REG. NO C 5

Amrita Bazar Patrika

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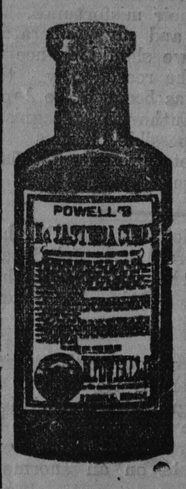

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SIR
I just received to-day all the silver utensils in sets from your mohorir. The polish and the making of the article is excellent and well approved. As you made for me in the past various golden ornaments of value, I can honestly recommend you to other gentlemen. In fact your dealings with me for the last 16 years have won my full confidence in your business. I shall send you some more orders very soon.

Ranaghat
21 May 1904.

Yours Sincerely
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Supdt. Of Post Office, Nadia Division.

Babu Bepin Behari Dhar of Rampur-Boalia, Rajshahi is a jeweller of high reputation. His designs are excellent and he executes orders with precision, promptitude, and integrity. I had some Rs 500 to Rs. 600 worth of ornaments prepared by him and had the gold tested by an expert at Calcuttta and was glad to find that he was honest as regards the price of gold and rate of labours.

(Sd.) Dina Nath Mukherjee,
Dy. Magistrate, Rajshahi,

Rajshahi, the 28th Oct. 1901.

Babu Bepin Behari Dhar, jeweller of Boalia, made several ornaments for me. He also receved several orders through me from my friends. In all cases his dealings were honest and straightforward. He is a reliable goldsmith and his executions are neat. I can safely recommend him to the public.

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PLANTAIN CULTIVATION—IV.

Special for the "Patrika.")

Another improved mode of cultivation.

Prepare your land and dig pits as stated before. Then plant young shoots of uniform size and height into the pits already dug The height of the plants should be little more than the depth of the pits. They should be planted in such a way that they all lean towards one and the same direction. When the shoots have grown a foot high, cut off the portion above the ground. Then beat it at the cutting point, with light wooden hammer or any such thing. A new plant will again appear. Cut it again and beat it in the same way. Thus two to three cuttings will thwart the tall growth of the plants and you will now get strong and healthy plants of dwarf size. They will bear bigger and better fruits than the ordinary plants. Tall plants may be easily damaged or blown down by wind. All these plants will bear fruits nearly at the same time. All plants, their blossoms and clusters of fruits will lean and fall towards the same direction. They will throw out several new shoots or succours. Uproot them all keeping only two of healthy growth for future crops, as stated before.

It is a well-known fable in this part of the country that plantain trees may be made Khasi (castrated) by the following process:—Get healthy young shoots of robust growth. Cut it lengthwise in four equal parts. Then join them and tie them up with thread from bottom to top. Then plant it in the ordinary way. This will produce a large blossom and the fruits will be comparatively larger. I have never tried it nor did I even see any body doing this and I do not know if there is any foundation in this fable.

After-treatment.

After you have done planting, clear your field of all the weeds and jungles which might have grown there spontaneously and apply new earth occasionally as stated above. Never cut down any leaves of your plants except cleaning the fading ones. In a few months new shoots will appear, keep one or two healthy shoots and root out the others as I have already told you. The mother plant will now come in blossom and will bear fruits. The shoots thus kept will bear fruit for one year more. If you wish to continue your cultivation in the same plot for another year, you should allow some of the shoots thrown out by these plants to be kept for that year's crops.

Watering.

If you plant in dry season, water your plants for two or three days only. If you plant in the rainy season, no watering is required. Too much watering during the wet season brings in decomposition of the shoots which eventually destroys the plants.

Enemies of the plantain trees and fruits.

Earth-worms generally commit depredation on plantain trees. Mosquitoes do much damage to fruits. Bats are greedy animals who steal away fruits. There is a sort of squirrels who are no less injurious to these fruits than bats. Mice and rats are equally voracious enemies.

Their Remedy.

Mosquitoes may be driven by fumigation of Sulphur. Earth-worms may be driven by the application of lime-water. Bats may be [illegible]n by putting thorny creeper or plant [illegible] the fruits. Cane-plants with leaves around [illegible]d blades will drive them easily. stems a[illegible] fall upon the fruits, the thorn When bats [illegible]ill prick their wings and tear of the plan[illegible] If you can in this way them into p[illegible] bat will come to your catch a bat no [illegible] fear. Lanjar may plantain garden ou[illegible] Both Lanjar be caught by cage a[illegible] guns occa- and bats may be drive[illegible] should sionally in the garden. Ra[illegible]ly be moused or killed by putting cage or poison. The latter process is rather dang[illegible]ous. In hilly tracts there are other enemies —the bear and the monkey. They may be driven by firing guns or shot to death. Bear fears fire and light. They come to plantain field during night time. Keep light or fire in places of your garden. The bear will in that case never enter your garden.

Fruiting Time.

In three to six months from the time of blossoming, the fruits will ripe. Some varieties ripe early and some ripe late. Birds are the proper means to ascertain if the fruits have ripened. When you find that one of the fruits has been eaten by any bird, you will know that the fruits have ripened. Another method is when you find the filaments of the flowers attached to the fruits have completely dried up and fallen off, you should know that the fruits have ripened. There are generally three to five veins in the skin of the fruits. These veins nearly disappear when the fruit is full-grown. When these veins have disappeared and the fruits have taken a circular shape you should know that they have ripened.

Isvar Chander Guha.

Jamalpur (Mymensingh),

Particulars are give in the Assam Administration Report for last year of a raid by Doba Abors on a British village near the frontier of the Lakhimpur district in which several people were more or less injured, four houses looted, and two girls carried off. It appears that the Abors had been cheated by one of their own "gams" of money awarded them as compensation for trespass on their territory by elephant hunters, and took this means of expressing their resentment. The two girls were afterwards restored and Mr. Fuller, who inquired into the case, imposed a fine on the tribesmen, which they paid. Some of the stolen property was recovered and the offending "gam" was sent to jail at Dibrugarh for a year.

A curious and serious accident occurred on the 17th ultimo, on the Satpura branch of the Bengal-Nagpur line near Jubbulpore by which ten men were killed and twelve injured. The occurrence would not in the ordinary way have been remarkable, but the official inquiry has elicited some interesting facts. It appears that the spot where the truck turned over, about four miles from Jubbulpore, is on a stiff curve of 12 degrees deflection, before reaching which there is a down-gradient of 1 in 80 for two miles. The lashing of the bogie truck having come in contact with the wheels, and the speed having caused the material on the truck to vibrate—it is also quite probable that the girder and deck-plates slipped, thus causing a displacement of the lashing—the attempt of the brakesman (who was sitting on top of the material) to drop the brake proved unavailing. This individual, of course, had no business to be seated where he was. His duty was near the brake, which if it had been worked with hand pressure could have checked the speed. We hope to hear that, as a result of the inquiry, stringent regulations upon this point will be issued.

C. P. NOTES.

Nagpore, Jan. 31.

WEATHER AND HEALTH.

The cold is intense here. The annual cold weather visitor Plague is not yet in view in this town though rampant in villages not very far off. But Nature is always even with her balance Measles and poxes have broken out in an epidemic form. The Health Department is struggling hard to stamp them out We know not how will they fare in the struggle.

M. A. AND B. L. RESULTS.

The results of the M. A. and B. L. Examinations are out. The Morris College tops the list in the B. L. and has passed 20 out of 30 students. Last year the first two places were occupied by students from this college. This speaks well of the professors. Unfortunately the College is soon going to be transformed into a Central Law College with a European Principal on a handsome remuneration. In the M. A. Examination the Nagpur students have acquitted themselves well. Mr. Parusottum Kaza, a graduate of Morris College, stands first in Mathematics. Mr. Nirmal Chandra Mukerjee who is third in English, passed with honors in English in B. A. from Hislop College.

THE HON'BLE SIR LELY.

We are sorry to learn that our worthy Chief Commissioner leaves us soon. He has earned golden opinion of all sorts of people by his love of justice and many other qualities of the head and heart. It was his love of justice which prompted him to write a Note on Excise to the Government of India and to formulate an extensive scheme for the better administration of that department. The scheme is shortly going to be carried out. He has been honoured with a K. C. I. E., this year. He will be succeeded by Mr. J. O. Miller.

VICTORIA MEMORIAL BUILDING.

The Victoria memorial building is nearing its competition. In three or four months' time we shall have a magnificent edifice worth the capital of the C. P. We know not for what use it is going to be erected. Some days ago there was a strong rumour that the Central hall in the upper story which has a wooden floor, is going to be reserved as a "Nautch-Ghor" of the white few. Somehow the Hon'ble Sir Lely heard of this. No sooner did he hear it than he "snubbed and criticised it so severely that it was virtually given up".

MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

The force of municipal election is being staged once more. The curtain has not yet fallen. In some places the contest was very hard. The climax was reached in Sitabuldee. After much canvassing Mr. Ram Narayen, our rich and enlightened townsman, a worthy son of a worthy father, Mr. G. M. Buti were returned as members for Sitabuldee The position of Mr. Buti justifies his election and we hope he will do his best to serve the public.

A MEMORIAL.

The beginning of this century witnessed the transportation of some poor clerks of the comptroller Post Office from Bengal to Nagpur and Delhi. Bright prospects were held out to them and large promises were made at the time. The prospects proved to be only illusions and their claims were ignored. Thus far away from friends and relatives, troubled by Plague every year, they are serving here on small pay. In their agony of despair they gave out a moan—a memorial was sent to the Comptroller-General of Post Offices to redress some of their grievances. He not only rejected their prayer but condemned them for the frequency of their petitions and warning was given, to punish the ringleaders in future.

VARIETIES.

[illegible]MAGES FOR PIGEON SHOOTING.

[illegible] Walton farmer who shot a prize [illegible] A W[illegible] ate his fowls' corn [illegible] geon because it [illegible] to pay damages.

GOVERNMENT PROFITS.

The net profit from the Russian Government monopoly in the sale of spirits last year exceeded £40,000,000.

TRAIN STOPPED BY BUTTERFLIES.

A train on the Central Argentine Railway has been stopped by the crushed bodies of myriads of white butterflies.

DOG HUNTS FOR MONEY.

Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania, has a dog which has been trained to search the streets for money. His finds since June 1st amount to £25.

FISHING BY ELECTRICITY.

A German patent has just been taken out for the invention of an electric apparatus whereby the presence and extent of shoals of fish can be ascertained.

FASTEST FIRE ENGINE.

Leicester's new motor chemical fire engine, the fastest in the world, was the other day called out for the first time, and demonstrated its efficiency by the speedy extinction of a fire.

GERMANS WON'T EAT RABBITS.

To combat the strong prejudice in Germany against rabbits as human food, the Berlin society for the encouragement of the breeding of these animals is about to give a rabbit banquet.

EXPENSIVE HOT WATER.

The proprietor of a tea-room at Hythe has been ordered to pay £12 5s. damages to a customer who, whilst taking tea at the establishment, was scalded through a waitress letting a jug of hot water fall on his legs.

TEN-STOREYED SCHOOL.

A skyscraper school is to be built in New York to accommodate from 7,500 to 8,000 pupils. It will be ten storeys high, creeted on the east side, and on a site 175 feet by 80 feet. Each floor will have fifteen class rooms, each accommodating fifty children.

CURES FOR BAD TEMPER.

Sir Lauder Brunton is inclined to believe that ill-temper is often the result of disordered nerves, and can be controlled and modified in a great measure by drugs. In some gouty people twenty grains of bicarbonate of potash, with ten or twenty of bromide of potassium, taken when the feeling of irritability comes on, frequently soothes it, and it has the further effect of lessening the worry, even in those who are not irritable.

PNEUMONIA always results from a cold or an attack of influenza. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy quickly cures these ailments and counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. It is made especially for these and similar ailments and can always be depended upon. For sale by

Smith Stanistreet and Co.,
Wholesale Agents B. K. Paul and Co.,
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Calcutta.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

BACK FROM THE DEAD.

An extraordinary story of the recovery of a supposed dead woman, after a doctor's certificate of death had been obtained, comes from Hapton, near Accrington. The scene was a remote cottage in the village and the discovery that death had not taken place was made by an Accrington undertaker who had been sent to measure the body for a coffin. When he arrived he found the body, that of a young married woman, aged twenty-six, and the mother of two children, laid out in a darkened room. While measuring he noticed an eyelid twitch and at once felt the heart. There was a slight pulsation and he promptly carried the woman in her winding sheet to the kitchen fire. Then he drove to the nearest farm and public house for assistance and returned with brandy. The stimulent revived the woman, who was left in the care of the farmer's wife. The husband who had obtained a doctor's certificate of death, had himself laid his wife out. Police inquiries show that the woman has twice before been laid out while in a trance.

LEE, THE THRICE HANGED.

It is stated that John Lee, the footman, who was convicted in February, 1885, of the murder of his mistress, Miss Keysee, at Babbacombe, near Torquay, will be released on January 23rd. Three futile attempts were made at Exeter to carry out the death sentence. Lee was placed on the scaffold, the lever was pulled, but the drop rfused to act. The executioner and warders did all they could for eight minutes to make it move, and then Lee, who had been praying all the time, was led away to a corner of the execution shed. There, with the white cap still over his face, he could hear the hammering and sawing on the scaffold. Once again he was led out to death and once again the drop refused to work. He was led away again while the warders worked. (It is sure to go down this time," they said. For the third time the drop refused to act, then Lee was led back to his cell and was eventually reprieved. He is now 42 years old, and it is suggested that, if the terms of his licence permit it, he will go on the stage.

WIRELESS WAR NEWS.

Captain Lionel James, the "Times" war correspondent, told at the Society of Arts, on January 18th, the history of his experience while sending news from the "Times" despatch boat by means of the wireless system. He described how he witnessed a naval attack on Port Arthur and how he found his boat in the middle of a Japanese torpedo flotilla:—We determined to give the system a real trial, he said. We commenced to send the message, which was 1,500 words in length to a station 130 miles away. The message was sent in four sections. At the end of the first section the operator on the ship listened in vain for a reply. At last the operator took off the telephone and said in his quiet quaint American way, "Captain, we will deliver the goods. Wei-Hai-Wei says that it is coming in like a drum." Then I knew that the system was a success. The "Times" despatch boat, the "Haimun," was fitted with the Forest wireless apparatus, and a receiving station was erected near Wei-Hai-Wei, the first message sent being in relation to the landing of Kuroki's army. Captain James sent it from a distance of eighty miles and when he reached the station found to his joy that it was on the way to London. Then he went in quest of further adventure. Arriving in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur, he saw three battleships and two cruisers of the Russian fleet, and immediately sent a wireless message to Wei-Hai-Wei. "Just as day was breaking the Chief Officer on the "Haimun" woke me to say that the Japane[illegible] our starboard beam. We [illegible]ing abreast [illegible]rst [illegible] Sea, a[illegible] especially tw[illegible] portion of it which it was our custom to patrol, was alive with floating mines. Moreover, the Russians no doubt, irritated by their misfortunes, has threatened both myself and my operators with a violent death if we should chance to fall into their hands. The reason why the "Times" system ceased was because the Japanese naval and Military authorities recognised that the existence of a possible channel of leakage of military secrets presented a flaw in their plan of campaign."

Sardar Inayat Ullah's journey to Kabul has been resumed after a short halt at Jellalabad.

Reports from Kabul show that a further spell of excessively severe weather has occurred there.

Large additions are to be made to the rolling stock of the North-Western State Railway to meet the growth of the grain traffic to Karachi. The forthcoming harvest promises to be so good that the exports to Europe next summer are certain to be on an enormous scale.

The Ceylon Revenue Statement for 1904 published on Saturday shows Rs. 3,04,04665, being an increase of Rs. 981356 over 1904. The biggest increases are Rs. 545281 under Railways, and Rs. 303018 in Customs. The only decreases are Rs. 545043 in Excise and Licences and Rs. 40,211 in Interest.

The question of the abolition of the Mhow Arsenal, also of the Trimulgherry, Poona, and Ahmedabad ordnance depots, is stated in the Annual Report of the Director General of Ordnance for last year to be under consideration as the new Kirkee Arsenal will be able to undertake all work now done in these places.

ABOUT COLDS.—In all countries and among all nations of the globe, cough medicines are used probably more extensively than any other one class of medicines. Every human being is subject to throat and lung troubles, which may terminate his existence. people everywhere realize the dangerous consequences of a neglected cold, for the majority of fatalities have their origin in and are characterized first by a simple cold. The more careful and prudent persons do not permit a cold to run its course, but treat it promptly For many years Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been in use throughout the United States and many other countries and time has proven it to be the best adapted of any remedy yet made for all throat and lung diseases and especially coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. It always cures and cures quickly For sale by

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THE PUSA AGRICULTURAL CONFERENCE.

THE JUTE CROP OF BENGAL.

We take from the proceedings of the recent Conference of the Board of Agriculture at Pusa the following notes on the Bengal jute crop by Mr. R. J. Finlow, Special Jute Expert to the Bengal Government:—

In order to give some idea of the extent of the jute industry in Bengal, the following figures may be useful:—

The area under the jute in 1904 was 2,850,000 acres, of which 750,000 acres are in Mymensingh and 400,000 in Rungpore. The normal yield may be taken at 15 maunds per acre and the price at Rs. 5 per maund, so that the annual yield may amount to nearly 1,600,000 sixteen hundred thousand tons, and the value to over £14,000,000. The area under jute cultivation has increased by 25 per cent during the last ten years.

There are practically only two kinds of jute grown, viz., Corochorus Capsularis and Corchorus Olitorius. C. Capsularis stands water-logging better than C. Olitorius, and so the former is found in the low-lying lands, while the latter grows in the higher lands, especially where the soil is heavy. It is said that the fibre of C. Olitorius is coarser than that of C. Capsularis; but there does not appear to be conclusive evidence on this point.

Practically the whole of the land under jute in Bengal is alluvial, being part of the Indo-Gangetic plain. Some of the lands are high, e.g., in Mymensingh, and some are low, e.g., in Serajgunj. The lower lands are inundated annually during the rainy season by the rivers Ganges and Brahmaputra, up to a depth of 5 feet or more. They thus receive a yearly deposit of silt, which must tend to keep the soil in a fertile condition.

The rainfall is heavy over the whole of the jute-growing area, being from 60—70 in. per annum, and during the growing season, viz., from April to August, temperature is high, a hot moist atmosphere being the result.

Altogether there are considerable differences in the textures of the soils upon which jute is grown, some being moderately coarse and and others exceedingly fine silt; yet there is no land in the jute districts of a gravelly or rocky nature. The genral opinion based on observation, is that the best jute is obtained from the heavier soils and that the fibre produced on sandy land is apt to become coarse and stunted.

I have not visited either Madras, Bombay or Burma, and so I cannot say whether or not jute cultivation would be likely to be successful in these places.

The present research work was started in consequence of complaints of the deterioration of jute fibre during recent years; and five possible causes of deterioration have been put forward, viz:—

1. The almost universal practice of wetting the fibre and adding sand to increase its weight before bringing it into the market.
2. The lands growing jute are becoming exhausted owing to insufficient manuring and lack of application of the principle of rotation of crops.
3. Lands not suited to the growth of jute and producing inferior fibre have been brought into cultivation.
4. Scarcity of water suitable for retting purposes.
5. Want of care in seed selection, methods of sowing, etc.

The first four of these possible causes indicate roughly the lines on which it is proposed to conduct a scientific inquiry into the question of deterioration. The fifth cause must, of course, be left for the experimented farms to investigate.

With regard to cause (1), a Bill to prevent fradulent adulteration of jute is now under the consideration of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. I have estimated the moisture in a number of samples of wet and dry jute, some at least of which have been found to contain over 50 per cent of water. Good dry samples on the other hand have been found to contain only 10—13 per cent of water under the same atmospheric conditions. Of course at this time of year (January) the moisture absorbed from the air is less than from the almost saturated atmosphere of the rainy season; but it is not probable that, even with a saturated atmosphere at 90deg. F., the amount of moisture absorbed by a sample of jute would ever be much more than 20 per cent. Experiments will be made to determine accurately the maximum amount of moisture which a sample of jute is capable of absorbing from a saturated atmosphere at a high temperature.

