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Amrita Bazar Patrika

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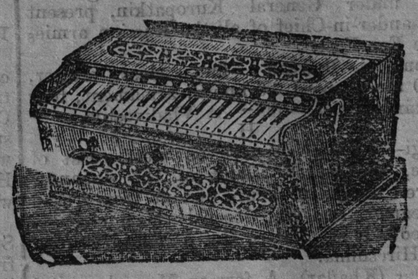

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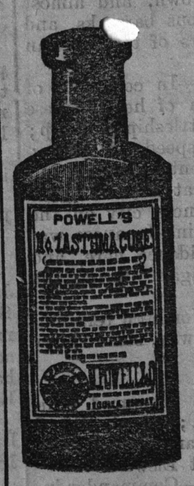

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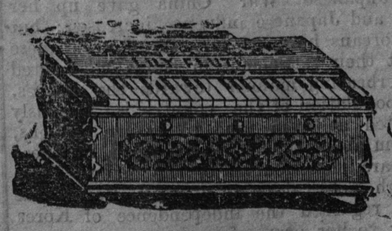

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THE FIRST FIGHT.

EYE-WITNESS'S THRILLING STORY OF THE COMBAT.

The mail to hand to-day brings a mass of detailed war news, but little of which is absolutely new.

The "Telegraph" correspondent at Shanghai, who is indebted to the courtesy of the "North China Daily News," has sent a detailed and thrilling report of the first two days' fighting off Port Arthur, which is as follows:—"Captain Gray, of the steamer Fuping, is able to give the fullest story available of the Japanese torpedo attack on Port Arthur and the subsequent bombardment, as well as an account of the Fupings extraordinary experiences. Flying the British flag, with all the papers in order, and having every permission to leave, this vessel was fired upon, without the slightest warning, at short range. By the three shells discharged at her five of her Chinese passengers were seriously injured and the rest panic-stricken. Such an attack with shell on a neutral commercial vessel, without any preliminary blank firing, is absolutely unprecedented. The Fuping arrived at Port Arthur from Chingwang-Tao, with a cargo of Kai-ping coal, on February 5. By the morning of the 8th the whole of her cargo had been discharged, and the vessel was ready to leave next day. At midnight of the 8th the captain and crew were startled by the reports of heavy guns. In the darkness and confusion of the night little could be seen, but next morning the harbour was full of evidences of Japanese acivity during the night. When the Fuping entered Port Arthur the Russian Squadron, consisting of eighteen large vessels in all—not couting one second-class cruiser which was under repair inside the west basin, and took no part in the actions—was riding outside the harbour, immediately under the forts. There they had remained all the time until February 8. At daylight on the 9th it was seen that two of the largest vessels, the Retvisan and the Tsarevitch, were lying

IN A SINKING CONDITION

right across the narrow mouth of the harbour, and completely blocking it. Just beyond, on the western side of the entrance, were lying the first-class cruiser Pallada, which had been torpedoed and run ashore to save her from sinking, and a large Russian transport also run ashore for safety. Captain Gray, with his second officer and chief and second engineers, put off in a small boat on a voyage of inspection. They had with them a boat's crew of four Chinese sailors, and pulled round to the Tsarevitch and Retvisan. These were seen at once to be damaged beyond the possibility of repair in the limited dock accommodation available at Port Arthur. They had gone all round these two vessels, and were proceeding to give a glance at the Pallada when the report of a loud explosion rang out. Simultaneously a shell fell right along side their boat. At that time, about half-past ten o'clock, the remainder of the Russian fleet were still lying under the shelter of the forts on the other side of the harbour, but immediately following the explosion one of them, whether a battleship of a cruiser it was impossible to say, disappeared stern first in the water, taking all hands with her. The whole incident scarcely occupied more than a minute or so. The four Englishmen then ran their craft ashore and took shelter behind a rock, whence they looked out on a general engagement which was proceeding. Sixteen Japanese men-of-war were approaching from the east in a long line, in single file. Their fire was returned by the Rusian squadron and by the forts on the headlands, and a terrific din of booming continued for three-quarters of an hour. Then the Japanese, having sailed right along the front of the fleet and harbour, made off, still in line, towards the south. So far as could be seen, they had themselves sustained little or no damage. The town and dock of Port Arthur had, on the other hand, suffered severely, though the actual damage was not so great as might have been expected from the bombardment. Three shells fell into the eastt basin without doing very much harm. Another went through the side of a transport lying just outside the dry dock, but, for some reason, did not explode. In the town, holes as much as fifteen feet in diameter and six feet deep had been ploughed up by the shells. Windows were shattered in all the houses, and the coal stacked along the streets and wharves was scattered in all directions. Townspeople, foreign and Chinese, were alike stupefied with fear. From the Russo-Chinese Bank all the paper money was being taken and burnt publicly. The spacie was put into carts and sent away inland as rapidly as possible. Many houses of business closed permanently, their heads having fled. The railway station was besieged. Port Arthur was, in fact, absolutely

