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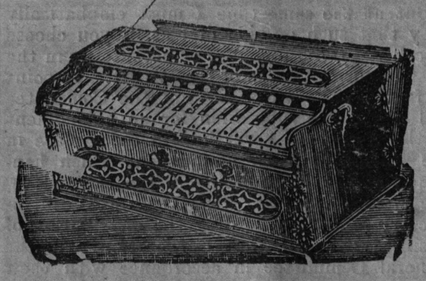

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The Tibet Expedition

THE RETURN JOURNEY.

Simla, Sept. 28.

The following telegram has been received from General Macdonald:—Lhassa— September 23rd, 5 p.m.—Four Tibetans, who were bringing parcels for the Mission, sent under their own private arrangements with 5 ponies from Gyantse, were found killed at the south entrance to Karo-La Pass on the 15th, supposed to have been done by bandits of the disbanded soldiers. Two men have been captured who were found in a side nullah with the ponies, and are suspected of being concerned in the deed. The force marches this morning for the ferry over the Brahmaputra, where it should arrive on the 27th. Several cases of mumps are reported from a detachment of the 40th Pathans at Nangartse; otherwise the health of the force is good, and the enteric cases here are doing well. The Chinese Amban and the Tibetan officials paid us farewell visits on the afternoon of the 22nd.

THE TIBET MISSION.

ON THE WAY BACK FROM LHASSA.

Gyantse, Sept. 27.

Lhassa Thursday.—The force marches tomorrow and after to-morrow few of us will ever see or desire to see the Potala again. Seven weeks of boredom for the troops, with constant rain to make discomfort worse, with no luxuries of any sort as a palliative, with no shooting or amusements to relieve the tedium, and with an enervating climate to increase the boredom—such I believe is the feeling of the force on departure, and heartily glad they are to march. What will happen when we leave none care to prophecy. The Tibetans have written to the Dalai Lama to return, and an impression prevails that he will, but whether he returns defiant of the Emperor's decree or a suppliant for reinstatement, cannot be guessed. In face of the decree he could hardly take up his residence in the Potala unless he meant to turn out the Amban and defy the Emperor. The Amban is prepared for trouble, and has enlisted 500 half-breeds and ordered all the others here to be ready to join when summoned, but the Amban is neither tactful nor powerful, and he has offended the Tibetans by ordering them to summon the Teshi-Lampo here. The National Assembly has refused, and the Amban has received from the Teshi-Lampo no acknowledgment of the decree making his appointment. To sum up the position, I would say that we have obtained a good treaty—a very good treaty under the circumstances—and this is entirely due to Colonel Younghusband's consummate handling of the negotiations. Our relations with the Tibetans grow more friendly daily, and we have largely increased Chinese prestige and buttressed the Amban's authority. If the Dalai Lama were disposed of we might return with almost entire satisfaction with the work accomplished and fair hopes of the future. But the Dalai Lama remains an unknown quantity, a power for evil, or an extinct volcano. Will his probable return mean his renewed secular and spiritual absolutism and certain hostility to the British, or will it mean the return of a suppliant, shorn of his sanctity and mystical powers, a mere ruler by favour of the Chinese, or will he return and be assassinated? These are interesting speculations about a future pregnant with great possibilities. Our outlook is bright at present, but with potents of possible storms. Such, perhaps, is the position the day we leave Lhassa. Lord Curzon saw the danger, and persuaded the Home Government to do something to avert it. All they desired and more, possibly, than they expected, Colonel Younghusband has succeeded in accomplishing. Should trouble arise in the future we have our treaty, and it may be hoped we shall have as alert and sagacious a Viceroy as Lord Curzon.

News has been received that a small convoy with a Chinese official marching here for Mr. Wilton, was cut up on the 12th instant on the further side of the Karola by brigands.

Last night there were fireworks and a comical performance by the 32nd Pioneers and a Kattak dance by the 40th Pathans.

Colonel Younghusband paid, official visits to Daipung Sera and Jowokhanaj, leaving a present of Rs. 1,000 with each. To-day he paid a farewell visit to the Amban which was returned in the afternoon, and the Shapes have had a farewell durbar.

Camp Gong. (Saturday).—On leaving Lhassa yesterday morning the Shapes, who had erected a tent on the road, took a final farewell of Colonel Younghusband. They wished him and the force a safe and pleasant journey, and asked Mr. White to send them photographs, especially the Treaty Durbar one, to show the Dalai Lama on his return.

The Regent had previously called to say farewell, and had presented the Mission and General Macdonald with a brass Buddha. This is considered a tremendous honour and one seldom accorded even to Buddhists. He said he would pray for our safe journey, and hoped that when Colonel Younghusband looked on his Buddha he would think kindly about Tibet.

The force marched fourteen miles yesterday and twelve to-day, the weather was lovely, but is now threatening.

Colonel Younghusband and Messrs. White, Wilton and O'Connor leave the force to-morrow and push on to Gyantse, and should reach Chumbi about the 9th October.

AFGHAN AFFAIRS.

Allahabad, Sept. 28.

It is reported that the Amir of Afghanistan has continued and expanded the policy of his father in permitting Afghan refugees to return to Afghanistan. All that he requires from those who desire to return to their homes is that they shall take the oath of allegiance to him. Everyone is assured of good treatment, and the result has been that nearly all the important men formerly with Yakub and Ayub Khan have quitted India. Their old influence in Afghanistan is gone but the Amir generously takes members of their families into the service of the State. The Government of India are cordially in agreement with this line of policy, for it enables them to get rid of many undesirable residents in this country, and their pension list grows less with each new departure.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

THE HON'BLE BABU N. B. SIRCAR.

At the special meeting of the Corporation on Wednesday, the Hon'ble Babu Nalin Behary Sarkar delivered the following speech in support of the Review of the Administration Report:—

* * * *

Under the old Act, the Administration Report, from year to year, was a Report of the Commissioners as a body, it was the rendering of an account of their stewardship for the year. The Corporation was then the only central authority, the Chairman and his subordinates were its Executive and wholly identified with and merged in it. It is obvious, therefore, that in those days there could not be any review by the Corporation of its own report, and the work was naturally left to be performed by the Government and the Press.

Under the new law the condition of things has entirely changed. Instead of one central authority, the Municipality, as we all know, consists now of three co-ordinate authorities—the Chairman, the General Committee and the Corporation. The everyday work of administration has necessarily devolved upon the Chairman, the Corporation being expressly debarred from exercising the power of initiative or the right to intervene during the progress of events. The key-note of the new Municipal Act was to fix the responsibility of the actual working on the Chairman, and for this reason he was made independent of the Corporation within his own sphere of action.

Such having been the declared policy of the Legislature, the Act provides in clause 1 of Section 17 that the Chairman shall annually prepare a detailed report of the administration, based on the reports of the heads of the various departments working under him. Such report is then to be subjected to examination and review by the General Committee and by the Corporation, before being sent up to the Local Government.

The new Act, as we all know, came into force on 1st April 1900, and the first Review of the Corporation, such as was contemplated under Section 17 (2), should have been prepared in 1901. But the Corporation, it is to be regretted, did not discharge its obligation under the Act, either in 1901 or in 1902; and this omission on the part of the Corporation formed the subject of comment in the Government Resolution of 3rd December, 1902, as the following extract from it will shew:—

Nor has the report been reviewed by the General Committee, as required by Section 17 of Act III of 1899. In the Resolution of Government, dated the 21st September 1900, reviewing the report for 1899-1900, it was pointed out that (as in the present year) the Chairman had forwarded copies of the proceedings of the General Committee and of the Corporation at meetings held to consider the report but that this action was not in exact compliance with the law. What is required is an expression of the views of the General Committee and the Corporation respectively as a whole, and not the opinions of individual members. If any Commissioner has criticisms to make on the report, it will be more convenient that they should be made by way of definite motion on which the general opinion of the Committee or Corporation could be taken: these instructions should be complied with in future years.

A Special Committee was, accordingly, appointed for the first time during last year to review the Annual Report for 1902-03; but, as mentioned in the opening paragraph of this year's Review, the attention of the Committee was mainly directed to the statement of Accounts, forming Part II of the Report.

The present Special Committee have merely tried to do their work in a more thorough and comprehensive manner than could be done in the previous year. How can then the accusation lie against them of having "singled out the work of one year for condemnation?" They were charged by the Corporation to make a careful and critical examination of the Administration Report, in accordance with the instructions of Government and the requirements imposed by the legislature, with a view to bring out the merits or excellences and the demerits or defects of the year's work; and if, on the information placed before them and in the light of the experience that was in them, they found the defects of the administration during the past year to predominate, surely it is not they who are to blame for it.

Sir, you have yourself admitted that there are numerous defects; and if the Special Committee, in the conscientious discharge of the duty imposed on them, have brought out these "numerous defects" and suggested the necessity for remedying them, I fail to see how you can blame them for that. Is it suggested that the Special Committee should have passed over these defects and laid stress on whatever good work that may have been done? I do not think so. For, Sir, you have yourself said that you "welcome exhaustive criticism of the wrok of the Corporation, because after all, it must always be one of the main springs of improvement." You have also admitted that the criticisms made are well-intentioned. So long, therefore, as these criticisms are well-founded and based upon facts, they must, according to your own shewing, be welcomed, and the Review embodying them will, I trust, be adopted by the Corporation without a dissentient voice.

Now, as to the question whether the criticisms are based upon facts. Here again, Sir, we have your own admissions to go upon. As I have already pointed out, you have been constrained to admit the existence of "numerous defects;" but you are of opinion that the Committee have exaggerated the defects and made use of superlatives of general condemnation. What the Committee considered to be nothing more than an adequate description of the existing condition of things may have appeared to you to be exaggerations. It is only a matter of opinion, your individual opinion being opposed to the deliberate opinion of the six persons who constitute the Special Committee; and I am content to leave it to my colleagues in this hall and the public outside to judge betwixt us.

Your statement that the Review of the Special Committee is characterised throughout by political bias does not appear to be borne out by facts. In the first place I do not quite understand what is meant by "political bias." If the expression means definite and settled opinion in regard to the constitutional portion of the Act, I must candidly confess, both on my own behalf and on behalf of at least three of my colleagues, that we do entertain very clear and decided views in regard to the present constitution of the Municipality; in fact, we believe it to be practically unworkable and are convinced that, sooner or later, it will have to be amended.

But at the same time I must emphatically deny that such opinion of bias, if you choose to call it so, did influence or actuate us in the least in our criticisms of the Report. In point of fact, as the proceedings of the Committee will shew, this suggestion for an amendment of the Act would never have found a place in the Review, but for an incident which happened at the first meeting of the Committee. We were considering the Chairman's introductory remarks regarding the distribution of business between the Corporation and the General Committee in accordance with their relative functions, as laid down in the Act; and in the course of the discussion, Mr. Bertram, who could never be said to have entertained any political bias against the present constitution, declared that "the Corporation should press for an amendment of the law." The other members of the Committee having agreed with him, or more correctly speaking, Mr. Bertram's opinion, based upon his own practical experience [illegible] the working of the new constitution h[illegible]ning to coincide with their convict[illegible] this point it was un[illegible] recom[illegible] [illegible]poration.

* * *

Sir, you have discussed the two reasons put forward by the Special Committee in support of their recommendation for an amendment of the law so as to make the General Committee a subordinate and not, as now, a co-ordinate authority with the Corporation. The two reasons are the existence of friction in the exercise of their respective functions and the advantage that will arise from having business discussed in a preliminary way by the General Committee before it goes up to the Corporation. These, I may mention, in passing, are not the only reasons for an amendment of the Act in this respect; there are many others, much more cogent, with which the Special Committee perhaps did not like to encumber the Review; for, after all, this question of amending the constitution, however vitally important, has, in the present instance, been only a side issue, which, as pointed out before, arose out of the discussion on the Report and not directly from the Report itself.

You have, Sir, denied the existence of any friction at all. I do not understand how you could say so. There have been, as we all know, many instances; but it is unnecessary, probably, undesirable, to recount them here in detail. Suffice it to say that some of the leading Commissioners have openly admitted the fact, again and again.

In this connection I cannot allow, Sir, your sarcastic observation about myself to go unnoticed. You have said: "the machine worked smoothly until the Hon'ble Babu Nalin Bihari Sircar put a spoke in the wheel by his note of November last adopting the extremely narrow, and as I think, forced construction of the Act (and one which was opposed to the opinion of our Solicitors)." Yes, the machine worked smoothly—much too smoothly!! The Corporation all that time was, as it were, fast asleep and the other two co-ordinate authorities, as if with a sort of compact between them, had every thing in their own way; they did just as they liked and wasted the money of the Corporation, perfectly regardless of the provisions of the law. It was time that some body should interfere in public interest. I drew attention to fine specific instances of undeniable illegalities; and the usuration of the functions of the Corporation by the General Committee was only one of them. I adopted no "extremely narrow or forced construction of the Act," but took a broad and common sense view of the matter; and I was supported in that view by the clear and unanimous opinion of four leaing Counsel, including the Advocate General. Reference has been made to the opinion of Mr. Cowie, Solicitor for the Corporation at the time, but it was an almost open secret then that it was obtained at the bidding of the Chairman; and when it was published everybody formed his own estimate of what it was worth and thereafter no more was heard of it.

With reference to the second reason, you have expressed your surprise at my supporting it in the Review, as being inconsistent with the objection I raised in my note of November last to the General Committee meddling in affairs which did not fall within its sphere of duties. But, Sir, there is in reality, no inconsistency whatever between the two positions, as I shall presently shew. What I pointed out in my note was that the General Committee had then been interesting itself and taking part in matters which fell entirely within the jurisdiction of the Corporation and therefore the General Committee was acting illegally. What the Special Committee have recommended is that instead of the General Committee being debarred from dealing with matters which under the law have been assigned to the Corporation, and Corporation alone, it should be made a Committee of the Corporation, subordinate to it; so that business may be considered and discussed by the General Committee before coming up for the decision of the Corporation.

As to the desirability of having this procedure practically followed, both you the Special Committee appear to be in perfect agreement; but the difference—and it seems to me, the fundamental difference—lies in this: you want to have the procedure adopted by the mutual consent of the General Committee and the Corporation and in disregard of the law; while the Special Committee hold that the law on the point should be amended, so that the procedure which was followed for years past under the old Act, and which has now been found to be advantageous by actual experience under the new regime, may be adopted without contravening the provisions of the law. So long as the law distinctly and specifically lays down the respective functions of the three co-ordinate municipal authorities, charged with carrying out the provisions of the Act, it would be manifestly illegal for any one of them to interfere in any way with the duties of another; each authority must confine itself within its own legitimate sphere of work. It will thus be seen that there is a serious legal bar to the procedure which we all approve and desire to adopt; and the Special Committee have merely recommended an amendment of the Act, so that this legal bar may be removed.

It must be clear from what has just been stated that I cannot be fairly accused of inconsistency. On the other hand, by your admission that it would be advantageous to all concerned if business could be discussed in a preliminary way by the General Committee before coming up to the Corporation, you have consierably strengthened the recommendation of the Special Committee for an amendment of the law.

WILLIAM DIGBY, C.I.E.

Mr. Hall Caine, the novelist, contributed to the "Biograph" for August, 1881, the following account of the earlier part of the career of the late Mr. William Digby:—

William Digby was born at Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, on May 1st, 1849, so that, notwithstanding the almost unexampled series of prolonged efforts which it will presently be our pleasure to recount, he is still in the earliest decades of manhood. He began his press career on country papers in the East of England, and was afterwards chief reporter on the "Sussex Advertiser" published at Lewes. In 1871 he went to Ceylon in order to accept the post of sub-editor of the "Ceylon Observer," Colombo, and whilst there delivered several lectures, sent Home in 1875 an article on 'A Home Rule Experiment in Ceylon,' which appeared in the "Fortnightly Review," and had a large share in a special effort of the Temperance party in Ceylon to curtail the facilities for the sale of intoxicating drinks, an effort which resulted in an Ordinance being passed to limit the hours which intoxicants might be sold.

He also, while at Colombo, initiated an agitation against the Revenue Farming System and Food Taxes, and wrote a pamphlet on the subject of 'The Food Taxes of Ceylon,' for the information and guidance of the Committee of the Cobden Club—a service for which the Club elected him honorary member in March 1876. The result of the agitation in which Mr. Digby took so prominent a part was the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry and the passing, eventually, of an Ordinance abolishing the farming system, the food taxes being retained.

At this period Mr. Digby contributed a number of papers to the "Calcutta Review," with the gratifying result of being offered the editorship of that quarterly over which a number of men eminent in India had in succession presided. He was, however, unable to accept the offer, owing to non-residence in Calcutta. Six volumes of 'The Ceylon Hansard' bear testimony to his labours as a shorthand-writer in the Ceylon Legislative Council.

In 1887, Mr. Digby, having accepted the editorial chair of the "Madras Times," took a great interest in the origination and establishment of a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in that city—doing this and all other similar work of a voluntary character in the intervals of leisure afforded by the exacting duties of a daily paper.

THE MADRAS FAMINE.

But it was in July and August of that year that he began the work with which his name must always be associated, for in 1877 the great famine in Southern India reached its culminating point. The movement towards its alleviation began with a long letter, written by Mr. Digby to the "Times," describing the appalling sufferings of the famine-stricken people, and calling upon the inhabitants of the Mother Country to aid in relieving the distress. Everyone remembers the profound sensation created in England by the disclosure contained in that letter, which every provincial journal reprinted. Mr. Digby wrote as one who possessed only too indisputable channels of information and swift facilities for acquiring a full sense of the forthcoming disaster. Not the least of the benefits arising from the appeal to England was the effect produced upon the Government of India, then at Simla; they, for reasons which cannot be stated here, were not paying that attention to the calamity which it deserved. The Viceroy (the late Earl of Lytton) when England had been aroused, proceeded to Madras, and large public works were provided to find employment for the people. English aid went to those outside the scope of Government charity. The response made in England to Mr. Digby's appeal was magnificent. The Lord Mayor of London (Sir Thomas White) originated a relief fund and Mr. Digby, as was fitting, was appointed Honorary Secretary of the Executive and General Committees in India for the receipt and disbursement of the £800,000 subscribed. The duties involved a prodigious mass of correspondence with Committees all over the Madras Presidency (120 in number), besides the bringing out of a 50 pp. Weekly Statement for six months and at intervals afterwards. Enormous, however, as the work was, Mr. Digby did it and not by a lavish outlay (as too frequently the case) but by a percentage of expenses kept down to the barest point compatible with efficiency. And when at length the full burden of the onerous labour was past, and notwithstanding the grievous famine in which millions (the Report of the Famine Commission puts the death-loss at five millions) had died, the noble work of relief was seen to have been bravely and untiringly carried through, a substantial honorarium was offered to Mr. Digby as a recognition of his services. The Secretary and cashier of the Mansion House Committee at Home and accepted a similar offer, and Mr. Digby might have acquiesced in the wish of his Indian Committee without sacrifice of personal respect, but he distinctly declined to receive any remuneration whatever from the charity.

When this resolve became known, the anxiety to do honour to one "whose large capacity for work, quick intelligence, untiring energy, and invariable patience and courtesy in the discharge of heavy and sometimes painful duties" (these are the words of Sir W. Robinson, K.C.S.I., Chairman of the Indian Committee) became so general, not in Madras only, where the movement had originated, but also in Bombay, that the members of the Committee subscribed a purse of Rs. 2,745 to be presented to the Secretary, not as an adequate or substantial recognition of the noble work he had so ably performed, but as a simple mark of their sense of the consummate ability with which he had discharged his voluntary duties.

"An equally grateful tribute came to him from a more exalted source when the Viceroy, Lord Lytton, sought and obtained for him the rank of Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire, [C.I.E.]

In Madras, Mr. Digby having been nominated to a seat on the Municipal Council of that city by the Government, a movement initiated in "Madras Native Opinion," was set on foot by the Indian inhabitants to secure for him the position of President of that body, an office now held by a member of the Civil Service. Mr. Digby's departure from India prevented this kindly effort bearing fruit.

MANIFOLD LABOURS.

Some idea may be gathered of Mr. Digby's capacity for work when it is mentioned that during the two and-a-half years' of his connection with the "Madras Times" (covering the period of the Famine), he wrote nearly 1,200 leading articles on all subjects—political, agricultural, biographical, ecclesiastical, financial, medical, and literary. Nor was this by any means the limit of his productive power. Scarcely had the work of the Fund passed out of his hand when he issued two large volumes, through Longman and Co., entitled, 'The Famine Campaign in Southern India,' in which he detailed the whole progress of the disaster and the efforts made towards its relief. The book was received with the utmost favour by foremost journals at Home and abroad. But Mr. Digby's literary fecundity remained unexhausted. Before leaving Madras, he published in two volumes his 'Forty Years of Official and Unofficial Life in a Crown Colony' (Higginbotham and Co., Madras), being the life of Sir Richard F. Morgan, Chief Justice of Ceylon. The Indian and Ceylon Press received the book most warmly.

Domestic bereavement, however, cut short at this stage a promising career in India, and amidst every expression of profound gratitude and sincere regret, that it was possible for Press and public to offer, Mr. Digby set out for England in August, 1879. After a brief stay in his native Cambridgeshire, he accepted the editorship of "The Liverpool and Southport Daily News," and did excellent work for the Liberal party throughout the campaign that saw Mr. Gladstone restored to power. He endeared himself to the people he had in his charge, and when the time came for him to leave Southport, to undertake the editorship he now (1881) holds, of the "Western Daily Mercury," he was presented with a touching testimonial, subscribed for by the employees of his establishment. The Liberals of Southport also held a public meeting to present Mr. Digby with an address. The Mayor of Southport presided. Two editorial chairs—one in India and the other in Ceylon—have been offered him since he has been resident in Plymouth, but he has declined both.

The East Indian Railway traffic returns from the 1st April to the 10th September, 1904, show gross earnings of Rs. 3,26,75,00[illegible] against Rs. 3,03,75,204 in the corresponding period of 1903 up to the 12th September, being a very substantial increase of Rs. 23,00,796, in which improvement the coal and grain traffic doubtless has a big sway. It is, however, stated that the movement of traffic would have been even much larger, but for a congestion at the Kidderpore Docks, which has caused a restriction in the running of goods trains over the East Indian Railway via the Jubilee Bridge to the Docks. This disclosure has come as rather a shock so soon on the heels of the recent Government Resolution on the subject of the Luff Point Export Coal Depot, and the general belief that the accommodation and facilities provided by the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta at their Kidderpore Docks were ample for existing requirements for many years to come. If there really has been a congestion at the Docks, the causes that have led to it must be phenomenal; and the matter is one that requires full and careful sifting by the Port Commissioners in conjunction with the railways.

Nothing Like Experience.—"One truth learned by actual experience does more good than ten experiences one hears about." Tell a man that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy will cure cholera morbus, and he will most likely forget it before the end of the day. Let his have a severe attack of that disease, feel that he is about to die, use this remedy, and earn from his own experience how quickly it gives relief, and he will remember it all his life. or sale by

Smith Stanisteet and Co.,
Wholesole Agents, B. K. Paul and Co.,
Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem,
Calcutta.

How to Avoid the Iangers of a Cold. Everyone must realize the dangers attending a severe cold, and that it is always prudent to remain in-doors until the danger is passed. Many, however, do not feel able to lose the time and will be interested in knowing that a severe cold may be broken up and the danger avoided by the prompt use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It not only cures, but cures quickly and counteracts any tendency toward pneuments. For sale by

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Could Scarcely Walk.—Mr. G. S. Purton a resident of Kyneton, Victoria, Australia, says: "Some time ago I was attacked with severe pains and stiffness in my legs, which affected me so that I could scarcely walk when I was recommended to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm by our local chemist. Mr. Stredwick. I have used it once a day since, and have experience wonderful relief. I am indeed grateful for the good it has done me and shall be happy to recommend Chamberlain's Pain Balm to anyone suffering from a similar complaint." For sale by

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, OCTOBER 2, 1904.

THE POONA FANCY DRESS BALL.

The Fancy Dress Ball of the Poona Gymkhana, which took place on the 21st September is considered by those who can pass an opinion upon the subject, a success. What these balls are like, and, wherein consists their success, we have no clear notion; for, a native of India, as a rule, is never allowed to take part in them. We say, as a rule, because, we see the names of four Agas and of the Gaikwar Prince among those who exhibited themselves at the Poona Ball. Possibly they are liberal patrons. We have no complaint against Europeans if they do not permit Indians to share in these amusements; for, surely, they would scarcely be appreciated by Asiatics who are, by nature, sober, and whose idea of propriety does not always agree with that of the Westerners.