With regard to the question of exhaustion of lands, it is hoped that a series of physical and chemical analyses of jute-growing soils will give some definite evidence. If it is a fact that some lands are becoming exhausted they must either be manured or the land must be renovated by rotation. Manuring is expensive and it is doubtful if, owing to the low price of jute, it would be profitable to apply mineral manures in sufficient quantity. Rotation of crops would tend to reduce the average output and thus, in order to keep up the supply, new areas would have to be brought into cultivation.

The retting process in a very large question, but bacteriological experiments indicate the possibility of reducing the time of steeping very considerably by the use of dilute salt solutions containing phosphate and ammonia. If the fibre produced by hastening the retting in this way is sufficiently superior to that obtained by the ordinary process to pay for the extra cost of its production, then of course, it would be profitable to produce the superior fibre on a commercial scale. Owing, however, to the relatively small differences between the prices of good and inferior jute, it is difficult to make a definite statement on this point until further experiments have been completed.

Some work has to be done on the manurial value of the silt annually deposited by the rivers on low-lying jute lands, and a great deal of work has also to be done in comparing the chemical and physical properties of fibres from different districts and from different varieties of plants.

The experiments above suggested require the continuous work of a wholetime chemist extending over several years.

A EDITOR'S OPINION.—John S. [illegible]wee Esq., editor and proprietor "Guardian and Star," Hokitika, New Zealand said: "I have found Chamberlain's Cough Remedy a very valuable medicine, having received great benefit from its use when suffering from a cold, and as a preventive for croup in children its excellent properties have been testified in my family" For sale by

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COTTON IN BENGAL.

The following notes on Cotton in Bengal were submitted by Mr. S. L. Maddox:—

(a) "Botanical examination and classification."—Nothing has been done in Bengal regarding the botanical examination and classification of existing varieties. This work is in the hands of the Inspector-General of Agriculture.

(b) "Improved varieties and improved methods of cultivation."—Last year the Inspector-General of Agriculture sent small quantities of Egyptian and American varieties for experiment on the farms. The seed was sown at Dumraon and Sripur Farms by a drill under the supervision of a Gujarati cultivator. Seed was also distributed by the Inspector-General of Agriculture to planters in Behar. The experiment is not likely to be a success because the sowing was very late (in May and June) and untimely rainfall damaged the crop especially at Dumraon. The experiments will be continued on a small scale in the Government Farms and it is understood that they will be continued by the Behar planters. No experiments have been made in the way of seed selection or of hybridization owing to want of expert direction.

Generally speaking, in Bengal, cotton is not a "field" crop; it is grown for the most part in homesteads and as a mixed crop together with "arhar" (pigeon pea) and castor. It is necessary, therefore, for the Department to determine whether it can be successfully grown as a field crop before inducing cultivators to grow it as much. This suggestion is in accordance with the views of the Board expressed in its first resolution on this subject

(c) "Provision of good seed of the varieties ordinarily grown."—At a meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Association this question was considered. It was resolved to start seed selection in a small way and to repeat the experiments at the same centres for several years. Government has accordingly sanctioned four centres for work on the collection and selection of seed of the best indigenous varieties. The centres selected are Maniarpur (Durbhanga), Sripur (Saran), Cuttack and Purulia (Manbhum). The best local varieties are found within reach of these centres.

Maniarpur.—The experiment, the cost of which is to be borne by Government, is being undertaken by Messrs. Shaw, Wallace and Co. It is proposed to select the growing plants in the field from which seed will be reserved. Plants will be selected for such qualities, e.g., length of staple or prolific yields, as the Board may advise. The ginning will be done by hand and only seed of the best specimens retained. A history of the crop, conditions of the season, and the like will be kept for each variety. Next year it is proposed to distribute this seed to cultivators of the same locality on condition of return from the crop they grow of the same quantity of seed, plus 25 per cent. It is proposed to repeat this experiment for several years until the superiority of the local types is assured. It is then proposed to open seed godowns and to sell selected seeds at cost rates.

In the other centres (but on a much smaller scale) similar experiments will be conducted under the control of the Superintendents of the Cuttack and Sripur Farms, and in the case of Manbhum by an overseer of the Department.

It is proposed to collect seed also of tree cottons in order to conduct some experiments in the Dacca District and to provide for indents for tree cotton seed from other provinces.

Letters have been addressed to the principal mill-owners in Bengal with reference to the ginning without discrimination of all cottons sent to their mills. One or two have promised to set apart specially fine lots to be separately ginned with a view to avoiding damage to the seed and to making a report to the Department of the history of these cottons. They will also supply samples of the lint and sell seed at cost price "plus" the cost of separate treatment.

The best local variety known in Bengal is the "Buri Kapas" which is said to yield in Manbhum "on homestead lands" 400 lbs. cleaned lint per acre. Special pains will be taken to select seed of this variety both for distribution in Bengal and to the other Provinces. The Department is also willing to undertake in its farms experiments on a small scale in any varieties which may be sent to it from other Provinces.

The total quantity of rain collected in Madras since January 1st is 1-92 inches, the average due for the same period being 0-86 inch.

On Thursday the Hon. Mr. Justice Batchelor presided at the sitting of the Criminal Session of the Bombay High Court when the case in which Shapurji Cowasji Sanjana, formerly a member of the Bombay Bar, stood charged with aiding and abetting the forgery of a will and using as genuine a forged document was called on for hearing. The accused pleaded not guilty and claimed to be tried. The Hon. Mr. Raikes, on behalf of the Crown, applied that the case should be tried by a Special Jury. In support of his application the Hon. Mr. Raikes read the affidavit of Mr. W. Sloane, Head of the Criminal Investigation Department, which, among other things, stated that the case was of a complicated nature and in the interests of justice it should be tried by a special jury. Mr. Raikes said that in the present case they had to prove, first, the forgery of the will and, secondly, they had to prove that the accused conspired with other people to procure the forgery of the will and that he used the forged document as genuine knowing it to be forged. Under these circumstances it was thought desirable that the trial should be by a Special Jury. Mr. Rustam D.N. Wadia, who appeared for the accused, said that he did not object to the application, if his lordship was of opinion that the nature of the case required that it should be tried by a Special Jury. In the former case there were seven accused and the trial lasted for fifteen days. The present case would not take more than three days, the witnesses were few and the case was in no way complicated. His Lordship directed that the trial should be before a Special Jury.

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THE

Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 9, 1905.

FATALITY OR RESULT OF "KARMA."

THE Asiatics are ridiculed as fatalists by the Occidentals; but, certain human acts are so inexplicable that one is often disposed to attribute them to "luck." The adage in the country is that, "the mere touch of some will convert ashes into gold, or gold into ashes." There is no doubt, the people of India belong to the latter class. Their evil star is always in the ascendant, else why should the rulers of the land start works or introduce measures with the object of benefiting India, but which, as if by a magic wand, were turned into so many sources of misery to its millions? Can any body tell us why should Sir Andrew Fraser, instead of improving the Presidency College, which so badly needs looking after, try to establish a new College at Ranchi on the same lines, the ultimate effect of which will be the break-up of the former institution, which is regarded with the utmost affection by the educated Bengalees? There is no question about the excellent motive of Sir Andrew Fraser; it is to impart better and higher education to the people of Bengal. But, why should His Honour be moved to picture in his mind an ideal College in the land of the Sonthals (savages,) when he had every opportunity of raising an existing and much-loved and much-neglected College, in the centre of civilization, to the status of a high class educational nstitution?

If Sir Andrew Fraser had made up his mind to acquire the whole of the College Square and a few more plots of land in the neighbourhood for the purpose of remodelling the Presidency College on the basis of the proposed Ranchi College, there was nothing to prevent him from carrying out his intention. It would have no doubt cost money, but so will the Ranchi College project do. Then, surely, Government would not have behaved like a miser in this matter, for, it is always a friend of high education. If it did, well, Sir Anderw might have secured the necessary amount in the way he is raising the Ranchi College Fund. If His Honour had opened a fund in the name of the Presidency College, instead of opening one for the Ranchi institution, there would have been only this difference that, while many of our big men are contributing to the latter either with reluctance or to please His Honour, in the other case not only would the well-to-do classes but all educated men have paid their quota of subscription voluntarily and with the utmost pleasure. What is more, they would have felt eternally obliged to the Lieutenant-Governor for his attempt to improve the Presidency College.

Now, why should Sir Andrew elect to do exactly the reverse of what the people so earnestly wished? If he had given his heart to the betterment of the Presidency College in the way he had devoted it to the construction of his new educational institution, his image would have been imprinted in the grateful memory of every Bengalee, and the educated public would have to a man voted a golden statue for him. This is no exaggeration, and Sir Andrew must have by this time realized it to some extent. And yet he was led to start a work which has rendered him extremely unpopular, and which, in the opinion of those for whose benefit it is undertaken, is fraught with dire mischief. Now how to account for this strange phenomenon? It is due to fatality; it is so, because, it was written in our "nasib" (lot) that thus it should be.

The reader knows with what genuine delight we hailed the measure of "village government" introduced by our Lieutenant-Governor. Truth to tell, we welcomed it with greater sincerity than the ideal of an Indian patriot delineated by Sir Henry Cotton in his Congress address—"the establishment of a federation of free and separate States—the United States of India—under the aegis of Great Britain." For, while the latter project seemed to emanate from a statesman who lived in the dream-land, the former appeared to be the work of an administrator familiar with the mundane affairs of a region of stern realities. In short, when a short and beautifully vaguely-worded official communique on the subject was circulated to the press, we saw in it the germ of real self-government, and expected the revival of those old Hindu village communities which have ever been the envy of the most advanced nation in the world, the Americans; and which, though the product of centuries' civilization and culture, were ruthlessly extinguished by the present race of rulers.

We, however, needed more information from the Government to be sure of our ground. So we appealed for it through our columns. No response came. The authorities were absolutely silent. They would not take the press into their confidence; they would do every thing secretly, and in their own way. Suspicion then entered into our mind. Was it possible, we thought in our mind, that, that subtle, unknown, mysterious thing called fatality, was exercising its baneful influence upon our destiny in this matter also.

In spite of all efforts we could not accurately ascertain what Mr. Savage, who has been specially deputed to carry out this project, was doing in regard to this matter At last we framed a few questions for a member of Council to elicit all available information on the subject from the Government, and published them in these columns. Just then we came to know from the "Behar Herald" that, an elaboarte scheme on Union Punchayets had been printed by Government, containing almost all the information necessary for our purpose. The concluding portion of the scheme is reproduced elsewhere from the same Behar paper.

A perusal of the document shows that, our misgivings were not without foundation. The hand of the evil agent, which has ever been following our destiny, is very plainly visible in this good work also. In short, we have very little cause for congratulating ourselves or the Government on its scheme of so-called village government.

We freely admit that the object of the Governemnt is to give facilities to the villagers to manage their own affairs, so far as that is possible, and thereby learn the art of self-government. But, as our "nasib" is bad, the effect of the scheme, if carried out, would be to place the villagers still more effectively under the grip of the executive than now. It is the result of our own "Karma," but we shall discuss the scheme in a future issue.

AGITATION IN ED.

THREE of our ablest menng to be sent to England to represerievances of the Indians to the Engle. This is all right. But we wishad gone in their individual capacityot as "a deputation of the Congr or, the Congress, as representing educated classes, should be able to least one hundred, and not mere thts representatives, to make itself and its position felt in England. Ithree delegates represent to the Bblic that they are the only three me the Congress has deputed they are to lower the prestige of the Congr through the Congress, that of the wIndia.

A few years ago, the peohiva sent a deputation to the Russianment at St. Petersburg. The menere very liberally financed by the pehey were provided with sowers and ss. When they reached their destinney were received with honour and tus guests. The Czar at last was persu give an audience to the deputation. te of the taunts of our enemies, thress is a national organization and hired a prestige of its own. A dep of three men, however able they are worthy of its position.

Then again, if they annhemselves as a deputation of the Co they are sure to provoke the ridicule contempt of our opponents in England by the "Times." They could haveed it if they were 300 strong, instearee; but, as their numerical strength ically nil, they cannot afford to createeelings in the ranks of the most powection in the ruling country. To acdge their position as delegates from ndian National Congress is to ackn the representative character of ter body. To acknowledge the represer character of the National Congress is e heed to its recommendations. But a great object of the ruling caste air organs, here and in England, is toe the so-called "pretensions" of theress, they are not likely to acknowledg representative character if they prthemselves as coming on behalf of the ss.

On the other hand, ourents may take this opportunity of cdown the Congress and belittling its ince. They may call the members "the tailors of the Tooley street" and so found in this manner, offer insults to thnbers and through them to the courtself, and may also mar their usefulto a large extent.

If they dissociate themselvn the Congress and present themselveshe English public as Indians who have to put the case of their country befoem, irrespective of Tories or Liberalsy are not only likely to be given a ind patient hearing by both parties, buy may, on their part, speak about thegress and remove many misconcepti regarding it with greater freedom. Ounble advice to our friends, therefore, is instead of announcing themselves as mes of a deputation, they should declaefore their English audience that theye come as ndividual Indians to represthe condition of their country, and they will not make a statement which is based upon unimpeachable facts and figu Such an attitude on their part will fae attempts of the opponents of India to t the noble object for which they are goio England. Let it not be forgotten thatational deputation to England is our trump card, and should never be resorteholess we are able to send one worthy ca tion.

Neither will it do much gonvneal to the "generosity," the "sense ustice," the "noble qualities," and so forf the lish people. Even Jesus Christ not, now-a-days, be given a nearing n imperial interests are concerned. He ppealed to when the sins of his followers to be forgiven; but he has no locus stain a matter like this.

We need hardly state that tnost effective way of moving the Englishple would be to appeal to their interestsd common sense. Let them be informthat more than 39 millions of the forty mns of England do not derive any benefit the misgovernment of India. On the er hand, they suffer immensely by uphold a system of rule which is exhausting the ources of India and emasculating its peopi

The interests of Balfours anChamberlains and those of the people of land are not identical. It is the latter , by immense sacrifices, enable the formto gratify their ambition. It is the lov millions who find money and energy; it hey who shed blood. and it is the upper temo enjoy benefits. This is not only the case Russia, but also in England, though in modified form. Most men in England are t aware of it. Here is a matter which Indianpresentatives may press home to theEnglish masses. They will be able to do better than Englishmen, and if they canonvince the masses that they are almost in e same boat as the Indians, they will do a gr thing.

The lower millions are realizing is fact everywhere in the civilized world. IRussia, in Germany, and in Ameri, the lower millions are day by day aining influence and strength. If we caisecure the sympathy and support of the orking classes in England, our cause will bereatly strengthened.

Mr. Hyndman and his following havcome to realize that only a few hundred thsand Englishmen derive all the benefit fro the possession of India; and yet that cntry is held with the help of the lower mions. What interests then can these lower mions have, says Mr. Hyndman, in ruling ndia otherwise than in an enlightened maner? So, to secure help from Englishmen fo improving the condition of India, our nain efforts must be directed, says "Justice, towards rousing the sympathy of the wer millions, and appealing to the interest of the bulk of the English population.

We have thus to inform these millions in ngland that the one-sided and brilliant reprts sent to them by officials here are not orrect; that the rule that obtains in Indi is opposed diametrically to the one solemnly promised in 1858 to its people through their lte illustrious Queen; that the rule that has been introduced here is exhausting the cotntry and impoverishing and emasculatiog its people; that the rulers themselves have no faith in the excellence of their rule, and hence they require the presence of seventy-two thousand mercenery British troops to uphold their authority.

The English public ought to be informed that rulers of India do not trust the people, who are not only able but quite willing to defend their country under Brit dance; that the presence of seventy-two thousands of the British yeomanry here is a gross wrong not only to India but to England also, for these British soldiers here are trained like blood-hounds and kept almost imprisoned in the barracks; that the system of rule that has been introduced does not in any way benefit the bulk of the English people, but only a few hundred thousands; that a wealthy and contented India would really be a source of strength to the Empire; but, instead of prospering, this country is now the abode of plague, malaria and cholera, all due to the deep poverty of the people, and the result is that the higher classes are fast disappearing. All these have never been told to the English people in a systematic way by Indian representatives.

THE NEW UNIVERSITIES BILL.

THE decision of the Bombay High Court re the University suit will, we doubt not, cause immense surprise to the public. We anticipated such a decision on the part of the Hon'ble Judges and said so in our last; but, at the same time, we refused to believe that they would adopt such a course and thereby provoke unpleasant comments. It seems, however, that the wave of imperialism has affected even some of the members of the highest judicial service in the land who, while on the bench, are bound to divest their minds of all executive influences.

It is simply beyond our comprehension how the Judges could dispose of the question in the way they have done, when the inevitable effect of their action would be the impression that the High Court was subordinated to the will of the Executive Government. As a matter of fact the only way out of the difficulty for the Government, which it had brought upon itself by introducing the new bill, was the postponement of the suit, and this is exactly what the Bombay Judges have done. Their Lordships cannot thus blame the public if they are led to believe that, it was to oblige the Government that they shirked their obvious duty, which was to decide judicially the point at issue before them, namely, whether the action of the Chancellor in usurping the authority of the Senate and constituting the Provisional Syndicate through the votes of the Faculties, was legal or not, and not to order a postponement *sine die*.

It is a strange spectacle, indeed, that judicial officers, whose duty is to keep their minds absolutely free, should go out of their way, and requisition extra-judicial knowledge to decide a suit pending before them. The Judges of the Bombay High Court had no business to know or enquire about the bill now pending before the Legislature. What they were required to do was to hear counsel on both sides and deliver judgment in the light of the present Universities Act. But not only did they take the view of the Government counsel, which was to postpone the case, but they urged upon the plaintiffs' counsel that, as the bill would be passed on Friday next, so they would not lose anything by the postponement. Now if the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court were to take note of extra-judicial matters when they have to deal with a case against the Government, and decide it in favour of the latter, where are the people to go for the redress of their grievances when they have any against the executive authorities?

We are also at a loss to account for the attitude of Sir Pherozsha Mehta and eleven other Fellows who are plaintiffs in this case. How could they agree to the postponement of the suit? It was not a private matter in which they themselves were personally concerned. Nor even were the Bombay public alone interested in it. The interests of the whole of India are involved in the g[illegible] suit [illegible] in Bombay ha[illegible] done it. How was it that Sir Pherozsha and his colleagues did not press for the decision of the High Court? This is all the more surprising as they were fully aware that, a further postponement would not only defeat the object they had in view but meant their utter discomfiture. Surely, it was not to please the authorities that they yielded. They owe an explanation of their conduct to the public, and, we trust, it will be forth-coming.

The path of the Government is now free from all difficulties. The object of the new bill, as the Legal Member explained was "to validate the action of the Chancellor in regard to the constitution of the Provisional Syndicate." The Legal Member thus himself admits that the Chancellor's action was invalid, and the High Court would have also found the same thing. This judicial finding from the highest tribunal the Government would not have been able to set aside by altering the law. But, as the question has not been judicially settled, nor is it likely to be ever so settled, the Government has not now to face the formidable difficulty which the decision of the High Court would have created for it. The Bombay Judges have thus done an immense service to the Government, though their action, as stated above, has dealt a severe blow to the independence, prestige, and tradition of the High Court.

What service the High Court has done to the Government will appear from the text of the new Universities Bill which will be presented to the Council next Friday, and which is published elsewhere. It will be seen how the Legislature seeks to validate an invalid action by a simple declaration that it is valid. The Government would not have perhaps ventured to do it if the High Court had judicially pronounced the action of the Chancellor to be illegal. All the same, the Chancellor's notification is illegal, and the boldness of the Government in making legal what is palpably illegal by what practically amounts to an executive order, simply takes our breath away.

The Government, however, might have served its purpose, that is to say, made the illegally-constituted Provisional Faculties legal bodies, in a far less aggressive manner. For instance, clause (p) of Section 12 of the present Act might have been altered thus: "This clause provides that all Provisional Syndicates are to be appointed by Faculties and not by Senates." Armed with this law, the Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University might have again summoned the Faculties to form a fresh Provisional Syndicate, and they would have no doubt selected all the members of the existing syndicate, (for whose expulsion from the possession of the University the suit has been brought,) and then snapped their fingers at Sir Pherozsha Mehta and Co., who would have no case against them under the amended Act.