DEMORALISED AND PANIC-STRICKEN.

The defencelessness of the place impressed the authorities. For days previously thousands of troops had been leaving as fast as the trains would take them north for the Yalu. Now as many as possible are being hurriedly recalled and the port is again filling with troops. During Wednesday morning tugs set to work on the Tsarevitch, and succeeded in dragging her inside the west basin, where she has grounded, her name being absolutely submerged at high water. The same is true of the Pallada, which was also successfully towed inside. The Retvisan still lay in the harbour mouth, but was sufficiently pulled aside to allow the remains of the fleet to enter the east basin. On Wednesday afternoon she was lying on the rocks, with her bows under water. The number of men-of-war lost or disabled Captain Gray computed at eight, including one vessel inside the harbour under repairs. The Russians had nineteen fighting ships. When he left Captain Gray counted fourteen only, and that number included the Tsarevitch. Retvisan and Pallada. Thus five were absolutely unaccounted for. In regard to the repairing of the damaged vessels it is worth nothing that there is at present only one dry dock at Port Arthur, and that is too small to take large battleships.

BRITISH SHIP FIRED ON.

After the bombardment the Fuping became crowded with refuges. About 500 Chinese besides sixteen foreigners came on board. No state-room were available as every inch of space was already occupied with baggage, and the travellers were obliged to sleep as best they could on deck, or in any corner. They were unable to sleep out of their clothes until they arrived at Shanghai. At three o'clock on the afternoon of Wednesday, Captain Gray prepared to depart. Captain Gray received full permission to leave and steamed out of the basin, with the British ensign flying at the main. The Fuping was abreast of the guardship at the mouth of the harbour—it is understood from a passenger that this was the corvette (gunboat). Razbeyank commanded by Prince Devin—when, without the slightest hint or warning, and without a single blank charge being fired as a preliminary, the guardship sent a two-inch shell whizzing over the deck. Immediately afterwards two other shells followed and struck the Fuping in the bows, fortunately above the water-line, but doing much damage. These shells also burst in that part of the ship which was most crowded with Chinese passengers, and five of the latter were very badly wounded. One poor girl had a leg blown off, a man lost an arm, and another a portion of his back. Consternation seized all on board the Fuping, which stopped immediately and returned to the inner harbour. Later on Captain Gray was sent for by the commander of the guardship, but all that was said to him was: We are very sorry; it was a mistake. You may proceed to sea" At five o'clock the Fuping again got under weigh, and this time passed out without any incident. In the ordinary course the voyage would have been made direct to Shanghai, but this indignity to the British flag was not to be endured, and Captain Gray put into Weihai-Wei to report the occurrence to Captain Windham, of his Majesty's ship Amphitrite.

A. B. C. OF THE WAR.

A GUIDE AND INDEX.

[Readers will find this index to men, places, and ships in the field of war useful to consult as news arrives frim the Far East; it should be cut out and kept for reference.]

A.

Alexieff, Admiral—Viceroy of the Russian Dominions in the Far East. Head-quarters, Harbin. Has executive and administrative powers of a semi-autocratic character.

