. They carried Buddism with them and humanized the larger half of the world, and converted cannibals into human beings. The Hindus did all this; yet Mr. Maclean forgot to take note of it, because, as we said, brute force is what the so-called civilized people of the West worship.

WE take the following from the "Panjabi":—

"The irresponsible acts of Tommy Atkins are becoming too much of a nuisance, especially in rural districts when he is away from cantonments. Recently our Umballa correspondent narrated the instance of a soldier, who had been out shooting in a neighbouring village, having bagged a Fakir's mare in lieu of genuine "shikar," and when pursued, leaving behind him his helmet as a trophy of his shooting ability. On the heels of this we learn of another soldierly exploit, which was perpetrated at Muzaffargarh only a week ago, from a reliable source. An esteemed correspondent from that place writing on the 27th ultimo says that a detachment of the European Infantry stationed at Multan has recently arrived at Muzaffargarh for field exercise. A soldier belonging to this detachment at noon on the 27th January tried to misconduct himself with a Mohammedan girl who lives by the side of a well just close to the District Court. The poor girl screamed when the brute caught her in his arms and fortunately for her her cries were heard by her guardian who instantly ran to her rescue and caught hold of the Tommy before he could escape. The guardian forthwith marched the miscreant before the Deputy Commissioner and the District Superintendent of Police, both of whom were in attendance at the moment on His Honor Sir Charles Rivaz. An enquiry is beung held by the officials the result of which is anxiously awaited by the public."

Of course we cannot vouch for the accuracy of the incidents; but we have no right to doubt it when they have appeared in a respectable paper of the Province where they are alleged to have occurred. Then again, Tommy has a bad reputation in this respect, and hence, in spite of the monstrosity of the charge, it is quite possible that an attempt was really made by a British soldier to commit such an abominable crime as is noted in the above. In fairness to the party accused of the offence, a sifting enquiry should be made, and the real truth elicited. And if the charge is found to be really true, then, we trust condign punishment would be meted out to the culprit. For, the fact need not be concealed that, if British soldiers are led to commit such dastardly acts every now and then, it is very much due to the extreme leniency w[illegible] they are treated, even when [illegible] unimpeachable evid[illegible] guilty [illegible] ce.

SPEAKING [illegible] Harvey, Secretary-elect to the Government of India in the new Department of Commerce and Industry, the "I. D. News" says:

"It is unfortunate that he possesses but little experience in either Commerce or Industry".

Why should Mr. Harvey be put in charge of a Department, the business of which he is so innocent of? Because he is an Englishman and India was created for the maintenance of Englishmen. By the bye, how many fat berths will this new Department create for the "Whites?"

IT was told in a recent issue of our paper that, when a youth of Dacca, who was reading in the F. A. class of the Bankipur College, was stricken down by a bad type of plague, of which he died, two Hindu students of the place tended him for several days. A European would have probably never acted in such a manner. Because Father Damon caught the disease while tending a few leper patients, his name was blessed from one end of the world to the other. But Pandit Kriparam, the leprosy-curer in Calcutta, lives in the midst of lepers, and handles the maggots as if they were not loathsome things at all. If cholera breaks out in an English town there is a stampede among the residents of the place, and it is soon deserted. But here in India, a patient, stricken by plague, cholera or small pox, is never allowed to die untended, even if he has no near relation of his own. In a field of battle, the Europeans no doubt act very bravely. But it must be remembered that they are never allowed to run away before the enemy. They are placed in such a position as to compel them either to kill or be killed. But an Indian will readily risk his life in nursing a patient, over-taken by a contagious disease, which will make a European tremble with fear.

WHO doubts that the Kaiser is one of the bravest soldiers in the world? Yet the hereditory Prince having died of diptheria, he tried to avoid the infection, not that he had come in contact with the Prince in any way, or that the latter had died in the house where the Kaiser lived, but because, His Majesty feared he might catch the disease by an indirect contact, and he sought to avoid it. When the Kaiser heard of the death of the Prince from diptheria, he ordered that his own things must be packed and sent back to Berlin at once. But the residential quarters in Berlin were under repairs and had not been finished; and when the Kaiser was told of this, he said, "Never mind, there would be some corner where I can sleep and eat without running the risk of infection." The Empress who had followed him, learnt with dismay that the Kaiser had fled to Berlin. She was told that the Kaiser had gone back to avoid infection. The Empress thereupon followed him. But the Emper[illegible] pretending to be very busy with his spee[illegible] for the Reichstag, would not see her un[illegible] the following day. The chronicler of the i[illegible]cident says:—

"Now everybody knows that speeches fro[illegible] the throne are composed by the Chancello[illegible] in this case by Prince Bismarck—hence it w[illegible] clear that William had some other reason f[illegible] absenting himself. As a matter of fact, [illegible] had heard that Fraulein von Gersdorff, [illegible] Lady of the Court, was suffering from a so[illegible] throat, and though her quarters were n[illegible] in the Marble Palace, but in the gentl[illegible] women's pavilion, situated in the park, h[illegible] evidently feared that her Majesty migh[illegible] have come in contact with her. And n[illegible] until he was reassured by myself did h[illegible] emerge from his seclusion."

Just see the fear of death betrayed b[illegible] one of the bravest soldiers in the West [illegible] Major Baden-Powell, the heroic leader in th[illegible] Boer war, has written in his book that forts[illegible] constructed under modern principles, ca[illegible] never be taken by assault. When therefor[illegible] Port Arthur was taken by the Japs b[illegible] assaults, he remarked that the bravery displayed by the Jap soldiers was somethin[illegible] superhuman. He had no notion before tha[illegible] men could be so brave.

THE reformed Universities, in lieu of bette[illegible] work, are engaged in expelling unfortunat[illegible] students from various Colleges. In Madra[illegible] dozens of students were in this way ruine[illegible] for ever, because, it was alleged, they ha[illegible] not stated their ages correctly, and th[illegible] Calcutta University was engaged in a simila[illegible] work last Wednesday, though on a differen[illegible] ground. At last Wednesday's meeting of th[illegible] Calcutta Senate, a motion was made to e[illegible]clude from the ensuing First L.M.S. exami[illegible]nation two students, because, they failed t[illegible] pass the examination previously and thei[illegible] names had been therefore removed from the rolls of the Medical College. Now why should a student be punished in this way on account of his repeated failures to pass an examination? In supporting this mischievous motion, Dr. Rankin argued:—

"The natives of this country had great facilities for cramming."

In the above, Dr. Rankin only repeats what is put forward by a class of Anglo-Indians, as a reason to explain why the Babus beat down Englishmen in competitive examinations. Sir Gooroo Dass Banerjee took exception to the above remark. Dr. Rankin went on to observe:—

"Providence had endowed the natives of this country with such marvellous memories that in all his experience he had not come across a single European who could compete with them in cramming much as he might desire."

So it is a great sin to possess a good memory! We dare say, the Indians would have been ridiculed all the same, if they had no memory at all!

WE deeply regret to announce that a cable has been received notifying the death of Mr. J. O'B Saunders, C.I.E, Managing Proprietor of the "Englishman" at Naples, on Thursday morning.

A VERY sympathetic and able letter by an "English Spectator" to the London "Daily News" of the 18th January is reproduced elsewhere. He describes the Congress [illegible] language which is calculated to [illegible] Indian heart deeply. We ar[illegible] Lord Curzon attacked in [illegible] rather severely. But [illegible] it. Is it possible th[illegible] so highly educat[illegible] generous, h[illegible]ted, so intelligent and [illegible] natives [illegible] yet a grudge against those [illegible] their [illegible] India who are trying to improve [illegible] condition by a study of Western [illegible]ature and Sciences? We can [illegible] believe it; yet that is the general impression.

LAST Sunday, the birthday ceremony of Vivekananda was celebrated by the society, which bears his name, with great eclat. There were music, lectures, hymns and a feast. To Vivekananda the country owes a great deal. If we owe Vivekananda to Ramkrishna, we owe Sister Nivedita to Vivekananda. It is quite true that Vivekananda was a disciple of Ramkrishna, but, he apparently followed a different route. We say, apparently, for we cannot be certain in such a matter. To outsiders, it seemed, however, that Ramkrishna preached and practised "bhakti," or piety; while Vivekananda preached "Gyan" or intellectuality. To outsiders it seemed also that Vivekananda was more a patriot and philosopher than a religious character. There is no doubt, however, that he was above the level of ordinary humanity, for, he made the position of Hinduism respected in the Chicago Parliament of Religion. It is doubtful whether Hinduism would have found a place in that unique gathering, but for the presence of Vivekananda who made himself the observed of all observers.

The Government of India offices will close in Calcutta on the 1st of April, and will re-open at Simla on the 3rd.

The cold in Kabul is extraordinary, 53 degrees of frost being registered. All continues well with Mr. Dane's Mission.

Mr. Barrow, Deputy Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Railways, Calcutta, has retired from the service of Government.

The issue of a new Transvaal Loan of £10,000,000 is believed to be imminent, the condition of the money market at Home being now regarded as favourable.

It is announced that Mr. Neville Priestley, Traffic Superintendent of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, is appointed Secretary to the Railway Board, and takes up his new duties at once.

In connection with the newly-created Commerce and Industry Department Mr. Noel Paton, Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, is to be given a Deputy to assist him in his work.

The work of the Quetta-Nushki Railway has been somewhat interfered with owing to the severe weather, but the completion of the line this spring is assured.

With regards to the expert study of the etiology of plague we understand that two scientists will be sent out by the Secretary of State and that two officers of the Indian Medical service will be associated with them in their work of observation.

Mr. Stewart Wilson, Postmaster General of the Punjab proceeds home on six months' leave early in March. Mr. Maxwell, Deputy Director-General of Post Offices, takes leave in April, Mr. O. S. Harrison officiating for him.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

SCRAP.

It has been announced that Lady Curzon will reach India in the first week of the next month. After her arrival in Bombay she will stay at some sanitary station up-country and will join His Excellency at Simla.

We are glad to learn from our Midnapur correspondent that the Sabang Seri-Agricultural School is doing good work. Of the four boys who were examined by Mr. N. G. Mukerjee, Assistant Director of Agriculture and Land Records, three have come out successful. The boy who heads the list will be sent to Rajshahye to complete his training there. He will be given a scholarship of Rs. 10 a month.

Our Hooghly correspondent writes to say that "strong rumour is current here to the effect that French Chandernagore will be made over to the British authorities in lieu of some districts near Pondichery." The Pondichery correspondent of the "Madras Mail" also told the same story the other day. This, coupled with the sudden visit of the Governor of Pondichery to Chandernagore, no doubt gave rise to the rumour. But up to now no official announcement has been made about this territorial exchange between the two governments.

Lovers of the Hindu classics in India will be grieved to learn that education in Sanskrit is steadily declining at least in Bengal. The report of the Director of Public Instruction in Bengal states that in 1900 the number of advanced schools teaching Sanskrit was 1191, but last year the number had fallen to 974. Similarly the pupils attending have fallen from 10,617 to 8,370. The schools referred to here are not recognised by Government, and it is probable that a certain number of pupils have been transferred to public institutions, but Mr. Pedler appears to regret the gradual disappearance of the unrecognised tols, because many of them uphold an ideal of learning for its own sake which has been lost sight of in many more advanced institutions.

The touting nuisance is not confined in Bengal alone. It is prevailing in Bombay equally and the Judges and Magistrates of Civil and Criminal Courts have issued notices on the local touts to appear before them and show cause, if any, why their names should not be included in the list of touts and published as provided by Section 36 of the Legal Practitioners' Act which has now been made applicable to Bombay. In all 150 Notices had been issued, and it was decided to enquire into ten of them at a time. The first of these enquiries was instituted on the 1st instant and is still pending. The names of the touts who will be proclaimed will be put up in the Court premises for the guidance of the legal practitioners who will not be allowed to accept cases from them without the risk of being officially reported as being guilty of unprofessional conduct.

The District Magistrate of Hooghly, Mr. H. D. M. Carey, has issued a proclamation and it has been proclaimed by the beat of [illegible]m in that town to the effect that whereas [illegible]r trial will take place on the 9th and [illegible]ary 1905 corresponding to Thurs[illegible] the 27th and 28th Magh 1311 [illegible] Howrah and Assansole, the [illegible]eed of not less than 30 [illegible] it is desirable in miles an hour, and wher[illegible] and successful the interest of public safe[illegible] Grand Trunk termination of the race that the [illegible] through Road between Howrah and Assans[illegible] clear which the cars will run should be k[illegible]ble, of all obstacles and traffic as far as [illegible] the public are also hereby informed to [illegible] dially co-operate with the police in keeping the roads clear of traffic and all obstructions from driving bullockcarts and other vehicles on the Grand Trunk Road and from letting loose cattle or from using the said road in any manner what-so-ever between 6 and 12 A. M. on the 9th, and 10 to 6 P. M. on the 10th February 1905.

Sometime ago a committee was appointed by the Government of Bengal to consider the question of introducing commercial education at the Presidency College. The committee has now drawn up a curriculum containing compulsory and optional subjects which it recommends should come into force not later than June. The Bengal Government has decided not to offer any scholarship in commercial subjects, in view of the reduction which it has sanctioned in the fees payable at the College. The Committee has approved of the proposal that local examinations should be adopted in preference to the London Chamber of Commerce examinations. They suggest that the setting of the papers for the examinations should be left to an Examination Board to be constituted for the purpose on which educational officers and representatives of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce should sit; that the certificates given by the Education Department to students who pass the examinations should be endorsed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; and that the Bengal Chamber and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce should be requested to publish lists of the successful examinees. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has chosen as its representatives on the examining body, Messrs. E. Henry, J. B. Lloyd and F. H. Stewart—a selection which will be generally admitted to be a very excellent one. While the Government of Bengal has declined to lead the way in the direction of offering prizes and scholarships it has intimated its willingness to permit such inducements to be offered privately. So far the only firm to avail itself of this permission has been the Remington Typewriter Co., which offers three gold medals to the students who acquired highest efficiency in typewriting. The Committee of the Bengal Chamber approves of the scheme in its final shape, and considers that if the classes and examinations are taken advantage of by students "a great improvement will take place in the attainments of clerks available for mercantile employment."

A Madras correspondent writes:—The entire failure of the rains has rendered the supplying of water so scanty at Coonoor that Mr. Lockyer, the Engineer for the Water Works, has been asked to turn the water from the Rallia pipe into the old open channel which now supplies the town. This was done on Thursday morning and the Bazaar is now being fully supplied. A little bird whispered to me that His Excellency the Governor will open the water works on his way to Ootacamund in April, on which occasion there will be an official ceremony and gathering on Reservoir Hill.

SUPREME LECISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FOURTH DAY.

A meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber, Government House, on Saturday.

INTERPELLATIONS.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale asked:—

1. Will Government be pleased to state if any general instructions had been issued by the Government of India to the several Local Governments or to the Chancellors of the several Universities in the matter of the notifications which the Chancellors were to publish under the Universities Act of last year, and, if so, will they lay these instructions on the table? 2. Had Government consulted their legal advisers about the legality or otherwise of the notifications which have been issued by the different Chancellors before introducing the Bill to validate action taken under the Universities Act, 1904? And, if so, will they place their opinion on the table? 3. Will Government be pleased to state if the Government of India had ever in the past, since the passing of the Indian Councils Act of 1861, to move the Legislature to legislate for validating action taken by the executive authority under Acts passed by the Legislature, and if so, on how many occasions and in what circumstances.

The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbbetson replied:—

The Government of India do not take any such action as that described by the Hon'ble Member in his first question: nor did they have occasion to consult the Law Officers on the point raised in the second.

2. A number of validating Acts have been passed by the Governor-General in Council since the year 1861. A list of validating Acts of the particular kind mentioned in the third question is placed on the table, together with a copy of each Act mentioned in the list. The circumstances under which the Acts were passed appear from the Acts themselves and from the proceedings of the Council.

List of Act passed by the Governor General in Council to validate action taken by executive authority under Acts of the Legislature.

In 1865—VIII—To make valid the imprisonment of certain persons arrested under the process of the High Court of Judicature at Fort William in Bengal in the exercise of its ordinary original civil jurisdiction.

In 1884—XIV—For the validation of decisions passed by certain Settlement-officers in the Punjab.

In 1884—XV—For the validation of certain licenses to solemnize marriages granted to ministers of religion under Act XXV of 1864.

In 1886—XIX—To legalize the discharge by the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of certain functions of the Governor General in Council.

In 1886—XX, sections 10 and 11.—To validate certain proceedings taken under rules made in Upper Burma.

In 1888—XVIII, section 6.—To validate proceedings taken by the Financial Commissioner of Burma.

In 1892—II—To validate certain marriages solemnized under Part VI of the Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872.

In 1892—VIII, section 3.—To validate past levy of tolls upon the Lansdowne Bridge.

In 1894—XV—To validate certain certificates granted to engineers of steam-ships.

In 1895—XI—To remove certain doubts as to the validity of certain proceedings and acts of certain officers of the Pegu and Tenasserim Divisions in Lower Burma and to prevent their being raised in the future.

In 1895—XVII—To validate certain marriages solemnized in the Civil and Mili[illegible] Station of Bangalore.

In 1898—X, section 3.—To c[illegible] made by the Bomba[illegible] m certain rule[illegible] Insolvenc[illegible] Court under the India[illegible] XV [illegible]848.

In 1899—[illegible] date certain marriages solemnized [illegible] the Native States of Pudukkottai and Travancore in India.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale said that he wished to raise a point of order. Under Rule 20 of the "Conduct of Business" every member of the Council was entitled to have a copy of the Bill at least before seven days. The hon'ble member got the copy of the Bill last Saturday, and it was not seven days since. He, therefore, submitted that the proceedings to this day's meeting was not to be valued.

His Excellency the President decided against Mr. Gokhale's objection, and asked the Council proceed with the business.

THE INDIAN UNIVERSITIES ACT.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richards moved that the Bill to validate action taken under the Indian Universities Act, 1904, be taken into consideration.

He said that on a former occasion he had explained the objects to the Council. He therefore only formally moved that the Bill be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale moved that for the words "the Bill to validate action taken under the Indian Universities Act, 1904, be taken into consideration," in Motion No. 1, the words "the consideration of the Bill to validate action taken under the Indian Universities Act, 1904, be postponed "sine die," be substituted.

