REG NO. C. 5

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VOL XXXV. CALCUTTA SUNDAY, MAY, 1, 1904. No. 34

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INTERSTING AND UPTODATE

The INDIAN REVIEWD for February contains amongst others the following interesting articles: Mr. Kipling and his World By Mr. John M. Robertson What's in a Name? By Mr. H. G. Keene, C. I. E., I. C. Mr. G. S. Aiyar on "Some Economic Aspects of British Rule in India" By Prof Ambika Charan Ukil, M. A., Herbert Spencer and his Teachings By Doctor Guglielmio E. Salvadori, Maitreyi: A Vedic Story By Pandit Sitanath Tattvabhushan, The Tariff Problem. By Mr. C. Is Morrison, M. A. The Indian Govt. on Preferential Tariffs. By "An Indian Publicist." Current Event, By Rajduri Tolstory on "Peace and War" The War between Russia and Japan. By 'Britaudicus't The Indian Universities' Bill By the Editor, Herberts Spencer's Advice to Japan, with this number s, issued a war map which is given free to subscribers and another noteworthy feature is that if contains the fertiaits yf the craif Russia, the Empera, of fefar, king Edward, Herbert spence, court loiastory, Lord Curzon and the frnble me Gobehal!.

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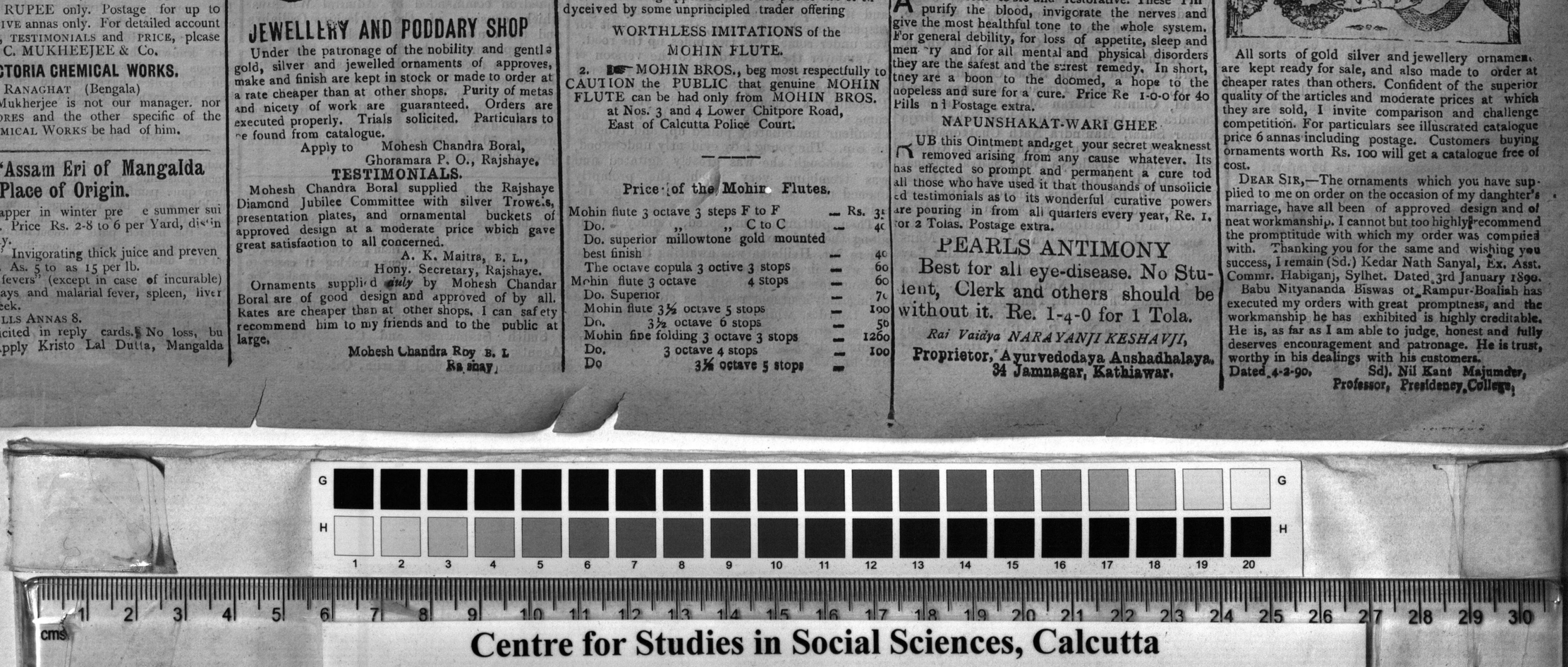
Professor, Presidency College.



Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Corporation of Calcutta.

A special meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday at 4 p.m. The Hon. Mr. C. G. H. Allen, Chairman of the Corporation presided and there were about thirty commissioners present.

THE CONTINUOUS WATER-SUPPLY SCHEME.

The first item was to consider an "ad interim" Report of the Special Cmmittee appointed to consider and report on the vote submitted by the Engineer to the corporation on the constant water-supply scheme.

The Chairman said that the item required some explanations. In the first place those who had read Mr. MacCabe's report would see the scheme which he proposed. He wished to charge the method of water supply. The matter was still under consideration of the water supply committee. That would be before the Corporation in due course of time. Another part of Mr. MacCabe's report dealt with the matter of insufficient water supply in Calcutta. They did not get enough of water in Calcutta. They all knew that. There had been a good deal of discussion upon that point and it had been reported that when the continuous water supply scheme would be in the full swing the supply would be sufficient. Other facts he could lay before the Corporation if it was necessary but the Chairman proposed to reserve any remarks on these points. For the present they did not get enough water. There were two proposals for getting water; one was what would cost twenty one and half lacks of rupees and the proposal which the committee re-commended. This was one which involved much smaller initial expenditure, i.e., Rs. 45,000. For the first expenditure they would get 25 gallons of daily water as for the latter they would get only 6 gallons. But would that 6 gallons be enough for them. They had Mr. MacCabe's opinion, which said that that would be sufficient for them for some years to come. It would be sufficient for ten years. But how long would that supply of 6 gallons last? That would last until the completion of the scheme of the continuous water supply all over the town would effect. For the present the additional supply of six gallons would be sufficient. As regards the matter of time the Chairman saw no reason wny it should not be in working order by the end of March next year. Those who levied in the town knew from their own experience that what amount of discomforts were caused for want of water. The Chairman never passed a day without receiving a great many complaints to which he could only reply that they had not got enough of water. He begged to propose that the report of the special committee be considered. He had to mention in doing so that the matter would go betore the general committee for approval. He thought that the Corporation was entitled to know how they proposed to meet the expenditure of one lakh of rupees which was on the record. They proposed to expend from the balance of the water supply loans.

Dr. Jogendra Nath Ghose seconded the motion.

Mr. Apcar congratulated the corporation. what had been proposed, he said, would be sufficient for ten years. He thought that at that stage of the Corpiration it would be advisable for them not to incur heavy loans.

Mr. Bertram joined with Mr. Apcar. He said that the works of the committee had not been disposed of. It was "ad interim." What they wanted was unlimited water supply. The wrole scheme went to show that the present scheme would last for three or four years after which they would get continuous water supply in Calcutta. They merely accepted that report in anticipation that after three or four years they would get the better scheme.

Mr. Simmonds said that there were several leakage. They all knew that the increase of pressure would increase the leakage. They should have the definite assurance that pressure would not in any way affect the mains.

Babu Kali Charan Paulit was very glad that it had been found out that there was very poor supply of water. Mr. Silk had pointed out that twenty gallons would be sufficient. He was entirely unaware of the habits and customs of the people of this country. In Europe nearly forty to sixty gallons were supplied. But that was cold country. He was therefore surprised when the suggestion came from Mr. Silk. In conclusion he said that the people who lived in the northern part of the town were glad that some steps were taken by the Corporation to give them relief for the requirement of water and that temporary relief would be sufficient for at least ten years.

Babu Priya Nath Mullick suggested that the matter should be sent to the Government for opinion.

Mr. Bradshaw said that on behalf of the trade he supported the motion. He joined with Mr. Bertram in saying that the scheme for larger water supply would not be lost sight of. Mr. Braunfield said that the matter should be expedited as soon as possible. He voted against the matter sending to the Government. Mr. Simmonds supported the motion.

The chairman said that he was very much obliged on behalf of the Special Committee for the cordial way in which the scheme had been received.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

ADVERTISEMENT CHARGES.

One of the items for business was to appoint, as suggested in the report of the Audit Note Sub-Committee, Special Committee to deal with Advertisement charges.

The Chairman said that he would suggest the names of four and the Chairman to form the Committee.

Mr. Bertram said the matter was entirely for the Chairman to decide. It was for him to decide how that money to be spent. It might be a matter for comment. It was not the part of their business to direct the Chairman. He saw no reason why they should interfere in the matter on which they had no power to oppose.

The Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhayaya said that the matter was quite competent for the Corporation to deal with. It was perfectly legal and useful.

The motion was then put to the vote and carried.

The following gentlemen were then elected to form the Special Committee: Mr. Bradshaw, Babu Nalin Behary Sircar, Babu Kali Charan Paulit, Mr. Ratcliff and the Chairman.

With several other items of business being carried the meeting separated.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENT.

—:o:—

The following order appeared in the last "Calcutta Gazette":—

Whereas an application has been received from the District Board of the 24-Parganas, through the Collector of that district and the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, reporting that the sanitary condition of the tract situated in the thanas and parganas within the boundaries described below has deteriorated in consequence of the obstruction of drainage, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to declare, under section 3 (1) (a) of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII of 1895 that the aforesaid tract, which comprises an area of about 290 square miles, shall be placed under the control of o Board of Drainage Commissioners in accordance with the provisions of the aforesaid Act.

The Lieutenant-Governor is also pleased to direct that 12 persons shall be appointed to form the Board of Drainage Commissioners for the purpose of the said Act.

The Lieutenant-Governor is also pleased to direct that 7 out of the 12 Drainage Commissioners shall be elected by the District Board of the 24-Parganas under section 3 (1) (b), and that the remaining 5 shall be appointed by the Local Government under section 3 (1) (c) the Act.

Tollygunge—Magura, Calcutta, Khaspur, Balya.

Bistopur—Magura, Azimabad, Balya, Baridhati.

Falta—Penchakali, Azimabad, Magura, Muragacha, Ghor, Baridhati.

Diamond Harbour—Muragacha, Penchokali Magura, Ghor.

Mograhat—Baridhati Azimabad, Sahapur, Muragacha, Medanmolla, Hatiaghor, Magura.

Mathurapur—Hatiaghor, Sahapur, Khari.

Joynagar—Hatiaghor, Baridhati, Moyda, Medanmolla, Halisahar.

Baruipur—Medanmolla.

PLEADERSHIP EXAMINATION.

—:0:—

The following is a list of candidates who have passed the Pleadership Examination held on the 9th, 10th and 11th February last:—

Hara Taran Ganguli, Debendra Nath De, Moti Lal Das, Jnanada Charan Bandopadhyaya, Bepin Behari Guha, Hrishi Kesh Mukhopadhyaya, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyaya, Nibaran Chandra Ghosh, Abdul Khaliq Akhandji, Jamini Mohan Mukherji, Sujay Chandra Das, Nani Gopal Chattopadhyaya, Rai Charan Karmakar, Rajani Kanta Mukhopadhyaya, Satis Chandra Ray, Padarath Lall, Babu Lal, Sri Kumar Chattopadhyaya, Bhuban Mohan Gupta, Basanta Kumar Kundu, Nrisinha Chandra Banerji, Rebati Raman Das, Rebati Raman Datta, Sukhendu Bikash Ray, Kamini Kumar De, Raj Kumar Lala, Sasi Kumar Das. Sachindra Nath Datta, Jogendra Nath Ghosh, Bireswar Datta, Sures Chandra Chatterji, Sarat Chandra Sarkar, Panchanan Biswas, Bipin Behari Mitra, Ambika Charan Mukhopadhyaya, Mahendra Chandra Pal, Chandra Kishor Raha, Akshay Kumar De, Lalit Kumar Das, Haladhar Das, Mohim Chandra Saha, Nabin Chandra Datta, Kailash Chandra Das, Karunamay Sen Gupta, Purna Chandra Saha, Anukul Chandra Ghosh, Abdul Hamid, Hara Lal Chatterjea, Nisi Bhushan Mitra, Upendra Chandra Nandi, Prabhat Chandra Ghosh, Jogendra Kisor Das, Purna Chandra Chaudhuri, Joges Chandra Ghatak Chaudhuri, Annanda Charan Chatterjea Bepin Behary Ghosh, Nagendra Nath Sikdar, Sarat Chandra Guha, Bageshwar Sahay, Ram Krit Singh, Mahamed Anwar Karim, Abdul Azeez, Hari Gopal Basu, Prakas Chandra Datta, Purna Chandra Chattopadhyaya, Krishna Das Lahiri, Gunendra Lal Mukherji, Asutosh Mazumdar, Aghor Nath Pandit, Sures Chandra Benerji, Nandalal Ghosh, Bipin Bihari Das, Bhubaneswar Sen, Jogindra Gopal Biswas, Mohan Lal Basu, Narendra Nath Sinha, Provash Chandra Chatterji, Narendra Bhusan Ghosh, Ganes Chandra Pal, Siva Prosad Chaudhuri, Jnanendra Nath Bhattacharyya, Khagendra Nath Banerji, Sambhu Nath Pal, Haripada Chatterjee, Purna Chandra Panda, Prasanna Kumar Hazra, Manmatha Nath Adhikari, Suresh Chandra Ghosh, Atul Chandra De, Hrishi Kesh Das, Satis Chandra Sen Gupta, Kalipada Chattopadhyaya, Abinash Chandra Nag, Surendra Kishor Kar, Pares Chandra Lahiri, Upendra Chandra Gangopadhyaya, Sarada Charan Datta, Raj Kishna Chaudhuri, Giris Chandra De, Prasanna Kumar Majumdar, Sarat Chandra Adhikari, Satis Chandra Roy, Rajani Chandra Mitra, Hari Krishna Bhatta, Mansur Ali, Kshitis Chandra Baksi, Tarapada Basu, Brija Nandan Sahay, Bhagabat Narain Sinha, Md. Fasihuddin, Sat Narayan Lall, Jageshwari Prasad, Syed Nazir Ahmad, Bhup Bahadur Prasad, Mohamad Osman, Mohamad Shamsul Hoda, Umeshwari Prasad, Jogesh Chandra Chakrabarti, Bhabani Charan Majumdar, Basanta Kumar Chakrabarti, Charu Chandra Maitra, Binod Lal Saha, Narayan Chandra Maitra, Durgadas Chatterjee, Hari Mohan Chaudhuri, Dwarka Nath Bhattacharyya, Kali Prasanna Roy, Atul Chandra Sen, Mufizuddin Mandal, Brahmananda Sen, Surendra Kumar Mukherji, Kasi Nath Sahay, Jugeshur Nath, Sheo Nandan Prasad, Mahendra Nath Varma, Debi Prasad, Vindheswari Prasad, Bishan Sahay, Iswar Chandra Das, Mathura Singh, Raghu Nath Parsad, Abdul Ghuffar, Sita Nath Deb, Man Mohan Mukhopadhyaya, Jagat Chandra Datta, Abdul Gani, Raj Kisor Deb, Mahendra Nath Datta, Chaitanya Charan Das Pyari Mohan Nag, Joges Chandra Sen Gupta, Kali Kumar Bhaumik, Sasi Bhusan Das, Jogendra Chandra Nandi, Sarat Chandra Chakrabarti, Harnandan Prasad, Mathura Nand Prasad, Chinta Haran Mukerjee, Rajendra Chandra Das Gupta Bepin Behari Saha, Brija Kumar Sahai, Manindra Nath Chattopadhyaya, Nirad Chandra Dutta, Atul Krishna Ghosh, Bazlul Huque, Trailokya Nath Sanyal Pramatha Nath Basu Ray, Rajani Kanta Datta, Bhola Nath Ray, Satis Chandra Mukerjee, Kesab Chandra Sen, Hari Charan Basu, Prabodh Chandra Chattopadhyaya Jogendra Nath Goswami, Mohim Chandra Majumdar, Manmatha Nath Mukerjee, Upendra Chandra Ray Chaudhuri, Habibuddin Ahmad, Susil Chandra Banerjee, Pramatha Nath Majumdar, Joges Chandra Nag Chaudhuri, Pratap Chandra Ray, Harendra Nath Basu, Dhirendra Chandra Ghosh, Brajendra Nath Ray, Raj Kumar Basu, Ramés Chandra Ray, Hafiz Zafar Hassan, Sarat Chandra Biswas.

AFGHANISTAN'S BORDERS.

REPORTED RUSSIAN INTRIGUES.

Reuter states that the following advices have been received at Peshawar from Cabul, dated March 10:—The Governors of Balakh and Herat report that considerable numbers of Russians are entering the neighbourhood of Penjdeh and Balah Masgob, and that the grain merchants from the Tarkman territory, who had, as usual, gone to obtain grain from Tarkman, have been driven back. It is rumoured here that the Russians have requested the Ameer to give them the territory near the Arzana Forest, between Akhcha and Karkee. The Ameer has conferred with his officials on the subject, starting that the Russians wish to have territory which is not fertile, and that they are ready to cede a fertile tract of land on the Badakhshan side. Abdul Kudus Khan has informed the Ameer of some correspondence on that very subject in the region off the late Ameer, adding that the late Amer did not agree to the proposal because the Russians did not accept the country which he offered them. Abdul Kudus Khan has advised the Ameer to give a smaller reply to the Russians on the present occasion.

THE INDIAN BOUNDARY.

Some days ago the Ameer convened a meeting of different representatives of the frontier tribes, such as Wazir, Jaji, Mangal, Khost, Jidran, Kunr, Mohmand, Naugrahar, Dakkha, Shanwari, and others, and, taking his place among them as their leader, addressed them as follows:—'All of you know that the British Government on the one side and the Russian Government on the other side desire to fix the boundary. Now it rests wish you whether the overtures of the two infidel monarchs be acceded to or not."

The representatives of the tribes, in their reply said:—"Before this the late Ameer gave away our territories to the British Government without consulting us, and, therefore, we could do nothing but all of us regret. You are at liberty to give away the territory to any Government you wish, but if any power is ready to take possession of your territory forcibly, we are ready to defend it, provided that we be given arms. With suitable arms and necessary material we will not allow any one to enter our country."

AN EVASIVE ANSWER.

The Ameer had their answer put in writing and signed by them. His Highness also submitted a copy of the document to the British Government. This action of the Ameer is taken to indicate that his Highness is not desirous of having the frontier settled. Faiz Mohammed Kalechi Bashi, brother of Gen. Zabardast Khan, has been appointed to accompany the Frontier Commission in place of Col. Ahmad Khan. The Ameer has published a notice that the British Government wishes to invite him to India. He asked the opinion of his advisers, who said that as there was no settled form of Government at home, it would be dangerous for him to leave Cabul. The Ameer now wishes to give an evasive answer to the British Government. Mohammed Hussian Khan, who was the Risaldar of 50 horsemen appointed to wait on by order of the Ameer, owing to his having helped the Sardar to escape from Cabul. The Risaldar was only attendant on the Sirdar, as the horsemen had been sent to Jagdolak to guard the coal mines.

CUPID IN THE CAR.

STORY OF MATRIMONY BY MOTOR FLIGHT.

Paris, April 7.

Some interesting developments seem likely to grow out of the supposed elopement of a couple in a motor-car hired from Mme. Bob Walter, whose motoring establishment in Paris has achieved quite a reputation for assisting lovers in distress.

The well-known proprietress who was a lion tamer before she went in for motoring, has been so much annoyed that doubt should have been cast on the latest elopement story, and at the suggestion that it was concocted as an advertisement, that she has divulged the names of the parties. The American gentleman who employed her is Mr. Heilbuth, of 16, Avenue de la Bourdonnais, a relative of the well-known painter of the same name, and his fiancee is Mlle. Ginot, the daughter of the owner of a chateau at Boisson, near Pau.

Mr. Heilbuth, however, denies that there was any elopement, and states that he is about to issue process against Mme. Bob Walter for "a breach of secrecy."

According to Mme. Walter, who is a handsome woman of about thirty-five years, ever since a young doctor used one of her motor-cars two years ago for the purpose of eloping with a senator's daughter, she has been applied to from time to time by lovers in similar difficulties. She keeps a specially trusty chauffeur, named Vaudoyer, for this kind of work.

He is of a practical turn of mind, and when I asked him if he did not take a sympathetic interest in the cases in which he was engaged, he replied, "Oh, I don't know about that. I keep my eyes straight on the road front of me. All I know is that such trips generally end in my getting a few extra louis, and that is why I like them."

UNDER THE TREES.

Mme. Walter received a number of reporters with a smile. "There is no reason why I should conceal the names any longer," she said "Mr. Heilbuth told my chauffeur that on nearing the chateau near Pau he was to draw up near the wall and look out for a young lady, whose portrait he gave him. Mr. Heilbuth added, "I am known to M. Ginot, and if his people saw me about they might suspect something. I will, therefore, wait for you under some trees two miles up the road."

Vaudoyer then, according to the version of his proprietress, drove his motor-car slowly along the road adjoining the chateau wall. Presently a remarkably pretty young lady came out of a side door in the wall. The chauffeur immediately pulled up, and touched his cap. The young lady evidently understood, for although she was greatly agitated and was trembling very much, she promptly opened the door of the motor-car and got inside.

Then, putting on full speed, Vaudoyer went along the high road until he reached the spot where Mr. Heilbuth was awaiting them. The car went in a southerly direction as though making for the Spanish frontier, but at the young lady's urgent request a stop was made at Lourdes, while Mlle. Ginot entered the famous grotto, and engaged for a few moments in devotion. Mr. Heilbuth also entered, and knelt by the side of his fiancee.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

Pressure has fallen slightly in the North-West Frontier Province and Central Punjab, and has been steady or risen slightly elsewhere except in Bengal, where the rise has been brisk. Mean temperature has fallen rapidly in Assam, and risen briskly to rapidly in Upper India, in parts of which excess is considerable. Rain in Assam has diminished, and showers have fallen in Central and North Bengal and Upper Burma. Mangalore also reports 15 cents. Chief falls are three inches at Charapoonjee, half an inch at Silchar, Tezpur and Gauhati, and quarter of an inch at Lashio, Shibsagar and Jalpaiguri. The depression in the north-west has intensified, and will probably move in a north-easterly direction, giving thunderstorm in the Punjab Hills and duststorms in the plains. The rain in Assam should diminish further, and a few showers should fall in Central and North Bengal. Local thunderstorms may also occur in East Deccan. Elsewhere no change of importance is likely.

A PUZZLED CHIMPANZEE.

Man's claim to an exclusive monopoly of the faculty of reason has frequently been contested on behalf of the lower creation, and a remarkable instance of animal sagacity, quoted by a correspondent of the "Field" from a German scientific publication, strikes a further blow at his position. "It appears that in the year 1872 the Zoological Gardens at Dresden came into possession of a young chimpanzee, known as Focke, which lived for some time in the menagerie, where he on several occasions exhibited marked signs of more than average intelligence. On one occasion Focke was removed into the winterhouse, which was a large and spacious apartment with wooden benches fixed to the walls. Soon after his arrival he was seen by Dr. Ebert to take up his position on one of these benches, where he remained for some time surveying his new abode with care and attention. Next he examined all the utensils in the apartment, and more especially a jug full of water. After some time he discovered a knot hole in a deal plank forming part of one of the benches, which seemed to puzzle him not a little. After a bit he approached nearer to the hole, which he regarded attentively for some time. His object seemed to be at first to find to what depth it descended, and when he could not assure himself by other means of any limit in this direction, he thrust his index finger as deep as it would go into the hole, and appeared to be much astonished at finding no bottom. He next appeared to be thinking the matter over for some time, after which he spat on the plank as near as possible to the hole, into which he subsequently guided the saliva with his finger. The fluid did not, however, suffice to fill the hole, the plank being laid a few inches above the uneven ground. "More puzzled than over, the ape next went and fetched the water jug, and poured its whole contents into the wonderful hole, when, of course, all the water disappeared without filling the space between the plank and the ground. Thereupon Focke, after carefully returning the jug to its place, approached once more to the plank, near which sat down in a pensive and thoughtful mood, casting from time to time puzzled glances at the knot-hole. On the following day he paid several visits to the spot and made certain other attempts to ascertain the depth of the hole, but without success. Eventually, however, he seems to have realised the utter fruitlessness of all his investigations, and to have given the matter up as a bad job, from this time forth taking no sort of notice of the hole."