In masked balls, we suppose, men and women, who take part in the function, cover their faces with masks. No masks, however, are used in Fancy Dress Balls. Here men, women and girls each select a part for themselves, and prepare a dress suited to the nature of the part, that he or she undertakes to play. In masked balls, there is no doubt much fun; for, as even intimate friends fail to recognize each other, their faces remaining covered and their identity being kept concealed, the parties can exhibit themselves in any droll manner they like without betraying any nervousness. In fancy dress balls, the chief fun, we fancy, consists in the gorgeousness and appropriateness of the dresses, worn by the parties.

Europeans cannot live without some sort of exciting amusement. The natives of India had theirs also, in days gone by. As for instance, they had their musical parties—the "Jatras" in which while sweet music soothed and ennobled the heart, the performances of the "Shong" or the clown and the jester made the audience burst their sides with laughter; or the 'Kabees" where two parties had a musical duel in which they showed wonderful extempore poetical powers. But they have all disappeared.

Music is practically stilled in India, and, with it, also almost every other sort of amusement. Even forty years ago, there was scarcely a house in Calcutta and elsewhere where music was not heard every evening; but now the people, it seems, have clean forgot it. The struggle for existence has become so severe for the Indians, that there is no opportunity for them of indulging in amusements of any kind.

At the Poona Fancy Ball, the girls and women appeared as "shepherdess," "poudre" (whatever that may mean,) "Irish peasant" and so forth. And the men presented themselves as a "Jester," "A gentleman of France," etc.; and some of them also personated well-known characters, as for instance Surgeon-Major Gubbins exhibited himself as Li-Hang-Chang, the late illustrious statesman of China.

We said it was proper that the natives of India were not allowed to take part in the function. Fancy the costly nature of the amusement! Each had to prepare a new dress of his or her own; and each dress cost no doubt a respectable sum. And when the amusement was over, the dresses were cast away! It was for a momentary pleasure all these expenses were incurred. There were about one hundred men, women and girls present. If each dress cost on an average, say, Rupees 100, the dresses alone had consumed Rs. 10,000. Fancy the sum of Rs. 10,000 was thrown into water, as it were, for a few hours' enjoyment! So, we say, such amusement does not suit the poor people of this country. Europeans, who have no plenty of cash, and who have more than a couple of unmarried girls, must also curse such amusements.

Then again, the people of Asia are, generally speaking, serious in their deportment; light amusements or any sort of levity do not suit them. A native of India will never dance unless he is under the impulse of high religious feeling. The Asiatics have also not the nerve to exhibit themselves before the public; for, a good deal of nervousness must be overcome by a grown-up man or a woman before he or she can act parts before an assembly. To them such an exhibition would seem decidedly childish. Thus, for instance, Surgeon-Major Gubbins, we are told, appeared as Li-Hung-Chang. He must be an elderly man. An Asiatic in his position would have never agreed to exhibit himself in that way, with no doubt a pig-tail hanging down his back.

Of course European gentlemen have one advantage. They have, generally speaking, the privilege of enlivening their spirits by drinks which cheer but do not inebriate. Well, this enables many to put aside their modesty and dignity aside for a while. But the Asiatics are debarred from availing themselves of this privilege.

Amusements are oftentimes necessary for men to live, in health and comfort, in this vale of sorrow. We do not, therefore, grudge amusements to Europeans: let them enjoy by all means if they can afford. But they can select better things than these fancy balls and other costly functions in which no sort of intellectual exertion is wanted. Fancy Balls may suit young girls, young wives and young men who are not blessed with brains. But elderly men and women should select others which are more dignified. Of course this is the view of a Hindu, and, therefore not worth much.

HOW THEY ARE GETTING MORE NERVOUS.

We said the other day that, what is condemned as sedition now, was the ordinary stuff, which Indian papers regaled their constituents with, twenty-five years ago. When Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose met one day Sir Ashley Eden, the then ruler of Bengal, at Belvedere, the latter related to him the following story. Sir Ashley told him that as he was a friend of the Bengalees, he was sure Babu Shishir Kumar would not take it amiss if he were to hear from him that Lord Northbrook, the then Viceroy, had complained to him of the way the Indian papers had attacked his Baroda policy. His Lordship, said Sir Ashley, had shown him some of these papers, specially the "Patrika," which occupied the most prominent position among them, and declared that he had taken legal opinion for their prosecution. But His Lordship had refrained from taking any action, because, he knew that these effusions of the "native" press were mere foam and froth, and should That was exactly the policy that obtained before. The authorities never took the seditious utterances of the Indian papers in a serious light. The rulers of the present day are more sensitive, nay, sometimes vindictively inclined. Anyhow the rulers of by-gone days never lost anything by their generous policy. The Empire was never put to any trouble by the attacks of the Indian press, or by the indifference with which they were treated by the rulers.

As an instance of how the utterances of the Indian press were regarded in those days, we can mention the case of a Benares paper. This incident occurred during the administration of Lord Northbrook. The Prince of Wales, now our King-Emperor, had, at that time, come to India, and a wave of loyalty had passed over the whole country. The Benares paper in question, by name "Kabi Bachan Sudha," edited by a wealthy Bunnia, regarded also as a poet, gave a cordial welcome to His Royal Highness in its columns. But it contained an expression, "padya and arghya," which ordinarily means "welcome," but which, when used sarcastically, also means "shoe-beating." Thus what the paper said was His Royal Highness should be offered "padya and arghya." If you take the plain meaning, it is all right, but if you regard it in another light, it is seriously offensive. Spies came forward to point out the double meaning of the expression. The authorities came to believe that the poet meant mischief, and he had deliberately used the expression so that the natives of the soil would readily understand the meaning, but the rulers would not. The authorities, however, took no notice of the effusions of the poet, and there the matter ended.

In Calcutta the Prince of Wales was treated in a disgraceful manner at a theatre called the "National Theatre," where, in a theatrical performance, His Royal Highness was made to act the part of a buffoon. Of course very few respectable men came to see the performance, but the disreputable classes attended in large numbers, to the delight of the proprietors who made enormous profits. When the Government came to know of it, there was consternation. The authorities knew not how to proceed.

If such an offence had been committed at the present time, the authorities would have never taken the trouble of sitting in conference, but would have at once hanged some of the offenders from the topmost bough of the nearest tree. But the authorities in those days had no idea of proceeding to extremities with regard to newspaper writings or theatrical performances. What they did, after much deliberation, was to pass the measure, known by the name of the "Dramatic Performances Act." This was of course unjust; for, really, the offence was committed by some low-class people, and the country should have not made to suffer and their dramatic literature gagged. None of the parties who took part in the shameful performances was, however, brought to book.

Sir G. Campbell, as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was assailed by the Bengal press in a manner which made his life miserable. Yet press prosecution was never thought of during his time. Sir George however soothed himself by expressing a hope in his Administration Report to the effect that "the ill-will displayed towards the Government by the "Hindu Patriot," and the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" was not approved by the general public." So virulent had the press in Bengal become in the days of Sir G. Campbell that one paper, the "Halisahar Patrika" called the Lieutenant Governor a monkey (a hanuman) with his hairy body, "lomosh tonu." But the general public declined to be entertained in this fashion: the paper which so offensively described the Governor of the Province became an object of general contempt, and it died soon after for want of support. No, it was not State prosecution that killed sedition but public opinion.

Sir Ashley Eden was so goaded by newspaper attacks, that he prevailed upon Lord Lytton to gag the vernacular press. But he must have evidence to justify interference with the liberty of the press. He must have evidence, and it was forthcoming from the columns of vernacular papers from all parts of India. It was proved that vernacular papers all over the country criticised men and measures very strongly, so that, unless checked, they would prove a source of danger to the Empire. All this showed that the press was very violent about thirty years ago. Notwithstanding this fact, the Press Act of Lord Lytton was repealed by his successor, only one year after its enactment.

Lord Sandhurst was a tool in the hands of some of his ministers who in their turn, were deadly opponents of the people who furnished their princely salaries. At their instance the late Governor of Bombay was led to prosecute Mr. Tilak of the "Kesari," and then another, editor, and then another. It was found that if what Mr. Tilak wrote was sedition, it was not confined only to the paper which belonged to him. So paper after paper was prosecuted; and the only advantage that the malicious persecutors achieved was the gratification of their unjustifiable passion, at the cost of the fair name of the Government.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM DIGBY
OR
THE GREAT ENGLISH BENEFACTOR OF INDIA.

The people of India have yet to realize the immensity of the loss they have suffered by the death of Mr. Digby. We call him "the great benefactor of India among Englishmen," and this may seem extravagant. Yet a single act of his did more for the millions of this country than all the works of pro-Indian Englishmen put together were able to do. It was in the latter part of the seventies that one of the most devastating and widespread famines of the century visited Southern India. The Government at the time was absorbed with the idea of the Delhi Durbar and converting the Queen into an Empress. The military expedition against Afghanistan had also entered into the head of Lord Lytton. Besides, the fact was established beyond the shadow of a doubt that, the authorities had been over-generous in putting down the Behar famine which had occurred only four years back.

All the above circumstances led the Government of Lord Lytton to adopt a most apathetic attitude towards the famine in Madras, which was growing in volume and intensity, and killing tens of thousands of people daily. Money was needed for the Delhi Durbar; money was needed for the contemplated Afghan war; and money had been wasted in the Behar famine. The local authorities were therefore directed to spend as little money upon the famine as possible, so that funds might be available for the objects mentioned in the foregoing paragraph; and, naturally, this heartless policy was attended with disastrous results.

Mr. Digby was at that time the chief editor of the "Madras Times." He, along with hundreds of Englishmen, saw the horrors of the famine before him. Others looked on listlessly and remained quiet. But the heart of Mr. Digby wept, and wept bitterly. He wrote article after article in his own paper, but they made no impression upon the authorities. He was at last impelled, as if by a higher influence, to write his famous letter to the London "Times."

We have heard from his own lips that, so moved was he when he wrote that letter, that he felt as if he were in a state of unconsciousness. The 'Times" published it and a miracle was wrought. There was scarcely an English paper which did not reproduce the appeal. The whole of England was convulsed in a way never before witnessed, regarding an Indian question. The Lord Mayor of London started a relief fund, and subscriptions poured in from all quarters. The fund amounted to £800,000 in a few weeks; and Mr. Digby was fittingly appointed Honorary Secretary of the Executive and General Committees in India, for the receipt and disbursement of this huge sum. The duties involved a prodigious mass of correspondence with Committees all over the Madras Presidency (120 in number), besides the bringing out of a 50-page weekly statement for six months. Vast as the work was Mr. Digby did it at a minimum of cost with efficiency.

A substantial honorarium was offered to Mr. Digby as a recognition of his disinterested service. The Secretary of the Mansion House Committee in England had accepted a similar offer, and Mr. Digby might have acquiesced in the wish of his Indian Committee without any sacrifice of personal respect, but though poor, he proudly declined to receive any remuneration from a fund which was started for the saving of people from starvation.

When this resolve became known, the anxiety to do honour to [illegible], "whose large capacity for work [illegible]ance, untiring energy, and [illegible] discharge [illegible] and sometimes painful duties"—(these are the words of Sir W. Robinson K.C.S.I., Chairman of the Indian Committee)—became so general, not in Madras only, where the movement had originated, but also in Bombay, that the members of the Committee subscribed a purse of about Rs. 3,000 to be presented to the Secretary, "not as an adequate or substantial recognition of the noble work he had so ably performed, but as a simple mark of their sense of the consummate ability with which he had discharged his voluntary duties."

An equally grateful tribute came to him from a more exalted source when the Viceroy, Lord Lytton, sought and obtained for him the rank of Companion of the Order of the Indian Empire (C. I. E.)—a title which was at that time considered a really valuable one.

But the greatest of the benefits arising from Mr. Digby's appeal to England was the effect produced upon the Government of India, then at Simla. They, for reasons stated above, were not simply apathetic with regard to the appalling sufferings of the famine-stricken, but inculcating the monstrous doctrine, though in an indirect way, that it was not the duty of the State to save lives. The Viceroy, when England had been roused by Mr. Digby's appeal, proceeded to Madras, and large public works were provided to find employment for the people, and charity camps started to give food to the starving. In this way, millions, who would have perished, like the five millions, who, according to the Famine Commission, had died of starvation in this famine for want of care on the part of Government, were saved.

But a yet greater benefit than what is described above remains to be told. It was Mr. Digby's appeal that gave birth to the celebrated Resolution of Lord Lytton, in which His Lordship used the memorable words that, he would allow "no man, woman, or child to die of starvation". In short, the previous heartless famine policy was replaced by another, which not only reflected great credit upon its author and the entire English rulers for its generous and humane spirit, but which was accepted as a part and parcel of the principle which should always guide the Indian authorities when grappling with a famine. But for the adoption of this noble policy, half of India would have been by this time desolated by the famines which had followed one after another in rapid succession, and whitened with the bones of tens of millions of human beings.

It was practically to Mr. Digby that we are indebted for this humane famine policy of the Government, by adopting which Lord Curzon the other day was able to fight the greatest famine of the century. So, whenever you now see people protected from the ravages of a famine, remember Digby. It is to him that we owe the policy that no man, woman, or child should be permitted to perish from hunger. Who will deny after this that Mr. Digby was a great benefactor of India?

We intend noticing some other noble works of Mr. Digby in future issues.

The notable feature of last Wednesday's Corporation meeting was the sudden appearance of a new star, in the person of Mr. K. G. Gupta, Member of the Board of Revenue. The more notable feature was the amendment which he proposed. And the most notable feature was the speech that he delivered in support of his amendment. Mr. Gupta's appearance reminds us of the lathials which old indigo planters hired for the purpose of teaching a lesson to refractory ryots. Mr. Allen, as the reader knows, is having a fight with the Special Committee appointed by the Corporation to review the administration of the Municipal Executive. In their report, the Committee have mercilessly exposed the doings of the latter. Mr. Allen, as the head of the Executive, thought, though mistakenly, that it was his duty to defend his subordinates. So, at the last meeting, he made a long speech, which was no doubt meant for the defence of the Executive, but, which was practically another condemnation of the latter; for, Mr. Allen is not only an extremely honest man, and therefore could not but admit the faults of his subordinates pointed out by the Committee, but his heart also is with the ratepayers. So he required the help of others to extricate himself from the difficulty, and neutralise, if possible, the poison in the report of the Committee. Hence, he hired the services of Mr. Gupta who, as a "native," he hoped, would be able to handle his "lathi" better than he was able to do in order to pulverize the report of the Committee.

In his speech Mr. K. G. Gupta is pleased to say that "the Municipal Act is in force only for four years, and it was meant to meet a state of things which was admittedly unsatisfactory." Instead or giving play to imagination, Mr. Gupta ought to have confined himself to what is strictly true. What does he mean by a state of things admittedly unsatisfactory? Who admitted it? It was admitted by no Indian rate-payer; surely Mr. Gupta cannot produce one rate-payer admitting that the state of things was unsatisfactory. The fact is, those who have to support a position which is untenable have to coin facts and Mr. Gupta had to do it. The Municipality, under the old constitution, was doing exceedingly well: its demolition was a mere act of vandalism. Mr. Gupta admits that the motive of the half-a-dozen men composing the Committee, who condemned the present state of things, are above suspicion. That is all right. But his own motives. Are they also above suspicion?

Fancy the assurance of the man. He never took a prominent or any part in the administration of the Calcutta Corporation. What does he know of the Municipality of the city, and of its inner, or for the matter of that, its outer workings? He has certainly no knowledge of the subjects about which he undertook to speak; he has not, in short, to quote Mr. Tremearne, hesitated, "to rush in where angels might well fear to tread;" that is to say, he stepped forward to instruct those who knew better than he did! He was perfectly unconscious of the figure he cut—it is courage and assurance that sustained him. And not only did he condemn the report of the veterans who prepared it, but he also suggested a remedy for curing the defects of the Corporation. About this remedy Mr. Tremearne remarked:—

"We all know that a very distinguished citizen of ours Dr. D. Gupta has invented a mixture for the removal of fever which has conferred a great boon on suffering humanity and also put money in his pocket. Our Mr. Gupta apparently has invented a Government whitewash for sick Municipalities which removes the blame for their sickness from the responsible executive and transfers it to, God knows who (loud laughter.)"

We trust the compliment was appreciated by Mr. Gupta.

But why was Mr. Gupta selected as the spokesman of Mr. Allen? The reason can be easily divined. He was hired, because, Mr. Allen had some sense of proportion. Mr. Allen knew that he was only a six-month Chairman; and, therefore, not fit to find fault with the deliberations of the experienced Commissioners, who had submitted the report. Besides he found that he had no case; so he had to find a man who would do the work for him. He was particularly anxious to get hold of a "native" willing to sacrifice himself. He succeeded beyond expectation. Not only did he find a "native" willing enough to thrust his neck into the sacrificial block, but one who has secured a high position in the executive department. With such obejct lessons before it, it is a wonder Government would yet hesitate to confer the highest appointments upon the people of this country. Very few Europeans, we fancy, would have agreed to perform the part which was played by Mr. Gupta with such exuberance of spirit.

Possibly we are wrong to find fault with Mr. Gupta. When he was asked to sacrifice the interests of his countrymen, he surely shuddered for the moment. But what could he do? Was he not a "native," and an official? Do not officails, as a rule, sell their bodies and souls to the Government they serve? Mr. Gupta certainly cannot disobey orders. And then, it was hinted by Mr. Tremearne that a few C. S. I.'s and C. I. E.'s might be showered upon others than Mr. Green, and that one of the recepients might be Mr. Gupta. So, you see, the circumstance was peculiar. Mr. Gupta scored when he referred, in a bantering tone, to the return of two of the 28 Commissioners, who had resigned, to the fold of the Corporation. It will be seen that Mr. Gupta's amendment was carried. We are glad of it; for, it proves conclusively that the Corporation does not represent the views of the rate-payers.

Anent the Indian Civil Service Examination, we see that the "London Gazette" of the 30th August notifies that a further alteration will be made in the age limit for the test of 1906 and subsequent years. At present candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 23 on the first day of the year in which the examination is held. In future they will be required to be not less than 22 and not more than 24 on the 1st August of the examination year.

Elsewhere will be found an interesting and clever analysis, by the London "Morning Leader of Sept. 3," of an article of ours, headed "The art of begging, by an expert," that appeared in these columns on the 8th of August last. It would appear that, a friend had sent him a cutting of the weekly edition of the "Patrika,"—large numbers of which now circulate among the leading men of England,—containing the above article, and also one or two short editorials or rather portions of them. It really reflects great credit upon the brain powers of the writer to produce such a charming article from the scanty materials at his disposal. The style of the writing is not only racy but fascinating. The "Morning Leader" is one of the few papers in England which are in deep sympathy with India; and, as such, it deserves the gratitude of the people here. Indeed, it rarely loses an opportunity to serve the cause of the suffering millions of India. Personally we are exceedingly obliged to the writer for his friendly attitude towards this journal, though we are sorry, our contemporary has made no comments upon the central idea of the article which is that, at the present moment, not only have the Indians been reduced to the condition of beggars, but baggars whose prayers are treated by the rulers with utmost contempt, whether they present themselves as the "agreeable," "disagreeable," "persistent," "aggressive" or "dharna" beggars. By the way our contemporary, apparently, has no adequate conception of "dharna beggars." They were such a formidable class that Government had to make a law to put down their way of begging. The Hindus could bear anything, but not the sight of people starving at their doors. And thus the "dharna" beggars, who would not drink a drop of water or take a morsel of food until their demand was satisfied, always scored in the end. The emptying the water jug on them, the remedy of our contemporary, would only be a blessing to them in this hot country. He would have been nearer the mark if he had suggested a hose of water scalding hot.

We are informed by a Simla correspondent that the Punjab Government intends annexing a pargana of the Patiala State, called Chail, to the British territory. It is the well-known summer residence of H. H. the Maharaja of Patiala, a range of beautiful hills, some 19 miles east of Simla, which was acquired by the Patiala State in 1815 at a great expense. It is about 50 square miles in area; and since it came into the possession of the Patiala State, it has been greatly improved, several royal palaces have been built, specious roads have been constructed, and water works erected. We are told that with extensive forests and cultivated area the Chail Pargana alone is worth not less than two crores of rupees. This is what our correspondent says: The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab has already paid a private visit to the Political Agent, Phulkian States, at Chail, with this object in view. Maharaja Bhoop Indar Sing is a minor and the affairs of the State are managed by a Council of Regency appointed by the Government of India. Now, is the British Government justified in asking the Council of Regency, a body appointed by them, to look after the welfare of the State, to make over to them a part of its territory, which has for the last thirteen years been the summer residence of the Maharaja and which is worth two crores of Rupees? And, is the Council—a body appointed to guard the interests of the State—justified in making over the territory to the British without betraying its trust? Fancy the arrangement! The Punjab Government is in need of a summer capital. The Patiala State has a beautiful hill residence with splendid palatial buildings, and water-works; and therefore, the British authorities must have it. When the late Maharaja Rajendra Sing of Patiala was a minor, the then Government of India wanted to acquire Jobral and Karal, but the Council of the period declined to part with them as it meant serious loss to the State. Following the example of the late Council, the present one, composed of responsible and educated men, who are reputed to have acted all along for the welfare of the State, should also refuse to part with the rich and beautiful pargana of Chail. We sincerely hope that the account of our correspondent is exaggerated; for, we can not believe that the Punjab Government can be party to a transaction which cannot be justified on any other ground than that of "might is right." The proposed annexation is all the more objectionable as the State belongs to a minor, who is under the guardianship of the British Government.

It seems that the exploration of Thibet by our distinguished countryman, Babu Sarat Chander Das, was attended with some very painful incidents. The Tibetan who assisted the daring Bengali explorer during his visit to Lhassa in the eighties, was thrown into prison by the Thibetan Government and kept there for twenty years. He was released only the other day by Col. Younghusband. But, a still greater person also suffered terribly in this connection, Singchau Lama, who wrote a letter to Lord Dufferin in 1885, met a violent death at the hands of the Thibetan authorities, because he had shown hospitality to Sarat Chander at Lhassa and "kept a Phiing Babu at Tashilunpo under his protection." When Babu Sarat Chander left Thibet the Lamas and Pompos (Chiefs) suspected that he had come to do them some mischief. An enquiry was therefore instituted in 1886 to ascertain whether the Singchau Lama had really helped the Bengali savant in any way or not. Just about this time the Thibet mission under Mr. Macaulay was announced. This incident led the Lamas of the three great monasteries to demand the punishment of the Singchau. He was at first banished with a large number of people, specially pilgrims from Mongolia. Thereupon some Mongolian Chiefs threatened to overturn the Thibetan Government if he were not restored. The three abbots now persuaded the Dalai Lama, then a boy of ten, to sanction the drowning of the Singchau. The latter was accordingly drowned, it is said, after being subjected to great cruelties. It is by these drastic measures that the Thibetan authorities had hitherto succeeded in keeping their country free from foreigners and a sealed book to the outside world. It has, however, been at last unveiled by the enterprise of the English, at the cost of the poor Indians. When a British subject was kept confined by King Theodore of Abyssania, a military expedition was sent against him; and not only was the British subject released, but Theodore was made a prisoner and his country devastated. It was in this way that the power of England was established in the heart of Africa. If the Thibetan expedition was undertaken for a similar purpose, that is to say, to release the man who had been thrown into jail on account of Sarat Chander's visit to Thibet, much of the opposition in connection with this affair would have possibly disappeared.

The idea of a residential College at Ranchi is founded upon two alleged data, one of them being that the students in the Government hostel in Calcutta are led astray by temptations which surround them. Now, is this statement correct? If it is not, then the project of Sir Andrew Fraser is mainly based upon a mistaken notion. In India, it is quite possible to build institutions upon wrong data. The greatest delusion in the world is the Lady Dufferin's Fund. This Fund has sorely taxed many of our wealthy men. But the institution owes its origin to the idea that, in India, female patients are not permitted to be treated by male physicians, that is to say, females in India die without any medical treatment at all! When this Lady Dufferin's Fund was announced we took care to warn the promoters of the movement that their project was based upon an utterly mistaken notion, and that it was not a fact that females were not permitted to be treated by male physicians. Of course they heeded not our warning. The result was that lakhs and lakhs of Rupees were wrung from a poor country, and thrown into water. Not exactly into water, for it has provided secure posts to a good many Lady Doctors, who are not valued in their own country. It was not known then, but it transpired afterwards that the object of the Lady Dufferin Fund was not only to provide medical relief for women in India, but also to provide berths for English women who are without employment in England!