He said:—

My Lord,

Last Friday, when I troubled the Council with a few observations on the Bill now before us, I ventured to suggest that the introduction of this measure and the hon'ble member's speech in support of it amounted to a practical admission that the notifications issued by the several Chancellors were illegal and ultra vires. The hon'ble member, however, took exception to my remark, and that makes it necessary that the Council should consider briefly the circumstances connected with their notifications and the position now created by them. For this purpose I would invite the attention of the Council to what has taken place at Calcutta and Bombay, and I take these two Universities, partly because it has been easier for me to obtain precise information in regard to them than in regard to others during the short time at my disposal, but mainly because the circumstances of the Calcutta University are brought to be within the personal konwledge of several members of this Council, and at Bombay matters have culminated in a suit being instituted in the High Court. My Lord, I have no wish to-day to stir up the ashes of the controversy that regard round the Universities Bill last year, though one may say in passing that some of the fears then expressed by the opponents of the measure about the probable exclusion of independent Indians from the administration of the University are already being more or less realised. What, for instance, can be more lamentable than that on the present Syndicate of the Calcutta Universities four Faculties out of five should be without a single Indian representative, and that in Bombay a man like Sir Pherozshah Mehta, once a Dean in Arts, who, in point of attainments and of zealous devotion to the best interests of the country, towers head and shoulders above many of those who have of late been posing as authorities on high education in this land, should be excluded from the Faculty of Arts? However, I know that any further complaint in the Council about the policy of the last year's Bill is like ploughing the sands of the seashore, and I have no wish to engage an enterprise at once so fruitless and so unnecessary. My Lord, I must ask the Council to glance for a while at what may be called the scene of the last year's Act in regard to the constitution of the first Senate and of Provisional Syndicates. That scheme, I contend, is both clear and adequate, and if only ordinary care had been taken to adhere to it, the present difficulties would not have arisen. The scheme would set forth in the several clauses of section 12. First of all there was to be election of Fellows by graduates, or by old elected Fellows, or by both. Then there was to be appointment of not more than three old Fellows by the Chancellor. And there was to be the election or rather co-aptation of ten more Fellows by the elected Fellows and Government nominees acting together. The co-aptation was to complete the Senate and then the Chancellor was to notify that the body corporate of the University had been governed, appending to the notification a list of the new Senate. As soon as this declaration were made the old Senate and the old Syndicate were to cease to exist, and the new Senate, that is the body corporate, was to elect a Provincial Syndicate in such manner as the Chancellor might direct,—the old bye-laws and regulations of the University continuing in force till new ones were framed except in so far as they were expressly or by implication superseded or modified. Now two things are absolutely clear: (1) That the election of the Provisional Syndicate is to be by the Senate :.e. the body corporate; and secondly, whatever discretion might be conferred on the Chancellor by the words "in such manner as the Chancellor may direct," that discretion is limited, first, by the expressed terms of the Act; and, secondly, by such old regulations and bye laws as have not been superseded or modified. The hon'ble member said last Friday that unless a very wide meaning was assigned to the words "in such manner as the Chancellor may direct" there would be a difficulty about fixing the number of the Syndicate. I am surprised that the hon'ble member's argument, for he forgets that the old regulation prescribes the number and the Act being silent in the matter that number must stand. On the other hand the regulations prescribe election by Faculties, but the Act expressly provides for election by the Senate; therefore the election by the Faculties must go. I therefore contend that the scheme of the Act for the constitution of the First Senate and the Provisional Syndicate is a clear and complete scheme, and the responsibility of the present muddle rests not on those who [illegible]ed the Act, but on those who did not take sufficient care to understand its provisions which exceeded their powers in taking action under it. Indeed, my Lord, I wonder what Sir Thomas Raleigh in his retirement will think of these proceedings in Council and of the justification urged for them, for to my mind they are little less than reflection on the patient industry and care with which he elaborated the provisions of the Universities Bill and I think it will strike him as an irony of Fate, that while these proceedings should be initiated by those who were among th[illegible] ports of his Bill, it [illegible] for an [illegible] sure to protest again[illegible] tisfactory work which they involv[illegible] him! My Lord, I have so far briefly sketched what may be called the scheme of the Act. Let us now see how they have followed this scheme in practice at Bombay and Calcutta. In Bombay the election of ten Fellows by graduates and by old elected Fellows took place all right. The appointment of 80 Government nominees followed in proper form. Finally 90 proceeded to couple the remaining ten sitting and voting together as required by the Act. The Bombay Senate was thus regularly constituted and no one has taken any exception to its constitution. Then can the Chancellor's notification about the election of a Provisional Syndicate, in which he arbitrarily divided the Fellows into groups, which he had no power to do, and directed these several groups to meet and vote separately and on separate days which also he had no power to do, be legal? And when the illegal character of the notification was brought to his notice and opinions of eminent lawyers in support of their view were forwarded to him, the University authorities persisted in acting on the notification with the result that the aggrieved party had to move the High Court for redress! In Calcutta the catalogue of illegalities was even longer. Here the election of ten Fellows by graduates and by old elected Fellows took place all right and the Chancellor's nominations were also in regular form. From this point, however, commenced the regular series of irregularities. The ten Fellows to be co-apted were not co-apted by the elected and the nominated Fellows sitting and voting together as required by the Act. The constitution of the Calcutta Senate itself was thus defective. Then the Chancellor divided this Senate into Faculties for purposes of electing the Syndicates which he had no power to do. The old regulations which are still in force recognise only four Faculties but the Chancellor constituted five Faculties on his own responsibility which was irregular. Under the old regulations every Fellow, 'ex-officio," or ordinary must belong to at least one Faculty. But the Chancellor did not assign the ex-officio Fellow to any Faculties which was irregular. Finally, the Provincial Syndicate was elected by the Faculties instead of by the Senate, as expressly required by the Act, and this was irregular. And how, after all these irregularities have been committed the Government of India come to the Legislature with a proposal to validate all that is being done! In doing so they ignore the fact that they are interfering with a pending suit, destroying the protection of High Court which the public prizes above everything else, lower the dignity of the Legislature and create throughout the country a most deplorable impression about the practical irresponsibility of the executive government, and yet when it is said that the action of the Government is a practical admission that the notifications were illegal, the hon'ble member thinks it necessary to protest against the inference! My Lord, I think the matter is pretty clear. In any case the view that the notifications are illegal and "ultra vires" is supported by three distinguished members of the Bombay Bar—two of them being Europeans who have taken no part in recent educational conaroversies and who occupy the foremost positions in their profession in Bombay. Can the hon'ble member quote on the other side any authority of equal eminence or anything like equal eminence, or any eminence at all? Is he prepared to pledge his own reputation as a lawyer to the view that the notifications are legal? And if he is not, I submit my inference is a fair inference, and I think I am entitled to draw it. The hon'ble member complained last time that I had no alternative course to suggest. This was surely a most extraordinary complaint to make, for in the next Senate he proceeded to show how my suggestion, viz., that the faulty notifications should be withdrawn and others, in accordance with law, substituted in their place would involve waste of time and work, and prove harmful to the interests of the University. My Lord, I really think it is the duty of the Government not less than that of private individuals to face whatever, inconvenience has to be faced in obeying the law, and the only proper and dignified course for the Government was to have waited till the Bombay High Court had pronounced its judgment, and if that decision had been adverse to the Government to have withdrawn the notifications held to be illegal, and to have substituted others in their place framed in accordance with law—a validating Bill being at the same time introduced to legalize the work done during the interval by the defectively constituted bodies. If, on the other hand, the Court had decided in favour of the Government, nothing further need have been done in the matter, unless the decision had been reversed by the higher authority. The hon'ble members drew last time a dismal picture of the result to be a state of uncertainty it would produce. That picture, however, need not frighten anybody—at any rate, no one who is acquainted with the inner working of an Indian University, it would not have taken so very long after all to set matters right and in the interval the Vice-Chancellor, and the Registrar could have carried on the ordinary executive business of the University, and whatever temporary inconvenience had resulted should have been borne as inevitable. Instead of this the Government has chosen a course which is hardly respectful to his Majesty's Judges which intervenes by means of legislation in favour of one party to a pending suit which lowers the dignity of Legislature and which proclaims that the executive authority in this country is perfectly above law. I decline to be a party to such a cause and I therefore beg to move the amendment which stands in my name.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richards in opposing the amendment said that he had to ask the Council to reject the amendment. He proposed to do so very briefly. On a former occasion he had already discussed the matter, and it really lay within a very small compass. The Hon'ble member had said that the matter was governed by the existing bye-laws. These existing bye-laws applied to a totally different state of things. If the election was to be by the Senate and not by the Faculties it would be impossible to say how for these bye-laws applied and what part of them was good and what part was bad—what part applicable to this case or not. It seemed to be supposed these Provisional Syndicates had in their hands the whole of the future prospects of the Universities and was going to wield their powers for good or for evil all their life. Such, however was not the case. They were simply transitory bodies which carried on the [illegible] Universities, granted deg[illegible]ated examinations for a time [illegible] were superseded by the perma[illegible]ndicate. They have no absolute powers, the Senate being the real controlling authority.

He ventured to suggest that the matter had been very greatly exaggerated. The matter existed for temporary purposes only until they were substituted by the permanent Syndicate. He ventured to submit that the Provisional Syndicate had not the importance as had been described. In moving for leave to introduce the Bill a week ago he pointed out that there was a state of confusion; and that it was most detrimental to the progress of the Universities. He called attention of of the Council that in Bombay legal proceedings had been taken and in Calcutta it was threatening to do so. The Universities of Allahabad and Madras were on the same footing. These were the facts which were in dispute that had been admitted. What was to be done? Was something to be done to put a stop to it? Every well-wishers would desire to put an end to this state of confusion. The only question was whether there was any remedy more suitable that could be applied. He invited the Council to put aside the case of Bombay at present and to deal with it in regard to other Universities. The objection taken was nothing but technical. The election proceeded in exactly the same way as was held in the past. It took place before the whole Senate without any protest. Therefore what he had to deal with was purest technicality. There was no substantial grievance to be dealt with at all. The Bill which he had the honour to bring before them would set right that technicality, it would remove all doubts and would allow the progress of the University. The Hon'ble member had suggested that that was not the proper course but that a fresh appointment of the Provisional Syndicate would be made. That would cause great delay. He ventured to think that it would be impossible for the Senate to make a fresh appointment. If the present Provisional Syndicate had been properly appointed they had no power to make a fresh appointment. It would be open to bring injunction against the second Syndicate and the confusion would not be removed. He could not advise the Council to embark any other course. Legislation was the only course open to them now. The Council was not the place where the question of legalities or illegalities might be discussed. Litigation would mean delay, stop work, waste time and involve expense, but legislation avoided all this and was the proper and only course to put an end to all this state of doubts and allow University work to continue.

The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson opposed the amendment. He said that the action of the Chancellor was according to the prescription of the law. The objection was purely technical.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale said that the Hon'ble Mr. Richards began by saying that the Council was not the place where legalities or illegalities might be profitably discussed. He agreed with the Hon'ble member. The Hon'ble Mr. Richards had said that the Provisional Syndicate was only a transitory body; but he submitted that the Hon'ble member had forgotten that the principal functions of that Syndicate was to regulate and draft bye-laws.

The amendment was then put to the vote and lost

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale withdrew the following amendment which stood against his name:—

"That for the words "the Bill to validate action taken under the Indian Universities Act, 1904, be taken into consideration," in Motion No. 1, the words "the consideration of the Bill to validate action taken under the Indian Universities Act, 1904, be postponed till the 24th February, 1905, or to such later date as may be thought proper," be substituted."

The original motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Richards was then put to the vate and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale moved that after clause 1 of the Bill the following clause be added clauses 2 and 3 being renumbered 3 and 4 respectively, namely:—

"2. Nothing in this Act shall apply to the University of Bombay."

He said:—

My Lord I have already twice referred to what has taken place at Bombay, but in asking that the Bombay University be excluded from the operation of this Bill, I must recapitulate once more the facts on which I base my motion, and I hope the Council will bear with me while I do so. The most important difference between Bombay and elsewhere has been this that while in other places the illegality of the notifications was not discovered before the elections and no formal protests were in consequence made at the time in Bombay, even this plea of acquiescence on the part of members of the Senate is not available to Government. Of course such acquiescence, or the absence of it does not affect the legal position, but it is a moral consideration of very real importance. In Bombay, the illegal character of the notification was perceived as soon as it was issued. The members who perceived it, therefore, took legal opinion. They first consulted Mr. Inverarity and the Hon'ble Mr. Setalwad, who both condemned the notification in unequvocal and emphatic terms as illegal. Then they consulted Mr. Lowndes, who was equally emphatic in his condemnation. All three counsels thought that the illegality was so patent that it had only to be brought to the notice of the Chancellor and they felt confident that he would see the necessity of withdrawing the notification. Armed with these opinions, Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, himself a lawyer, occupying a commanding position at the Bar, and several other fellows approached the Chancellor and asked for a reconsideration of the question before it was too late. All this was done before the date of the first elections. The University authorities however took it upon themselves to ignore the whole thing and proceeded to hold the elections as directed in the notification. At the meeting of the Arts Group the Vice-Chancellor presided, and he allowed a motion to adjourn so as to give time to the Chancellor to re-consider the matter to be put to the meeting. The next day the Law Group met the Judicial Member of the Bombay Government, whose interest in University matters has hitherto been by no means conspicuous, attended and took the chair, which otherwise would have been taken by the Senior Fellow present—Sir Pherozeshah Mehta—and, flouting the ruling of the Vice-Chancellor of the previous day, ruled a motion for adjournment out of order, and after a majority of the members present had left the meeting under protest, got the remaining five—including himself—to elect the two representatives for Law. These high-handed proceedings left no option to those who saw the illegality and declined to be a party to it, but to go to the High Court. And on this being done the University authorities have come to the Supreme Government with an appeal to shield them and save their prestige by means of a validating measure. My Lord, to use the powers of the Legislative for validating what has taken place in Bombay is to abuse those powers. For it means validating illegalities committed in the light of day and in spite of warnings and protests. It means validating high-handedness. It means interfering with a pending suit which, on the part of private individuals, is regarded as contempt of Court. It means coming between the aggrieved party—and the protection which it has a right to look for at the hands of the High Court. It means securing to the wrong-doers the fruits of his wrong-doing. Finally it means penalizing those who have declined to be a party to an illegal proceeding and have done their best to have it set right; for, as I pointed out last time, these men did not take any part in the elections; they did not allow themselves to be nominated as candidates; and they did not vote, fully believing that the illegal elections could not be upheld, and would have to be set aside and to uphold the elections now by means of legislation is to disenfranchise them. Then, my Lord, there is the question of costs. These men have had to spend money in taking the course they were compelled to take. Counsels do not give their opinion for nothing, neither do they appear to argue a case for nothing, and if the matter had been left to be decided by the High Court, their costs would probably have been awarded to them if the decision had been in their favour. My Lord, does the Legislature exist for perpetration of what may be called legislative injustice? Was no other course open to Government? In Bombay, at any rate, there is no question of the Senate having to be reconstituted. The only thing needed is to withdraw the notification about the election of the Syndicate and substitute another in its place in accordance with law. This could be done at once, and the new elections might take place in a week's time after that. Surely the University of Bombay can exist for a week without a Syndicate and even the hon'ble member in charge of the Bill will have to admit that when it is remembered that from 8th December, when the notification about the new Senate appeared, to the 17th January, when the Provisional Syndicate was formed,—i.e., for more than five weeks—there was no Syndicate in Bombay, and the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar carried on the executive business of the University without any hitch. There is thus no reasonable ground for undertaking the present legislation for Bombay, while there are several most important considerations against the course adopted by the Government. I, therefore, beg to move that the Bombay University be excluded from the scope of this Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richards said that he should ask the Council to reject the amendment. That amendment was based on the ground that special grievance existed in the case of Bombay. In his speech on the last subject the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale had said that the election had been by a handful of men. He had gone into the question as to how the members of the Provisional Syndicate were elected. He had taken the facts from the

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plaint which had been filed in the High Court of Bombay. He submitted that there was no grievance at all. He therefore asked the Council to reject the amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale said that the Hon'ble Mr. Richards had laboured under misapprehension. The law represented 11 members out of which six withdrew and the five remained. 45 members were for the Arts out of which 20 were present and the rest absent. As regards Engineering all the members were Government officers and they could not look for independent opinion on the part of the Government officials. There was no use of going into details. The people of Bombay were not satisfied with the newly constituted body Election had been proceeded with inspite of illegality.

The amendment was then put to the vote. A Division was taken with the result that five voted for the amendment and fourteen against it.

The amendment was put and lost.

The Hon'ble Mr. Richards moved that the Bill be passed.

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Sayid Mohamud opposed the motion.

The Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur said:—My Lord with regard to the motion before the council I have to say a few words. As has already been said by my friend the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale, Government ought to have adopted the more proper and the more constitutional method of cancelling the notifications issued, orders and appointments made under certain provision of the Indian Universities Act the legality of which has been challenged and to proceed a fresh according to law. The introduction of the Bill now before us shows that the doubts raised against the legality of these provisions are not groundless.

It is a unique procedure for the Government and for which no emergency has been shown to resort to litigation in order to validate the actions of the Executive which are illegal or at least of doubtful legality. This will create a precedent which is not called for by the exigencies of the case.

I therefore vote against the passing of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale said that he had already spoken thrice on the Bill, but he could not let it pass without a final word of protest. The British Rule in this country had hitherto been described as the reign of Low. A few mere mesures, however like the present and that description would have to be abondoned and another substituted for it, namely reign of executive irresponsibility and validating legislation. The Government were paying too great a price for what was undoubtedly an attempt to save the prestige ever so saved. On the, other hand an occasional admission of fallibility was not bad, especially for a strong government like the British Government. He would vote against the passing of the Bill.

His Honor in supporting the motion said:—My Lord, I desire in regard to my own personal opinion to state that I thoroughly agree with the Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson as to the reasonableness of the action which has been taken by the Chancellors of the Universities in regard to the constitution of the Senates and Syndicates. I also agree with him that the action taken has been undoubtedly in accordance with the spirit of the Universities Act and with the intention of the Legislature in regard to what are called the transitory provisions of that Act. I shall not trouble the Council with any remarks in this connection.

I shall only detain Hon'ble Members for a few minutes with a view of indicating what action has been taken in the Senate of the University of Calcutta in connection with this matter. Although I may not be able to agree with all that has been said or done in the Senate, and may regret that time has, to some extent, been wasted; yet on the whole I think that the action taken has been, in all the circumstances, reasonable and has not been characterised on the part of either section of the Senate by a desire to obstruct the business of the University.