In this way the Government might have attained its object, and at the same time, worsted the protesting Fellows of the Bombay University, without creating alarm. By the way the latter have lost all along the line. If they had not left the meetings of the Faculties, some of them might have been elected to the Provisional Syndicate. Now none of them has the slightest chance of securing a seat there, except through the generosity of the Chancellor or the Vice-Chancellor, which, of course, they cannot avail of without demeaning themselves before the public. Then, the cost of the suit, which has been practically dropped, will, we fancy, have to be paid by the plaintiffs. It was a great mistake on the part of some of our leading men to enter into a University, which has been so thoroughly officialized by the present Act, and then to show fight.

The Government has, however assumed an attitude which is calculated to create consternation all over the country. When the Legal Member says that the object of the bill is "to validate the action of the Chancellor, in respect of the constitution of the Provisional Syndicate," he admits that the action was illegal. Indeed, no other construction can be put upon the action of the Chancellor in the light of clause (p) referred to above. And yet this illegal act is going to be legalized through the help of the Legislature. Need we describe what this means?

The Legislature is under the absolute control of the Government. If it is used for the purpose of converting night into day, and vice versa, the administration is bound to go into pieces. When a law is passed, it must be binding upon all. An executive officer, however, breaks it, and the law is at once changed to whitewash the illegal act of the former. If the Legislature is utilized in this way, it becomes a terrible engine of lawlessness in the hands of a despotic Government.

The, executive officers have already the privilege of committing many indefensible acts with impunity; but, it will be going beyond the limits of decency, if their illegal doings are openly validated by legislation. And then, if the executive Government can do anything it likes through the help of the Legislature, what will prevent the successor of Lord Curzon to summon the Legislative Council one day and abolish the Permanent Settlement?

The new Universities Bill is no doubt a very short one, but it is revolutionary in its character. The "Englishman" said that the Official Secrets Bill would result in Russianizing British rule in India; we do not know how to characterise the present measure. Indeed, where is the safety of the subject if illegal acts can be made legal at the sweet will of the Executive Government? The whole society would be turned topsy turvy if the Legislature were prostituted for upholding the illegal and high-handed doings of the executive officers.

NOBODY need wonder at the part which Mr. Hallifax played in the Berhampur Missionary Case, the particulars of which appeared in our last issue. His proceedings put a villager to trouble because the latter had shewn fight and kept away his minor grand-daughter, whose mother had been converted by the local mission. In distress, the man sought the help of the High Court and thus escaped the clutches of the law. Mr. Hallifax is ever a friend of the missionaries. As we once before said, Mr. Hallifax, while District Magistrate of Jessore, openly sided with the tenants of certain villages in their disputes with their land-lords. And why? Because the local missionaries espoused the cause of the tenants on the understanding that the latter would turn Christians! Well, one of these tenants brought a criminal complaint against one of the land-lords. Mr. Hallifax [illegible] a judicial enquiry. The matter [illegible] The [illegible] posed [illegible] of doing [illegible] Hallifax. A[illegible] He knew the [illegible] regard to the land-lords, and he dared not offend his superior official. And this time Mr. Hallifax ordered the formal prosecution of the accused landlord. The latter moved the High Court, as the accused in the Berhampur case did, and escaped.

IN America they have at last found out what was known to the Indians before that it is not good for the students to kill themselves by a severe course of study. The Board of Education in Chicago have since some time been considering a plan to reduce the curriculum of studies in the lower grades of the public schools. "The parents and most of the teachers," says an American paper, "have long since recognised the fact that the studies and the hours, in the case of the little ones, are too hard. If the startling statement made a while ago by Edward Bok be true that "in five cities of our country alone, during the last school term, over 16,000 children between the ages of 8 and 14 were taken out of the public schools, because their nervous systems were wrecked and their minds incapable of going on with the work," then certainly something is wrong with the system that makes such conditions possible and it is high time that the matter be taken under consideration." In India the severity of study in passing examinations is ruthlessly decimating our youths. It is perhaps committing almost as much havoc as plague, cholera and malaria. There is no doubt that half of our young men when they come out of colleges, enter the world broken down in health, leaving some of the best gifts of God behind them in the examination hall.

THE police rule in India is very rigorous and its rigor is more keenly felt by the manner in which it is sometimes enforced by the officials serving in the Police department. The Murshidabad paper "Hitaishi" has brought to light the doings of the Sub-Inspector of Sujaganj Police Station. In a certain village within the jurisdiction of that Police station a man died leaving a will by which he bequeathed all his properties, movable and immovable, to his spiritual guide Kasinath Pandit. After the death of the man Kasinath went to the Police station and showed the Will to the Sub-Inspector. The latter took a copy of the will and asked the man to go away. The same evening the police appeared at the house of the deceased and removed all moveable properties found there to the thana. They did something more. They forcibly took possession of two milch cows and three calves from the house of Kasinath alleging that they belonged to the deceased. Kasinath then hurried to the headquarters and brought the above facts to the notice of the District Magistrate. The Magistrate ordered that as the will was in favour of Kasinath he should at once apply for its probate to the Judge and the Sub-Inspector was required to show cause why he should not restore the property to Kasinath after taking proper security. The copy of the above order of the Magistrate Kasinath himself presented to the Sub-Inspector and this irritated the latter so much that it is said he threw it away angrily. The man again petitioned the Magistrate. This time he was successful, for the Magistrate, after taking proper securities, ordered the Police to make over the property and asked the Sub-Inspector to explain his conduct. In the meantime Kasinath took Probate of the will. Two days after the above order was passed Kasinath got back the articles minus some brass utensils. Thus ended the first chapter of the story. The second stage began with the claiming of Rs. 7-4 as. by the Sub-Inspector from Kasinath for feeding the cattle for 13 days they were with the Police. Kasinath claimed the price of the milk for those days which amounted to Rs. 13. Somehow or other the matter came before the District Judge, who after going through the papers was very much dissatisfied with the conduct of the Sub-Inspector and asked the Magistrate to inquire and report. But the Magistrate without holding a judicial inquiry, entrusted the investigation to the District Superintendent of Police. The head of the police held a private inquiry at which Kasinath was not admitted and reported the matter to the Magistrate. In due course the report reached the District Judge who after going through it wrote the following letter officially to the Magistrate:—"The allegations were very serious. The enquiry was highly unsatisfactory and made behind the complainant's back. The conduct of the Sub-Inspector cannot be justified at all. He usurped the power of the District Judge and defied law etc." The matter stands here at present.

BIBHUTI SEKHAR MUKERJEE, late a clerk of the Murshidabad Collectorate, is now known throughout the length and breadth of the country, through the super-abundant zeal of Mr. Carey, the famous District Magistrate. For some reason or other, this unfortunate clerk incurred the displeasure of Mr. Carey the then Magistrate of Murshidabad; and since then, his evil star had been in the ascendant. Case after case was instituted against Bibhuti Sekhar in rapid succession till they came up to ten in number, and the extraordinary vigor with which the prosecution was conducted made Bibhuti an object of general sympathy. A correspondent has sent us a short account as to how all these resulted in the end:—

"For nearly two years, Bibhuti Sekhar was put to all sorts of troubles and harassment on account of his having incurred the displeasure of Mr. Carey. One criminal case is sufficient to ruin an Indian accused; but he had to defend himself against ten at a stretch! Nor was this all. The whole executive machinery was set in motion to collect evidence against him. Eight cases were formally instituted, and two cases were judically inquired into. Out of these, four were especially selected as very strong cases and they were conducted with special vigor. One was a Bribery Case commonly known as Keramut Ali's case. In this case, Bibhuti Sekhar was honorably acquitted. Be it noted here that, in connection with this case, the house of his father, Rai Bagalanand Mukherjee Bahadur, was searched, thereby unnecessarily subjecting an Indian gentleman of position to humiliation and indignity. In another case,—a case of alleged extortion—and for which the especial sanction of the Divisional Commissioner was obtained,—Bibhuti Sekhar was let off without even any charge being framed against him. In the two stamp cases however, Bibhuti Sekhar [illegible] the Magistrate of Burdwan, [illegible] was transferred. The High [illegible] moved and a re-trial was ordered. [illegible] result was, that in one case, Bibhuti Sekhar was acquitted, and, in the other, he got one month's imprisonment. Bibhuti Sekhar has just come out of jail, having served out his term of imprisonment."

The above short account will give one an idea of the sufferings of an Indian accused when he happens to displease a district lord. Bibhuti Sekhar had to undergo the torture of a hell for two mortal years. And why? Because Mr. Carey was angry with him! Fancy out of ten cases instituted nine had no legs to stand on. True he was convicted in one case; but, that did not justify Mr. Carey to institute nine others which after a judicial trial were found to be false. We are aghast to hear that it is in contemplation to bring two more cases against him. We hope there is no truth in the rumour; for, surely, the Government has more serious duties to perform than to fritter away its energies and public money in persecuting a poor clerk over and over again. Instead of dragging this man from his home and creating another scandal, the Government should administer public censure to Mr. Carey for having wasted such a large amount of public money upon cases which should have never been brought, and unjustly subjecting a fellow-being to all this untold suffering.

THE Mansingpatra dacoity case, generally known as the Cuttuck dacoity case, the particulars of which, when published in these columns, created quite a sensation, has a sequel, which is interesting and instructive. It may be in the recollection of the reader that, in this case, four men along with others were convicted of the dacoity and sentenced either to transportation for life or to long terms of imprisonment. While these unfortunate men were serving out their terms, a new light was accidentally thrown on the case, showing that they had nothing to do with the dacoity, and they were released under orders of the Bengal Government. Shortly after, one Abdul Samad was prosecuted under Sec. 110 Cr. P. C. (bad-livelihood) at the instance of the Inspector-General of Police as the real organizer of the Masingpatra dacoity. He was found guilty and bound down to be of good behaviour for three years. Now, this result has brought to the front the following point to which our attention has been drawn by our Cuttuck correspondent in these words:—

"We fail to understand that if Abdul Samad was really the organizer of the dacoity, why was he simply prosecuted for bad livelihood instead of being tried on a charge of dacoity. Was this course adopted to save the executive from an embarrassing and awkard position? Here were some men, who were convicted of dacoity and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, Under the circumstances, another set of men could not be tried on the same charge. Was it owing to this reason that Abdul Samad was prosecuted for bad-livelihood?"

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

We do not quite follow our correspondent. Why should not another set of men be put on their trial if they were really guilty? What occurs to us is that, the executive authorities were not absolutely sure of Abdul Samad being the real culprit, and hence they did not venture to create another scandal by prosecuting another man against whom they had no sufficient evidence. But, if a dacoity was committed at Mansingpatra, who did it? The police should be able to discover them or acknowledge their incapacity. Speaking of this dacoity case, one is naturally led to ask what punishment has Government meted out to those Police officials who had caused so much misery to four men who were found to be innocent. We see that Mr. A. Beck in England will have £5000 from the Home Government as compensation for conviction on wrong identification by some females. Surely, the wrongs done to the four men alluded to above are none the less grave and it behoves Government to pay due compensation to them for all they have suffered.

THE Bishop of Lahore is trying to provide a Soldiers' Institute at Sealkote which is a Cantonment, where, we are told, there is a larger number of British troops than in any other diocese of the Empire. The object of the Bishop is "to raise the level of life in the army in India," "to alleviate the difficult conditions under which these men have to live," and "to protect them from some of the coarser temptations by which they are beset." We agree that the life of the British soldier in India is hard; it is almost as hard as that of an Indian convict in a jail. He is brought from his cold home to a strange and hot country, where he is roasted six months in the year. He is kept almost confined in barracks. He is usually a bachelor, and, as such, is very much beset by coarser temptations. Seventy thousands of the best yeomanry of the British Isles are thus kept in India, where a good many die of cholera, sunstroke and dysentry, and a large number is incapacitated by a loathsome disease, which they carry home and contaminate the parts of England where they live. The Bishop very naturally pities their condition; as a matter of fact, every one, who has a drop of humanity in him, is bound to feel keenly for the condition of the British soldiers in India. But what is the remedy? The remedy that the Bishop proposes, of providing a Soldiers' Institute under two trained ladies, is utterly inadequate to meet the requirement of the case. The real remedy lies in a different direction, namely, that they ought to be sent back home, at least those who are unmarried, and India defended by its own children under British guidance. But this the good and Christian Bishop does not venture to propose. For, the British soldiers are wanted here, not for the defence of British supremacy in India, but for upholding the rule of bureaucracy that has been set up here by a few thousand Englishmen for their own benefit, and the good Bishop himself is one of them.

IT will be seen from a statement published elsewhere, that the Calcutta Congress Committee has been amalgamated with the Indian Association and the united body is divided into six sections with six independent Secretaries to control them. Now that the Association has been re-organized on a sound basis, we trust, it will be joined by those of our educated men who had hitherto kept themselves aloof from it. As we said the other day, an organization for the middle classes had become an absolute necessity and the Indian Association ought to be able to serve this purpose. We hear, that, it has already received a considerable accession of members, but [illegible] expected every educated [illegible] to spend Rs. 5 per annum [illegible] strengthen it. We are told the A[illegible] is going to take up earnestly certain [illegible]portant questions which are just now very much agitating the public mind.

SCRAPS.

It is now calculated that the minimum surplus on the Indian Budget Estimates of 1904-05 will be six crores of rupees. This sum may be exceeded, owing to the continued increase of earnings on practically all the Indian railways.

Here is an incident in conection with the recent visit of the Viceroy to Plassey. His Excellency spoke with an old peasant named Nakari who presented the Viceroy with two old shells. Lord Curzon accepted the present and in return asked the man what he wanted. The peasant prayed for the establishment of a Sub-division at Plassey. The Viceroy without answering him gave him Rs. 2 and entered the camp. Needless to say that the above incident created a great impression in the minds of the people of the locality.

In the recent Full Bench decision of the Madras High Court in the University Forgery Case, Mr. Justice Benson after referring to the lists of rusticated candidates in the Government Gazette, observed:—"Such a state of things indicates a standard of morality among the educated classes that is fraught with danger to the public welfare." This "obiter dictum" of Mr. Justice Benson has naturally aroused considerable feeling in the public mind; and the Madras public is bent upon moving the higher tribunal if not for anything else but for removing the stain from the character of the educated classes. We are told that a circular is being sent round calling for subscriptions for the fund which has been started for defraying the expenses of an appeal to the Privy Council. It is estimated that at least Rs. 1,500 would be needed for the purpose. The Madras public ought to move in the matter and they should not allow such a damaging remark to adorn a public document.

Sometime ago, Mathusami Goundan, village Munsiff of Nanjai Kalamangalam village, in Erode, headed a strong faction against another man of a neighbouring village and was said to have become a source of danger to public tranquillity. On the above charge he was placed before a Deputy Magistrate of Erode who ordered him to furnish security to keep the peace for a period of one year. Against this order he appealed to the Sessions Judge of Coimbatore who upheld the order of the Magistrate on the ground that the order complained against was most necessary in preserving the public tranquillity. The Munsiff then moved the Madras High Court, but their Lordships after hearing the vakil on his behalf declined to interfere with the orders of the lower courts.

Tang-ta-jen the Chinese Envoy for Tibetan Affairs, is now expected at Calcutta about the middle of this month.

The proceedings of the Agricultural Conference at Pusa have lately been concluded. It has published a report of the work it did and the subjects it discussed. It would appear that the cultivation of cotton was the most important matter brought before the Board. The appendix to the report contains a number of valuable papers drawn up by various experts in the service of the Government. As a result of the Conference it would seem that greater efforts are to be made to popularize agricultural literature, as the best means towards inducing the peasantry to adopt scientific methods. The idea of leaflets in various vernaculars met with a good deal of favour, and it seems certain that a periodical written in simple English will shortly appear. Another result of the Conference will possibly be to bring into line various Agricultural Farms in India. Almost every Province supports several of these Institutions, but apparently they are not all working in co-operation, with the result that much of the effort is wasted.

In the Madras Presidency there are 60 Municipalities under the Madras Municipal Act. At the end of 1903-04 the Municipal Councils had a total strength of 944 members, of whom 68 were ex-officio Councillors, 426 were nominated by Government, and 450 were elected by the tax-payers and inhabitants. There were one hundred and seventy Europeans and Eurasians, as compared with seven hundred and seventy-two Indians. The revenues they disposed of, excluding an opening balance of Rs. 5,38,778, amounted to Rs. 37,78,848, being a little over Rs. 2,000 in excess of those of the previous year. The various sources from which the income of the Municipalities is derived is as follows:—(1) Tax on buildings and lands; (2) tax on arts and professinos; (3) tax on animals and vehicles; and (6) tolls. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 36,13,297, being more than 2½ lakhs less than the previous year, the decrease occurrnig chiefly under water-supply works and investments. Thus the expenditure on water-supply, an article which is most needed, has been curtailed.

Mr. O. Vaman Pai M. A. read a paper the otherday on "India and Japan" at Madras in the course of which he compared the progress made by the two countries during the last century. He said that the records of ancient Indian chivalry and heroism, its administration and civilisation were in no way inferior to those of Japan; on the contrary, India was far more advanced then than Japan. But why we now find India poor and Japan a prosperous country? The lecturer said that India remain practically unaltered owing to the unprogressiveness of the people. He said that individual, like national, progress depended on four factors, continuity with the past and reverence for what was best in it; criticism of the past assimilation of whatever was good and true from outside sources, but not their uncritical adoption; and originality. Now, the unprogressive races always mistook continuity with the past for identity with the past, which resulted in idolatry of the past, isolation, self-conceit. Progress, he said, was the result of mental evolution, and what was necessary was a thorough revolution in people's mental habitat.

The other day a case came on for hearing before the Madras High Court which shows, if the allegations made by the parties be true, that an inexperienced Magistrate is capable [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] Assistant [illegible] Division [illegible] conviction [illegible] Magistrate of E[illegible] hooting and causing hurt. The [illegible] obtained a copy of the judgment that very day, and on the next day that is the 17th ultimo presented an appeal to the Assistant Magistrate, who dismissed the appeal summarily without giving the appellants an opportunity of proving the grounds of their appeal, as they had not then obtained copies of the depositions of the witnesses. But in the appeal judgment there was a recital "that after perusing the records and the evidence in the case, I dismiss the appeal". Counsel contended that no reasonable opportunity had been given to the appellants to make out their case as required by Section 421, C. P. Code. Mr. Justice Davies remarked that the Magistrate was rather inexperienced and acted rather precipitately in dismissing the appeal in such a summary way. In the end their Lordships directed the Public Prosecutor to communicate at once with the Magistrate and find out if the recital in the judgment that the Magistrate had perused the evidence was correct. Their Lordships further directed notice to issue to the Public Prosecutor to show cause why the Magistrate could not be directed to rehear the appeal

Negotiations are in progress in Colombo for the building of a mono-railway line. The shares of the Sungei Way Rubber Company registered in Edinburgh last December, have gone up 20 per cent. It is not known what acreage the company owns, nor what the age of the trees are, but it is probably shipping rubber home and the high prices obtained account for quick rise. This rice is nothing compared to the premium on some Ceylon Company shares where rubber is concerned; the Kalutara Company for instance, has recently had its shares go up from 295 to 400; The Sungei Company of Selangor has as its first directors Sir F. Swettenham and Messrs T. Johstone, C. Paterson, T. Gallie and T. North Chris.

A most daring railway robbery was committed at Hyderabad Station a few days ago the victim being Mr. J. McCleish, an Engineer, proceeding on the new survey of the proposed Guntakal-Hyderabad loop line. Leaving the carriage for a few minutes he returned to nfid his deed box tampered with and investigation proved that it had been broken open, and Rs. 400 extracted, all the papers being left intact. A similar robbery was committed on the G.I.P. Railway a few days ago, when Mr. W. Pendlebury was robbed of his cash box containing a large sum of money and some important private papers. The thief in this case entered the carriage at night and quietly removed the box. Mr. Pendlebury heard someone moving about, but thought it was his fellow passenger.