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Is it a fact that the students in India are morally as low as they have been described in His Honour's speech? This is denied in toto by those who can speak with authority on the subject. On the other hand, it is stated by them that the conduct of the students, in the hostels, generally speaking, is exemplary. Now, those who alleged that the students were morally low should furnish proofs. But beyond the raising of a hue and cry against these poor fellows, no proof whatsoever is forthcoming to gibbet them to infamy. This we know that, if one instance of fall among students were to come to the notice of the public, society would be terribly moved. We remember that a couple of women of ill repute had rented houses near the hostels, and immediately a hue and cry was raised in the newspapers, and they were forthwith expelled. If a student was seen in a bad place or drunk, the incident was sure to create a noise in the city. The only complaint brought against the students was that some of them had gone to see theatrical performances. But even this the students are not permitted to do; for under the hostel rules, the boarders must be inside the hostel before 9 p. m.

Before the students are thus denounced, is it not fair, just and reasonable to inquire into the scandalous reports raised against them? A strong Committee was appointed, at the Belvedere Conference the other day, to give effect to the project of the Ranchi College. Has any one of its members any definite charge against the students residing in the hostels? To one of the prominent members of this Committee we wrote, and here is his reply:—

"I do not know whether there is any complaint that the hostel students go wrong. Some of them go to the theatre but nothing worse. They are compelled to be inside the hostel before 9 p. m."

We ourselves made an enquiry, and are convinced that there is no foundation for the foul accusation against the students. Of course, heresay evidence means nothing. We want facts. Strangely enough, though the Committee are working out the details of the proposed College, they have not yet realized that their first duty is to enquire whether the alleged facts, upon which the project is mainly based, are true or not. They should ascertain these two alleged facts; (1) It it a fact that the hostel students go wrong in Calcutta? (2) Is it a fact that Zemindars and other well-to-do men in the interior, including Sub-Judges, senior Dy. Collectors, and others are anxious for an institution like the proposed Ranchi College and would send their sons there?

As Sir A. Fraser is a perfect stranger to this Province, the Committee should place the real situation before His Honour, even, though the results of their enquiry may not agree with the information collected by the Lieutenant Governor himself during his tours. By not making any enquiry into these matters, or by withholding the true facts, the Committee may harm their own reputation, injure the interests of the country and put Sir Andrew who relies upon their advice, in a false position. The Committee should also inform His Honour that the possibility of the removal or the demolition of the Presidency College has very much unsettled the minds of the public. Indeed, this is one of the main reasons why the project has provoked such strong protests.

What is the object of the Police in India? A reply to this question may be elicited from the following Shikar story, of course, by a European, which appeared in these columns a few days ago. An alligator had been killed and a couple of bangles, used by low class females, were found in its stomach. Says the Shikaree:

"When the bangles were brought to me, I thought the proper thing to do was to give notice of the find to the headman of the nearest village. But no one would claim the ornament though there was a girl of one of the villages missing. She had gone to fetch water from the river for her parents about a week or ten days previous, and never returned. Her disappearance was not reported to the police, and it was on this account, I was told, the parents of the girl would not claim the bangles. They were afraid of a police enquiry being instituted, and these simple ignorant people would rather see a swarm of locusts settle in the neighbourhood than see the daroga and his myrmidons enter a village. So I could not get a claimant for the ornaments."

So our question, with which we began the para, is answered.

The other day, our Krishnagore correspondent, among other extraordinary acts of Mr. MacBlaine, the District and Sessions Judge, referred to the case of the well-known Nadia Pandit Debi Prasanna Smritiratna, who was summoned as a juror and fined Rs. 100 by the Judge for non-attendance. Against this conviction the accused preferred an appeal which came on for hearing before the High Court on Tuesday. The contention of the accused was that he had never received any summons and produced three of his pupils in support of his statement. The District Judge disbelieving him and accepting the uncorroborated evidence of the peon, had fined the Pandit as stated above. The Hon'ble Judges of the High Court held that there was no satisfactory evidence as to whether the summons was served upon the accused and made the rule absolute, ordering the refund of the fine if already paid. If, according, to the Hon'ble Judges the evidence against the Pandit was not satisfactory how could then Mr. MacBlaine convict him and put him to all this trouble? Serving as a juror is a valuable privilege, specially in this country. Fancy how some of the Judges try to make the jury system unpopular by their unsympathetic and unjustifiable conduct. By the way, where is the authority who is to fine Mr. MacBlaine for his irregular attendance in Court?

The oil-distilling industry has now been established at the Government Gardens at Ootacamund, on the Nilgiri Hills in Southern India. Blue gum, camphor, cinnamon, sweet flag, and lemon-grass oil are being distilled from the various trees and shrubs that grow in the gardens.

The cancellation is announced of the standing notifications of the Government of India under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, prohibiting the bringing, taking, sending or consigning of soiled linen, used bedding, rags and waste paper from the Benares, Ballia, Jaunpur or Cawnpore districts of the United Provinces, or of soiled linen, used bedding, and rags from the Allahabad district of these Provinces into or through any other part of India to which the provisions of the said Act extend or have been applied.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

From our own Correspondent.

London, Sept. 9.

ENGLISH WEALTH AND INDIAN EDUCATION.

If it be any solace for poor men to read about the rich, there is plenty of comfort in the annual report of the Commissioners of the English Inland Revenue for the past year. Englishmen have heard so frequently from Mr. Chamberlain and his comparatively voiceless disciples that Great Britain is on the down-grade and that her wealth is declining, that they expect in turning to the Revenue Report to find a record of decreasing incomes and all the other signs of commercial decay. Instead of this they see something which is almost ridiculously different. The Inland Revenue Officials only deal with incomes over Rs. 2,400 a year; but even neglecting the thousands of incomes below that figure the gross above the limit totalled £879,638,546 in the period 1902-3; or, in Indian currency

Rs. 1319,45,78,190!

Thirteen hundred crores of rupees! Below this, and unincluded in the total come hundreds of thousands of petty incomes ranging from Rs. 750 and under up to Rs. 2,400. But there is a fact even more astonishing than the colossal figures themselves and that is, their rate of increase. In 1894 the gross income dealt with by the officials was only a little more than three-quarters of its amount to-day. That is to say, in ten years the income of the mercantile, professional, and leisured classes has risen by two hundred millions sterling, or by

THREE HUNDRED CRORES OF RUPEES.

And far from slackening during the past year, its rate of increase has actually been larger than it was over the whole decade, in spite of the gloomy sermons which Mr. Chamberlain has been preaching. It might be urged by some observers who did not know the other facts of English life that these statistics tell a doleful tale, that they show how fast the few are getting wealth into their own hands and leaving a decreasing income for their poorer neighbours. But this is not so. The increase in the size of incomes over £160 a year is not the outcome of a decrease in incomes below that figure. Every sign goes to prove the contrary. The workman of England is appreciably better housed and better fed, can afford more luxuries and better pleasures than he could ten years ago. All classes have participated, though perhaps in varying degrees, in the expansion of British wealth and comfort.

But the readers of this paragraph will turn from the almost inconceivable totals of these vast fortunes to their own poverty and the poverty of their land. In the case of some the contrast may even fill them with all the bitterness of despair. Not indeed, that they desire overmuch the mere wealth, but they see how much they and their companions suffer through the lack of that leisure for thought and education which a high and evenly distributed wealth makes possible. Wealthy men are not always wise men. But a wealthy community is not, at any rate, a starved community, and if it has energy and intelligence the wealth will aid it in good work and prove no hindrance at all. With some such thoughts as these, therefore, some Indians might turn from the figures of English wealth with a feeling of despair as to whether their own poor country shall ever be able to obtain even bare justice from so uncannily prosperous a land. Energy and hope may be pardoned for faltering for a moment when they are confronted by so terrible a contrast as that between the abounding wealth of England and the starving indigence of India. But though they falter for a moment neither hope nor energy should falter for longer. It is useless merely to brood on the differences in condition between the two countries unless one seeks out diligently the causes for these differences and attempts to reproduce them in the poorer country. As regards the administrative differences, they are so onerous and so widely discussed that they do not need more than mere mention. They are

i. The exclusively foreign control over executive government which acts as a check—sometimes actively, more often passively—upon the enterprise and energy of non-official individuals.

ii. The economic 'drain,' which at one time abstracted all the superfluous wealth that might have gone to found new industries or to extend old ones, and which at present abstracts wealth that is vitally necessary even to the mere maintenance of the Indian people.

iii. The deadening and degenerative influence upon the educated classes of the exclusion of their members from high office of responsibility.

But there are other differences as vital as these which are the results partly of old customs and partly of the administrative impotence of the Indian people. Some of these differences are so purely personal to the various peoples and castes that they cannot be discussed save by those who have had long acquaintance with the grades of society which they criticise. On the other hand, there are a few differences of a less private but equally important character. Without any pretension to be exhaustive, and with a clear knowledge that this analysis may be incomplete, one may, nevertheless, put forward three matters for reform.

i. Elementary education;

ii. The widening of India's conception of higher education so that it may embrace other than purely literary or legal subjects;

iii. A greater boldness and initiative in the use of money.

A large part of the wealth of Britain arises from the extreme unwillingness of the Briton to hoard any money that may come into his possession. If he does not put it into the land'—and the land is so scarce that he has more or less lost the habit of doing so—he puts it in to some business or industrial venture which, probably, he does not manage himself but leaves to some one else to run with his money. This national custom has a more direct bearing upon the prosperity of a country than would appear upon the surface. For it means this: the naturally skilful business manager does not have to make his own capital before he floats his business; he readily borrows the money from some one and both parties profit by the exchange. Also the inventor does not have to wait half a life-time to find a patron. If he can obtain the services of an experienced man he can immediately tap the resources of half a hundred anonymous patrons. Half the wealth of England is due to the rapid flow of money from one man to another: and this is a fact which it is useful to remember. As for elementary education, its inclusion in this latter list rather than in the former, governmental one may occasion astonishment. But there is much to be said for the man who urges that elementary education should, for the time at least, be looked upon as a field for individual work as well as of Governmental concern. The Government is going to take primary education in hand—at least, it says it intends to do so. But the Government cannot produce at once a scheme to fit all India. For many, many years to come there will be whole classes of people and wide tracts of land untouched by official education. And where the Government ceases, or is non-existent, at that point there comes the opportunity for private endeavour. Privately financed education, also, will have this advantage: whereas the official machinery will be over-loaded with European educationalists—the few certainly necessary, but the vast majority wholly superfluous—the private concerns will employ a fair proportion of Indian workers, not only in the lower, but in the higher branches. 'India is too poor a country for such private schemes of education,' some one may say. But the objection does not stand. India must have primary education. Government may provide the whole of it or private enterprise may provide a part. In each case the money comes from India. So, from the poverty point of view, it is just as well to have it from the one as from the other; while from the national point of view it is better to have it from both, as much as possible and as quickly as possible. So far as a country's future and prosperity are concerned, there is no expenditure which yields so princely a return as the education, not only of one class, but of all classes of its people. There are, here and there, a few zemindars of Bengal who might profitably ponder this fact.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECHES.

I mentioned recently that Lord Curzon's speeches delivered while in England were to be collected in pamphlet form and published by John Murray. The [illegible] has now taken place, and the pamphlet is [illegible] and simple—"Speeches on India"—[illegible] purpose, in the words of an admirer, is to point out "the propriety of keeping the difficult problems connected with our Dependency outside of party strife." Lord Curzon deals with India's place in the Empire, questions of administration, governmental policy, and the Civil Service. "No one," quoting again from the admirer, "can read his speeches without being convinced . . . . of his close perception and comprehensive grasp of the many sides of the subject." Everyone will acknowledge the Viceroy's close perception, but he has yet to prove his comprehensive grasp. He has a chance to do so during the next few years, and it is to be hoped, both for India's sake and his own, that he will succeed.

THAT RUSSIAN BOGEY AGAIN.

The following paragraph in the usually sane and well-ordered "Financial News" has an antediluvian, P'enjdeh scare,' flavour about it: "India Stocks do not exhibit much response to the stimulus of the Japanese successes. Yet, inasmuch as the crippling of Russia puts off for a generation her intended invasion of India, the progress of the work ought to be reflected in the price of those securities which would have been the first to be affected if an invasion of India had come into the sphere of practical tactics. Our grandchildren will probably know—though we never shall—how near to consummation the scheme for invading our great Dependency came. Certain it is that the outlines of the plan were in the hands of some of our leading Russophiles in this country." If this is the sort of thing that the City merchant holds to be true it is easy to understand why he is afraid to invest his money in Indian enterprises. Why, he would suffer palpitations of the pocket every time a Russian regiment is shifted from St. Petersburg to Moscow, fearing a sudden raid past Herat. The "Financial News" should keep its knowledge of India up to date. Both in this paragraph and elsewhere it has shown itself a little behind the times.

IMAGINATIVE FICTION.

When I want to get away into Fairyland where the sun is never too hot, where the villains are half heroes and the heroes are each equal to a hero and a half, where nothing ever goes wrong, but where everything happens idyllically and right, I pick up a Monday issue of "The Times" and read what the special correspondent has to say on "Indian Affairs." This week the inspired writer deals with Mysore and his article is as daintily charming as a summer dream. A good deal of it, one must confess, has nothing to do with Mysore, and the remainder has little connection with history. But the general effect is gentle and delicately soft. Mysore and the rest of India become so many gardens of Eden and the English rulers, without exception, appear as white-robed angels. While even the people of India seem to be lesser angels—younger sisters, one might say of the superior angels of light. The writer, you will perceive, is beautifully tolerant and sympathetic. He does not fall into the vulgar error of picturing the Indian people as a race of benighted barbarians among whom the present administration is painfully spreading right ideas and humanity. He knows that such a picture, while pleasing to the race pride of his readers, would arouse their suspicions, and somebody would soon be telling him that the Indian was not quite so black as he was painting him. The writer knows a trick worth more than that. He praises everybody and every-thing. Nobody can complain that so and so has been overpraised without the fact being demonstrated that the very party to which the objector belongs has also been praised earlier in the paragraph. The praise may not be spread so thick, but it is there. And as a result? Well, India appears in a golden haze of unadulterated superlatives. If the country were really as quiet and happy as the "Times" special correspondent paints it, one would not want to go to heaven when Death comes. Instead, one would want to go to India. It is all vastly pleasant and soothing to jaded feelings. And it is very cleverly done. There is no shadow in India, and no stain. No one could be surprised if a future article describes pellucidly the innocent family joys of the peasant in famine time and the rites of sturdy, merry people who troop into the famine camp when the monsoons fail. In a few words: this series of articles, which started fairly well, has degenerated into a gigantic imposture which is lying glibly about the state of India in order to conceal the horror lying behind the gaudy picture that is painted. It is impossible to compare these essays in imaginative fiction with the sober contributions of Sir William Hunter who was the first to write an Indian series in "The Times." A friend has written to me with regard to an earlier article of the new writer: "It is this smoothly phrased Satania paper in the "Times," " he writes, "which somehow rouses afresh my feeling of despair regarding Indian affairs all round and confirms our utter helplessness"—but I think the situation is not so bad as that—"to combat the infernal follies that move the rulers of India. . . . It boots not to ask who or what is the departmental scribe who wrote out that screed, for he too faithfully shadows forth the malign influences under cover of which the half dozen clever conspirators, who rule Indian policies all round, are proceeding in their evil work of debauching British public opinion, to the end that they may go on unmolested in their ruinous reactionary schemes and trample out or stifle every spark of patriotic life or smother it with sophistry throughout the great peninsula." My correspondent finishes by justly condemning the cunning way in which the "Times" interlaces fact and fiction to produce one huge lie. For example, in referring to Mysore politics this week the "Times' " contributor pens an introduction one quarter the length of the whole article to show how the Indian administration has kept the sanctity of its plighted oath. The writer refers to the permanent settlement and other matters in which the word of the Government has been kept. But he says nothing of the Queen's Proclamation and the Berars. Yet surely these incidents were germane to his contention—for they disprove it. It is certainly true that the Government usually shows a respect for its plighted word; but so, and to no smaller extent, do all Governments. The "Times' " writer gives a wrong impression by implying that, above all other rulers, the rules of India are distinguished for diplomatic faith. They have, indeed, no such monopoly of honour. And so long as the Queen's Proclamation remains unredeemed, so long the reputation of the Indian Government will suffer. For it has been faithful—moderately faithful—in small things, but in great things it has not kept its word. And since it is just those great things which matter the most, it is in not mentioning them that the writer is most culpably negligent. He does not err through ignorance, but through a wilful intention to conceal the fact.

SOUDAN EMIGRATION AS A FAMINE PREVENTIVE!

When—if ever—Lord Milner shuts the door on the British Indian in the Transvaal, the fields for Indian enterprise and emigration will be fewer in number. The "Globe," however, has stepped forward to suggest another region for Indians to colonise. The Soudan, it points out, seems to possess all the essentials for becoming one of the greatest cotton producing countries in the world. "Both the climate and the soil are exactly suited, while if only one-half of the now waste lands were brought under cultivation Lancashire would not have to look elsewhere for her raw material." But the one thing lacking to the expansion of cotton growing is—men. Great areas of fertile land remain depopulated and many years would be needed to re-people them by the natural increment of population under the new order of things. The Soudan is without people; India has enough and to spare. Many ryots, the "Globe" declares, are well versed in the practical details of cotton growing, and if kept going until the first food crops matured, they would not need further assistance beyond an occasional supply of good seed. Provided that the possibilities of the Soudan are as glowing as is here suggested—and a similar statement was recently elaborated before the Royal Colonial Institute in London—there could be no objection to the immigration of Indian ryots into the vast area. Indeed, there would be considerable benefit, for travel and the sense that one's people have settled in various parts of the globe is a good thing and sometimes serves to dissipate prejudice. But the newspaper I quote makes one controvertible remark. "Lord Curzon," it writes, "knows only too well that over-population in an intrinsically poor country is sure to be attended from time to time by the Nemesis of famine. He would necessarily be disposed, therefore, to transfer some portion of the Indian labour surplus, under proper precautions, to colonise the Soudan." To this one is tempted to make two rejoinders. First, that India is not overpopulated in the sense that there are too many inhabitants as compared with its resources; but it certainly contains too great a number of people under the present system of omnipotent bureaucracy and economic 'drain.' Secondly, that emigration has never and could never remove the fear of famine in so vast a country as India. Famine is due to other causes, and those causes must be removed before famine can disappear. To fight famine by a Soudan emigration movement is as futile as to attempt to conjure up a monsoon with an electric fan.

AN INDIAN EXHIBITION FOR THE EAST END.

An Indian Art Exhibition is to be held in the autumn in the Whitechapel Art Gallery and it will probably go far towards making India a living reality to the poor of London. For the Whitechapel Gallery is unique among art buildings. It is not situated, as so many are, in the richer quarters of the metropolis where only the better-to-do would ever go in large numbers to see it. On the contrary, it has been built, thanks largely to the generosity of Mr. Passmore Edwards, the philanthropist, in the midst of the poor districts of east London. It is the intention of the organisers of the exhibition to illustrate the daily life and the artistic industries of the various peoples of India and to interest Londoners in the object lesson on India. Merchantmen and manufacturers are helping with examples of Indian textiles and processes. Sir George Birdwood, Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir Henry Lawrence, Mr. C. E. Buckland, Sir Charles Elliott, and many others are on the committee. Lord Curzon, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Northbrook, the Marquis of Ripon are giving their support to it, while Sir Gasper Purdon will select a representative exhibition from King Edward's Indian trophies. With all these preparations it may well be that the exhibition will represent the show side of India rather than the home side. It may give as wrong an impression of the country as the Delhi Durbar has done. But, after all, it will be comparatively easy of collection and inexpensive, and it will give the East Enders something definite at the back of their minds when Indian questions come within the range of English politics. The exhibition will remain open from October 5th until the end of November, and during that time a course of lectures will be given on Indian subjects. If those lectures are on similar lines to "The Times" articles on Indian affairs, the will be more imaginative than instructive.

Scraps.

Our Dacca correspondent informs us that Rani Bilasmoni, the trustee of the Bhowal Raj estate has dismissed Mr. Meyer, the Manager. It is reported that Babu Rojoni Kant Ghosh, late a Munsiff, has been temporarily appointed in Mr. Meyer's place.

"The district of Malabar is rejoicing" because, writes our correspondent, "Mr. Finney, the collector has been granted long leave." As he has got a dislike for the people of Malabar, who, in their turn, never like him, it is to be hoped he will never come back again to the district.

In tiger-infested districts it is rather dangerous to wear striped clothing resembling in the least the striped coat of the tiger, says the "Daily News" of Malabar. Many accidents have occurred, and they are often attended with disastrous consequences. The following is an instance. Near Manantoddy, a man, while sitting in his compound with a striped blanket wrapped round his body, was mistaken for a tiger by another man, an inmate of his own house, and shot dead on the spot.

Sometime ago Captain L. Rogers, M. D. was deputed by the Government to undertake a comprehensive inquiry as to the cause of heavy mortality in the district of Dinajpur. As the result of his labours, he drew up a report on the subject, which is before us. Dr. Roger is of opinion that a great many diseases are returned as "fever," which ought to come under some different head. He however admits the extreme prevalence of malaria in the district, which he ascribes to the presence of A. Listori Anophele. This species of mosquitoes breeds chiefly in streams where they can not be treated with kerosine. He has found it impracticable to stamp out the breed and therefore suggests widespread distribution of quinine as the only effective remedy to ward off the evil.

The curtain has at last fallen on the late Trichinopoly scandal. The Town Sub-Magistrate who was humiliated, by order of the District head, in the open court before the local police officers and others, has been punished. Mr. V. Vasudeva Row, the Town Sub-Magistrate of Trichinopoly, has been sent to the Guntur District as cash keeper in the Huzur Treasury on Rs. 100, as recommended by Mr. C. G. Spencer, as no magisterial appointment on Rs. 100, the pay he was drawing as Sub-Magistrate, was available for him in this District.

THE AGHA CASE.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Arrah, Sept. 28.

The above sensational case came on for hearing on the 22nd instant. The peons did not appear and the result was adjourned to the 4th proximo. The peons will have to appear at first before Babu Rajani Prosad Neogi, Deputy Magistrate, on the 4th proximo The case has excited much sensation and is being watched with keen interest.

THE MADRAS RAILWAY AND THE SALT DEPARTMENT.

There has been considerable friction recently between the Locomotive Staff of the Madras Railway at Shoranur and the British Salt and Abkari staff stationed at that place. The matter seems to have assumed some importance in consequence of an enquiry that was lately held by the British authorities of the Salt and Abkari Department. It would appear that from time to time serious complaints have been made by the Locomotive Staff at Shoranur to the Revenue Board, the Deputy Commissioner of Salt and Abkari and other Officers, to the effect that they were being unnecessarily harassed by the British Abkari Preventive Staff at Shoranur. Some of these complaints took the form of specific charges, to the effect that cases were being concocted against them of smuggling arrack from Native Cochin territory which lies just across the river. These complaints became so persistent and so numerous that the Assistant Commissioner of Salt of the Calicut Sub-Division was deputed to enquire into these complaints which he did a few days ago at Shoranur. The evidence produced by the Locomotive Staff would seem to have been somewhat inconclusive. Nevertheless, the Assistant Commissioner appears to have been convinced that these complaints were not altogether groundless. One of the grievances of the Locomotive Staff was that the British Salt and Abkari officers at Shoranur were in the habit of preventing them from coming over to Native Cochin and drinking liquor, and that refusal to comply was followed by their being harassed, and any purchase of provisions made in Native Cochin is subjected to unnecessary inspection and delay. It would appear that arrangements have now been made whereby the Locomotive Staff is allowed to cross over to Native Cochin only twice a week, and that when they do so, an Inspector or a Sub-Inspector will be at the Shoranur Bridge to see that they get a safe conduct back without being subjected to any inconvenience by the lower subordinates of the Salt Department.