No doubt it seems ta have suggested itself to the minds of the members of the Calcutta Senate as to the legality of the notifications issued by His Excellency the Chancellor in regard to the formation of Faculties, the election of the members who require to be elected by Faculties, and the election of the Syndicate, until they heard what had taken place in Bombay. There was undoubtedly some dissatisfaction with the constitution of the Syndicate in regard to the exclusion of one or two names; but this was attributable to the particular manner in which certain members of the Senate exercised their votes and not to the directions contained in the notifications. When, however, doubts were thrown in Bombay on the legality of the notifications and the validity of the election of the Syndicate, the minds of certain members of the Calcutta Senate became disturbed. On Friday the 27th ultimo my friend Sir Gooroodas Banerji proposed a motion accepting the alleged illegality as a fact and declining to deal with the recommendations which the Syndicate had submitted to the Senate. He has since informed me that he intended to follow up that motion if it carried with a proposal to continue the business of the day by taking up the substance of the Syndicate's recommendations as though they had arisen on the spot instead of having come from the Syndicate. Unfortunately he had given no notice of this second motion; and his first motion was resisted and defeated after the loss of a great deal of time and the motion too was adjourned until Friday last. Last Friday Mr. Sinha was to have moved the following motion. 'As doubts have been raised regarding the validity of the appointment of the Provisional Syndicate, the Senate request His Excellency the Chancellor to take such steps in the matter as may be deemed necessary, and in the meanwhile the Senate do proceed with the urgent business of the University. I have quoted the terms of this motion, which I have no doubt would have adopted by the Senate, because I consider that it is under the circumstances a very reasonable motion, enabling the Senate to go on with the business of the University and leave the question of legality to be settled elsewhere. The motion, however, was withdrawn because of a letter which I have written as Rector of the University to the Vice-Chancellor from this Council Chamber in the morning, informing him of the introduction of this Bill and expressing a hope that the Senate might now go on with its business. That letter was read to the Senate by the Vice-Chancellor; and the Senate feeling that the reasonable suggestion of Mr. Sinha had been already anticipated by His Excellency the Chancellor went on to the business of the day. I may remark that the Revd. Father Lafont had given notice of another motion for the meeting of Wednesday last questioning the legality of the position of two members of the Syndicate, and proposing that the Senate should take the necessary steps for a valid election of the members to represent the Faculty of Science. His fear was that, as the Faculty of Science does not exist at present under the regulations, the position of these members might be impugned. Finding however that the Bill now before this Council would validate the constitution of the Syndicate as it exists he withdrew his motion. This indcates the "bona fides" of his doubts and his desire not unnecessarily to impede the work of the University.

Another point in the procedure of the Calcutta Senate to which I wish to draw special attention is, that the Senate have fully recognised that the separation of the members of the Senate into Faculties by His Excellency the Chancellor was effected (as the notifications show) for two specific purposes only, namely firstly for the election of Fellows who require to be elected by the Faculties under section 6 (b) in accordance with the provisions of section 12 (c) and secondly for the election of the Provisional Syndicate under section 1z (p). The Senate have therefore since gone out to constitute provisional Faculties for all other purposes under the powers conferred on them by section 12 (q), they have not conceived the notion that the notifications of the Chancellor were intended to supersede the powers given to them by sec. 12 (q) but have realised that these notifications were issued for the specific purposes indicated therein.

The third point which I wish to emphasise in the action of the Senate of the Calcutta University is, that they have gone on to elect Committees under section 12 (q) as proposed by the Syndicate, the two sections of the Senate consulting together as to the membership of these Committees, the constitution of which has accordingly been unanimously approved. This course of procedure seems to me to be admirably adapted to the furtherance of the University business. The only exception was in the case of a recommendation by the Syndicate that the Syndicate itself should formulate regulations on some more important subjects. The Senate by a small majority decided rather to appoint a Committee of 13. There is no doubt that this motion was carried mainly on account of the dissatisfaction to which I have already referred as existing in the minds of some members of the Senate with the membership of the Syndicate. The Syndicate consists of 10 members and the Vice-Chancellor. Registrar also sits on the Syndicate though not as a member of their body. In the Committee of 13 that was formed by the Senate, every member being balotted for, there were retained the Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and 7 out of 10 members of the Syndicate. Three members of the Syndicate had, in consequence of the vote, to give place on the Committee to three others. In one case Surgeon-General Bomford took the place of Lieutenant-Colonel Harris of the Indian Medical Service, it being reasonable that the former should be on this temporary Committee though he could hardly be on the Syndicate, being so little in Calcutta. In another case an officer, Mr. Russell, who is going on leave, was not selected; but Mr. P. K. Roy was selected in his place for this work. The third case was the substitution of Mr. Percival for Mr Wheeler. The only additional name may be regarded as that of the Rev. Father Lafont. The mere statement of the facts shows that the method of election by Faculties produced substantially the same result which would have by the method of election by the whole Senates, and the method adopted of bringing in a name which was omitted more by accident than by design was a reasonable and proper method.

My Lord, I have mentioned these facts to show that although the business of the Senate of the University of Calcutta might have been a little more promptly disposed of but for the doubts which have arisen in Bombay; yet there has been little manifestation of the spirit of obstruction; and I am glad to say that the preliminary business has been completely disposed of. It seems to me that the work of the Universities will never go on as surely all of us desire that it should, without something of give and take and courteous consultation among the members of the Senate, and an earnest desire not to waste time but to get work done. It is because this Bill secures most easily and effectively the carrying on of the work of the University that I strongly support it. I cannot sympathise with what has fallen from the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale as to the trifling importance of the loss of precious time and of valuable work in connection with the University; and I cannot believe that when Mr. Gokhale looks at this matter more carefully dispassionately he will be prepared to state such a view as strongly as he has done. He has spoken of the fact that we are accustomed to see the work of the Universities interrupted by such calamities as plague; and he thinks that this fact ought to lead us to believe that the work of the Universities should be interrupted by these doubts regarding the validity of the constitution of the provisional Syndicate. If we could remove plague as easily as we can solve these doubts, we should be inexcusable for allowing the work of University to be interrupted by plague. It is because I think that it is the duty of this Council to remove these doubts, to prevent the waste of money and of time in litigation, and to facilitate the work of the Universities in its preliminary stages, in accordance with the intention of the legislature in passing the transitory provisions in the Act last year, that I support the Bill now before the Council.

His Excellency the President said:—In spite of the heroics in which the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale indulged in his concluding speech just now I venture to think that the truest remark that has been made this morning fell from my Hon'ble Colleague sitting upon my left, when he said that the importance of this matter has been gravely exaggerated. As I understand the case, the question before us is essentially a small one. When we passed our Universities Bill last year it became necessary to provide for a transitional period before the new constitution came into final operation. For this purpose what are called the transitory provisions were inserted in Section 12 of the Act. I confess that I was never very much enamoured of those provisions myself. They contain a number of conundrums almost unintelligible to the mind of the average layman, and certainly unintelligible to myself. But I would remind the Council that they were not part of the original Bill. We owe those transitory provisions in the main to the ingenuity of a learned Judge of the High Court of Calcutta, a Member of this Council a year ago, a member of the Select Committee that was responsible for turning the Bill into its present shape, and one of the most consistent allies of the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale himself. Mr. Gokhale in one of his speeches said he wondered what Sir Thomas Raleigh would think of our procedure of to-day. I earnestly hope that Sir Thomas Raleigh in his peaceful retreat in England will not bother himself about anything so essentially trivial. But if he is in anxiety about the views of Sir Thomas Raleigh, what must be the mental position of the learned Judge?

Under one of the sub-sections of this Section 12 a Provisional Syndicate was to be appointed to carry on the business of the University and to frame the necessary regulations for the permanent Syndicate, in the interval before this was appointed later on. The Provisional Syndicate was to be appointed by the Senate in such a manner as the Chancellor might direct. Upon this authority the various Chancellors in the various Universities proceeded to act, and the various Provisional Syndicates were elected, not always in the same way. I know nothing of the proceedings that took place at the other Universities, because I was absent from India at the time: neither had I anything to do with the constitution of the Provisional Syndicate here, beyond indicating the method of procedure for the election, as I was by the terms of the Statute bound to do. The Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale is good enough to tell me that my action was irregular throughout. With all respect I must decline to take him as an authority upon a matter of law. I have other legal advisers whose opinions are perhaps equal to his own and whose opinions do not coincide with his. I knew nothing of the provisional faculties or of the elections that they made. The first I heard of it was when I saw their names in the newspapers. Any suspicion, therefore, that the Government at large or the Chancellor of the Calcutta University in particular were trying to arrange matters in accordance with their views is absolutely groundless. We have not any certain knowledge whether our action was even illegal. Reading the Act as a layman I should be very much inclined to say that the action, in Calcutta at any rate, was strictly legal, and such, I believe, is the opinion of the Hon'ble Member who sits upon my left. But even if it was illegal, it is surely quite clear that the illegality was of the most petty description and was due to an ambiguity in the wording of the Act for which the Government were not mainly responsible.

Now what has happened? The question of legality has been raised, not here but in Bombay. There the matter seems, I agree with the Hon'ble Member in that respect, to be rather more open to doubt, though, while agreeing with him on that point, I must state that he had no right whatever to say in his speech the other day, and to repeat in one of his speeches to-day, that the Government by their action had admitted the illegality themselves. That is far from being our position. On the contrary, it was disputed by Mr. Richards throughout.

Anyhow, the matter was raised in Bombay and was brought before the High Court. there. It might equally have been raised here; we had reason to believe that the friends of the Hon'ble Member in this city were waiting to see what happened at Bombay in order to raise the question here. An era of litigation apeared therefore to threaten. And what did litigation mean? It meant not only the sometimes dilatory process before the Courts of Law with which we are familiar in this country, but also suspension of the work of the Universities until the point was settled, perhaps months later on. I quite agree with what has just fallen from His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor on this point. I was surprised to hear the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale say last week that this did not much matter, that he was even willing that months should be wasted before this question was settled. That phrase would come naturally enough [illegible] of a professed enemy of [illegible] It does not come so well [illegible] a sincere friend of educa[illegible] light in which we always [illegible] the Hon'ble Member and in [illegible] depicts himself in this Cham[illegible] situation that the Governmen[illegible] nary and obvious means placed [illegible] posal intervened to stop. The [illegible] Hon'ble Member tells us that ou[illegible] arbitrary, that we have assumed [illegible] of practical irresponsibility which [illegible] produced a most deplorable effect, and just now, in a moving peroration, he even indicated that the reign of law was coming to an end in India, and I am not quite certain that he did not set it down to my discredit that I was to be the Viceroy under whom this disastrous state of affairs was about for the first time to arise.

Now I need hardly tell Hon'ble Members that when the Hon'ble Mr. Gokhale made these remarks, he made them not for this assembly but for the benefit of his friends outside. The Government, in introducing a validating Bill, to resolve the doubts that have arisen, are not doing anything that they have not done before; there is no novelty in their action; they are not intervening to secure anything for Government which we want and which we ought not to seek. All that we are doing is to intervene to prevent the unfortunate consequences that have already in part resulted, and that might result in an even greater degree, from an ambiguity in the wording of the Bill; and as for the deplorable effect that is alleged to have been produced, I think a much more deplorable effect would have ensued had the Government not interfered, and had they allowed this state of suspended animation, of interrupted work, on the part of the bodies that we spent so much time in constituting last year, to continue.

Of course the Hon'ble Member sees in our action much more. In his eyes I am afraid that the Government are always guilty of dark deeds, which it is his duty to discover and lay bare. He said, for instance this morning that what had already happened showed how true were the prophecies of himself and his friends a year ago. He remarked that some of their fears had been more or less realised. Well, I was waiting to discover what those fears were; but he then passed away from the subject. I think it was prudent on his part to introduce these qualifications for this reason. The particular fear in which the Hon'ble Member habitually indulged last year, and which figured in almost all his speeches, was that the Government was going to pack the Senates of the new Universities. He wrote in his Note of Dissent that "the object of the Bill is to place the Indian element in so hopeless a minority as to dissociate it for all practical purposes from the government of the Universities. This much is clear, the rest is doubtful." Then in one of his speeches later on, which I remember rebuking at the time, he said that the Senates of the future would be dominantly European with only a slight sprinkling of Indians just to keep up appearances. Now let us see how the fears of the Hon'ble Member have been more or less realised. In the Senate of the Calcutta University, for which I am in the main responsible, the Indians are in a majority over the Europeans of 3; in the Bombay University, which the Hon'ble Member knows so well, the Natives have a majority of 14. In other words, 57 out of 100 is what he described by anticipation as a slight sprinkling of Natives. In Lahore the Natives are in a majority of 3. In fact the Universities of Madras and Allahabad are the only two Universities upon the Senates of which the Europeans are in the majority; and their majority in Madras is only 4 and in Allahabad only 5.

The Hon'ble Member has been very eloquent to-day about the attitude of Government, and I have ventured, I hope, without offence to reply to him. May I suggest to him that he should turn his attention for a moment to the attitude of his own friends? Is he quite sure that a disinterested love of education has been at the bottom of their action in this matter? It is difficult, I think, to believe it of all of them. To do them justice there is a certain class of opponents of Government who have never pretended it for a moment. The object of that class is quite clear it has been stated in their organs. They desire, in the first place, to discredit the Universities which the Government created last year and to bring their work to a standstill, and, in the second place, they wish to bring about an election of new provisional Syndicates who would be more in sympathy with the views of the enemies of the Act than those who have been elected, and who might help them in practice to break it down. That as we all know is the scheme that has been devised in certain quarters, and it is now about to fail.

I could not help being a little amused last week when the Hon'ble Member called us to witness that he had been greatly moved by an appeal made by the Lieutenant-Governor last year; that since then he had been exercising all his energies to make our Bill a success, but that he had been diverted from this excellent enterprise by the arbitrary conduct of Government in once again bringing the matter into the arena of controversy. Considering that the whole matter that we are sitting here today to discuss is in consequence of action not taken by the Government but taken by the friends of the Hon'ble Member, this seems to me rather strong.

Now, however, that this move has failed, I hope that the Hon'ble Member and those who act with him. will return to the role of true friends of education in this country, and that we may expect his co-operation in future in defeating any further attempts to impair the success of the Act, which I really believe that, equally with ourselves, he has at heart.

The motion was put to the vote.

A Division was taken with the result that four voted against the motion and fifteen for it.

The motion was agreed to.

The Council then adjourned till Friday the 24th February.

GAZETTE OF INDIA.—FEB. 11.

The services of Maulvi Muhammad Yasin Khan, a Deputy Commissioner in Berar, are replaced at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, with effect from the 1st January 1905.

The services of Captain F. O. N. Mell, M.B., I.M.S. (Madras), are placed permanently at the disposal of the Honourable the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, with effect from the 15th November 1904, for employment in the Jail Department.

Captain H. Wood, R. E., Assistant Superintendent, 1st grade, Survey of India, [illegible] ted privilege leave for three [illegible] months [illegible] March 1905, or [illegible] which he may avail[illegible]

[illegible] ant T. H. St. G. Tucker, a Political [illegible] of the 3rd class, is posted as Assistant Political Agent in Zhob.

Captain A. B. Dew, a Political Assistant of the 3rd (officiating 1st) class, is posted as Assistant Political Agent and Assistant Commissioner Sibi.

Captain L.B.H. Haworth, a Political Assistant of the 3rd class is posted as Assistant Political Agent for Chageh.

The services of Mr. L.E. Pritchard are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Dept. of Revenue and Agriculture, with effect from the 13th Feburary 1905.

Mr. T. C. Eagles, Deputy Comptroller, Post Office, Bengal Circle Audit Office, is granted privilege leave for two months with effect from the 1st of February 1905.

The following arrangements are made during the absence on leave of Mr. T. C. Eagles:—Mr. W. A. Kelly, Assistant Comptroller, Post Office, Bengal Circle Audit Office, to officiate as Deputy Comptroller; Mr. J. C. Jore to officiate as Assistant Comptroller, Post Office, Bengal Circle Audit Office; Mr. J. A.,O. Brien Deputy Commtoller, Post Office Class 11 to, act as Deputy Comptroller, Post Ooffice Class; I; Mr. W. A. Kelly, Assistant Comptroller, Post Office, Class I to act as Deputy Comptroller, Post Office, Class II; Mr. E. W. Saxton, Officiating Assistant Comptroller, Post Office, Class II, to act as Assistant Comptroller, Post Office, Class 1, and Mr. J. C. Jore to act as Assistant Comptroller, Post Office, Class II.

Mr. W. D. Barrow, Executive Engineer, 1st grade, State Railways, is permitted to retire from the service of Government with effect from the 22nd February 1905.

Mr. G. Perie, Traffic Inspector and Officiating Assistant Traffic Superintendent, Eastern Bengal State Railway, is granted the honorary rank of Assistant Traffic Superintendent.

The wave of cold weather, which seems to have passed over the whole of India, has been unduly severe on Delhi, as results go to show. The temperature is reported to be below freezing point every night, while numerous deaths from plague and pneumonia have occurred in the city.

A Cuddapa correspondent writes to the "Madras Mail":—The plague appeared suddenly in Chinna Tippa Samudram a fortnight ago, and still lingers. There have been eleven cases, six of which proved fatal and some are still lingering. There have been a couple of deaths, and a few new cases, this week. The town is evacuated entirely and is being thoroughly disinfected. The disease does not seem to have been carried to any other places from Chinna Tippa Samudram.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, Feb. 7.

The assassin of Johnsson at Helsingfors is a former student of the Helsingfors University and has been latterly living in Sweden.

London, Feb. 7.

A number of murders are taking place on blacklegs at Warsaw. Handfuls of men who are working at the re-opened mills at Lodz are so terrorized that their employers have decided to reclose the mills indefinitely. Eighty-four people were killed and wounded yesterday in a strike disturbance, which began at Radom and the neighbouring town of Shargizka.

The Tsar approved the recommendation of the Council of Ministers for a revision of the Press Laws by a widely representative Committee and for various restrictions of the Minister of the Interior's rights regarding the same in the meanwhile.

London, Feb. 7.

A remarkable feature in the situation in Russia is the constant spread of the strike movement in all directions. Warsaw and Lodz are generally quieter, though occasional disturbances take place, and work is still suspended.

The agitation is increasing at Tiflis and Batoum. Sanguinary conflicts between the police, Cossacks and revolutionary mobs in the streets have taken place at Tiflis. The strike is spreading on the Trans-Caucasus railway. Troop trains proceeding to Batoum have been derailed and the line cut by the strikers.

London, Feb. 8.

Reuter's correspondent wires from St. Petersburg that Father Gapon is known to be in Switzerland.

Mr. Trepoff has summoned the Curator of the Education Department, and has informed him that he is determined to put down academic anarchy, and that all students and scholars refusing to return to their studies tranquilly will be summarily expelled, and if professors sympathised with students, education at St. Petersburg would cease.

A decree issued by the Tsar appoints M. Hobeko, Councillor of the Empire, president of an influential committee to revise the censorship of the Press Laws.

London, Feb. 8.

The Tsar has approved and referred to the Committee of Ministers, for immediate legislation, a series of most liberal proposals by the Minister of Finance, dealing with conditions of labour recognizing notably a workman's right to strike, which has hitherto been regarded as a crime.

London, Feb. 8.

General Gripenberg and Staff have arrived at Irkutsk "en route" to St. Petersburg. Current reports state that Gripenberg is going to St. Petersburg for the purpose of accusing Kuropatkin of leaving him in lurch and also of general inertia.

London, Feb. 9.

Advices from Warsaw state that the hospitals there are full, and the authorities are refusing to admit any more wounded rioters.

It is officially announced at St. Petersburg that the number of rioters killed at Petrokoff, and Radom do not exceed [illegible]dred. Altogether nine [illegible] wounded in Warsaw al[illegible] cial announcement.