Almaz—Russian protected cruiser, returning home from Red Sea.

Amnok River—Same as Yalu River.

Antung (or sha-ho)-Important Manchurian (Chinese) frontier post on north side of the Yalu, near its mouth, almost opposite to Wiju, and about twelve miles from Yongampo on the south side. It is now a treaty port, China having agreed to open it by treaty with the United States; hence it is open to all nations. Now occupied in force by the Russians.

Artamanoff, General—Commands Russian 8th Rifle Brigade, consisting of 29th, 30th, 31st, and 32nd Regiments, Head-quarters, Vladivostok.

Asahi—Japanese battleship, 15,000 tons, 15,000 h.p.; speed, 18 knots; armour, 14ft.-6 in; armament, four 12 in., fourteen 6 in guns; Clyde built.

Asama—Japanese armoured cruiser, 10,000 tons; 18,000 h.p.; speed, 21: 5 knots; armour, 6: 6 in.; armament, four 8 in., ten 6 in guns; Elswick built.

Askold—Russian first-class cruiser, 7,000 tons, speed, 23 knots; armament, twelve 6 in guns. At Port Arthur.

Aurora—Second-class Russian cruiser, returning home from Red Sea.

Ajuma—Japanese armoured cruiser, 9,436 tons; 16,000 h. p.; speed 21 knots; armour, 6: 6in.; armament, four 8in., ten 6in. guns; biuilt at Elswick.

B.

Bayan—Russian first-class cruiser, 8,000 tons; speed, 21 knots; armament, two 8in., eight 6in. guns. At Port Arthur.

Blagoves Tchensk—Large Russian commercial town on the Amur, the scene of a great massacre of Chinese by the Russians in 1900.

Bogatyr—Russian cruiser, 6,000 tons; speed, 23 knots, armament, twelve 6in, guns. At Vladivostok.

Boris, Grand Duke—Son of the Grand Duke Vladivostok—will take the field.

Boyarin—Russian cruiser, 3,000 tons; speed, 22 knots; armament, six 4 in. guns. Reported wrecked near Port Arthur.

Broughton Bay—On north-east Korea, Sea of Japan. Its important harbours are Port Lazaref and Wonsan, on Yungshing Bay, near its centre.

C.

Chemulpho (Jenchuan)—Treaty portion west coast of Korea, the port of Seoul, 24 miles distant, with which it is connected by railway. Population, 20,000. Has very considarable trade, mainly Japanese and Chinese, is 446 miles from Nagasaki, 270 from Chefoo, and 294 from Port Arthur. Navigation is restricted owing to Chempe which runs out seven or eight miles. The only English firm in Korea is established here.

Chefoo—Important city and treaty port of the Chinese province of Shantung; is opposite Port Arthur, from which it is 77 miles distant by sea

Chin-Win-Tao—winter port for Tientsin.

Chinnampo—Treaty port on the estuary, north side of the Tatons (Tadong) River, west coast of Korea. Is the port of Pingayang, higher up the river, the second city in Korea. Opened to foreign trade in 1897.

Tsarevitch—Russian battleship, flagship, 13,000 tons; speed, 18 knots; armament, four 12in., twelve 6in. guns. Built 1901. Beached at Port Arthur.

D.

Dalny (Talienwan)—Chief terminus of the Trans-Asian Railway, 5,375 miles from St. Petersburg, is situated at extreme end of the Liaotung Peninsula. The Russians have endeavoured to make it a great commercial centre, to take the place of Newchwang, but without much success. They have spent upwards of £4,000,000 in building docks and warehouses. The bay (Talienwan) on which it stands is deep and well-protected.

Diana.—Russian cruiser, 7,000 tons; speed, 20 knots; armament, eight 6in. guns. At Port Arthur.

F.

Formosa—A large island of the south of China, acquired by Japan in her war with China.

Fuji—Japanese battleship, 12,300 tons; 13,000 h.p.; speed, 18 knots; armour 14 6in.; armament, four 12in. ten 6in. guns Built at Blackwall.