THE BALTIC ARMADA.

It is reported at Sevastopol that Russia is secretly building some half-dozen submarines for service against the Japanese. The construction of three of these craft was commenced about six weeks ago in one of the Baltic yards. The two submarines of approved pattern already in possession of the Baltic fleet are said to be undergoing same alterations in their steering gear.

A naval officer states that the experiments made last year with submarines in the Baltic were by no means as satisfactory as they were publicly stated to have been.

It is intended that the new submarines shall be sent overland to Port Arthur or Vladivostok.

RUSSIA'S BALTIC FLEET.

The cruiser Svieblana, now employed as yacht for the Grand Admiral, Grand Duke Alexis, with a speed of over twenty knots, is to be used for war purposes. The decorative woodwork has already been replaced by armour plates. This cruiser, as well as the armoured cruiser Admiral Nakhimoff, will form part of the Baltic fleet which is to sail in June for the Pacific. This squadron will be composed of the battleships Borodino, Orel, Imperator Alexander III., and Kniaz Suvaroff, all four powerful vessels of 13,000 tons. The old battleships Navarian, Sissoi Veliki, the new cruisers Oleg, Jemtchug, Svietlana and Izumrud, and the old cruiser Admiral Nakhimoff will also from part of the fleet, as well as the transport Kamtchatka, two torpedo destroyers and five torpedo boats. The fleet will carry out nine submarines, five of which have been built under the direction of Captain Beklemtcheff, naval engineer Boubnoff and the engineer Dolgolenko. They resemble the French type. Four of them have been built on the Djevotsky system.

This fleet will join in the Red Sea the squadron commanded by Admiral Wirenius, which consists of the battleships Osiliabya and the cruisers Dmitri Donski and Aurora. The departure of the fleet cannot take place earlier on account of the necessity of fitting the torpedo boats with new apparatus for an improvement in Whitehead torpedo which had been perfected in Russia. By this invention the torpedoes will be discharged under a pressure 50 of atmosphere, and will attend a speed of 36 knots.

WHOPING COUGH.—This is a very dangerous psease unless properly treated. Statistics show that there are more deaths from it than from scarlet fever. All danger may be avoided, however, by giving Chamberlain's Cough Remedy It liquifies the tough mucus, making it easier to expectorate, keeps the cough loose, and makes the sparoxysms of coughing less frequent andless ovre. It has been used in many epidemics of the disease with erfect suceess. For sale by

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

WAR NEWS.

Paris, April 3.—The "Petit Parisien" contains the following from St. Petersburg:—"There is much talk about the arrangement of the commander of the Boyarin, who is said to have abandoned his ship without making an effort to save her when she struck on a mine."

England is responsible for the war. She egged on Japan and ceaselessly urged upon her the possibility of the complete overthrow of Russia. England's aim is to keep Russia occupied in the Far East in order to insure for herself complete liberty of action in the Near East. In her egotism she has no mercy even for her new ally, and impels her onward to her doom.—"Novosti," St. Petersburg.

We have already reached the seventh week of the war, and for Japan the outlook grows darker and darker. The Japanese have landed in Korea in such insignificant numbers that we do not even know whether we shall have anyone to fight. Founded in ostentation and self-conceit, the Japanese plan is collapsing like a castle of sand when washed by the sea. Neither personal bravery, nor a vast military organisation—if needed such exists—can save Japan from the melancholy consequences of the doom which she prepared for herself.—"Svet," St. Petersburg.

The Russians are blaming the Tartar-General for failing to protect the railway and to suppress the mounted bandits, for which reason, the latter intends to enlist 7,500 men as recruits. But there are three difficulties attending this intention of his. How can he obtain the military funds? Where can be get the arms and ammunition? Further, the Russians do not allow any Chinese troops to be stationed near the railway. On account of these difficulties, the Tartar-General is in great distress of the mind and is suffering from loss of appetite and want of sleep.

During the presence of the Russian fleet in Egyptian waters, its every movement was being closely watched by a Japanese officer, formerly naval attache at the Japanese Legation in St. Petersburg, who immediately after the commencement of the war went to Port Said. For several weeks he stayed at a small hotel in absolute seclusion, broken only by his daily visit to the telegraph office to dispatch intelligence to his Government. When the Russians left, the officer departed for Yokohama as quietly as he came.

The "Japan Mail" reports:—The raising of the Varyag is said to be proceeding most successfully, but as the Kokumin's correspondent by whom the intelligence is conveyed, speaks of 12-inch guns having been already raised from the vessel, his details are obviously coloured by his imagination. At all events 8 guns of sorts have been taken out of her. They are all said to be serviceable, and it is now certain that the ship can be saved. She will make an addition to the Japanese navy, since she is a fine protected cruiser of 6.500 tons, with a nominal speed of 23 knots.

The two merchants, Messrs. Libby and Hope who were expelled from Vladivostok by the Russians, stated on their arrival at Victoria (British Columbia) that it was practically impossible for anyone to do much damage to the fortress from the sea. The entrance to the harbour is very tortuousand literally sown with mines, while it is commanded by the batteries which have been mounted recently with powerful ordnance. The garrison contained a large number of raw recruit who were being drilled for hours daily, the instructions of the officers being enforced by liberal applications of thick sticks.

St. Petersburg, April 4.—The Port Arthur journal "Novy Krai," describing, he scene on board the Russian cruiser Bayan, which distinguished herself during the latest bombardment of Port Arthur by the Japanese, says:—"The bursting sheels bowled over man after man until the decks were slippery with blood. Amidst this hell the captain stood unmoved in the conning tower, calmly telephoning his orders to the captains of the guns. His wonderful coolness had a remarkable influence on all the officers. The cockpit was soon crowded with wounded, thirty-nine men being brought down before the fight ended. Amid the crash of the guns, the hiss of the flying projectiles and the thunder of their explosions, the smashing of splinters, and the din of the working engines, the surgeons laboured quietly among the wounded on the hospital operating table. Although some of the men suffered frightful agony, few groans were heard, in spite of the fact that anaesthetics were only administered in one case. When the battle ended and the enemy began to draw off the officers on the bridge cheered. The cheering extended down to the hold, the stokers and even the wounded joining in. The captain signalled "Full speed ahead" after the retreating Japanese, but he had not gone far before the flagship signalled the Bayan to return."

A curious case is under the investigation of the Bangalore Police and would seem to call for the wisdom of a Solomon. Two Indian women of the shepherd caste, residing in Akathunanpalli, about four months ago, gave birth to boys, one of whom died a month ago. The women were living in the same house and now each claim the surviving youngster as her son. How the complications arose is not known, but matters culminated in a serious row between the claimant mothers and the police have had to interfere. They have now rather a tangled skein to unravel.

QUNS AND SUTS.—Silght injuries of the cerare of frequent occurrence in almost every hoer hold. While they are not dangerous, except when blood poisoning results from the injury, they are often quite painful and annoying. They can be quickly healed by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It allay's the pain almost instantly and heals the injured parts without matter being from which insures a cure in one-third the time that the usual treatment would require. It is the most perfect preparation in use for burns, scads, its bruises and lik injuries. It should be applied with a featheed before the parts becom pill possible For sale by

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

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE

Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTA, MAY 1, 1904.

PROPER APPLICATION OF THE LADY DUFFERIN FUND.

As we pointed out the other day, the Lady Dufferin's Fund which, to quote the words of Lord Curzon again, has grown into "a gigantic organization," ought to be diverted to purposes which are really useful. We indicated the way in which it might be utilized; and we are agreeably surprised to find that, in this respect, we are at one with the French Government whose views have been embodied in their report, apparently with approval, by the authorities of the Fund. The following quotation from the report of the Lady Dufferin Fund will explain our meaning:—

"The Committee (of the Countess of Dufferin Fund) has noted with interest that the French Government during the past year have instituted a similar scheme to that of the Dufferin Fund in Algeria, and 'in each village where the Mussalman population is sufficiently large the Government propose to establish a lady practitioner, providing her with the necessary medicines and instruments and giving her a salary proportionate to her work.'"

That is the proper application of the Fund; indeed, it should be utilized for the benefit of the poor villagers and not of the townspeople. The present Maharajah of Durbhanga, who and his late brother have contributed largely to the growth of the institution, also expressed similar views in one of its annual meetings held on March 7, 1899. Said His Highness:—

"Hitherto the movement has lain in the direction of benefiting the female population in the towns. It would be a great step forward if an effort could now be made to relieve the distress, which undoubtedly exists, owing to the lack of female medical aid, in the interior of the districts."

The Maharajah might have added, "as well as the lack of male medical aid also." Indeed, when we say that millions of people, male and female, in the interior of the country, receive no medical relief whatever, we do not draw upon our imagination. A comparison between the condition of things in the Muffasil and that in Calcutta will reveal a situation of which the rulers cannot be proud.

There are sixteen public dispensaries and hospitals in the imperial city to afford medical relief to a population of eight lakhs. Besides, there are hundreds of medical practitioners in the town whose services can be had for Rs. 2 per visit and who are more frequently resorted to than the public hospitals. From the official returns, it seems, that not even one-third of the population avail themselves of these charitable institutions. Yet we have a Dufferin Victoria Hospital in our midst, which treated only 7,435 in-door and out-door patients in 1903 among a female population of nearly three and half lakhs in a compact city. This shows that there is very little necessity for such an institution in Calcutta. If the money expended upon the building of a palatial house for this hospital as well as the annual expenses incurred in maintaining it had been utilized for the establishment of cottage hospitals in important villages of Bengal, the sufferings of millions of sick and really needy people might have been removed.

While there are sixteen public dispensaries in Calcutta, containing a population of eight lakhs, there are only about 540 dispensaries among a population of nearly eight hundred lakhs in the Muffasil! But this does not give an adequate idea of the situation. The sixteen dispensaries of Calcutta are located in a compact town of a few miles; but, the 540 dispensaries in the interior are scattered over an area of thousands of miles. The Bengal Administration Report for 1900-01 shows that out of a population of eight hundred lakhs in the districts, only about thirty-five lakhs of in-door and out-door patients availed themselves of these dispensaries. Is this not a terrible fact? What does it disclose? It discloses that, in the interior of Bengal, at least sixty lakhs of people go without medical relief, granting that some four or five lakhs get some sort of medical treatment at the hands of private practitioners in Muffasil towns and villages.

But the picture is not complete. It is those only who live in the vicinity of a dispensary, that is to say, those who reside within a distance of, say, three or four miles, who can alone afford to attend it. This means that, it is only the fortunate few, living close to a dispensary, who can derive any benefit from it. But the rest, who form the bulk, have absolutely to depend upon Nature. One instance will put the position in a vivid light. There is only one public dispensary at Jessore and another at Bongong. The distance between the two places is 28 miles. So only two dispensaries are available to the myriads residing in this vast area.

Sometimes there is no dispensary or medical man to be found within a distance of 50 or 60 miles! Is this not a frightful state of affairs? And need any body wonder why lakhs and lakhs of people are being decimated by fever, cholera and other diseases year after year?

It is thus clear that no special medical arrangements are necessary for townspeople; but, the inhabitants of rural tracts, rich or poor, absolutely need them. Why should not the Dufferin Fund be utilized for the benefit of the latter? Now that the French Government have shown the way in Algeria, it should be followed in this country also, specially as good many donors of the Fund like the Maharajah of Durbhanga, if consulted, would gladly approve of the idea. In Bengal, our good ruler, Sir Andrew Fraser and Lady Fraser are respectively Patron and Patroness of the Provincial Branch. We submit this scheme for their kind consideration. It is quite true, the Fund is started for the benefit of only suffering women; but, surely, the donors will not object if poor male patients also take advantage of the cottage dispensaries started under the auspices of the National Association.

Here is a work in which Sir Andrew Fraser and Lady Fraser will find a most pleasant occupation. Let them spend every pice of the Fund for those who really require help and not for those who need it not. As stated above, people residing in towns can manage to get medical relief somehow or other; but the vast majority in the Muffasil are so helpless that they cannot secure it either for love or for money. A large portion of the Fund is swallowed up by big buildings and costly establishments. This is a mere waste of money which ought to be prevented. Let medical women, generally Indian, be sent out in the interior to distribute medicine and afford medical treatment, free of cost, and, in this way, let the distress of suffering humanity be removed. A nobler work than this cannot be conceived.

ABOLITION OF SERVICE COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS.

Here is the passage in the Government Resolution on Education in India in which the proposal of abolishing competitive examinations for the public service has been made:—

"The principle of competition for Government appointments was unknown in India until a few years ago; it does not spring from the traditions of the people, and it is without the safeguards by which its operation is controlled in England. It sets aside, moreover, considerations which cannot be disregarded by a Government whose duty it is to reconcile the conflicting claims of diverse races, rival religions, and varying degrees of intellectual and administrative aptitude and adaptability. For the higher grades of Government service there is no need to have recourse to the system since it is possible in most cases for the Government to accept the various University degrees and distinctions as indicating that their holders possess the amount of knowledge requisite to enable them to fill particular appointments; while in the case of the more technical departments, a scrutiny of the subjects taken up by the candidate and of the degree of success attained in each, will sufficiently indicate how far he possesses the particular knowledge and bent of mind that his duties will demand. The Government of India are of opinion, therefore, that special competitions should, as a general rule, be dispensed with; and that the requisite acquaintance with the laws, rules, and regulations of departments may best be attained during probationary service and tested after a period of such service. In short, the Government of India hold that the multiplication of competitive tests for Government service neither results in advantage to Government nor is consistent with the highest interests of a liberal education. In fixing the educational standards which qualify for appointments, the natural divisions of primary, secondary and University education should be followed; school and college certificates of proficiency should, so far as possible, be accepted as full evidence of educational qualifications, regard being paid, within the limits of each standard, to their comparative value; and due weight should be attached to the recorded opinions of collegiate and school authorities regarding the proficiency and conduct of candidates during their period of tuition."

Though great ingenuity has been shown in the wording of the passage, yet it has failed to conceal the real intention. Let us analyse the sentiments. It is by competition that offices are filled in England; Government has therefore to justify that, what is sauce for the goose is not sauce for the gander, that is to say, if it is suited in England, it is not suited in India. And hence we have it that the principle of competition was unknown in India, that it is against the traditions of the people, that conflicting interests are to be reconciled, and so forth. But, as the principle of competition means only this that, those who can pass certain tests in a public examination are considered more fit to hold appointments than others who cannot do it, we are at a loss to understand why it will operate in one way in England and in another way in India.

As for the reconciliation of conflicting interests of diverse races, the established policy of the Government is to prefer merit to colour or creed. We see now and then the spectacle of unreasonable Mussalmans or Eurasians praying for Government appointments, because they are a backward community. And the invariable reply of the Government to such prayers has been this that, they must improve themselves and secure the appointments by their superior education and not by pleading their backwardness. Only the other day Sir Andrew Fraser gave the same advice to a body of Mussalmans who approached him at Muzzaffarpur and asked for employment on the ground of their being less advanced than some other races of India. The plea of conflicting interests is thus a baseless one, and has always been discouraged by Government.

In distributing public offices, the authorities should be guided by no other consideration than that of merit; and the only available method of testing merit,—if not the best or the surest but yet preferable in the absence of a better one,—is a competitive examination. It has not failed in England, neither has it produced bad results in India, though the system prevalent here is a combination of competition and nomination. Why would you then abolish it here? By keeping the right of nominating a certain percentage of appointments in its hands, the Government has made ample provision for meeting the so-called conflicting interests of different communities in India. Thus, from whatever point the question is viewed, there is absolutely no necessity for doing away with competitive tests; unless it is contended that favouritism is the object of the Government, a charge, which, of course, it will never admit.

Indeed, when the famous circular of Sir James Westland was publised in these columns and the Government of India interpellated on the subject, Lord Elgin found himself in such an embarrassing position that he was obliged to burke the question; for he could not admit the fact without humiliation that, the Finance Minister had issued an order to the effect that Europeans might be directly appointed to sixty Rupees grades in his department without passing any examination! It is too late in the day, even in India, to contend that nomination is better than competition; for, no one will have the hardihood to deny that nomination is bound to lead to nepotism, and therefore to corruption. But the greatest danger of nomination is, that really worthy young men will have very little chance of entering the public offices unless they can influence higher authorities either by sycophancy or other objectionable means; and thus the services will, in due course, be filled by mediocres or incompetent persons who will gradually bring disgrace upon every department where they are admitted. It was by nomination that the Indian Civil Service was previously manned, and it had at last to be replaced by competition when it came to be discovered that the recruitment was by undiluted favouritism, the Indian Civil Service having been converted into a haven of refuge for the failures of influential English families.

Lord Curzon himself has not ventured to condemn the system of competition in an open manner. His argument is that, there is no necessity for further competitive tests when the holders of University degrees and distinctions have already given evidence of their qualifications. His Lordship, in short, says that "the Government of India hold that the multiplication of competitive tests for Government service neither results in advantage to Government nor is consistent with the higher interests of a liberal education." In fixing the educational standards which qualify for appointments, the Government, therefore, are of opinion, that the natural divisions of primary, secondary and University education should be followed.

We quite agree with the Government in the above view. Indeed, if the primary, secondary and University education be a passport for entering the service, we have not the slightest objection to further competitive tests being dispensed with. But the Government says one thing, and means another. It says that there is no need for a competitive system to enter the higher grades of Government service when the graduates of our Universities are quite fit for them. If so, why not lay it down distinctly that, all higher Government posts are open to the holders of University degrees, and that the claims of those only will be preferred who have a brilliant University career? In this way, when a vacancy occurs, let the Government select him who has distinguished himself in college or school better than other candidates. By adopting this course, the Government will not only satisfy the public, but secure a staff of young officers who will do honour to any service of the State into which they are placed.

But though the Government is an ardent advocate of the University man, yet practically it will close the doors of the service against him. For, just examine with a little attention what the Resolution says on this point, namely, that, "it is *possible* to accept the various University degrees and distinctions indicating that their holders possess the requisite amount of knowledge, etc." We have italicised the word, "possible." That one word destroys the value of all the noble sentiments that pervade the sentence, just as a drop of acid spoils a gallon of good and fresh milk. So the Government will give no definite undertaking that, University men will be employed in the higher grades of the services, it is only when it is "possible" that the Government will generously listen to their claims!

The situation then is this. The Government admits that, those who have received primary, secondary, and University education are just the men fit for Government employment according to their respective capacity; but, it cannot guarantee their appointments. Having thus practically thrown all educated Indians overboard, the Government of India lay it down in distinct terms that, "special competitions should, as a general rule, be dispensed with." Now there is not a service under Government, except the Subordinate Judicial Service, where these special competitive examinations are not held. It is by these tests that Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Magistrates are selected; it is by these tests that clerks are admitted in the Finance, Accounts, and other Departments. In the Post Office there is such a competitive examination when the Superintendents are appointed. And the general result is that "Poor Whites" are practically nowhere in these examinations. Indeed, these "poor whites" faint away at the name of examinations. Is it possible that, in order to enable the latter to enter public services without passing any tests, the Government is going to inaugurate this measure? If so, a greater scandal cannot be imagined. The Government ought to explain the matter, for it has a reputation to maintain before the public.

SEDITION IN BLAZERS.

A school boy was proceeding along a footpath with a stick in hand, and in the exuberance of his heart, was beating the bush on both sides of the way. A big cobra lay concealed there, whose presence was of course not known. Now, of all creatures on earth, the proudest is the cobra,—it is prouder than an Englishman in India, and can never tolerate an indignity, supposed or real. When the lad by chance struck close to the serpent's whereabouts, it felt insulted and gave vent to its sense of wounded dignity by a defiant hiss. Its presence was thus known and a crowd, which collected soon after, killed it. But for this hiss no one would have noticed its presence at all.

It was by the merest chance that Mr. Robson, Principal of the Lahore College, came to discover that his movement about the "blazers" concealed within it an element of great political significance. Sometime ago he issued an order making the wearing of "blazers" compulsory on all his students. One may ask to know what connection have the blazers or the coats and hats with the education of youths, and if they have any, why have they not been introduced in Calcutta, Bombay or Madras? One may go further and complain that an uniformity in dress, though it may be necessary in a police or military force, is not only not needed for any good purpose in the case of students, but may prove obnoxious as it has done in the present instance.

Indeed, it is contended that those who give any undue importance to external forms are men of shallow minds. We know of a Police Superintendent who was fired with the ambition of introducing an uniform of a particular pattern among his seven hundred Choukidars. It was in the Sonthal Pergunnahs and the pay of the Choukidar was only one rupee per month; so they had not the means of paying for these uniforms. A cruel Government refused to help the Superintendent with money for such a purpose, and he pined away in sorrow. His superiors laughed at him for his enthusiasm; and advised him to give up the idea of a show and catch thieves.

Queen Elizabeth had a new dress every day, and history laughs at her vanity. And the irrepressible nephew of our King-Emperor has as many uniforms as he has sides to his genious. Do not people think him a little shallow? Coming nearer home, Lord Curzon's Memorial Hall is considered not in keeping with his solid attainments. The general opinion is that the crore of Rupees that he has collected for this purpose should not have been squandered away for a show but utilised for something substantial which might bring food to starving millions.

Mr. Robson of the Lahore College may not like these criticisms of the public upon his movement. Perhaps he has many good reasons for proposing that the students should put on blazers. One, according to his notion, is that it will nourish "espirit de corpse" (or the corporate espirit) in his institution. He, however, failing to explain how the "espirit de corpse" would be promoted by wearing blazers, asked the students to wait; for, said he, they would understand the whole thing in due course. What his other reasons are he did not choose to disclose. Perhaps the blazers would improve the memory; perhaps they would expel the "fumes of ignorance" from the mind; perhaps they would secure beautiful brides for the students. Who knows how many fine properties these blazers carry with them? Who knew before that radium would enable a man even to recover a cow which had strayed?

Mr. Robson, we are glad to see, is an energetic educationist, or else he would not have gone out of his way to suggest such a change for the benefit of his students—a change which is practically a revolutionary measure in his Province—perhaps in the whole of India. Of course it may be suggested that he has perhaps some share in a cloth manufactory in England; but as that is not a fact, we must attribute to him the best of motives for his action. He was delighted with his innovation, and in the exuberance of his heart, was expecting to convert his students into so many philosophers and savants by his blazer movement, when the "hiss" disclosed all.

If the students had remained quiet, perhaps they might have quietly got rid of the "Blazer Notification." But they committed the folly of entering a protest against the innovation, and offering outrageous reasons for their inability to put them on. The students contended that as they had taken a vow not to use foreign articles and as blazers were made of cloths imported from England, they could not therefore use them without breaking their pledge.

Why did they enter a protest at all when a protest in India means sedition and disloyalty, and the "confirmation of the wrong?" And why did they not oppose the movement as the Chaukidars of the Sonthal Perghanahs did? Why did not the students declare that many of them were too poor to be able to afford blazers? Of course that would have availed them very little, but such an attitude would not have at least roused the dormant political fire of the imperialistic savant of Lahore.

The students complained that they would break their pledge by using a foreign article like blazer, and Principal Mr. Robson immediately hissed out "sedition!"

There are two classes of Englishmen in India, namely, missionaries and educational officers, who have no administrative powers, and for which, therefore, they sigh naturally. Dr. Welldon tried to introduce an imperial religion in India, but the scheme failed. And the members of the Educational Service, if they find their students taking interest in political movements, cry murder, as if the Empire were coming down and falling to pieces.

Does the Principal of the Lahore College know that when a hundred years ago, the East Indian merchants imported Indian fabrics to England, his free-trading country interdicted it by a legislative enactment? The students have committed a great mistake; for they meddled with politics, and thus provoked a "hiss." They have now no chance but to submit unconditionally.