Rumours are [illegible] there will [illegible] at St. Peter[illegible] strike [illegible] be a general resumption of work [illegible] on Sundap. Railway constructio[illegible] are already given out, and there ha[illegible] undoubtedly been further trouble at the Putiloff works. The whole situation is full of uncertainty.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Feb. 7.

Although Russia officially declares that peace is impossible unless Japan takes the initiative, the Government is undoubtedly considering the conditions. Russia is willing to cede Manchuria, including Port Arthur and Japan demands Saghalien and a large monetary indemnity.—"Englishman."

London, Feb. 8.

Admiral Togo has arrived at Kure and hoists his flag on board the Mikasa immediately.

London, Feb. 8.

The British steamer "Easterig" coal laden for Vladivostock, has been captured at Hokkaid.

London, Feb. 9.

Strikes of University Professors and students are becoming general throughout Russia.

London, Feb. 9.

Reuter, wiring from Tokio, says that Takahashi, Vice-President of the Bank of Japan, sails on the 17th instant for America and England. This is regarded in London as presaging a new foreign loan.

GENERAL

London, Feb. 8.

A fatal plague case occurred at Liverpool on board the steamer "Orews Hall" from Rangoon.

London, Feb. 9.

The "New York World" says the Government has practically decided to return China after the war twenty-two million dollars of the indemnity remaining after the settlement of American claims.

London, Feb. 9.

The steamer "Craftsman" from Calcutta collided with and sank the collier "Congal," bound for Hongkong, in Port Said harbour.

London, Feb. 9.

King Oscar of Sweden has transferred his functions because he is not robust enough to deal with the new crisis arising from the final disagreement between Sweden and Norway concerning separate Consular Services.

London, Feb. 9.

The French cruiser "Sully" is badly ashore along the Bay of Tongking. Her crew have been taken off.

London, Feb. 9.

The man-of-war "Uruguay," belonging to the Argentine Republic has returned to Buenos Ayres after a prolonged and fruitless search for the French Antarctic Expedition, under Doctor Charcot, regarding which it is feared that all have perished in a great storm in April, 1904.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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Jail Visitors.—Mr. J. S. Middleton is appointed to be a non-official visitor of the Presidency Jail. Mr. Brooke Fox is appointed to be a non-official visitor of the Bankipore Jail.

Postal.—Mr. Maxwell, C.S. Deputy Director-General, Post Office will proceed home on leave in April. Mr. Harrison, C. S., who is due back from leave, will probably officiate for Mr. Maxwell.

Jessore Municipality.—In accordance with the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Jessore Municipality, made at a meeting, the Lieutenant-Governor sanctions the extensions of the provisions of sections 251, 262 A, 264 and clauses (2) and (4) of section 273 of the Municipal Act to the said Municipality.

Public Works Department.—Babu Mohendra Chandra Banerjee, Overseer, first grade, Cossye Division, is granted privilege leave for two months. Babu Jagat Bandhu Bagchi, Supervisor, second grade, Rajshahi Division, is granted leave on medical certificate for two months. Mr. H. Barlow, Executive Engineer, first grade, is permitted to retire.

Dacca Local Board.—The following gentlemen are appointed to be members of the Sadar Local Board, in the district of Dacca:—Babus Jogendra Kumar Bose, Gopi Nath Dutta, Madan Mohan Biswas, Maulvi Sadat Ali Khan, Babus Gobinda Kishore Rakhit, Prasanna Kumar Mitra, Amrita Lal Choudhuri, Maulvi Abdur Rauf, Babu Ananda Chandra Chakravarty, Maulvi Abu Sayed Zaharul Ashruff.

Civil Medical Department, Bengal.—Third grade Assistant Surgeon Radha Raman Ghosh doing supernumerary duty at the Bankipore Hospital, is appointed to act at the Kandi Sub-division and Dispensary, in the Murshidabad district. Senior Assistant Surgeon Akshoy Kumar Pain, of the Kandi Sub-division and Dispensary, is allowed privilege leave for three months. Second grade Assistant Surgeon Abinash Chandra Chatterjee is appointed, to act as Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal State Railway, at Lalmonirhat, during the absence, on leave of 3rd grade Assistant Surgeon Satis Chandra Mitra, who is granted sick leave for three months.

Assam Weather and Crops.—The report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending January 31st states:—No rain except in Lakhimpur. Hoeing and pruning of tea continue. Harvesting of late rice nearly finished. Gathering of pulses, mustard, and cotton and pressing of sugarcane in progress. Outturn of late rice and cotton generally good. Prospects of mustard, pulses, and sugarcane fair. Ploughing for early and late rice and jute commenced. Cattle disease prevalent in four districts. Prices of common rice—Silchar 19, Sylhet 18, Dhubri, Tezpur Nowgong, and Sibsagar 16, and Gauhati and Dibrugarh 14 seers per rupee.

Registration Department.—Maulvi Abdur Rahman Chaudhuri, Rural Sub-Registrar of Ghior, in the district of Dacca, is appointed to be Joint Sub-Registrar of Munshiganj at Rajabari in the same district. Babu Ananta Kumar Sen, Joint Sub-Registrar of Munshiganj at Rajabari, in the district of Dacca is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Munshiganj, in the same district. Maulvi Asghar Ali, Rural Sub-Registrar of Munshiganj, in the district of Dacca, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Kaliganj, in the same district. Maulvi [illegible] Ahmed, Rural Sub-Registrar of Kaliganj, in the district of Dacca, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Ghior, in the same district.

Assam Gazette.—Mr. J. C. Arbuthnott, C.I.E., Deputy Commissioner, Assam, has been granted nine months' extension of leave. Mr. G. A. Easson, who has been appointed an Assistant Engineer, 3rd grade, by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India and has been posted to Assam, is attached to the Sylhet Division. The Chief Commissioner approves the nomination of Mr. E. W. P. Cambridge as a member of the Golaghat Local Board, vice Mr. W. Greenish, resigned. The Chief Commissioner approves the re-election of Mr. A. Y. Thomson as a member of the Tezpur Local Board. Privilege leave of absence for one month and four days is granted to Captain J. R. Nuttall, Tutor to His Highness the Raja of Manipur, with effect from the date on which he may avail himself of it.

Police Department.—Babu Dinabandhu Bhaumick, substantive pro tempore first grade Inspector of Police, on deputation to the Police Training School, Bhagalpur, is confirmed in that grade, Maulvi Mazharal Hak, Inspector of Police, attached to the Inspector-General's Reserve, is promoted from the second to the first grade of Inspectors. Babu Preo Nath Bose, Inspector of Police, Murshidabad, is promoted from the third to the second grade of Inspectors. Babu Narain Das Banerji, Inspector of Police, Midnapore, is promoted from the third to the second grade of Inspectors. Babu Nolin Behari Chatterji, Inspector of Police, Bankura, is promoted from the third to the second grade of Inspectors. Babu Ananta Kumar Ghosh, Inspector of Police, Gaya, is promoted from the third to the second grade of Inspectors.

The Case against a Sessions Judge.—Before Mr. Justice Sale, on Tuesday Mr. Sowton applied on behalf of the defendant in the suit of Miss Rosa May Mell vs. W. H. Lea for leave to file a written statement. This was a suit intituted by the plaintiff in the Subordinate Judge's Court at Mymensingh, claiming Rs. 25,000 as damages from the defendant, who is a Sessions Judge. The original date for filing the written statement was the 8th December, 1904, but on that date further time was allowed, as the plaintiff intended making an application to have the case transferred to the High Court; a order was made on the 9th Jauary last transferring the case to this Court. His Lordship accordingly allowed the written statement to be filed.

The French Governor.—Writes our Chandernagore correspondent:—On Saturday last, the 4th inst: His Excellency the Governor of French Settlements in India and Madame Le Maire with their suite and M. Victor Bernard, the Administrator of Chandernagore and Madame Bernard and M. Tardivel, the Maire of Chandernagore kindly paid their visit to "Rutton Lodge," the palatial residence of Babus Jogendra Nath Bose and brothers, the well-known Zemindars of the place, and spent about two hours in going round the elegantly furnished house and the adjoining garden while the ladies went to the zenana. They mixed and conversed freely with the members of the family and were evidently well pleased with the home life of an educated Indian family.

COMMERCIAL NOTES.

Among agricultural projects recently started in the Punjab is a 500 acres seed-farm at Sargodha in the new Jhelum Canal Colony where the best varieties of indigenous wheat and cotton are to be grown.

The exploitation of the Government teak forest of Allapilli in the Chanda district of the Central Provinces has been greatly facilitated by the construction of a mono-rail tramway, which has effected a considerable reduction in the cost of transporting logs to the saw mills in the district. Forest tramways are proving an important factor for transport purposes in connection with the working of a Department which is annually bringing in a great and expending revenue to the State.

The extraction of iron-ore in the Central Provinces in the Indian fashion is officially reported to be carried on in eight districts, of which the most important are Jubbulpore and Sambalpur. The annual outturn is, however, not believed to be much more than 2,000 tons at present. It is probable, however, that European enterprise, which is developing other mineral resources in the Provinces, may also work up the iron-ore industry in due course as several prospecting license have been granted by the authorities for the mineral.

We have before referred to the efforts being made to exploit the coal-brearing possibilities of what is known as the Pench Valley in the Central Provinces. According to a recent official report only prospecting work has so far been accomplished in the locality, but favourable results have been obtained by locomotive trials on samples of the coal, and the proximity of the fields to the great manganese-ore deposits of the Central Provinces, and—when connected by direct rail to Nagpur or Itarsi—to the markets of Bombay and the mills of the Deccan will give these deposits an opportunity of developing whatever intrinsic merits they possess.

Thanks to the operations of the Bengal Silk Committee combined with those of our Agriculture Department, the measures for the improvement of sericulture in the Province continue to promise good results. The Committee are working in the Rajshahi, Malda, Murshidabad, Bogra and Birbhum districts where their efforts have lead to the production of good and health seed and the expansion of mulberry plantations. They are "running" three model silk-worm nurseries which are to be augmented by the establishment of a further three to be located in the Murshidabad and Malda districts. Among other praiseworthy operations of the Committee is that of instructing a large number of pupils annually in improved methods of rearing.

A new trade is being developed between the Argentine and Uruguayan Republics and England in the way of butter brought from the fertile plains of the River Plate owing to an improved method of cool chambers introduced on board the fast mail liners. The steamer "Nile" has just landed at Southampton 7,516 cases of fresh and salt butter, or 3,758cwt., which has been sampled and tested and found to be of excellent quality. The fresh butter on landing has a temperature of 38 deg. to 33 deg. Fahr., whilst salt butter, as salt attracts the cold, is cooler, and is generally at 32 deg. to 34 deg. In the meantime the graziers in the Plate are continually improving their stock of cattle by obtaining supplies from England of the best pedigree animals, and English dairy-farmers must look forward to severe competition from these new dairy-producing countries.

Our imports of [illegible] pods at present [illegible] to us from the [illegible] obtains [illegible] with [illegible] for [illegible] 630 pods o[illegible] sent price being [illegible] crease of Rs. 2 over the p[illegible] Both the Kashmir and Cham[illegible] whence musk pods used to be [illegible] India—have lately passed regulati[illegible] biting the killing of musk deer. The [illegible] of this prohibition will be to increase the imports from Tibet via Ladakh. Though according to an official report it is difficult to see how long the Tibetan musk deer will hold out to satisfy the demand for the article from India. It would be a pity if the stringency of the Kashmir and Chamba laws were to lead to the extermination of the musk deer in Tibet, for this would probably be the result if the trade with India in musk pods continues to increase as it has done during recent years.

A small committee of experts have lately reported on the Burdwan Jute experiments and on the deterioration of jute generally in Bengal. They have declared that the Burdwan experiments are being carefully carried out by our Agricultural Department, but, have offered a few sugestions for future working which are to be duly carried out. These refer to the question of the stability or instability of the various kinds of jute and particularly to the question of the effect of netting. In regard to the latter the practical suggestion has been made that people accustomed to do the work should be brought temporarily to Burdwan to steep and net the jutes obtained from their respective districts and further that the bacteriology of the steeping and fermentation of jute be thoroughly worked out. The Burdwan experiments have so far shown (1) that jute should be cut for fibre before it is dead ripe, but it is still doubtful what is the exact stage of growth at which plants should be cut to yield the most valuable fibre; (2) that liberal cultivation, and probably also rotation of crops, result in a better outturn of fibre. When the Burdwan experiments are completed it is intended to publish a report in which they will be detained and their results duly recorded. It is also contemplated that jute experiments should find a place at the Pusa Research Station. The possibility of recommending extensive cultivation of particular races or extensive interchange of seed between districts is prominently before the agricultural authorities and the present and future experiments will, it is hoped—among other matters—throw light on this point. It is quite evident that the authorities are "tackling" the jute improvement question very practically and thoroughly, and it will mean very substantial benefit to the industry in Bengal if the improvement aimed at is secured by these experiments. Of course, cultivators of the staple will have to respond by undertaking their operations on the lines of the experiments now being worked out, for instance growing the kinds of jute which are most suitable for the purposes of the spinner and discarding those that are not so suitable.

EXPERIMENTS WITH 'EGYPTIANIZED' CLAY.

Some very interesting experiments are now being carried out at various points on the North-Western Railway, in what has become known to readers of American technical newspapers as "Egyptianized" clay. These experiments are the outcome of an article which appeared in the 'Scientific American' of the 25th April 1903. A certain Mr. Acheson, of Niagara Falls, claims to have discovered the real meaning of the 7th verse of the 5th chapter, of the Book of Exodus, "Ye shall no more give the people straw to make bricks as heretofore, let them go and gather straw for themselves;" also of the 12th verse of the same chapter and Book, So the people scattered abroad throughout all the land of Egypt to gather stubble instead of straw." We suppose there is little doubt that the sun-dried bricks made in Egypt in the days of the Israelites were, on account of the sandy nature of the soil, strengthened with chopped straw, in fact were made as is mud plaster to-day in India—with mud, water, and bhusa (chopped, or rather trodden out straw)—and that the task of making bricks without straw being provided was a very punishing one, for chemistry was certainly in its infancy in those days.

Mr. Acheson collected some stubble and boiled it in his laboratory, and found the resulting liquid was of a dark red colour. He treated some clay with the liquid and found it increased the plasticity of it. He sought out the principle, and determined the agent was tannin. He then treated clay with different proportions of tannin in the water, and soon realized that he made a most important discovery.

The maximum effect of this treatment of clay with tannin in solution is when the tanni[illegible] is 2 per cent. of the water. It is claimed that in the burned form the clay is increased 50 per cent. in strength, whilst in the sun-dried form the tensile strength of the clay is increased as much as 350 per cent.

Bricks and briquettes, pakka and kacha, are now being made of various clays, with different proportions of tannin in the water, at several points on the North-Western Railway, and they will eventually be sent to the Civil Engineering College at Sibpur, with a view to their being scientifically tested for various stengths.

If Mr. Acheson's theories are correct, there is no doubt there is a great future for the "Egyptianized" brick in India, more especially if, as is not unlikely, the tannin in the bricks successfully persuades the sun-dried brick's direst enemy—the white ant—that tunnelling is barred. This is a question however to be left for settlement, after the one regarding the increased strength of the "Egyptianized" brick has been satisfactorily settled. If the "Egyptianized" brick proves so very superior in strength to the ordinary sun-dried brick of India, and if white ants refuse to tunnel through mud impregnated with tannin, thick walls of sun-dried bricks will be considerably cheaper than thin walls of burnt bricks and all whose lot it now is to grill hot weathers through in houses with the latter class of walls, will appreciate what this means. What reformation too will be possible in Railway making, if bricks made of "Egyptianized" clay prove to be all the discoverer claims for it? Considerable economy for one thing will result, for it will be possible to build bridge abutments and piers with 'heartings' of kacha brickwork and substitute kacha for pakka in many other descriptions of work. As one of the most fruitful sources of delay in the construction of a line of Railway is an insufficient supply of brunt bricks, being able to use in a variety of works the sun-dried brick ("Egyptianized") should [illegible]mit of a saving of [illegible] 15 per cent. of time [illegible]g of a Railway. An immense [illegible] wood fuel, which would otherwise [illegible]sumed in burning bricks, will be [illegible] remain standing, and without at[illegible] to estimate the advantage of this, [illegible] of wood fuel, and charcoal required [illegible]omestic purposes will be considerably [illegible]ed, and large areas of country will no [illegible]er be denuded of everything in the shape [illegible] Forest growth by the omnivorous brick-[illegible]urning contractor.

The article communicated to the American Press on the discovery of the "Egyptianized" clay did not claim for the "Egyptianizing" process any advantages regarding the rain or damp resisting qualities of the clay, and possibly the process has no effect whatever in this respect; on the other hand, it may have a very considerable one. If not, some simple process for water-proofing the "Egyptianized" brick does not appear hopeless of discovery. Then once again may the up-country Anglo-Indian enjoy residence in houses with palatial rooms, and walls many feet thick, reaping the benefit in a temperature in the hot weather reduced by many degrees. But granted that the "Egyptianized" brick is really as strong as Mr. Acheson says it will be, and that it is possible to water-proof it, that it must also be capable of resisting the ravages of the white ant is a sine qua non.

We hope in due course to be in a position to give our readers an interesting and detailed account of these bricks and briquettes made with the "Egyptianized" clay, with full particulars of the strength of the tannin solution used, and the resulting gain in strength of both the burnt and sun-dried varieties of bricks.

A MATRIMONIAL SUIT.

At the Madras High Court, before Mr. Justice Moore, the suit for dissolution of marriage brought by Mrs. Kathleen Lloyd, wife of Major A. M. Lloyd, late of the 24th M. I. (now retired), on the grounds of her husband's cruelty and misconduct, came on for hearing. The petitioner was represented by Mr. Eardley Norton, instructed by Messrs. Short and Bewes, while the respondent was "exparte." The petitioner was married to the respondent in 1881 and had three children now surviving, the eldest of whom was twenty-two years of age, the other two being minors. She stated that her marriage had been a most unhappy one from the start, and gave details of various acts of violence used towards her by her husband. She further deposed that he had threatened to shoot her and her children on several occasions. The respondent wasn heavily indebted, owing to extravagance, and on being remonstrated with, used violence towards the petitioner. He had also been guilty of various acts of immorality, the last of which was at the Chapper House Hotel about two months ago. Two witnesses were called to prove the acts of misconduct at the last-named locality. His Lordship granted a decree "nisi" with costs, and gave Mrs. Lloyd the custody of the two minor children.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

The Central Council of the Association for the Advancement of Scientific and Industrial Education of Indians met at the Town Hall Saturday at 1 p.m. Members from all the districts of Bengal were present and the assembly was fairly large. The following resolutions were carried:—

1. That the Report be adopted.
2. That the Accounts be passed.
3. That the Budget be passed.
4. The Secretary laid on the table the report of the Special Committee for selecting candidates for education in foreign countries which has been adopted by the Executive Committee.
5. That Art 10 of the Constitution be amended by altering in the second line the words "9 members" to "5 members."

The 6th resolution was postponed.