During the Sessions the District Judge of Tellicherry heard in camera a case for the dissolution of marriage of a Native Christian of the R. C. community, Cannonore, on the ground that the woman whom the petitioner married is really sexless. The Judge, after going through the case, has referred the matter to the High Court for orders. It would appear that it is some years since the marriage took place. The matter was referred to His Holiness the Pope at Rome for nullification of the marriage bond. The Pope's decision having arrived in favour of the complainant, the present case arose for a judicial separation, so that the man mac legally marry again.

A curious custom obtains among the Coorgs, says the "Statesman." When one of them kills a tiger or a panther he is married to the dead animal regardless of its sex. Propped upon a framework of wood or bamboos the animal is carried in procession and the marriage ritual is strictly observed while lavish hospitality is dispensed. Anyone who is prepared to make a deposit of money is eligible to be present at the wedding feast. This money helps to cover part of the expenses. The Coorgs have also a superstition that when a wounded tiger or panther attacks and mauls a person, puja has to be performed, otherwise his nature will be transformed into that of the brute, and ever afterwards his sole endeavour will be to kill people at the of a victim a year at the very least.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

High Court—Sept. 30.

VACATION BENCH.

(Before Justices Harington & Pargiter.)

A CASE OF WRONGFUL CONFINEMENT.

Baboo Atulya Charan Basu moved on behalf of one Nakhpuri Pande for a rule calling upon the District Magistrate of Balasore to shew cause why the conviction and sentence of one month's rigorous imprisonment passed by the Sub-divisional Officer of Bhadrak upon the petitoner on the 19th August 1904 under section 347 of the Indian Penal Code should not be set aside.

The facts of the case were briefly as follows. On the 21st August 1904 one Govinda Mullik lodged a complaint before the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Bhadrak alleging that the petitioner sent for him through one Nidhi Raha and asked him to pay the rent due. He paid Rs. 2-8 and asked for a receipt which the petitioner declined to grant unless a perquisite of four annas and a half in the rupee was paid, that he expressed his inability to pay the sum whereupon he was assaulted and wrongfully confined in the house of the petitioner. On receipt of the complaint the Sub-divisional Officer examined the complainant on oath and issued summons against him and the said Nidhi Roy under sections 342 and 352 of the Indian Penal Code and fixed the 6th May for their appearance in Court. As the accused Nidhi Roy did not appear on the 6th May 1904 the petitioner was released on bail and 20th May was fixed for the hearing of the case. On the 20th May the complainant put in a petition of compromise before the Sub-divisional Officer stating that the differences between the parties had been made up amicably and that he did not wish to proceed with the case and prayed that it might be struck off in terms of the petition of compromise. The Sub-divisional Magistrate asked the complainant when the petition of compromise was presented whether he had really compromised the matter and the complainant answered the question in the affirmative. Then the Magistrate asked the petitioner whether he was guilty and on the petitioner pleading not guilty the Magistrate ordered him to pay Rs. 10 to the complainant. In obedience to the order of the Magistrate the petitioner then and there paid Rs. 10 to the complainant in presence of the Court. When the said sum of Rs. 10 was paid to the complainant the Magistrate again questioned the petitioner that if he was not guilty why he paid Rs. 10 to the complainant. On the petitioner replying that he paid under orders of the Court the Magistrate without passing any final order on the petition of compromise aforesaid save and except "file" proceeded to record the evidence of the complainant and his witnesses and after their examination-in-chief framed charges against the petitioner under section 347 and 323 of the Indian Penal Code. Subsequently the said Sub-divisional Officer Mr. Rogers having left the Subdivision on transfer, the case came on before his successor Baboo Surendra Nath Ghosh who eventually convicted the petitioner and sentenced him to undergo one month's rigorous imprisonment.

Baboo Atulya Charan Basu for the petitioner contended in the first place that the petitioner having been summoned to answer a charge under section 342 I.P.C., which is legally compoundable was bound under the terms of section 345 of the Code of Criminal Procedure Code to accept the petition of compromise and give effect to it. Secondly that having repeatedly asked the complainant if he had compromised the matter in order to be satisfied as to the bonafide of the amicable settlement the learned Sub-divisional Magistrate ought not to have ignored the compromise. Thirdly that the Sub-divisonal Magistrate ought to have made an order either granting or refusing the application then and there and was not justified in putting it off by ordering it to be filed with the record.

Their Lordships after hearing Babu Atulya Charan Basu granted a rule on the grounds set forth above and ordered the petitioner to be meanwhile released on bail to the satisfaction of the Magistrate.

COMPLAINT AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER.

In this case one Ram Chundra Marwari preferred a complaint before a Deputy Magistrate of Purulia against the Sub-Inspector of Gowrangi Thanna alleging that the latter had detained the petitioner at the thannah and had forcibly taken away a large number of bricks belonging to him. The Deputy Magistrate took cognizance of the case and after recording the examination of the petitioner submitted the case to the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoom. The Deputy Commissioner on the same day made over the case to the District Superintendent of Police to report. The latter again made the case over to a Police Inspector. The Inspector sent up his report saying that the complaint was a false one. On receipt of the said report the District Superintendent forwarded it to the Deputy Commissioner, who dismissed the petitioner's complaint without examining him and directed proceedings to be taken against the petitioner under Sec. 211 I. P. C. Against that order the petitioner moved this Court. Babu Jayti Prosad Sarbadhikari appeared for the petitioner and contended that the complaint made by the petitioner was dismissed without hearing the petitioner as provided by Sec. 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Their Lordships after hearing the contention of the learned Vakil issued a rule on the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhoom to show cause why the proceedings taken against the petitioner should not be set aside.

RECORDS SENT FOR.

Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter moved on behalf of Banka Behary Kurmaker for a rule on the District Magistrate of Burdwan to show cause why the order of the Deputy Magistrate of Burdwan convicting the petitioner under sec. 411 of the Indian Penal Code and the sentence of two years' rigorous imprisonment should not be set aside.

It appeared that Babu Sashi Bhusan Bose, a pleader of Burdwan bar lost ornaments from his chest in his bed room. The value of the ornament being Rs. 3500. Suspicion fell on his servant Bejoy, who used to look after the room. Bejoy was arrested and he brought out two packets of ornaments from underneath a straw rick in Soshee Babu's house. He also supplied information which made the police leak up to accused and one Renu. Banku's house was searched but nothing was found by the police. On the following day Puti, a mistress of Banku, pointed a spot to the police, where, she said, Banku had told her that he had kept the ornaments. On these facts Banku was convicted and sentenced as above and his conviction was affirmed on appeal by the Sessions Judge of Burdwan.

Learned Vakil urged five grounds on support of the motion: that (1) the joint trial of Banku with Renu was bad in law and has prejudiced the petitioner in his defence, (2) the charge not having set out the ornaments which the petitioner is alleged to have received is bad in law and the defect has caused miscarriage of justice, (3) findings are not sufficient to warrant the conviction (4) the conviction proceeded on testimony of persons who were no better than accomplices and (5) the sentence is too severe.

Their Lordships sent for the records.

A MONGHYR SENSATION.

A MUNICIPAL ELECTION MUDDLE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Monghyr, Sept. 27.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has rejected Babu G. C. Some's second memorial which appeared in your issue of the 5th August last. The prayers of Gopal Babu were very reasonable, but His Honour, for reasons best known to him, has not even granted the enquiry into the conduct of the Municipal executive who canvassed for Mahammad Ismail the successful candidate. Gopal Babu therefore thought it proper to move the District Magistrate by petition in the matter. But here again Gopal Babu had tough work. Mr. Oldham did not receive the petition which was sent to him in a closed cover yesterday. He ordered the cover to be sent "to the office." That was immediately done, but the Head clerk refused to receive it. To-day, however, the correspondence clerk has kindly received it. But this orden of Mr. Oldham is seriously prejudical to the interest of Babu G. C. Some. The cover contains statements of witnesses who could be probably examined in the civil suit, and it is obviously disadvantageous for him to have the names of the witnesses and their statements known to the other party now. And this is the reason why there is a prayer in the petition to Mr. Oldham to treat the statements as confidential.

Copies of election papers have also been refused him except on payment of exorbitant fees. He therefore moved Mr. Oldham but in vain. He has consequently sent the following petition to the Divisional Commissioner:—

"I. That the petitioner applied to the Vice-Chairman of the Monghyr Municipality on the 28th June last for copies of all papers connected with the bye-election held in ward A of Monghyr on 24th June 1904.

"2. That the Vice-Chairman at first demanded Rs. 17-12 as fees for the copies, but on the petitioner taking exception to the charge and insisting upon having an order in writing he reduced the demand to Rs 12-12.

"3. That the Vice-Chairman by letter No 188 dated 18-7-1904 cited Bengal Government Notification, No. 1303 L. S. G. of 10-4-1903 in support of his exorbitant claim.

"4 That the Vice-Chairman obviously meant to refer to Bengal Government Notification N. 1303 of 10-4-1893 but that Notification related to Local Boards and Dist. Boards and has absolutely nothing to do with Municipalities. But the Vice-Chairman contended by letter No. 215 of 29-7-1904 that the Rules contained in the Notification also applied to Municipalities.

"5. That on 1st August last the petitioner requested the Vice-Chairman by letter to refer him to any law or Notification sanctioning such extended application, but no reply was vouchsafed to him by that officer.

"6. That on 19th September 1904 the petitioner moved the Dist. Magistrate and Chairman for order that in the absence of any law for the levy of fees for copies issued by Municipalities, the copies prepared by the office might be delivered to him free of charge, but the prayer was rejected by letter No. 329 dated 20-9-1904.

"7. That the petitioner begs to point out that 'the practice of the office' advanced in the Chairman's letter as a ground for charging the fees cannot have any legal force and cannot justify the unconscionable demand made by the Vice-Chairman.

"8. That the copies are urgently required by the petitioner in connection with the civil suit he has instituted in the 2nd Court of the Munsiff of Monghyr for the cancellation of the bye-election referred to above, and further dela- in delivering them to the petitioner will cause him great inconvenience.

"9. That under these circumstances, the petitioner begs that suitable orders be passed for delivery of the copies to him forthwith, without payment of any fees."

NOTES FROM TANGAIL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Tangail, Sept. 29.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM DIGBY.

The announcement of the death of Mr. William Digby, has cast a gloom all over the Sub-division. There was no Englishman who was a more well wisher of the Indian people than Mr. Digby, after the late lamented Mr. Bradlaugh. The immense debt of gratitude the people of India owe to him can not be repaid; yet I hope our leaders will take some immediate steps to perpetuate his memory. The Secretary of the Tangail People's Association is arranging to hold a memorial meeting here shortly.

A BRANDING CASE.

A very interesting case has cropped up at the village of Akurtakur. One Sitanath Changa, the complainant in the case, and Fatik Changa, witness, were called at night by one Doyal Changa, the accused, to play at cards in his house. Both Sita and Fatik, after a short while, went to Doyal's house, where they met a few others, who had already gathered there ostensibly for play. As soon as Sita and Fatik were seated, Doyal with the help of his other friends present, bolted the door from behind, and, with sheer force branded both Sita and Fatik, with red-hot "chilum," commonly known as "kalki." It is said that, sometime ago, the wife of the accused Doyal had eloped with some person, and was missing for a time, and the accused had since then been looking upon Sita with suspicion as the perpetrator of the deed. The S. D. O. has referred the petition of complaint to the police for enquiry under sec. 234, I. P. C. as he did not believe the story of the complainant.

BABU KALINARAIN'S CASE.

I again beg to draw the attention of our new Sub-divisional Officer Babu Banku Behari Dutta, to the most lamentable case of Babu Kalinarain Roy of Kiddarpur. Babu Kalinarain and his younger brother, as they were passing by boats, were severely assaulted by some notorious "kulus" of Kidderpur, and robbed of some valuables in broad day light. It is a matter of regret, and hardly creditable to the local police that the perpetrators are yet at large.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

LADY CURZON'S ILLNESS.

IMPROVEMENT MAINTAINED.

London, Sept. 29.

Lady Curzon has passed a fair night, and yesterday's improvement is maintained.—"Englishman."

STRENGTH WELL MAINTAINED.

London, Sept. 29.

Lady Curzon's condition has varied during to-day, but her strength is well maintained.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Sept. 28.

Reuter, wiring from Tokio, says that there are altogether about 45,000 sick and wounded soldiers in Japan. The system of treatment is admirable and the mortality exceptionally small.

Reuter, wiring from Tokio, says that the Japanese Government has decided to issue an internal loan of eight millions sterling at 5 per cent. It is expected that the loan will be largely subscribed. The Government also proposes to amend conscription law, making the total period af military service seventeen years thereby increasing the available strength.

General Kuropatkin reports numerous skirmishes from the Russian front, the Japanese confining themselves to outpost attacks all of which have been repulsed. Reconnaissances have established that the main Japanese forces are still along the Yentai Railway. The Russians and Japanese are in constant contact. General Samsonoff's troops are being particularly engaged.

London, Sept. 28.

Reuter wires from Mukden that Cavalry outposts [illegible] the westward [illegible] railway and threatening an attack. There is no change eastward.

London, Sept. 28.

Admiral Rojdestvensky, Commanding the Baltic Squadron, is ill.

London, Sept. 29.

"Le Temps" states that Russia has ordered eleven destroyers from the Societe Farges au Chantiers de Mediternanee, deliverable in fifteen months, and is negotiating for four cruisers of the "Bayan" type.

London, Sept. 29.

The eminent Russian Jurist, M. DeMaartens, speaking yesterday at the Edinburg Conference, referred to the Ukase defining the state of things to be observed during the war, and pointed out that some of the declarations made at The Hague Conference were embodied therein, but that some of The Hague Conventions were only for five years and expired in July, and in view of the war had not been renewed.

London, Sept. 30.

The "Standard's" special correspondent with Kuroki wires on the 28th that Kuropatkin with the main body has fallen back north of Mukden and upon Tieling. A considerable body of infantry is still south of Mukden observing the Japanese.

London, Sept. 29.

It is stated at Tokio that the new regulations for Military Service will increase the Japanese Army by 200,000 men.

London, Sept. 29.

It is impossible to understand what is happening at Port Arthur. French despatches from Petersburg are of the gloomiest and indicate that the Japanese, have gained an important success, while telegrams from Chifu seem to imply that the Russians have again forced the Japanese to evacuate the forts which they captured in the last assault after heavy sacrifices.

Kuropatkin wires to-day that the Japanese have begun an offensive movement along the entire east, south and front.

GENERAL.

London, Sept. 29.

Yesterday Count Buelow and Signor Giolitti went on an excursion to Taunus together, and Buelow gave a dinner in Giolitti's honour. Another long conference took place to-day. Giolitti started in the evening for Racconigi, where King Emmanuel is staying.

London, Sept. 29.

A Telegram from Washington says that Mr. Conger has telegraphed that China has promised that the Americans and the British shall have the preference, if foreign capital is required for the extension of the Hankow Railway to Chingking. Mr. Conger wishes to know soon if American capitalists care to embark their capital in the enterprise.

London, Sept. 28.

Reuter at St. Petersburg says it is understood that Count Benckendorff, the Russian Ambassador in London, has made friendly representations to the British Government regarding the alleged discrepancy between the draft of the Tibet treaty and previous British assurances.

The "Daily Telegraph" Shanghai correspondent states that the Waiwupu absolutely denies it has protested against the Anglo-Tibetan treaty.

London, Sept. 27.

It is authoritatively stated at Washington that President Roosevelt will not wait for the conclusion of the war but will call for a Hague Conference early in 1905.

London, Sept. ---.

The Irish Reforms Association New League, composed of leading Irish Unionists, of which Lord Dunraven is President and which aims at a greater measure of Self-Government, has drafted a scheme, amounting to administrative Home Rule, providing that the Irish expenditure of six millions annually to be entrusted to special Irish Semi-elective Financial Council, also for the creation of a special representative body to deal with purely Irish business. The scheme has created much interest.

London, Sept. 29.

Messrs. Hooley and Lawson, who were out on bail of six thousand pounds, have each been committed for trial.

London, Sept. 29.

Father Patronius is appointed Bishop of Allahabad.

London, Sept. 29.

A recent census of British South Africa shows a general increase in the white population, also a corresponding increase in natives.

London, Sept. 29.

It is understood that Lord Kitchener's Staff College scheme despite opposition in certain quarters is likely to be sanctioned shortly.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

Allahabad, Sept. 30.

The Amir of Kabu has dul observed the anniversary of his father's death in September, the Mullahs being duly feasted.

Allahabad, Sept. 30.

Withdrawal of troops and surulus stores from line of communication in Tibet is proceeding and arrangements are working well.

Allahabad, Sept. 30.

Officers of Indian Medical Service in Civil employ will be glad to learn that a despatch containing details of proposals of the India Government regarding their increased pay has at last been sent to the State Secretary for approval. The delay, originally, arose owing to necessity for consultation with the local governments. So long as a retrospective effect is given to changes made no great harm will have been done.

Allahabad, Sept. 30.

His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda arrived here by the Bombay Mail this morning and will stay here till Monday next, if not Sunday, when he starts for Calcutta.

Simla, Sept. 30.

The following are the names and designations of the Officers deputed by the Railways to attend as delegates at the meetings of the Indian Railway Conference Association, to be held at Simla on the 3rd of November and followingdays;—Mr. A. Todd, Acting Maager, Jodhpoe-Bikanir Railway; Mr. A. P. Burst, Manager, Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway; Mr. Robb, Manager, Rohilkhand-Kumaon Railway; Lot-Col. Burn-Murdoch, Agent, South, Indian Railway; Mr. S. Finney, Manager, North-Western Railway; Mr. W. C. Hickie, Manager, B. G. J.P. Railway; Mr. W. Pendlebury, Agent, Nizam's Railway; Mr. F. F. Smith, Agent, Sou Indian Railway; Col.-Olivier, Agent, B. B. and C. I. Railway; Mr. J. Douglas, Agent, E. I. Railway; Mr. R. Todd, Manager, Udaipur-Chitor Railway; Major Bonham-Carter, Agent, Madras Railway; Mr. E. A. Neville, Agent, B. N. and W. Railway; Mr. J. Manson, E. B. S. Railwa; Mr .H. Wenden, Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway; Mr. C. H. Windle, Calcutta Port Trust Railway; Mr. H. B. Huddleston, Burma Railway Mr. A M. Clarke, Bengal Nagpur Railway; Mr. James Stuart, Assam-Bengal Railway; Among other Officers to attend are Messrs. A. V. J. Pope, Oudh and Rohilkand Railway C. J. Keene, North-Western Railway; T. J. McCloughin, South Indian Railway; C. I. Railway; G. Huddleston, E. I. Railway; R. Greenall, Madras Railway; A. Bagnall B. N. and W. Railway; A. Muirhad, G. I. P. Railway and I. Woods, Assam-Bengal Railway

Simla, Sept. 30.

Colonel Younghusband has reached Gyantse in advance of the mission, having made the journey from Lhassa to that place in six days. He spends two days in Darjiling and reaches Simla on the 14th October to make his report to the Government of India. From Gyantse, an exploring party, under Captain Rawlins, will proceed, via Shigatse, into Western Tibet, whence it will make its way to Simla by the Hindustan Tibet Road. This will enable the country to be examined, which is at present exceedingly little known, and will afford an opportunity for ascertaining the possibilities of Western Tibet as regard trade.

Lucknow, Sept. 27.

A representative meeting of Mohamedans of Lucknow, convened on Sunday last, formally invited the Mohamedan Educational Conference to hold its next session in Lucknow and formed an executive committee to take the preliminary steps of forming an organised body to carry on the business connected therewith. Prince Fakhfur Mirza Bahadur occupied the chair. Among others present were the Raja of Nanpara, the Raja of Salimpur, Sheikh Raza Hussain Khan, and Sheikh Inayet Ullah. An Aligarh correspondent wires to-day that the Central Standing Committee of the Mohamedan Anglo-Oriental Conference have accepted the Lucknow invitation, and that the conference will be held here during the last week of December.

The Tibet Expedition

Simla, Sept. 28.

The following telegram has been received from General Macdonald:—Lhassa— September 23rd, 5 p.m.—Four Tibetans, who were bringing parcels for the Mission, sent under their own private arrangements with 5 ponies from Gyantse, were found killed at the south entrance to Karo-La Pass on the 15th, supposed to have been done by bandits of the disbanded soldiers. Two men have been captured who were found in a side nullah with the ponies, and are suspected of being concerned in the deed. The force marches this morning for the ferry over the Brahmaputra, where it should arrive on the 27th. Several cases of mumps are reported from a detachment of the 40th Pathans at Nangartse; otherwise the health of the force is good, and the enteric cases here are doing well. The Chinese Amban and the Tibetan officials paid us farewell visits on the afternoon of the 22nd.

Quetta, Sept. 30.

A Darbar was held to-day in the Sandiman Memorial Hall by the Hon. Colonel Yate. It was most numerously attended by natives and Europeans alike, because it is the last occasion when he will preside in the Darbar in Baluchistan. The ladies also attended in large numbers. After reading his speech, the Hon. Colonel Yate proceeded to invest Khan Bahadur Burjorji, D.G., Patel, Hon. First Class Magistrate and Municipal Commissioner with the insignia of C.I.E., expressing his extreme pleasure at being the medium of presentation, an hoping that the recipient would live long to enjoy the distinc n. Then Mr. T. Hughes, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Chageh, and Nushki was decorated with the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal for good work done during the season. Thereafter many sardars, maliks, and native officials were presented with dresses of honor, several whereof were donned there and then by the recipients who created much amusement. In the evening the Hon. Colonel Yate gave a garden party on the Residency beautiful grounds to some four hundred sardars, headmen, native gentlemen and native officers of the regiments in garrison. Many European officers, Civil and Military were present, including Sir Archibald Hunter and General Smith Dorrien, and Major Showers, C.I.E.

The Political Agent of Kalat and Southern Baluchistan goes on long leave shortly, and will be succeeded by Major A. McConaghey, at present acting as Political Agent of Quetta in the Peshin Dis...

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAM.

Simla, Sept. 30.

Pressure is still low at the base of the Central Himalayas, and winds are in consequence westerly in the United Provinces. Winds are irregular in Bengal, and there is a very little inflow of most air into North-East India. A few local falls of rain are reported from Burma, East Bengal and Southern India. Mandalay, Madura and Calicut report 1½ inches, Tezpur 1, and Toungoo, Bhamo, Sijchar, Kodaikanal and Wellington half an inch. The weather in Kashmir has changed, and light falls of rain are reported from some stations, while skies are cloudy at all of them. It is snowing at Dras this morning. Temperature has continued above the normal in Sind, the North-West Frontier Province, West and Central Punjab, Deccan, and a greater part of Bengal, and was lower than usual in the the west of the Central Provinces. Local rain is probable the next 24 hours in Burma Assam, East Bengal and South of the Peninsula, and thundershowers are likely in the Kashmir, Himalayas and adjacent submontane districts.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

Colombo, Sept. 29.

The Japanese have captured a Russian fort on a high hill two miles east of Golden Hill. It is expected they will be able to remain in this fort owing to the poor quality of the powder which the Russians are using in their guns.

The work of tunnelling under the Russian forts is proving slow and arduous.

The strength of the Garrison of Port Arthur, exclusive of sailors, is 34,000. The sick and wounded number 20,000.

Telegrams from Mukden state that the Japanese are advancing from the east, south-east and south-west. Constant skirmishes are taking place.

General Mistchenks, commanding the Russian vanguard, is retiring before the Japanese. Thirty-six of his wounded have arrived at Mukden.

Colombo, Sept. 29.

Mr. Bennett Burleigh telegraphs that, after their occupation of Mukden and Saghalien the Japanese will be prepared to accept peace on the following terms:—The Russian to pay an indemnity of £100,000,000; all the Russian ships in Chinese waters to be transferred to Japan; formation of an international syndicate to work the Manchurian Railway on commercial lines.

Colombo, Sept. 29.

The Czar informed Prince Louis of Battenburg on the occasion of the Czarevitch's christening, that the war against Japan would continue while there was one Russian soldier or a single Russian rouble left.

It is officially announced that the Japanese casualties from August 26th, number 16,539, comprising General Kuroki's losses 4,866, General Nodzu's 4,962, and General Oku's 7,681; including 136 Japanese officers killed and 464 wounded.

It is understood at St. Petersburg that Admiral Alexeieff has tendered his resignation.

Among the Japanese reinforcements hurrying north, included among the officers is the Mikado's brother.

Two Japanese Naval officers employed in a Commercial House at St. Petersburg who had joined the Greek Church, were arrested as spies, compromising documents being found in their possession.