The Police Commission would have the Assistant Police Superintendents recruited from England. It is impossible to offer criticism upon a proposal like this. Fancy that raw English youths, who have not the slightest acquaintance with the manners, customs and language of the people, are proposed to be placed at the head of Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors, who are not only more experienced than they but have been trained as police officers and who are thoroughly familiar with the circumstances of the country. How would it be possible for these alien youths not to play in the hands of their subordinates? The proposal is absurd on the face of it, and if it were carried out, the Indian Police is bound to be reduced to even a more deplorable condition than it is now. The head of the police must no doubt be an educated man; but, what is equally essential is that he should be thoroughly acquainted with Indian languages. It is this language difficulty which makes the European District Superintendents so helpless in the hands of their Sub-Inspectors. If the Commission have really expressed it as their opinion, that Englishmen may learn Indian languages better in England than in this country, then they have only invited ridicule upon themselves. But, we sincerely trust, they have been misrepresented, for, we cannot conceive that a body of intelligent European gentlemen, presided over by such a distinguished official as Sir Andrew Fraser, could make such a declaration which has made even the writer in the "Times" start. Now that a brief summary of the report has seen the light of day, we trust, the whole document will be published, both in the interests of the public and the members of the Commission. For, we must say, it is very unfair to the latter that they should be subjected to public criticism upon the meagre summary of their report published by an anonymous correspondent in a London newspaper, however respectable it may be.

We understand that the letter headed "Alleged Assault by Soldiers", published in the "Patrika" of the 11th instant over the signature of Babu K. P. Biswas, Editor, "Barta," has attracted the prompt attention of the authorities and that an enquiry has been ordered into the matter. Babu K. P. Biswas received the following on Monday last from the Sub-Divisional Officer of Barrackpur:—

"You are hereby informed that your letter headed "Alleged Assault by soldiers" in the "Patrika" of the 11th instant has drawn attention of Government and the matter has been ordered to be reported upon. You are therefore hereby directed to appear before the court on the 27th instant at 10 a.m. to state what you know in the matter."

Agreeably to the above request, Babu K. P. Biswas saw the Magistrate, who took down his statements. We are glad to learn that the Sub-Divisional Officer is very anxious to find out the culprits, if possible, and is taking energetic steps to put a stop to such outrages.

We had no mind to comment on the scandalous Police case in which Mr. Macfarleen, Librarian of the Imperial Library, got himself involved, for, we thought, he would, of his own motion, do ample reparation to the victim of his prosecution; but, since he is quite indifferent as regards his action, we deem it our duty to put the matter before the Government so that due notice might be taken of his conduct. The case is also of great public importance, for, if respectable people, who are regular visitors of a public institution like the Imperial Library, are hauled up before criminal courts, without reason or rhyme, very few will care to go there. Now to the facts of the case. Rai Sudhangsu Sikhur Kali, a son of the well-known Homeopathic Doctor of the town, Dr. Chander Sikhur Kali, was a subscriber to the Library and he used to attend it frequently. On the 14th April last, while in the Library, he was, all of a sudden, accused of having torn off some pages of a University Calender, by a sorter, named Charu Kristo Ghose. He indignantly denied the charge, saying that he had nothing to do with the book. If Mr. Macfarleen had taken a little care to inquire into the matter, he would have at once discovered that the young man was perfectly innocent, and that it was the sorter, and not Babu Sudhangsu, who was to blame. Instead of adopting this simple course, he wrote a letter to the nearest Police officer, charging Sudhangsu with having damaged some pages of a book. When the Police officer came to enquire, he saw that the damaging of a book could not be a police cognizable case at all; so, "criminal trespass" was added to this charge. It is not clear how this was done; for, the accused had the usual ticket of admission with him, and he could not be charged with trespass. Be that as it may, the poor boy was taken in custody by the Police officer and brought before the Deputy Commissioner, who very naturally asked to know "what book had been torn and where were the torn pages?" The Police officer who had brought the accused could not answer the question, for, strange as it may appear, the Librarian, though charging the boy with having damaged a book, did not make it over or its torn pages to the Police officer. The accused should have been at once let off; but, for reasons not known, the Deputy Commissioner of the Police would not do it and released him on a bail of Rs. 20.

In the meantime, the father of the boy saw Mr. Macfarleen. He showed the absurdity of the whole thing; for, his son, said he, had no business whatever with a University Calender and that there was no earthly reason why he should tear off the pages in a wanton manner. Mr. Macfarleen then enquired of Dr. Kali whether his son had written a letter to the "Indian Daily News" against the Imperial Library which had put him to much trouble. Dr. Kali replied that his son was too young to write for newspapers. Mr. Macfarleen said that the case was an important one and must be proceeded with; and either the accused or the sorter must be punished. In due course it came to be heard by the Chief Magistrate, Mr. Weston. The prosecutor was Mr. Macfarleen himself, and the accused was charged with the theft of a book and also with having committed mischief by tearing a number of its leaves. The Chief Presidency Magistrate, after hearing the deposition and cross-examination of the complainant and his witness, the sorter, Charu Kristo Ghose, dismissed the case and acquitted the accused without framing any charge against him. The judgment he passed is a most curious one. Not only is it the briefest document of its kind, but we defy any one to make anything out of the two sentences which compose the whole judgment. Here is it:—

"Case No. 364 of 1904.

"Mr. Macfarleen, Librarian, Imperial Library

vrs.

Rai Sudhangsu Sekhar Kali.

Judgment.

"I am not at all satisfied with the evidence of Charu Kristo Ghose in this case. His behaviour is not above suspicion and his statements in cross-examinations were not calculated to inspire confidence on him.

"Accused acquitted under sec. 245 C.P.C.

(Sd.) D. Weston,

Chief Presidency Magistrate."

Calcutta, 13th April.

So all that we learn from the above is that a case was brought before Mr. Weston in which Mr. Macfarleen was the prosecutor and Rai Sudhangsu Sekhar Kali was the accused. But what was the offence with which he was charged? The Magistrate omits to mention it altogether! We also find that, the Magistrate was "not at all satisfied with the evidence of Charu Kristo Ghose", whose "behaviour is not above suspicion." But what did Charu Kristo say, and which part of his statement was not believed by the Court? That of course the public must evolve from their inner consciousness. It is likewise a remarkable fact that the Magistrate has not a word of comment upon the conduct of the Imperial Library authorities, at whose instance the false case was brought and who were represented by their Librarian. Mr. Macfarleen was severely cross-examined by Mr. Cotton and he made certain startling statements which we intend publishing hereafter. In the meantime, we hope, for the reputation of the management of the Imperial Libray, some serious notice would be taken of the conduct of Charu Kristo Ghose and Mr. Macfarleen who, we hear, is shortly going away on leave. As for the accused, we are credibly informed, he had to spend nearly two thousand Rupees to extricate himself from the case, not to mention the mental torture to which he was subjected by the disgraceful criminal charge preferred against him, not by an ordinary man, but an Englishman, representing the authorities of the Imperial Library, some of whom are the executive members of the Viceregal Council.

Mr A. Goodeve is the present District Judge of Birbhoom. He also served as such in the same district on a previous occasion. At that time, he sent to the gallows a Mooktear on a charge of murder. After the unfortunate man had been hanged, Mr. Goodeve came to know that the Mooktear was the only earning member of a large family and his death had deprived them of their only means of livelihood. The circumstance touched his heart, and he has since then (nearly three years) been help-

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ing the family with a monthly donation of Rs. 25. Such instances of kindly acts cannot but produce a deep impression upon the minds of the public.

THE "Times of India" is simply aghast at the statement of Sir Henry Cotton that the members of the Civil Service are in favour of the partition of Bengal because they see in it "the prospect of additional offices of emolument," and goes on to observe that "the man who can thus say of the officers of his own service, etc., etc., should hold his peace." And we say that the "Times" has every right to say so. For, who knows it not that Englishmen come out to this land of pestilence and scorching heat and pass here the best part of their lives for the great love they cherish for its people? May we enquire, why is the editor of the Bombay "Times" in this country, abandoning his happy home in England?

LORD CURZON promised to utilize Indian marble for the Victoria Memorial building. What has led him to change his views in this respect? He owes an explanation to the Indian public why he intends to bring this material from Greece while sufficient marble of the finest quality is available in this country. We are informed that expert opinion is not in favour of the country marble, but that does not seem to be the case from what Mr. Holland of the Geological Survey, an eminent authority, says on the subject. In short, this note of Mr. Holland appears in Lord Curzon's "Journal of the Victoria Memorial" itself. Mr. Holland says:—

"Any one who has seen the effect of weather on the marble monuments of Europe could not fail to notice the grey begrimmed crust which forms from the residue of insoluble products after removal of the carbonate of lime by the solvent action of rain water."

And again:—

"Judging by its mineralogical character the marble of which the master-pieces of Mogul architecture were built must have come from the great Aravalli belt, which includes the quarries of Makrana in Jodhpur, Touhra in Kishengarh, and Khanon in Ajmere. It is to the coarseness of its grain that this marble owes in part its resistance to the weather? it is its purity which enables it to maintain its white surface; and it is its translucence which gives it the delicate softness that could never be obtained from a fine grain marble more suitable for statutary than for architectural purposes. But the white marble of the Aravalli belt and Burma does not by any means exhaust the resources of India. We have in addition the magnificent yellow of Jaisalmer, the green of Motipura in Baroda, the pink of Ajmere, Kishengarh and Jaipur, the dark-grey of Kishengarh and Jodhpur."

We all know Lord Curzon promised to be very "liberal" to India in regard to this piece of memorial work. His promise was that he would never import anything from outside which is procurable here. Why is he then going to break his promise? Of course, there is some good reason for it, for we cannot conceive that Lord Curzon would wantonly give preference to Greece in this matter which is a foreign country. If it had been England we might have attributed the arrangement to his patriotism; we might have also understood the position if it had been America; but it is inexplicable why Lord Curzon should throw India overboard for the sake of Greece, for which, of course, he can have no particular love.

LAST Wednesday's "Calcutta Gazette" contains the full and corrected text of Sir Andrew Fraser's speech on the local budget, and we are now in a better position to understand the meaning of His Honour's utterances than we were when we had to depend upon newspaper reports. It will be remembered that the portion of his speech which was justly received with great concern and dissatisfaction by the general public was the one which related to a declaration on his part that he would keep all things regarding the Improvement Scheme of Calcutta "deep down in our bosoms as Official Secrets." Was the Lieutenant-Governor chaffing or serious when he said this? The public took it in a serious light and they had ample justification for it. Sir Andrew had made no secret of his warm sympathy with the Official Secrets Bill, and he supported it in the Council in a manner which no other Member had cared to do. While Lord Curzon ridiculed the idea of hauling up editors or newspapers unless they had disclosed secrets endangering the vital interests of the Empire, Sir Andrew gravely gave it as his opinion that, even those who tampered with his innocent demi-officials might come within the scope of the Act. Naturally, when he said he would not allow the public to know anything about his views regarding important measures like the Improvement Scheme, the people took him at his word. When, commenting on this part of his speech in our issue of April 9, we, however, expressed some doubt as regards His Honour's seriousness and made the following remarks:—

"Of all men a policy of secrecy suits Sir Andrew Fraser the least. For, by nature, he is frank, affable, and confiding."

THAT is still our conviction; and, on going through his speech more carefully, we are persuaded that it was only a piece of pleasantry on the part of His Honour when he said that he would keep the matter concealed in his heart of hearts as an official secret. Sir Andrew has mixed himself so freely with the people of all classes that it is impossible for him to distrust them and inaugurate a policy of secrecy, which, he knows very well, is fraught with dire evils. We will only venture to make one suggestion to His Honour. There is some difference between the people of the Central Provinces, where he has passed the best part of his life, and those of Bengal. A personal and ma bap rule is perhaps needed in the former; but, in Bengal, Sir Andrew will get real and useful help from the leading men of the Province if he will confide in them, and seek their advice in matters involving the interests of the nation, for, they, as a rule, understand their own affairs as much as the officials do.

BY the way, by compairing His Honour's authenticated speech with what appeared in newspapers, we find a curious misreport of a certain expression. When replying to the observations of an Hon'ble Member about the Government's proposals to supply houses for [illegible] officers Sir Andrew said: "I must say that one cannot help being amazed at the attitude the Hon'ble Member takes up in regard to this matter." In some newspaper reports we find the word, "amazed," converted into "annoyed." His Honour was thus most unjustly made to use an expression which of course he was the last person to do. In our own report, we have got "amused" in the place of "amazed." Our reporter was thus to blame less than others, for the words, "amazed" and "amused," sound almost the same; and as His Honour was really in a humorous vein when he took up this point for a reply, our reporter may be excused for substituting the one for the other. In our humble opinion, the word, "amused," would have suited this portion of His Honour's speech better than what he actually used.

THE "Indian Daily News", in wishing a happy voyage home to Lord Curzon, who left Simla on Thursday, says that, in spite of the Official Secrets Act, the Indian press has reason to be grateful to His Lordship. Our contemporary is right; for, though Lord Curzon carried everything in his own way like an autocrat, he never complained of the severe criticism to which he had been subjected, sometimes in a relentless manner, both by the Indian and the Anglo-Indian papers. At the Delhi Durbar, he showed special consideration to the members of the fourth state, in spite of their attacks and ridicule upon his project. The "Indian Daily News" mentions two acts of Lord Curzon which show his liberal feelings towards the press. One is the equal distribution of official information to all papers,—and this is one of the reasons why he could never please the "Pioneer". The other is the reduction of the telegraphic rates for press messages. We may add two others to the above. One is the privilege of sending five tolah newspapers by quarter anna postage. The other is the shelving of the Telegraphic Messages Bill. Lord Curzon displayed an amount of courage on the latter occasion which had never been shown by any previous Viceroy. The entire Anglo-Indian papers, with one honourable exception,—the "Indian Daily News",—demanded the measure for their own interests at the sacrifice of those of their Indian brethren, and the majority of the members of the Supreme Legislative Council were too glad to oblige them. It was settled that the Bill would be passed at the next sitting of the Council, when, to the surprise of all, Lord Curzon quietly made the announcement that he had made up his mind to withdraw the measure, as it was a selfish and unreasonable piece of legislation and it was dropped.

How we wish His Excellency were guided always by this spirit of wise statesmanship in all his other public acts and measures; for, in that case, he would have secured the object for which he was appointed to his high office, namely, the happiness of the three hundred millions whose destiny was absolutely entrusted to him. He, however, elected to follow another policy, and no wonder he has failed in his great mission. The Indian career of the present Viceroy has been very aptly and beautifully described by an American paper in a few sentences. With extraordinary ingenuity, says this paper, he has made himself intensely unpopular with both officials and peoples in India. Originally he gained the hatred of the official classes by his liberal attitude towards the popular grievances. Now he has estranged the people by passing and introducing measures seriously affecting their liberties and other vital interests. And the paper concludes: "Lord Curzon's intentions were excellent, but his rule has been a failure, and he feels it keenly". That he feels it keenly we know for certain; yet, he is as much in the hands of a cruel destiny as the Indians, the victims of his measures, are. His last utterances, when leaving Simla last Thursday for England, make it quite clear that he is coming back in October, at least for six months. We trust, like the Telegraphic Messages Bill, he will at least throw out the Bengal partition measure which has added so greatly to his unpopularity, and which, we are told, is on its way to the Secretary of State for India.

SAYS the "Pioneer:"—

"The vernacular papers of Bengal have jumped to the conclusion that the Official Secrets Act has been recently applied in one local administration with the result that certain native members of the office establishment have been dismissed. The action taken, however, was we believe purely executive, to stop a leakage of official information which had been persistently going on."

The Allahabad paper evidently refers to the Assam sensation, particulars of which have already appeared in these columns. For ready reference we state here the main facts. Several articles about the distribution of business at the Shillong Secretariat containing imputations on the Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Under-Secretary, appeared in some Bengal papers. Naturally they attracted the attention of the Chief Commissioner who asked Babu Sarat Chandra Dhar, Superintendent, Shillong Secretariat, to find out the informants. On the latter's failure in fastening the blame upon anybody, he was asked to resign his appointment which he did. Along with the Superintendent, we are told, several other clerks were also dismissed. Is this justice or what? Because the real culprit could not be discovered, therefore innocent men should be hanged. The point is—did Babu Sarat Chander disclose the secrets? No. Why was he then compelled to resign? Simply, because, he was a helpless "native." And pray, why do the officials cry murder when some of their doings ooze out? This goes to show that sometimes they are ashamed of their acts and hence they fear exposure. Of course the Assam Government has taken this step in its executive capacity; but there is no doubt it would have not dealt with the clerks so severely if the Official Secrets Act was not before us just now.

ON Monday last, Mr. Justice Subramania Aiyer and Mr. Justice Boddam, of the Madras High Court, disposed of two referred trials, one from Tinnevelly and the other from Madura. In both cases, the accused were convicted of murder and sentenced to be hanged by the Sessions Judges. Their Lordships confirmed the convictions but reduced the sentence in each case to one of transportation for life. Now, is not the result a puzzle to ordinary humanity? To send a man to the gallows is undoubtedly the most disagreeable task which a District and Sessions Judge has to do, and it is only a supreme sense of duty, which compels him to take this extreme measure. Yet we see that the Sessions Judges of Tinnevelly and Madura have no scruples whatever to condemn two of their fellow-beings to death, though, according to the Hon'ble Judges, a less severe punishment would meet the requirements of justice. Is not this an extraordinary spectacle. In the interests of humanity, the ferocious spirit which pervades the criminal administration obtaining here should be humanized and that by making the voice of the jury more heard and respected than is done now. Here is another case which hails from Allahabad. One Rabidat had dishonoured the daughter-in-law of a certain person named Ral Lal. Naturally he felt the matter very keenly. One morning, he saw Rabidat coming out of his house. His blood was up, and maddened by the sight of the man, he chased and killed him. In due course, he was put on his trial and sentenced to death by the Sessions Judge of Gorakhpur. The case came on on appeal before the Allahabad High Court, the result being that the appeal was rejected and the death-sentence confirmed. Now suppose a cut-throat, who had murdered an innocent child for the latter's ornaments, were tried by the Allahabad Judges. They would have no doubt passed the same death-sentence on this monster. So, in the opinion of the Indian Judges, there is no difference between two men, one of whom is a dark assassin and the other the ravisher of his daughter in a state of frenzy. It is sickening to contemplate the manner in which justice is administered in this country.

MESSRS JUST and Hatmaker have perfected a process for reducing milk to a sterilised powder, a state in which it may be preserved indefinitely. The Just-Hatmaker process removes all the water from the milk by the application of heat and converts it into a light yellow, flaky powder. This is just the sort of invention which is likely to save India, as far as that is possible, from starvation. The milk-men here do not know what to do with their surplus milk. Those who live near towns find market for the commodity, but in the interior they are utterly helpless. They could utilize milk if the preparation of cheese were known to them and if it were an article of food in this country. The invention of Messrs Just and Hatmaker is thus very much wanted here. But who is to introduce it? Certainly the Agricultural Department. But that Department has not shown much vitality as yet, and that is not due so much to the incompetence of those who are in charge of it as to the apathy of the Government which has no heart in that direction. Indians can manage manufactories on a small scale, such as hand-looms, small lucifer or oil factories, which can be worked by bullock or hand power. Then such machines as are invented for the purpose of separating seeds from cotton, and fibres from jute and rhea, can also be handled by the masses here. It was only one small invention of Whitney, by which seeds could be separated from cotton, that made America a wealthy country. And it is Just and Hatmaker's invention for manufacturing dry milk that may save India from starvation.

Severe fighting has taken place in Sumatra. The Dutch forces attacked the natives of the soil, and, after a sharp engagement, drove them from their position. The natives lost 541 killed, the Dutch casualties being three killed and 25 wounded

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The "Straits Echo" publishes a telegram received from Singapore that Mr. Warzburg, the Second Engineer of the Steamer "Kudat," was shot and killed by Mr. Joseph Summers, Musical Director of the Stanley Opera Company, on the morning of the 20th instant.

A Kulu correspondent gives the following short account of accidents and offences here:—Three sheep killed and a leopard shot in Sarikite, a man and a woman badly bitten by a mad dog at Buin, and the incendiary who escaped from the police at Karaon re-captured in the upper valley.

Junior Scholarship.—It is notified that on the result of the Entrance examination of 1904 the eleven third-grade Junior Scholarships allotted to this Division under Government order No. 2916, dated the 9th September 1902, will be distributed as follows:—Patna, 2; Gaya, 1; Shahabad, 2; Saran, 2; Champaran, 1; Muzaffarpur, 1; Darbhanga, 2.

Before Mr. Aziz-ud-din Sahib Bahadur, Senior Magistrate, Black Town, Madras, Yogi Paramahamsa Ramananda was charged with having assaulted a woman, named Jasoda Bai. It was stated that while the complainant, a mendicant, was going along Mint Street on the 6th ultimo, the Yogi invited her to his house, on the pretext of giving her alms, and then closed the door behind her. The trial is proceeding.

There is a deal of dissatisfaction in the European community of Cawnpur against the high-handed manner in which proceedings of the Board are conducted. Mr. Johnstone has resigned, because the Chairman does things on his own responsibility, papers are not shown to the members without his sanctions, questions are disposed of at Boards' meetings at are not given in the Agenda, and that the proceedings of the Board are not properly recorded.

Many of our readers will be interested in the following particulars of a shooting expedition in the Nepal Terai just brought to a close. The party consisted of six guns, General Sir Bindon Blood, Colonel Ellis, R. E., Mr. J. S. Campbell, I. C. S., Captain Morris, A. D. C., Khan Bahadur Mangal Khan and Khan Bahadur Bala Khan, the two last named being the well-known sporting brothers of Sherpur in Pilibhit. The bag was eight tigers, a bear, a few deer and a great number of quail. One of the tigers was of the remarkable length of 10ft. 8in. The measurement was made four times with great care, and can be fully attested by all the members of the party. It was taken immediately after the animal's death, with a new 50-foot tape, in the usual manner, from tip of nose to tip of tail, following all curves. Some other dimensions of this tiger were: length of body 7 ft. 2 in.; length of tail 3 ft. 6 in.; girth 4 ft. 3 in.; from wither to toe 4 ft. 4. in. A tigress 9 ft. 1 in. long, probably the mate of the big tiger, was also shot.

SCRAPs.

Owing to the raising of the age of candidates for Sandhurst and Woolwich, it is probable that the age for admission to the Indian Army will be raised from 25 to 26 years.

Supplies are still being obtained weekly by the Tibet Mission, but it will be necessary to accumulate a large quantity from India in Chumbi in case any further advance has to be made from Gyantse.

Among the Imperial Cadets who will continue their third year's course in order to qualify for the special King's Commission are Aga Kasim Shah, nephew of the Aga Khan, and Nawab Wali-ud-din Khan, son of the Vikar-ul-Umra of Hyderabad. Among the Cadets entering on a second year's course is the eldest son of the Maharaja of Kuch Behar, an Eton boy.

It is expected that Major Bird has reached Kabul by this time, though owing to the rapidity with which he is travelling no details of his journey have been forthcoming since he left Landi Kotal. Reports shows that though the spring was late in Eastern Afghanistan summer weather is now quite established as far as Jellalabad, through which Major Bird must have passed.

The mails from Kalka to Simla continue to be carried by tonga, and are likely to be thus conveyed for some little time. The tonga continues to arrive in Simla an hour or two earlier than the train, and, until the Consulting Engineer can certify that the line is in such a state that the trains can be permitted at night, the mails will naturally travel by tonga. The Government bullock train service, hitherto maintained, is being discontinued.

It is believed that the culprits responsible for at least one of the two recent attempts to derail trains upon the Simla Railway have been arrested and will be placed upon trial in the Magistrate's Court at Simla. It appears to be the old story of an ignorant gangman trying to get another into trouble by interfering with the other's sections of the line regardless of the danger to life and property which such means of pursuing private quarrels involves.