7. That the Indian Industrial Association and the Society for the Encouragement of Indian Arts and Manufactures be incorporated with our Association.

Raja Peary Mohan Mukerjee proposed an amendment for the formation of a Sub-Committee for the consideration of the terms of amalgamation which was carried.

8. That the Resolution of the Executive Committee accepting the terms of settlement offered by the Utkal Conference be confirmed.
9. That a Sub-committee be appointed to frame the Trust-deed and to consider and report after taking legal opinion whether the Association should be registered.
10. That a Committee be appointed with power to add to their member consisting of:—

Raja Peary Mohun Mukherjee, Maharaj-Kumar Prodyot Kumar Tagore; Maharajah of Durbhanga; Maharajah of Cossimbazar; Raja of Dighapatiya; Khan Bahadur Mirza Shujaya Ali Beg; J. Ghosal Esq., Babus Janoki Nath Roy; Sita Nath Roy; Muralidhar Roy; Maharaj-Kumar Kristo Das Law; Parvati Sankar Roy Chowdhuri; Harendra Lal Roy; Nanda Lal Roy; Radha Raman Kar; Dr. Nilratan Sircar; Messrs. R.N. Mookerjea; Langat Sing; the Hon'ble Mr. Nalin Behari Sircar; the Hon'ble Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu; the Hon'ble Mr. J. Chowdhury; Moulvi Syed Erfan Ali to consider what steps should be taken for furthering the following purposes:—

(i) Formation of Joint Stock Companies for the starting necessary and profitable industries.

(ii) Establishment of a Bank for promoting native industries.

(iii) Establishment of a Polytechnic.

(iv) **To ascertain the present condition** of Indigenous industries and what can be done for their improvement.

11. That the following gentlemen be elected members of the Executive Committee for this year; (Names followed.)

Then the members of the Executive Committee were elected.

The following gentlemen were elected for scholarships for industrial education in foreign countries.

1. Gopal Chandra Sen M.A. Manufacturing Chemistry Edinburg and Germany.
2. Satis Chandra Das Gupta B.A. with honours in Science Manufacturing Chemistry Edinburg.
3. Kali Charan Nandi B.A.B.L., (Asst. Engineer) Mining and Electrical Engineering New Castle on Tyne.
4. Indu Bhushan De, B.A., Agriculture America.
5. Kailaspati B. A., Weaving England.
6. Basaratuddin Abdut Taher, B.A., Tanning America.
7. Dhirendra Kumar Day B.A. Pharmacy Edinburgh.
8. Sheo Prasad B.A., Weaving and Laequer work Japan.
9. Lalit Mohun Sen. Mechanical Engineering Glasgow.
10. Sitanath Saiea (Assam) Oil industry and Agriculture France.
11. Sris Chandra Guha B.A. Oil industry and Agriculture, Japan.
12. Mujiruddin Ahmed (Assam) Silk industry and Matches Japan.
13. Jogendra Prasad Bose Printing Ink and Soap Japan.
14. Santi Pauda Gupta Matches and Enamel Japan.
15. Mohesh Chandra Ray (Orissa) Silk Japan.
16. Purna Chandra Ray Glass America.

H. E. the Viceroy does not expect to be able to leave Calcutta for Assam until the middle of next week.

The survey of a railway on the 2-ft. 6-in. gauge to Ranchi has been completed. The estimated cost is about thirty lakhs, so the line should have a good chance of being constructed at an early date.

The Hon'ble Sir A. T. Arundel will take charge of the Home Department towards the close of this month, and the Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson will have the joint charge of the Revenue and Agriculture Department and the Public Works Department,—Buildings and Roads.

DACOITIES IN THE DECCAN.

SUCCESSFUL MEASURES.

The following is an extract from the Thagi and Dacoity Department's Report for last year, just issued:—

Vigorous action was taken by the Bellary and Dharwar Police in conjunction with Mr. Gayer against Kaikaris who were committing depredations in His Highness the Nizam's territory and the border districts of Bellary, Dharwar, Belgaum and Bijapur. Mr. Gayer went to Dharwar and there met Mr. Hannington, the District Superintendent of Police of Bellary, Mr. Digby Davis, District Superintendent of Police, Dharwar, and Mr. Down, the Inspector General of Police, Bombay.

He writes: "We held a consultation at which a plan of action was arranged and it was agreed that I should supervise operations and that the local Police should give me every assistance. The chief offenders were the Kaikar's of Bellary so I began operations there, which, thanks to Mr. Hannington's energy and cordial co-operation, have led to the most satisfactory results. Mr. Hannington's Police have prosecuted and secured convictions against 28 members of his gangs for burglary, theft, and under Chapter VIII of the Criminal Procedure Code, and between us we have captured 41 of the regular working dakaiti gangs. Of these one Kantappa, Kaikari; their chief organiser and financier, has been successfully prosecuted in Bellary and on conviction, sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment and Rs. 1,000 fine. Three of the others have been convicted and sentenced in Hyderabad to 10 years rigorous imprisonment each. The remaining 37 have been prosecuted and charged under Sections 395 and 400, Indian Penal Code, but these cases are still undecided. Six of the 37 were traced from Bellary to Sholapur and there arrested with 6 local absconding Kaikaris by Inspector Bhao Singh. All twelve were convicted in Sholapur for bad livelihood, and 5 of the 6 we wanted were handed over to me for trial under the dakaiti section. I regret having to note that this action in Sholapur, though taken after I had seen and arranged everything with the District Superintendent of Police, led to some friction. The local subordinate Police reported that the Thagi and Dakaiti party had misused their powers and oppressed the villagers of the village in which these men were captured. The charges were shown to be entirely unfounded and the matter has since been settled. The temporary misunderstanding has really done much good as it has brought the Kaikari question prominently to the notice of the District Magistrate, Mr. Maconochie, and energetic steps are being taken by him to try and bring his Kaikaris under proper control."

Mr. R. H. Shipley, I.C.S., Collector of Coimbatore, in reporting on the condition and prospects of that district says that, at present, there is no reason to apprehend famine or such a degree of scarcity as to call for State intervention. There will not be a large failure of crops, he says, in the case of those sown early in the year, but the Divisional Officers expect a poor outturn from the later sowings. The outturn of west crops is expected to be better than that of the garden and dry crops. Should the next south-west mensoon completely fail, there will be room for anxiety and necesstiy for State intervention. At present there is no probability of distress in that district.

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CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

SENATE MEETING.

On Wednesday afternoon the adjourned meeting of the Senate was held at the Senate Hall. Mr. A. Pedler, Vice Chancellor of the University, presided.

The Revd. Father Lafont withdrew the following notice which stood in his name.

"That in view of the fact of the abolition of the Faculty of Science, the two representatives of that Faculty, who were elected on the 17th of December last, have no "locus standi" in the Provisional Syndicate; I beg, therefore, to propose that the Faculty of Arts, elect two of their Members, in order to bring the number of their representatives to five, on the Syndicate."

The Vice Chancellor said that the statement which had been made by Father Lafont was most satisfactory and he was sure that they would now avoid the chance of anything like a long discussion.

Mr. Arden Wood moved that the following recommendation of the syndicate be adopted:

The Syndicate to recommend to the Senate (1) that a Committee of seven members and the Registrar be appointed to draft Regulations in respect of the matters referred to in Section 25, Sub-section (2), Clauses (e) and (l); and (2) that the Committee consist of the following members:

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. K. Ray, Sir Gooroo Dass Banerjee, Mr. N. N. Ghose, Mr. G. W. Kuchler, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Ashutosh Mookerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice J. G. Woodroffe.

Moulvi Seraj-ul Islam seconded the resolution which was then put and carried.

After several other items of business being duly moved, and seconded, and put to the meeting and carried, the meeting separated

A SHORT STORY.

A WOMAN'S PRICE.

(By Walter J. Mowbray.)

"It's quite useless to resurrect that question," interrupted Spencer Thurlow dogmatically. "We are not likely to agree, as you know already. I have other and more advantageous views as to Myra's future."

Austin Garnet leant back is his chair.

"One would think I was a beggar," he said indignantly. "I am, I own, merely the junior partner of the house I represent. But many a man would covet even that position, Mr. Thurlow. There is no more reputable firm in London than Gryce, Dunstan, and Garnet."

The elder man nodded patronisingly.

"Quite so," he said, with an air of relish "A junior partner! Now shall I tell you what are my aims and ambitions in this respect, Mr. Garnet?"

He smiled and fixed his eyes on the face of the young man before him. Austin Garnet made no reply, and the elder man proceeded to explain.

"The world," he said, with a comprehensive sweep of his hand, "regards me as a financier. That is quite right. But I am more. There is one other branch of my business which, though kept snugly in the background, is highly profitable. Nay, it is more. It brings me intimately in contact with noblemen of all grades. It reveals to me the secrets which they guard so jealously. And, as a natural consequence, it gives me a certain—what shall I say—a certain influence over them. This influence I am one day going to exert, and on my daughter's behalf. There is no hurry. I am not the man to ruin so advantageous a scheme through undue haste. A duke may require my help some day. That's where my daughter may come in."

"And your daughter's personal inclinations?" Austin asked blandly.

"They don't count," replied her father briefly. "Myra must do as I did her."

The door opened and Myra Thurlow entered the room. She shot a quick little glance of understanding at Austin and greeted him with a smile.

"It's quite a long time since we saw you here, Mr. Garnet," she said, ignoring the frequency with which they had met in the park and elsewhere. "What is it this time? more business, I suppose?"

Austin nodded.

"Yes," he said, with a meaning smile. "Two separate proposals for negotiation, Miss Thurlow. We have settled one satisfactorily, but the other is in abeyance."

"Is rejected as impossible," corrected Spencer from his chair by the fire.

Myra glanced at him asd comprehended in a flash. A shade of vexation passed over her face, but she took a seat in silence Austin was the first to speak.

"I'm afraid Jordan's have had a nasty experience," he said, giving a turn to the conversation. "They've been done for more than a thousand pounds. The swindler is a lady too, I hear. Gryce went in there today and they told him about it. It was a clever piece of work and I'm not surprised they were taken in."

Spencer Thurlow stirred irritably in his chair.

"Fools!" he ejaculated scornfully. "Half the City seems asleep nowadays! I'd like to catch anyone swindling me!"

Myra laughed.

"No doubt, papa," she said, with a twinkle. "But you might not be so fortunate as to catch them."

Her father regarded the remark with obvious contempt.

"I'm not a fool," he said loftily.

Austin mentally wondered if this were true. A boaster is always a fool.

"We all run the same risk," he said quietly. "There is no man who is so constantly on the alert that he cannot be caught napping at some time or other."

"I'll defy any man to rob me," said Spencer decisively. "Of course, I don't mean by forging a cheque or anything of that sort. If the bank people are gulls enough to cash a forged cheque, I'm not responsible for their stupidity. But no man could deliberately come to me with intent to swindle me without my discovering him."

Austin smiled dubiously. Spencer noticed it and flushed. "Perhaps you think yourself equal to the task?" he inquired ironically.

Austin shook his head.

"Not I," he answered promptly. "But someone else might, and contrive to do it with success too."

The elder man disregarded the latter supposition.

"Because if you think you can," he said sarcastically, "have a try at it, my dear fellow."

"I might succeed, urged his tormentor, with a sunny smile.

Spencer Thurlow grew hot under the bare possibility.

"Then I'll accede to your second proposal", he said, conscious of the idle nature of his threat. "For you'll then be a better business man than I. Great Jupiter, man, what do you think I'm made of? You—swindle me! Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha!"

He went off into a fit of scornful laughter. Austin watched him without anger.

"Is it so very impossible an operation?" he inquired blandly, as soon as the merriment had subsided.

"You heard what I said," replied Spencer, with perfect self-confidence. "Manage it and I'll accede to your second proposal."

He chuckled again. He liked to tantalise this ardent young man who was so absurdly in love with his daughter.

Austin rose.

"Well, I'm afraid that's beyond me," he commented quietly. 'Now I must be off. Good-night, Mr. Thurlow."

* * * *

It was six months later. The time was night, and Spencer Thurlow, financier and secret money-lender, had returned to his own house. He was in the library, turning over some old papers which he had taken from a drawer in his secretaire. There was a tap at the door and a footman entered the room.

The man of business looked up and took an envelope containing a card from the salver.

"Show the gentleman in," he commanded, and the man withdrew.

In an instant he recognised the Duke of Denbigh, and bowed obsequiously to him.

The Duke looked about him and hesitated. It was clear he was in some mental disquietude. Spencer watched him with keen eyes. The Duke was unmarried. Perhaps his opportunity had come.

"Well," observed the Duke at last, "I had better come to the point at once, Mr. Thurlow. My friend the Earl of Grays informs me that you once advanced him a sum of money. I am here for the same purpose."

Spencer Thurlow nodded. His visitor's tone was a trifle too curt and peremptory for his liking. He would adopt the same style. But he would move warily nevertheless. It would not do to lose so rare a prize.

'What sum do you require?" he asked briefly.

"Eighty thousand pounds," was the reply.

"And the security?" inquired the financier.

The Duke looked sharply at him and half-rose to his feet. Spencer Thurlow saw he had gone too far with his bluntness, and hastened to interpose.

"Oh, no offence!" he broke in hurriedly. "I am merely asking the usual questions incidental to such a transaction. Of course your name is sufficiently well-known. But business is business, you know, and we have to go through a formula."

The Duke hesitated. Then he thrust his hand into the pocket of his great-coat and drew forth a square morocco case. Opening this, he laid it on the table before the eyes of the financier. The light caught the gems and set them dazzling and scintillating in rosy iridescence. Finally he drew forth an inventory of the gems in duplicate and handed it to Spencer.

"They are worth eighty thousand pounds," he said proudly, "and have belonged to my family for generations. They are, however, not entailed, and are, therefore, quite at my disposal. The fact is, I am desperately in need of this sum. Of course, I do not want you to advance it without first ascertaining the precise value of these jewels. Give me one copy of this inventory, signed at the foot, by way of receipt. Then send the gems to an expert and have them valued. I will call in two days' time, and at the same hour, for your cheque."

"By-the-way," he said, 'what are your terms for this—er—service?"

The word was clearly distasteful to him, and Spencer Thurlow flushed hotly. But he remembered his hopes and was silent.

"Eight per cent, for four months," he said quietly.

The Duke paused in his operations.

"Isn't that rather high?" he asked steadily.

'I think not," replied the financier coolly.

The Duke put on his hat.

"Then I will return in two days," he said shortly, and once more left the room.

When he had gone, Spencer Thurlow leant back in his chair.

"He'd like to bounce," he remarked drily. "But he's in a deep hole, and can't afford to do it. Well, if the gems are all right, I'll advance him the money. And then, when he comes in four months' time to redeem his precious gems, I'll have a little talk to him on another subject."

Punctually at the appointed time the Duke of Denbigh again put in an appearance. The financier was quite ready to receive him.

"I'm exceedingly sorry," he said blandly, "but the expert to whom I sent these gems has given it as his opinion that their value does not exceed seventy thousand pounds I trust you will not condemn me for saying that I cannot advance more than this sum on such security."

"What!' exclaimed the Duke in indignant surprise. "Is not my name sufficient to guarantee the remaining ten thousand?"

The financier shrugged his shoulders.

"Business is business," he declared doggedly. "I am sorry, but I cannot help it. I will advance you seventy thousand on the gems."

"But I want eighty thousand," persisted the Duke. "Seventy thousand will be of no use whatever."

The financier was obdurate.

"I am sorry," he repeated. 'But that is all I can do."

"Then I must go elsewhere," decided the Duke freezingly.

He picked up the case of glittering gems, clasped it, and returned it to his pocket. Then he moved towards the door. The financier spoke no word. The Duke turned, with his hand on the handle of the door. It was clear he was on the horns of a dilemma. Presently he sighed heavily and came slowly back to the table.

"Well, I yield," he said dejectedly. 'You fellows drive a hard bargain."

He took the case from his pocket and laid it again on the table. The cautious financier picked it up, opened it, and examined the shining gems. Then he compared them with the inventory and shut the case with a snap

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Rising, he locked it away in a small iron safe in one corner of the room, and returned to the table. A few minutes and the Duke was the possessor of a cheque for seventy thousand pounds. A few more and he had left the house.

* * * *

"Mr. Garnet to see you, sir."

Spencer Thurlow looked up from his breakfast.

"Why the dickens can't he go to the City?" he grumbled.

"One would think I carried on business here."

The footman interposed.

"I beg pardon, sir but Mr. Garnet said his business was both urgent and important."

"Well, show him up. Myra, you need not go. It's nothing very private, I dare say."

The footman disappeared, and a moment later Austin was announced. The financier was barely civil.

"You're an early riser, Mr. Garnet," he said significantly.

Austin nodded.

"That's true," he assented coolly. "But I had to hurry this morning, or I might have been too late."

The financier looked up in surprise.

"What's in the wind?" he asked sharply. "Have you been caught napping like Jordan's people?"

Austin grew suddenly grave.

"Well, no," he replied slowly. "But you have."

"What!"

Spencer Thurlow started at him in blank amazement. Austin began his explanation.

"You drew a cheque last night," he said, "payable to beater, and for the somewhat tall figure of seventy thousand pounds."

The financier was not to be taken off his guard. He kept silence, therefore, and neither admitted nor denied the assertion.

"The man to whom you gave the cheque was masquerading as the Duke of Denbigh," went on Austin calmly. "He was an impostor."

Spencer Thurlow could keep his peace no longer.

"That's his look-out," he commented with a knowing smile. "I have eighty thousand pounds' worth of gems to console me for the loss of the cheque."

But Austin was in no way impressed by this disclosure.

"I fancy you are mistaken," he said quietly. "The man took the liberty of changing the morocco case for another during its momentary concealment in the pocket of his great-coat. The two cases are precisely alike, as is also the appearance of the two sets of gems. The only difference lies in the fact that one set are genuine stones—the other more paste imitations. The first is worth eighty thousand pounds—the second about four thousand."

The financier's jaw dropped and his face grew deathly white.

"By heaven!" he burst out. "If this is true, I'm a ruined man. But how comes it that you know all this?

Austin waved the question aside.

"Listen," he said bluntly. "What I have stated is the precise truth. You have been swindled out of some sixty-six thousand pounds. What will you give me if I obtain possession of this cheque and place it in your hands before its presentation at the bank?"

The financier moistened his dry lips and glanced from side to side. His daughter made no sign.

"What do you want?" inquired the helpless victim.

Austin Garnet crossed the room and stood by Myra's chair.

"You know my wishes," he said significantly.

The financier frowned. A ray of hope flashed through his brain.

"The bank's only just ope[illegible] rising unsteadily to his feet. [illegible] without you yet."

Austin smiled and sat [illegible] the chairs.

"Try it," he said. "You' [illegible] I am up to every move [illegible] When you reach the ban[illegible] there before you."

"Then how can [illegible] tested the financier.

"I don't say I can, [illegible] I'll have a try. And [illegible] my hand on the man [illegible] possession of every pen[illegible] money."

"You can?"

"I can."