Colombo, Sept. 29.

Russia has ordered twenty-five submarines from an American firm.

Colombo, Sept. 29.

Dr. Westwater, an eminent Scotch Missionary, has been stabbed at Liaoyang by the Japanese, who were looting food stores.

London, Sept. 20.

Mr. Bennett Burleigh telegraphs, that, after the occupation of Mukden and Saghalien, the Japanese will be prepared to accept peace on the following basis:—Russia to pay an indemnity of £100,000,000; all Russian ships in Chinese waters to be transferred to Japan; the formation of an International Syndicate to work the Manchurian Railway on commercial lines.

The "Daily Mail" states that Lloyds will shortly pay a million sterling for sea losses due to the seizure of vessels.

Reuter's correspondent at Liaoyang says that the fighting around Shinshan was indescribably deadly, the dead lay touching one another for a thousand feet, covering the approaches of the Russian fort. The Japanese officers with sword pricks forced the fainting troops to advance.

The "Times" correspondent with Oku declares that the Russians commit the cardinal error of over-manning the defensive positions. Though the Japanese Infantry are the finest in the world, they over-rely on the sledge hammer of frontal attacks.

Mr. Bennett Burleigh declares that the battle of Liaoyang included the fiercest artillery attack in the history of warfare. He states that the Japanese fired daily tens of thousands of shells and that their supplies seemed inexhaustible. The half of Kuropatkin's troops fiercely assailed General Kuroki in trying to cut between him and General Nodzu. For two days the Japanese position was precarious. Only Oku's magnificent assaults saved the situation. The bloodiest encounters took place around Yenai, which was the key to the Russian position. The Japanese stormed one of the enemy's heights with bayonet held in position. Despite heavy losses, the Russians at night with reckless bravery gained the summit where a prolonged bayonet fighting resulted in the Russian defeat with appalling losses. At the same time, the Japanese attacked the Russian batteries. Ultimately the Russian gunners, by means of electrical devices, ascertained the exact position. Their assailants moved them down in swathes; one battalion was annihilated, the men dying in heaps before the guns. Mr. Burleigh reports that the Japanese losses at Liaoyang were nearer 30,000 than 17,000. He also adds that the Japanese secretly, but strongly hold all districts along the Liao river up to Sinminting, while large bodies of Chunchuses are cutting off the Russian stragglers and preparing to operate north of Mukden. The Russians were so confident of victory as to Liaoyang that the Cafe Chantant women remained till the battle was half finished. The strength of the garrison at Port Arthur, exclusive of sailors, were 34,000 sick, and wounded 20,000.

Baron Komara, Japan's Foreign Minister, has addressed a circular to the Powers, stating that the Japanese intention, when Port Arthur will be captured, is to transfer the Liaotung Peninsular to China to become an open port.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Calcttua and Mofussil.

Eastern Bengal Railway Surveys.—We hear that a new survey traversing Dechu and the Teesta Valley will be undertaken shortly. A senior Engineer will shortly be posted to this work.—"I Engineering."

Tables Turned.—Sometime ago, a woman named Kunjoo complained before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, that her sister's daughter Ganoda who had some ornaments on her person had been kidnapped by another woman. The Court ordered the Police to inquire into the matter at the first instance. On Thursday the Police submitted a report to the effect that the case was a false one. The Court called the complainant woman Kunjoo and examined. She said that she had no witnesses. The Court then ordered her prosecution under section 211 I.P.C. The hearing of the case was fixed to the 6th proximo.

Alleged Assault by a "Shaheb."—On Friday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, I.C.S., Chief Presidency Magistrate, Babu Khetter Mohan Dutt appeared on behalf of a man named Khedoo, against one Mr. Acatoo, for having as alleged, assaulted the complainant with a horse whip, leaving marks on his person. The allegations were that the applicant was employed as metter in the same house in which the defendant lived. It was alleged that he had caused some annoyance to the wife of the defendant. On this, the defendant assaulted the man. The Court after hearing the facts and examining the complainant, ordered the issue of a summons against the defendant.

Killing a Brother.—Early Thursday morning a shocking murder was committed at Joynagore under the following painful circumstances. Gonesh Chander Das and Lackhon Chander Das, two brothers and rich landholders of the locality had several litigations between them over the partition of their ancestral properties situated at Joynagore. Day before yesterday (Wednesday) Lackhon gained a suit against his brother, and a fresh altercation ensued between them when Gonesh being much enraged struck his brother with a lathi, fractured his skull and caused his instantaneous death.The murderer was arrested and will shortly be placed on his trial.

Financial Department.—Mr. A. E. Burrup, 2nd Assistant Collector of Customs, Calcutta is allowed privilege leave for three months. Mr. A. Wolferstan, 3rd Assistant Collector of Customs, Calcutta, is appointed to act as 2nd Assistant Collector of Customs, Calcutta. Mr. F. W. Newton Senior Appraiser, Calcutta Custom House, is appointed to act as 3rd Assistant Collector of Customs Calcutta. The Civil Medical Officer of Kurseong is appointed to be an ex-officio Member of the Branch Road Committee, Kurseong. Mr. Edmund Canning Manager Amboottia Tea Estate, is appointed to be a member of the Branch Road Committee, Kurseong.

Alleged Assault on a Footpath Inspector.—On Friday, before Moulvi Bazal Karim, third Magistrate, the police charged three Mohamedans with having assaulted a Footpath Inspector, Mr. Aratoon. The facts of the case, as alleged are these. A tandem and a four wheeled brake belonging to the defendants were standing in Mulanga Lane obstructing the thoroughfare. Mr. Aratoon wanted to take the carriages to the Municipal Office, according to the recent Corporation Rules regarding obstructions of Footpaths. The defendant did not allow him to do his duty but pushed him and turned him away. The police were informed and they arrested the defendants. Babus Momoj Mohan Bose and Asutosh Seal appeared for the defence. The case was adjourned to the 3rd proximo.

The Sikh Temple Case.—Before a Bench of Honorary Presidency Magistrates the Sikh Temple case was disposed of in which Babu Raghubir Singh, a trustee, appointed by the High Court, of the Tara Singh Sanghat, charged Gangeswar Singh, Raghubir Singh and three others, with causing hurt to the complainant. The first defendant was sentenced to fourteen days' rigorous imprisonment and was also bound down in the sum of Rs. 200 to keep the peace for two years. The other defendants were fined Rs. 25 each and bound down in the sum of Rs. 50 each for one year to keep the peace. The cross-case in which the complainant and others were charged with trespass and causing hurt to the defendants was dismissed. The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose and Babu Tarak Nath Sadhu appeared for Raghubir Singh and Mr. P. Mitter, Bar-at-law, and others represented the other party.

Assam Crop Report.—The following is the Report on the state and prospects of the crops in Assam for the week ending the 20th September:—Slight to moderate rain has fallen in all districts, except Kamrup, where rain is wanted for late rice. More rain is wanted for tea in Upper Assam. Harvesting of early rice nearly finished. Transplanting of late rice, plucking and manufacture of tea and cutting of jute are in progress. Tea prospects are generally fair, but Cachar reports blight and scarcity of leaf in several gardens. Outturn of early rice indifferent in Lower Assam; fair in other districts. Prospects of late rice are fair and of jute poor; cotton and sugarcane crops promise well, especially in the Surma Valley. Cattle-disease is prevalent in five districts. Prices of common rice are:—Sylhet 17, Dhubri 16, Silchar 15, Tezpur 14, and Gauhati, Nowgong, Sibsagar, and Dibrugarh 15

A Buxar Sensation.—A correspondent writes from Buxar:—The other day, a petition, signed by a number of the residents of Chousa, a village in the Sub-division of Buxar, District Shahabad, was sent to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, embodying something against a member of the Local Board of Buxar, who has been lately appointed an Honorary Magistrate of the Independent Bench of Buxar. The sum and substance of the contents of the petition is said to be that the said Hony. Magistrate has no estensible means of subsistence and whose status is not such as to entitle him to a place on the Bench. Nothing was known of this petition until lately when the Hony. Magistrate made a complaint to Mr. F. M. Luce, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Buxar accusing two zemindars of Chousa of having made an offer of tribe to him. These two men are charged under sections 109 and 161 I.P.C. and the case comes off for hearing on the 1st of October. Since the institution of the case, there has been a great sensation among the people of the town.

Municipal and Local.—Mr. W. Griffin is appointed to be a Commissioner of the Bally Municipality, in the district of Howrah, vice Mr. W. D. Grozier, resigned. Babu Bhikari Charan Das is appointed to be a member of the Khurda Local Board, in the district of Puri, vice Babu Chandra Sekher Mukherjee resigned. The following gentlemen are appointed to be members of the Gopalganj Local Board, in the district of Saran:—The Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collector Messrs. W. Mackenzie, J. Mackinnon, H. Russell, C. C. Clare, Babus Deo Narain Singh, Beni Madhab Barat, and Janki Prosad. The following gentlemen are appointed to be members of the Siwan Local Board, in the district of Saran:—The Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Siwan The Sub-Registrar, Siwan Messrs. M. Hutchins, R. S Lockhart, J. E. Rutherford, E. W. Hooley, Babu Kishun Sahay, and Maulvi Shaikh Mozhar Hossain. Babu Lall Gobind Sing is appointed to be a Commissioner of the Madhubani Municipality, in the district of Darbhanga, vice Babu Baldeo Sahai, deceased. Babu Ram Gulam Singh is appointed to be a member of the District Board of Champaran, vice Babu Ginwardhari Lal, resigned.

Honorary Magistrates.—The following gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Benches mentioned opposite their names:—Maulvi Muhammed Amir, Motihari Independent Bench, in the district of Champaran. Babu Harihar Mukherjee, Independent Bench at Supaul, in the district of Bhagalpur. Babus Tripura Charan Bhatta, Annada Mohon Rai Chowdhuri, Mritunjoy Rai Chowdhuri, Monindra Chandra Rai Chowdhuri, Sadar Independent Bench, in the district of Rangpur. Maulvi Abdul Hamid, Gaibanda Independent Bench, in the district of Rangpur. Maulvi Syed Abdul Jabbar, Sadar Independent Bench, in the district of Tippera. Babu Narayani Prasad, Independent Bench at Sitamarhi, in the district of Muzaffarpur. Babu Ramji Prasad, Sadar Independent Bench, in the district of Gaya. Maulvi Syed Mayunat Hossein and Mr. Tilakdhari Lal, Sadar Independent Bench, in the district of Bhagalpur. Babu Prasanna Kumar Seal, Independent Bench at Narail in the district of Jessore. Khajeh Mahamed Afzal, Sadar Independent Bench, in the district of Dacca. Babu Binayak Das Acharjea Choudhuri, Sadar Independent Bench, in the district of Mymensingh. Mr. Ernest Bryning Clair Smith, and Babu Kali Das Mitra, Purulia Independent Bench, in the district of Manbhum.

Subordinate Educational Service.—Babu Ram Gopal Mukerjea, a Sub-Inspector of Schools under the District Board of Midnapore has been granted by the Board combined leave for six months. Babu Surendra Nath Roy, M.A., is appointed, on probation for one year, to be Assistant Head Master of the Ranchi Training School. Miss Catherine Weingartner is appointed to act as an Assistant Mistress in the Dow Hill Girls' School, Kurseong, on a salary of Rs. 60 a month, vice Miss M.A. Haughton, resigned. The following arrangements are sanctioned with effect from the 25th October the date on which the offices re-open after the Puja holidays:—Babu Umesh Chandra Chatterjea, Head Clerk, Hooghly College to be an Assistant in the office of Director of Public Instrustion, vice Babu Hari Charan Chatterjea, transferred. Babu Hari Charan Chatterjea, an Assistant in the office of Director of Public Instruction on leave, to be Head Clerk office of the Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Division, vice Babu Sarat Chandra Mukerjea, transferred. Babu Sarat Chandra Mukerjea, Head Clerk, office of the Inspector of Schools, Burdwan Division (class VII), to be Head Clerk, Hooghly College, vice Babu Umesh Chandra Chatterjea, transferred. Babu Pramatha Nath Roy, a Clerk in the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur is appointed to be Head Clerk, Rajshahi College, vice Babu Raksha Kali Sil, transferred. Babu Raksha Kali Sil, Head Clerk, Rajshahi College is appointed to be Head Clerk, Calcutta Madrasah, vice Babu Sris Chandra Roy, transferred. Babu Sris Chandra Roy, B.A., Head Clerk, Calcutta Madrasah is appointed to be a Clerk in the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, vice Babu Pramatha Nath Ray, transferred. Babu Bhairab Chandra Datta, B.A., an Assistant Master in the Puri Zilla School is appointed to act as Assistant Head Master of the same school vice Babu Mohendra Nath Datta, on leave. Babu Kali Kamal Chatterjea, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Dinajpur is allowed leave of absence for one month.

MALABAR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Calicut, Sept. 25.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

A Panian was tried on a charge of having murdered his wife. The accused was convicted and sentenced to undergo six years' rigorous imprisonment.—A Tiya youth was put on his trial for having murdered a blindman, and was sentenced to be hanged. The accused pleaded sudden provocation. The deceased had criminal intimacy with the accused's wife, and one day while the accused was under the influence of liquor, hot words passed between the two, when the latter killed the deceased.—In a case of dacoity in which eleven accused were sent up for trial by the Stationary Magistrate of Calicut, eight of the accused were convicted and sentenced to various terms of rigorous imprisonment.

WHAT IS RIGHT?

During the trial of a theft case at the recent Sessions the owner of the lost property, when he was examined, deposed that, he was not present at the searuh. But the search-list prepared by the Police, had the signature of the owner. Our Judge expressed his wonder at this. He ordered the Inspector, who was present there, to report the matter to the D. P. C.

BRUTAL ASSAULT ON A GIRL.

A Goudan youth of Manontody, Calicut, was accused of committing rape upon a girl of ten. The Police failed to find out the accused till the accused himself appeared before the Magistrate with his Counsel. The Magistrate granted adjournment as prayed by the Counsel, but bail was disallowed. The case will be heard on the 28th instant.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

The reader may remember that a Warrior of Palghat was sent to prison for a certain offence. He was released from jail 3 or 4 days after the expiry of his term of imprisonment. Now, who is responsible for this grave mistake?

Corporation of Calcutta.

The adjourned Special meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The Hon'ble Mr. F. G. H. Allen, Acting Chairman of the Corporation, presided and there were about thirty-five Commissioners present.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

Further discussions on the report of the Special Committee which was appointed to consider the Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation were resumed

THE HON'BLE MR. K. G. GUPTA.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. G. Gupta, I.C.S, moved as an amendment to Mr. Apcar's motion, that the amended Review be adopted as the Review by the Corporation of the Chairman's Annual Administration Report for the year 1903-04.

The Hon. Moulvi Serajul Islam seconded the amendment.

MR. SHIRLEY TREMEARNE.

Mr. Shirley Tremearne said:—Mr. K. G. Gupta holds, and deservedly so, a high position in the Civil Service of this country and therefore any proposition that emanates from him is deserving of our careful consideration. But his connection with this Municipality has been of very recent date and his visits to our meetings like those of angels, few and far between. The annual administration report which is now before us deals with a period when Mr. Gupta had no connection whatever with this Municipality and I cannot but think that he would have been better advised if he had abstained from an active interference in a debate upon a matter with which really he had no concern. The member of the Board of Revenue who sits here as a Municipal Commissioner holds a watching brief on behalf of the Government he represents. He would naturally be consulted by the Lieutenant Governor in any action he might take regarding the Municipality, and it seems to me that it is very desirable that he should keep a clear mind upon the subject. So far as I can gather from Mr. Gupta's precis and a very [illegible] of the very ample review of the five very experienced commissioners, who were chosen by this Corporation to draw it up. I am not aware that any body has asked Mr. Gupta to favour us with a review and naturally if the Government want a report from him they will be always able to obtain one. Mr. Gupta, however, has apparently considerable courage and has not hesitated to rush in where angels might well fear to tread. We all know that a very distinguished citizen of ours Dr. D. Gupta has invented a mixture for the removal of fever which has conferred a great boon on suffering humanity and also put money in his pocket. Our Mr. Gupta apparently has invented a Government whitewash for sick Municipalities which removes the blame for their sickness from the responsible executive and transfers it to God knows who. The great difference and, in fact, I may say, the only difference, between Mr. Gupta's review and that of the experienced Commissioners lies in the last paragraph. The Committee recommend certain very drastic changes, which as I have already mentioned, I am not prepared to accept off hand, as a remedy for the admittedly unsatisfactory state of the Municipality, while Mr. Gupta in the approved Government style proposes that the responsible executive should receive some acknowledgment. I was under the impression that Mr. Greer had already obtained a C. S. I. Mr. Gupta does not state the form that acknowledgment should receive, but perhaps a K. C. S. I. conferred on the most inefficient officer and a few C. S. Is, and C. I. E.'s, showered upon others, one of which might fall on Mr. Gupta, would perhaps meet the exigencies of the case.

Now, having said this I can only further remark that Mr. Gupta's review is quite sufficient to utterly damn the administration of the Municipality. India has been called the "Land of Regrets" and I never felt the saying so borne in upon me as in reading Mr. Gupta's review, for in every other paragraphs almost occurs the remark "it is to be regretted, or we regret." Regrets are expressed about the General Fund, the Cemeteries, the Conservancy, the Slaughter Houses, and various other departments, and where regret is not expressed the statement is made that fuller information should have been given, or hope that a reformation would be carried out. And it is impossible to read this review, which as I have already said, is only the larger review boiled down, without feeling that from the mouth of one of the most responsible Government officers has proceeded one of the most scathing indictments of matters municipal which I have ever had occasion to read.

MR. BERTRAM.

Mr. Bertram said—I shall not, I hope detain the Commissioners too long with the remarks I have to offer on the Review which in itself is so plain and clear. At the outset I maintain that the Acting Chairman, having made so many admissions that the past year's administration has been faulty, the Corporation cannot throw out the Review as a whole for while in some cases he has done his best to refute the allegations of the Special Committee, he admits there are many points in which he agrees with them.

No person or institution should take objection to fair and open criticism, when it is not of a captious or carping nature. The Acting Chairman has stated our criticisms are unfair. That is open to argument. It all depends on the point of view.

The Acting Chairman makes the complaint that the "unfairness" consists in having singled out one year for condemnation, implying that the Corporation have had previous opportunities but have remained silent, and indicating that if attention had been drawn to fruits before they would have been amended. This complaint of the Acting Chairman will hardly bear investigation as I shall presently point out.

I submit the Special Committee have made all their points, though the concluding paragraph has been taken strong objection to in many quarters, and, even it is deleted, the Review loses none of its force

The more light which is thrown on the inner working of the Calcutta Corporation, the better it is for the Corporation. We require powerful X-rays to find out the broken bones and fractures within the body Municipal.

You have heard messages from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Calcutta Trades Association delivered by their accredited representatives supporting the conclusions of the Special Committee, except as to the last paragraph.

Mr. Phelps on behalf of the Calcutta Trades Association, wants "reform not revolution," while Mr. Tremearne, on behalf of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, keeps an open mind. What does this all infer, that the late administration of the affairs of the Corporation by the Executive has not given that satisfaction the citizens of Calcutta have the right to expect.

Rightly or wrongly it is held "all is not well with us." Scandals which should no be are the common talk of the town.

The citizens do not get full value for the enormous sums expended. The Acting Chairman cannot deny this statement; indeed he acknowledges it as so. The 4th paragraph of the Introduction of the Special Committee's Review discloses a most unsatisfactory condition of things and it behoves the Head of the Executive to see that the provisions of the law to which the Government of India has lately drawn attention should be scrupulously and strictly obeyed.

If the Review of your Special Committee has done nothing else it has pointed out defects which call for immediate attention and reform.

The reception the Review has met with at the hands of the public and the Press shows it has hit the nail on the head.

The Acting Chairman has made reference to its being the first of its kind; it is so. In 1901 the Review was a farce, in 1902 the Review was little better, so far as after results went; in 1903 it was admittedly a compromise, and the Hon. Mr. C. E. Buckland in introducing it said so.

The return to the "unfairness" of the Special Committee, regarding which the Acting-Chairman has done his best to make a strong point, and in justice to those members of the Special Committee who have been on the Corporation since the new Act came into force, I should like to mention that Mr. Apcar on more than one occasion, and also Mr. Braunfeld in 1900 and in 1901, both pressed for a Review but unsucessfully. From the first Mr. Apcar wished to have the chance of criticising the work of the year in a Review and realised the advantage to the Corporation if this could be done. It was in 1900 when Mr. Bright was Chairman and when the first Annual Administration Report was mentioned, Mr. Apcar contended there should be a Review. Mr. Bright held that all that was necessary was to discuss the Report in meeting. In 1901 Mr. Apcar was in Europe but in 1902 he again insisted on the necessity of a "Review." This was brushed aside by Mr. Greer, but the Government resolution pointed out that Mr. Apcar was quite right. Apparently Government would no longer stand this obvious disregard of the law, and when the matter came up in 1903 before the Corporation Dr. Ashutosh Mookerjee was put up to move for a Special Committee to review the Chairman's Report on the Administration for 1902-3.

The Adjourned Special Meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held on Thursday the Corporation, presided and there were about 34 Commissioners present.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT.

Further discussion on the report of the Special Committee, which was appointed to review the Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, was resumed.

Babu Radha Charian Pal supported the motion for the adoption of the Review of the Special Committee.

The Chairman said:—

It is much to be regretted that the Special Committee appointed to consider the Corporation's Review of the Chairman's Report was not of a representative character. No doubt the members of the Committee were able critics, but they cannot be said to represent this Corporation as a whole, any more than a Committee composed exclusively of Government officials would represent it. The appointment of Committee is a matter which requires more attention at the hands of the Commissioners and the object should be in each case to secure the representation upon the Committee of the different views held by different sections of the Corporation. In the House of Commons particular attention is paid to this point, and it would not be possible for instance that a Committee appointed to consider the administration of Ireland should be composed entirely of Home Rulers with a Winston Churchill thrown in to contribute a spice of exaggeration to the Report. Had the Special Committee been so constituted as to be representative of the Corporation as a whole, its Report would probably have been free from the blemishes which disfigure the report of the Special Committee and it would have presented a draft review which could have been accepted by the Corporation.

The Chairman then commented upon the observations made by the commissioners in support of the motion for the adoption of the Review,

Mr. K. G. Gupta's amendment which was "that the enclosed amended Review be adopted as the Review by the Corporation of the Chairman's Annual Administration Report for the year 1903-04," was then put to the vote with he result that 19 voted for and 12 against the amendment.

DEATH OF A CHILD.

STUNG BY HORNETS TO DEATH.

The "Pratikar" of Murshidabad reports a case of a very sad death of a two-year old child at Berhampur. Dr. Manmatha Nath Ray, L.M.S., lives in a house in Kishory Ghose's Lane and Ram Saran Tewari, the father of the unfortunate child, lives close by it. There was a hornet's nest in a house of Dr. Ray's at which somebody pelted a stone. Maddened at this, the hornets in a body sallied forth out of their nest and mercilessly attacked and stung the child, who unfortunately happened to pass by it at the time, from all imaginable quarters. This happened at 4 o'clock in the afternoon and the poor thing breathed his last at 12 at night! From the time it was thus stung the child rolled on the ground in excruciating pain, moaned and groaned piteously, and drank water every now and then till relentless Pluto claimed it as his own at the ominous hour of midnight. Its grand-mother, who, while the child was surrounded by the dreadful creatures, tried to rescue it, was also stung by these dreadful insects, but narrowly escaped death after being unconscious for a whole day and night. Rare as such painful and pitiful death is it makes one's hairs stand on their ends to think of it.

The Ports of Porebunder and Salaya in Kathiawar have been declared to be infected with plague, and the plague regulations will be enforced in the ports of Orissa and Chittagong against vessels arriving from that port. The regulations for the prevention of the introduction of plague by sea imposed in the ports of Orissa and Chittagong against vessels arriving from Hong-kong have been withdrawn.

INDIAN NOTES.

RAT EXTERMINATOR.

In July last the Madras Government requested Mr. J. P. Bedford, Special Plagu Officer, to state whether he had any information as to the special rat poison used in the Kolar Gold Fields, called the "Common-Sense Rat Exterminator," and whether he would advise an experiment being made with it at Illithorai, in the Nilgiri District. Lieut-Colonel King Sanitary Commissioner, states that there can be no doubt of its efficacy, and it has an advantage not heard of as being shared by other poisons, that squirrels will also partake of it. Mr. Bedford reported as follows:—The poison seems to be very effective, and I would decidedly recommend the experiment being tried under personal European supervision. The Government have asked the Collector of the Nilgiris to communicate, in due course, through the Sanitary Commissioner, the results of the experiments conducted with this rat poison at Illithorai.