THE reader is already aware that the long-expected interview between the Chinese Amban and Colonel Younghusband has at last come about. All previous interviews between the Tibetan officials and Colonel Younghusband have proved abortive and the only hope now rests with the present negotiation. We are told that pending current negotiations between Colonel Younghusband and the Amban it does not seem likely that any reinforcements will be sent to strengthen the escort of the Tibet Mission. The troops are fully equal now to maintaining communications with Gyantse.

The French have beaten all other nations in the art of aerial navigation. We are told that aeronauts were away from the terra firma for 22 hours. After an interesting voyage of twenty-two hours two aeronauts, MM. Janets and Boulanger, members of the Paris Aero Club, descended on Sunday (4th April) afternoon at Jasnitz, in Mecklenburg, in their balloon, the "Eden," of about 28,000 cubic feet. They started from Paris about four o'clock on Saturday afternoon. The balloon attained a height of a little over two miles, the thermometer falling to 21deg. F., while in the morning a heavy fall of snow was encountered.

A Russian paper in dealing with the question of Tibet has made a curious mistake, It traces the forward Tibetan policy to the arrival of Lord Kitchener in India and states that the reason that the Vicercy and the Commander-in-chief are so much in sympathy is that they are "brothers-in-law." The journal says: "Since he became a relative of Lord Kitchener Lord Curzon has become a brave leader of men. Two sisters, daughters of American millionaires, have finally joined their husbands in friendship, who were already related in character, energy, belief, and the whole of the activities of life." This well-informed journal credits the "brothers-in-law" with having forgotten the development of the country, and having stunned India with the announcement that 40,000 persons have died from plague. Instead they have darkly conspired to attack unarmed Tibet, and have revived British aggression in Asia! It is a quaint mixture of blunders.

THE European soldiers have again begun to molest and maltreat the children of the soil. There was a lull for some time, though only for a short period, after the serious notice was taken of such cases by the authorities. The other day we reported a case in which an innocent clerk was knocked down on a public road at broad daylight before several witnesses by a son of Mars. at Dinapur. And why was the Indian so maltreated? His only fault was that he, in order to protect his head from the scorching rays of the April sun, had his umbrella spread over his head. The sight of an open umbrella in the hand of a "native" was too much for the soldier, and the irate Lieutenant, for such is his rank, turned his pony and knocked down the poor man. Such is the version of the Dinapur case as stated by the complaint. Here is another case reported by the Lahore "Tribune" said to have occurred on a public road at Mian Mir:—On the evening of the 21st instant three students of the Medical College were out for a walk on the Upper Mall. Two of them had caps on and one wore his national "puggree." Opposite the Charing Cross Hotel two soldiers in uniform came rushing from behind on bycycles, and one of them snatched up the turban from the head of the student and rode away with the same speed! The boys thought it all a joke, otherwise they, or the other young men of colleges who were about, would have at once given chase, or at least raised a hue and cry. But before they had recovered from their surprise the "goras" disappeared from view, carrying away the head gear. For the good name of the administration such cases of mischievous prank played by soldiers ought to be taken serious notice by the authorities. And every effort should be made to bring to book the miscreants, for it will not only act as a deterrent on mischievously-inclined soldiers but will also bring confidence in the British administration in the minds of the Indians. We trust the attention of the military authorities at Mian Mir will be drawn to the above case, which in the ordinary language is a case of theft or of high way robbery.

After enforcing the so-called sanitary measures to check the spread of plague for several years, to the untold sufferings of the people, the authorities have at last come to realise their own folly. The other day Lord Curzon admitted the inefficacy of the measures in no covered language. Following his Lordship Colonel Weir in his Report on the health of Central India thus expresses the hopelessness of checking the spread of the disease. In spite of every precaution plague continued to make headway in Central India. Inoculation with Haffkine's serum was successfully tried in the Indore State and several outbreaks in villages were checked. Merchants and pilgrims are held resposible in some cases for spreading the disease. In 1902 the "regrettable incident" in the Punjab with regard to plague serum put a summary stop to inoculation. In 1902 there were 515 cases of plague in Central India with a mortality of 79.22 per cent. Khasroad suffered most severely from plague, and it is believed that the disease was imported there from the Central Provinces. If the authorities had heeded the timely warning of the Indian press, the lamentable incidents at Poona and other places would have been averted.

Nothing seems to have proved a more startling revelation to Russia in the present war than the attitude of America. Russia, it is stated, considered that she might safety rely upon American sympathy under the impression that at heart the great Western nation was antagonistic to Great Britain, and jealous of Japan's chances of aggrandisement in the Far East. Russia relied, too, it is stated, upon the special distaste of Americans for all coloured races, and that Japan's already expressed desire for possession of the Philippines would not act as an influence in her favour. The explosion to American sympathy, which followed upon the declaration of war, was a puzzling surprise to Russian statesmen. The "Spectator," in commenting upon the sympathetic relations which have been set up between the United States and Japan, states that a Japanese victory would be far more popular than a Russian one, for America will never forget that the Panama Canal will one day be constructed, and regards the trade with the Far East as of vital importance. "The best interests of this trade would not be served by a Russian predominance in China, and America, it is said, believes that in such an event as a Russian victory, the conqueror would by way of recouping herself for her gigantic expedition, proceed to enforce a close monopoly. The Spectator writes:—"America has no longing for Asiatic territory; and it hardly matters to the States so long as the 'door' is open to commerce, how much of the continent of Asia the Mikado may rule or may 'protect.' Even Great Britain in this respect is not so perfectly disinterested. Japan, for example, to give a single illustration might conquer all the wonderful islands of the Eastern Archipelago without exciting in America any emotion except one of half-admiring surprise. We, on the contrary, in that contingency, should have Australian ambitions to think of. The Japanese, therefore, regard the Americans as potential friends, and have from the first taken all the means that occur to them of showing that they hold them in some special regard."

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

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[From our own Correspondent.]

London, April 8.

"THE ARMY OF THE INDIAN MOGHULS:" A BOOK OF GREAT HISTORICAL INTEREST.

The reports which have circulated from time to time that the Emperor of Russia intended to journey eastwards to encourage by his presence his soldiers at the front, and the similar step contemplated by the Emperor of Japan, lend an additional interest to Mr. William Irvine's recently pubilshed work on the organisation and administration of the Moghul army in India. Mr. Irvine, since his retirement from the Bengal Civil Service in which he served with distinction, has made a special study of the period of the Moghul domination in India. He is recognised as one of the first experts in all that concerns that time, and whatever he writes carries with it the weight of authority. It is probable that eventually a large work from his pen may be looked for, but while the learned ex-Civil Servant is reducing to book form the enormous mass of materials he has collected, more than one smaller work will be published. The interest of the book to which I am now referring is, perhaps, technical, but the work contains a vast amount of information which cannot fail to be of value to the student of history. Among the many subjects dealt with, that of the Army on the March is especially interesting, together with an account of what happened when the Emperor took the field in person. It is certainly very doubtful whether the peace-loving Czar will eventually find himself with the Russian army in the Far East. Of course, his near ancestor did not hesitate to go to the front at the time of the Russo-Turkish war, but he was renowned as a soldier. Had the Emperor Nicholas shown a keen military spirit, it might have been expected that he would have overcome all official objections to his taking an active part in the war; but, as he is not dominated by militarism, having all through his life shown himself an advocate of peace, it remains, as I have said, exceedingly doubtful whether rumour will prove to be true. As to the Japanese Monarch, no one will be surprised if his energy and interest in the struggle of his army with a European Power are sufficiently strong to draw him accross the silver streak into Korea. To come back, however, to the Moghul Emperor of old, it was considered that he could only take the field if the foe were worthy of his steel. Another point about hostilities under the Moghul administration was that the Emperor, on the line of march, paid visits to holy men or to shrines in order to obtain blessing and help. This custom has been repeated many times within the last two months in Russia, not only by the Emperor but by the officers holding important positions in the army. We have not as yet however, heard

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of the Russians (who are regarded by many observers as in reality an Asiatic people) following the Moghul custom of winding the turban round the leader's head and of girding on his sword before a certain shrine. A further part of the ceremony consisted in trying to discover the fate of the military expedition by an omen. A bow with its string loosened, was placed near the shrine; if the string resumed its place, it was held to be a sign of victory. Mr. Irvine has a good deal to say, too, about omens before the army was permitted by the astrologers to make a start. No march would be begun until the lucky moment had been fixed by the reading of the stars. If it were not possible to make a real departure on the auspicious day, advance tents would be sent out and a pretended start made in the hope of cheating the Fates, and, in any case, the first march was a short one in order that stragglers might have time to join and anything that had been left behind might be sent for. This regard for lucky and unlucky days was a great obstacle to the Moghuls' success in war, as it often prevented them from taking the most obvious advantages of an enemy.

If the Emperor accompanied the army, very special arrangements had to be made, for it was the practice of the Moghuls that the official records of the Empire should not be separated from the Emperor. The accounts and other archives were carried on eighty camels, thirty elephants, and twenty carts. Other camels were laden with the Imperial treasure, one hundred of which carried gold, and two hundred silver coin. The Imperial kitchen equipment, the wardrobe of the Emperor, the harim, the harim jewels, and a large store of swords and daggers, to be presented to the generals, necessitated very large transport of camels, elephants, and carts. Ordinarly the Emperor himself rode on an elephant in a kind of room with glass windows, but by the side of the elephant palankins were always ready and the Emperor's horses in case he wished to change his mode of conveyance. The Imperial standard was carried on an elephant, a special officer being in charge of the insignia and standards. Military music was supplied by cymbals, trumpets, and drums. The patrolling and watching of the camp at night seems to have left a good deal to be desired, and a night surprise was by no means a difficult task. Whenever the Emperor passed, it was etiquette for princes, nobles, and chiefs to come out to the edge of their camps and present a gold coin or some other offering. I must, however, refrain from the temptation to make further quotations from this interesting book; students will gather something of its value when I add that chapters are devoted to recruiting, pay and allowances, rewards and distinctions, equipment, weapons, artillery, discipline, the order of battle, forts and strongholds, sieges, and other important matters.

In suming up his observations on the army of the Moghul Empire, Mr. Irvine expresses the opinion that military inefficiency was the principal cause of the collapse of that Empire. How did it come to pass, he asks, that what was gained by the sword perished by the sword? He says that there was little loyalty to the Sovereign's person, but that after the death of such great rulers and soldiers as Babar and Akbar, both the Rajput warriors and the Hindu population were alienated from their Emperors, and the army became merely a band of mercenaries, who served for what they could get and were ready to desert when things went badly or to transfer themselves to a higher bidder. The army was full of Persian, Central Asian, and Afghan soldiers of fortune who, like the mercenaries of Europe in the Middle Ages, were ready to serve any one who would pay them well. Mr. Irvine recognises to the full the individual bravery of the soldier, but declares that the constitution of the army was radically unsound. In speaking of the cavalry, he says that reluctance to charge probably arose from the fact that the horses were the property of the riders, who received monthly pay according to the goodness of the horse; if the horse was killed or wounded, the man had no compensation; he lost his animal and his allowance. He was, therefore, anxious to preserve both. As the Empire grew more and more feeble, contemporary writers have chronicled the fact that the army became unfit for military operations. Excepting personal courage, few good qualities could be attributed to the soldiers of the later Empire, while want of discipline, want of cohesion, luxurious habits, inactivity, bad commissariat, and cumbrous equipment, combined to paralyse military energy. "The rude hand of no Persian or Afghan conquerer, no Nadir, no Ahmad Abdali, the genius of no European adventurer, a Dupleix or a Clive, was needed to precipitate it into the abyss. The Empire of the Moghuls was doomed before any of these had appeared on the scene." I may add that the book is published by Luzac and Co., 46, Great Russell Street, London; it will be an important and valuable addition to the student's library and a work of interest to any reader who watches the progress of men and things throughout the centuries.

A NEW BOOK OF GREAT INTEREST TO INDIA.

Next, I suppose, to a work written by Mr. Romesh Dutt, C. I. E.,—by the way I hear that "India in the Victorian Age" is already in good demand and is likely to increase in this respect—a book from the pen of Miss Margaret Noble, who is so much better known to her Indian friends as Sister Nivedita, would be most highly valued by Indians, men and women. Those who have been looking with interest for the next book that Sister Nivedita would publish will not have long to wait. Among the Book Notices that have appeared this week is the welcome news that in June Mrs. Heinemann will bring out 'The Web of Indian Life" from her pen. The preliminary notice is very interestingly put. The "purdah," it says, that almost sacramental curtain which veils the privacy of Indian womanhood, has always been a subject of interest and curiosity to Western readers. The best writers to draw it aside have been women and Miss Margaret Noble (known in India as the "Sister Nivedita") has written a book called "The Web of Indian Life," in which she devotes herself in the main to the discussion of two main aspects, religion and the position of women. The book everywhere bears the marks of individual observation at first hand, and contains much information concerning the Indian epics, the caste question, and the future of the Indian races. The book is sure of a good reception in England and a specially enthusiastic one in India.

Calcutta and Mofossil

Plague in Calcutta.—On the 28th April 31 cases and 31 deaths from plague were reported in Calcutta. The total mortality reported on that day was 91, the quinquennial average being 133.

Gold And Silver Imports.—The net imports of gold into India during February were Rs. 2,30,43,607 and of silver Rs. 1,96,33,686 making the total net imports of both metals up to the end of February Rs. 20,08,81,367.

E. B. S. R. Management.—Mr. J. Manson has been appointed to act as Manager of the Eastern Bengal State Railway system in place of Colonel W. V. Constable, R. E., who has proceeded on six months' furlough preparatory to retirement.—"I. Engineering."

Calcutta University.—The following subject has been prescribed for the "Beereshur Mitter Medal," to be awarded in December 1904:—"Indian Famines"—An enquiry into their economic causes and suggestions to prevent their frequent recurrence."—"I Engineering."

Four-anna Telegram.—The popularity of the four-anna telegram is causing such a large increase of work in the telegraph offices throughout the country that the Government of India are likely to shortly sanction a considerable increase in the signalling staff.

Telephonic Communication, E.I.R.—We learn that sanction has been accorded for providing telephonic communication along the line between Howrah and Burdwan, arrangements having been made for the supply of some 124 telegraph and 192 telephonic instruments.—"I. Engineering."

Royal Proclamation.—The Proclamation under which Lord Ampthill will assume the Viceroyalty will be issued in Simla on Saturday afternoon, after it has been read in the Council Chamber. The reading of it in Calcutta by the Sheriff, and in cantonments where British troops are stationed will take place on Monday morning.

Alipore Tramway.—The discussion as to the route for this tramway connection is still on the board, and it looks as if much will be said and argued before a final decision is arrived at. We certainly hold with those who would employ this project as a means of opening out and developing a new and promising area of the town.—I. Engineering.

The Hon'ble Mr. Woodroffe.—At last Wednesday's meeting of the Council of the Calcutta Temperance Federation held in the Y. M.C.A., 125, Chowringhee, under the presidency of Mr. Harold M. Mann, a Resolution proposed by Mr. A. E. Goodwin, and seconded by Babu Lalit Mohan Ghosal, was enthusiastically passed, placing on record the valuable services rendered by the Hon'ble Mr. J. T. Woodroffe in the Temperance cause especially during the discussion of the Indian Excise Bill.

The Cherra Murder Cases.—As reported in a previous issue the Mawsyaram cases of Cherrapunji were tried by the Judge of the A. V. D. on the 5th of this month. The trial lasted five days and resulted in the conviction of the accused. Judgment was delivered on the 13th instant. The Seim of Mawsyaram and three of his "mantries" were sentenced to be hanged, three other "mantries" transported and the Seim's brother got two years.—"Times of Assam."

To Sylhet by Rail.—A proposal to construct a railway line from Sylhet to the Kulaura station on the Assam-Bengal Railway is now under consideration. The Chief Commissioner in recommending the project has addressed the Local Boards of North Sylhet and South Sylhet pointing out the advantages of the extension. At the last meeting of the North Sylhet Local Board it was agreed to furnish a guarantee of Rs. 18,000 a year for 10 years to the Company that undertakes the construction of the railway. The Chief Commissioner was thanked for the substantial relief he proposed to afford the Board amounting to Rs. 9,818 a year. Undoubtedly the railway will prove of great advantage to Sylhet, and the active co-operation of the Local Boards and the Chief Commissioner should result in its speedy realization.

Protapaditya Anniversary in Calcutta.—The house of the Classic Theatre was yesterday evening simply packed, such was the vast concourse of people who assembled to witness the Protapaditya Anniversary. The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose presided. Babu Bepin Chundra Paul was the first speaker. He pointed out the various benefits of celebrating such an anniversary telling those present that they should contemplate the past and think of the days of their past greatness to get inspired once again to work in their country's cause. Mr. A. C. Bannerjee next spoke a few words. Then the President in a telling speech appealed to the younger generation to begin action in right earnest for they (the older generation) had almost passed their career in vain talk. After this there was boxing, Bengali "lathi" play and Professor Murtaza's fencing and sword play. This was followed by dagger play and Babu Nityanundo Shaha's excellent balancing feats. With votes of thanks to Professor Murtaza and Miss Ghosal the function was over at 9 p. m. A large number of ladies were present behind the Purda.

A Fatal Riot.—On Friday, at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Harward, the Additional Sessions Judge, one Radha Kantho Sirdar, a rice dealer of Matla and two durwans in the employ of the Port Canning and Company were charged with rioting and murder under the following circumstances. It was stated that one Chander Nath Prudhan, a shop-keeper of Boriahat, took in advance a certain sum of money from one Amrita Lall Dutt, a naib in the employ of the Port Canning Company, on the promise of supplying the latter with paddy to be grown up in his fields. When the time for the fulfilment of the promise came Chander Prodhan instead of making over the paddy to Amirta Lall sold away the paddy to some other persons. Amrta Lal' on hearing of this became highly incensed and accompanied by several men at once went to the shop of Chander Prodhan on the 22nd February last, that being a hat day. Chander Prodhan and his two servants were then by the order of Amirta Lall dragged out of the shop by his men, who having taken them outside the house began to strike him and his two servants with shovels in consequence of which Chander died on the spot and his men were severely wounded. The trial proceeding.

Bank of Bengal.—The Directors of the Bank of Bengal has made no charge in the rate of interest or discount.

A Forged Document in a Court.—One Wooma Kali Biswas and his brother of Bakra were tried by Syad Mohamed Khan Bahadur, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore on a charge of having used a false and forged document in a Court of Justice as genuine. The zemindar of the accused had instituted a rent suit against the brothers for the realisation of arrears of rent due from them. The accused filed a rent receipt, said to have been granted them by their zemindar. In the course of the trial this document proved to be a forged one and the Court accordingly sanctioned the prosecution of them. Both the brothers were found guilty and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment.

A Run-away Girl.—On Thursday, before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, a run-away girl named Elizabeth Peters was placed for orders. The step-father of the girl, named Mr. C. E. Brady, made an application to the effect that his daughter was in the custody of the Salvation Army and asked for the restoration of the girl. The court ordered Inspector S. K. Ghose to produce the girl. In pursuance of that order the Inspector produced her. On being examined, she said that she was not willing to go back to her father. She was living with the Salvation Army of her own accord. It was further ascertained that the girl at first went to Howrah and was found in the house of a Mahomedan. Thence she took shelter in the Salvation Army at 26 Dixon's Lane. The court after hearing the facts ordered her to go with the Salvation Army.

Insulting Modesty of Ladies.—On Thursday, before Mr. Weston, a case of unusual importance was heard in camera. In this case, the accused was a young man, named Gordon W. Welby. He was charged by the police with having insulted the modesty of several ladies in the Kidderpore Main Road. On Sunday last two European ladies were watching for a Hastings tram car, when the accused suddenly came out from amonst a clump of trees and behaved most indecently before them. The young ladies went and related to their parents what had happened. One of the ladies said that she could identify the man if she saw him and also that she had seen that man in the Eden Gardens at the Band Stand. On Tuesday the ladies went to the Eden Gardens and saw the young man there. The police were immediately sent for and the man was arrested. On being placed before the Magistrate he admitted the charge. The Court convicted and sentenced him to suffer three months' rigorous imprisonment.

Alleged Throwing Vitroil on a Woman.—On Thursday before the Chief Presidency Magistrate, a case of causing hurt to a woman named Jamini, by throwing vitroil on her face, was heard. The defendant in the case was a young man, named Radha Bullub Roy. The facts of the case are these. On Sunday last, the defendant, wanted to visit the daughter of the complainant and expressed his desire to the mother. Complainant refused to comply with his request. This seemed to have annoyed the man and in order to take revenge on her, he again returned to the house of the complainant with a phial of vitriol concealed under his arms. As soon as he met her he poured the contents of the phial all over her body causing injuries on her face and shoulder. The matter being reported to the police they took up the case and placed the defendant on his trial. Babu Rameswar Mondal appeared for the prosecution and Babu N. L. Dey for the defence, and said that the complainant would not press the charge. Complainant offered no evidence and the case was allowed to be withdrawn.

The "Assam Gazette."—Srijut Parsu Ram Khaund, Extra Assistant Commissioner, is appointed Sub-Registrar of Barpeta. Babu Panchu Gopal Mukharji, Extra Assistant Commissioner, 7th Grade, on probation, is confirmed in his appointment. U. Homewell Lyngdoh, L.MS.., is appointed temporarily as an Assistant Surgeon of the 3rd Grade in Assam, and placed in subordinate medical charge of the Dispensary at Dhubri. The Chief Commissioner approves the reelection of Mr. P. A. Campbell as a member of the Silchar Local Board. The Chief Commissioner approves the election of Mr. P. W. Crawford as a member of the Hailakandi Local Board, vice Dr. D. Taylor, who has left the district. The Chief Commissioner approves the election of Mr. T. W. Graham as a member of the Silchar Local Board, vice Mr. A. S. Muspratt, resigned. The Chief Commissioner approves the election of Babu Ram Protap Agarwalla as a Commissioner for Ward No. VI of the Dibrugarh Municipality. The Chief Commissioner approves the election of the following gentlemen as members of the Mangaldai Local Board:—Mr. G. J. Catto, re-elected and Mr. G. A. Hill, vice Mr. E. Kikpatrick (resigned.)

Murder.—On Friday, at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, before Mr. Harward, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, one Panchoo Das, a young man of Chalagowala (near Bhangore) was charged with murder, attempt at murder and attempt to commit suicide. The prisoner, an orphan since his infancy, was brought up by his maternal aunt (mother's sister). He used to lead an idle life for which he was occasionally rebuked by his aunt and threatened to be turned out unless he could actively and profitably employ himself. Seeing that all these had no effect upon him, the aunt on the morning of the 21st February last took him so severely to task that he in a fit of temper caught hold of a lapping knife in a room close by, fell upon her and gave several severe strokes with it causing serious wounds all over her person. Leaning her in this condition and determining to take further avenge upon her he ran for her daughter-in-law, a girl aged seventeen years, who had gone out to fetch water in the neighbouring tank, met her on her way back home and by a single stroke severed her head from the body. He then went for his cousin, the aunt's son, who having got scent of the matter saved himself by taking refuge in a neighbour's house. The prisoner having found no one else to satisfy his grudge upon attempted to kill himself, but in vain. The Police removed the prisoner and his aunt to the hospital in an unconscious state, where they both recovered. The prisoner pleaded not guilty and stated in his defence that his cousin suspecting the prisoner to be in an intrigue with his wife and his mother conniving at it punished them all in the manner he did. The jury returned an unanimous verdict of "guilty" but recommended for mercy for his tender age. The Judge sentenced the accused to death.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, April 26.

The Russians allowed the crew of the steamer they sank at Gensan to land before sinking her. The Russian squadron has left the vicinity of Gensan.

A St. Petersburg telegram from Port Arthur says that experiments with submarines proved a brilliant success. This is the first intimation that any submarines were there, though it was reported weeks ago that Admiral Makaroff requested that some should be sent by rail.

General Kuropatkin has sent a part of Rennenkamff's Cossack cavalry and a few mountain guns across the Yalu River to join the force of cavalry already south of the Tumen River. A combined force of 20,000 will then threaten and harass General Inoue's flank.

London, April 27.