"Then for Heaven's sake, do it! If you succeed, you shall have Myra. I swear it on my honour."

"Thank you, Mr. Thurlow. Now I want that case of sham stones. If I fail to stop the cheque, I must have the imitation gems to drive a bargain. It's the only chance. You must be prepared to lose the sham jewels for the sake of that cheque. I may have to surrender it in any case."

For a moment the financier wavered. But there was no help for it. He knew well enough that Austin Garnet was in earnest. The stones were only copies of the originals. Otherwise, how came it he knew so much concerning the visits and intentions of the supposed Duke of Denbigh? Wearily he fetched the case from the safe. Austin took it and hurried away.

An hour later he returned. Spencer Thurlow was impatiently pacing to and fro. Approaching him, Austin held out the unpresented cheque.

"I got it," he said quietly. "But I had to surrender the case of paste gems."

The financier took the cheque, ran his eye over it, and tore it into shreds. Then he grasped Austin heartily by the hand.

"My boy," he said with emotion, "I am heartily indebted to you. You're sharper young man than I ever gave you credit for. And as for myself——

He made a grimace and turned to the door.

"Myra," he said, "I capitulate." And he went out softly, shutting the door behind him.

As soon as they were alone, Austin took Myra in his arms. Then they both laughed.

"It's taken some of the conceit out of him," remarked Austin.

Myra nodded.

"I'm glad you weren't too hard on him," she said. "I think he would have had a fit had you confessed to being the bogus Duke yourself. You must have been made up wonderfully."

Austin laughed and kissed her.

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SOME IMPRESSIONS OF INDIA'S PARLIAMENT.

(By an English Spectator.)

Bombay, Dec. 31. 1904.

It has been my privilege to attend from first to last the sittings of the twentieth Indian National Congress, which have been occupying the three earlier days of this week, and I can honestly say that it woould be impossible to assist at a gathering more representative, more enthusiastic, more orderly, more moderate in expression, and more loyal in spirit.

Let the stay-at-home Englishman picture to himself a huge pavilion, capable of accommodating thirteen thousand persons, and filled to every seat with a picturesque crowd of all classes and creeds. In the centre, facing the "dais," are ranged the eleven hundred delegates, whose eager, intelligent faces are as interesting a study as the bewildering variety they present of head-dress, custume, and racial characteristic. There is not a province of India which has not furnished its quote. From Sind have come quaint-hated Hindus and Mahomedans looking for all the world as if they had taken a gilded chimney-pot and clapped it upside down upon their heads. Keen, subtle, alert-looking Brahmins from Madras, and Nairs, from Malabar coast, with shaven heads and faces and spotless white turbans, are sitting opposite a black coated and bare-headed contingent from Bengal, strenuous and able, whose power with the pen and facile adaptability make them the rulers of public opinion from Peshawar to Chittagong. And side by side with them the eye lights upon Brahmins from the holy city of Benares, Rajputs from Upper India, Punjabies from far-off Lahore, brilliant and patriotic Mahrattas, whose gold-tipped turbans of scarlet and purple strike a gay note of colour by the side of the sombre Parsee head gear which bulks so largely in Bombay in every grade of commerce and intellectual industry.

OPEN DISTRUST.

Then let the English reader remember that the native language of each of there unite is separate and district, and that the English tongue, in which one after another of them comes forward to address the meeting is a foreign one to all. He will find it hard to relise it, so excellent is the English, so admirable be the pronunciation, so intelligent the arrangement.

Still harder will he find it to realise that these men who can discuss the questions of the day with such ability and knowledge and who can present their grievances with such power and moderation are permitted no real share in the government of their country and enjoy not the faintest control over the disposition of the revenues they contribute. The attitude of the bureaucracy towards them is one of open distrust. Not a single official attended the Congress with the exception of the two eminent Indian Judges of the Bombay High Court whose position places them beyond the reach of executive displeasure.

It is within my knoweldge that more than one English member of the local Civil Service desired to attend the sessions, in order to inform himself at first hand of the needs and aspirations of the people whose earthly Providence the chances of a competitive examination have made him. But he indirect pressure from above was too strong to be withstood. Neutrality was commended to spell abstention, and officialdom reminded like the ostrich, with its head buried in the sand of self-sufficiency and self-interest. With such a spectacle presented to him by his rulers there is small wonder that the educated and patriotic Indian looks wistfully across the water to the Englishman in England to give him that sympathetic hearing and that opportunity to [illegible]k out his own salvation which the English[illegible] in India obstinately denies him. Speech [illegible]ch brought out this point in the [illegible] manner possible.

[illegible]ake use of that epith[illegible] pathetic to an Englishman [illegible] well time prevailing in[illegible]orance upon Indian affairs [illegible] at home countrymen, than to [illegible] note of complete trustfulness [illegible]ish love of liberty and justice, and [illegible]qualified hope in the future, which rang [illegible] clear and unmistakable in the utterances of these cultured exponents of Indian public opinion Sir Henry Cotton, the President of the Congress, is now, it is true, on his way to Calcutta to lay before Lord Curzon the resolutions which enshrine the aims and grievances of educated India. If Lord Cromer were at Government House, some beneficial result might be anticipated from the interview: for the world has upon record his reading of the signs of the times in India, written so far back as 1881 in the pages of "The Nineteenth Century"; and a man of his sagacity needs no spur to enable him to see how literally his prophecy has come to pass. But Lord Curzon is nothing if not an autocrat. He has refused to receive the deputation from the Congress, and receives Sir Henry only in his private capacity.

SIGNIFICANT SILENCE.

Lord Curzon's name was received with silence whenever mentioned at the Congress, and no one knows better than he the reason why. He is frankly against the educated Indian. It is not from the present Viceroy's superior intelligence that a scheme will be evolved for the appointment of an Indian to his Executive Council or to the Council of the Secretary of State for India. On the contrary his two latest appointments to high office (those of the Commercial Member and Finance Member of Council) show plenty enough-that he prefers to choose his colleagues and his instruments from the docile ranks of the bureaucracy.

There are men of native birth in every province of India at the present moment who are undoubtedly in every respect the equals of the civilian advisers whom the Viceroy was good enough when in England, last summer, to place upon the same pedestal as an English Cabinet Minister. Sir Pherozeshah Mehta and the Hon. Mr. Gokhale in Bombay are men who in any other country in the world would be at the head of affairs. Mr. Surendrasath Banerjea, of Calcutta, whose marvellous oratory cannot have been wholly forgotten in England, and Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Poona, whose unmerited persecutions have made him the idol of the country-side, wield an influence throughout India which a wise Government would long ago have employed to enlighten and assist it. And as in Bombay and Bengal, so in Madras and Upper India. An occasional seat upon the Viceregal and Provisional Legislative Councils, or an appointment to the Bench of a High Court—this is the only vent for legitimate ambition and patriotic desire for public work which their Anglo-Indian rulers have, after a century and a half, to offer them.

Reaction is the order of the day. It is impossible to prevent the Indian from journeying to England and competing for the Civil Service. But in India itself competition has been forced to give way to nomination and the test of race has been officially proclaimed the supplanter of that qualification by medit alone which is the keystone of the Proclamation of 1858. Englishmen will have an opportunity, during the ensuing summer, of hearing from the lips of the leaders of the Indian reform party exactly what are their demands, and the means by which they desire redress of their grievances. They will be astonished to learn how moderate and reasonable are the first and how simple are the second. For, when both are reduced to their most elementary form, they amount to nothing more than this: Give us a real share, however small, in the government of our country, and put an end to the present system under which the opinion of a foreign official overrides and completely extinguishes that of the educated men of the land and the people of whose race they are and for whom they speak. Is the Congress right in the belief that it ought not to be hard to persuade Englishmen of the justice of such an appeal?—"Daily News."

MAKING BUTTERFLIES.

Professor Standfus, of Zurich, after many years of experiments, has made a discovery which, if correct, is likely to revoluntise science in general and zoology in particular. Briefly it consists in creating new species and races by the influence of high and low temperatures.

The Swiss scientist up to now has confined his experiments to butterflies and has obtained remarkable results, but there is no reason why under similar conditions, the same effects may not be produced upon bird and animal life. Taking some six thousand ordinary caterpillars in their different stages of metamorphoses, he exposed them to temperature varying from 40deg. to 4deg Cent. The majority developed into butterflies of ancient species, which are now very rare while others developed into totally new species, so far unknown to scientists.

It was known that certain butterflies are characterised by successive and different generation. For instance, the chrysalis of the butterfly venessa levana gives birth in the spring to butterflies which lay eggs in summer. In the same year these eggs produce butterflies which differ completely in form and colour from those of the first generation. The former are named V. L. spring and the latter V.L. summer. By submitting the crysalis of the second form to a temperature of 30 deg. Cent., the former form is obtained. The same results have been accomplished with the Venessa urticae a rare butterfly found only at the North Cape and Sardina. With the Papilio machaon in the same manner an ancient species which has entirely disappeared to-day, was obtained. During the experiments butterflies which are found in districts so far as the Arctic Circle and the Torrid Zone were produced. Even more surprising were the hybrids obtained from the effects of "crossing" under the influence of heat and cold. Gorgeous specimens of all the colours of the rainbow beautifully intermingled came forth and developed under the care of Professor Standfus, who was himself surprised at the results. Needless to add all the ancient species produced are extremely valuable from a peculiar point of view, while the created specimens are practically priceless.

The Madras Government have sanctioned estimates, aggregating Rs. 73,290, for the construction of the Veterinary College and subsidiary buildings at Madras. The sanction of the Government of India will be obtained to an estimate of Rs 5,547 for the construction of quarters for the Assistant Principal of the College.

A large number of the hill people in Burma still adopt the taungya system of cultivation, burning down a hill side of jungle, and planting it with paddy, chillies, cotton tobacco and vegetables for their own consumption. This spot is deserted after a few years, and another chosen which goes through the same process. The Commissioner of the Tennasserim Division suggested that this wasteful form of cultivation should be discouraged, by a gradual enhancement of the rate assessed on each individual or family engaged therein, and the Financial Commissioner is at present conducting an inquiry into the circumstances of the taungya cultivators in Lower Burma. The present rate of Rs. 2 per cultivator, or family of cultivators, was fixed over a quarter of a century ago. It was then the double of the highest existing rate and high as compared with the prevailing rates assessed on paddy land in the plains. It is not wonderful if it has now become inadequate in certain localities. In the Tavoy district taungya tax produced a larger revenue last year than in the previous year, though there was a decrease of 998 acres under assessment. This was caused by an increase in the tax in 1902.

Recently the Madras Board of Revenue asked Collectors to report whether they considered that any reductions were called for in the numerous of liquor shops in the towns in their districts and in dealing with the reports received from them the Board says:—"Most of the Collectors have made some recommedations for reduction, but before dealing with these recommendations individually, the Board will premise that it cannot approve of reductions which are likely to unduly restrict the competition for licenses. Where the prices obtained for the shops in any town are already high, a reduction in their number will only have the effect of preventing any but large capitalists bidding for those that remain. This is not desirable in the interests either of Government or the consumer, and though it is possible that the reduction might make for temperance, it might, by restricting competition, reduce the price of liquor. In any case the result would depend largely on the will of a comparatively few persons who might encourage drunkenness in their endeavours to ruin one another and so obtain complete control of the liquor traffic It is on these grounds that some of the proposals made by Collectors have been disapproved. The Board has now sanctioned the closure of 4 arrack shops in Vizagapatam town, 1 arrack shop in Komalagiripatnam in Godaveri, 6 arrack shops and 2 foreign liquor taverns in Nellore town, 1 toddy shop in Gudur, 22 arrack shops and 3 toddy shops in the towns of South Arcot Districts, 13 toddy shops and 7 arrack shops in the Tanjore District, 1 arrack shop in Ootacamund, 1 arrack shop in Dharmapuri and 1 toddy shop in Krishnagiri, Salem, and 3 arrack shops in Palghat and 2 arrack shops in Cannanore.

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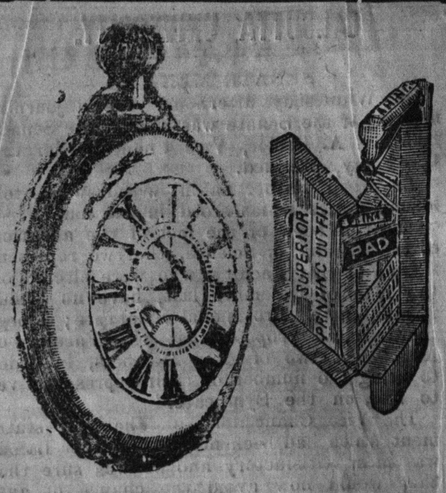

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BENGAL.

The following resolution appears in the current number of the "Calcutta Gazette":—

The Lieutenant-Governor has lately had under his consideration the suitability of the courses of instruction followed in primary schools in rural areas in Bengal and of the courses of training given to the teachers of such schools.

The suitability of the courses followed in primary schools in this Province was considered in the years 1899 to 1901, with particular regard to the needs of the agricultural population; and the courses as then existing were revised so as to make them considerably simpler than they had previously been. No attempt was made however at that time to differentiate the teaching in primary schools in purely rural areas from that given in similar schools in urban areas or in large villages where there are many educated people; nor was any special course of training for the teachers of such schools devised. The Lieutenant-Governor has had these questions investigated by a committee consisting of Mr. A. Pedler F.R.S., C.I.E., Director of Public Instruction, Chairman, The Hon'ble Mr. K. G. Gupta, Member of the Board of Revenue. Mr. H. Luson, Commissioner of the Chittagong Division, Mr. S. L. Madox, Director of Land Records and Agriculture. The Hon'ble Mr. A. Earle, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, Secretary, and the results of the deliberations of this committee are set forth in the following paragraphs.

The Committee observe that it is desirable in the first place to take cognisance of the very great differences between the conditions, in respect of primary education, of Bengal and other Provinces of India. This procedure will, they remark, make it easier to form a correct judgment as regards the questions under discussion. In Bengal there are over 44,000 lower primary schools and about 5,000 upper primary schools; whereas in the Central Provinces the total number of primary schools is only about 2,100. In Bengal 30 per cent. of boys of a school-going age are actually at primary schools, whereas in the Central Provinces the percentage is 15 only. In Bombay the expenditure incurred on schools of this class is three times as great as that incurred on similar schools in Bengal, although the number of schools maintained in the former Province is considerably less. In Bombay and the Central Provinces the teachers receive far higher pay than they do in Bengal. The dissimilarity of conditions in Bengal and the Central Provinces is seen in a striking light when it is stated that the total number of primary schools in the Central Provinces is less than half the number of such schools in the Midnapore district alone.

There is a marked contrast in many respects between the departmental Board schools in Bombay, the United Provinces, the Punjab and the Central Provinces and the privately managed indigenous village "pathsalas" in Bengal. In those Provinces primary schools have been created and developed by Government on the departmental system; whilst Bengal, Madras and Assam have all along operated through the agency of grants-in-aid made to existing indigenous schools. The privately managed schools of Bengal represent nearly one-half of the total number of boys' primary schools in the whole of India. Their main feature is their extraordinary cheapness, the cost per pupil being Rs. 2-7 a year, which is the lowest figure returned by any Province; Rs. 6-4 being, for example, the cost per pupil in Bombay. There is a much greater demand for secondary education in Bengal than in the Central Provinces; and a larger proportion of boys reading in primary schools in this Province aim at carrying their education beyond the primary stage. The existing provision for primary education in Bengal, however, barely touches the needs of the vast agricultural population, neither the courses nor the hours of instruction being suited to their requirements. It is hoped that, if the courses are simplified and shortened, there will be a large accession of scholars of this class.

The Committee quote the following passage which occurs in paragraph 21 of the Resolution on Indian Educational Policy of the 11th March 1904:—"The aim of rural schools should be, not to impart definite agricultural teaching, but to give to the children a preliminary training which will make them intelligent cultivators, will train them to be observers, thinkers and experimenters in however humble a manner, and will protect them in their business transactions with the landlords to whom they pay rent and the grain-dealers to whom they dispose of their crops. The reading books prescribed should be written in simple language, not in unfamiliar literary style, and should deal with topics associated with rural life. The grammar tought should be elementary and only native systems of arithmetic should be used. The village map should be thoroughly understood; and a most useful course of instruction may be given in the accounts papers, enabling every boy before leaving school to master the intricacies of the village accounts and to understand the demands that may be made upon the cultivator. The Government of India regard it as a matter of the greatest importance to provide a simple, suitable and useful style of school for the agriculturist, and to foster the demand for it among the population." With regard to these remarks, the Committee find that the principal points in respect of which the rural schools in Bengal are at present deficient are—

(1) the courses of instruction are too long, too advanced and too diversified; and

(2) the prescribed text-books are not written in simple language commonly used by the people.

As regards the measures which can, in their opinion, be taken in this Province in order to simplify the courses of instruction in these schools, the Committee observe that there would be very great difficulty in combining half-time with whole-time instruction in the same schools according to the system followed in the Central Provinces.

It is proposed, therefore, that in purely agricultural tracts the existing lower primary schools should be converted into schools primarily for the sons of agriculturists with short courses of instruction specially suited to the needs of that class. No change will be made in respect of the courses of instruction in the lower primary classes of upper primary, middle and other high schools, or in lower primary schools in towns or other places, where agriculturists do not predominate, or where there is a large or considerable number of educated people who are not likely to be satisfied with the proposed shorter courses for schools for the sons of agriculturists. While much will thus be done for the purely agricultural classes for whom the present courses of instruction and hours are too long and too diversified, it is proposed to provide considerable facilities for the conversion of existing lower primary schools into upper primary schools wherever the demand for a higher class of primary education appears to be established. It is hoped that while in this way the agricultural classes in purely rural areas will in future secure a system of education which is suited to them, and the number of scholars from such classes will be largely increased, further facilities for more advanced learning will be made available for the classes who wish that their sons should proceed beyond the lower primary stage.

The fixing of the exact hours during which the classes in the proposed rural primary schools should be held will be arranged according to the convenience of the villagers and the seasons of the year. The usual hours kept in primary schools in Bengal are from 6 to 9 in the morning and again from 2 to 5 in the afternoon.

The Committee are of opinion that there should be only one Infant Class in the proposed rural primary schools. No minimum age should be prescribed; but a child who is over 7 years of age, coming to school for the first time, should be placed in Class I, instead of in the Infant Class. Above the Infant Class there should be only three classes, through each of which it should ordinarily take a pupil one year to pass. It is proposed that the curricula for the Infant Class and the three classes above the Infant Class should be on the following lines:—

A.—Curriculum for the Infant Class.

I. To form with any kind of seed, and afterwards to copy in sand or on the ground—

(a) numbers up to 100 and the multiplication tables up to 10 into 10;

(b) the letters of the alphabet and simple words;

(c) simple geometrical shapes; and

(d) simple examples of addition and substraction.

II. To recognize—

(a) simple forms shewn by means of models made of wood, etc.;

(b) colours shewn by means of flowers, etc.;

(c) familiar objects, taught from the actual objects or from pictures of them,

(d) familiar animals; and

(e) familiar flowers, plants, etc.