THE PUNJAB LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The statistics of the Punjab Lunatic Asylum, Lahore, for the year 1903, show that the increase which has been noted during the last three years has been continued during the year under report. This fact, the report states, must not necessarily be taken to indicate a general increase in lunacy in the Province, but rather to the existence of a big Lunatic Asylum and to a better knowledge of its benefits. The percentage of criminal lunatics still remains very high, the daily average being 107.60. The new admissions under the head Mania (97) were high. In 1902 they were 79. The 49 returned has recovered is satisfactory being five in excess of the figure for the preceding year. The discharges (as recovered), it will be seen from Statement No. VII, were in 21 instances of men admitted from physical causes (eating drinking, and smoking of drugs, etc), and is only six from moral causes (grief, etc). In as many as 22 instances the cause of insanity was unknown. Most of the admissions, as far as the causes were known, were on account of "charas"-smoking 19, grief 13, use of "bhang" 9, epilepsy 9 and congenital 7. The amount received from paying patients is somewhat less (by Rs. 318) than in 1902, but this is chiefly due to there being still two amounts outstanding as arrears, which should have been received during the year.

A JEALOUS HUSBAND.

A case is now being tried in the Sessions Court, Bellary, before Mr. A.T. Forbes, Sessions Judge, in which one B. Muthyalu, of the village of Rawarajapathy, is charged with the murder of his wife, on the 1st July last. The facts of the case are briefly as follows:—Deceased was married to the accused about six years ago, and for some time after they lived on terms of intimacy. About two months ago, deceased, who was up to this staying in her parents' house, went to her husband's house to be present at the marriage ceremony of his brother, where she remained for a fortnight. During this time accused suspected his wife of having spoken to one of his brothers, and subsequently threatened to kill her. After going back for two months, accused never visited his wife, but, just before the murder, he came over and remained with her for three days. After his stay of the first day, deceased told her mother that she feared being killed, as her husband suspected her of infidelity. The mother consoled her and told her not to be afraid. On the night of the murder, the deceased, her father, and his children were sleeping on the verandah of the house. Accused came late at night and asked the father to go inside with the children, which he did. Deceased was fast asleep when her husband lay down beside her. Early in the morning, the woman was found dead and her head weltering in blood. The accused was arrested in a date tope two days after. A "post mortem" examination was held by the Civil Apothecary, who gave it as his opinion that death was caused from fracture of the skull, due to violence, and having regard to the injuries, deceased could not have called out. The accused in his statement says that the parents of his wife committed the murder to foist a case on him, as he threatened to marry again. He alleges that he did not abscond, and that he was arrested in the village itself. The case is proceeding.

THE PUNJAB STAMP REPORT.

The Punjab Stamp Report states that the rise of nearly a lakh of rupees in the gross receipts is divided in fairly even proportion between the Stamp Act and the Court Fees Act. The increase in the sales of judicial stamps for the Province, as a whole, is insignificant. The general impression of District Officers is that litigation has increased; the correctness of this opinion is doubtful, and plague has produced the reverse effect in some districts, e. g., in Ludhiana and Sialkot, and there is also a marked decrease in sales of judicial stamps in Kangra, which the Deputy Commissioner attributes to the operation of the Land Alienation Act. From Amritsar and Mianwali it is stated that the Act causes money-lenders to have recourse to the Courts by preventing them from obtaining private settlements by sale or mortgage of land. The rise in Amritsar is only 6½ and in Mianwali only 5 per cent. on the figures of the preceding year. The increase from Rs. 1,48,310 to Rs. 1,59,616 on account of one anna receipt stamps is very noticeable. Though special circumstances must have contributed to this sudden rise there is undoubtedly a growing acquaintance with the law regarding receipt stamps which tends to the steady development of this branch of revenue. The Amritsar District reports that the agriculturist money-lender who does a large proportion of the loan business there keeps no account-book, and therefore uses fewer, receipt stamps and more impressed stamps. Even here, however, there is a very large increase in the income from one anna receipt stamps. The miscellaneous receipts in column 12 are due on account of deficient stamp duty, fines and penalities. They have risen largely and are more than double what they were in 1901-02, a fact which apparently indicates closer attention on the part of the local Courts and officers to the requirements of the Stamp law. Ludhiana, Ferozepore, Amritsar and Guzranwalla show particularly large increases. Statement V. shows that the Court dealt with 2,755 cases against

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE BATTLE OF LIAOYANG.

A DRAMATIC ACCOUNT.

London, Sept. 10.

"The Times" correspondent with General Oku's army has furnished that journal with a dramatic account of the Japanese assaults on August 30th and 31 on the heights south of Liaoyang and of the subsequent fighting.

The heights south of Liaoyang he describes as five Gibraltar-like rocks, which were defended by barbed wire entaglements, loop-holed structures, and sunken pits studded with sharp spikes.

After a heavy cannonade by 160 field pieces and 60 howitzers, the Japanese, in a groups of twelve, advanced through standing crops of millet to the inferno awaiting them.

Again and again they were repulsed with harrowing slaughter by the Russians' enfilading fire, which swept each rush away.

A night attack similarly failed, except that the Japanese 5th division captured formidable position on the Russian left.

Seventy out of every hundred Pioneers were killed while hacking away the Russian entanglements with axes.

By a tragic mishap, a Japanese shell fire drove these gallant stormers from their position and filled the Russian trenches with Japanese dead.

General Kuroki's failure after five days' fighting, to make perceptible progress, compelled Generals Oku and Nodzu to persevere.

On the 31st the 5th Japanese Division crept through acres of millet towards the Russian left, in total disregard of a tremendous artillery fire, and several explosions of ground mines.

Ultimately successive rushes at the entanglements on the crest of the hill, with the bursting of dozens of Snimoshi shells in support, forced the Russians to retreat.

Nevertheless, the main bastion was still secure.

No Japanese were able to live within 500 yards of Russian rifles.

The groups of Japanese emerging from the growing corn were so numerous as to be comparable only to swarming bees, but they were all swept back.

General Oku ordered a third general assault on the night of August 31st bringing up powerful reserve for the purpose.

This was the third assault in twenty-four hours.

The heroic infantry, like hares in snares, struggled into the barbed wire entanglements. Some died within 30 yards of the first trenches. One battalion actually reached a Russian trench, but the feat proved fruitless, as the corpses of the Japanese were found later intermingled with the Russian corpses waist-deep in the ditch.

The Japanese read-quarters directed General Oku to reinforce and to assault again before daybreak, but General Kuropatkin shaken by four general infantry assaults, on finding that General Kuroki was imperilling his communications, evacuated the position and fell back to his third line of entrienchments.

The Japanese casualties were at least 10,000 while the Russian losses were about 5,000.

The only prisoners were seven occupants of a Russian observation mine casement. These surrendered after shooting two of their Officers who had urged them to yield.

On September 2 General Oku vainly attacked the third line on the flats around Liaoyang, where they encountered a hail of devastating sharphel.

General Stackelberg's counter-attack failed.

After a terrific bombardment, General Oku desperately assaulted the Russian position again at sunrise on the morning of the 3rd and again failed.

Yet another attack a few hours later also failed, and was attended by ghastly carnage.

Ultimately the Japanese succeeded, but the heroic defence of the Russian rearguard enabled General Kuropatkin's main army to cross the Taitze practically unopposed.

All the main force of the Russians had withdrawn from Liaoyang only an hours and-a-half before the Japanese entered the town at 3 o'clock on the morning of the 4th.

A RUSSIAN ACCOUNT.

The "Ruskiyi Viedmosti," a Moscow journal, states that when General Kuroki had 35,000 men north and 90,000 south of the Taitze, General Kuropatkin left 30,000 Russians to defend Liaoyang, and sent 165,000 rapidly across the river.

General Kuroki expelled General Orloff's 12,000, while his mines threatened the Russian line of retreat.

General Stackelburg, with 20,000 Russians held General Kuroki off. Meanwhile General Kuropatkin, with 120,000 attacking, dislodged Kuroki's main force from the Sikwai-tur heights, but General Nodzu bringing up 70,000, the combined Japanese forces recaptured the heights.

The "Daily Express" is responsible for the statement that 12,000 Russians south of Mukden are in a position of extreme danger. They are, it states, worn out, and it is doubtful if they will be able to rejoin the main Russian Army.

THE RUSSIAN WOUNDED.

The Marquis Oyama reports:—

"After General Kuroki's occupation of Yentai, the natives stated that the Russians had entrained 10,000 wounded.

"We buried over 3 000 Russians.

"Before evacuating Yentai the enemy burned their magazines.

"We captured an immense quantity of provisions and ammunition."

Sinminting, Monday, Sept. 5.

Two couriers whom I sent to Liaoyang on August 16 returned this morning. From particulars they have supplied me I am able to give a description of the fighting up to last Wednesday night.

On August 22 the Russian cavalry reported at headquarters that the Japanese were advancing from the east.

General Kuropatkin and his staff at once left the town, and proceeded to the Tangho along mountainous country with 50,000 troops and seventy gungs. Large forces, with a number of guns, were in the roads leading to the Russian positions, which were of immense strength.

During the next two days the Russians prepared for an attack. Bands played to cheer the men, who were in high spirits.

Early on the morning of August 25 the battle commenced with a terriffic artillery, fire, which continued throughout the day, and only ceased when darkness set in.

Great damage was done to the Russian batteries. The earthworks were smashed and guns thrown out of position. Despite the terriffic slaughter, however, the Russians did not retreat, and reinforcements arrived.

HAND-TO-HAND STRUGGLE.

Under cover of darkness the Japanese infantry crept close, and when the moon shone out they surprised the tried Russians with a furious charge.

For an hour a thousand men were locked together in a struggle with sword and bayonet. The clash of weapons and the shouts of the combatants were audible for miles.

While this encounter, which placed Konchanlun in the possession of the Japanese, was proceeding, the advance on the right was checked by the heavy fire from Anping and Anshanling.

Daylight discovered the fact that the only Russian position captured was Konchanlun.

The ground for miles was strewn with the dead and dying. The cries of the wounded were awful to hear.

Again there was a general advance on all sides. The Japanese fought more fiercely than on the previous day, and their losses were more numerous than those of the Russians, who were screened from the fire.

Nothing, however, could resist the tenacity and courage of the Japanese. Time after time whole masses of them went down before the Russian fire, but their places were quickly taken by others. More guns were dragged into position, and in the afternoon the backbone of the defence was broken, and the Russians retired to their inner line of fortifications.

SCENES OF DESOLATION.

The battle was resumed next day, and resulted in the Russian evacuation of every position after another tremendous hand-to-hand conflict.

The Japanese, who were as active as cats, climbed mountains with sides as steep as those of a house, and engaged the Russians on the tops.

A hundred were thrown into the ravines and smashed to pieces, presenting sickening sights that surpassed all description—heads, arms, and legs being scattered in all directions. The streams and the pools of water with which the country, flooded after rain, was covered, were the colour of blood. The whole scene was one of the utmost desolation.

After the battle the natives fled, except some who robbed the dead.

Couriers who followed on Tuesday in the track of the Japanese First Army state that fighting took place subsequently of the nature of a pursuit of the Russians, but there was incessant and sharp fighting.

When they left the vicinity of Liaoyang the Russian forces were entering the town.—Earnest Brindle in the "Daily Mail."

PORT ARTHUR.

SECOND GENERAL ATTACK.

Chifu, Sunday, Sept. 4.

A second general attack on Port Arthur took place between August 27 and August 31.

The tangible result is that the Japanese took and retain Palichwang, where they have mounted heavy guns.

There were severe losses on both sides, the Russian casualties probably numbering 3,000, and the Japanese 8,000.

Speaking generally, the assaults have proved too expensive for the results obtained, and Japanese opinion here suggests that more deliberats methods will be adopted in future.

Sandbag batteries are being extensively built, and the advance is being carried forward by trenching. Many native coolies, recruited at Chifu, are employed on the work. This is confirmed by the latest arrival here from Port Arthur.

Saturday, Sept. 3.

The bursting of a heavy gun at Laotishan Fort indicates the condition in which the defences of Port Arthur are owing to the prolonged use of its artillery.

It is impossible to arrive at just conclusions regarding local relative positions of the belligerents. Reports from Port Arthur change daily.

The accounts published by the "Novy Krai" are inspired, are strictly censored, and are thoroughly unreliable.

There are again to-day many stories of the garrison being short of ammunition.

RUSSIANS RE-TAKE HILL.

Paris, Saturday, Sept. 3.

A telegram from St. Petersburg to the "Echo de Paris" says:—

General Stoessel telegraphs that the Russians have re-taken Itshan Hill, and that they are engaged in dislodging from their base the Japanese who have recently landed.

DESPERATE ASSAULT.

Chifu, Saturday, Sept. 3.

On August 30, at three o'clock in the morning, moving out from their new vantage ground at Palichwang, a large force of Japanese desperately assaulted Erhlungsham and the adjoining fort. They made repeated attacks until two o'clock in the afternoon, when they were compelled to retire, having lost over a thousand men.

Finding these forts impregnable, the next morning, at four o'clock, the Japanese orces hurled themselves against another fort near Erhlungshan, and after a hand-to hand fight succeeded in driving out the Russians and occupying the position.

Artillery was brought up and desperate efforts were made to render the position secure, but after enduring for seven hours the artillery fire of the other forts, the Japanese were compelled to retire.

They succeeded, however, in making the position useless to the Russians and it is now unoccupied.

THE INDIAN BUDGET DEBATE.

It may be called a debate by courtesy. On the last day of the session when any sort of business of a practical kind could not be transacted, Mr. St. John Brodrick set forth his story in a House composed, according to Mr. S. L. Hughes, of nine members, "four and a half" of whom were asleep. In reality we believe the remnant which stayed to listen numbered about twenty and naturally there was nothing in the nature of penetrating criticism to be found in the conversation which followed the delivery of the Secretary for India's essay. It was the usual gaudy story of handsome surpluses, much larger surpluses in recent years than had been estimated for, and glowing prosperity in every direction. As we showed in our issue of March 26 last by a brief analysis of the Calcutta Finance Minister's figures part of the alleged surplus is the product of currency juggling and most of the rest comes from opium or from the reduction in the balances of the provincial governments, from which £2,500,000 were to be sucked off. India, indeed, is situated much as we are. Its public debt and military charges absorb the greater portion of the taxation revenue and comparatively little is left for civil administration, the development of the country, "its moral and material progress," to use the cant phrase of the bureaucracy, so recourse is had to loans in continuous stream to the amount of £8,000,000 or £9,000,000 per annum. But it is all very nice and pleasant, and the drink traffic in India is being regulated, and the people are permitted to eat a little more salt, they, and their cows. Moreover, the foreign trade of India grows so that the seaborne imports rose from £50,000,000 in 1899 to £61,000,000 in 1903, and the exports from £72,000,000 to £102,000,000—all for the good of the people? Oh, nothing of the kind, the growth is our wealth. There were 30,000,000 acres more under cultvaton at 234,000,000 acres at the later date given than at the earlier. Of this increase 3,000,000 acres has been brought into bearing by irrigation, which is surely good, and good for more taxes. Railway receipts also go up and the number of passengers travelling increases; deposits in the presidency, joint-stock and savings banks, too, go on "bulging," and even the land revenue is now being collected almost in full tale without difficulty, thanks to the rains, arrears being gathered in and assessments adjusted so as to yield the highest possible sum.

This is all very precious, and if there were no other side to the picture we might go to sleep comfortably and leave the India Office with its mouthpiece to go their own way and sing their own praises without challenge or any feeling of disquietude. Unfortunately it is not all the story. Great diligence is doubtless exercised in exploiting every resource which India possesses for the benefit of the imperial income or governing race, but it does not follow that the people themselves—the natives—are becoming richer or more contented with our Government. When we come to look into such a story as that set forth in an annual publication called "The Moral and Material Progress and Condition of India," the latest issue of which appeared some weeks ago, we find many dark shadows to the picture which it might be well if Secretaries of State and Governments made some little effort to get at the meaning of. The land revenue, for instance, cannot be collected at enormous [illegible] the land [illegible], and we read of thousands of ejectment actions as well as of transfers of landed property from the hands of the exhausted cultivator to the capitalist even in the most prosperous years. Thus, in Bombay, which undoubtedly is a district of India that has suffered much from want of rain in recent years, and from plague, famine's offspring, the gross demand of land revenue for 1902 was £2,033,300, taking the rupee at 15 to the £. Of this £198,300 was remitted and £1,408,000 collected, leaving £427,000 in arrear to be added to the previously accumulated arrears of £755,000 of which £542,400 had been written off as irrecoverable and only £96,400 collected. No wonder that 41,443 acres were forfeited by their miserable holders, of which only 7,558 acres were returned to the defaulters, most of the remainder being stuck to by the Government—and the people—where went the ejected people? Bureaucracy knows not. This may be called an extreme example, but the same thing is to be found nearly all over India outside the favoured districts of Bengal, and as is well known an act had to be specially passed recently for the Punjab to prevent the alienation of land there by the distressed and tax-harassed cultivators.

But the worst evil from which India suffers is the devouring exactions of the military faction, exactions swiftly increasing until the Indian army now absorbs practically the entire land revenue of the country. All the rent, in other words, is taken by the soldier, and often something over. This cannot be healthy for the state, or good for the people, especially as so much of the money is sent out of India to swell the charges of the Indian Government payable in London. In fact, and to put the statement in another form, these charges also are now often more than the total land revenue of our entire Indian dominion, so that we may say, under one guise or another, the rent of India all comes here and we, the absentee landlords of that splendid domain, are working just the same havoc amongst its peaceful inhabitants that the absentee landlords of Ireland have done in that distressful isle. There is a difference in magnitude, but with time the results must be the same, and, so far has the mischief gone already in India, that were the population anything but the down-trodden, crowed, poor-spirited creatures the majority of them are, we should have had before now to encounter an agrarian war there on a scale that we might have found beyond our strength to cope with.

Lord George Hamilton, as became an ex-Secretary for India, whose tenure of office and whose off and on acquaintance with that dependency has been greater than that of any politician living, had his say upon Mr. Brodrick's statement and, being now free, made some observations which were apposite enough although not very profound. He declared that he had been always against the growth of military expenditure, but put his faith in Lord Kitchener to ensure economies, making, however, one valuable suggestion to the effect that the maintenance of three presidential armies should be done away with. "The old theory of having three armies one to counteract the other ought to be swept entirely on one side," he said, and that is true, but how can we expect any reform by which the native army of India might easily be reduced by one half in numbers, and at any rate one-third in cost, so long as the military faction dominates everything? Such pertinent criticism as this was spoilt by his lordship's whole-hearted enthusiasm for the Tibetan expedition although the attitude is natural perhaps in a Tory whose only idea of strength is conquest, slaughter, annexation, the privileges of the drones.. It was none the less lamentable. This Tibetan expedition is going to cost more than twice what Mr. Brodrick said it had been put down for in the estimates—54 lacs of rupees it seems is all the Simla Government expects it to cost. We shall be surprised if it is finished for less than 120 lacs of rupees, and a figure of the kind put forward by the Finance Minister merely serves to reveal the light-hearted inhumanity af those who undertook this war against "an insolent clique of stiff-necked monks who are intoxicated with the sense of their own sanctity," to use Lord George Hamilton's words, This latest war of aggression is only beginning, and soon the winter will be upon us with nothing settled, with the expeditionary force cut off from its supplies, and with Tibet itself totally incapable of furnishing the men and beasts with food. Already reports come through that there is difficulty is getting the natives to bring forward grain, provisions of any kind, and threats are being used that their own bread shall be taken out of their mouths by force unless they surrender it of their own accord. It is wholly unreasonable to suppose that a country like Tibet has surplus supplies of food, grain or other, to an extent sufficient to supply the wants of our invading force with its swarm of locust camp followers and paraphernalia of negotiators. Famine therefore is one of the first things the expedition will have to fight against and when its distress reaches a certain point fresh troops will be got together in feverish haste and panic to convey supplies into the country in order to prevent the troops already there from dying of want, they and their animals. What concern was it o ours if the monks were filled with vanity? What are we going to gain by this conquest, this occupation, this withdrawal when the certain withdrawal does come? Even if we are to gain against Russia—which is sheer rubbish—what will the people of India gain? We ask these questions and know that an answer can be forthcoming to none of them. Oh, yes, there is, India will gain a further enhancement of her military budget.

The most satisfactory piece of information conveyed by the India Office through Mr. Brodrick as its mouthpiece, or conduit, was that the irrigation works on which over £ 25,000,000 had been spent, pay 7 per cent. on the capital outlay. But this profitableness has not taught the alien rulers of India to divert their capital outlay into well considered and far-reaching extensions of these works. Oh, no, the money for irrigation is always granted with a niggardly hand, grudgingly. Railways, railways, continue to be the cry, and the railways doubtless serve the foreign overlords of the country, but it by no means follows that they also do good to the Indian people. We have sunk £179,000,000 on railways out of the £213,000,000 of the debt of the Government on India, said Mr. Brodrick, besides over £25,000,000 in irrigation works. This is not a true statement of the facts, for the total expenditure upon the railways of India much exceeds the total amount of the debt named by him if we include all the guaranteed companies. In fact a return bringing the figures down to the end of 1903 gives the total of capital expenditure at almost £220,000,000, and it is mounting up at the rate of £8,000,000 to £9,000,000 a year. Moreover, we believe that the whole capital outlay is not even thus accounted for since so much of the capital of the bought up lines is now represented by annuities; but let that pass and hark back for a moment to the military expenditure which last year was £16,784,000, and is this year £18,215,000, and will soon be £20,000,000. That is after all the chief source of India's misery, and unless we can reform there and economise it is an expenditure that will be our ruin as an Asiatic power. —"The Investors' Review."

Scientific Notes.

THE HUMAN EAR.

A problem which may have suggested itself to many people who are not scientific, but which has received the attention of a scientific theorist in Dr. Walter Smith, is also the reasons why the human ear has remained immobile. The ears of many animals can move and there is reason for supposing that Nature at one time meant, so to speak, that man's progenitors should possess ears of similar mobility, for she gave to them the projecting frame of cartilage, and she attached to it the muscles for its movement. Then in the course of the generations she changed her mind, and withdrew what she had bestowed. We can guess what we have lost by speculating on what the eye would lose were it to be deprived of its power of continually, indeed unceasingly, changing its position. What have we gained, and what has the ear gained by losing its power of movement? Some glimmering of the answer may be obtained by remembering that the ear has no perception of space; it localises sounds very badly; it cannot tell distances by sound at all accurately. It has, in fact, ceased to be what the eye is—a space organ. It has become, or rather the sense of hearing has become, a time sense. The mental gain which has resulted from the ear's immobility is to be found in its ability to attend to a succession of sounds. If the ear had remained mobile it would have been the organ or a space sense, for it would have given a number of sounds as practically co-existing and as co-existing in definite relation to each other; the mobility being lost, hearing has become a time sense. In the ears fuller appreciation of the succession of sound has been a condition of the social intellectual, and aesthetic development which has come with the use of language and music.

NEW FORM OF WAVE.

Dr. Vaughan Cornish has drawn attention to a new form of wave which has been observed in the Guntenbach and Grunnbach streams, which flow along open paved conduits into the Thunersee, in Switzerland. Each of these streams ends in a waterfall, which is not steady, nor yet merely flickering, but which is affected by a regular cadence, having a period of several seconds. In the case of the Grunnbach stream the phenomenon is easily visible at the distance of a mile, and in a photograph exhibited by Dr. Cornish the successive waves travelling along the conduit are beautifully marked and quite distinct. The amount of water when a wave arrives at the lip of the waterfall is increased by at least one-third; and the cadence is caused by the movement of something which resembles a bore, but which travels down the channel more rapidly than the current flows. These waves Dr. Cornish proposes to call "roll waves," and he calls attention to the fact that it is the way in which sudden floods sometimes travel down rivers, as in the recent destructive flood at Nikko, in Japan. But the remarkable thing about the Guntenbach and Grunnbach waves is their periodicity, and the fact that they are spontaneously evolved without the co-operation of any special quickening, or checking, or sudden swelling of the current. They appear to depend mostly on the shallowness of the stream (and therefore require a fairly smooth bottom) in conjunction probably with considerable swiftness. The ordinary quick throbbing of the current gives rise in these very shallow streams to "long waves," whose amplitudeis an appreciable fraction of the depth of the stream. The greater of these move more rapidly than those of lesser amplitude and catch them up. They do not pass them by but incorporate them, and thus the small irregular throb of the stream, is changed as the stream flows on into a slow and nearly regular cadence. The period becomes longer and more regular in the lower reaches of the conduit.