The Russian Admiralty proposes to despatch the Baltic fleet to the Far East by the Suez Canal, and colliers by the Cape route, appointing a rendezvous in the Indian Ocean.

It is understood that the Russian contention, regarding wireless telegraphy meets with a good deal if support from Naval and Military men and the Maritime Powers.

London, April 28.

Unofficial telegrams, published at St. Petersburg, varyingly report that several attempts to cross the Yalu have been made by the Japanese. According to one account the Russian artillery destroyed a bridge thrown across the river north of Wiju, but a force crossed successfully south of Wiju and a portion of it with a battery advanced towards Tuenchan, but were repulsed with severe loss.

London, April 28.

The Russian torpedoers, after leaving Gensan on the 25th instant, encountered at sea on the night of the 26th, the Japanese transport, "Kinshim maru," 4,000 tons. Seventeen officers, twenty soldiers, 85 carriers and 65 crew surrendered and were taken on board a Russian cruiser. The remainder of the troops on board, numbering two hundred, refused to surrender and were sent to the bottom with the ship

Reuter's correspondent at St. Petersburg says that a telegram from Port Arthur states that the Japanese torpedoers covered by men-of-war, appeared at one o'clock on Thursday morning, and after several shots withdrew in a southerly direction. No damage was done.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says that the Japanese gunboat, "Maya" accompanied by torpedoers, ascended the Yelu on the 25th instant, and fought a series of small engagements with the Russian land forces whose artillery fire was ineffective. The gunboat drove out the Russians from a small island in midstram.

On the 26th instant one hundred Russian cavalry attacked a Japanese landing party. The torpedoers fired and the enemy fled to the mountains, leaving several wounded. Subsequently the Russians opened artillery fire from Ambustran. The Japanese replied and silenced them.

The Russian squadron returned to Vladivastok narrowly escaping the Japanese fleet of twelve vessels which missed it owing to the fog. It narrates sinking the Kinshinmaru which at first mistoo kthe Russians for the Japanese. Afterwards they lowered the boats hoping to escape, but steam Cuters captured all. 130 Japanese infantrymen remained on boar dthe Kinshinmaru and refused to surrender and maintained a fusillade. After the Russians withdrew the ship was sunk by a mechanical mine.

London, April 29.

A Daily Telegraph despatch from Tokio states that the Russian Vladivostok squadron escaped the Japanese fleet during a fog and regained the Port.

The Russian Vladivostok fleet also sand the small steamer Nakamaru at sea on the 26th. The crew were saved.

One hundred and thirty Japanese soldiers in the transport Goyomaru refused to surrender and maintained a fusillade until the ship sank.

A disastrous Russian reverse is reported at Yalu.

The Russian Government has sent a circular to its representatives abroad declaring categorically that Russia will not accept mediation to terminate the war and will not admit the intervention of any power whatsoever in the Russo-Japanese negotiations after the war.

GENERAL.

London, April 13.

Mr. Stead speaking at a meeting of the Dutch colonists at Johannesburg, stated that South Africa like Australia was entitled to its own flag. He insisted that the imperial connection existed by consent and might be severed by consent.

Lord Cromer in his report for 1903 says the comparison of the approximate population of Soudan now and formerly is amazing. Prior to the Dervish rule the population was thirty and a half millions. Now it is only one million eight hundred thousand. He considered it desirable to encourage the Egyptian emigration to Soudan, whose future depends on good administration, increase in population, improved communications and cotton cultivation.

Messrs. Armstrng Whitworth and Company are contracting largely to replace the Russian fleet after the war.

London, April 26.

Reuter wires from Aden that Illig has been bombarded and the Sultan captured. Heavy fighting is reported between the Mullah and the Mijertam tribe.

The King and Queen landed at Kings-town this morning in torrents of rain, but they had an enthusiastic welcome. The King, replying to an address, said he was gratified at the growing spirit of hopefulness in Ireland. His Majesty attended the Punchestown Races in the afternoon.

The Army Order issued prohibits officers to write privately of officials at the War Office in reference to promotion, appointment, etc., etc. Attempts to utilize outside influence are forbidden, and will be regarded as an admission that the applicant's case is unsatisfactory on its merits.

TELEGRAMS

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

Bishop Thoburn Metrodist Bishop of Calcutta, is lying seriously ill at Vancouver.

The tea trade consider that the refusal to increase the duty on coffee and cocoa intensifies the injustice of taxing tea.—"Englishman."

The opposing to the tea tax is growing. A close division is expected.—"Englishman."

London, April 27.

The Government majority in the Commons fell last night to 38 in a snatch division of the report stage of the Income-Tax Regulations of the 22nd instant, which was agreed to by 121 against 83. The majority included nineteen Liberals.

The Debate on the Tea Resolution then came on, Mr. T. Lough moving for a reduction to six-pence.

It is declared that the country was more agitated over this item of the Budget than over anything else.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain said it was impossible to frame a Budget without indirect taxes, and he did not believe that the increased duty would appreciably affect the consumption which had increased after the imposition of the war duty.

The Debate was adjourned.

A band of party anti Clericals, armed with revolvers, opened a fusillade on Senhor Mauras as the train was leaving Alceante Station. The "gendarmes," who were acting as escort, returned the fire, wounding two of the assailants. The Premier's carriage was struck injured.

London, April 28.

It is stated in military circles that the Government is reducing the militia by sixty-four battalions, the volunteers by 80,000 men and the Yeomanry by 120 men per regiment.—"Englishman."

London, April 29.

Kaiser William at Karlsruhe replying to an address from the Burgomaster mentioned that he was completely restored to health. He referred to the great war which led to the unification of Germany and said he hoped the events now being enacted before their eyes would steel their courage and find the Germans united if it became necessary to interfere in world policy.

President Loubet arrived at Naples yesterday and met with a most enthusiastic reception, despite the heavy rain which was falling. At a banquet in the evening cordial toasts were exchanged. King Emmanuel said the settlement of Franco-Italian interests in the Mediterranean was a fresh contribution to the peace of Europe.

The death is announced of Nelly Farren, the actress.

THE GUINEAS.

London, April 29.

The following is the result of the race for the One Thousand Guineas:—

Pretty Polly	...	1
Leucadia	...	2
Flamma	...	3

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

ENGAGEMENT NEAR GENSAN.

Bombay, April 30.

M. V. Nimrassoff, the Acting Russian Consul at Bombay, has received the following telegram from M. Plancon, the Diplomatic Attache to Admiral Alexieff at Port Arthur:—On the 25th instant the Vladivostok squadron blew up two apanese steamers near Gensan. During the night the Squadron blew up a large Japanese military transport Kinshu Maru armed with hotchkiss guns. Seventeen officers, twenty soldiers and sixty-five crew were taken prisoners. The disembarking company having flatly refused to leave the transport and making resistance were sunk along with the transport. Afterwards the squadron returned to Vladivostok.

THE RUSSIAN STRENGTH.

Ahanabad, April 29.

A special cable from the "Pioneer's" correspondent, dated London 28th April, says that the "Times" military expert estimates the maximum Russian field force at 135,000 men, and says that it is impracticable to mass the whole force for a united blow.

LORD AMPTHILL.

THE VICEREGAL PROCLAMATION.

Simla, April 29.

There will be a special meeting of the Executive Council to-morrow afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Viceregal Lodge, when Mr. H. Risley, the Home Secretary, will read the formal proclamation by which Lord Ampthill will assume the Viceroyalty. The affair will only last a few minutes and will be of a private nature. The gymkhana which was to have taken place in the afternoon has been postponed.

The members of Council, heads of departments and secretaries to Government will assemble at Viceregal Lodge to-morrow afternoon. The Viceroy will enter the room accompanied by the Council, and when they have taken their seats, the proclamation will be read. It will then be issued in The Gazette Extraordinary.

GAZETTE OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Simla, April 29.

The services of Mr. H. J. McIntosh, C.S, have been replaced at the disposal of the Government of Bengal.

NEW RULERS FOR MANAGERS.

Simla, April 29.

A number of draft rules concerning managers and their certificates which it is proposed shall be considered by the Governor-General in Council on or after the 30th July next, are published for information; the objections or sugestions in connection with the same will be considered if received before that date. The rules which will be incorporated in the Act of 1901 provide that managers of Mines in which 150 persons, 50 to 150 persons and not more than 50 persons are employed underground simultaneously, shall possess first, second, or third class certificates respectively. They also deal fully with the granting and cancellation o such certificates.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

RAYS FROM THE BRAIN.

OUR WIDENING VISION.

Mr. C. W. Saleeby contributed an interesting article to the "Chronicle" recently on the subject of the N ray, which were discovered some time ago by the distinguished French physicist, M. Blondlot, who was also the discoverer of the X. Rontgen ray. The N. rays are named after M. Blondlot's own University of Nancy and they are as great in interest and importance as the Rontgen rays. Just as these latter are really a rapid form of ordinary sunlight, so the Blondlot rays are a slowly-vibrating form of ordinary sunlight; slower than the rays of the radiant heat, but faster than the Hertzian waves of wireless telegraphy. They lie somewhere in the five octaves between these two familiar forms of othereal undulation. The scientific papers on both sides of the Channel have published a vast amount of controversy concerning these rays.

The latest English argument is that the new rays are merely heat rays, and not new at all. This Mr. Saleeby thinks is an absurd argument, based on ignorance of the whole theory of other waves.

Take, he says, the analogy of sound. Imagine yourself before the keyboard of a piano. The low bass notes on your left correspond to electric and Hentzian waves. The next octave also corresponds to the Blondlot rays, and the next to the rays of radiant heat, such as the sun perennially sends us through the ninety-two million miles of either that separate us from it. All octave in the middle of the piano corresponds to the octave of etherwaves which we can see, and which we call light. A few notes high up in the treble correspond to the Rontgen rays, and so forth. But there is no "qualitative" distinction between A and B flat on the piano; there is merely a distinction of rate of vibration, and the distinction between the Blondlot rays and the heat rays is similar. It is merely a verbal matter to say where one begins and the other ends.

The new rays pass through aluminium as sunlight passes through glass, and they can similarly be focussed by an aluminium lens. They can be bent and reflected just like a beam of light; indeed, their greater wavelength—thousandths instead of millionths of an inch—makes them much more manageable than the Rontgen rays. They traverse lead and platinum, tin foil, copper, and many other substances without difficulty, and when they play upon feebly luminous substances they cause them to glow brilliantly.

Unlike the Rontgen rays, which require complicated apparatus for their production, the Blondlot rays are produced by easiest means. They stream from an ordinary incandescent gas lamp, for instance. But far more remarkable—and throwing much light on our ideas of matter itself—is the fact that they are spontaneously produced by a number of substances, such as wood or glass when these have been twisted or subjected to pressure. Whilst non tempered steel does not produce them, the molecules or atoms of tempered steel are, apparently, in some state of violent commotion, which causes the continuous emission of Blondlot rays. Specimens of steel—old Merovingian knives—that were tempered more than a thousand years ago, give off Blondlot rays as freely as steel of yesterday; time does not seem to affect this remarkable property.

For us, of course, the greatest interest centres in the relations of these rays to living matter. When they are thrown directly and solely upon the eye—which, of course, does not appreciate them as what we call "light"—they nevertheless enable it to perceive in a darkened room objects that were previously invisible. What influence they have upon living matter in general we do not yet know, but we are all aware that life depends upon sunlight, and, apparently, Blondlot rays are sent us in abundance from the sun, since they are emitted by stones or bricks or seawater upon which the sun has shone.

RAYS FROM THE BODY.

Most interesting of all is the fact discovered by Professor Charpentier, that the human body emits these rays, in quantities, apparently, greater in proportion to the activity of the part of the body from which they come. Muscles in action shower them forth in all directions, and nervous tissue is a still more abundant generator of them, especially when the nerve is in action.

I have aleady said that the Blondlot rays lie in the keyboard of ethereal radiations somewhere between the heat rays and the electric rays. Obviously, then, it is absurd to claim that this is a discovery of "human radio-activity," since the rays differ not in kind, but merely in wave-length from the heat rays with which we have been familiar for decades. The term "radio-activity" was invented to describe another phenomenon. But without the exaggerated notions that are born of scant knowledge, We may, nevertheless, expect from the Blondlot rays, invisible to the physical eye, a vast amount of mental illumination on the problems of matter, the ether, and even life itself.

Lately Professor Charpentier has gone further. He has shown that the rays are emitted from the speech-centre of the brain (which is on the left side, above the position of the ear, in right-handed people) whenever a person speaks. When the subject sings, the rays coming from the speech centre vary according to the pitch of the note he is singing. Needless to say, we have here a phenomenon which will be seized upon by those who believe in telepathy or thought-transference. For here we have evidence that certain etherwaves are given off from the active human brain and that their nature varies with the nature of the activity.

It is needless to say that just as in the case of the Rontgen rays and radium, people who hold peculiar views have already seized upon the discovery of these rays as confirming their beliefs. Already we have been assured of "human radio-activity," and the familiar errors of a past generation as to the nature of many nerves phenomenon have been forcibly resuscitated. But every one knows that the human body gives off heat, and especially from an active muscle, for the muscles are the furnaces of the body, and this function is at least as important as the more obvious one. Anyone who has followed the first part of this article knows that the radiant heat given off from the surface of our bodies—so definite a phenomenon that an American has been able to detect and measure at a distance of 2,000 feet the heat given off from a man's face—is also a form of ethereal vibration.

USE IN MEDICAL SCIENCE.

But we may foresee here certain uses of the Blondlot rays. Dr. Bruce, of the School of Medicine for Women in Edinburgh, has taken up the subject, and expects that when we know exactly what rays come from various parts of the brain under normal conditions we shall be able to use variations in their quantity and quality as a means of detecting injury and disease in different parts of the brain. The Rontgen rays are not of much use in brain troubles, because they cast no appreciable shadow but that of bones. Only very rarely has the surgeon been able, by means of the Rontgen rays, to discover the position of a brain tumour so as to remove it. On the other hand, the Blondlot rays seem likely to afford a much more delicate test of the state of each portion of brain tissue. From the report of the papers read before the Paris Academy of Sciences recently it appears that M. Blondlot has discovered a few more rays—a few more notes on the piano, so to say, next to those he has already found—and Professor Charpentier has studied the action of all of them on the various senses I have already said that the first-discovered rays increase the power of vision. Similarly they increase the power of smelling, and of hearing. On the other hand, the later-found rays diminish the activity of the senses. Remembering how the power of radium to exhalt the sense of vision has already been used beneficially in Russia, we may see hopes of similar uses for the Blondlot rays.

COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

The net import of Gold into India during the month of February was 379,976 oz. and that of Silver for the same period 11,245,975 oz.

The Indian Salt Commission, the last of Lord Curzon's Commissions, has finished its labours and submitted its report to the Government.

Great extension is taking place in cotton cultivation in the Feudatory States of the Central Provinces, the industry there having attracted European capital and enterprise.

The "rabi" or spring harvest of the United Provinces has been completed with what is generally believed to be a bumper yield, the wheat crop coming out well in its total outturn.

In Southern India there is a snuff-box making industry, the material for which is the hard rind of the fruit of "ægle Marmelos." The boxes are carved and make handsome articles.

Samples of fibre of "Furcraea gigantea" which is the source of Mauritius Hemp,, sent Home from Southern India to the Imperial Institute has elicited a favourable report from London fibre brokers.

Among Indian Dye-Stuffs under investigation at the Imperial Institute at Home are the flowers of "Thespesia Lampas" and "Hibiscus Sabdariffa," the former from Burma and the United Provinces.

Those concerned in the Indian Turtle trade may be interested to learn that the well-known Turtle Bank at Diamond Island in the Bassein district of Burma is to be sold by public auction for one year in July next.

The wheat breeding experiments started by the Provincial Agricultural Department at Nawabgunj near Cawnpore some three or four years ago are turning out very successfully, and it would be interesting to have full report as to the results obtained.

"Apropos" of special measures for the improvement of cotton cultivation we understand that they are now pretty general throughout the country, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, Punjab, Sind, Bombay and Bengal having all vigorously taken up improved cultivation.

Jute sowings are now actively proceeding in the following districts of Bengal:—Howrah, Khulna, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Bagra, Faridpur, Tipperah, Purnea and Malda. In one or two districts the crop has been damaged by excessive rain while in others rain is wanted to facilitate sowings.

We have before referred to the steady increase that is taking place in barely cultivation in Bengal. The total area of the "rabi" 1903-04 is Rs. 1,576,100 acres, or an increase of some 60,000 acres over the area of the previous year. The area of the crop of 1903-04 is only 60,000 acres under the normal area.

Investigation is being made by the Government Economic Department as to the varieties of Indian Bamboos suitable for the umbrella trade. There ought to be a good many specimens which could be usefully employed in the manufacture of umbrella handles and a report on the subject would be of interest to the trade.

There is to be a great extension of cotton cultivation in Behar this year, the European planting community having turned their attention to the industry. We trust that cotton and sugarcane—which latter is also showing good progress in cultivation—will in a measure recompense planters for the decline in indigo cultivation and manufacture.

Major Joly de Lotbiniere, R. E., of the Mysore Public Works Department, who has made such a success of the Cauvery Electric Scheme in Southern India, is visiting Burma to advise the Provincial Government in matters Electrical there, the authorities having several schemes under consideration for Electric lighting, etc., at Rangoon and elsewhere.

The total area under cotton cultivation in Bombay and Sind has risen from 2,328,609 in 1897-98 to 2,929,780 acres in 1901-02. Complete figures for 1902-03 and 1903-04 are not yet published, but it is believed that when they are the area will be a good deal over three million acres, as during the past two years there has been a great expansion in the area devoted to cotton culivation in the Presidency, due, we understand, to the thorough and systematic attention now being given there to the improvement of the staple.

Electric transmission of power for manufacturing is not confined to conveying the energy from waterfuls at a distance, but in existing plants and where the power is furnished by steam engines, the substitution of copper conductors for the main belt is proving advantageous, not merely in the reduction of prime costs, but in the greater economies of the improvements in products, resulting from more uniform motion and the better illumination which results from the abolition of shadows from main belts and their distributing belts.

ALLEGED ASSAULT BY A EUROPEAN.

—:o:—

Bankipur, April 26.

Behar has become notorious of late for assault cases. The other day I reported a case in which a European guard was charged with having most cowardly and brutally assaulted an Indian clerk at the Bankipur Railway Station. Fortunately the railway authorities took serious steps and the matter was settled out of court. To-day I send you the facts of a very sensational case of assault committed by a European on an Indian clerk, and is being heard at Dinapur. The accused in this case is Lt. F. W. Sahmond, 73rd Regiment R. F. Guard, and the complainant is Babu Budri Nath, copyist in the Magistrate's office. The occurrence took place on the 14th instant. The fact of, and the circumstances in connection with, the case will be gathered from the following proceedings recorded by the trying Magistrate:—

Petition of Complaint.

On the 14th instant Babu Badri Nath filed the following petition of complaint: I was going to Bankipur by order of the Sub-divisional Magistrate. When I was near opposite to Bose and Co.'s shop, Lt. Sahmond was coming from the direction of the R. F. Lines. When he saw me he said something. I did not hear what it was. He passed me, then turned his horse and came after me. His horse knocked me down. I had an umbrella in my hand and some Government papers. I was unconscious for two minutes. My head was cut in my fall. If the horse had kicked me I should have died.

Order.

On the same the following order was passed:—Issue summons under section 323 I.P.C. Fixed for 16.4.04.

Deposition of the Complainant.

On the 16th instant gave the following deposition on solemn affirmation:—I am a copyist in English Department of the Magistrate's office. On the 14th at 8 a.m. I was going to Bankipur opposite R. A. Guard. A saheb came along a horse. He said something. I did not understand it. He was going in the western direction. I was going towards the east. The saheb turned his horse round and rode over me, the horse knocking me down. My head was cut in the fall. The saheb rode away. The saheb was very angry and afterwards went to the Hostel. I had an umbrella in my hand and some Government papers. This (pointing to Lt. Sahmon) is the saheb. I heard afterwards that the saheb was angry with me for carrying my umbrella open. The saheb sent an orderly to me not to prosecute him as he wished to compound the case.

Cross-examined.—The message given me by Sahmond's servant was "Don't prosecute the saheb, he will give you some money and sends for you."

Deposition of Witnesses.

Three prosecution witnesses were examined, namely, Narain Chunder Bose, Juman, and Kuldip Sahai. The following is the deposition of one of the witnesses:—

I saw the saheb knock down the complainant. He did so intentionally. He was angry. The complainant was going east and the saheb passed him going west. Then he turned and rode over the complainant. After the complainant fell the saheb again turned and went towards west. The same day at about 9 or 9-30 a.m. I saw the same saheb on the road to the R.A. Mess strike two "natives" with umbrellas and ordered them to put them down. They ran away. Yesterday morning at 7-30 or 8 a.m. the same saheb struck and cut the forehead of a man carrying an umbrella. This was opposite the Sub-Divisional Officer's Court.

Cross-examined.—I was west of the culvert at Messrs Bose and Co.'s shop when I saw the accused ride down to the complainant.

By the Court.—The saheb went 10 or 15 paces beyond the complainant before turning. The complainant was 60 or 70 paces away from me when he was knocked down.

Statement of the Accused.

Question.—Will you state what occurred on the morning of the 14th April when the complainant Budri Nath received a hurt to his head?

A.—At about 7-45 a.m. I was riding out of the gate of our Gun Park. As I was passing through the gate, I saw a native walking along the road in a westerly direction. He was quite close to the gate when I first saw him. I also turned in the same direction that the native was going on my way to the mess of my Battery. As the native had an umbrella up and did not appear to notice my approach, I shouted to him to look out and take care of my pony. As he took no notice of this, I shouted "Get out of the way." My original intention was to pass in front of him, but as he took no notice of me I changed my mind and tried to pass behind him. When I said "Get out of the way." I was then almost unto him. He then turned round and faced me and took two or three steps backward holding up his umbrella in front of him. He then dropped his umbrella and fell down himself. The pony's nose may have struck the native's umbrella, but I am practically certain it did not touch him.

Q.—You say you shouted to the native to take care of your pony. Had you any particular reason for using these words, as referring to the pony?

A.—I referred to my pony because the space available for me to pass on him was small and partly because the pony had a hard mouth.

Q.—Did you send a servant to ask the native who was hurt to compound the case?

A.—No. When I saw him fall, I sent two of our men to see if he was hurt. They just looked at him and went on. I then thought there could not be much the matter as I went home. On arrival I sent my boy to tell the native that it was quite unintentional my riding so close to him and that if he was hurt the boy might give him something. I did not specify how much. This offer was made because I thought it might possibly have been my fault that he fell down.

Deposition of the Civil Surgeon.

The Civil Surgeon, who examined the wound, deposed as follows on solemn affirmation:—Contused wound, 1 by 1/6 by 1/4. Back of head, right side slightly blunt.

THE DACCA SENSATION.

—:o:—

Dacca, April 27.

MR. DEY.

Mr. Dey has been discharged. The order was passed yesterday. I hear motion will be filed to the District Judge shortly.

BABU L. M. SHAW.

The hearing of Babu Lal Mohan Shaw's first case has been fixed for the 29th instant, when Mrs. Roy and some other ladies will beexamined. Only the pleader for the defence, the accused and the prosecution will be allowed to remain within the court room during their examination. The hearing of Babu Lal Mohan Shaw's second case was fixed to-day, but an application was filed for the transfer of the case from the file of the Deputy Magistrate to that of the District Magistrate by the defence. The application was allowed. The hearing of the case has accordingly been fixed for the 4th proximo.

THE LOCUSTS, THE HORNETS AND THE MONKEYS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Poona, April 28.

A large troop of monkeys has arrived in Poona and are now locating towards the South Petta Staff Lines. The circumstances under which they migrated here are a little bit interesting. The locusts had invaded the jungle in which they used to live. The monkeys had little occasion to come in contact with their unwelcome guests. It so happened however that the jungle was infested by a swarm of hornets, which being distributed by the presence of locusts, got furious and attacked the monkeys. The scene that followed was exciting in the extreme. Intelligent and strong as the monkeys were, they were no match for their invaders. Unable to suffer the repeated onslaughts of the enemy, they took to flight and found shelter in the Lines alluded to above. So demoralized are they now that they dare not molested anybody.