III. To comprehend and remember simple stories.

IV. To sing nursery rhymes and simple household songs.

V. Infant drill, exercises and games.

VI. Children's easy occupations, such as seed-placing in its various applications (in addition to those mentioned in clause I above) and stick-laying. Kindergarten gifts may be used where such are used by the school authorities.

It has been stated that the prescribed text books at present in use in Lower Primary Schools in this Province are not written in simple language commonly used by the people. They are, for the most part, written in more or less Sanskritised language, with not a few scientific terms which are not understood by the villagers. The Committee recommend that a special Committee of expert officers should be formed to prepare model text books for the proposed schools for the sons of agriculturists; and that in preparing these text books the Committee in question should examine carefully the primers used in Bombay, the Central Provinces, the Punjab, Assam and elsewhere. The text books will in the first place be prepared in English. When they have been approved by Government, suitable persons will be selected by the Director of Public Instruction, in consultation with Commissioners of Divisions and Inspectors of Schools, for the purpose of translating them into the local vernaculars. The translations made by them will be approved by the Director after reference to such experts as he may deem it necessary to consult.

The Committee consider it to be a matter of great importance that the translations from the model English text-books should be prepared in a sufficient number of local vernaculars. For instance, in Bihar the translations should, they consider, be made in at least three dialects, viz., Tirhutiya, Bhojpuri and Magadhi or Maithali; while in Bengal they should be translated into Northern, Eastern and Central and Western Bengali at least.

It has been stated that considerable facilities will be provided for the conversion of existing lower primary schools into upper primary schools wherever the demand for a higher class of education appears to be established. When a lower primary school is converted into an upper primary one, an additional teacher has to be appointed; and this strengthening of the staff necessarily involves additional expense. The Committee propose that the option of converting a lower primary school into an upper primary one should be allowed whenever the local residents are willing to incur their share of the necessary additional expense. When a lower primary school is thus converted into an upper primary one the newly formed upper primary school will be allowed an increased grant from public funds according to the existing rules for grants-in-aid. The cost of lower primary teacher is about Rs. 6, whereas the cost of an upper primary teacher is about Rs. 15 a month. Of the Rs. 6 paid to a lower primary teacher Government pays Rs. 2 and the residents Rs. 4: while of the Rs. 15 paid to an upper primary teacher, the residents pay Rs. 9 and the Government pays Rs. 6. The increased cost to Government will therefore be Rs. 4 a month, or Rs. 50 a year, roughly, for each school so converted. It is hoped that within five years the existing number of upper primary schools (5,000) will be at least doubled. The additional expenditure which will therefore develove upon Government at the end of that period will be Rs. 2,50,000 a year.

The next matter discussed by the Committee was whether the courses prescribed for guru training schools require modification in view of the proposals which they have made in regard to rural primary schools. Just as it is proposed to distinguish between the courses for primary schools for agriculturists and those required for urban areas and places in which agriculturists do not predominate or in which there are a large number of educated people, so it is necessary, in the opinion of the Committee, to make a corresponding distinction in respect of the training of the persons destined to teach those who will adopt agriculture as their means of subsistence.

In the first place the Committee consider that the training of teachers for these elementary schools should not, for the present at any rate, occupy more than one year. The scheme of studies in guru training schools as now sanctioned contemplates a training for a period of two years. The Committee consider that if the curricula set forth above are adopted in respect of rural schools, a course of training for one year will for some time to come suffice for the teachers of these schools, provided that a thoroughly efficient teaching staff is appointed.

The scheme of studies which the Committee recommend for the training of teachers in rural schools is as follows:—

(General Knowledge.)

1. Elementary Bengali, Hindi, Urdu or Uriya literature; 2 Grammar and composition; 3 Historical and Geographical Readers; 4. Arithmetic; 5. Writing; 6. Practical object-lessons for infant classes; 7. Agricultural Reader; 8. Drawing (free-hand and geometrical); 9. Practical geometry and mensuration; 10. Manual training; 11. School drill; 12. District maps, and, where there has been a cadastral survey, village maps; 13. Where there has been a cadastral survey, khatians and khasras and the village note; 14. Samples of zamindari accounts, zemindari receipts, and pattahs and kabuliyats; 15. Letter-writing and deeds; 16. School gardening.

(Art of Teaching.)

17. Junior Teachers' Manual (practical portion); 18. Practical teaching of infant stages, with special reference to practical object-lessons.

The above scheme of studies generally follows that in force at the present time for the training of teachers in lower primary schools; but certain modifications have been made with the object of simplifying the course Only one new subject has been added, viz., the "Agricultural Reader." The preparation of this text-book will be entrusted to the Director of Public Instruction and the Director of Land Records and Agriculture. It will be in three parts, the first part being adapted for teachers in rural primary schools, the second for teachers in ordinary lower primary, upper primary and middle schools and the third for first grade training schools. This book will be translated into the principal vernaculars in their literary form.

The Committee consider it imperative that additional training schools for teachers in rural primary schools should be established without delay, and that the teaching staff to be employed in the training schools should be thoroughly efficient.

It is proposed to open special training schools for the teachers of rural primary schools; and it is considered necessary to open as soon as practicable 70 such schools, each capable of turning out 40 teachers a year. The headmaster in charge of each such school will be a person who has undergone a three years' course at an agricultural college, and his salary will be Rs. 40 rising to Rs. 50. The second master will be a person who has been trained in a first grade training school, and his salary will be Rs. 20 rising to Rs. 25. The cost of each such school will be approximately Rs. 3,960 a year in respect of recurring expenditure and Rs. 1,450 in respect of initial expenditure. The total recurring expenditure will, therefore, be Rs. 2,77,200, and the total initial expenditure will be Rs. 1,01,500. Even at this rate it will take nearly sixteen years to provide Bengal with trained teachers for all the rural primary schools.

The Committee consider that the only change required in respect of the prescribed course of studies for first grade training schools, is that the third part of the proposed Agricultural Reader should be prescribed in addition to the existing course. These schools will, supply junior masters for the training schools for teachers in rural primary schools; and it is desirable, therefore, that a certain amount of agricultural knowledge should be imparted at them.

At the same time as the action is taken in respect of training schools for teachers in rural primary schools, the existing guru training schools, which will continue to supply teachers for primary schools in non-rural areas, will be reorganised. At present there are about 135 such sch[illegible] sub-div[illegible] numb[illegible]

[illegible] tha[illegible] train[illegible] system [illegible] year. [illegible] will be t[illegible] each having [illegible] given will b[illegible] the salary of t[illegible] to the same sca[illegible] ing schools for [illegible] mary schools.

The Committee consider that gardens should be attached to all first grade training schools, and, wherever practicable, to guru training schools. They observe that the Director of Public Instruction and the Director of Land Records and Agriculture have already been addressed by Government as regards the question of attaching gardens to the first-named class of training schools.

The total cost of the scheme recommended by the Committee is approximately as follows:—

(1) For the conversion of lower primary into upper primary schools (paragraph 12 of this Resolution)—Rs. 50,000 a year rising to Rs. 2,50,000, or say 2,50,000

(2) For the establishment of guru training schools (paragraph 17 of the Resolution) 2,77,200

with an initial expenditure of 1,01,500

(3) For the preparation of text-books (paragraphs 10, 11 and 16) say 10,000

The recurring expenditure will, therefore, be Rs. 3,27,200, rising in five years to Rs. 5,27,200, while the non-recurring charges will amount to Rs. 1,11,500.

The Lieutenant-Governor wishes to consult the public before taking action on the proposals of the Committee. He requests therefore that any person who may desire to do so will submit to Government on or before the 15th March 1905 any criticisms which he may have to make in regard to the scheme. It is proposed that the scheme should be introduced with effect from the 1st January 1906.

An increased reserve of 25 per cent of the aggregate number of officers for the Executive Branch of the Royal Indian Marine has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. An addition of 5 officers to the establishment is involved and two of these will be commanders, and three sub-lieutenants.

The Goverment of India have sanctioned the formation of a "Finger-Print Bureau" in connection with the Central Criminal Intelligence Department, Simla. The object of this Bureau will be to maintain a record of the finger-prints of criminals, whose operation extend beyond the limit of a single Province, so that on the arrest of an unknown person, who is not a native of the Province, information about him can be readily obtained from a reference to one central office instead of, as at present, by reference to a number of separate Bureaux.

THRICE WED BEFORE 16.

Paris, Sunday, Jan. 15.

To be married for the third time before attaining the age of sixteen is an experience given to few women. Yet that is what has happened to Mlle. Odette Castle de Vareuil, now the Comtesse de Morlac. It should be added that the three marriages took place with the same husband.

The young lady is the daughter of the Comtesse de Vareuil, and inherited an income of £500 a year. When she was only thirteen her mother, in order to safeguard her daughter's fortune from envious relatives, permitted Odette to contract a marriage with a young man of twenty-two, described as Comte Camille Breant de Morlac, explorer, journalist, and member of the Geographical Society, with a chalet at Lucerne, villas at Nice and Trouville, and addresses in New York and Vienna.

The young couple were married at "St. Paul's Church, London" (so it was stated yesterday in court) on April 22, 1902, but as this ceremony did not completely satisfy her family, Odette and her husband were remarried two months later at Dover. But as the provisions of French law had not been complied with, a third marriage in France was considered essential.

Although twice married, the young wife had not yet reached the age of fifteen, so in order to satisfy the authorities a medical certificate was procured declaring that the Comtesse was in a delicate condition.

THE THIRD WEDDING.

A special presidential decree was then obtained, and on July 26, 1902, the young lady was married once more at Orleans before the local mayor. The witnesses to the marriage included two Knights of the Legion of Honour, an officer of the Academy, and Baron St. Georges Armstrong, ex-deputy, diplomatist, and officer of the Legion of Honour.

But now the Comtesse de Vareuil asks the court to declare the marriage of her daughter null and void, alleging that the presidential decree was obtained by fraudulent means, that the Mayor of Orleans was incompetent to marry a couple domiciled in Paris, and that the banns were no regularly published.

Counsel for the defence, however, contends that the union is perfectly valid, and he opposes the nullification on the ground that the young wife has given birth to a son, whose certificate bears the Christian names of Hanelin Willy Madison Frank Joseph Marcel Albert Edmond Jean Breant. The plaintiff's advocate, however, in spite of this imposing row of names, questions the existence of the child.

Judgment was evenually postponed for a fortnight.

"GREEN NEWS."

A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES.

To-day (Feb. 3) at the Bombay Court of Small Causes, his Honour resumed the hearing of the suit in which Messrs. Gordon, Hughes and Company, proprietors of the "Advocate of India," sought to recover from Messrs. John Dickinson and Company, Ld., paper suppliers, the sum of Rs. 1,718, being the amount of damages sustained by the plaintiffs by reason of the alleged failure of the defendants to supply the plaintiffs with green paper for printing.

Mr. D.B. Binning, instructed by Mr. Bomonji Mehta, pleader, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Payne, solicitor, for the defendants. Mr. Binning in addressing the Court said that in this case the question rested on the construction of the two letters of the 22nd November, 1902, one written by the plaintiffs, and the other by Messrs. Dick[illegible] and Co. Both the firms were bound by [illegible] they wrote. The defendants al[illegible] their contract was for 16 [illegible] which could not be [illegible] iffs' letter it [illegible] case [illegible] was clearly [illegible] quirem[illegible]nts in the future [illegible] were in the past. The [illegible] that in the past it was [illegible] increasing. Subsequent to No[illegible]2, defendants had gone on regu[illegible] making supplies which were not six[illegible] bales per month. The supplies were regulated on the consumption. If they really believed that they were only bound to supply 16 bales, would they not have complained that their contract was for only that number? The omission was explained by Mr. Powell alleging that he had not seen the books and that he did not know he was supplying more than 16 bales. It was argued for the other side that there was a request made to sign a contract for a larger number of bales, but why should the plaintiffs have signed such a contract when they knew that in the existing contract they could ask for supplies equal to the consumption and there was to be a reserve of 16 bales in the godown? The sole cause of the failure to supply was that the shipments had failed. In defendants' letter to their Home firm, written after the contract of November, 1902, they said they would always keep a month's supply in hand, but no mention was made of 16 bales. Mr. Binning further argued that the defendants having supplied in former months was no excuse for their not supplying in November. If they had an emergency stock of 16 bales in hand they would have supplied 16 bales in November and the emergency stock, and there would have been no break. Counsel then argued the question as to the amount of damage.

His Honour said that, as he would have to look into some of the documents put in, he would reserve judgment in the case till Wednesday next.—"A of I."

—According to a telegram from Chicago, published by the "New York World," General Ben Viljoen has been horsewhipped by Miss May Belfort, an English actress, who declared that after promising to marry her he jilted her.

The annual meeting of the members of the Executive Committee of the Madras Branch of the Countess of Dufferin Fund was held at Government House on Wednesday. H. E. Lady Ampthill, the Lady President, was in the chair and there were also present, Mrs. Whitehead the Hon. Sir J. Thomson, K.C. S.I., the Hon. Mr. G. Stokes, C.S.I, Mrs. Benson, Surgeon General Browne, I. M.S., and Mrs. Browne, Mrs. Hammick, Mrs. Firth Colonel Maitland, I.M.S., Mrs. Twigg, Mr. G. Narayanswamy Chetty and Major Molesworth, I.M.S., the Honorary Secretary. Before the business of the meeting was commenced the Lady President stated that H. E. Lord Ampthill regretted that he would be unable to attend the meeting. He had hoped to do so, but was engaged with H. H. the Maharajah of Mysore.

THE REMARKABLE STORY OF MR. BONAVITA'S LION.

"Can a lion die from a broken heart?" Several of the most noted veterinary surgeons of Paris and Berlin have declared during the past week that Baltimore, once the heaviest and largest lion of the hundred and fifty at the Bostock Hippodrome, Paris, is slowly but most surely passing away from grief, and that it is past human aid. Baltimore, on July 31st last, during a performance at Dreamland, New York's colossal summer resort, savagely attacked his trainer, Captain Jack Bonavita, the man in whose care he had been ever since his capture in the jungle five years ago.

Two thousand people saw the unequal struggle, in which the wounds inflicted upon the trainer were so terrible that five surgeons in consultation despaired of saving the man's life at all. Baltimore completely lost control of himself and lying across his victim's body had one of Bonavita's hands in his mouth, tearing off the fingers, when a keeper, named McField, pushed an immense bar into the cage and so infuriated the jungle king that he left his victim for a second and attempted to reach McField.

In that second the proprietor, Mr. Frank Bostock, bravely plunged into the arena, and while fighting off the lion by means of shooting blank cartridges into his face, at the same time lifted and carried Bonavita to the door, where willing hands were ready to receive his burden—whether dead or alive none knew.

For many days the poor man lay in the hospital at the point of death. Dr. Edward Lee, the Omaha surgeon, who attended President McKinley after the shooting in the Exposition grounds of Buffalo, was called in consultation, and to the work of the surgeons Bonovita owes his life. That portion of the hand chewed by the infuriated lion was amputated. A month ago the animals were taken from America to Paris by Mr. Bostock, and, against the wishes of the doctors, Bonavita, with his arm in a sling came along, Despite his tied-up arm, the troupe of lions have been put into the exhibition arena every morning, and Bonavita has gone in with them and had half an hour's frolic, so that none of the lions might forget him. Of them all Baltimore has appeared thoroughly depressed. He has refused his food, and whenever Bonavita spoke to him or looked in his direction the big lion, which is now wasting away, would slink into a corner as though anxious to express his sorrow and beg forgiveness. Bonavita has tried to stroke the animal's shaggy mane, at which Baltimore turns over on his back and tries to lick Bonavita's good hand.

"Poor old Baltimore!" said Bonavita, the other evening. "I've forgiven him long ago, and as soon as Dr. Lee gets here from home I'm going to have the whole hand taken off, and then Dr. Lee and Drs. Erharhd and Brunier, who are caring for me here, are going to provide me with a mechanical hand, by which I shall be able to handle a whip or a revolver as easily as possible.

"I have had many encounters with Baltimore," said Captain Bonavita, "and I never feared him, though when he made the second lunge and got past my bar that night I felt that my life was gone. Just what my feelings were at that time is hard to say. I have had many wild adventures, but that certainly was the most exciting moment of my life.

"What happened when Baltim[illegible] my bar and struck me to the [illegible] more passed cage I scarcely can recall [illegible] floor of the wild roar of the li[illegible] remember the screams of the [illegible] and the horrified moment I misto[illegible] audience, which at that THE [illegible] for applause.

'Then [illegible] GRIP CAME TIGHTER.

a ti[illegible] Baltimore closed his jaws and took [illegible] grip of my arm. I felt that if I [illegible] to live I must struggle to conquer [illegible] beast who at that moment was on the point of devouring me.

"I tried to work the bar, which was unwieldy because of its great length. Before that night I always had used a shorter bar, but after the encounter of the week before I thought that I would be safer and could manage Baltimore better with a long one.

"On that night I did something that in all my experience as a lion-tamer I never had done before. I went into the cage without my revolver.

"I owe my life to the attendant. When I had almost given up the struggle for life, and was lying exhausted on the floor, expecting to be devoured at any moment, I saw the long, thin arm of Attendant McField reach through the bars of the cage, and heard him say. 'Here goes to save Captain Jack.' Then came the report of the blank cartridge pistol, which caused Baltimore to loosen his hold on me and let the attendant slip in the bar which separated him from me.

"I remember Mr. Bostock coming into the cage and picking me up—then I lost consciousness. Poor old Baltimore! I have tried to get him to eat, but he won't. So the 'vets.' say he is dying of a broken heart."

The date of the opening of the new water works at Rangoon by the Lieutenant-Governor has been fixed for the 22nd instant at 4-45 p.m. The ceremony, will take place at the Pumping Station on Tamwe Road.

The Collector of Coimbatore reports that there will not be a large failure of crops in the case of those sown early in the year, but the Divisional officers expect a poor outturn of wet crops which is expected to be better than that of the garden and dry crops. Should the next south-west monsoon completely fail there will be room for anxiety and necessity for State intervention. At present there is probability of distress in the District.

'No Doctors to Treatment"

"In my distant village home, and the consequence is, that the baneful effects of Malaria, have reduced my health to the present state. I am shattered, weak, pale, emaciated and uncared for in my own home."—Complaints of above nature come to us every now and then and we would advise the complainants to use our PANCHATIKTA BATIKA, the infallible specific for Malarial and other periodical fevers which will do away with the necessity of calling a dootor and will qure him thoroughly at a nominal charge,

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THE MAHARAJA OF TIKARI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Gya, Feb. 5.

While you are engaged in noticing the invasion of native Estates by European, place-hunters, would it not be better for you to include in your list the Raj of Tikari 9 annas? Let me assure the reader I bear nothing but good feelings to the young owner of the estate. I write in deep sorrow, for, I am one of his sincere well-wishers, and the public expected many good things from him. In short, my object simply is to show to the young Maharaja that the path he has chosen to spend his valuable life in, is neither profitable to him personally nor to the Ind'an public.