OUR AMERICAN LETTER.

New York (U. S.A.) Jan. 13.

REFORM IN CHINA TAUGHT BY JAPAN.

The influence of the Japanese over China is not less important in civil than it is in military matters. An example is the way in which thev have taken hold of the reform of the Chinese judiciary.

Among the causes of the deepest humiliation to the Chinese Government is the ex-territoriality which they have been obliged to concede to the subjects of foreign Powers in all questions of law, while at the same time compelled to allow these same foreign subjects all the rights and privileges of Chinamen in the matter of land owning and commerce. At last, impressed by the disadvantage of the situation, it has been decided at Pekin to reform the judiciary with a view to the suppression of he ex-territorial system and to bringing the subjects of all foreign Governments domiciled and doing business in China under the operation of Chinese law.

For some time there was great uncertainty as to the source to which they should go for the material for a reformed judiciary. At first there was a strong inclination to adopt Western methods and principles, but the repugnance of the Chinese mind to many of the cardinal points of Western law and practice turned them to Japan. There they had the example of a country that had emancipated itself from foreign tutelage and ex-territoriality, had established its own judiciary, and in the most convincing manner was exhibiting its power to maintain its national integrity and independence. The result was that after a long series of conferences between the Chinese Minister at Tokio and the head of the faculty of law at the Imperial University, concerning the teaching of law in China, the Pekin Government found that while it was impossible to get the required professors from Japan it might accomplish the purpose by sending a large number of students from China to carry on their studies in that country.

No time was lost in carrying out the arrangements entered into, and in July last eighteen students from the province of Kwantung, eighty-three from Szechuen, and sixty-two from the two Hus, were sent to Japan by the Chinese Government. In the month of August as many more from the provinces of Fokien and Szechuen followed, and the stream has kept up so that there are now at Tokio more than six hundred Chinese law students preparing to form the future judiciary of China.

In the higher education the reorganization of the Chinese provincial colleges has been carried out by Japanese professors. The only foreign languages taught are Japanese and English, particular attention being given to the former and the Chinese professors, except for their Chinese classical studies, acquired all their learning in Japan. The few foreigners filling the chairs of mathematics or chemistry in the Chinese colleges are Japanese. The Japanese have literally triumphed all along the line nearly all the Chinese provinces, but notably those that have been longest in contact with Westerns having systematically put aside European scientific and technical teachings and adopted the Japanese. Such has been the result of the European policy of treating the Chinese and China as a people and a country to be exploited, and of the wonderful success that has attended the Japanese since the beginning of their war with Russia.

Of course, the practical consequences for China of all this will not be felt for years yet, but they are sure to be important. The eviction of the West, with the memories of its opium wars, its militant missionary en- [illegible] gun; and [illegible] nat have fastened themselves [illegible] points of China and burdened it with indemnities and debt have the wisdom to recognize facts in formation, their exit from China as dominating powers may be accompanied by circumstances unfavorable to friendly relations. What some call Pan-Mongolianism is on the way to becoming a determining factor in the political and commercial future of eastern Asia; and, with its developing scientific intellectuality and military and naval power, it is establishing a new world force, which Europe in its present condition has good reason to take into serious consideration.

THE INDIAN UNIVERSITIES VALIDATION BILL.

—:—:—

Whereas the Indian Universities Act, 1904, authorises the Chancellor of each of the Indian Universities to make directions, declarations and orders with a view to the constitution of the Body Corporate and the appointment of the Provisional Syndicate thereof.

And whereas various directions, declarations and orders have been made in pursuance of the said authority, and Bodies Corporate and Provisional Syndicates have been constituted and appointed thereunder;

And whereas doubts have been raised as to the construction of the said Act and as to the validity of some of the said directions, declarations and orders and as to the validity of the constitution and appointment of some of the said Bodies Corporate and Provisional Syndicates and it is expedient to remove such doubts;

It is hereby enacted as follows:—

short little.

1. This Act may be called the Indian Universities (Validation) Act, 1905.

Validation of directions, declarations and orders.

2.. All directions, declarations and orders made as aforesaid, shall be deemed to have been duly made under the Indian Universities Act, 1904.

Validation of constitution and appointment of Bodies.

3. The Bodies Corporate and Provisional Syndicates constituted and appointed as aforesaid shall be deemed to have been duly constituted and appointed under the said Act

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The object of this 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 immigration of absconding criminals from India is arousing alarm at Bangkok The Indian Government and the British Legation at that port, says The Siam Observer, are evidently unaware of their presence, and there seems to be no system of enquiry into the standing of arrivals from India.

[illegible]lcutta and Mofussil.

[illegible]ott.—Mr. F. R. Upcott arrived in Cn Monday. He has taken over the d President of the Railway Board.

[illegible]gh Light Ry.—The "Behar Hays:—The project of a light railwazaribagh seems likely to be considonce.

[illegible]mington.—H. E. Lord Lamington, G of Bombay, attended by Captain M. D. C., will arrive in Calcutta on Snorning and will accompany Lord C Assam the same night.

[illegible] of Civil Hospitals.—Colonel R. D. M.M.S., is appointed to officiate as InGeneral of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, du absence, on leave of Colonel S. H. B C.I.E., I.M.S., or until further or

Museum.—64,324 persons visited the Museum during the month of January, thbeing made up of 2,192 Europeans, an2,132 Native of India. The daily aturing the 23 days on which the Im was open to the general public wa.

[illegible]pointments.—Mr. W. L. Harvey, C[illegible]unicipal Commissioner for Bombay, ha appointed Secretary to the Gov[illegible]nt of India in the new Department of Co and Industry; and Mr. F. Noel Pacretary to the Chamber of Commembay, has been appointed Director-Ge of Commercial Intelligence.

[illegible]t Against a Painter.—On Tuesday befr. D. H. Kingsford, Chief Presidegistrate, Mr. Remfry on behalf of Me. Macrapolo and Co., applied for a against one J. Coenraads, carrying on usiness of a painter, under the foll circumstances. It would appear tha defendant obtained Rs. 100, from thelainant firm for gilding work on s[illegible]gds. The Court after hearing the facered the issue of a warrant against thendant.

[illegible]r in Behar.—The local "Herald" saye are in the midst of a severe cold weahe like of which has not been felt by eople of Behar for at least twenty five. The temperature came down on Thi last at Patna to 36.3 degrees; Cha[illegible].7 degrees; Motihari, 34.1 degrees; Mozore, 36.7 degrees; Bhagalpur, 37.7 deg Purneah, 35 degrees; which was 13.5 degelow normal. A correspondent from Ban informs us that he noticed a thick layece six inches long and four inches broar a basin of water in his compound. Thisssive cold no doubt has been the caus fearful increase of plague cases in Pati district. This cold and cloueather is causing much damage also to tops.

Th C. Railway Co.—The powers granted to Bengal Central Railway Co. Ltd., expire understand, next July, when the Govent take over the railway, which will in fi be amalgamated with the Eastern Beng State Railway. Mr. E. W. H. Sta Agent and Chief Engineer of the B. C, who has worked indefatigably to main the efficiency and improve the earning city of the line necessarily retires and takes earliest opportunity, after formally handover charge, of visiting the old coun After 25 years spent in India without me holiday, no one will deny that Mr les thoroughly deserves a rest, and hi friends wish him the best of good timesen he throws off the responsibilities of thesent office.—The "Journal."

Fi Criminal Sessions.—The First Criminal sions of the Calcutta High Court comred on Monday under the presidency of th Hon'ble Mr. Justice Woodroffe. There are en cases in the list which are distribu as follows:—(a) six theft cases: (1) Emp vs Syed Munjoor; (2) Emperor vs. Mati Halwye; (3) Emperor vs. Latoo Bay (4) Emperor vs. Shaik Khadabux; (5) peror vs. Muttan Goula and (6) Emperors. Gajadhar Patwar. (b) One case of le breaking; Emperor vs. Shair Baker. (c) ie case of receiving stolen property: Emor vs. Dheop Narain. (d) One case of ating: Emperor vs. Gonowra Sing. (e) Onase of Criminal breach of trust: Emperon the prosecution of Brojolall Shaha vs. oshe Bhushan and Baroda Kanto Guha. (f) ne case of falsification of accounts: Error on the prosecution of Munshi Miajas. Abdul Hosain; Hismuddin and Abdus Scan.

[illegible]timidating a Padre.—A very sensational ca is pending before Babu Gopal Chander Mkerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, in wh one Roma Nath Noscar and several Nive Christians were charged with being mbrs of an unlawful assembly, trespass and Cminal intimidation. It is stated that Fr. B. Bhattacherjee of the Church of Engld engaged one Parbatty Charan Sapin, s son-in-law of the accused No. 1 for teachi scriptures in the Missionary School at Jogra rbatty could not acquit himself ably in e said business, so he was dismissed by ev Bhattacherjee without pay. Some time ter the occurrence, on the eve of the last ristamas while Rev. Bhattacharjee was tending the local church the accused in a ody abused the Rev gentleman and threaened to kill him who for fear of life took o his heels and found shelter in the house of Fathers Deprince and Gregory who are cited as witnesses for the prosecution.

A Case of Swindling.—On Monday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, Chief Presidency, Magistrate, a case of cheating was heard in which Wozed Ali, a duftry employed under Messrs. E. A. Smith and Co., was the accused and the complainant, Babu Ranendra Nath Mukerjee, who on behalf of the firm, prosecuted the man. The facts as transpired in Court are these. The firm entrusted durwan Premsook with two cheques for encashment. The durwan went and at first cashed the cheque for Rs. 200. In the meantime, the accused went out and met with him near the Hong-Kong Bank. He represented to Premsook that he had been sent to take Rs. 200 from him as the sum was ungently required by the "Shaheb." The durwan believed him and made over the sum to him. When he came to the office the real state of the things was brought to light and the durwan found that he had been duped. Evidence was gone into and the Court found the duftry guilty of the offence of cheating and sentenced him to suffer six months' rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 200, in default additional imprisonment for three months. The fine if realized, would [illegible] paid to the complainant.

The Lieutenant-Governor's Tour.—The following is the programme of the Lieutenant-Governor's tour:—February 12th, leave Howrah at 23 (railway time) by special train 13th arrive Madhupur 6; Deoghar, 14-5, Gidhour 18; 14th arrive Mokameh Ghat 12-35; Darbhanga 17-4; 15th and 16th halt at Darbhanga; 17th arrive Mokameh Ghat 18-50; 18th arrive Howrah 6. The party accompanying the Lieutenant-Governor will be Lady Fraser, Mr. H.L. Stephenson, I.C.S.; Private Secretary, Captain J.S.N. Harrison, A.-D.-C., the Hon. Mr. R.W. Carlyle, C.I.E. Chief Secretary, Miss Rennie, and Mrs. Hodding for the journey to Dharbanga.

Damage Suit Against a Municipality—Before Rai Promotho Nath Chatterjee Bahadoor, the Additional Munsiff of Alipore, Babu Sital Chander Mookerjee, a respectable resident of Baranagore brought a suit for damage against the Chairman of the North Dum-Dum Municiplity for illegally attaching his movables for recovery of taxes which the plaintiff alleges was not due from him. It is stated in the plaint that one day the Baranagore Police forcibly entered the house of the plaintiff and attached his movable properties under a writ of warrant issued by the North Dum-Dum Municipality. The plaintiff alleges that by the illegal attachment of his movables he has sustained a great loss of reputation amongst his friends, relatives and neighbours and hence the damage sut. The defendant Municipality contends that the suit is not maintainable for want of cause of actions and taking several legal objections in their written statements. Babu Beharie Lall Ghose is conducting the case for the plaintiff and Babu Otool Chander Gangooly has appeared for the defendant Municipality. The Court has suggested a compromise between the parties and the case has been postponed for further hearing.

Two Man-Eating Tigers.—The two man-eating tigers in the Hazaribagh District, to whose depredations we have previously referred, are still at large. The Government reward for their destruction has now been increased to Rs. 500 for each, and the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh is prepared to supply sportsmen and shikaris with every assistance and information as to recent kills though it is added that shikaris are not to expect to be given their expenses or provided with advances of money. It is curious that more sportsmen should not have come forward to hunt these beasts down. Although the District is fairly heavily wooded, the climate at this season of the year is superb and there are none of those physical difficulties to be faced which are met with in the Terai and Sunderbands. Portions of the Hazaribagh District are frequently terrorised by tigers. It was in Hazaribagh we believe, that the fine old sportsman, recently dead, who wrote under the name of "the Old Shikari" performed one of his most daring feats. A man-eating tiger had interrupted all postal communication with headquarters by devouring the postal runners. All efforts to track it down had proved unsuccessful, till it struck the Old Shikari that its fondness for postal runners was due to the fact that the latter carried jingling bells, from the sound of which the tiger was able to stealthily follow [illegible] prey.—"Englishman."

A Shocking Child Murder at Entally.—On Saturday evening, at about seven o'clock, the Entally Police was informed by Dr. Sagor Lall Palit that a shocking murder had been committed in the house of the late Dr. Hera Lall Mondal, of Annondogopal P[illegible]t's Street, Entally. Inspector Cooper, o[illegible] the local thana, hastened to the spot a[illegible] found th[illegible] blood stained bodies of a mal[illegible]d, age about eighteen months [illegible] age about eighteen or nineteen years, in a[illegible] in the inner apartment of the house. Th[illegible] life of the child was already extinct and it lay in the lap of its mother with its head almost severed from the body, while the mother lay unconscious with three gaping wounds on her head, throat and body. On enquiry it transpired that the young lady is the daughter of Babu Chundi Charan Chowdhury, a member of the well-known Jaunbazar Zemindar family, and daughter-in-law of the late Dr. Hera Lall Mondal. The explanation offered by the inmates of the house is alleged to be that the young lady had been chastised on the morning of the day of occurrence by her mother-in law, the widow of Dr. Mondol, on account of her ill-treatment of the child, as a result of which she forthwith withdrew into her room and locked it from the inside. The second son of the late doctor finding the door of the room closed until dusk, forcibly broke it open, and was confronted with the shocking scene described above. The Police immediately removed the wounded lady to the Campbell Hospital for treatment, and the dead body of the child to the Alipore Morgue for post mortem examination. The lady is showing signs of improvement, and is expected to make a statement in a short time, which will disclose the real state of affairs. A vigorous Police enquiry is going on.

THE "HOWRAH HITOISHI" DEFAMATION CASE.

On Monday last before Mr. J. F. Graham, Joint Magistrate of Howrah, the case in which Babu Moti Lall Bose, Sub-Inspector Jagotbullubpore, charg d Babu Girishpati Roy Chowdry Editor of the "Howrah Hitoishi", a vernacular weekly and Babu Suresh Chander Koyal, manager, publisher and printer of the said newspaper, with having defamed him, by publishing certain defamatory matter against him, in which it was alleged that the complainant had attempted to take illegal gratification, was resumed. Babu Asutosh Bose with Babu Bamapada Bose appeared for the prosecution and Babu Charoo Chander Sinha appeared for the first defendant and Babu Amrita Lall Dyne, with Babu Khagendra Nath Mitter, for the second. The case for the prosecution, as alleged, was that sometime in "Joista" last, a boy named Fakir Chander Das, aged 12 years, suddenly died of suffocation, at the house of his brother-in-law named Gagan Chander Das of Matley, Sankrail. Information was sent to the police and the Sub-Inspector Moti Lall went to the spot and inquired into the matter. It was alleged that at the time of enquiry, the Sub-Inspector demanded some money from Gagan. Gagan Das refused to pay any money and the body of the boy was sent to Howrah for "post mortem". The "post mortem" disclosed that the death had been due to suffocation. After this, the Sub-Inspector instituted these proceedings against the defendants. Four witnesses for the prosecution were examined and the case was then adjourned to the 17th instant. The defendants were enlarged on bail.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

LEOPARD HUNTING IN A BENGAL VILLAGE.

THE SHIKARI SLIGHTLY MAULED.

(Special for the "Patrika.")

Misridiarah is a small village about 7 miles to the west of Jhinkergatcha, an important Railway station of extensive commerce on the B. C. Ry. Line, and about 8 or 9 miles from the head-quarters of the District of Jessore. Misridiarah was once a very populous village, teeming with men and women, who once led a life of ease and domestic felicity, the natural outcome of health and competence which they enjoyed at the time. But those days are gone and perhaps for good. Malaria and cholera have been carrying on a havoc since last 20 years or more, dwindling the population to a great extent. They served an useful purpose in this way that they gave a quietus to many a miserable creation transmitting them from this vale of tears to a place where they would be free from the oppression of the strong over the weak, where there is no police rule and also giving a shelter in the deserted home-steads the denizens of forest.

It was in this way that many parts of the village which was thronged with people before are now the most comfortable dens of leopards and wild boars, and the well-known cry of Fay-oo-oo which a jackal does when following a tiger or a leopard is now but too familiar. The people of the locality and the adjoining villages though now lose a calf or a goat or at another time even a full-grown cow, have no help in the matter for want of a good gun. Constant suffering from malaria and a lingering illness has carried away all courage and mettle from their minds and none now dares face a leopard or a wild boar with "lathi" in hand.

Mir Tabrez Ali, a respectable Mahomedan, belonging to a well-known Mahomedan house at Misridiarah, however, is a queer man. He is aged about 45 and has the look of an ordinary famished and malaria-stricken Bengalee of the district but is undoubtedly unequalled in valour amidst his own kith and kin. He is well-known in these parts as a good shot and won a fame for having shot several allegators and leopards before. Last year he had shot two leopards and he is in possession of their skins. On Saturday last, the 4th of February, he killed another leopard and displayed remarkable bravery in despatching it. I give below a short account of the whole affair.

For some time past the inhabitants of misridiarah were passing their days in a terrible state of anxiety and consternation for the frequent cry of Fay-oo-oo during the day and at night signifying the presence of leopards in their midst. Mir Tabrez Ali who is now in the most adverse circumstances possible and has to work hard to earn his daily bread thought of despatching one of them at his earliest opportunity. Consequently a single-barrelled breach-loader, the best available here, was secured and five cartridges with buck-shots were got ready.

On the morning of the 4th instant at about 9 a.m. the vigorous cry of Fay-oo-oo indicated the presence of a leopard about quarter of a mile off from the house of the Mir Shaheb. He immediately came out with his gun and he proceeded in the direction of the spot indicated by the peculiar cry of the jackals accompanied only by one of his nephews, a [illegible] about 16 years and a servant of his. [illegible]ing to a mangoe and jack fruit tree [illegible], Tabrez Ali was startled to find a big leopard concealed in a small bush about 25 yards off from him. And not only did he see the brute but met it face to face. Mistress Spots, for it afterwards transpired to be a fine female leopard, was perhaps then enjoying a quiet repose after her marauding excursions the night previous. So she did not much mind the presence of a few human beings close to her quiet retreat.

The Mir Shaheb was quite equal to the situation. As soon as he met the brute, like a trained shikaree, he slunk away backwards and asked by signs to fall back those who were following him. All of them thereupon got up on this or that mangoe or jack fruit tree. But the Mir Shaheb by a clever and dexterous round ultimately came upon a spot which was at the back of the leopard and was about 15 yards distant from the place where she was lying. There the Mir Shaheb made all haste in getting upon a jack fruit tree and tried hard to discover the head of the brute from a good position on the tree. Failing this he aimed and fired on the left side of the leopard which took effect. In the twinkling of the eye, she raised a plaintive roar, made a round along the grove and vanished! None could tell where she went.

Tabrez Ali and others thereupon came down from the trees and with a multitude of men who had by this time assembled began to track the leopard by the drops of blood which came out of her wound. After making a search here and there, they ultimately came upon a spot which was besmeared with patches of blood. A dog was by this time following them leisurely and was at this time standing a little off from them in their front.