SIKKIM AND ITS GOVERNMENT.

(*Special for the Patrika*).

Sikkim is a protected Estate with an erea of 2702 square miles. Its population is 30,000 and its income is Rs. 75,000 a year. Its capital is Gantok, a small beautiful town on one of the hills known as Poloon Dara of the Himalayas. It is 57 miles from Darjeeling and 52 miles from Ghoom Station of the D. H. Railway line on an elevation of 4000 ft. from the sea level. It has got 2 roads, one a cart road lately made for the Thibet Mission at a cost of Rs. 170,000 from Teesta to Gantok and another from Rungut Bazar *via* Namchee to Gantok.

The Moharajah of Sikkim is known amongst his subjects as Khara Raja or Sara Raja. He has got by his 1st wife 2 sons, and by his 2nd wife, the present Ranee, 3 sons and one daughter. The eldest son is at Lhassa, and the 2nd son, known as Coomar Shaheb and the heir-apparent, is living with his father at Gantok. This young prince is of 21 summers and an intelligent young man brought up in English style at the Darjeeling St. Paul's School, where he stayed with the Rector. He finds delight, it is said, in using European costume but is not allowed to do so in the presence of his father. He attended the Delhi Durbar with some of his nobles and the Political Officer Mr. J. C. White of the Bengal P. W. Department. The Political Officer manages all estate affairs with the help of his 2 assistants Mr. C. Dover, the State Engineer and Mr. Hodges, the head clerk and accountant. They are right and left hand of Mr. White. Mr. Dover is an young man from Darjeeling St. Paul's School. Mr. Hodges is a passed accountant and rather a quiet sort of man. They live in the palatial buildings surrounded by state servants and luxuries and each get Rs. 350 as pay besides other allowances.

The whole management of the Estate is in the hands of Mr. White. He sometimes besides, decides cases, involving intricacies, but generally the Moharajah personally distributes. Justice with the help of 4 Kazies who act the part of Muktears of the plains.

The income of the Estate is derived from the following heads, *viz.*, ground rent, a tax of Rs. 2 on he cultivation and consumption of exciseable articles such as Maroat, Codoh &c. for each house per annum. Annas 2 for each shop and annas 4 for each cow kept for trades per year besides the sale of Excise shops and timbers and a cess of Re. 1-12 per year from each house owner for the supply of labour to the Estate.

Out of the income Rs. 1200 are paid to the Moharajah and Rs. 500 to the Coomar Saheb per month. Besides Rs. 1200 the Kajah gets all fines and other dues. All land owners and Kagies decide cases and deposit the fines and other incomes to the Political Officer. He also realizes fee for pounding cattle, killing animals for human consumption and selling skins. In submitting application to the Rajah the petitioner has to pay in kinds Rs. 3-8 at the least, and to the Political Officer annas eight in tamps only.

The Public Works Department is under Mr. Dover. The principal roads are mostly miserable and the people can ride or walk over them with difficulty. The Bengal P. W. Department have taken up the main roads lately and the Sikkim Division is formed under Mr. H. H. Green the Executive Engineer, who has got staffs to look after the main roads through which the transport for Thibet Missions carried.

The people of Sikkim have no rest whatever since the Thibet Mission has crossed the frontiers. All male members are forced to work in the Transport Service and road-making. Even big Kazies are sent out to Choombi to help the Mission. Hundreds of ponies, mule carts and Ekkas are daily carrying supplies for the Mission from Teesta and Siliguri to Choombi through Gantok. The Police are employed in collecting fodder for mules and horses.

On the 12th and 13th current heavy rains fell causing land slips in 29 places and blocking the cart road to Gantok but fortunately they were removed by an old officer under Mr. Dover's order although the road was not in Mr. Dover's charge and traffic was restored within 12 hours.

The warrant issued by the District Magistrate of Bangalore on Saturday against Mr. B. Hawkins was executed, and the accused was bailed as required by the warrant. Mr. Bartels, of the Station Police, produced in Court a number of books and letters files, etc., which had been seized in Mr. Hawkins' house on the execution of the search warant. The case against Mr. Hawkins cannot be investigated till the Telegraph Check Office at Calcutta forwards the originals of the telegrams alleged by Mr. Lindley to have been sent to the London Bank in his name.

High Court.—April 29.

CRIMINAL BENCH

(*Before Justices Pratt and Handley.*)

A CAPITAL SENTENCE CASE.

Their Lordships delivered judgment to-day in the Backergunge murder case. In this case it would be remembered that Mr. P. L. Roy with Babu Brojendra Nath Chatterjee appeared for the appellants and Mr. Douglas while for the Crown. The following is the full text of the judgment delivered by their Lordships:—

The Additional Sessions Judge of Backergunj concurring with the Assessors has found the appellant Banga Tafali Adhikari guilty of murdering Bhedu Guha, and the other appellants guilty under Sec. 302 read with Sec. 149 I. P. C. Banga has been sentenced to death and the other accused to transportation for life. Banga had been sentenced to transportation for life for another murder. His wife Santo joined him at the Andamans whence he returned on ticket of leave five or six years ago. During his absence Bhedu and Madhu had cultivated the lands of their old uncle Surjya Narayan, the father of Santo, and on Surjya's death they were themselves recognised as the tenants by the land lord. Recently Banga seems to have conceived the idea of asserting his wife's rights to the property and to this end he gave a lease to some Mussulmans so as to secure their co-operation. The defence story about an arbitration resulting in the relinquishment of the lands by Bhedu and Madhu is incredible and at variance with the statement which Banga made to the Court. On the 21st November last the brothers Bhedu and Madhu with two relatives and a number of labourers went to a portion of the land situated in Chilalia and began to reap the paddy, a few days before it was perfectly ripe, evidently hoping thereby to avoid a collision with their uncle and his partizans. But Banga seems to have been on the alert, for he appeared on the scene with a considerable body of men, determined to prevent the reaping and to secure possession of the field. After some parley blows were interchanged and Banga speared Bhedu through the body, killing him on the spot. That Banga was the actual murderer is proved not only by all the eye-witnesses but also by the duffadar, an independent witness who came promptly to the scene and was told what had happened. The only question which as occasioned any serious doubt in our minds is the nature of the offence committed by the other appellants. Of the injuries received by Bhedu in addition to the fatal spear thrust all were slight except one on the neck and that was not very serious. Nabin was armed with a spear which he did not use, the rest were armed some with lathis, some with "lewas" (or bamboos to which thorny cone tendrels are attached) and some with chengs (or the thorny bark of the date palm. The witness all till the same parrot-like story as to the sequence of events though it must have been impossible for them to be such close observers. We doubt whether Bhedu received his injuries after the fatal spear thrust as they say. It is more probable that he got them previously in a mutual fight, during which admittedly some of the accused were also wounded. In these circumstances we hesitate to conclude that the appellants other than Banga contemplated the causing of death. Had they done so they would hardly have left to an old man of 70 to kill Bhedu single handed, Banga seems to have been an irritable man to who mmurder was no new experience, and his temperament compelled him to commit a murder which was not in the contemplation of his associates and not strictly in prosecution of their common object. We think we may adopt this view in the particular circumstances of this case and having regard to general probabilities. That being so we set aside the convictions and sentences of all the appellants except Banga and in lieu thereof found them guilty under section 147 I.P.C. and sentenced them each to two years' rigorous imprisonment with the exception of the lad Lakhi Kant Tafali, who on account of his youth, we sentence to only one year's rigorous imprisonment. Banga Tafali is described by the Judge as still hale and hearty, though 70 years of age. Having regard to his previous history and the savage ferocity with which he must have dealt the fatal thrust penetrating from the abdomen to the spine we are constrained to confirm the sentence of death which has been passed upon him.

BRUTAL MURDER AT BYCULLA.

A brutal murder was committed Sankli Street, Byculla, when a Mahomedan, ing Sankli Street, Byculla, when a Mahomedan, named Sherali Fidaali, cut the throat of a woman, named Banoobai, by means of a knife. It appears that Banoo resided with her murderer, Sherali, and her son Rahiman Abdul Currim. The latter, in consequence of information received from his neighbours, returned home from work, when he found the door of his room fastened from the inside. He knocked at the door, and when Sherali opened it, Rahiman found his mother lying in a pool of blood and gave information to the police. Inspector Hemsworth and Sub-Inspector Jebb proceeded to the chawl, where they found the woman lying dead on the ground with a wound on the throat, which extended from her left ear to the layrnx. Sherali was sitting beside the body with his clothes stained with blood. A clasp-knife, stained with fresh blood, was also found lying on the ground. Sherali was taken into custody. The police enquiries showed that the woman had been in the keeping of Sherali for the last two months. Latterly he began to suspect her of misconduct, and last evening there was an alteration between them in consequence of the deceased having taken some money from a box of the accused. About three o'clock this morning the neighbours heard a struggle in the room and the deceased crying. Suspecting something wrong, they informed her son. Mr. P. Byrne opened an enquiry at the Morgue on the body of Banoobai, when, after the body was identified, further enquiry was adjourned. Sherali was charged with murder before Mr. P. H. Dastur, when the case was adjourned.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE INDIAN POLICE COMMISSION REPORT.

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The following article contributed to "The Times" contains extracts from the hitherto unpublished report of the Police Commission:—

On July 9, 1902, the Viceroy of India announced the appointment of a Commission to conduct a comprehensive inquiry into the police administration of British India. The Commissioners were seven in number, five Europeans and two natives, with Sir Andrew Fraser, now Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, at their head as president. They began work in October, 1902, visited all the principal provinces, collected the evidence of nearly a thousand witnesses of an classes, and completed their report at Simla about ten months ago. Their task was exceedingly arduous, and much of their report is necessarily taken up with matters which, although of much local and practical importance, are also of a complicated and technical character. At the same time, the main points in the report can be readily grasped, even without expert or local knowledge; and no one who feels interest in the British administration of India can fail to be impressed by the grave conclusions stated, and the far-reaching reforms recommended, by this latest of Lord Curzon's Commissions. The police system in India under native rule was based, as in early England, upon the tenure of land. All landholders of various degrees were responsible for the apprehension of offenders, and for the restoration of stolen property; while the collective responsibility of the village was enforced through its head-man, assisted by its watchman, who represented the police for executive purposes. This indigenous system became more and more inefficient under weak native Governments; and, when the older provinces came under British rule, the state of the police administration was found to be extremely bad. The general lines of reform attempted were first to retain and improve the village system, and then to introduce special control and a special police force separately organized. The results were not satisfactory, and after the Mutiny the police question was taken up for the whole of British India. In 1860 a special Commission prepared a scheme which was adopted by the Government, and forms at the present time the basis of the police organization in almost every province. This scheme was on the whole a good one in itself; but Lord Curzon's Commission hold that it has undoubtedly failed, for such reasons as the following:—

That the extent to which the village police must co-operate with the regular police has been lost sight of, and an attempt has almost everywhere been made to do all the police work through the officers of the department; that the importance of police work has been underestimated, and responsible duties have ordinarily been entrusted to untrained and ill-educated officers, recruited in the lowest ranks from the lower strata of society; that supervision has been defective owing to the failure to appoint even the staff contemplated by the law, and to increase that staff with the growing necessities of administration; that the superior officers of the department have been insufficiently trained, and have been allowed from various causes to get out of acquaintance and sympathy with the people, and out of touch even with their own subordinates; and that their sense of responsibility has been weakened by a degree of interference never contmplated by the authors of the system.

Before dealing in detail with these and other defects in police administration, the Commission devote a chapter giving an account of the general reputation of the police force, and of the feelings of the people towards the police. This chapter is the most striking part of the report; and serious cause for reflection is afforded by such passages as those quoted below.

There is no part of our system of Government of which such universal and bitter complaint is made, and none in which, for the relief of the people and the reputation of Government, reform is in anything like the same degree so urgently called for. . . . . Everywhere they went the Commission heard the most bitter complaints of the corruption of the police. These complaints were made not by non-officials only, but also by officials including magistrates and police officers, both European and native. . . . . The Commission regret to have to report that they have the strongest evidence of the corruption and inefficiency of the great mass of investigating officers of higher grades. . . . Another very serious ground of complaint against the police is the unnecessary severity with which they often discharge their duties and the unnecessary annoyances which they inflict on the people. . . . . The evidence in most provinces is that the canker of corruption affects the force in greater or less degree from constable to inspector. . . . . There can be no doubt that the police force throughout the country is in a most unsatisfactory condition, that abuses are common everywhere, that this involves great injury to the people and discredit to the Government, and that radical reforms are urgently necessary.

THE REGULAR POLICE.

The development of the village system is the first remedy upon which the Commission lay great stress. Efficiency cannot be attained by means of official policemen only. They would be far too expensive, and also far too harassing. The aid of the village community must be secured; and its own agency for police work must be improved, and fully utilized. There can be no doubt that the Commission's views on this subject are sound and in accord with Indian traditions. But it must not be supposed that their plan is novel or one which can be easily carried out. It will stand in much need of sympathetic officers, as well as of patient perseverance in a consistent and definite policy. Turning next to the official or regular police, the Commission find that the most obvious line of reform to adopt is the improvement of the police establishment with the object of securing competent men to perform the duties required, or, in other words, better selection and training for the officers of different grades, and better distribution among them of the work to be done. Here comes in the question of pay; in India, as elsewhere, competent men cannot be got without suitable remuneration and prospects. As regards police officers of the lowest grade—that is, constables—the Commission plainly state that, on the one hand, they are employed on duties which they are not qualified to perform, while on the other they are grossly and dangerously underpaid.

To pay a constable Rs. 6 or even Rs. 7 per mensem, especially when certain deductions are made for uniform, etc., is to offer strong inducement to dishonesty. It is urgently necessary to remove any excuse for dishonesty, which Government should never allow to exist, by giving to the constable a living wage and reasonable means of supporting himself and family without resort to illicit practices.

It is therefore strongly advocated by the Commission that the constable should not be entrusted with work calling for discretion and judgment, especially not with the investigation of crime, and that he should be paid at the lowest a living wage of eight to eleven rupees (say 16s. to 22s. in India) a month clear of all deductions. The constable at present receives very inadequate training; and yet the general rule in India is to promote from the ranks of low class, badly paid, untrained constables to the superior grades of head constable, sub-inspector, and inspector. The officer in charge of a police station and of the criminal investigations within its range is usually, and ought to be always, not below the rank of sub-inspector. The results of promotion from the ranks to the sub-inspector grade are described by the Commission in these words:—

Almost everywhere throughout India the sub-inspectors generally are credited with all the corruption that characterizes the lower ranks of the police; and the faults of these lower ranks are attributed in some part to them. They are neither honest nor intelligent themselves, nor are they capable of enforcing honesty and maintaining discipline among their subordinates. In other departments of the public service the best results have followed from abandoning the system of promotion to responsible office of men who have acquired their principles and habits of work in ministerial or subordinate employment, and by recruiting direct for the higher posts men of some social status and education. In the police department this is specially necessary; and yet, strange to say, it has not been carried out. The indifference hitherto exhibited regarding the character and qualifications of officers in charge of police stations is inexplicable. The grievous results of this blunder seem to be almost universally recognized; yet the system has been permitted to continue with only spasmodic effort here and there at reform.

The Commission, therefore, insist upon the absolute necessity for direct recruitment, special training, and better remuneration of sub-inspectors to be employed as investigating officers. From this grade promotion would ordinarily flow into the higher supervising grade of inspectors; and here again better pay and prospects are demanded. The police force in a magisterial district in India is under the direct control of a district superintendent (who may be compared with the chief constable of a county in England) aided by one or more assistant superintendents Generaly speaking, these officers are Europeans; and the Commission use very plain language as to the methods both formerly and at present in vogue for the recruitment, training, and pay of these European officers. For many years the recruitment was by undiluted favouritism, the Indian police being the haven of refuge for the failures of influential Anglo-Indian families. This does not seem to have been a good arrangement; indeed it is said that "as a whole the service suffered incalculable injury from the manner in which appointments were made." The modern plan is open competition in England and competition in India amongst nominated candidates. The Commission prefer open competition at a special examination in England, to be followed by two years of probation and training at a University and in London, somewhat on the lines of the arrangements for the Indian Civil Service. The proposal seems too elaborate and costly; and it is surprising to hear that Indian law and Indian languages can be better taught in England than in India. The Commission are decidedly of opinion that the pay and prospects of the superior police officers should be very considerably improved. Probably their suggestions under this head go too far in some respects but they are unquestionably right in saying that the present initial pay of an assistant superintendent is too little for a young Englishman to live on respectably in India, where he has to keep a horse, and cannot make cheap arrangements for his board and lodging. Above the district superintendents come deputy-inspectors-general for groups of districts, and, finally there is an inspector-general for a whole province. Increased expenditure on these high officers is recommended; and the general effect of the Commission's proposals should certainly be to attract a satisfactory class of European officer for the Indian police. At the same time, the Commission have not omitted to consider whether natives of India may not with advantage be employed in the higher grades, and they very rightly pronounce in favour of the experiment.

It is more than desirable—it is incumbent on the Government (they say) to use native agency to the utmost extent possible without seriously impairing the efficiency of the service. The employment of natives as superintendents is, however, more or less an experiment; and therefore it must be carefully and gradually introduced. But it is on experiment of a hopeful character, and therefore it ought to be tried within reasonable limits wherever circumstances permit.

Another important reform proposed is the creation of criminal investigation departments, one for every large province and an Imperial one for the whole of India. It is surprising to learn that little or next to nothing of the sort exists at present.

The Commission have been much struck (we are told) with the ignorance of most superintendents of what is going on outside their own districts and with the want of co-operation between police officers of different districts. Improved communications have changed the character of crime and the methods of criminals. Depredators migrate from one district to another, and carry on their operations in a systematic manner over large areas. It is essential that combined action on the part of the police should corsespond to the organization of crime. There must be systematic attention to professional offenders and criminal tribes and classes, combined arrangements for dealing with crime on main roads, rivers, and railways, and cordial co-operation between officers of different districts. . . . . There must be a proper system for securing regular information of the operations of organized crime, well-regulated communication of intelligence from one district or province to another, combined action between the officers of different localities, and the capacity for systematized action from one centre.

All this sounds rather elementary business; but the Commission evidently had good reason to lay their stress upon it. They assert, and justify their assertion, that the superior officers of the police department have been subjected to excssive interference, calculated to weaken their sense of responsibility, on the part of commissioners of divisions and, still more, of magistrates of districts. It is one thing to uphold, as the Commission rightly do, the socnd principle that the magistrate who is responsible for the criminal administration of his district must have control over the police, and quite another thing to reduce the superintendent, who is the head of the district police, to the position of a mere assistant to the magistrate. The later plan which is much in vogue, is unfair alike to the magistrate. And it exposes the latter, unjustly no doubt, for the most part to the reproach that the thief-catcher tries the thief.

The cost of the comprehensive reforms advocated by the Commission would raise the expenditure on the police in British India alone (native States do not come at all within the purview of the report) from, in round figures, one and three-quarter to two and three-quarter millions sterling a year. This is a heavy bill; but the Commission claim that it covers the improvement of the police force in all details, and the provision of essential additions to remove deplorable defects, and, further, that the reforms recommended are demanded by both popular opinion and administrative experience. The police department has, the Commission urge, been "starved," although it closely concerns the life of people; and they confidently maintain that:—

"Any real effort to attain greater security of life and property and some reasonable hope of freedom from the oppression and other serious evils complained of by this vast population of three hundred millions, fully justified this additional expenditure to less than one million sterling per annum."

Whatever may be thought of the Commission's numerous and forcible proposals and opinions, which will doubtless attract plenty of criticism, there can be no doubt, at any rate, that the necessity for the public inquiry instituted by the Viceroy has been overwhelmingly established; and we trust that Lord Curzon will continue to be more fortunate that his predecessors in being able to find money for reforms which must inevitably be every expensive. To the layman at a distance it would appear desirable to make a start, not by creating high places for Europeans at the top of the scale, but rather with the provision of a "living wage" for the lower ranks of the police. An increase of a few shillings in pay does not, it is true, convert a dishonest official into an honest one; but when a rate of pay has been officially stigmatized, after public inquiry, as constituting "very strong temptation to corruption," "strong inducement to dishonesty," and "practical necessity for corruption," then it becomes the plain duty of a civilized administraton to rd itself of such a reproach.

This report furnishes a disconcerting contrast to the narratives periodically published about administrative progress in the Indian Empire; but it probably contains little news for the Indian administrator. Police reform in India has been discussed for many years; and in this matter, as in several others, Lord Curzon deserves full credit for havng boldly faced a difficult subject and lifted it far beyond the region of vague talk. In a speech last month he announced that the Police Commissioner's port, together with the opinions and decommendations thereon of the Indian Government had already been forwarded to the Secretary of State. It may perhaps be hoped that the period of incubation in the India Office will not be excessively prolonged. Even if the main proposals of the Commission which were submitted nearly a year ago, are accepted, an immense amount of detail will remain to be elaborated. And reform ought to follow promptly upon an honest disclosure of faulty administration.

FIGHT WITH A LION.

A young Berlin volunteer named Ullmann, who is serving with the colonial troops in German East Africa, has had an exciting encounter with a lion at Kilva.

The officer commanding the garrison ordered Ullmann to rid the neighbourhood of the lion, which had carried off several persons and committed numerous other depredations.

Ullmann set out with half-a-dozen natives to track the beast and after a long hunt the lion was found in a bush.

The beaters drove him out, and then fled in panic. Ullmann, describing what followed, says:—

"I fired, and struck the brute in the lower jaw, without disabling him. Maddened by the pain, he came bounding towards me, and before I had time to fire my second shot felled me with a terrific blow from his paw.

"Then he began to tear the flesh of my back. I tried to protect myself with my left arm but the lion seized it and bit through both flesh and muscles. Desperation gave me courage to continue the struggle, and I drove my right fist into the lion's eyes.

"This stopped him for a moment, but he quickly returned to the attack and bit me on the head, shoulders, arms, and legs. Again I got at him with my right fist, and the lion continued dealing blows at me with his paw, and, snapping at me, he tore flesh from my skull so that the bone was bared.

"All this happened much quickly than it takes to tell the story. I felt my strength failing, and sohuted to the natives, who had hidden in the neighbouring bush, to fire, indifferent whether they hit me or the lion. One of them summoned courage to approach. The lion was so occupied in mauling me that he did not notice the native, who fired and killed him. The whole encounter did not last more than two minutes."

Ullmann was removed to the nearest military ambulance station, where it was found that the lion had inflicted seventy different wounds on him. It was found necessary to amputate his left arm, and it will be many months before he recovers from his other injuries.

THE PROPOSED PARTITION OF BENGAL.

VIEWS OF SIR HENRY COTTON.

Sir H. Cotton writes as follows in The "Manchester Guardian":—

Of recent years there have been many protests in Bengal against proposals put forward from time to time by an unsympathetic Government. Religious feeling was deeply moved by Sir Andrew Scoble's legislation on the subject of early marriage. The agitation against the abolition of trial by jury about ten years ago was so wide-spread and effective that it fortunately resulted in the reversal of that ill-advised measure. But this is practically an isolated instance of successful protest. It was in utter disregard of repeated and emphatic expressions of public opinion that a long-standing and efficient system of municipal administration was lately swept away in Calcutta. Within the past two years there has been a perfect chorus of disapproval of the Official Secrets Act Amendment Bill, deliberately designed to curtial the liberty of the press, and of the Universities Bill, with its general sinister drift in favour of officialising all branches of education and of fettering unaided schools and colleges. These measures were strenuously opposed by Indian public opinion, but in vain, for they have become law. Agitation has been rife and there is seething popular discontent in respect of the reactionary tendencies of an official bureaucracy, which have found a too willing mouthpiece in Lord Curzon. But it is hardly too much to say that all these expressions of public opinion have been cast into the shade by the feeling which has been aroused in Bengal by the proposals recently put forward by Government for the partition of that province. I do not think I ever remember popular sentiment to have been so profoundly stirred as it is at the present moment by Lord Curzon's scheme for the separation of Eastern Bengal from the capital of the province and its proposed amalgamation with Assam.