Maharaj Gopal Saran Narayan Singh has just attained to his majority and been out of the control of the Court of Wards. People entertained very high hopes of him. It was expected that the young Raja, having assumed direct management of his Raj, would open fresh avenues and emoluments for his own people to distinguish himself by public works of utility. But these hopes have been frustrated. Proofs of bad management are already to the front. While during the continuance of the Court of Wards, there was no saving, there was no debt; but since the Court of Wards made over the possession of the Raj to its owner, indebtedness has been in progress. Money is being borrowed and spent wantonly. A horse has been purchased at Rs. 5,000! Then in the Calcutta races of Christmas last, it is said, a good deal was lost by the Rajah. There are other items of unnecessarily luxurious and useless expenditure too numerous to be detailed here.

Then look to the internal management of the Raj. During the period of the Court of Wards there was only one European Manager, but now there is a European Private Secretary and a European master of stable also! The Maharaja has been persuaded to execute a power of attorney in favour of Mr. Keith, his Manager, giving him all powers in the Raj, thereby rendering himself practically a mere non-entity. He has been further persuaded to execute and register two agreements, one in favour of his Manager, and the other in favour of Mr. Christian, his Private Secretary. The terms of the agreements are, to say the least, preposterous. The first document provides that the manager shall get Rs. 1,000 as pay besides Rs. 85 for household establishment per month for 7 years of service, after which he can retire on a pension of Rs. 500 per month for his life; and if he dies leaving his widow, she shall get Rs. 250 per month for her life. If during the 7 years of his service he is dismissed he shall be entitled, to a damage of Rs. 90,000, and a very big village of the Raj has been mortgaged him!

Similarly, the Private Secretary will draw Rs. 400 per month for 5 years, after which he can retire on a pension of Rs. 200 per month for life. If he leaves a widow, she will get Rs. 100 for life. If he is removed from his post within the period of his compulsory service, he shall be also entitled to be compensated in the sum of Rs. 10,000. A very valuable bunglow at present occupied by the District Judge is mortgaged to him!

Is any argument required to show the monstrous nature of the contract? One cannot blame the Maharaja as his ideas are perfectly Anglicised and he has imbibed a liking for the Europeans; for, he is one of those who was nursed and educated in the lap of the Europeans from his infancy. But there is a limit to everything. If he has taken a fancy for the Europeans, where are his own countrymen to go? He has in his Raj very able and trusted servants who have served his ancestors to their very best, and whose hearts had ever been anxiously and eagerly waiting for the dawning of the day when the Maharaja would become of age, but, it seems, the evil star of the country is in the ascendant, and all their hopes have been dashed to the ground.

But to revert to the documents, noted above. The Maharaja has executed and admitted the registration of the agreements with his eyes wide open. The question now is, did he realise in his mind the gravity of the situation? He has just emerged out of his teens, and it is natural to suppose, his reasoning faculties and his power of understanding have not yet been sufficiently matured to enable him to weigh the bearings of a contract entered into by him. The draft of the document shows, that it is only one-sided, and that the author of that valuable document, whoever he may be, had the interest of the European servants of the Raj at heart, and did not consider the embarrassing position of the young Maharaja in which his terms would place him. Mr. Howard, Barrister-at-law, Gya, is the retained legal adviser of the father of the young Maharaja, It appears, the drafts of these precious documents were not shown to him on behalf of the Raj, for, he would not have allowed the terms of the agreement to stand as they are even though that might have clashed with the interests of two Europeans. Mr. Keith, the Manager of the Raj, was previously the tutor and guardian of the Maharaja. Mr. Christian, the Private Secretary, who is now admitted in the Raj as such, was, for some time, a circle officer of that Raj, under the Court of Wards, and I do not know how his connections had ceased in that capacity. However, if the question of claiming compensation at all comes up before a Court of Justice, the new amended Contract Act will shift the onus on the claimants to prove the bona fides, that the Maharaja fully understood the import of the agreements, and that it was free from undue influence, etc. etc. Even if it be taken for granted that the beneficiaries come out of the various intricate phases of the law successfully, the question would still be whether they would be in equity and justice entitled to the exorbitant amount of compensation named in the documents. The sums would very well rank with remote damages and perhaps not recoverable.

The above reminds me of a story of a certain General of an army instituting a suit for damages against a blacksmith valuing his claim at the price of a kingdom! The plaint set forth the facts of the case that for want of a nail the shoe of the horse was lost, and for want of the shoe, the horse was lost; and for want of a rider, the cattle was lost; and for want of a battle, the kingdom was lost, which, or rather its equivalent in money, was claimed from the blacksmith!

By the bye, why such short terms of service, free concessions and exorbitant compensations have been provided for them are questions which baffle ordinary intelligence to solve.

There are a host of other servants of the Raj,—the Assistant Manager, the Circle officers, the Raj pleader and mukhtar and other ministerial officers who are all of them old servants, and have been serving the estate since the time of the Court of Wards. Is the Maharaja going to provide for them, their widows and children in the manner he has done to his European servants? Surely they have a greater claim upon him for similar favours, as they are the Maharaja's countrymen. But alas! they are "natives" and do not deserve any consideration. Mr. Dowling the keeper of the stable is yet another European who ought to be equally provided for, as his pay has been fixed at Rs. 100 per month.

BARMAID AND DOCTOR.

DRINKING BOUTS AND LOVE MAKING.

The romance began on one of the steamers that run from Holyhead to Dublin; it was continued through the post and at various refreshment bars; it ended in the Dublin Law Courts on Saturday, when Dr. William Harrop Parry, of Llanrwst, North Wales, was ordered to pay £300 damages to Miss Frances Hanrahan, a barmaid, for breach of promise of marriage.

Dr. Parry is a married man. He introduced himself to Miss Hanrahan on the Holyhead boat, and subsequently visited her every Monday and Friday in Dublin.

The promise to marry was—she told the court—in one of his numerous letters, but she had not got the letter. She had destroyed it, as she had no idea he was a married man, and never dreamt "it would come to this. He brought her six rings to Limerick Junction, to which place she was transferred from Kingsbridge Railway Station.

Mrs. Hanrahan, the mother of the plaintiff, said that in May Mrs. Parry called on her. Mrs. Parry had a black eye. The witness spoke to the defendant in the presence his wife, and he, after a time, admitted that he had given a promise of marriage to the plaintiff, although he was already married. Mrs. Parry called her husband a villain, and said, "I knew this was the way it would be."

Dr. William H. Parry, the defendant, was then called. He spoke in an excited and rambling manner, and ultimately the Lord Chief Justice remarked that it was no use examining him. He was then told to leave the box.

Then Mrs. Adelaide Parry, the wife of the defendant, told her story. She said that her husband held some good posts at Llanrwst. He was medical officer to the workhouse, and he held appointments to mines and quarries and several clubs. He had lost practically everything owing to drink. He was in the habit of going away on drinking bouts and taking with him her jewellery.

JUDGE AND BARMAIDS.

She proposed to go over to Dublin, but when they got to Holyhead the doctor was so drunk that they could not get any further. They subsequently went over together, and it was on that occasion that they met Miss Hanrahan and her mother. She did not hear her husband say to Mrs. Hamrahan that he admitted that he had proposed to her daughter. She had to put her husband to bed that afternoon, he was so drunk.

Mrs. Parry added that she went [illegible] Miss Hanrahan at the hotel wh[illegible] engaged and the latter read [illegible] letters to her, but she wo[illegible] back, nor would she giv[illegible]

In charging the [illegible] Justice gave a brief [illegible] ject of barmaids. Ba[illegible] ally ladies of good appea[illegible] ners, and politeness. A rat[illegible] tive manner was perhaps consider[illegible] complishment of an efficient barma[illegible] manageress did not like to have a girl [illegible] a face like a vinegar cruet. (Laughter.) That would precipitate gentlemen clients in retiring from the bar.

His lordship expressed a little mild surprise that the plaintiff took to such a man as the defendant at all, but there was no accounting for tastes.

A GENERAL NATURALIST IN MYSORE.

Herr Oscar Kauffmann, the German naturalist and the guest of H. H. the Maharajah of Mysore, who, under the skilful management of Mr. C. Theobald, had a very successful "shikar" trip in the Mysore forests, returned to Mysore on Monday last, the 23rd ultimo, after a long shoot of a month and a half. He would have had another week of it, but unfortunately he got an attack of dysentery which necessitated his immediate return to Mysore, to his great disappointment, as a tiger had just begun to kill the baits tied up for it, and he had every chance of bagging it. Taking into consideration the time of year, when the grass is still standing and in places four to five feet and more in height, and the recent epidemic amongst the game, Herr Kauffmann has made almost a record bag, consisting of three bull bison (the last was a solitary one, almost jet black and stood six feet at the shoulders, horns 36½ inches, girth at base 20½ inches, expanse 38½ inches), two rogue elephants, one tigress, two sambhur, several chital, four-horned antelope, wild boars, kakurs, wild dogs, crocodiles, and other small animals, besides a live python 15 feet in length, which has been sent to Germany. The shikar trophies were cured and packed in six huge packing cases by Theobald Brothers, taxidermists, of Mysore, and forwarded by the Mail on Sunday last, the 29th ultimo, to Madras for shipment to Germany. Herr Kauffmann left Bangalore for Madras last Tuesday, the 31st ultimo, "en route" to Calcutta. Thence he proceeds to the Central Provinces on another shooting expedition

ANOTHER CASE OF RHEUMATISM CURED BY CHAMBERLAIN'S PAIN BALM.

The efficacy of Chamberlain's Pain Balm in the relief of rheumatism is being demonstrated daily. Parker Triplett, of Grigsby, Virginia, U. S. A., says that Chamberlain's Pain Balm gave him permanent relief from rheumatism in the back when everything else failed, and he would not be without it. For sale by

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THE BOMBAY EXHIBITION.

THE CLOSING CEREMONY.

The Bombay Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, which was formally opened by their Excellencies Lord and Lady Lamington on the 10th December last in the presence of an immense gathering of ladies and gentlemen, representing every class and community in the city, will be officially closed this afternoon (Feb. 7) at 5 p.m., by the Hon'ble Sir James Monteath, K C I E., with fitting ceremony.

The brilliant success which has attended the efforts of the Hon'ble Mr. Vithaldas Damoder Thackersy, Khan Bahadur M.C. Murzban, C.I.E., and the members of the Exhibition Committee in organising one of the largest and most costly undertakings of the kind ever attempted in India will long be remembered by all those who have availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the Exhibition during the two months it has been open to the public. The various exhibits, the practical demonstrations of European arts and industries, side by side with native arts and crafts, have been an education in themselves, and, no doubt, will result in giving a great impetus to the industrial arts and manufactures of this country.

From a financial point of view also, this magnificent show, in which were combined learning and pleasure, has proved a total success, the income having covered all the expenditure and left a handsome balance to the good.

From the number of applications that have been received by the Secretary of the Exhibition Committee for admission cards at the to-day's ceremony, it can safely be said that the gathering this evening will prove as imposing and representative as the opening ceremony.

Sir James Monteath will arrive at the Exhibition at 4-45 p.m., and will be received by the Executive Committee at the entrance gate The proceedings will commence at 5 p.m., when the Hon'ble Mr. Vithaldas will read a report announce the awards of the Judges request the Chairman to distribute the award and declare the Exhibition closed.

Sir James, after distributing the awards, will address the gathering, Sir Jamshedji Jijibhai, Bart, will propose a vote of thanks to the chairman, which will be seconded by the Hon'ble Sir P. M. Mehta, K.C.I.E.

The Exhibition will be open from 3 p.m., to 8 p.m., for ladies and gentlemen, and all the side shows and amusements will be open free to the guests.—"Advocate of India. Feb. 7.

WILD BEASTS IN MYSORE.

PANTHERS NEAR THE CAPITAL.

A correspondent writes to the "Madras Mail":—Panthers, savage and canning brutes, are becoming numerous and dangerous in the Mysore District. A few days ago, at Sivasamudram Power Station, a native fired at and wounded a panther through a hole made in the wall of his hut. The next day several men went after the wounded beast, and, being ignorant of the danger of following up a wounded panther, three of them (two natives and a Eurasian) were attacked and injured, one native in particular was severely mauled, and the doctor had no hopes of his recovery. The poor fellow was quite delirious and may have succumbed ere this; the other two men run the risk of blood poisoning. I am glad to say that this panther was finally shot by Mr. Hobble, who, with several beaters armed with empty kerosene tins and other [illegible] succeeded in driving it out of [illegible] of when [illegible] be.

[illegible] said [illegible] who [illegible] not ex-

[illegible] AND TIGERS

[illegible] animals that [illegible] A few days ago [illegible] wild boar within six [illegible] and at Khakenkote a woman [illegible] rogue elephant and a boy was killed and devoured by a tiger. During the past six or eight months the rogue elephants in the Khakenkote forests have accounted for four or five victims.

The Mysore Government have fixed the rewards for the destruction of tiger and panthers, but the actual amount paid to claimants varies considerably, being left to the will and pleasure of the Deputy Commissioners of District, but seldom or ever, is the full rewards paid as in the Madras Presidency. Another thing I notice is that the skins of the animals are not sold by auction, thereby giving the public of buying a few of them, but they are snapped up by the Government officials at the low rate fixed by Government. The present Deputy Commissioner of Mysore was the first to order the sale of the skins by auction, the other day; this is as it should be in every District.

Good land is still to be had for nothing by the man who will cultivate it in Upper Burma. The last Land Revenue Administration Report for that province quotes with approbation a statement by Mr. Todd-Naylor that the "Government is glad for a man to enter upon waste land and clear it, and that so long as no other person interferes with him the authorities will not, and he will be assessed only on his cropped area." The Report further repudiates a tendency which is complained of by the Commissioner of Meiktila to treat the man who enters upon waste land and clears it without the written permission of some revenue officer, as "a criminal," and suggests that there would be fewer cases in the courts if the attitude of the Government in this connection were more widely known.

TRAVELLERS FIND CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY EVERYWHERE.

Mr. C. W. Eckerman, manager of the Smith-Premier Typewriter Co. at Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A., who is a staunch friend of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, says: "I have taken particular notice that this remed seems to be carried by drug stores in all parts of the country, which is quite an item when one is travelling. It gives me pleasure to say that I have used it for years and have always found it highly satisfactory, effecting a cure in a shorter time than any other medicine." For sale by

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DEATH IN THE TANJORE POLICE STATION.

The following is a brief report of the oral evidence given at the enquiry that is being conducted by Mr. A. R. Banerjee, I.C.S., District Magistrate Tanjore, in connection with the death, under alleged suspicious circumstances, of a prisoner at the Tanjore Police Station:—

Anjalai stated that she did not know the deceased and that she never complained of her cattle being stolen by him.

Narayana Padayachi (last witness' neighbour) stated that, on the morning following deceased's arrest his (witness') wife told him that deceased was beaten by Police constables and taken to the station. When the incident took place, he was absent from home.

Athimulaf Pillai (living in the same street) deposed that deceased sought protection in witness' house, as he was beaten and pursued by the Police. Witness deposed to having been an eye-witness to the beating and to deceased being dragged towards the station. He did not know what took place in Anjalai's house before deceased came to witness' house. Deceased used to collect cattle "kaval" fees. There was some misunderstanding between deceased and the woman Anjalai, about two or three years ago, owing to the loss of a cow.

Ramasami, a garden cooly, deposed to having heard from his wife about the deceased having been beaten.

Vythilingam (another resident of the same street) gave evidence as to his having heard of the beating from the inmates of his house.

Lakshmi, wife of witness Ramasami, deposed to Anjalai and deceased coming to Vythilingam and demanding blackmail. Deceased also attempted to levy blackmail from a woman, Unnamalai, in the neighbourhood. Unnamalai went out to fetch money to pay deceased, but meanwhile he was invited Anjamalai to meals in her house. After an hour, deceased came out of her house crying for help against a beating that was being administered by the Police. The Police handled him roughly and dragged him along the road. The Police were not in uniform at the time, but witness heard from the people about that the persons who beat deceased were Policemen. Deceased did not appear to have been drunk at the time.

Subbammal, a neighbour, deposed to having heard about the beating of the deceased. Her son deposed to having seen the beating.

A number of other witnesses were then examined, and among them Saminathan, a bandy-driver, who deposed to having seen three Policemen and a toddy drawer beating deceased, who was not drunk at the time.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. Hakim, I.M.S., District Medical and Sanitary Officer, Tanjore, was then examined.

While walking through Wiltshire a week or two ago a pedestrian asked a native how far it was to the next village, and received the curious reply, "About three pipes o' bacca." He subsequently found that watches and clocks were very rare in that district, and that it was usual to indicate distance by the number of pipes of tobacco one could smoke on the journey.

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K. G. Kelkar Esqr., B. A., Principal, Poona Training College, writes:—
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Raghunath Sing Esqr., Post Master, Hoshangabad, writes:—
"Kindly send two bottles of SUDHA CHURNA, as I have derived much benefit by its use or Constipation, as also my friend to whom I gave the Churna."

Babu Umesh Chandra Kotal, Sub-Registrar, Maisadal, writes:—
"I am glad to inform you that SUDHA CHURNA has given much relief to the patient who was suffering from Acidity for the last few months."

Babu Srikrishna Mahanti, Cuttack writes:—
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Babu Lakshmi Narayan Ray, Mursidabad, writes:—
"I have been giving the medicine to my wife thrice daily, for the last 5 days, and it has done her good."

Babu Krishna Prosad Maitra, Zemindar and Hon. Magistrate, Malancha, Sonarpur, writes:—
"I am glad to say that I have derived much benefit within a couple of days of its (SUDHA CHURNA'S) use and have every reason to believe that by continuing the medicine for some time I shall be completely cured of the Indigestion from which I have been suffering. I used many other medicines, both Allopathic and Kabiraji, but none of them has given any benefit"

Babu Karunanidhan Mukherjee, Hon. Magistrate, Burdwan, writes:—
"The phial of SUDHA CHURNA which you sent about a week ago, has given much relief to my wife who has been suffering from dyspepsia since last 3 years. Please send 3 large phials without least delay."

Dr. G. B. Chimaswamy, 1st grade, Hospital Assistant, Koppa, Kadur Dist, says:—
"Kindly send at an early date one large phial of SUDHA CHURNA. The one you sent has done much good to the patient."

Dr. Shrikrishna Chinnaji G., Medical Officer, Shriwardhan, Janjira State, writes:—
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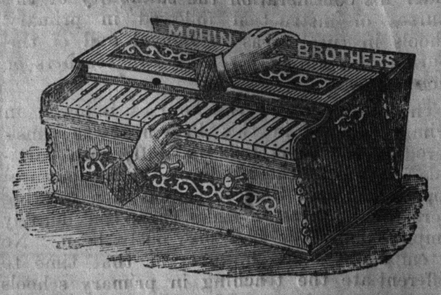

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