All of a sudden a trembling roar was heard, the dog disappeared with a whining cry and the leopard was found making towards the Mir Shaheb with precipitous speed. No time was to be lost now. There was not even time to cock the gun. This was a most anxious moment. The Mir Shaheb found that if he moved but a few inches on one side he could easily save himself from this sweeping and precipitous charge. But the mischief was that his nephew and a few other relations of his were just at his back and if he had stepped aside a little any one of them was sure to be killed instantaneously by the infuriated brute. I have told that there was not time even to cock the gun. So the Mir Shaheb immediately held his gun tightly and tried to cock it. But the leopard was already upon him with gaping mouth and opened paws. So what he did was to hold the nuzzle of the gun firmly on the neck of the brute and shove her on one side. This was effective, probably because the leopard was mortally wounded by the first shot, and being slightly moved on one side she completely disappeared from the view of the assembled men with equal speed in less than a second.

All this took not more than 2 or 3 seconds to happen. It was soon discovered that the left arm of the Mir Shaheb was dug by two nails of the leopard, though it appeared that she had but very lightly touched that part of his body with one of her paws. The wounds, though not severe, were, however, not to be trifled with as profuse blood was gushing out from them. The brute was next found on the side of a mud wall and despatched by two more well-directed shots.

On close examination, the brute was found to be fine specimen of a full-grown female leopard and was not of the smaller type which is generally found in the hearts of many Bangal villages. It was very accurately measured about 7 hours after it was killed and being then considerably stiff was very much contracted. Still it measured 6 ft. 7 inches in length from the tip of the nose to that of the tail. Its height was 2 ft. 3 inches. This is the third leopard shot by Mir Tabrez Ali in course of this winter season. But this has not in any way decreased the number of their kith and kin who daily and nightly carry on their depredations with impunity in Misridiarah and the neighbouring places. The good services done by the Mir Shaheb to the people of the locality ought to be recognized by the authorities. He ought to be rewarded for risking his own life for the sake of the public. His wounds were immediately afterwards burned with a red-hot iron to avoid a possible development of hydrophobia in future. The Mir Shaheb on advice has also left for Jessore for treatment.

P.

Calcutta Gazette.—Feb. 8

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Babl Satis Chandra Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to Shahabad.

Babu Suresh Chunder Sinha, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Munshiganj sub-division of the Dacca district.

Mr. W. S. Coutts, substantive protempore Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purnea, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge, Dinajpur, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. S. Hamilton.

Babu Ananda Chandra Pati, B. A., Assistant to the Uriya Translator to Government is appointed to act as Uriya Translator to Government, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Chaturbhuj Patnaik.

Mr. J. V. Francis is appointed to class V of the Provincial Educational Service, and as Superintendent, Apprentice Department, Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

Mr. W. Teunon, Officiating District and Sessions Judge, 24-Parganas, is appointed to act in the first grade of District and Sessions Judges, during the absence, on deputation, of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. Holmwood.

Mr. F. S. Hamilton, District and Sessions Judge, Dinajpur, is allowed combined leave for seven months.

Maulvi Mohummud Abdullah, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Munshiganj, Dacca, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. Kedar Nath Ray, Additional District and Sessions Judge, Dacca and Mymensingh, is allowed furlough for seven months.

Mr. A. V. Knyvett, C.I.E., Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Northern and Western Range, is allowed an extension of leave for one day.

Mr. R. B. Hyde, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Rajshahi, is allowed combined leave for seven months.

Mr. W. D. Abercrombie, District Superintendent of Police, Khulna, is allowed combined leave for one year.

Mr. H. U. Baker, Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the City Police, Patna, is allowed leave for one month and-a-half.

Babu Chaturbhuj Patnaik, Uriya Translator to Government, is allowed leave for one month and four days.

Mrs. Mary Moorat, Assistant Inspectress of Schools, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. C. H. C. Sevenoaks, Superintendent of the Central Jail, Buxar, is allowed combined leave for eight months.

Mr. Jotindra Nath Roy, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Supaul, Bhagalpur, is appointed to have charge of the Patuakhali subdivision of the Backergunge district.

Babu Krishnakali Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, 24-Parganas, is appointed to have charge of the Barh subdivision of the Patna district.

Babu Monmohon Chakravarti, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hooghly, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Howrah district.

Babu Annadaprasad Basu, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Howrah, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Hooghly district.

Babu Banku Behary Dutta Deputy Magt. and Deputy-Collector, Tangail, Mymensingh, is appointed to have charge of the Supaul subdivision of the Bhagalpur district.

Mr. C. Tindall, Assistant Magistrate and Collector Barh, Patna, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Mymensing district.

Babu Jogeshwar Biswas, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is appointed to have charge of the Tangail subdivision of that district.

Babu Ajoy Chunder Das Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector on leave, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Mymensingh district.

Mr. A. J. Harris, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jalpaiguri, acted, in addition to his own duties, as Special Sub-Registrar of that district, from the afternoon of the October 1904 to the forenoon of the 23rd November 1904 during the absence on leave of Babu Sarna Kamal Chuckerbati.

The following confirmations and promotions are sanctioned in the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service:—

Confirmed in the second grade.—Babu Rajendra Nath Ghosh.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the second grade. Babu Chandra Bhusan Chakravarti.

Confirmed in the third grade. Maulvi Syed Mahomed, Khan Bahadur. Mr. J. S. Davidson.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the third grade. Babu Khetter Mohan Mitter Babu Chandi Dass Ghose.

Confirmed in the fourth grade—Babu Gati Krishna Neogy: Mr. Nitya Gopal Mukerjee Babus Surendra Nath Mozoomdar.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the fourth grade—Babu Sukumar Haldar, Babu Kanti Bhusan Sen, Babu Krishna Dayal Paramanik, Maulvi Mohammad Habibullah.

Confirmed in the fifth grade. Maulvi Abdul Mahmud, Mr. James Taylor, Babu Nogendra Nath Mitter.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the fifth grade. Babu Makhan Lall Chatterjee, Babu Ganga Govindo Gupta, Mr. Rowland, Nogendra Lal Chandra, but to be seconded while on deputation. Babu Debendra Kumar Mittra Babu Nagendra Nath Dutt.

Confirmed in the sixth grade. Mr. R. B. Bainbridge, Babu Ram Niranjan Prosad, Maulvi Syed Ali Ashruf, Babu Bidhi Nath Chatterjee, Babu Hem Chandra Chatterjee (No. II).

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the sixth grade. Mr. J. S. Mackay, Babu Purna Chandra Maulik, Maulvi Abu Nasr Muhammad Ali, Mr. Piyara Meerza, Maulvi Abdul Majid, Babu Manmatha Nath Mukerjee.

Confirmed in the seventh grade. Babu Burmeshwar Prosad, Maulvi Syed Mohamed Abul Hayat, Mr. F. W. Martin, Maulvi Mohamad Lateefallam, Babu Ashutosh Mookerjee, Babu Ganendra Chandra Mukerjee.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the seventh grade. Babu Arun Kumar Bose Bhujendra Nath Mukerjee.

Confirmed in the eight grade and promoted substantively pro tempore to the seventh grade. Sahibzada Walli Mohamed Shah. Babu Charu Chandra Mukherjee. Babu Satis Chandra Ghose, Moulvi Abul Mozuffar Ahmed.

Confirmed in the eighth grade. Babu Satish Chandra Mukherjee. Maulvi Afzalur Rahaman.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Bhagavati Charan Mittra, Subordinate Judge, Nadia, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Upendro Nath Bose, Subordinate Judge, Mymensingh, is allowed privilege leave for six weeks.

Maulvi Syud Ashan Mirza is appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Lalbagh, in the district of Murshidabad.

Munshi Bader Mahammed Chaudhuri and Babu Kamakhya Prosad Bandopadhaya are re-appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Independent Bench at Nilphamari, in the district of Rangpur.

Maulvi Sheikh Mahamfad Mozaffer is re-appointed to be an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench at Bihar, in the district of Patna.

Babu Mohendra Nath Mukerjee, Munsif of Kasba, in the district of Tippera, is allowed leave for twelve days, in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Babu Krishna Kumar Sen, Munsif of Kalna in the district of Burdwan, is allowed leave for four days, with effect from the 23rd January 1905.

Babu Bijay Gopal Basu, Munsif of Satkania, in the district of Chittagong is allowed leave till the 8th February 1905, in extension of the leave already granted to him.

Maulvi Wali Mohammad, Munsif of Arrah, in the district of Shahabad, is allowed leave for thirty days, with effect from the 7th February 1905, or from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Mohini Mohan Dutt, Munsif of Sasaram, in the district of Shahabad, is allowed leave for four weeks, with effect from the 11th February 1905.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Jyoti Prosad Das, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Chota Nagpur, Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Ranchi district.

Babu Jnanendra Nath Chaudhuri, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Monghyr, is allowed combined leave for six months, with effect from the 13th February 1905 or any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

Babu Promotho Nath Dutt, Deputy Magistrate, and Deputy Collector, Patuakhali, Backergunge, is allowed combined leave for fourteen months and fifteen days, with effect from the 4th March 1905.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dr. J. L. Hendley, Civil Surgeon, is posted, on return from furlough, to Palamau, with effect from the forenoon of the 14th January 1905.

Babu Kunja Lal Sanyal, Civil Surgeon, is transferred from Noakhali to Bogra.

Babu Nobin Chandra Dutt, Civil Surgeon, is transferred from Palamau to Noakhali.

Lieutenant R. Kelsall, I.M.S., Regimental Medical Officer, Buxa Duars, is appointed to have medical charge of the civil station of Buxa, Alipur Duars sub-division, in the district of Jalpaiguri, in addition to his own duties.

Two European soldiers who had recently deserted, but who were subsequently arrested at Calcutta, were passing through Lucknow on Thursday on their way to Sitapur. Being permitted to enter the Railway Waiting-room to say good-bye to certain friends of theirs, they seized the opportunity and again absconded. One of them has, however, been caught again; the other is still at large.

The Board of Revenue reports that it has ascertained from the Collector of Malabar that the number of cases, in which the amount realised by the sale of lands for arrears of revenue in the Wynaad taluq since the introduction of the settlement was less than the assessment thereon, is 64; and the number in which the land once sold had to be re-sold on account of the default of the purchaser is 160.

The Bombay High Court on its Original Side will be closed for the annual summer vacation from Tuesday, the 25th April to Monday the 12th June, 1905, both days inclusive. The offices of the Court will be open during the vacation for urgent work only from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m. except on Saturday and closed holidays. Plaints will be received during the vacation, but they will not be admitted except by permission of the Judge who will attend in Bombay for the disposal of urgent work.

It has already been reported that the High Court of Madras has issued notice on Mr. Jacob Pothan, Managing Proprietor of the Malabar "Daily News," an English paper published from Kottayam, to show cause why it should not be charged with contempt of the Court, in that it made some remarks in its issue of the 19th November, derogatory to the dignity of the High Court as such. The paper had engaged the services of Mr. A. A. Gower, Barrister-at-Law, and he, on behalf of his client, tendered an unqualified apology, which the Judges accepted, and discharged the paper.

The Siam Legislative Council has recently had before it a proposal to abolish gambling houses throughout the interior. The only objection seriously urged was the importance of doing nothing to reduce the revenue. Against this, it was claimed that the whole deficiency which would result could be met from other sources, and a proposal was submitted to increase the paddy field tax from 25 atts to one tical per rai. The "Bangkok Times" understands the question has not yet been finally decided. Correspondents to that paper assert that "nearly, if not all, the cases of dacoity, burglary and thefts are to be traced to gambling alone." One admits that there would be a serious loss of revenue, but suggests that the State should increase the tax on betel-nut. If betel nut were dearer, the women of Siam would benefit immensely in the matter of looks.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS

THE UNREST IN RUSSIA.

London, Feb. 5.

The Moscow nobles have decided to present two addresses to the Tsar, one conservative, adopted by a Majority, says the peace at present is impossible without humiliation and expresses confidence in an ultimate victory, but deprecates internal reform till the war has ended. The other liberal rejected the address and advocates co-operation by Tsar and the people for reform.

London, Feb. 5.

Reuter wires from St. Petersburg that an imperial Ukase appoints Saburoff, member of Council of Empire, as President of a special Conference, to elaborate the reforms mentioned on the 3rd instant. The Tsar hopes the Conference will perform the task as speedily as possible.

London, Feb. 6.

There were two killed and fifteen wounded at Lodz cemetery yesterday in a conflict with the troops during the funeral of some of the previous victims.

London, Feb. 6.

The "Times" publishes a letter from a distinguished ex-member of the Bombay Civil Service, who was at Petersburg on 22nd ult., in which he says he saw troops firing point blank at unarmed crowds because they failed to move on.

The writer says "Though I am Russophile I hope it will be a long time before India is exposed to the tender mercies of such a Government. . . . . "Sir H. Cotton and his congress would have been dispersed by bullets and most of the participants been by now on their way to Siberia.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Feb. 5.

Kuropatkin, reporting unimportant fighting on the 2nd and 3rd instant, says the Major-General Dombrovski was wounded in the leg at the village of Chantanchenam.

London, Feb. 6.

One of the foreign Admirals, on the North Sea Enquiry Commission, in an interview with Reuter's representative, said that while the Commissioners were at present convinced of the Russians' good faith in reference to the torpedoers, the Commissioners were unable to believe that there were any. The Admiral expected the decision would be such as to enable the Russians to walk out with their heads erect.

London, Feb. 6.

With reference to the rumours of General Kuropatkin's resignation it seems certain that the question was considered some days ago, but was solved by the acceptance of the resignation of General Gripenberg.

London, Feb. 6.

Negotiations have been completed for the issue of a five per cent. Russian loan at Paris of nearly a milliard francs. It has been entrusted to the same firms which negotiated the previous Russian loans in France It is understood that the whole loan will be placed. The rate of issue is not stated.

London, Feb. 6.

Reuter's correspondent with Kuroki says:—General Sir Ian Hamilton has started for Japan en route to England. He breaks his journey in India to confer with Lord Kitchener. General Kuroki and his staff gave Sir Ian a farewell luncheon. Kuroki made a most cordial speech on the occasion.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

STOESSEL'S DEFENCE.

Colombo, Feb. 6.

General Stoessel in Colombo with his own hand drew a Diagram explaining why Port Arthur could no longer be saved from the enemy. He showed that all the forts save one were occupied by the Japanese, whose guns were placed in position on every side only three miles from the old and new town in which every house was shattered. The garrison numbered only 8,000 men capable of carrying arms; 3,000 of this number were unable to walk owing to their legs being swollen from scurvy. There was no talk of surrender until shortly before it was accomplished. Indeed General Stoessel only called a Council together to consider the question two hours before word was sent to Nogi. General Stoessel sent General Reiss on his behalf who was met by Nogi's chief of the staff in Eagle's Nest a well-known position in Port Arthur. The Japanese leader had sent to Stoessel requesting that only a man armed with full powers to ratify the terms of surrender agreed upon should be sent to negotiate. Nogi said he did not want further delays and procrastination. General Reiss was given carte blanche. The Japanese officer sent by Nogi spoke French and English. Reiss spoke French, but while being able to read and write English could not speak it. The terms of surrender were drawn up in English. General Reiss said the Japanese were most liberal in their terms and were most courteous. A General order was received from the Mikado that the Russians should be allowed to retain all their decorations and be treated with full military honours. Nogi the defender of Port Arthur is described as a fine old man. Stoessel said when he surrendered all he had left for himself and Madame Stoessel were a few tins of conserves for three months. Not a man in Port Arthur had seen even as much butter as would go on one's finger tip. The general had ordered the destruction of 8,000 cases of vodka to prevent the soldiers getting drunk.

A POONA SHOOTING CASE.

ACCUSED ACQUITTED.

Poona, Feb. 5.

Private Walker, East Lancashire Regiment, has been acquitted by the Sessions Judge and a special jury comprised exclusively of Europeans. Private Walker was charged with attempting to shoot with a rifle a European woman, named Annetta Chirilla, on the 8th January last. The defence maintained that in firing he intended not to kill the woman but merely to frighten her. Walker is now in military custody pending a trial by Court Martial for having deserted his post in barracks on the night in question and having carried away a rifle and ten rounds of ball ammunition.

POSTPONED *SINE DIE*.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bombay, Feb. 6.

In the Bombay High Court, this morning, Justice Russell and Justice Aston heard, in the appeal court, the suit filed by the Hon'ble Sir Pherozeshaw M. Mehta and ten other Fellows of the Bombay University against the Rev. Dr. D. Mackichan, Vice-Chancellor of the Bombay University and eleven Syndics recently elected by the four faculties and the University of Bombay, to invalidate the Syndicate elections, and to restrain the Syndics from administering the affairs of the University. Mr. G. B. Lowndes appeared for the plaintiffs.

The Hon. Mr. E. B. Raikes, acting Advocate-General who appeared for the defendants, said that he was asked to request their lordships to let matters stand over; similar questions had arisen about other Universities in India, and the matter was being generally dealt with by a Bill introduced into the Legislative Council of H. E. the Viceroy on the 3rd instant. Information had been received that the bill would probably become law on Friday. That being so, it would be taking up their lordships' time unnecessarily to ask them to go into the matter, consider the question, and pass a decision, which, if arrived at in time, would be superseded by law on Friday. Probably it had come to their lordships' knowledge that the Bill was introduced and what the general effect of it was. The court would be in a better position to deal with the matter finally after the passing of the Bill, than before as then they would know how the law stood. Meanwhile should they proceed it would be as it were dealing with a state of the law which would last only till Friday. On these grounds he had been instructed to ask that the matter might be allowed to stand over.

Mr. Lowndes said that the matter was entirely under their lordships' discretion. But he could not understand how Judges could take judicial notice about the introduction of a Bill. He also failed to understand how Judges could take judicial cognisance of the point that the Bill would probably be passed on Friday. It was for them to consider these propositions. The Bill might have been introduced, but whether it would be passed was on the knees of the gods. The plaintiffs having filed their suit for a declaration whether particular acts were right or wrong according to the then state of the law, were entitled to a decision. The suit was brought before the court by consent of both parties, and he submitted that consent could not be varied against the wishes of the plaintiffs. The Court had been asked to hold in the suit that an Act passed by the Government of India bore certain interpretation. Independent of Government, the Judges would rather be unwilling to recognise such interference on the part of Government, which was likely to nullify the Court's dicision, if not to prevent it.

The Hon. Mr. Raikes said that it was not to nullify, but to supersede.

Mr. Lowndes replied that Judges held independent authority from the Crown, and they could give their decision. They could [illegible] what the law was as constituted [illegible] at the time the suit was filed.

The Hon. [illegible] said that an adjournment [illegible] agreed to at the last hearing, when [illegible] they did not know about the Bill. Their lordships had no doubt the discretion to try the suit and decide it too. The only question was whether the Court would go into the suit when the result was likely to be absolutely nugatory. The fate of the Bill would be decided on Friday, one way or the other.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Russel said that under the circumstances, the proper course was to adjourn it for further hearing.

Mr. Lowndes said the adjournment should be sine die for the bill being a sledge-hammer, they should wait until it dropped.

The hearing was adjourned sine die.

The action of the Government has simply amazed the public here.

Electrical plant has left England for Tokio, Japan, to work sixty miles of electric tramways and 200 cars in that city.

Three giant tortoises have been presented to the zoological collection at Bombay by His Excellency Rear-Admiral George L. Atkinson Willes.

An American scientific journal states that the Russian Admiralty will explore the Arctic route, or North-East Passage, to the Far East as soon as the war is over.

It is now proposed to modify the completion of the Panama canal so as to produce a wide waterway without locks from one sea to the other. This was the original plan of De Lesseps.

The fighting in Jandol has become desultory. The Khan of Dir's men and those of the Khan of Nawagai are still watching each other, but neither party has succeeded in ejecting the other from the disputed territory.

The District Judge pronounced judgment in the Menon Defamation Case on Monday last. The conviction of the appellants was confirmed, but the sentence of fine in the case of the first appellant was reduced from Rs. 250 to Rs. 100.—"W. C. S."

A proclamation issued on the 31st ultimo, and published in all the Mahals of the Jawhar territory, announced to its subjects the succession of Shrimant Krishnashah Raja to the gadi of the State. Mr. J. P. Orr, Political Agent of Jawhar, has conveyed to the young Chief, in whose career he has evinced a deep interest, his sense of regret at the death of Shrimant Patangshah Raja, the deceased ruler.