PRINCESS'S FLIGHT.

FULL STORY OF HER ESCAPE.

Paris, Thursday, Sept. 8.

The following dramatic account of the escape from Bad Elster of the Princess Louise of Coburg as related by her Royal Highness is from the pen of M. Henri de Noussanne, the distinguished Paris journalist, who arrived in the French capital to-day with the Princess, her rescuer, Count Mattachich, and other members of her party.

M. de Noussanne met the Count last February during a stay in Vienna, and subsequently made arrangements to publish his memoirs in France. The acquaintance thus begun developed into a close intimacy, and since then M. de Noussanne has seen both the Count and the Princess several times, and had no small share in arranging their journey to Paris. The following is M. de Noussanne's narrative:—

Princess Louise of Coburg and Count Mattachich arrived in ar's this morning between five and six o'clock, and the Press of Europe, which for the last forty-eight hours has been affirming and denying her presence here, will be relieved of any further uncertainty. It will be vain for the keenest of reporters or interviewers to attempt to discover the Princess's hiding place or to obtain from the Count his impressions of the exciting journey he has just completed

SHELTERED IN BERLIN.

Not the least curious aspect of the liberation of her Royal Highness is the interest displayed therein by men of widely differing views. Members of the Austrian and Belgain nobility and ardent friends of the people like Dr. Albert Sudekum, a member of the Reichstag, are among her friends. It was this noted German Socialist who gave refuge to the Princess in his house, No. 10, Dusseldorferstrasse, in Berlin, and he accompanied her Royal Highness and the Count to Paris.

He was with me not long ago, when a friend telephoned to me that the Prefecture of Police had informed certain journalists that the Princess would arrive in Paris this evening. A few seconds later I went out in an open carriage to call upon the Princess.

I must not mention her street or describe her apartments, as I am bound to secrecy, but I may say that her Highness is living within less than four minutes of the Opera, and that from her windows she looks out on the most beautiful flowers in Paris.

Mme. Stoeger, the devoted woman to whom Count Mattachich owes his escape from prison, is with the Princess in the capacity of first lady's maid, and was entering the room where the Princess, completely happy and full of the joy of living, was saying how glad she was to be in France to feel herself free, and to pass among the crowds unnoticed.

SAFE IN FRANCE.

"I have quite recovered from the effects of my flight," she said. "As soon as I felt that I was in France I was convinced that I was really saved. At last I see around me no more hypocritical faces and I hear no more lies. It seems to me as if I had awakened out of a nightmare.

"What obligations I owe to the Press," added the Princess. "I beg you to say for me how much I have been touched by the innumerable spontaneous evidences of sympathy. When I received in a roundabout way in the sanatorium at Coswig the letter you wrote me saying how much the journalists were interested in my case, I thought I was the object of some intrigue on the part of my entourage, or of some plot that was being laid for me."

At the recollection of those days the Princess was visibly moved and her clear brown eyes turned to Count Mattachich, the mute witness of the interview.

"What are your Highness's plans?" I asked.

"My plans," answered the Princess, "are to live simply, happily, and ignored. I await the proposals which Me Stimmer, the lawyer, who arrives in Paris to-morrow, may bring me on behalf of the Prince of Coburg.

"My desire is to have done as soon as possible with these material concerns. They talk all the time of my immense fortune and my luxurious tastes. I admit that I have sometime shown little regard for money, but during my imprisonment at Lindenhof I had time to meditate on the value of things. I ask for nothing but what is just and reasonable, and I am determined that I shall be listened to."

"Your Highness would do me a great kindness by recounting to me the incidents of your flight."

"Most willingly," said the Princess. 'I was at Elster with Fraulein von Gebauer and the second doctor of Lindenhof, Herr Mausse, both of whom had strict instructions never to loose sight of me. But Count Mattachich—or rather, I think, Herr Thormann, of Dresden, who is also devoted to me—had succeeded in winning over first the waiter at the hotel and later the night watchman.

WAITER'S STRATAGEM.

"One morning at breakfast, which I was obliged to take in company with my lady-in-waiting and the doctor, I felt the waiter, while he was handing me a plate, slip a letter underneath it. I succeeded in possessing myself of the letter without betraying my emotion. It was from the Count, and I was able to reply to it on leaving the table.

"We exchanged about thirty hasty and feverish notes in this way before we could arrange a plan of escape, the waiter continuing to act as the go-between with admirable adroitness."

The now familiar details of the flight were then given to me in conversation by the Princess, the Count, and Dr. Sudekum.

At twenty minutes to seven on the evening of the escape the party reached Berlin.

They drove immediately to the house of Dr. Sudekum, and the Princess and the Mme. Stoeger were at last able to settle down in comfort. Two days later they moved to another house inhabited by friends of Dr. Sudekum, and after another two days' rest left in a motor-car for the French frontier.

The automobile was of twenty-five horse-power and reputed to be a marvellous vehicle but at Magdeburg, three hours after the start, it broke down, and three hours were lost in putting things right again. The journey was continued at half-speed, with every now and then a stoppage for repairs.

At Madgeburg the doctor asked for a room for his "wife," meaning the Princess, and to keep up the illusion her Royal Highness complained of her "husband's" lack of attention. A waiter looked at her compassionately on hearing this. The journey to France was made via Namur and Liege, through the dominions of the Princess's father.

Our Paris correspondent learns that the Princess has renounced for ever the title of Princess Louise of Coburg. For her the Prince of Coburg is dead, and she desires in future to be known as Princess Louise of Belgium. Her Paris address is not that of Count Mattachich.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE BALKAL BRIKHSA OR THE BARK TREE.

It is well known to every Indian, that Sri Ram Chandra, the hero of the Ramayan, was an exile in the Dandakaranya, with his devoted wife Sita and beloved brother Lakhshana, for a period of fourteen years. During this time he, his brother and wife had to wear the bark of trees (Balkal) to cover their bodies. We find in our Puranas that Yogis and Rishis were also in the habit of using bark of trees as their wearing apparel. One may wonder how a man can wear barks of trees. In reply, I would say that the simple people of those days were not fond of luxury as those of the present day. In those days every man, either poor or rich, Raja or Maharajadhiraj, while they lived a decent life, knew not what luxury was Not that cotton and silk cloths were unknown then, but they preferred barks of trees to those made of the former stuff. These were obtained from a genus of Ficus trees, which were then most common in the mountains and in the hills of India.

Now, very few people of our country however knows what that tree was like. I find on enquiry that the same species of trees, which used to yield bark-cloths to the people in good old days, still exist, but they are now not known to us.

Sometime ago I brought a variety of Ficus tree from the hills. It is commonly called by the hill people as Bakalgachh. The bark of this tree is up to this time used by them as their wearing cloths and beddings. The bark is quite fit for the above purposes and is very warm. During the chill cold days of the winter, a piece of the bark cloth is sufficient to keep a man warm and protect him from intense cold. It bears a peculiar sort of odour for sometime, after it is extracted from the tree. It may also be used as mat or "Satarancha." A full grown plant will yield a bark, measuring about 25 feet by 10 feet or more. These trees grow in the Khasia, Jaintia and the Garrow Hills.

A piece of cloth of this interesting plant was sent by me to the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, for examination. It was forwarded by the latter to the Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India, for ascertaining, if it has any economical value. I quote below the remarks of these two officers for the information of your readers. The botanical name of this plant has not yet been ascertained, as materials for its precise identification are still incomplete.

Here is the letter of the Superintendent, Royal Botanic Gardens, to me.

"In returning the following specimens received with your letter of the 4th instant, I have the honour to remark as follows:—...As regards numbers 3 and 5 (bark cloth and pressed leaves of the bark tree) I beg to inform you that these have been transferred with your letter in original to the Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India, who will probably address you direct, if the plant or its products is of economic importance."

The following letter was addressed to me by the Reporter of Economic Products to the Government of India:—

PLEADERS' SURVEY EXAMINATION.

Since 1902 an examination is being yearly held at the Sibpur, Patna, Dacca, and Cuttack Colleges, for the purpose of testing the knowledge in surveying of pleaders desiring to qualify themselves for execution of commissions under section 392 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

It has been reported by the authorities of the Education Department who arrange for these examinations that a large number of candidates who present themselves for examination have very little knowledge of practical survey, and that under the present conditions of the examination incompetent persons may be declared to have passed. In accordance with the above suggestion, the former Resolution has been modified and the following revised rules are prescribed:—

(1) When a commission issued by a Civil Court under section 392 of the Code of Civil Procedure is of such a nature as to require that the person executing it should have some knowledge of surveying, it should ordinarily be issued only to a person who holds a certificate of proficiency in surveying: provided that a District Judge is not precluded from issuing a commission of the kind to salaried amins in districts in which they still exist.

(2) Certificates of proficiency in surveying will be granted to pleaders who pass yearly examinations to be held for this purpose in February at the Sibpur, Patna, Dacca, and Cuttack Colleges. Only pleaders practising in the Courts of the Province will be eligible for examination.

(3) The examination will test the candidates' knowledge in chain and compass surveying, plane tabling, levelling, plotting, the use of the theodolite, and the permanent and temporary adjustment of instruments. The pass marks will be 50 per cent. in each test in the field and 40 per cent. on the paper.

(4) Applications for admission to appear at the examination should in the first place be submitted to the District Judge in whose Court or in Courts subordinate to whom the pleader ordinarily practises. The District Judge will require evidence from all applicants that they have undergone some training in practical surveying. He will not countersign the application of a candidate who fails to satisfy him on this point; nor will such a canddiate be permitted to appear the examination.

(5) Candidates should forward their applications, after countersignature by the Judge, together with a fee of Rs. 30, to the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, on or before the 15th of December, and should state the centre at which they desire to be examined.

(6) Certificates granted at these examinations will be accepted by District Judges for the purpose stated in Rule 1, but will not be available for any other purpose.

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"...The medicine has proved much efficacious to me."...(Sd.) Ambadas Woman, Clerk, Audit Office, B. N. Ry.

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"I have tried a phial of your SUDHA CHURNA and am glad to say that it was found a good remedy for acidity."...(Sd.) Avinas Chandra Mittra, Head Clerk, B. C. Section, Audit Office, B. N. R.

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DR. TARINI CHARAN DUTT, Graduate of the Medical College, Bengal (G. M. C. B.) and retired Assistant Surgeon, writes:—"I have much pleasure in testifying to the efficacy of your **"Santan Rakshak"** which is being used by many respectable persons in cases of difficult labour and threatened abortion with satisfactory and unexpected results."

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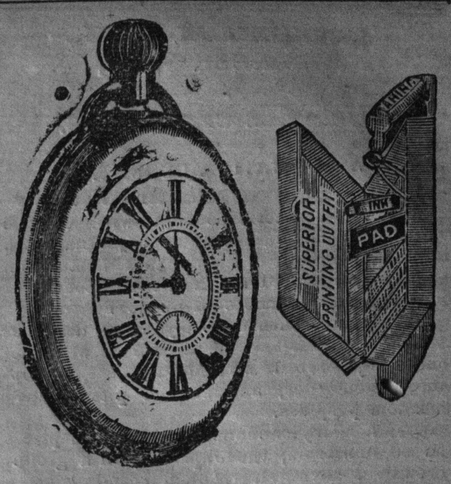

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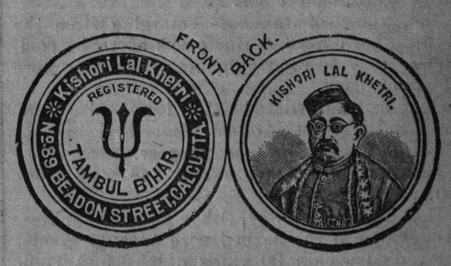

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JOURNALISM AT POONA.

We reproduce the following from the "Times of India's" translations of articles from the Poona "Kal," a Marathi paper:—

THE EDUCATIVE VALUE OF MURDER.

We gave some particulars last time re M. de Plehve's assassin. As we stated then, the murderer flatly refused to give any information to the police regarding the secret league to which he belonged. But in spite of such refusals the details of the murder must be out some day. By the very law and constitution of the universe it is not possible for murders to remain permanently shrouded in mystery. The police are not required to bring them to light, though they often take vain credit to themselves, for having done so. The facts connected with M. de Plehve's murder are, according to the natural law mentioned above, slowly coming to light. We reproduce them in our paper because such murders have an educative value. These political murders are not like the common murders for which offenders are tried in judicial courts every day. When a king or an exalted functionary in a State is assassinated the world stops for a while to consider their significance. Such murders are apt to dazzle and stupefy the mind as the appearance of a meteor or the bursting of a pent up volcano. People ask one another what these murders mean, and persons of a reflective turn of mind form their own conclusions as to the object of Providence in allowing them to occur. The object with which these murders are committed is not the acquisition of sordid gain or the gratification of such passions as jealousy or animosity. The laudible object which underlies them is to cut off a poisonous part, which otherwise threatens to impart its venom to the entire organism of the universe. These murders thus constitute a kind of surgical remedy calculated to preserve the organism of the State unharmed by amputating the poisoned limb. To change the metaphor, they are as it were the terrible and defending cry uttered by the oppressed masses when the rich and the great are plunged in all sorts of gaieties and have no time to listen to the grievances of the poor. There is nothing connected with these murders that needs secrecy or concealment. They are perpetrated for the good of the world, and though primarily committed in secrecy, the whole world is eventually taken into confidence about them. The Central Committee of revolutionary Socialists in Russia have adopted this very plan in connection with the murder of M. de Plehve, and have openly accepted responsibility for the noble deed. M. de Plehve's predecessor was similarly assassinated, but a bullet was used for compassing his death, while a bomb was employed in the case of M. de Plehve, because the latter had proved himself a greater tyrant. As soon as the bomb burst, nine innocent persons standing round M. de Plehve were also killed, and the coach in which he was driving was also shattered to pieces. How many shattered vehicles like that of M. de Plehve's must there be in the world! But tyrants and despotic ministers continue still to ride in their chariots and to crush poor people beneath their wheels. Not profiting by the terrible fate of their predecessors, they are waiting for a similar doom to overtake themselves. The Central Committee, referred to above, has laid bare the story of M. de Plehve's iniquities in all its detail by issuing a manifesto. It is said that he signalised his advent to power by throwing many of the Socialists into prison, where they were subjected to such infernal torments that several of them went mad and died. The artisans and peasantry were, it is said, similarly harassed in a most brutal manner, and to divert public attention from these barbarities, M. de Plehve induced the Tsar to wage war with Japan. Russians present peril has thus been brought on her by M. de Plehve's doings, and millions of young Russians are now being victimised and millions of roubles squandered over the war. In short, the brutal oppression of M. de Plehve rendered his assassination inevitable. The manifesto concludes with the assertion that such murders are inexpedient in a free country, but that a revolutionary propaganda is suited to the circumstances of a despotically governed country like Russia, where public criticism of political questions is tabooed and where the grievances of the people are left unredressed, while oppression reigns rampant throughout the land. When the people of any country indulge in such assertions, we may take it that oppression must have reached its climax there. Those who find fault with the methods of such revolutionary propagandists do not apparently know what oppression and servitude mean. Revolutionary principles are just now extremely popular with the middle class in Russia and are spreading apace among the working classes at St. Petersburg. There is thus considerable unrest in Russia at present. Let us turn from this picture of M. de Plehve's oppression to Lord Curzon's career. We have learnt what M. de Plehve did in Russia. Let us turn to the story of Lord Curzon's rule in India as told by "An Indian" in the columns of "India." The writer has addressed an open letter to his Lordship, recording Lord Curzon's achievements during his Indian Viceroyalty. He indulges in a good deal of plain speaking in the letter, but asks to be forgiven for it. With this preface he begins to unfold the tale of Lord Curzon's Indian regime. He says: "Before your Viceroyalty there was a competition between Lord Lytton and Lord Elgin for the lowest place among Indian Viceroys, but I willingly give you a place below either of these oppressive and plundering Viceroys." The paper gives a translation of the open letter and concludes:—In spite of the unwillingness of the people of India to have Lord Curzon as their Viceroy his Lordship has decided to return to this country to promote its welfare. The list of grievances specified in the open letter is certainly much longer than the list of M. de Plehve's acts detailed in the manifesto of the Central Committee of Socialists in Russia. But then the list of Lord Curzon's virtues will also be as lengthy as the list of grievances against him. His Lordship is thus both liked and disliked by the Indians. His Tibetan policy, however, is increasing his unpopularity in India. The Dalai Lama has made himself scarce from Lhassa, and there are no early prospects of a settlement. In the meanwhile, syndicates are being formed in England to plunder the wealth of Tibet. Before this systematic spoliation begins, informal loot is briskly going on and Tibetan curious are already being displayed in Darjeeling drawing-rooms. The English have such a special knack of looting and they do it in such an adroit manner that no one can venture to call it by its true name.—Sept. 2.

BRITISH RULE IN INDIA.

If we cast a glance at our country we find it reduced to a strange plight. Gloom and despair seem to pervade the land and no one seems to know any way to lift the country from its present degraded condition. In official documents the country is represented as rich, but the earthen pots in the ryots' hut reveal a state of misery. No one is happy except Europeans. There are festive celebrations in India like those of the Jubilee and the Coronation, but these are got up by Englishmen and natives feel no real joy in them. When they reflect upon the true significance of these celebrations, sorrow enters their hearts. India is said to be happy, but she is not really so. Her arts are said to receive encouragement, but as a matter of fact her artisans are driven to the verge of starvation. Why should this be so? On deep reflection it will appear that the prime cause of India's miserable condition is the unnatural presence of Englishmen in India. The country resembles a vast body. If something unwholesome enters the body, it destroys its health; so Englishmen have gradually occupied India and spoilt the normal condition of the country. They profess to introduce reforms into the country, but these do not produce any salutary effect. Had the country now been under an indigenous ruler like Sivaji or the Peshwa and had he exerted himself for the welfare of the country as the British are doing, the country would no doubt have been in a better condition, and the attitude of the people towards the ruling authority would also have been quite different from what it is now. Our English rulers are after all an alien people. They can never hide their alien character and this effect renders them unfit at every step for governing the country justly and impartially. So long as the Indians are feeble there will not be a serious outcry in the country against the alien character of its rulers. But this state of things will not last for long. A body cannot continue to be sound after a poison has entered it. The relation of Indian's to their British rulers resembles that of Hamlet's mother to his uncle in Shakespeare's play. The uncle did not mean to do serious harm to the prince; he only wanted his mother and wished that Hamlet should be content with coarse fare. But this injustice was not long tolerated in the capital of Denmark. It is one of nature's healthy laws that no injustice is allowed to continue long. Hamlet's uncle professed affection towards the prince, and the latter too, showed outward obedience to him. The same is true of Englishmen and natives. The relations between the two are utterly unnatural and insincere. Englishmen pretend zealous solicitude for the welfare of their Indian subjects, and the latter in return make a show to mock loyalty towards them. Each party fully suspects the sincerity of the other, but outwardly maintain loving and friendly relations. The people have no faith whatever in the so-called beneficent measures of Government. The people thoroughly distrust the institutions the Government have introduced into the country. The speeches delivered by elected Councillors in the Legislative Council excite universal ridicule in native circles. Even the Councillors themselves secretly realize the utter futility of their carefully prepared orations. There are those among us who flatter Europeans by presenting them with farewell addresses or raising memorials in their honour when they die. They even hanker after titles and decorations at the hands of their rulers, but spurn the givers of those titles and know inwardly that the whole thing is a delusion and a mockery. They have no faith in British methods and British institutions. All are convinced that the means are not effective for the attainment of the end in view. A resolute mind is essential for attaining an object. Such resolution arises from trust. This trust, which is the basis of all great achievements does not exist amongst us; such absence of trust prognosticates the end of all falsehood. When the mind once grasps that the whole thing is a fraud, a downright swindle, and an empty and deceitful show, it does not hesitate long to sever all connection with it. When this is done, truth begins to dawn upon the public mind, which is next filled with high aspirations. But that is a remote future stage. We are just now in the stage of deceit. The play of Hamlet is now being enacted on the stage of the country. There is falsehood at the bottom of British rule. The British really desire to enrich England, but outwardly say that they wish to promote the welfare of India. Here lies the fundamental falsehood, which pervades the country. How can such a fraud at the bottom of British rule produce any beneficent effects? Are the people to blame if they doubt the motives of their rulers? How can the waters of a river be wholesome, when the stream is poisoned at its very source. When the Indians were governed by their own rulers like Rama, they never distrusted their acts. In short, the unnatural system of British administration in India is responsible for the present condition of the country. False solicitude on the part of the British for the welfare of the people begets false loyalty among Indians. There is insincerity in the sentiments of both. Both are guilty of hypocrisy. But who started the game of fraud and hypocrisy first? Was it the people or their rulers? If the latter had not usurped the dominion of this country and begun to show mock solicitude for the people's welfare, the people would never have thought of showing mock loyalty towards them in return. The whole country is filled with fraud and hypocrisy. Englishmen have polluted the spring of righteousness in the country and have thereby brought many evils upon it. The end of all this is bound to be tragic, as in the play of Hamlet. India is in the same state in which Denmark was in Hamlet's time. There are traitors in the camp. Even friends and relations secretly conspire against one another. Hamlet was in the midst of all this the ghost of his father. Indians also see the ghost of their past greatness at every step. The ghost piteously asked Hamlet to remember it. Hamlet promised to do so in a stirring speech. We should all try to do likewise and form the resolution that Hamlet formed on hearing the last words of the ghost.—Aug. 12th.

SUB ROSA.

THE ART OF BEGGING BY AN EXPERT.

It is not often that I have the privilege of seeing the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," which is a Calcutta journal and therefore beyond the everyday reach of the mere Londoner. But it is, nevertheless, a journal for which I entertain a wholesome respect, because I am sure if it were not an influential organ, with a sound backing of grave and thoughtful readers, people would not take the trouble to send me copies of it every now and again. Occasionally they send me cuttings instead of whole copies, and I would respectfully submit to these attentive correspondents that while a cutting from the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" is always welcome—on the principle that half a loaf is better than no bread—the whole paper is much more to be desired.

It is tantalising to have only a piece of a good thing—to have one's appetite whetted without the possibility of it being satisfied. Thus, when I receive a column and a half cut from the 8 Aug. issue of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" I am more inclined to fret about the columns that are missing than to rejoice over the fragment that remains. My correspondent's object evidently is to draw my attention to an article entitled:

A DESSERATION ON THE ART OF BEGGING.

(By an Expert.)

I have read the article with pleasure and profit, but still I repine. For on the back of the cutting there are several incomplete "dessertations" on topics quite as fascinating as that of begging.

There is, for instance, the second half of what appears to be a leading article on that sound old subject, the political situation. The writer takes a very pessimistic view of English politics. He thinks we have come to what is generally described as "a pretty pass." In his despair, he fires off a broadside of disheartening questions:

But does the British Parliament exercise any real control now? Has it much control over [illegible] British affairs? Is not Mr. Cha[illegible] practically the dictator?

Su[illegible] to see what a [illegible] crowds [illegible] humble fellow-subjects who jostle one another in the "Amrita Bazar" (I hope I am right in interfering from the title of the paper that such a place exists). It is a melancholy thought that the accusing eye of "the poor Indian" is fixed upon our Parliamentary misdeeds, seeing through Arthur's thin disguises and Joseph's hollow shams.

I find a similar complaining tone about the comments upon other topics dealt with on the back of my cutting about the art of begging. Agricultural depression seems to be prevalent in India, even as it is always made out to be here; and in a general survey of the subject, many unhappy facts are brought out. There is sugar—that seems to be in a bad way, for, I am told,

it can be dismissed with the following sentence: "The less said about it the better." So we will drop it, and pass on to cotton. This, too, appears to be in a desperate condition:

There are, unfortunately, in Behar two classes of planters. The one class is thrilled at the sound of the word "expert," an "expert" to him is little less than a god—his word is gospel. If an expert comes along and advises such a planter to try dead rabbits as a manure, the latter——

(He means the planter, you understand, not the manure or the dead rabbits.)