The idea of the severance of the oldest and most populous and wealthy portion of Bengal and the division of its people into two arbitrary sections has given such a shock to the Bengalee race and has roused such a feeling amongst them as was never known before. The idea of being severed from their own brethren, friends, and relations and thrown in with a backward province like Assam, which in administrative, linguistic, social, and ethnological features widely differs from Bengal, is so intolerable to the people of the affected tracts that public meetings have been held in almost every town and market-place in East Bengal, and the separation scheme has been universally and unanimously condemned. The heart of the people has been touched. This is a truly popular agitation, affecting every home and hamlet. The opposition to the proposal is warmly supported by the educated members of the Bengalee community generally, and nowhere more than in the metropolis. The antagonistic expression of opinion is not cofined to the natives of India only, but it has been re-echoed in the whole Anglo-Indian press, and the Calcutta "Englishman"—the most powerful organ of that press among th British unofficial community in India—has gone so far as to say:—"About one fact, at any rate, there can be no doubt, and that is that the carrying out of the proposed transfer would make the present administration the most unpopular throughout Bengal of all the administrations by which India has been ruled from the advent of the Mahomedans down to the present day."

The proposal is one that finds no favour in Assam itself. The people of Assam are protesting from their own point of view against amalgamation. They recognise that Assam is a backward province, that they receive special encouragement from their own local administration, and that as soon as they are merged in Eastern Bengal, with its greater virility, wealth population, and higher standard of education, they will lose the advantages they at present enjoy of preferment in the public service. They know that the claims of Assam will be lost in the pressure put upon the Government by the overwhelming influence of its new predominant partner.

The proposal is to transfer a population of eleven and a half millions of people, comprising an integral part of the advanced province of Bengal, to the backward frontier province of Assam. It is understood that the proposal has grown until the transfer of some five-and-twenty millions of people is in contemplation. The suggestion has been made for the establishment of a new Lieutenant-Governorship, with all its expensive paraphernalia of a large secretariat and separate departments. The scheme is not without its attraction to the official members of the Indian Civil Service, who see before them the prospect of additional offices of emolument. But it is repugnant to the last degree to the inhabitants of the country affected, who are agnast at the idea of their separation from a province to which they are attached by all historic, material, social, and sentimental associations, and it is opposed by the whole of the unofficial and commercial British opinion in Calcutta, which recognises that the interests of the metropolis of India are seriously jeopardised by the proposed change. I will not recapitulate all the administrative objections to the proposal, and there is the less necessity for my doing so as they are fully contained in an official minute which I recorded on the subject more than seven years ago, when the suggestion was first mooted and then wisely dropped by Lord Elgin, only to be rashly revived by his successor. The High Court of Judicature in Bengal then recorded its opinion that the transfer would be a "retrograde and mischievous departure." The letter from the High Court and my own minute have been republished in India, and The Englishman newspaper, which I need hardly say is ordinarily the most hostile critic of my Indian policy, has not hesitated to say in the present connection that "Sir Henry Cotton's objections, coming on the top of those of the High Court, are crushing and unanswerable." I will content myself with saying that it is impossible to conceive that any civilised portion of Bengal could gain by being detached from the advanced province to which it belongs and attached to a comparatively backward province.

It is no doubt desirable to relieve the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal from some of the responsibilities which rest upon his overburdened shoulders. But this end may easily be attained by other means—either by the appointment of an Executive Council, which is the course followed in the sister Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, or even by the separation of Behar—a province which is not peopled by Bengalis—and its amalgamation with the United Provinces, or, if that suggestion is opposed on local grounds, by the constitution of Behar, with a population of twenty millions in round numbers, as an idependent administration with its own Chief Commissioner. It would be easy to devise scheme which would not receive the unanimous disapproval of the affected population. To press on proposals such as those which have been put forward for the break-up of Bengal itself against the loudly expressed wishes and sentiments of the Bengali people can only be described as the most arbitrary and unsympathetic form of irresponsible and autocratic statesmanship, and though I cannot hope to rouse much public feeling in England on such a subject I am convinced that a Liberal Secretary of State would never sanction such proposals; and I fervently trust that the Government of India, in the exercise of its own good sense, will not shrink from abandoning a project so universally condemned.

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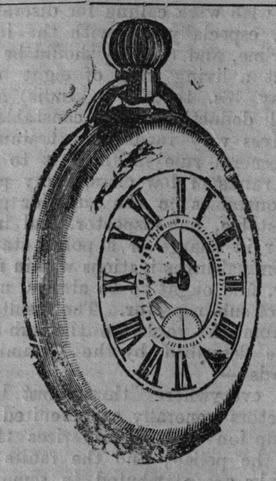

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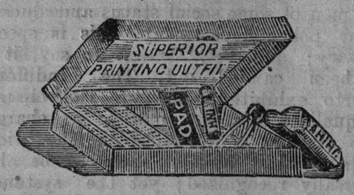

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATIONS IN BENGAL.

The following Resolution on the appointment of a Committee to report on the working of the existing septic tank installations in Bengal is published in the "Calcutta Gazette":—

In letter to the Government of India it was stated that the Lieutenant-Governor, after reviewing all the evidence before him, entertained no doubt that the conversion of crude sewage into an odourless and non-putrescible fluid can be accompanied under proper conditions, and that this is a most valuable and useful result. It was noted, however, that further experiments were necessary to determine the amount of work which could be done by a septic tank under different conditions, the quantities of water required, the efficacy of the effluent as liquid manure and other details. His Honour therefore determined to proceed further with the experiments, and accorded sanction to the construction of a septic tank by the Muzaffarpur Municipality.

2. Meanwhile the increase in the number septic tanks in the mills on the banks of the Hugli, which has been very rapid, has rendered it necessary that the conditions on which such installations can be permitted shall be determined without delay. That the system when successfully worked constitutes a great advance in the application of scientific sanitary methods the Lieutenant-Governor has no doubt. Unfortunately this result has not yet been fully attained; and objections, to some extent well founded, have been raised to the discharge of the filtrate or effluent into the river. It is a matter of urgent necessity, therefore, that a speedy solution of the problem should be arrived at, in order on the one hand that the large expenditure incurred by the mill-owners may not be thrown away, and on the other that the objections referred to may as far as possible be removed.

3. The question is also of more than local importance; for if these installations can be made to perform all that has been claimed for them, they will no doubt be adopted in all the large Municipalities in the Province and will remove what has hitherto been one of the greatest difficulties of municipal administration. For this reason also Sir Andrew Frazer has given the whole subject his most careful consideration.

4. The Sanitary Board, who were consulted have represented that they are unable to advise until orders are passed on the following points raised by the Committee of the Jute Mills Association, viz.:—

(1) What is the distance above and below Palta and Serampur within which the discharge of the filtrates from septic tank installations without further treatment will not be permitted

(2) Will Government be satisfied if the filtrates are passed through sand before being passed into the Hughli.

(3) What is the standard of purity on which Government will insist.

5. In order that the questions referred by the Sanitary Board may be fully enquired into, and also in order that the best methods of dealing with the whole problem may be ascertained, His Honour has been pleased to appoint the following Committee to report on the working of the existing septic tank installations in Bengal, and on the means which should be adopted to render the system efficient and free from objection:—

Colonel S. H. Browne, C.I.E., President; the Hon. Mr. D. B. Horn and Major F. C. Clarkson, I.M.S., Members; the Hon. Mr. L. P. Shirres, I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Municipal Department, Secretary.

6. In addition to dealing with the three specific questions set forth above, it will be the duty of the Committee in the first instance to ascertain the actual facts as to the existing installations. In this connection they will have to consider carefully the construction and situation of the structures, and the character, chemical and otherwise, of the effluent which is discharged. It will also be their duty to examine the different methods by which the effluent can be disposed of. Three methods are referred to by the Sanitary Board namely, (a) by turning the filtrates over land, (b) by using them as feed water for the boilers, and (c) by discharge into the river after filtertion through sand. The second of these ways, which is said to be in use in America, would if it could be adopted apparently solve the problem in the case of the Hughli Mills. If discharge into the river is permitted, the Committee should report the conditions which they consider necessary in order that this may be done without detriment to the public health. Lastly, the Committee should advise what changes require to be made in the existing installations and in their methods of working, so that the best results may be obtained.

The total human mortality due to wild animals in 1903 is almost exactly the same as in the previous year in the Central Provinces, but considerably less in Berar. The figures of 1902 differ from those shown in last year's statement because deaths from the bites of jackals have been excluded. The total mortality from snakes has decreased considerably in the Central Provinces and risen slightly in Berar. The Chanda, Balaghat, Mandla, Raipur and Sambalpur Districts show the largest number of persons killed by tigers and panthers; nearly all the 48 persons killed by tigers in Sambalpur are attributed to one tigress which has been infesting the Ambabhona jungles for some years. The deaths due to panthers in Raipur amount to 110. This latter district has also suffered severely from wolves, 42 persons having been killed by these animals out of 50 for the whole Central Provinces. It was noted in last year's review that probably all or nearly all the deaths attributed to hyænas were really caused by wolves; and assuming this as a fact, it is satisfactory to find that wolves have not killed so many persons in other districts as they did last year. The mortality among cattle due to wild animals again shows a very large increase over the figures of previous years. The increase occurs almost entirely in Chanda and in the three Chhattisgarh Districts. Tigers and panthers between them killed 1,300 cattle in excess of the previous year, while wolves account for nearly 1,300 more than last year: wild dogs have killed just under 1,000, about the same number as in last year.

THE MAHAKALI PATSHALA.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

The annual distribution of prizes to the girls of the Mahakali Patshala, which was founded by Mataji Maharani Tapaswini for the free education of Hindu girls, was held on Wednesday afternoon at the institution premises, No. 69, Sukea Street, in the presence of a large gathering. The chair was occupied by His Highness Moharajadhiraj Bijoy Chand Mohatap Bahadur of Burdwan. The proceedings opened with a recitation of slokes and an address of welcome to the chair by the girls of the institution. The tenth annual report of the Committee showed that the institution was growing in popularity every year, and that the Hindu public have at last found that the system of education adopted in it, was the one exactly suited to the requirements of Hindu girls. The numerical strength of the Patshala, which is a free institution, was at present 475 as against 450 in 1903. The girls were making steady progress as had been evidenced by the results of the periodical examinations. The conduct of the girls, both at home and in school, was very satisfactory. There were eight branches of the Patshala, The Committee announced that eight medals, four gold and four silver, have been awarded to the deserving girls of the institution by some of the prominent members of the nobility and gentry of Calcutta. The Committee were glad to report that with the generous help of Mr. David Yule, the hope of having a permanent habitation for the institution has at last been realised. About 12 months ago Her Holiness Mataji Maharani Tapaswini, the founder and proprietress of the institution, with the money advanced by the Bank of Calcutta, at the instance of Mr. Yule, was able to buy the school premises, No. 69, Sukea Street, at the price of Rs. 41,000 including the filling up of the tank. A portion of this loan, viz. Rs. 9,500, has already been liquidated, and the Committee fervently hope that before the present year is out the Hindu public, for whose benefit alone the Patshala is maintained, will emulate the noble example set by Mr. Yule, and place Mataji in a position to clear the debt. The thanks of the Committee are due to Her Holiness Mataji Maharani for her disinterested and indefatigable zeal and indomitable perseverance in the cause of Hindu female education. But the Committee regret that Her Holiness does not get active help and cooperation from the Hindu community. The thanks of the Committee are also due to the Hon. Maharaja of Darbhanga, who besides contributing Rs. 60 a month to the funds of the Pathsala, pays annually Rs. 1,000 for prizes to the girls of the main school and branches.

Following the distribution of prizes which included a sari and a silver hair pin to each girl, His Highness Moharajadhiraj Bejoy Chand Mahatab Bahadur of Burdwan addressed the meeting as follows:—

While staying in Calcutta last cold weather, I had the good fortune to be kindly invited by the Mataji Maharani to witness and take part in the annual Bag-Badini Puja festivities of this Institution. On my way to this place I asked myself whether the Institution was really worth a visit, or it was like many well-meant but ill-conducted modern institutions of Bengal; but my doubts were quite gone when I came and saw the really good work, the Tapaswini had been doing here, and I felt a very great respect for the noble lady who had founded this Institution on her own responsibility for the better education of young girls of this country.

Among the many problems upon which depends the development of India, a very important one is the higher education of Indian women of all classes and creeds, and unless this is satisfactorily solved, no amount of long-minded and frothy speeches in public halls by our countrymen will do India any good.

I am not attacking any individual ladies and gentlemen, but simply pointing out our defects. I use the pronoun "our," because though I am not a Bengali, but a Kshatriya of the remote Punjab, yet my ancestors adopted this country, and I owe to Bengal the position I hold to-day, and so, as an earnest well-wisher of my country. I may be excused for freely expressing my views. Let us for a moment look at the present condition of our women-folk in Bengal. The majority of women in the villages, and those of the middle and lower classes, do not know the "three Rs," and naturally the national welfare is to them an unknown quantity. But it is in them still that smoulder all the noblest qualities of the ideal woman—viz., Pati and Gurujana Bhakti, i.e., great reverence for husbands and superiors; which alas! are in great danger of dying out.

Now let us take a glimpse of the zenana of some of the educated people of the town. Many are being totally demoralized by their husbands who actually encourage them to read unwholesome books; to write frivolous letters (letters that can pass among people of shady character only) on note papers bearing mottoes and pictures made either in Germany or in the Calcutta slums.

It is these "news" women of India that are actually taught by their husbands to neglect the household, duties, to disregard their husbands' parents, and to learn all the vices, and not surely a single good trait of Western Civilization. This, ladies and gentlemen, is the education that many an educated man of Bengal gives to his wife. Can anything be more disgusting or more lamentable than that men who profess to be educated should actually initiate their wives into vices and encourage them in frailty, fickleness, and frivolity, which are but the natural weakness of the gentler sex. Good mothers bring up noble children, and silly wives never attain to the ideal of true maternity.

If only a goodly number of the rich men of this country—(I mean Bengal, as it would be too wide for me to speak of the whole of India)—think less of glasses, nautch parties, and fatal moonlight river trips, and become more mindful of their duties to their wives, they will train them according to the old Aryan ideas; to respect their husbands, to attend to the household duties, to see to the comfort of old parents and superiors, and to take a lively interest in all their husbands' cares and undertaking, both household and national. Then and then only, will the women of India regain the position they held in society in the brave and holy days of the Vedas and Puranas, when a Maitreyi or a Gargi, an Atrayi or a Kamandaki adorned the Hindu hearth and sanctified it with rare wisdom and unparalleled purity.

The Purdah system itself requires modifications. It has become so rigid, specially in Bengal, ever since the days of the dreaded Nawabs,—which days are but unpleasant dreams of the past, and whatever foolish people may have to say against our present Government, they can not deny that the British Rule has given ample protection to our wives, and children.

I do not say that the Purdah system should be totally abolished; for "unchartered freedom" will ruin society, like that of the over-enthusiastic reformers of Bengal, who are injuring themselves more than others; but what I say is, women should have more respect for men and none should have greater confidence and faith in their womankind and allow them to mix freely in their own houses with the malt members of their family. The stricter the rigidity of the Purdah, the less able the ladies grow to resist the temptations of life, and the greater, therefore, becomes the risk of domestic misery.

The last time that I was here I heard that some unscrupulous people had been tryingtheir level best, simply out of jealousy, to bring about the ruin of this worthy Institution by starting a rival school. Now, ladies and gentlemen, is there any hope for Bengal when her own children are flying at one another's throat? No country can improve without unity, and that is what India, specially Bengal, lacks very much. Bengal is at present too much overcrowded by self-seeking, conceited, hypocritical busy-bodies, and untill we have men of the stamps of the universally respected and lamented Vidyasagar Mahashay, her dark-days of social disorder will get yet darker.

I have talke dat great length and must have taxed the patience of my hearers, specially the Kumaris, who must be anxious to get away and shew their handsome prizes, the reward of their good work, to their parents and friends.

I shall now conclude by praying to the "Light of lights" the "One Eternal, for the welfare of this Institution, and for the good health of our most respected TapaswiniMataji Maharani, who should undoubtedly be helped by all patriotic Indians, like my respected friend Babu Norendra Nath Sen, in the great work which she has undertaken singlehanded."

The Chairman then briefly addressed the girls in their own language.

A cordial vote of thanks to the chair, purposed by Babu Norendra Nath Sen, terminated the meeting.

FURTHEST SOUTH.

RETURN OF THE DISCOVERY.

As has already been briefly announced in our columns by cablegram, the Antarctic exploring erpedition which sailed from New Zealand in December, 1901, under Commander R. F. Scott, R.N., recently returned to Lyttelton, with the two relief ships which sailed from Tasmania last year. Below will be found a full and striking narrative by Commander Scott, specially communicated to the "Daily Mail," and telegraphed by their correspondent at Christchurch, New Zealand, of the results obtained by his winter sojourn in the wild solitudes of the Antarctic and of his daring sledge journeys into the interior of the unknown continent, which he has found to be a bleak plateau, rising 9,000 feet above the sea, and stretching interminably to the south.

The Discovery and the relief ships Morning and Terra Nova arrived at Lyttelton this morning (April 1st) when Captain Scott supplied me with the following extremely interesting statement:—

All went well after the departure of the Morning in 1903. The ice remained fast and firm within four miles of the Discovery. The temperature fell rapidly, and the men were employed obtaining seal meat for the winter. The winter passed pleasantly in all respects, and we enjoyed much greater comfort than in 1902. The weather was colder but less windy than in that year. One hundred degrees of frost were recorded in May. Our routine of scientific work and observations continued as in the previous year. The spring of 1903-1904 found us all in excellent health and spirits. Sledging opened in September under the most severe conditions. Messrs. Barne and Mulock with one party made a depot to the south; Messrs. Royds and Wilson with another pary visited Emperor Penguin Islands, and surveyed Cape Crozier with complete success. The temperatures encountered by the parties were constantly below 50deg., and frequently below 60deg. The lowest recorded was 68deg. I myself, with Mr. Skelton and a party, found a new route to the west and established a depot 2,000ft. up the glacier, sixty miles from the ship. There were some severe frostbites in the three parties but in no case were the consequences serious. We returned in splendid health.

DESOLATE ICE PLAIN.

On October 6 Messrs. Barne and Mulock, with four men and a supporting party of six, started for the strait in latitude 80deg. south. They encountered continuously bad weather and very heavy surfaces, but eventually reached the strait and found that it contained a large glacier formed from the inland ice. Detailed information was obtained as to the exact point of junction between the barrier-ice and the land, and a depot established last year found to have moved a quarter of a mile to the north. The party returned on December 13. Messrs. Royds and Bernacchi, with four men, started on Noevember 10. with five week's provisions, and reached a point 160 geographical miles south-east of the ship, travelling continuously over a level plain. No trace of and no obstacles in the ice were encountered, and evidence was obtained showing this vast plain to be afloat. Mr. Bernacchi secured a most uniform series of magnetic observations. These journeys were performed under very unfavourable conditions of weather and ice surface. They have added much to our information. Mr. Skelton and I, with four men and a supporting party of six, set out to the west on October 12, and reached a height of 5,000 feet on the glacier, eighty miles from the ship, on October 18, when our sledges failed us on the hard ice surface. This forced us to return. We reached the ship on the 21st, and started again on the 26th with a small party. We were delayed by the strong winds blowing from the summit of the heights, and were forced to remain six and a half days in camp, during which time the same icy gale continued.

SPLENDID SCENERY.

We gained the summit on November 11 and crossed 180deg., the magnetic meridian, on November 20 in about longitude 166½ deg. east. I proceeded west with two men, Evans and Lashly, for eight and a half days, and reached a point 270 miles from the ship in latitude 78deg. south and longitude 146½deg. east. I regained the glacier on December 14, and reached the ship on Christmas eve. The interior of South Victoria stretches continuously at a height of 9,000ft. It is evidently a vast continental plateau. No land was visible after losing sight of the ranges which form the coast. The temperatures were low and the wind increasingly strong. The glacier valley affords magnificent scenery and gives a natural geological section of the mountains. Mr. Ferrar and two men accompanied me to the summit, and on the return journey we explored the valley in detail and discovered sandstone with plant remains. Several shorter journeys were made by the officers with valuable results. In the middle of December a camp was formed eight miles north of the ship, and all hands were set to work on ice-saws in the neighbourhood to cut a passage out. I arrived at the camp on December 30, and found that 180 yards of channel had been sawn in twelve days, through ice 7ft. to 8ft. thick. The open water was then seventeen miles from the ship. As I saw that the canal cut had frozen over again in places, showing that our efforts were obviously futile, I sent the men back to the ship and proceeded to the edge of the ice. The relief ships arrived simultaneously at the edge of the ice on January 5. As they had closed but little on the Discovery by January 15, all hands were employed in sledging and collecting the instruments. The ice began to weaken between the ships on January 20, and broke rapidly towards the end of the month. The opening came within eight miles of the ship in the early days of February. Its advance was slow, but it was increased by systematic blasting with dynamite. The crews of the relief ships were employed in making holes in the ice for the purpose. On the 12th a general break-up of the ice began, and the relief ships reached Hut Point amid much excitement. On the night of the 14th two heavy charges were exploded, and these placed the Discovery in open water. On the morning of the 16th a heavy gale began. In the night the Terra Nova succeeded in finding shelter to the south, but in the morning was driven north. The Discovery dragged her anchor and was forced ashore, remaining eight hours in a critical position. The ship eventually freed herself. On the 19th we succeeded in getting seventy-five tons of coal from the relief ships before a fresh gale drove us north.

COAL GIVES OUT.

We kept close in along the coastline, and in the morning we parted company from the other ships at Cape Washington, with a clear sea to the north. We put into Wood Bay and Robertson Bay, but, attempting to pass round Cape North, we met with heavy pack-ice off Smith Inlet and found that we had too little coal to enter it. We skirted the pack to the east and north, losing sght of the Terra Nova during a gale on the 28th. We proceeded west along parallel 69½deg. of latitude, and on March 2 found that the Balleny and Russell Islands were identical. We passed through the group. We continued west to the 156th meridian of longitude, when want of coal obliged us to turn north. The coast-line reported in this direction was found to be a mistake. No such land exists. We arrived at Auckland Island on March 15, with only ten tons of coal remaining in our bunkers. The Terra Nova and Morning rejoined us on March 19 and 20, after experiencing terrific weather and being compelled several times to heave to. Shortage of coal alone compelled our early return. The officers and men are in the very pink of health. The results of the expedition are eminently satisfactory, and will be available sohrtly.

HISTORY OF THE EXPEDITION.

It was in January, 1902, that the Discovery, under Captain Scott, R.N., pierced the ice-pack on its voyage farthest south. Lieutenant Armitage, R.N.R., formerly of the Jackson-Harmsworth expedition, was second in command. After visiting Cape Adare and other points on Victoria Land, the vessel sailed eastward along the ice cliffs of the great ice barrier of Ross for over 400 miles, or 150 miles beyond the furthest point previously reached by explorers. Then its journey was blocked, and the winter was passed at the foot of Mount Erebus and Mount Terror. The lowest temperature experienced was 62deg. F. below zero. At the coming of spring sledge parties were organised, and much useful and daring work was accomplished. Once Captain Scott and some companions beat all records by reaching the latitude of 82deg. 17min. S. Their journey took ninety-three days, and they travelled nearly 1,000 miles, suffering great hardships. The Discovery was left imprisoned in the ice south-west of Erebus and Terror and the Morning was sent out to her relief. The latter found Captain Scott's ship icebound, and was unable to approach within ten miles, so that all stores had to be carried over the ice. The Morning then returned, but the summer failed to release the Discovery, and it became necessary to despatch further relief. The Terra Nova, a fine old whaler, was consequently fitted out to go to the assistance of the ship that had sailed furthest south.

The Scratch of a pin may cause the loss of a limb or even death when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chemberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and nequalled as a quick healing liniment for cute bntses and burns. Foresale by.