Even in winter a yak cannot live in so hot a place as Kulu. Some do come over the Spin and Parbutti pass in summer, but they never come lower down than the Thakur Kua "tarsh" some 11,000 feet, and the limit of the white rhodendrons, whilst their owners go lower down to the higher villages to buy grain. Not even in winter can yak, "chauru" or snow leopard, live at a lesser height than 1,000 feet.

Plague and small-pox seem to have combined in making the total mortality during this cold season almost the highest on record in Bombay. Of course the abnormally cold weather is greatly responsible for the unhealthy condition of the city. The present health of the city contrasts very unfavourably with the same period last year when the total mortality was over 400 less. The Indian population has begun removing to the plague camps.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

ANOTHER NEW COMET.

It will be within the recollection of everyone that a new comet was discovered in June, 1903, which a few days later became sufficiently bright to be just visible to the naked eye. The same astronomer who discovered that object, M. Borrelly, of the Marseilles Observatory, now reports his discovery on December 28th, of another comet moving in a north-east direction. The new object is favourably placed for observation, being on the meridian at an altitude of about 30 deg. at half-past six in the evening. Unfortunately, no statement as to its brightness has yet come to hand.

SCIENCE AND THE POTATO.

Nothing is easier, when you know how, than to turn a radish into a potato. M. Mollard, a French scientist, does know how, and he has been telling the Academy of Science at Paris how to set about it. You take a very young radish, and cultivate it in a glass retort, after a process invented by Pasteur, in a concentrated solution of glucose. The radish swells, starch develops plentifully in its cells, the distinctive taste disappears, and the radish acquires practically the same consistency, flavour, and, above all, nutritive qualities as the potato. In future, if my greengrocer's potatoes do not satisfy me I shall make them myself—or buy them at a chemist's.

THE LEICESTER EARTHQUAKES.

At a recent meeting of the Geological Society Dr. Charles Davison, F.G.S., made communications on the Leicester earthquakes of Aug. 4, 1893, and June 21, 1904; on the Derby earthquake of July 3, 1904; and on twin-earthquakes. Dr. Davison, who is an authorty on this subject, considers that twin-earthquakes are due to impulses proceeding from two practically detached foci, or underground centres. The Leicester quake of 1893 was a twin with two epicentres—places on the surface above the centre or foci—the disturbed area covering 2,200 sqlare miles. The Derby shock last year was likewise a twin, and affected 25,000 square miles. On the other hand, the Liecestor seism of June 21, 1904, was a double shock, but not a twin, the foci overlapping. The learned doctor of science believes that in Great Britain one in every twenty earthquakes is a twin and that our strongest shocks, like those of Colchester, in 1884, and of Hereford, in 1896, belong to this class. Dr. Davison is making an inquiry into the history of British earthquakes.

ANIMALS IN BANANAS.

Bunches of bananas appear to be the means of introducing strange animals into this country; though the new arrivals have not, like the brown rat—to which Waterton always applied the epithet "Hanoverian"—established a footing and ousted members of the native fauna. Lizards have repeatedly been brought over in this way; and sometimes the little reptiles have escaped notice till the fruit was served at dessert. In a warehouse at Newcastle-on-Tyne a snake about 5ft long was recently discovered lying near some bunches of bananas, the inference being that it was imported in the same crate. In at least one case a mammal has been induced into Britain in this way. Not[illegible]nce there was living in the Clifton [illegible] Gardens a murine opossum—about the size of a [illegible] in the interior of a bunch of [illegible] as that formed part of a consignment from Costa Rica. In this respect Great Britain must yield to the United States, for the director of the New York Zoological Park speaks of a score of these little creatures that reached the Empire city by similar means and he was given a picture of one that bred in the park.

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN THE AZORES.

Reference was made in "The Daily Telegraph" recently to service which the Azores may render to atmospheric observation. Since then that journal has received a report on "Communications by means of Wireless Telegraphy in the Azores," presented by M. le Commandant F. A. Chaves, director of the Meteorological Service in the Islands, to the Maritime Congress of Lisbon. It would appear from this statement that one special advantage of wireless telegraphy in the archipelago would be the making known of wrecks and of ships abandoned in the North Atlantic, which it would seem drift towards the Azores. Senhor Chaves reports that in the last ten years forty-four vessels have suffered damage, and possibly many others total loss, by collision with this wreckage. By wireless telegrams passing ships could be warned of this danger. As the Azores are in touch with the American Weather Bureau, the islands might form a centre, the commandant observes, from which Europe could be informed daily of the position of maximum and minimum barometer in those parts, two or three points through which the mean isobar of 30.00in passes, and of the position of tempests or storm-centres. Some of these objects we are endeavouring to carry out. A proposal has been made for the establishment of a wireless telegraphic system, but it has not yet been adopted.

MARINE ZOOLOGY.

Two European rulers—the King of Portugal and the Prince of Monaco—are enthusiastic students of marine zoology. Both maintain steam yachts admirably fitted up for collecting specimens of large and small fauna and investigating matters connected with fisheries, ocean currents, Salinitz, the food of fish, and the like. When the King of Portugal recently visited King Edward he presented to the Natural History Museum a collection of fishes that had been taken during some of his cruises. Most of them were sharks, dogfish, or rays, for the capture of which fisheries have been carried on for many years on the Portuguese coast. One of the most important specimens is the frilled shark, originally described from Japan but since obtained in the Atlantic. This primitive form owes its name to the fact that the gills are covered with flaps of skin. Part of the collection is now on view in one of the bays of the Central Hall. Fish specimens in spirit are not very attractive; but everybody will appreciate the strange-looking hammer-headed shark, which has been mounted. The frontal portion of the head is expanded into a lobe on each side, and on these the eyes are situated. In an adjacent case are exhibited the King's reports on the tunny fisheries the sharks of the Portuguese waters, the cruises of his yacht "Amelia," and the first part of an illustrated catalogue of the birds of Portugal, perhaps to show that the King's interest in Zoological matters is by no means confined to fishes.

ORIGIN OF CYCLONE.

Some correspondents, while showing a highly-intelligent interest in Meteorology, and notably in the problem of the origin of cyclones, have construed too literally the principle in a recent reference to "solar heat, polar cold, the distribution of land and water," as "fixed forces." It was not meant that temperatures of land and water, aerial and sea currents, are immutable; but that their changes are too slow to account for the commencement of cyclones. Between summer and winter temperatures of the Atlantic there is doubtless a wide difference; but cyclones are forming during both seasons. In the seven years ending with 1902 our British rainfall fell off in the aggregate to the extent of one whole year's supply; in 1903 nearly half of this deficiency was made up—by the wettest year on record; in 1904 we have again fallen to 21 inches precipation—rain and snow included—more than 12 per cent, below the average. Are these results owing to changes of solar heat or polar cold? It is suggested that "the intersection of a current of warm air blowing from south-wst to north-east, along the northern border of the Gulf Stream by a current of cold air flowing from north to south across it, contains all the elements necessary for the development of a left-handed cyclone, such as all those that visit Western Europe are." The answer to which is that cyclones do not spring up specially along the northern border of the Gulf Stream, nor specially in any part of the Atlantic, but in nearly all parts of the northern hemisphere; that the supposed warm and cold currents are pretty constant, and that if their intersection set up cyclonic whirls in the atmosphere, what determines the point of intersection? That must be a very variable force. What is it? What evidence is there that cyclones do actually begin in this way

SMALL CAUSE COURT.

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A MUNICIPAL CASE.

The Chief Judge heard an appeal against the Corporation on Saturday last, and dismissed it on a point of law.

Srikanto Gangooly, a dealer in glass, etc., was paying Rs. 12 per annum for his trade license as a petty dealer previous to 1903-04. The Corporation having ascertained on enquiry that his transactions were very large, assessed him as a wholesale dealer, and increased his license to Rs. 50. Not having paid for his license according to the new assessment, he was served with a notice by the Corporation on 2nd December, 1904. He then applied to the License Officer to have himself assessed as a retail dealer. In this application he did not intimate that he would appeal to the Small Cause Court under the Municipal Act, and did not file in the Municipal Office a statement in writing of the grounds of his appeal. The License Officer rejected the application, and the appellant preferred an appeal to the Small Cause Court. At the hearing the pleader for the Corporation raised a preliminary objection, viz., that the appellant did not comply with the provisions of Section 14 of Schedule II of the Municipal Act. The Chief Judge upheld the objection and dismissed the appeal with costs.

NOTES ON THE ROSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE RUSSIAN BUDGET.

The Moscow correspondent of the "Standard" writes on January 17th:—The Budget just presented is the most extraordinary which the Russian Government has yet published. In the opening statements the warning is given that if war continues throughout 1905 fresh fund will only be procurable with considerable difficulty. The cost of war to the present time is stated at 621,000,000 of roubles, an item which does not appear in the Budget, but is provided for out of mysterious balances said to be at the disposal of the Treasury. What was formerly known as the "free balance" always varies in accordance with the precise amount required to balance expenditure. In 1892 it was only 35,000,000, while in 1895 it was 10 times as much—namely, 355,000,000 being then the highest point reached. Some curious methods appear to have been adopted in the Budget this year, for, although the figures show a reduction of only three per cent from last year's total, which was the high-water mark in Russian Budgets the figures on this occasion are apparently made to balance without resorting to the "free balance at the disposal of the Treasury." The reason assigned is that this balance has been "ear-marked" for war purposes, and, therefore says the Finance Minister, "it is no longer called free." The interpretation generally placed here on this statement is that this "free balance" simply represents the amount which Russia hopes to extract from foreign pockets, and the true figure, it is maintained, should disclose a deficit. [illegible] annual interest on foreign loans has now increased to 20,000,000 of roubles, and amounts to no less than 15 per cent of the total Budget. The main portion of the Budget for 1905 may be said to be devoted to attempts to prove that Russia is in a thoroughly flourishing condition. It is, of course, impossible to check all the various statements made in the Budget, but if certain detailed facts concerning industrial figures are to be taken as any criterion, their untrustworthiness undoubtedly vitiates the entire Budget. It is officially asserted that the commercial returns indicated by the Budget are unusually good, but this assertion seems to rest simply on the slender fact that there is an enormous increase in the Stamp Duties. This, however, is amply accounted for by the huge increase in the creation of finance bills, which it is impossible to "protest." In fact, most desperate "kite-flying" in the form of bills appears to be taking place. In short, no one in Russia is really imposed upon by the Budget figures and they are therefore presumably produced for the benefit of the foreigner. A Moscow paper calculates that only 96,000,000 of roubles is left from foreign money contributed in the shape of war loans. The future new loan is expected to produce 200,000,000 of roubles; but even these sums are not sufficient to provide for more than three, or at the outside four months' additional War expenditure.

Money still continues fairly easy. At the same time a slow and gradual demand was noticeable during the week; there was a decrease of nearly Rs. 63 lakhs in the cash balance of the Bank of Bombay, and on Thursday the bank rate was advanced to [illegible] per cent. This institution has been borrowing in the market during the week, giving 4 per cent. for two months' deposits. The Exchange Banks at present seem to be fully supplied.

SULPHUR SPRINGS IN BURMA.

Sulphur springs have been discovered near Thandaung, the sanitarium for Burma, and have been visited by Mr. Moran, Executive Engineer, in company with the Civil Surgeon of Toungoo. It is estimated that the discharge from the main spring is 24 gallons a minute and the temperature is about 102 degrees. It is stated that the hand on immersion can stand the heat, but it is certain that the whole body could not tolerate the temperature. The medicinal properties of the spring are in great repute with both the hillmen and native of India working on the new road. Drinking the water is said to be very beneficial in cases of indigestion, and is believed to cure fevers. One of the Public Works Department contractors and his work people regularly visit the spring once a week, on the day they close work, and drink the water and bathe in it. Their evidence is to the effect that this habit keeps them in good health. The Civil Surgeon is having samples of the water analysed. The surroundings of the springs are suitable for the erection of dwelling houses and for baths. There is a sufficient fall from the spring to the stream to allow of the construction of baths at different levels.

RECENT RAILWAY INVENTIONS.

A ney engineering skill is to be seen at the Great Western Railway works at Swindon.

By means of this ingenious device, engines can be actually run on a trial trip without having to leave the scene of their construction, and their entire efficiency tested in quite as thorough a manner as on the actual railway.

The testing plant is fitted with revolving tyres, into which the wheels of the locomotive fit, and by this means a clever representation of what is technically known as the "tread" of the permanent way is produced

The tyres of the testing plant revolve with the wheels of the engine when steam is turned on, so that an engine can actually be made to work at full speed as if it were really on the metals without moving an inch in a forward direction, and the whole of its construction can thus be amply tested.

It often happens that an engine on its trial trip breaks down, and blocks the main line, but this inconvenience to traffic is obviated by the new testing plant, which is the invention of Mr. Churchward, the locomotive superintendent of the line.

An Edinburgh man has just invented an electric automatic safety lock for railway carriages.

All the doors of a train fitted with this lock fasten automatically when a train begins to move, and unlock when the train comes to a standstill.

The movement of the train generates the current of electricity that fastens the locks, and the stopping of the train cuts off the current, and so sets the locks free.

The Great Western Railway have just completed a model signalling platform, by which men can be taught the use of signals without having to waste the time of a man in a signal-box whilst learning the duties of a signalman.

The signalling platform demonstrates most clearly the system of signalling, which it is of the utmost importance a signalman should understand, as well as their mechnical action.

The management of the New York Central Railway have recently adopted a new device for protecting passengers against the chances of injury in the event of a rear end collision.

This device consists of a big steel frame, some four feet in length, and the height of an ordinary railway carriage.

The frame, which is really nothing more than a tremendously powerful spring, is fastened on to the buffers of the rear end carriage, projecting about three feet beyond it.

It is estimated that if an engine running at fifty miles an hour came against this frame the force of the impact would be sufficiently broken to protect the rear end carriage from being "telescoped," and the passengers would suffer no greater inconvenience than a severe shaking.

The Board of Trade have on several occasions recommended that railway companies should be compelled to run an empty coach or van at each end of every passenger train to reduce the chances of injury to passengers in case of a collision at either end of the train but the railway companies have pointed out that running two empty coaches on every train would involve a most gigantic loss, and the recommendation has never taken practical effect.

A fortune awaits the man who can devise an economical method of generating electricity for lighting purposes in railway carriages.

Few people are aware that railway companies which provide electric light in their carriages do so at a dead loss; all the big railway companies have tried various methods of generating electricity on trains whilst they are running, but all these methods so far have proved too costly to be permanently adopted.

The long run trains for this reason are always lighted by gas, which is but a trifle more costly than the old-fashioned oil lamp.

Settlement operations were completed in fourteen districts in Burma during the year ending the 30th of June, 1904, a total of 3,824 square miles and 894,883 of cultivated area being finished at a cost of Rs. 80 per square mile and five annas per cultivated acre.

Details of a daring piracy in broad daylight have just been received in Penang, the victims being the crew of a tongkah trading between there and Situl. One Saturday about midday, while between Situl and Kedah, three miles from land, seventeen Chinese—three of whom were armed with revolvers and the remainder with swords and other similar weapons—came off in boats, boarded the tongkah and tied up six of the crew—also Chinese. A seventh man made a desperate resistance, when he was at once ruthlessly shot and fell over board. The pirates thereafter ransacked the tongkah from end to end, seizing over $390 in money and property. They next leisurely cooked and ate their food on board, and then went off back to Keda. The crew of the tongkah succeeded at length in freeing themselves and returned in the tongkah to Penang when the affair was reported to the police.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

STOESSEL'S SURRENDER.

Colombo, Feb. 4.

General Stoessel arrived to-day accompanied by his wife and several Generals, including General Reiss, chief of staff who conducted the surrender negotiations, other officers and several ladies. The steamer is in quarantine, but a "Times of Ceylon" reporter managed to interview the General and obtained valuable particulars. Some of the officers still carried signs of their wounds and used slings or crutches. General Stoessel does not speak English His aide-de-camp, Lieutenant Nevelskoy said General Stoessel had given orders that reporters were not to be seen. The General is not quite like his photographs for he is quite bald. His head is not large, but the whole presence denotes physical strength. His face was bronzed to a healthy red and had not the pallor consequent upon disease, bad food and general privations, as one might have expected. The General is a stern-looking man, tall and stout. He wore a cream-coloured frock coat of military pattern and trousers of non-descript style. He wore plain gold epaulets.

The reporter persuaded Lieut. Nevelskoy to take to his chief the telegram which Dr. Morrison, the Pekin correspondent of the "Times" had sent to his paper ten days ago stating that on visiting Port Arthur he had come to the conclusion the surrender was quite unjustifiable and the most discreditable that could be imagined. The reporter emphasized the fact that this was a direct statement sent by the most reliable journalist in Asia to the leading paper of the world, and the General might wish to make some statement without further delay. This impressed Lieutenant Nevelskoy. He first took the momentous telegram to the Chief of staff, Major General Reiss, a man of enormous proportions, showing signs of hard usage in the siege. Between them they discussed the subject and Reiss and Nevelskoy puzzled out the plain spoken message in which General Stoessel was dubbed a coward. General Stoessel wanted to dismiss the matter as absolutely of no importance. His A.D.C. reminded him that emanating from such a source it ought not to go unchallenged. The General appreciated this view and told the A.D.C. to deny the statement in its entirety, "In the first place," said the Lieutenant "the General says the statement is absurd and utterly incorrect; moreover it is important to note that no facts in support of such a grave charge are given. How can I reply to such an accusation except to deny, it, says the General." While Lieutenant Nevelskoy was communicating this important statement to the reporter, the General himself came up and expressed his concurrence with what his subordinate had said. The General again indignantly denied the correspondent's assertions. "The siege could not have been sustained for a single day. Had we gone on for two or three days longer it would have been murder in the streets only, not war. Our hospitals were full of wounded. At the beginning on the siege many wounded recovered, but afterwards this was very rare. Many died from illness. All the hills were in the hands of the Japanese. Our defeat was a question of a few days at the most. We had eight thousand men guarding our last position and that position was 27 miles long."

General Reiss spoke highly of the personal bravery displayed by General Stoessel and the devotion of his wife. General Stoessel was on one occasion wounded in the head by a bullet.

To-day the Russian Colony entertained General Stoessel to tiffin. There was an enthusiastic gathering, the Consul being President.

FURTHER DETAILS.

Speaking about ammunition General Reiss said that during the last month's siege they were so short that several hundreds of the Japanese eleven inch shells which did not explode were used by the Russians in their defence. "But in fact," he said, "we were short of ammunition the whole time. From the month of July it was very scarce, indeed we had to manufacture it ourselves. Talk of surrender was only towards the end. The actual number of men, still able to carry arms was 8,000. We had in hospitals 18,000, sick and wounded besides 4,000 non-combatants, including Doctors, Engineers, Electricians and Civilians. During the siege 10,000 men were either killed outright or died of wounds or sickness. The strength of our garrison at the beginning of the siege was 40,000. For a month before we surrendered we had only flour and biscuits. Our meat supply was exhausted four months before the close of the siege. We killed all the horses save one thousand which we had to keep alive to drag the guns about among the forts, otherwise the guns would have been useless. Out of a million and a half roubles we used all to pay for things. Up till the very last the Chinese were always paid in coin. But Europeans who at first were paid in coin when money was running out received cheques and paper money. All our guns were left useless. Those that were not completely spoiled had the delicate mechanism spoiled. It is quite true the Japanese guns did great damage among our ships, but before they were sunk by them we took care that all the engines and machinery were blown up."