——the latter would wire to Australia on the spot for ten millions of them!

Now let me turn my cutting over and see what lessons can be deduced from "an expert's" "Dessentation on the Art of Begging." It is a little unfortunate that the paper should have made such disrespectful remarks about "experts" on the other page, but, of course, there are experts and experts. A man who heralds himself as an expert on begging displays too much candid self-revelation to be refused a fair hearing Besides, one is warmed to this expert from his very description of begging as an art.

He begins with a professional lament. "In days gone by, when we begged for protection, or for the removal of grievances, from the authorities, they as a rule, gave a sympathetic hearing to our prayers. Now they do it not; on the other hand, our representations at the present time are received with contempt." This must be hard to bear, but the expert accepts his sad lot with philosophy, and calmly advises that "the Indians should give up begging, which, without doing them any good, only humiliates them." Nevertheless, he thinks the subject of begging is worth discussing, and begins, headlong, to do so. He classifies the Indian beggar in the following handy manner:

The agreeable beggar;
The disagreeable beggar;
The persistent beggar;
The aggressive beggar;
The beggar who "hunts in packs"; and
The "dharna" beggar.

Barring the "dharna" beggar, we in England are familiar with all these varieties. The "agreeable," in India as in England, "approaches the lady of the house, praises her children, husband, and her charitable nature, and thereby so pleases her as to induce her to part with something." Occasionally, in this country he puts his foot in the door as an additional inducement, but on the whole he is not a bad sort.

The expert illustrates the "disgreeable" kind with a tale of a mily of leprous beggars in Deoghar, and although it is not generally leprosy which the English disagreeable suffers from, his characteristics are equally obnoxious. The "persistent," however, seems to be a more unreasonable fellow there than here, for we are told that he goes about with a big drum, which he will go on beating under his victim's window till he is paid to go away. The expert tells us of a wealthy Burdwan lady who was "regularly done on" by one such rascal at Deoghar.

A couple of drummers stationed themselves beyond the compound of her house at a place where they could be seen by their victim. They commenced beating the drums with all their might. This they did incessantly for 24 hours, fasting all the while; and the lady, perhaps pleased with their "persistence," had at last to pay them 4 as. each, and get rid of them.

This beats barrel-organs.

The methods of the "aggressive" beggar are just as effective in their way, for he has a genial habit of greeting pilgrims with the remark: "Give me alms, or I will beat you with this broomstick"; but for real determination to leave nothing to chance, to leave no stone unturned (or unthrown), you could not expect anything better than "the beggars who hunt in packs." They are described as those

who surround a house where a marriage has been just performed. They, in a body, consisting of hundreds and thousands, besiege the house, and howl for alms. The householder is not agreeable, but he is at last obliged to succumb.

Hundreds and thousands! After that, it comes as something of an anti-climax to read that the beggars with the mysterious name—the "dharnas"—merely

sit around the house of the victim day and night, fasting, in heat and rain, storm and hailstones, and never leave the premises till their prayers are granted.

That's nothing. I wonder the house-holder doesn't try emptying the water jug on them. I own it is a different matter when you get "hundreds and thousands" howling round.—H. T.—The "Morning Leader," 3rd Sept.

A PRINCE'S LOVE AFFAIRS.

STORIES ABOUT THE SUSCEPTIBLE GERMAN CROWN PRINCE.

With the official announcement of the engagement of the Crown Prince of Germany to Princess Cecilie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, there passes from the matrimonial horizon of the young Princesses of Europe the most eligible bachelor in Christendom, writes W. Holt White in the "Daily Mail."

In many a distant Court to-day some little Princess will sigh and turn to a fresh page in the "Almanach de Gotha;" but it is not these little Princesses who most will feel the tragedy of the betrothal. The blow will fall heaviest in the United States, for over there not so long ago they had quite made up their minds that there would some day be a real smart American Kasserin. For though only twenty-two years of age this gay Crown Prince is a hero of romance and the daughters of America at whose dainty feet he has laid his royal heart are to be numbered by the dozen.

Not that to gaze upon this Prince you would judge him a captor of ladies' hearts. He is rather tall and lank and pale. His clothes suggest the provinces, and his wide mouth has a tendency to look exceedingly sulky. But sometimes he smiles, and his smile has a particularly sweet and haunting charm.

HIS WINNING SMILE.

Even when he was but a tiny boy his smile was a household word. "Smile," his nurse used to say to him on rainy days, "and we lad, diligent and plodding but he lacked the brightness and the dash and the magnetism of his younger brother, Eithel Fritz. Wherefore the Kaiser loved Eithel Fritz the better, and the heart of his first born grew somewhat sour and glum.

Then there is not the slightest doubt that the Crown Prince was worked too hard; till he went to Bonn he had no idea what a holiday really meant. There were times of the year when his lessons were relaxed, but they never ceased for a day. "Not that I mind," he said to his English governess once "but I wish they would give a holiday to you."

Moreover, the discipline of the Kaiser was severe. The cane fell on the little Prince's back not infrequently. So almost imperceptibly father and son grew apart.

Thrust in every way into the background, and carefully hidden from public gaze, the Crown Prince became almost a nonentity. In fact when the Kaiser fell ill some time ago and suffered an operation, and the thoughts of the German people were suddenly turned to the question of succession, they discovered with a rather rude shock that their future ruler was quite an unknown quantity so far as usefulness went. All that they did know was he had been steeplechasing—a pastime the Kaiser detests—upon the day of his father's operation. It was a fault that cost him severe reprimands—all the more severe because he came in second.

DEEDS OF DERRING-DO.

They knew besides that he had ridden his horse up the famous steps in the Sans Souci Park at the head of his guardsmen, whom he afterwards took to a circus. It was also known that he rode on tramcars, carried his own parcel, and played with the nursemaids and babies on skating rings, had risked his life in order to swim the Rhine, and had fallen dire disgrace by attending a play which had been placed out of bounds to all officers owing to its anti-military precepts.

And then his name, time and time again, had come perilously near to the fascinating borders of public scandal.

He had no sooner been installed in a bachelor flat at the Cabinetshaus at Potsdam, where he had the use of three rooms, a soldier to wait on him, and an ogre-like A. D. C. to watch over him, than he sought recreation by falling in love with a famous American actress. Night after night he haunted the stage door of the opera with bouquets and little gifts. He proposed to the fair American girl, and declared he would spend his married life working for her in America. But the American girl, who, fortunately, was as sensible as she was beautiful, told him he was a very foolish young man, and appealed to his father for help. So the actress dined at the palace, where the Kaiser made much of her, and the Crown Prince loudly protesting, was sent away on a tour. He came to England, and there, at Blenheim as a guest of the Duchess of Marlborough, he fell in love with a second American girl as beautiful as the first; and, terrible to relate, he bestowed on the lady a ring which had been given to him by his grandmother, Queen Victoria.

FASCINATED BY AMERICAN GIRLS.

So the Prince was packed off to Bonn, and his anxious family held consultations as to what had better be done. At first they decided to marry him out of hand, and the names of Princess Alice of Albany, Princess Helena of Batuenberg, Princes Myra of Denmark, and half a dozen other Princesses were all said to have been chosen for him.

But the Kaiser hesitated, thinking the Crown Prince too young to wed, and while he hesitated he was almost lost, for there happened to be a third American girl at Bonn. This, too, was a very serious affair indeed, but in the nick of time there appeared a fourth American girl, and then a fifth, and then a sixth, and it reflects great credit on every one of those ladies that when he flung his heart at their feet they kept their heads, and merely promised to be sisters to him.

So with four or five American sisters to play tennis with the Prince stayed on at Bonn, trotting to and for every morning from shall have sunshine." But it is to these early days as well that we have to turn for the secret of this sulkiness. He was a good little the house to the university with his black leather satchel under his arm. With the students he was not over popular, because he had no great affection for beer; but the townsfolk loved him dearly for his cherry laugh, as he passed them and many quiet little deeds of kindness.

But alas! one morning the Crown Prince looked in at a chemist's shop. The chemist had a daughter; the Crown Prince went back to Berlin.

And in Berlin he is giving great promise of becoming an excellent soldier. He has loved the arts of war since he played with a miniature fortress at the age of five, and those who come in contact with him say that he has—even though his heart and his head are rather apt to run away with him, many sterling qualities. Not the least is a saving grace of humour as this little story shows:—

One day the Kaiser entered the Prince's room and asked him to go for a walk.

"Certainly," said the Prince; and then observing that his father was in Naval uniform, he added, with a sly smile, "but where are you going—to the Aquarium?"

The Indian Railway Conference Association meets at Simla on the 3rd October.

The camp for pilgrims at Pir Pso, in Bombay Harbour, will be opened on, or shortly after, the 20th October.

The Bengal Chamber of Fommerce has expressed its approval of the proposal to introduce nickel coins into the Indian currency.

The annual Mahomedan fair known as Pir Kurrimshah Fair was held at the Mahomedan Cemetery at Grant Road on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. W. Bell, C.I.E., has returned from Europe, and resumed the office of Director of Public Instruction in the Punjab, relieving Mr. W. C. Renouf.

With effect from the 1st October, 1904, the maximum amount for which a single money-order may be drawn in India on Natal will be raised from £10 to £40.

It is understood that Mr. H. Somers Cocks comes out from the India Office by this week's mail steamer to join the Foreign Office at Simla as a Political expert regarding Tibet and the North-Eastern Frontier.

The Chitral Scouts, one of the best bodies of Militia yet organised, are to be re-armed with .303 rifles. This will do away with the annually recurring difficulty of sending up special consignments of Martini ammunition to Chitral.

Competition has been invited amongst the various Indian Schools of Art for a new design for the diploma of the Civil Order of Merit, which is at present merely a version in blue of the not very appropriate red design of the Military Order of Merit.

Mr. Vincent Smith's long promised historical work, "The Early History of India from 600 B. C. to the Mahommedan Conquest, including the Invasion of Alexander the Great," is now nearly ready for publication and will be issued by the Clarendon Press, Oxford, probably next month.

The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has appointed Mr. D. R. Daly to be a Travelling Superintendent of Emigration from the 1st of October to the 31st of March, 1905, with authority as such throughout all the territories under the administration of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

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ROAD AND PUBLIC WORKS CESS IN BENGAL.

We cull the following extracts from the Report of the Board of Revnue on the Road and Public Works Cess Operations in the Lower Provinces for the year 1903-1904:

Both cesses were levied at the maximum rate of one anna in the rupee in the 43 districts in which the Cess Act, IX (B.C.) of 1880, is in force. The current demand of land revenue of those districts was Rs. 3,99,83,113 and the valuation or gross rental amounted to Rs. 17,84,24,533.

There was an increase of Rs. 2,47,533 in the current demand, as compared with that in 1902-1903, and this was mainly the result of revaluations in the several districts, of which Gaya and Shahabad contributed Rs. 29,504 and Rs. 15,100 respectively, Cuttack, (in which the revaluation took effect from the commencement of the year under report), nearly Rs. 43,000, and Hazaribagh Rs. 10,049. With the increase in the demand, there was an increase in collections by Rs. 1,33,688, but the provincial percentage slightly decreased by 1.2. The arrear demand decreased by Rs. 41,914. Remissions were chiefly granted in the districts of Burdwan, Khulna, Gaya, Shahabad, Purnea, Balasore, Ranchi, Manbhum, and Singhbhum, and were due to the usual causes.

Of the 43 districts, in 24 the collections attained the prescribed standard of 100 per cent. or more on the current demand. Of the remaining 19 in which the percentages did not reach the standard, 7 attained percentages in excess of 98.

The total number of certificates filed for the realization of cess arrears was 95,037, against 77,523 during the previous year. The increase, which was common to nearly all the Divisions, was most marked in those of Burdwan and Patna, while there was a decrease in the Rajshahi and Orissa Divisions.

The total number of objections filed and disposed of was 6,525 and 6,359, against 8,210 and 7,808 respectively during the previous year. The number of cases cancelled on objection were 660, as compared with 756 in the preceding year, the withdrawal of certificates being due to the usual causes, such as the death and desertion of judgment-debtors, the exemption of lands lying within municipal limits, double assessments, the non-registration of the names of the holders of rent-free lands, errors in the Land Registration registers, and wrong entries in the ledgers owing to the imperfect information supplied by the parties in chalans. The number of cases in which reductions were made in the amount certified declined from 1,032 to 432, as compared with the preceding year.

The mere issue of notices was sufficient to secure payment in 25,738 cases, as against 36,346 in the previous year, while in 33,369 cases, against 72,182, payments were made on the issue of notices for the sale of the defaulters' movable properties, and in 18,950 cases, against 23,194, on the issue of notices for the sale of immoveable properties. In 2,732 cases recourse was had to actual sales before the demands were satisfied, out of which 1,158 were set aside.

The Road Cess was first assessed in 40 districts, the gross rental or valuation of which was Rs. 13,11,68,432. Subsequently the districts of Khulna and Palamau were created, and the Cess Act, IX (B.C.) of 1880, was extended to them and to parganas Dhalbhum and Porahat in Singhbhum. In the Sonthal Parganas into which the Act is being gradually introduced, the valuation of some recently resettled estates was completed, and the Board have called on the local officers to propose a date from which the new cess demand should be levied. The gross rental rose to Rs. 17,84,20,533 during the year under report, showing an increase of Rs. 4,72,52,101 over the original valuation, and of Rs. 34,46,710 over that of the preceding year. The increase as compared with the past year was due to valuations and revaluations.

The following Deputy Collectors who were in charge of the Cess Department for the whole year have been favourably mentioned by Commissioners:—Babus Nobin Chunder Sen (No. 1), Tippera; Sures Chandra Chatterji, Rajshahi; Sarat Chandra Sen Gupta, Palamau. In the districts mentioned against each of the above mentioned officers, the collections were above the standard of 100 per cent. on the current demand fixed by Government.

The following names of Revaluation Officers deserving of notice have also been taken from the Commissioners' reports:—Maulvi Syed Mujibur Rahman, Malda; Babus Gopi Krishna Lall, Shahabad; Mohendra Nath Kundu, Rajshahi; Sudarsan Das, Noakhali; Phanindra Nath Mukherji, Faridpur and Har Sahay Lal, Gaya.

KUROPATKIN'S POSITION.

From the latest telegrams it would appear that the change in the status of General Kuropatkin is even more drastic than had been expected. Admiral Alexeieff is Commander-in-Chief, and Kuropatkin and Grippenberg are merely to be his lieutenants. Presumably Kuropatkin has accepted this arrangement, but on the face of it it looks like a gross breach of the conditions on which he consented to take up the command in the Far East. It is understood that he demanded a free hand, and was given it; and as might have been, expected, friction speedliw broke out between himself and Admiral Alexeieff, the man whose blundering policy precipitated the struggle. For a time Kuropatkin appeared to have carried his point. Alexeieff was ordered to Harbin, where his mischievous influence would be at a minimum so far as the carrying on of the Manchurian campaign was concerned. But he appears to have quickly recovered his authority, and it is generally believed that it was his malign influence which, acting through the St. Petersburg Government, forced Kuropatkin to aggravate the misfortunes of his army by detaching a force, under Stackelberg to make a hopeless attempt to relieve Port Arthur. The failure of that attempt naturally added considerably to the sum of Russian reverses, and enhanced the gloom of the campaign. This was a very cunning move on Alexeieff's part, for the failure discredited Kuropatkin, and has undoubtedly had something to do with his supersession. The Japanese will doubtless pray that Alexeieff may long remain at the head of affairs in Manchuria. With him to deal with they are certain of victory.—"Englishman."

SPORTS IN ASSAM.

RHINOCEROUS HUNTING.

I had not, however, long to wait, the huge beast rolled over and changed his position. This move exposed the lower part of the body, while the shield on the back was completely submerged in mud and slush. I took aim and fired, planting one bullet in the body almost between the fore legs, below the shield; and the second smashed the right fore leg above the knee joint. I shall never forget the commotion that followed! With a noise between a snort and a grunt the huge beast sprang upwards several feet into the air. Then he came down with a thud and a splash that could have been heard a mile off. For a minute or so he was completely hidden from view by the spray of dirty water and slush that he threw up around him. Then he tried to gain his feet and pull himself together for a charge, but the broken limb was in the way, and he performed a complete somersault. After this he stuck in the mud but made the most frantic efforts to free himself, grunting and snorting furiously all the while. I kept on pouring lead into him, but it seemed to have little or no effect. At last he managed to scramble out of the mire, and made for the jungle, blowing and puffing like a wheezy steam engine. But before he had covered many yards of terra firma my bone crusher deprived him of the use of another limb, and he rolled over helpless and harmless. On coming up to him, how that poor brute struggled to get on his pins again! I thought of sending a ball through his ear to put him out of pain, but then he had such a splendid head and horn I did not like to disfigure it. So making out a soft spot over the heart, I fired, and the moment I did so, his head fell to the ground with a thud! He never moved after this, so my people set to work to remove his armour—no light job, I can tell you. The head was a noble trophy. I had it removed with great care, working at it myself till my hand was covered with blisters. The whole of the afternoon was consumed in the operation, and the sun was sinking in the west when I got back to camp. I had only a cup of coffee and a biscuit when I started—yet I never felt the pangs of hunger till I saw my camp table laid out for dinner. Up till this time the excitement sustained me. I could have eaten a slice off the rhino, uncooked, I felt so hungry! Did'nt my servants stare at the way I cleared dish after dish at the dinner table that evening.

The following day was devoted to cleaning and curing my trophies. In the mean time some of my people had been sent out to beat up for game. But no khubber could be had. So I resolved upon shifting camp. I had bagged the only "horned pig" within twenty square miles of my camp, and I felt supremely happy, notwithstanding the undoubted but melancholy fact that the rhino is a fast disappearing animal, both in India and Africa.

In shifting camp I followed the course of the river for another ten miles and pitched my tent on its velvety bank. There was no cultivation on my side of the stream, though the opposite bank was studded over with numerous collections of small crescent shaped huts half hidden by bamboo clumps. By the time I had reached camp my people were laden with small game of all descriptions, peacock, partridges, the wild hen and numerous other jungle fowl. Hares too, were plentiful, and I brought a score of them into camp. I did not expect to meet with any big game as my people had been over most of the ground the previous day.

BOAR V. ALLIGATORS.

But on nearing camp I witnessed a very strange occurrence. A huge boar was startled close to a nullah which communicated with the river. The boar on finding himself driven into a corner, and all means of escape cut off, took to the water. The creek was alive with alligators, and they went for piggy the moment it entered the water. Then the play began. I never witnessed anything like it. The boar held his own for nearly an hour, ripping and putching his enemies several feet out of the water. But in the end he was overpowered. The alligators were in their natural element, so the plucky boar had to fight at a disadvantage. But he did fight with all the desperation for which he is noted. Even after he had been dismembered and was rolling about like a barrel in the water he fought with his teeth and tusks, and gave the alligators some ugly wounds. But they were too many for him in the end. He died of exhaustion and loss of blood, and was devoured in no time. I could never have believed, if I had not witnessed the occurrence, that those horrid looking animals were so dangerous. One huge brute that had got a nasty rip under the belly through which the entrails were protruding, was pursued by the others, evidently with the intention of demolishing their disabled companion. But it made for the shore and rolled over on the sand, My people threw a noose over its head and dragged it up the bank. I could see it was dying, for it offered little or no resistance, so I put a bullet through its skull to put an end to its trouble. My men on skinning the brute, found a pair of silver bangles and some human bones in its stomach. Evidently it had been a frequenter of the bathing ghats. When the bangles were brought to me, I thought the proper thing to do was to give notice of the find to the headman of the nearest village. But no one would claim the ornament though there was a girl of one of the villages missing. She had gone to fetch water from the river for her parent's about a week or ten days previous, and never returned. Her disappearance was not reported to the police, and it was on this account, I was told, the parents of the girl would not claim the bangles. They were afraid of a police enquiry being instituted, and these simple ignorant people would rather see a swarm of locusts settle in the neighbourhood than see the daroga and his myrmidons enter a village. So I could not get a claimant for the ornaments. Even my own people had a superstitious objection to receive them. They were afraid the deceased's "bhoot" might return to them.

ALTAPOLE.

The Hon. Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province, leaves Nathiagali (summer head-quarters) on the 5th proximo en route for Peshawar. He halts at Abbottabad on the 6th October, and is expected in Peshawar on the morning of the 8th idem.

ASSAM GAZETTE.—Sept. 24.

General.—Captain A. J. Strange, 6th Gurkha Rifles, is appointed Assistant Commandant, Lakhimpur Military Police Battalion, with effect from the date of taking over charge.

The Chief Commissioner appoints Babu Surjya Kanta Barua, Probationary Sub-Deputy Collector, to be an Assistant Settlement Officer in the district of Sylhet.

Privilege leave of absence for three months is granted to Babu Kedar Nath Sanyal, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Sylhet, with effect from the 13th October, or the subsequent date on which he may avail himself of it.

Captain A. Leventon, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon Sibsagar, is transferred to Silchar, and appointed Civil Surgeon, Cachar.

Assistant Surgeon Hari Krishna Das is transferred from Jorhat to Sibsagar and appointed to officiate, temporarily, as Civil Surgeon, Sibsagar, with effect from the 9th September.

Pending the arrival of Captain A. Leventon, I.M.S., Assistant Surgeon, Sasanka Mohan Mukharji, is appointed to officiate as Civil Surgeon, Cachar, with effect from the 9th September.

With effect from the 23rd June 1904, the date on which Mr. J. Johnston, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, 1st grade, sub pro tem. proceeded on privilege leave—Mr. J. Mc Swiney, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade, sub pro tem. to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, 1st grade. Mr. H. L. Thomas I.C.S., officiating Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade to be Assistant Commissioner 2nd grade sub pro tem. Mr. G. E. Lambourn, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, 3rd grade, on privilege leave, to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade.

With effect from the 14th July 1904, the date on which Mr. J. Cornes, I.C.S., officiating Assistant Commissioner, 1st grade, proceeded on privilege leave,—Mr. J. G. Dunlop, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade, sub pro tem., to officiate as Assistant Commissioner 1st grade. Mr. G. E. Lambourn, I.C.S., officiating Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade, on privilege leave to be Assistant Commissioner 2nd grade, sub pro tem. With effect from the 21st July 1904, the date on which Mr. J. Johnston, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, 1st grade, sub pro tem. returned to duty from privilege leave—Mr. J. G. Dunlop, I.C.S., officiating Assistant Commissioner, 1st grade, to be Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade sub pro tem. Mr. G. E. Lambourn, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade, sub pro tem., to officiate Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade (up to 20th August 1904, on which date his privilege leave expired).

With effect from the 26th August 1904, the date on which Mr. A. Majid, Officiating Assistant Commissioner, 1st grade, was relieved of his duties as Officiating District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet and Sessions Judge of Cachar,—Mr. J. McSwiney, I.C.S., officiating Assistant Commissioner, 1st grade, to be Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade sub pro tem. Mr. H. L. Thomas, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade sub pro tem. to officiate as Assistant Commissioner, 2nd grade.

Financial and Municipal.—It is hereby notified that at a by-election held on the 24th August 1904 Babu Ramesh Chandra Mukerjee was duly elected a Commissioner of the Dhubri Municipality for Ward No. IV, vice Babu Prasanna Chandra Mukerjee, resigned.

The Chief Commissioner appoints Babu Upendra Nath Basu, B.L., as Commissioner for Ward No. 1 of the Dhubri Municipality.

The Chief Commissioner approves the election by the Commissioners of the Dhubri Municipality of Babu Upendra Nath Basu, B. L., as Vice-Chairman of that Municipality, in place of Babu Prasanna Chandra Mukerjee, resigned.

The Chief Commissioner approves the nomination of Mr. W. F. Perree as a member of the Dhubri Local Board, vice Mr. J. M. Wood, resigned.

Subordinate Civil Service.—Srijut Betha Ram Sarma is appointed a Sub-Deputy Collector, 5th grade, and placed in charge of the Tezpur tahsil, with effect from the date on which he joined his duties at that tahsil.

Privilege leave of absence, for two months, is granted to Babu Kasi Chundra Guha, Special Sub-Registrar, Habiganj with effect from the date on which he may have availed himself of it.

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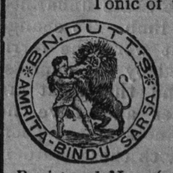

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