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BEFORE YOU START on a journey, procure bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarhœa Remedy. This may save you much trouble and annoyance as it can not be bought on coar the cars or steamship. For all forms of toma and bowel troubles th remedy has no ereqn for sale by

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THREE COUNTERFEIT COIN CASES CONCLUDED.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Jessore, April 27.

The readers of the "Patrika" will recollect that for sometime past several very sensational cases of counterfeiting King's coin have been pending in the Sessions Court here. The Kazis of Khejura, in thana Munirampur, had for years together been systematically uttering counterfeit coins and thereby doing a roaring trade at their native village. Successive PoliceInspectors of the sudder and local thanas failed to find out any clue to the nefarious ways and works of these pernicious traders. But things can not go on the same for ever and vice or virtue must have its due sooner or later. Some ten or twelve months ago Police Inspector Parbaty Charan Das Gupta came here on transfer and took charge of the Sudder Police Station. Naturally adventurous and intelligent as he is, the very first business this lynx-eyed Police officer undertook to do was to trace out these midnight mechanics in their very den, and fortune favoured him soon. The first case in which four persons—Zahed, Delwar, Abdul Karim and Abdul Aziz—were accused, was concluded on the 11th instant before the Additional Sessions Judge. The accused were sentenced to ten years' rigorous imprisonment each. The second one in which Jasim Seikh and his son Daod were accused, was disposed of on the 14th instant by the same tribunal. The father was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment with hard labour and the son in view of his tender age to seven years' hard labour. And the third one came on for hearing on the 20th instant. One of the accused was ill, so the charges against the other two implicated in the case were considered and they too were found guilty and sentenced to the same term of imprisonment as above. The rest are pending.

H. E. the Governor of Ceylon having, it is stated, recently expressed a wish to see an elk in its wild state, one which had been discovered roaming about in the district was driven into the jungle behind Queen's Cottage, Nuwara Eliya, for His Excellency to see. The animal was driven up quite close to His Excellency, Lady Blake and party, but immediately made a dash for the forest and got so frightened that it became entangled in some loose wire. The Governor, anxious that the elk should not be injured, made the beaters hold the animal down, whilst he himself broke the twisted wire which had curled round the elk's horns and body and released it. His Excellency, in extricating the elk, cut the palms of his hands slightly.

THE EXCRUCIATING PAIN from corns bunion or chilblains may be avoided by a free application of Chamberlam's Pain Balm. For sale by

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INDIGESTION

POISONS THE BLOOD.

The vigour of health depends on good digestion. Undigested food poisons the blood, which clogs up the skin, the liver and the kidneys. Food properly digested makes new strength, new blood, new flesh, new life. Relish for food and power to digest it comes with Mother Seigel's Syrup. Compounded of fruits, roots and herbs, it tones and cleanses the liver and kidneys, and clears the stomach of the decayed products of indigestion—the fruitful cause of headaches, languor, brain fag, constipation and anæmia.

MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP

Mr. Charles Zoti, writing from Buffalo Café, Oxford Street, East London, Cape Colony, on Dec. 4th, 1903, says: "Two years ago, whilst in England, I suffered agonies from indigestion. After other medicines had failed, I was persuaded to try Mother Seigel's Syrup. One bottle effected a decided improvement, and to-day my digestion is all I could wish."

BUILDS HEALTH ON

Good Digestion.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Allahabad High Court.

A BARRISTER'S CLAIM AGAINST THE MUSOORIE MUNICIPALITY.

Sir John Stanley (Chief Justice) and Mr. Justice Burkitt recently delivered judgment in the Allahabad High Court in an appeal by the Mussoorie Municipal Board against the Mr. H. B. Goodall, barrister, Mussoorie, Rs. 500 damages for illegal distraint.
decision of the Judge of Saharanpur awarding

The plaintiff is the owner of a house called "Belvedere" within the limits of the Municipal Board of Mussoorie. It was assessed at an annual rental of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 50 a year was the tax which Mr. Goodall used to pay. In 1898-1899 the Municipal Board raised the assessment to Rs. 1,200 and Mr. Goodall's objection to this increased assessment was thrown out by the Board, but he, as usual, paid Rs. 50 being the taxes he used to pay on the assessment of Rs. 1,000. The Municipal Secretary billed him for Rs. 60-12-0 on Rs. 1,200 for the year 1897-1898 i.e., for the year previous to the one for which the assessment was raised, but on Mr. Goodall's objection the demand was withdrawn and reduced to Rs. 60. Mr. Goodall declined to pay the difference between Rs. 50 and Rs. 60. and thereupon he was threatened with a distress warrant unless the balance was paid. In March, 1899, however, a distress warrant for Rs. 21-14-9 was applied for and issued although Rs. 10 only had been claimed. According to Mr. Goodall two attempts were made to attach his properties from his house in Dehra, which is outside the limits of the Municipality of Mussoorie and also outside the jurisdiction of the Magistrate who issued the warrant. On the 18th March, 1899 a third attempt was made to distrain Mr. Goodall's properties from his house in Mussoorie, but on his representation the Magistrate who had issutd the warrant told him that it had been cancelled. On the 22nd March, 1899, plaintiff left for England and in his absence a fresh warrant was obtained "ex parte." Under this warrant some articles of furniture were attached from Mr Goodall's house in Mussoorie and they were sold for the amount demanded. On hearing of the attachment he hurried back from England in order to prosecute his claim against the Board and he alleged that the warrant was obtained maliciously and by misrepresentation for no money was, in fact, due to the Municipality and hence he claimed Rs. 1,000 damages.

The defence to the suit was that the assessment was raised with the full knowledge of Mr. Goodall that the demand of Rs. 60-12-0 for 1897-1898 was made by a mistake of the Tax Collector; that the exact amount due up to the date of the demand was Rs. 9-6-9; that the demand of Rs. 60-12-0 for 1898-1899 did not represent the real amount due, which was Rs. 69-6-9; that owing to another oversight only Rs. 60 were demanded instead of Rs. 69-6-9; that Mr. Goodall at least only paid Rs. 47-8-0 having a balance of Rs. 12-8-0 against himself and not Rs. 10 as he alleged; that at first a distress warrant for Rs. 12-8 was applied for, but on checking accounts it was discovered that Rs. 9-6-9 more were due over and above the sum of Rs. 12-8-0 and, therefore, a second warrant for Rs. 21-14-9 was obtained; that the defendant Board had no knowledge of the police proceedings which were taken on this warrant; that subsequently Mr. Goodall discovering his mistake paid Rs. 2-8-0 and, therefore, and amended warrant for Rs. 19-6-9 had to be taken out; that the Secretary of the Board was not guilty of any misrepresentation for the amount was really due from Mr. Goodall; that the suit was barred by Section 46 (c) of Act XV of 1883 as amended by the North Western Provinces and Oudh Act I of 1895; that the Board were not responsible for the proceedings of the Magistrate and the police which followed their application for a warrant, that Mr. Goodall did not specify any "malice" and the Board was not responsible for any "malice" on the part of its servants. The defendant Board lastly contended that the suit was barred by Article 2 of Schedule II of Act XV of 1877.

The Judge of Saharanpur, who tried the case held that the raising of the assessment from a Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,200 was illegally raised and that the plaintiff was given no legal notice of the same. The Judge also found that there was nothing due from the plaintiff and that his properties were attached by a mis-representation that money was due. He considered the plaintiff's claim of Rs. 1,000 excessive and therefore, fixed the damages at Rs. 500 with all costs. From this judgment the Mussoorie Board appealed and the following is the judgment of the Allahabad High Court:—

"Of the grounds of appeal mentioned in the memorandum of appeal two only have been pressed in argument before us. The others have been abandoned. The two points which have been pressed are (1) that the suit is barred by limitation and (2) that the Municipality are not responsible for the wrongful acts of their Secretary. The suit was brought by the plaintiff for damages for an alleged illegal distress. The circumstances being shortly as follows: In July 1898 the Municipal Board of Mussoorie, acting under rule 54 of their bye-laws, published a list of houses within the limits of the Municipality and the assessments made in respect of those houses for the purpose of calculating house-tax. According to this assessment the value of the plaintiff's house was increased by a sum of Rs. 200, namely from Rs. 1,000, at which it had been valued previously, to Rs. 1,200, the value stated in the Assessment. Notice of this assessment was duly published on the 28th of July 1898, and thereupon Mr. Goodall, the plaintiff, appealed against the assessment to the Board. That appeal was rejected. Subsequently on the 23rd of August, 1898, Mr. Keatinge, the Secretary of the Board, applied by letter to Mr. Goodall for payment of the sum of Rs. 60-12-0 which he claimed as house-tax due for the year 1898-99 in the letter inaccurately stated to be 1897-98. It is admitted by the Secretary that the sum claimed was in excess of the sum due by twelve annas. In reply to this demand for payment Mr. Goodall wrote to the Secretary and requested him to let him know by what process of calculation he had arrived at the conclusion that Rs. 60-12-0 represented the tax due by him. In reply to this letter the Secretary wrote to say that 'the amount of Rs. 60-12-0 represented one-tenth allowed to the tenant at 3 per cent. for furniture only, and on the balance at one-sixth at 4½ per cent. to the owner.' This has reference to some abatement which is allowed for furniture, but it is not altogether intelligible, and has not been fully explained to us. Nothing turns upon it. Mr. Goodall shortly afterwards sent a cheque for a sum of Rs. 47-8 in satisfaction of the claim of the Board against him in respect of the house-tax. The Board did not accept the amount so paid in full satisfaction but sent a receipt for it as in part payment. To this Mr. Goodall objected expressly informing the Board by letter that if the cheque was kept he should consider that the Board, had accepted the amount in full payment of the claim against him. There were two courses open to the Board on receipt of this cheque, namely, either to accept it on the terms on which it was offered in full satisfaction of the claim against the plaintiff or to return it. They adopted neither course. They kept the cheque and cashed it. But they did not absolve Mr Goodall from liability in respect of the balance said to be due from him, for we find that on the 21st of December 1898 a peremptory notice was sent to Mr. Goodall informing him that unless the balance of the bill was paid within seven days from date, a warrant of distress would be issued. Mr. Goodall was surprised at the receipt of this notice, and he at once replied to the Secretary of the Board and pointed out the illegality of the act which they were contemplating and cautioning them very plainly that whilst he would offer no opposition to the distraint he would claim heavy damages against the Board if they levied any distress upon his property. It appears that Mr. Goodall made a recalculation of the amount due by him and found that the sum which he had paid was deficient by Rs. 2-8, and this sum he sent to the Board, and it was accepted by them. Shortly afterwards, namely, on the 21st of March 1899, a warrant was obtained from a Magistrate according to the provisions of Section 46 of Act No. XV of 1883. In granting this warrant the Magistrate acted in a purely ministerial capacity vide W. J. Powell vs. The Municipal Board of Mussoorie." This warrant was for the sum of Rs. 21-14-9 which was obviously in excess of the balance said to be due when the first demand for payment was made. The sum actually due, according to the notice given to the plaintiff, was only Rs. 10. But it appears that the Secretary on examining the accounts of the plaintiff, found that some arrears were due and he added those arrears to the claim in respect of the tax for 1898-99 and so the warrant for the larger sum was issued. A seizure was made and some furnitur of the plaintiff was sold and the amount mentioned in the warrant was realised. The present suit for damages for alleged illegal distress was instituted on the 15th of February 1900. The learned District Judge came to the conclusion upon the evidence that the distress was illegal and that the Board were clearly responsible for it and gave a decree for the sum of Rs. 500 damages. He found that the warrant had been obtained by misrepresentation and maliciously and not under a "bona fide" belief that the amount claimed was really due In the course of his judgment he says that the defendants entirely failed to show that the plaintiff was indebted to them, that they had also failed to show that they had passed any resolution that a warrant should be issued, and that their secretary took out a warrant illegally and without any justification. Upon these findings he came to the conclusion that in point of law the Board was responsible for the acts of their Secretary. Now it is admitted by the learned Government Advocate, who has presented the case on behalf of the appellant with his usual clearness and force that the issue of the warant of distress was unjustifiable inasmuch as the plaintiff had paid to the Board all that he considered due to them under the circumstances which we have described, and the Board had accepted the sum so paid. This is clearly correct, and it has been properly admitted that the issue of the warrant was illegal and undefensible. He, however, rests the success of the appeal upon two points (1) that the suit is barred by limitation, and (2) that the Municipal Board are not responsible for acts of their Secretary which were found by the court below to have been malicious acts on his part. We shall take the question of limitation first. The contention is that Article 2 of Schedule 11 of the Indian Limitation Act, Act XV of 1877, is the Article applicable to this case. That Article provides a period of limitation for a suit for compensation for the doing or omitting to do an act in pursuance of any enactment in force for the time being in British India. The period provided by that article is 90 days from the time when the act or omission takes place. There appears to be little doubt but that an act such as the issuing of the distress warrant in the present case would fall within the wide and general terms of this article. In fact it is difficult to see what act or omission done in pursuance of any enactment would not come within its terms. We find, however, that Article 28 expressly provides a period of limitation for the case of illegal distress. It prescribes a period of one year or a suit "for compensation for an illegal, irregular, or excessive distress." Now if this is the article which govern the present case, the suit having been brought on the 15th of February, 1900, was clearly within time. If on the other hand Article 2 be applicable the suit is barred. We have no hesitation whatever in holding that where the statute of limitation by an express article specifically provides a period of limitation for a suit in respect of an illegal disstress, that article must be accepted as the governing article in such a case. The fact that another article framed in general terms such as Article 2 is wide enough to embrace a suit for compensation for illegal distress cannot, we think, be allowed to affect the operation of the article which was expressly framed to meet the case of such a suit. If a suit like the present is governed by Article 2 then it follows that Article 28 is not merely redundant, but is also inconsistent with Article 2. We think that the contention of the appellant in this case cannot be supported and we hold with the learned District Judge that the suit was not barred.

"The other ground of appeal is that the Municipality are not responsible for the distress made in this case. Reliance is placed upon the finding of the District Judge that the warrant was obtained by misrepresentation and malicously by the Secretary of the Board. We have carefully read the evidence which was adduced before the Lower Court and we are unable to find anything to justify this finding. Mr. Goodall himself does not allege that there was any malice or spite on the part of the Secretary. On the contrary he seems to think that it was the members of the Board who acted maliciously. He says "the reason why I think the defendants acted maliciously was that they attached much more property than was necessary to satisfy their demand and they never gave me any excess which they may have collected; and there was no necessity to go into my house to attach the property as there were many things outside the house which might have been attached." Again he says referring to a letter which he had published in the "Mofusslite" newspaper of Mussoorie. "In consequence of my having written this letter (Exhibit 13) which is a cutting from the "Mofusslite" newspaper of Mussoorie, Mr. Streatfield, late Superintendent at the Dun, and Chairman of the Municipality, took offence, and I believe that that was the reason of all the malicious proceedings against me." There is nothing in the evidence of Mr. Goodall which leads one to suppose that he suspected that the Secretary was actuated by any improper motive in applying for the warrant of distress and in distraining his goods. Mr. Keatinge, the Secretary, was examined and he says that in the preceedings against the plaintiff he acted under the orders of Mr. Streatfield. He says, "the order of Mr. Stratfield, dated the 19th December, directed me to take out a distress warrant for the balance. The balance was Rs. 12-8-0.' Then he explains how it came that he obtained a warrant for the sum of Rs. 21-14-9 showing that he examined the accounts of the plaintiff from the year 1894, and that he found that the amount due for arrears and also for the tax of 1898-99 was Rs. 21-14-9 and that accordingly he applied for a warrant for that amount. Now, this evidence discloses no spite or ill-feeling on the part of the Secretary; it shows that the Secretary in the "bona fide" execution of his duty examined the accounts of the plaintiff carefully and applied for a warrant for the sum which, in his opinion, was justly due. There is nothing which discloses any bias on his part or any unfair or unreasonable conduct towards the plaintiff. We may observe that the warrant which was obtained for Rs. 21-14-9 was not executed but another warrant was obtained for the sum of Rs. 19-6-9, credit being given for the sum of Rs. 2-8-0 which had been paid later on, as we have mentioned, by the plaintiff. Now it is apparent that the warrant in question was obtained by the Secretary in the ordinary course of his employment acting in the interests of the Board. It is also admitted that the Board adopted his act, and received the amount realised from the sale of the plaintiff's property. This being so, it seems to us idle to contend, as has been contended, that by reason of the fact that there was no special resolution of the Board authorising the Secretary to obtain a warrant the Board was, therefore, absolved from responsibility. It is abundantly clear that everything which was done by Mr. Keatinge in this transaction was done by him in his capacity as Secretary of the Board and for the benefit of the Board. It is well settled law that every principal is civilly liable for every intentional wrong committed by an agent in the ordinary course of his employment and for the benefit of the principad even though the principal did not authorise it and even if he had expressly forbidden it. So here we find nothing to relieve the Board of the Mussoorie Municipality from liability for the admittedly wrongful and illegal act of distraining the plaintiff's good for a debt which had no existence. A case somewhat similar to the present is that of Smith vs. the Birmingham and Staffordshire Gas Light Company. In that case a person of the name of Lumby, on behalf of the defendant Company, seized and sold some articles belonging to one Smith for money due to the Company for gas. Lumby had no authority under seal to carry out the distraint. It was held notwithstanding that the Corporation was liable "in tort" for his tortious act, even though he had not been appointed by seal, the distress being professedly committed under a statute for a debt due to the Corporation. It was also held in that case that the jury might infer the agency from an adoption of the act of Lumby by the Corporation as from their having received the proceeds of the seizure. If authority were necessary, this authority appears to support the view which we entertained throughout the hearing of the arguments of this appeal. For these reasons we hold that the appeal must fail. We, therefore, dismiss it with costs."

BLOODLESS WAR.

AN INVENTOR'S HUMANE BOMB-SHELLS.

War is hell, said Sherman. We may all agree, but it is so interesting that it will be as immortal as Dante's Inferno.

A Hungarian benefactor of the species, we learn on good authority, has invented a means for making it truly humane—without its guilt, and with only five-and-twenty per cent. of its danger, as Mr. Jorrocks observed of hunting.

This amiable genius, whose experience of war dates back to the Austrian campaigns against France in 1859 and against Prussia in 1866, has hit, he declares, on a solution of the problem of making military omelettes without breaking eggs.

He has invented a new kind of shell, which on bursting liberates a gas warranted to incapacitate all who breathe it, without producing any permanently serious effects. A single shell of the kind bursting between the decks of a warship would convert it into the Palace of the Sleeping Beauty; only when the crew recovered they would find themselves laid up in a hostile port.

A regiment thus put out of action would be none the worse in a few days, but they would need to give parole not to fight again or wars would never end.

This sounds like a fairy-tale, but it is by no means scientifically impossible.

OFFER TO THE JAPANESE.

The inventor is full of confidence that he can do what he promises, and is now in communication with the Japanese Government. His national hatred of Russia, dating back to 1848, prevented him from approaching the Czar, to whose pacific tastes such an invention should specially appeal.

If the shells in question prove to be efficacious—as to which we must await the trials which the inventor is eager to undertake—the Hague Convention must include a new clause, to the effect that all combatants once put out of action are to consider themselves dead till the end of the war. In the future army at least one-half will consist of ambulance corps for the removal of these inert bodies. More probably regular armies will be put down and there will be a premium on volunteering.

PROPOSED REMOVAL OF THE SIBSAGAR DISTRICT TO JORHAT.

The following letter addressed to the Commissioner, Assam Valley Districts, is published in the "Assam Gazette":—

From the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner of Assam. To the Commissioner of the Assam Valley Districts, No. 518 Mics.—3866G. dated Shillong, the 23rd April, 1904.

Representations have been made to the Chief Commissioner by some influential residents of the Sibsagar district in favour of moving the district headquarters to Jorhat, and I am to ask that you will cause inquiries to be made into the merits of this proposal and will acquaint the Chief Commissioner with their result, favouring him at the same time with your advice in respect to it. You will, of course, consult not only the leading district officials, European and Indian, but residents of the district who may be taken to voice the feeling of the public, including representatives of the Tea industry. It is desirable that the people whose interests would be affected by this measure should have full opportunity of expressing their opinion upon it, and this letter will be published in the "Gazette" for general information with an intimation that those who have anything to say for or against the proposal should address themselves to you.

2. The main arguments in favour of the change are, firstly, that Jorhat lies in the centre of the district, whilst Sibsagar is situated at its extremity; secondly, that Jorhat is accessible by rail while Sibsagar can be reached only by a road journey of 10 miles, which offers considerable difficulty during the rainy season; and, thirdly, that the environs of Jorhat are more densely populated than those of Sibsagar. That a district headquarters should be easily accessible is a consideration of very great importance. It may be urged that a tramway could be laid to Sibsagar. But having regard to the financial results of the Jorhat line, it is probable that such a tramway could be worked only at a considerable annual loss. Against the change it may be urged (apart from the objections which apply to a change of any character whatever) firstly, that the population of the town of Sibsagar is larger than that of Jorhat; secondly, that the climate of Sibsagar is healthier than that of Jorhat: and, thirdly, that the transfer of headquarters would occasion some loss to private individuals (such as members of the Sibsagar Bar) in that it would involve them in a change of residence. It may be remarked here that the population of neither town is at all considerable, the municipal limits of Sibsagar including only 5,712 souls, as against 2,899 souls within the municipal limits of Jorhat. Further, it is not clear that the reputation of Sibsagar for superior healthiness rests upon any substantial foundation. A fourth objection to the change lies in the expenditure of public money it would entail, and the Chief Commissioner would have had very great hesitation in entertaining any idea of it were the Administration not now confronted with the necessity of spending a good deal of money on Government buildings both at Sibsagar and at Jorhat.

3. I am to add that it is not probable that space can be found in close proximity to the town of Jorhat for a headquarters civil station, but that the Chief Commissioner is informed that a suitable site can be found at a distance of less than a mile from the kutcherry.

THE EXAMINATION FRAUDS CASE.

On Thursday Mr. F. Armitage, Superintendent of Police, who had been placed on special duty in connection with the Special Test Examination Frauds, produced M. Ayathambi Moodelly, lately a clerk in the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police (who was arrested some time ago and subsequently released on bail) and asked that he might be remanded till the 28th instant, pending his trial on charges of theft and abetment of theft.

The accused represented to the Court that he had received a memorandum on Thursday morning requiring him to attend at the Commissioner's Office and when he got there he was brought straight away to the Court. He did not know what the charges against him were and he wished to be released on bail to engage Counsel.

Mr. Armitage objected to the accused being released on bail and asked that he should be remanded to the Penintiary.

His Worship decided to allow the accused remain on bail when the question of his being remanded will again be argued.

Mr. T. Richmond, Barrister-at-law (instructed by Mr. James Short) appeared before His Worship and applied for the release of the accused on bail. The learned Counsel desired to know what the case against his client really was, what was the property which he was charged with having stolen, and what the evidence which the prosecution relied upon. As he had no right at the present moment to look at the charge sheet put in by the Police, Counsel relied upon the Court to go through it and satisfy itself what the nature of the evidence was which the Police proposed to adduce.

The Court enquired of Mr. Armitage what the nature of the evidence was which he proposed to cite against the accused.

Mr. Armitage replied that the papers could not have got out except by theft; that there was evidence that the covers were tampered with, and that the accused had been dealing with copies of the questions.

Mr. Richmond remarked that there were a thousand and one means by which the question papers might have leaked out. Apart from the fact that the Government had taken up the case and had specially deputed Mr. Armitage to investigate the matter, he could see nothing important in the case. The evidence, as disclosed by Mr. Armitage himself, was of the flimsiest nature.

Mr. Armitage objected to the learned Counsel characterising the evidence as being flimsy.

Mr. Richmond replied that he was only commenting on what Mr. Armitage himself had stated as being the evidence.

After some further discussion His Worship ordered the release of the accused on bail.

The case stands posted to the 28th instant.
—"Madras Mail."

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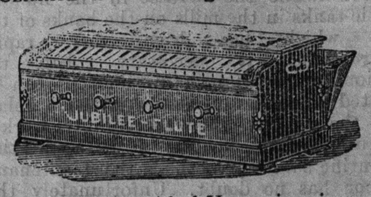

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