Both Reiss and Nevelskoy were loud in their praises of the enemy whose artillery fire, they said was most destructive, and as individuals they proved first class shots, but Reiss says the Japanese, while intrepid in a general action, do not, when they come to close quarters with the bayonet exhibit the grit and strength which is particularly characteristic of the Russians and French. General Reiss said that towards the end of the siege bayonet fights were numerous and most destructive for the Russians had to resort to hand to hand fights as the ammunition had given out. What was left had to be conserved for the most momentous engagements. Scurvy was a common disease among the garrison due to want of food, and exhaustion from hard work. At the worst times 100 to 150 men a day used to be buried. Towards the end of the siege the number of men entering the hospitals was 400 daily and many died. "As regards medical necessities we had hardly had any at all; for bandages, sails and ropes from the ships had to be utilised. For months before the surrender we had absolutely no information from the outside world at all. No ships were able to run the blockade and no messengers reached Port Arthur from the land side. The last news we heard of General Kuropatkin was when he fought the battle of the Yentai in October—not a word since. As regards the Baltic Fleet we were in perfect ignorance of its whereabouts until the siege was raised, so that it was impossible to make any calculations on whether the Baltic Fleet would be able to reach us in time. From St. Petersburg no information was received by General Stoessel at all. Every building of importance was shattered to pieces."

General Reiss stated that he was told by General Nogi himself after the surrender that the Japanese casualties during the siege of Port Arthur had been enormous, nearly 100,000 being killed; in fact so fearful was the slaughter on some occasions that Japanese soldiers refused to go on with the fighting and their own guns were trained upon them and fired forcing them to continue the attack.

PRICES IN JAPAN.

Since the outbreak of hostilities the prices of commodities have steadily been advancing, an average index number being 112 for November against 106 for January, the average prices of commodities ruling in October, 1900, being taken at 100. When the yearly average is compared, the figures for the past four years show the following results, the prices for 1900 being also taken at 100:—

1901	96
1902	96
1903	103

The average for this year is necessarily obtained from the figures for the eleven months ending November, and may therefore show higher figures when the entire year is taken into consideration.

RUSSIAN PRISONERS IN JAPAN.

On December 23rd there were 3,631 Russian prisoners in Japan, including 110 officers and 3,521 men, who were distributed in the following places:—

	Officers.	Men.
Matsuyama	50	1,351
Himeji	—	891
Nagoya	—	500
Marugame	—	350
Fukuchiayama	—	351
Fukuokad	60	120

According to latest returns, the number of Japanese prisoners in Russia is 388 of which 34 are combatants and 304 non-combatants. As the above figures are of those whose names are affirmed and gazetted, there will be some more prisoners of war taken by Russia. The Japanese prisoners referred to above are classified as under:—

Military officers	7
Naval officers	3
Military rank and file	6
Naval rank and file	17
Naval paymaster	1
Naval secretary	1
Military surgeon	1
Engineer and assistants	16
Government employees (interpreters, coolies, etc.)	78
Mercantile marine officials	55
Mercantile marine men	148
Merchants on transports	10
Stonemason	1

As for prisoners taken from the third blocking fleet to Port Arthur, nothing has yet been reported from Russia.

Advices from Kure say that nine Japanese blue-jackets, who are supposed to be detained at Port Arthur, comprise all the missing men belonging to the Kure Admiralty. They embarked on the Sagami-maru and the Otarumaru in the 3rd blocking expedition.

CONDITION OF TOGO'S FLEET.

CAPTAIN KLADO INTERVIEWED.

In the course of an interview with a representative of the "Matin," Captain Klado has made an interesting and characteristic frank statement as to the naval outlook in Russia. He unhesitatingly dismisses the idea that the Japanese fleet must now be suffering from exhaustion and from deterioration of its guns and machinery. The Japanese fleet is, he says, in excellent condition. New guns have been substituted for those too long in use. The Japanese, who do not manufacture their own guns, can easily purchase them abroad. Their naval artillery is largely composed of Armstrong guns which, according to Captain Klado, that firm has continued to supply to Japan. "It is also said that the Japanese have no more cast shells, that their powder is inferior, and a number of other absurdities are uttered. The Japanese have an abundant supply of all they require. . . I have the best information and I know that the fighting value of the Japanese is about equal to what it was at the beginning of the war."

Captain Klado further asserts that Admiral Rozhdestvensky's fleet is perfectly seaworthy, otherwise it could not have successfully accomplished such an extremely difficult voyage. "Our ships are in excellent condition, none of them having suffered any damage worth mentioning. There is no reason to fear that Admiral Rozhdestvensky will not be able to carry out the plan which he made before his departure." Captain Klado repeats that the fall of Port Arthur, which was foreseen, makes no change in that plan. He emphatically states that the Russians cannot dream of the recapture of Port Arthur until they have secured the comamnd of the sea, "not even supposing we had at our disposal an army of several millions of men." He anticipates that the war will be a long one. It will take the Russians at least as long to march south as it did the Japanese to attain their present position. And when the Russians shall have recrossed the Yalu and reached Ying-kau their way will be blocked at Port Arthur, an advanced citadel of Japan, united to the mother country by the Japanese fleet holding the command of the sea.

The "Fort St. George Gazette" contains a short Bill to amend the Madras Abkari Act, empowering certain persons to take bail who are already empowered to arrest, also empowering Abkari Inspectors holding enquiries under the Act to take bail.

Dhondy Nana, a Mahratta, was charged with cutting off the nose of his wife, Bhagubai, by means of a razor. About nine years ago he married Krishnee, his second wife. Bhagubai did not like the idea of his taking a second wife, and she left him and lived in a house at Satara. In November last the accused went to Satara to fetch Bhagubai to Bombay. She at first refused to come, but was eventually prevailed upon to do so, and she came accompanied by a woman named Rukmee. Some two or three hours after her arrival the accused took her into a room, the door of which he fastened from inside, then tied her hands and feet with a turban, threw her down, and cut off her nose with a razor. The accused appeared to have a suspicion that Bhagubai, while she lived at Satara, had been misconducting herself and that was the motive for the crime. The jury unanimously found the accused guilty of causing grievous hurt. His lordship sentenced the accused to six years' rigorous imprisonment, remarking that there was no provocation offered by the poor, unfortunate woman, and the assault he had committed was most brutal and cowardly.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MR. SAVAGE'S SCHEME ON UNION PUNCHAYATS.

The following is the concluding portion of Mr. Savage's scheme on Union Punchayats which was published in our last issue:—

The duties of the chaukidars are—

(3) To arrest all proclaimed offenders and any person who commits in his presence or against whom a hue and cry has been raised of his having been concerned in the commission of the offences of murder, culpable homicide, rape (when the offender is not the husband of the woman raped), dacoity, roberry, theft, mischief by fire, house-breaking, counterfeiting coins, causing grievous hurt, riot, administering stupefying drugs, kidnapping, or of any attempt or preparation to commit or the abetment of the commission of any of these offences, whether such offence has been or is being committed within his village or outside of it, and shall without delay convey the person so arrested to the thana.

(4) To prevent, to the best of his ability, the commission of any of the offences specified in the above paragraph.

(5) To assist private persons in making such arrests as they may lawfully make.

(6) To observe the movements of bad characters.

(7) To report at the village chaukidari parade to the Secretary and dafadar births and deaths which have occurred in his beat, and furnish such other information as may be required by them in the execution of their duty.

(8) To obey the orders of the Panchayat in regard to keeping watch and ward in the village and other matters connected with his duty as chaukidar.

(9) To assist the person collecting the chaukidari rate in making the collection.

(10) To assist, to best of his ability, the police in the execution of their duty and to carry out all lawful orders issued by them in the execution of such duties.

(11) To serve processes under the orders of the President.

(12) To attend parades in the union or at the thana as may be ordered.

16. The duties of the dafadar are:—

(In addition to his duties as chaukidar)—

(1) To supervise the work of the chaukidars and to receive reports from them regarding matters which they are bound to report to him.

(2) To collect with the assistance of the Secretary, such statistical and other information (either at the weekly parade of chaukidars or otherwise) as by law or rule has to be supplied to the thana police or any Magistrate.

(3) To attend once a week at the thana, unless otherwise ordered, report on information referred to in 1 and 2.

(4) To report at the thana any neglect of duty by a chaukidar in connection with the detection or commission of crime.

(5) To report to the President of the Punchayat forthwith any information which he receives from a chaukidar under rule 15 2 above.

IV.—Inspection.

17. It is desirable there should be a thorough inspection of the work of each Panchayat in the union made at least once in a year. The officers at present available to make such inspections are the District Magistrate, the Subdivisional Magistrates, other Deputy or Sub-Deputy Magistrates or Collectors who go out on tour, and Inspectors of Police, or other superior officer of Police.

Note.—If it is found that with the present staff annual inspection is impossible, the district Magistrate must have inspections made as frequently as he can.

18. The inspecting officer should carefully examine the work of the union in all its branches; but the examination should be conducted in a friendly spirit and for the purpose of giving assistance to the Panchayat rather than to criticise their work. The members of Panchayat should be treated with courtesy, in particular the President, to whom a chair should be offered when he attends during the inspection.

19. The District Magistrate may not find time to do much inspection himself; but he will often be able to give encouragement to the Presidents and acquire much useful information for himself by calling several Presidents to meet him in an informal conference at his camp.

20. Sub-Inspectors of Police have the right to inspect and report to their superiors on the conduct of the chaukidars and dafadars, but they will have no powers to inspect the work of the Panchayats expect that the register of information supplied to the thana will be open to their inspection and they will be entitled to call for any explanation from the President with regard to entries therein. When out on tour Sub-Inspectors should visit the Presidents and consult with them as equals, but not as subordinates.

21. Police officers below the rank of Sub-Inspector will have no power to inspect the work of either the Panchayat, dafadar, or chaukidar; their only concern with the union or its officers will be that they will be entitled to the assistance of the dafadars and chaukidars in the execution of any duty for the performance of which they have been specially deputed.

V.—Service of Processes.

22. The processes to be served through the President of the circle Panchayat will be those of the nature of a summons or notice. Processes for arrest for realisation of dues of decretal amounts will continue to be executed as heretofore.

23. Processes to be served through the President will be forwarded to him by post by the nazir of the court, who should in all cases refer to registers (A) and (B) to ascertain the circle to which the processes should be transmitted for service. With the processes should be enclosed a stamped cover for their return.

24. On receipt of the processes, the President, if he finds any has been missent to him, will return it with a note to that effect. The processes which have been properly addressed he will as speedily as possible cause to be served by the dafadar or chaukidar, and after they have been served and the service properly attested will return them to be court of issue by post 'Service Bearing' in the stamped cover received the processes. If no such cover has been received the processes will be returned 'Bearing' in an ordinary cover.

VI.—Appointment of Chaukidars, and Paid Secretaries.

25. Chaukidars, dafadars, and paid Secretaries will be nominated by the Panchayat and appointed by the District Magistrate or the officer to whom he delegates his power in this respect.

26. In general the nominee of the Panchayat will be appointed provisionally till such time as the officer who has the power to confirm him can visit the union or some place near it, when the nominees should be seen by the officer and his appointment confirmed or otherwise after such enquiry as may seem necessary. The thana police should not be allowed to have any concern with the appointments, and the nominees should not be called in to head-quarters and so subjected to blackmail at the hands of the amla of either the police or Magistrate's office.

27. Chaukidars and Secretaries must be residents of the union and of good character. Chaukidars must also be of good physique. The dafadar should ordinarily be nominated from among the chaukidars of the union. A condition of his appointment, if not a chaukidar will be that he has his permanent residence in the union.

28. The confirmation of dafadars will ordinarily rest with the District Superintendent of Police or will be made with his previous approval.

29. The confirmation of Secretaries and chaukidars will ordinarily rest with the District Magistrate or the Subdivisional or other Magistrate to whom he may delegate his powers in this respect.

Note.—If power should be delegated to the District Superintendent of Police he must exercise them himself and not leave their exercise to any one of his subordinates.

VIII—Realization of Arrear Pay of Chaukidars and Dafadars.

32. If the dafadars or any of the chaukidars of any union be not piad on the date fixed for payment, a notice will be issued by the District or Subdivisional Magistrate on the President of the union Panchayat calling upon him to arrange for the payment of the arrears to the Magistrate within three weeks, together with such sum as may be necessary to cover the commission for forwarding the arrears to the chaukidars or dafadar by moneyorder. Should this order not be complied with and satisfactory explanation of the failure to comply not be furnished, the arrears may in the discretion of the Magistrate be realized by warrant. A Panchayat against which it is necessary to issue a warrant is one which it is desireable to replace by better men, and the Magistrate should arrange to select a new Panchayat as soon as practicable.

IX.—Parades.

33. There will be a parade of dafadars at the thana once a week.

34. Each chaukidar will attend a parade at the thana once a month. Ordinarily half of the chaukidars in each union will attend at the time of the first weekly parade of dafadars in the month and the other half at the third weekly parade day.

35 Ordinarily all rewards will be paid and all penalties and dues will be realized at the time the chaukidars are paid.

X.—Union Registers.

There will be three registers. Of these two informs A and B will be permanent.

(2) The unions in each thana will be arranged alphabetically according to their names and numbered accordingly.

Register A will show every inhabited village and mauza included within each union; in column 4 will be entered the number on the Boundary Commissioner's list which is the number shown on the mujmili maps where such have been prepared.

In register B which will be an index to register A, all the names which appear in columns 1 and 3 of register A will be reproduced in column 1 in alphabetical order. To indicate the mauzas, the figure against it in column 4 of register A will be entered after it in column 1.

(3)) These two registers will be printed 150 copies each for distribution to the thanas. Subdivisional offices and courts, from which processes will be sent to the Panchayats for services.

(4) There will be a third register C which will be in manuscript. One copy of this will be kept at each thana and another at the sub divisional head-quarters.

Measures are now being taken to provide a complete staff for the new irrigation works in the Punjab. The expenditure will be at the rate of about a crore annually when everything is in full swing.

Intimation having been received of the outbreak of plague in Singapore, that place has been declared to be an infected port, and the plague regulations, issued by Government, will be enforced in the ports of Orissa and Chittagong against vessels arriving from that place.

The mortality in Bombay from all causes for the week ended the 31st January was 1,327, and the deaths recorded from plague 408, an increase of 197 in the latter and 188 in the total. The total in the corresponding week in the preceding year was 917 and that of cases of plague recorded 384.

The Health Officer of Madras reports that there were no fresh cases of plague detected or any dead rats found in or about the fishermen's huts at Kuppam on the 1st idem. The three patients who were removed to plague camp by the Sanitary Commissioner the other day are now declared to be not suffering from plague. He thinks that matters are beginning to be very hopeful.

Two Brahmin School Masters, Madhwas, in the Devanahalli Taluk, Mysore, have been dismissed the service for a breach of the Marriage Regulations, by the Inspector-General of Education. Mere dismissal from service was thought as a deterrent punishment for these school masters and criminal prosecution was withheld. For their case was somewhat pitiable. Both were aged men and one had given his daughter in marriage to the other, more or less owing to the poverty of the man. The Deputy Inspector of schools in reporting the case recommended the men for mercy, as similar technical offences had been committed by Munsiffs, Amildars or other officers and they were untouched by Government. Moreover, the parties were married in Tirupathi and there was no jurisdiction in Mysore for punishment. But Mr. Bhabha being firm, they were dismissed.

AFGHAN PROBLEM.

The problem of the defence of Afghanistan has changed radically in the past few years.

A generation ago there was no Russian railway within reach of the British frontier in Asia; then about 1886 Russia began the construction of her Transcaspian Railway, linking up the Caspian first with Merv, and afterwards with Khusk on the very frontier of the Amir. Within the past twelve months a second great trunk line running southward from the Russian main railway system has been completed from Orenburg to Tashkend. The present writer has further received information from Englishmen who know Russia that this line is at this moment being prolonged, notwithstanding the war in the Far East, and is being carried nearer to the Indian frontier, through the lofty tableland of the Pamirs.

ASPECTS OF THE DANGER.

Thus there are now two great Russian railways abutting, or about to abut, upon the frontier of Afghanistan, which, as I shall presently show, is the line that England is bound by her engagements to defend. One actually touches that frontier; the other is still some two hundred miles distant, and Russian troops brought up by it will have for the time being to move through country of great physical difficulty. But the railway engineer can overcome any obstacle at a certain cost, and it may be taken for certain that the difficulties will be overcome by Russia.

This is the first aspect of the problem. The second is capable of reduction to a simple rule-of-three sum. If one Russian railway 5,000 miles long has been capable, as we now know it has, of moving troops from Europe at the rate of 25,000 men per month, in addition to carrying all the stores, supplies, and ammunition required by the army of 150,000 in Manchuria at the opening of the war, how many men can two much shorter lines of railway move to the Afghan frontier and maintain there in fighting order?

The answer to this sum would seem to be that in future we shall have to calculate upon meeting in Asia a Russian army of at least 500,000 or 600,000 men and perhaps very many more, instead of from 150,000 to 200,000, which was the utmost force that it seemed possible ten or fifteen years ago for Russia to concentrate on the Asiatic frontier of our Empire. We have become a Continental State in India, and unless we recognise the fact, disaster is to be feared.

By undertakings and promises made to past Amirs, England is pledged to defend Afghanistan. In 1880 a British Liberal Government informed the Amir that "if any foreign Power should attempt to interfere in Afghanistan, and if such interference should lead to unprovoked aggression on the Kabul ruler, then the British Government will be prepared to aid him, if necessary, to repel it." This promise was repeated in 1885 and 1889, and the engagements entered into by this country are summed up thus by Sir L. Griffin, who was in charge of the negotiations: "The letters which I gave to the Amir . . . engage us absolutely to defend him against Russian attack, on condition of his following our advice and directions in his foreign policy."

The net effect of these promises has been stated by Mr. Spenser Wilkinson, the first civilian authority on the defence of the Indian frontier, as "a notice to Russia that a violation of the (Afghan) border is a casus belli with the British Empire."

THE VITAL QUESTION.

But now comes the vital question: What steps has England taken to make good her promise, or to meet the new situation created by the advance of the Russian railways towards the threatened frontier? On her part Russia has not been inactive. During the past eight months troops have been steadily moved into the Transcaspian territories, and only a few weeks ago it was officially announced at St. Petersburg that large military stores and depots were being constructed and provisioned in that area.

In India, we have had Lord Kitchener's admirable scheme of reorganisation. It will provide an army for frontier service of 160,000 men of whom rather less than a third will be British regular troops. This army, however, is very poorly supplied with artillery, having less than three field guns per thousand. The Russian army against which it might be pitted would outnumber it by three to one, as we have seen, and would in all probability bring into the field twice as many guns. The Russians would all be white troops, and their high fighting quality has been proved in Manchuria, where, as Japanese friends tell me, there is practically no difference between the fighting qualities of Japanese and Russians, the Japanese victories in almost every case being due to the admirable Japanese staff, a factor in which it is to be feared we are far below our gallant allies.

The figures given show that the Indian army, unsupported, would have little chance of success. It must be reinforced, and very heavily reinforced from home.

PARADOXICAL MEASURES.

But here we are met with a most remarkable puzzle. Though it is clear that in view of the new Russian railways the need of reinforcements has increased, Mr. Arnold-Forster is busy cutting down the regular army available for service abroad. If his scheme is ever carried out—and in the interests of the Empire we cannot too frevently pray that it never may be—nineteen battalions of regular infantry will be altogether abolished, and forty-nine others will be reduced to half strength. In other words, 36,000 British troops are to be wiped out. No British soldier of eminence has been found to defend this extraordinary plan, and Lord Roberts has strongly condemned it. At the very outside, the force which we shall be able to send to India will not much exceed 120,000 men, and then the reserves will be practically exhausted. We shall have nothing to fill the gaps caused by battles such as those of Liaoyang and the Shaho, in which each side lost between 50,000 and 70,000 men. Russia, on the other hand, with her universal service, will have ample reserves.

The net result is that not only shall we be outnumbered at the start, but that the odds against us will grow progressively. Our Navy will help us nothing. The fleet cannot steam to Balkh or appear on the Caspian. And as patriotic citizens we cannot overlook the fact that the quality of our troops has been gravely called in question. Sir Ian Hamilton wrote many weeks back from Manchuria, "This war has burnt into my mind in a way that nothing else could have done that the condition of our Army constitutes a terrible danger to the existence of our Empire. We have learnt here that nothing but they very best will do, and we have too often the worst."

There are two alternatives before us, each involving consequences of extreme gravity. Either we must enormously increase our Army and that involves compulsory service, at home in time of peace, in any quarter of the globe in time of war; or we must make a new alliance with Japan. The terms of that alliance would be the absolute guarantee by either Power of the territories of the other, as determined at the close of the present war, coupled with a strict military understanding stating the forces which each Power is to put into the field. Each Power would give something and risk something, but the gain to both would be immense.

It is for the British and Japanese nations to weigh the problem. But such an alliance as has been sketched involves as its corollary a far more energetic support of Japanese interests than the British Government has so far exerted during the present war. And it can only be accomplished if both British parties support it.—H in the "Daily Mail."

'No Doctors to Treatment''

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THE JEYPORE (VIZAGAPATAM) APPEAL.

An appeal by the Maharaja of Jeypore, Northern Circars, against a decision by the Governor of Madras in Council rejecting his claim to have his suit determined was heard by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in November. Their Lordships intimated that the appeal ought to be allowed, but reserved their reasons, which have now been given by the Lord Chancellor who, in stating them, gave, the following account of the circumstances:—In 1892 a suit was instituted in the Court of the Agent to the Governor at Vizagapatam on behalf of the Maharaja, then a minor, for the purpose of establishing his right to resume possession of certain villages. On the 23rd March, 1893, the defendants applied to the High Court of Madras for an order that the said suit should be removed from the Court of the Agent and transferred to some other Court, and no opposition being made to such application by the parties who represented the plaintiff, an order was made transferring the suit to the District Court of Vizagapatam. The suit then became Original Suit No. 4 of 1893 on the file of that Court, and on 1st December, 1893, the said Court gave judgment dismissing the suit, on the ground that no sufficient evidence had been given to establish the plaintiff's case, and that judgment was not appealed from. On the 29th March, 1900, the High Court of Madras decided that it had no jurisdiction to order the transfer of a suit from the Court of the Governor's Agent to the District Court of Vizagapatam, and that the consent of the parties to the transfer could not cure that defect of jurisdiction. On the 27th October, 1900, the Maharaja presented his plaint to the Court of the Governor's Agent against the present respondent for the same cause of action as was alleged in the former suit, stating the grounds on which he contended that the District Judge had no jurisdiction to decide the suit, Ju[illegible]at the decision itself was a nullity. and tha[illegible]nt was rejected on 1st Decemb[illegible] The plai[illegible]rently on the ground th[illegible] 1900, appea[illegible] the former suit pr[illegible]hat the decision upon [illegible] th[illegible]precluded any further proceed[illegible] up[illegible]e same cause of action. From that an appeal was presented to the Governor in Council, who rejected the appeal on the ground that it would be inexpedient, and would set a bad example and encourage a multitude of suits for the same cause of action. Their Lordships were of opinion that the former decision of a Court adjudged by the High Court to be without jurisdiction could not be treated as res judicata against the claim of the Maharaja to have his rights decided by a Court of competent jurisdiction, and that the decision of the Governor in Council, affirming the decision of the District Court, could not be supported. The legal right to bring a suit, and to have it determinated by the proper Court created for the purpose of determining such suits, could not by barred upon the considerations of policy or expediency which were urged by the judgment under appeal. Their Lordships had already humbly reported to His Majesty as their opinion that the appeal ought to be allowed and consequential directions given, but their Lordships reserved their reasons, and also the question of the costs, as to which the parties were to be at liberty to apply to their Lordships for directions.

Mr. Bonnerjee, who appeared for the appellant, now asked their Lordships to direct that the costs both here and below be cost in the cause, and their Lordships directed accordingly. In the meantime the money deposited by the appellant in the Privy Council Office as security for costs should be repaid to him.

The cloudy weather is gone, but the cold is certainly extraordinary. The boys have found a new pastime in going out of the city in crowds in the morning and collecting the sheets of ice forming on the canals and tanks. The crust of hoar frost on the grass, leaves, in fact, every exposed surface, does not melt till after 8 or 9 a.m. All but the hardiest trees and plants are frostbitten.—"Tribune."

The following is the weather and crop summary of the Madras Presidency for the week ended 20th January:—No rain supplies insufficient in parts throughout except in Circars and the Hills. Ploughing sowing and transplanting in progress generally. Standing crops withering in parts throughout except in Circars and the Hills. Harvests continue, outturn poor to fair. Pasture insufficient except in Circars, Tanjore, Malabar and the Hills; fodder procurable, but reported to be scanty in parts Kistna, Chingleput, South Arcot, Salem and Madura. Condition of cattle generally good. Prices of rice are stationary in the nine districts, fallen in seven others and slightly risen in the rest; ragi fallen in eight districts, slightly risen in eleven others and stationary in the rest; cholam fallen in three districts, slightly risen in eight others and stationary in the rest; cumbu fallen in four districts, slightly risen in five others and stationary in the rest.

DEATH IN A POLICE STATION.

A correspondent writes to the "Madras Mail" from Tanjore under date the 2nd February:—

Last week I reported the facts, as they had come to light at the inquest, of the death of a prisoner at the Police Station in the Tanjore City. They were it will be remembered, that the man, who is said to have been arrested for drunkenness on the night of the 20th ultimo, was found dead in his cell on the following morning, and that the verdict at the inquest was that the cause of death was "unknown." But the Assistant Surgeon of Tanjore who held the "post mortem" examination certified to the effect that death was due to "hanging, evidently suicidal." Both the Sub-Magistrate of Tanjore who held the inquest and Mr. G.D.A Stuart, I.C.S., Head Assistant Magistrate of Tanjore, who was specially deputed to watch the enquiry, are said to have reported that it was a case of natural death due to excessive drinking. Lieutenant-Colonel Hakim, I.M.S., District Surgeon, is said to have reported, on the other hand that the man had died from hanging. Having received such conflicting findings, Mr. Banerji I.C.S., who is now acting for the District Magistrate, decided to hold an enquiry into the circumstances connected with the man's arrest and accordingly examined witnesses to-day.

The request of the Town Police Inspector, Rao Bahadur V. Parangasa Naidu, to be present at the enquiry, was refused as the Acting District Magistrate thought that the interests of the Police officers would be best watched and prohibited by the Police Prosecuting Inspector, who was present on behalf of the department.

Venugopaul Naidu, Constable No. 616 and Abdulla Sahib, Constable No. 1059, who arrested the deceased, said that he was drunk and utterly incapable when arrested and had to be carried to the Police Station, but this was done without in any way hurting the prisoner. Constable Abdulla Sahib, however, hesitated to say whether deceased was conscious or unconscious at the time he was arrested. The Magistrate made a note of the fact that witness appeared reluctant to answer the question in a straightforward manner.

Gopalswamy Naidu, Constable No. 265, said that when he took over sentry duty, he called out at the door of deceased's cell and receiving no answer went in and found accused to be dead. He reported the matter to Constable No. 826 who sent for the Station House Officer who arrived at 5-15 a.m.

Kandaswamy Pillay, the Station House Officer, said that he received news of [illegible] man's death from Constable No. 826 at [illegible] a.m. on the 21st instant.

The widow of the deceased stated that [illegible] Police were constantly watching her h[illegible] band's movements. She heard from a P[illegible]liceman who visited their village on the following day and also from another who was a private individual that her husband died at Tanjore. She heard from the general public that he died in consequence of the beating that the Police gave him. She presented a petition to the Headquarters Deputy Magistrate to that effect.

One of the arrack shop-keepers in the neighbourhood spoke to having refused to sell any liquor to the deceased, when he came to him a second time as he was alrea[illegible] intoxicated with drink. Other shop-ke[illegible] about the place were examined and [illegible] them who gave any evidence r[illegible] of matter said that the man w[illegible]egarding the drunkenness.

The District Surg[illegible]as arrested for to-morrow. [illegible]geon will be examined

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While th[illegible] gene[illegible]e value of green manure has be[illegible] [illegible]recognised by the Ceylon pl[illegible] [illegible]ently, it is interesting to note [illegible] been systematically carried on [illegible]inhalese villagers for hundreds of years, a[illegible] the practice is still in vogue Mr. Wright ha[illegible] recommended, the well-known Cantalaria Striata dadaps and ground-nuts as valuable green manures. The native villager uses with excellent results as green manure wil[illegible] plants totally different to those mentio[illegible] and secures them without difficulty.

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The Editor of the Amrita Bazar Patrika writes:—

"I can confidently recommend the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA to the public as the medicines are prepared by expert with great care."

Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath Bhattachajya, Retired Sub-Judge writes:—

"I am glad to be able to say that the medicines prepared by Kabiraj KASHAB LAL ROY, Superintending Physician of the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, are genuine. * *"

Babu Amar Nath Basu, Zamindar, Bagbazar, writes:—

"* * I can very strongly certify as to the genuineness of the medicines prepared at the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA, and to the extraordinary care with which KABIRAJ KESHAB L ROY execute his treatment upon me."

Babu Madhu Sudhan De, Retired Jailor, writes:—

"I placed some of the members of my family under the treatment of KABIRAJ KESHAB LAL ROY. * * In some of the cases he has shown exceptional skill and discretion in curing them. There is no doubt that the medicines prepared at the BHARAT VAISAJYANILAYA are genuine, otherwise they can not act so miraculously."

Babu Dina Nath Roy, Assistant Manager of the "Patrika" writes:—

"My grand daughter had been suffering from chronic dysentry attended with fever and other complications. When some of the eminent physicians failed to cure her, I placed her under the treatment of KABIRAJ KESHAB LAL ROY, who, I am glad to say, cured her within a very short time. The case of my grand daughter has convinced me that Ayurvedic medicines, if properly prepared, are most fficacious for chronic diseases."

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EDISON'S QUEER "DAY-BOOKS."

There is a general belief held by a great number of people that an inventor is a kind of favored mortal to whom Dame Nature willingly imparts her secrets, and all the lucky one has to do is to take out his patents and pocket the royalties without putting himself to any great amount of trouble. Those who hold such beliefs should spend half an hour with the "Day-Books" of Thomas Alva Edison, when they will probably acknowledge that the volumes are the most wonderful tribute to the marvellous and indefatigable energy of the great inventor that could possibly be produced.

These books are many in number, folio size, and were first started by Edison when he was a mere boy nearly forty years ago. Like the conscientious diarist, Mr. Edison has never failed to keep them up to date and to-day they stand as a monument to the most industrious life on record. They are, in fact, the most marvellous set of books in the world, and a single glance at them cannot but increase one's admiration for the man who is recognised as the greatest inventor of this or any other age.

These "Day-Books" contain the daily records of "notions" which have come to Mr. Edison at odd moments, as well as the results of the experiments carried out in connection with them. As soon as M. Edison had an "idea," no matter how trivial, that "idea" was at once transferred to the pages of the "Day-Books," to be afterwards thoroughly "worked," in order that its true value might be fully tested.

In these "Day-Books" there are sketches of machinery drawn by him in pen and ink, accounts of every experiment made and records of the very smallest inventive thoughts which at one time or another have flashed through his brain. Together with all this there are his own criticisms on every discovery made by him during the last forty years or more—all written in that exquisite penmanship which attracted the attention of the "boss" when, as a boy, he was telegraph operator with the Gold and Stock and Western Union companies in New York.

Each page of every "Day-Book" is dated, and the date attested by three witnesses. These witnesses—generally those men who have been working with him at the time—have also placed their initials at the foot of every paragraph of importance and also across the numerous sketches of the various machines which illustrate the books.

The object of having all these witnesses was that when a possible law suit arose—and in the early days they cropped up like mushrooms—these books might be produced as evidence against the infringers of his patents. In this way they have repaid Mr. Edison many times for all the labour he has expended upon them, and have probably saved him thousands of pounds by quickly bringing to a close suits which otherwise might have dragged out for weeks and months.

In these remarkable books you will see column after column of entries, neatly ticked off, and having the initials N. G. placed before each. These letters stand for "No good" and indicate that the ideas have been thoroughly tried, but "found wanting." Some people would look upon these "No good" entries as waste of time, but not so Mr. Edison, who declared to the writer a little time ago that he had learned more through his apparent failures than he had ever done through his greatest successes. Then there are long lists of different substances which he has experimented with in perfecting his numerous inventions, and by the side of many of these may also be seen the ominous letters N.G.

In one volume of these interesting "Day-Books" is a long list of the materials which Edison tried when attempting to make a perfect carbon button for the telephone. The story is told in detail, and shows how months of failure may ultimately be crowned with splendid success. It was after thirteen months of daily experimenting that a happy accident revealed to the inventor the exact material he was looking for in connection with his now famous "carbon button" for the telephone.

One night, after a long day of unsuccessful experimenting, Edison strolled into his office and found on the table a kerosene lamp which was smoking away and blackening the inside of the chimney. Instead of turning down the burner, as ninety-nine men out of ninety-nine would have done, Edison sat down and watched the smoking lamp, still thinking of his carbon button. As he watched, he wondered whether kerosene soot was not the very thing he was looking for.

As soon as the idea occurred to him he jumped up, lowered the burner, removed the chimney with the aid of his pocket-handkerchief, slipped it into one of his capacious pockets, and went home to experiment. As soon as he reached his room he carefully withdrew the chimney from his pocket, and began to gently scrape away the soot, beginning from the bottom.

In the "Day-Book" there is a record regarding the quality of the soot thus obtained from the lower part of the glass with the initials V.E.—"Very enccouraging"—appended. Having stopped scraping in order to make this entry Mr. Edison then began to remove the soot higher up, and the more he advanced in the same direction the better became the quality of the soot, until at the very top Edison obtained what he had hunted for for over thirteen months—a material which he knew would enable him to make a perfect carbon button. At the end of this record in the "Day-Book" appears the one word, "Eureka."

The record of Mr. Edison's search for a material which would make a satisfactory carbon horseshoe for the incandescent lamp covers many pages. The "Day-Book" shows an account of every experiment made during his search for a proper substance, and in addition and attached to the pages are small bits of every material which he tried.

Among these materials are various kinds of rags and textiles steeped in chemical solutions, various sorts of papers, innumerable species of woods, different specimens of barks—outer and inner, and taken from the trees when the sap rises and when it descends—grapes, and Indian corn stalks prepared in many different ways. When Mr. Edison thought of cornstalks he was getting pretty warm in his solution of the difficulty, and so it is not surprising to find beside this material the initials V.E. once more. But it was not quite the thing he was looking for, though he was on the right track, and he knew that Nature was losing her hold on the secret.

After several experiments with cornstalks he remembered that bamboo belonged to the same family, and as he possessed a very fine Manila bamboo cane which had been presented to him, and which he valued highly, he determined to sacrifice it to the cause of science. He therefore broke the cane and tried the material of which it was made for his incandescent lamp, and it was sufficiently successful to warrant his placing the initials V.G. against Manila bamboo.

But Edison was not satisfied, and never has been, with "Very good," and after a little consideration he placed in the hands of one of his young assistants (mentioned in these "Day-Books" as "Tom") the sum of 25,000dols. and ordered him off to China for the purpose of obtaining specimens of Chinese bamboo—the kind which the natives carve; for he argued that it must be of an even, homogeneous grain to lend itself to the sculptor's knife, and homogeneity in perfection was what he must obtain if his electric light was to be a success. "Tom" went, secured the bamboo desired, and so at last Edison obtained that ideal carbon for which he had searched many years.

THE JAPANESE SPIRIT.

Professor Okakura, of Tokio on Jan. 17 delivered at the London School of Economics the first of three lectures on "The Japanese Spirit." Sir A. Rucker, principal of the University of London, occupied the chair. Mr. Okakura, in the course of his lecture, said:—

The Japanese represented a nation different in its development from any existing Western race, and governed from time immemorial by the descendants of the Sun-Goddess. The Japanese social system was bassed on filial piety, the natural outcome of ancestor worship. Several systems of belief had contributed to make up the national cult. Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism had been confused together for many centuries in the heart of the people, to produce that final amalgamation which was the Japan of to-day. Surely this was a people worthy of consideration. The most formidable difficulty of the Western student in his researches into things Japanese was the totally unfamiliar construction of Japanese society. To understand Japan it was necessary for the foreign observer to be free from the bigotry of his conventional philosophy of life. Ethnologically it was difficult to place the Japanese. In Japan there were two distinct races—the aboriginal Ino, who were found only in Vezo, and who were fast dying out, and the Yamato, or ruling race, who established themselves more than 2,000 years ago. In the Yamato race, or Japanese proper, there were two distinct types—one characterised by delicate and refined build, and the other, more robust, with broad face, flat nose, and horizontal eyes. The former was to be found among the better classes of the southern part of Japan; the latter, which was the plebeian type, prevailed in the northern provinces. These distinctions of type were still more noticeable among the women; and they were attributed to two separate waves of immigration from Mongolia. The mythology of Japan, which told of the descent from Heaven of the grandfather of the first Emperor Jimmu, had been influenced by certain myths prevalent in China and India. It was related in this mythology that the great mother-goddess died in giving birth to the firegod; that her spouse went to seek her in the realms of darkness; but that he was unable to deliver her because he broke his promise not to look at her whom he sought. On his return he washed himself because of tht pollution of Hades, and from the washing of his eyes were born the sun-goddess and the moon-goddes. The sun-goddess sent her grandson down to earth to rule Japan, and the great grandson of this deity was the Emperor Jimmu, who founded the dynasty, which had reigned in Japan for 2,500 years. The present Emperor was the 121st link in this unbroken chain. Thus the people of Japan looked to the Throne with peculiar pride and reverence as being of directly divine origin. Ancestor worship was the first form of belief in Japan; and from the tradition of every family gathering round the greatest of all, that of the ruling family, had been formed the national cult. The whole nation was bound by the sacred tie of a common belief and thought; there was the great gap between the Chinese cult of fatalism and the cult of the Japanese considered as moral forces. The Throne had always been sacred, and no attempt on its formal occupation had been made even by the powerful Shoguns, who had been the real rulers of the country. They knew how dangerous it would be to tamper with the great princinple on which the religious spirit of the nation centred. As to language, the affinities of the Japanese language were rather obscure. It was one of the group of languages spoken by the Mongolian race, but it had no fundamental connection with the monosyllable language of China. As a people the Japanese had not much aptitude for deep metaphysical thought. They were not the race to produce a Schopenhauer. Warlike by nature, they had from the beginning the soldier-like simplicity and easy sentiments of men of action. The fundamental principles of Confucianism they turned into working principles and maxims for immediate application. Until recently they had drawn on India and China for philosophic ideas; and now they were looking afresh to Europe and America. Some day they would have a new philosophy based on the use of motor cars and telephones and applied to daily conduct. The Japanese had not produced original thinkers. They were a people of the present and the tangible, of the broad daylight and the plainly visible. The undeniable proclivity of the Japanese mind was towards determination and action. Pure reason was only regarded as a means to bring the human mind to the refuge of the nearest port.

There has been constant snow in Kashmir for the last few days, and the road from Srinagar to Uri is quite blockade. From Uri to Kohala there is little snow, but the road has been badly damaged by landslips. From Kohala on to Bogla it is in good order, and thence for fifteen miles to the brewery is under now.

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One dose will give *immediate reliefs* and, if continued for some time, will *radically cure the disease.*

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"My wife suffered from Dyspepsia for a long time, but your SUDHA CHURNA has done her good."

K. G. Kelkar Esqr., B. A., Principal, Poona Training College, writes:—
"I was suffering from Acidity and Colic. Rao Bahadur B. G. Sathe recommended to me your SUDHA CHURNA and got a bottle of it for me from you. I am using it and am glad to say I have got rid of my complaints."

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."

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"SUDHA CHURNA is no doubt very efficacious in its effects and clears bowels regularly. Since I have been taking it, I have had no attack of Indigestion and it has done me immense good."

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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11. Dr. B. Basu L. R. C. P. and Late Civil Surgeon, Naga Hill, says:—I feel pleasure to recommend the public to use R. Laugin and Co's. Healing Balm while suffering from Gonorrhœa and Gleet of a chronic character. My experience is based upon observations in more than many hundred cases.

12. Dr. T. U. Ahmed, M. B., C. M.. L-S.A., (London), His Majesty's Vice Consul, says:— I can recommend this Healing Balm strongly to the suffering public.

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