Fusan (Fusan)—Treaty port and chief port of Southern Korea. Has a fine harbour and considerable trade. Korean population about 5,000, Japanese 6,000. Is 235 miles from Shimonoseki, in Japan, but is only sixty or seventy miles from Tsushima, in the Korea Street, which belongs to Japan. Is the place where the Japanese have landed on former invasions of Korea, and the Japanese have long had a settlement here. Is connected by sub-marine cable with Japan, and is the southern terminus of the Seoul-Fusan line in course of construction by the Japanese Government. The line is built from Fusan to Taiko, about thirty miles, and is being pushed forward rapidly.

Fushimi, H. I. H. Prince, Lieut-General.—In command of the First Division of the Japanese Army. Saw service in the Chino-Japanese war.

G.

Genro or Elder Statesmen—The Mikado's Privy Councillors, consisting of Marquis Ito, Marquis Yamagata. Count Mateagata, Count Inoryе, and Marquis Oyama. This body of statesmen has no place in the Japanese Constitution, but as they are the direct advisers of the Mikado they are all powerful.

Gesan.—Same as Wonsan.

Grodekoff.—Russian General. Was in chief command during the Russian invasion of Manchuria in 1900 and will hold a high command under General Kuropatkin, present Commander-in-Chief of all the Russian armies in the Far East.

Gromoboi—Russian first class cruiser, 12,000 tons; speed, 20 knots; armament, four 8in., sixteen 6in. guns. At Vladivostok.

H.

Hagi—Japanese port on west coast of Honde, the largest island of the Japanese Empire. Is twelve hours distant from Fusan by steamer, and has recently been strongly fortified Is connected by a military road with Hiroshima.

Hailar (Khailar)—A former Mongol capital of Northern Manchuria, now an important station on the Trans-Asian Railway.

Hakodate—Treaty port and fortified naval station on the Island of Hokkaido (Yezo). Population 75,000. Is nearly opposite to Vladivostok, from which, it is distant about 400 miles by sea.

Hamheung—A prefectural city of Korea on Broughton Bay.

Hanyang—Korean for Seoul.

Harbin (Kharbin)—The railway centre of Manchuria. Under Russian auspices it has grown into a flourishing town, and almost rivals Mukden. Has enormous barracks, and is one of the headquarters of the Russian army in the Far East.

Hasegawa, General Baron—In command of the Imperial Guard Division of he Japanese Army Hatsuse—Japanese battleship, flagship; 15,000 tons; 15,000 h.p.; speed, 18 knots; armour, 14; 6 in. armament, four 12 in., fourteen 6 in. guns; build at Elswick.

Hiroshima—Fortified Japanese city on the Inland Sea. During the Chino-Japanese war the Mikado took up his residence here, and it is likely he will do so again during the present war.

Hsnmintun (Sinmintun)—Northern terminus of the Chinese Northern Railway, some thirty miles due west of Mukden.

I.

Chief at Idema—Japanese armoured cruiser, 10,000 tons; 16,000 h.p.; speed, 24; 7 knots; armour, 6; 6 in; armament, four 8 in. fourteen 6 in. guns; built at Elswick.

Inouye, Admiral Baron—Commander-in-Chief at Kure, on the Inland Sea of Japan, the second in rank of the Japanese Navy. Etat-Major.

Inouye, Lieut.-General—In command of the 12th Division of the Japanese Army; served in the Chino-Japanese War.

Ito, Marquis—The greatest statesman of Japan; chief adviser of the Mikado; formulated the Japanese Constitution; was in large measure responsible for the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

Ito, Admiral Viscount—Commander-in-Chief at Yokusag, the Portsmouth of Japan; head of the Japanese Navy Etat-Major. Was in chief command of the Japanese Navy during the Chino-Japanese War.

Iwate.—Japanese armoured cruiser, sister-ship to the Idzuma.

J.

Japan, Sea of—The north-western portion of the Pacific between Japan and the mainlan of Asia (Korea and the Maritime Province of Asiatic Russia).

Jenohuan.—Same as Chemulpho.

K.

Kasaga—Japanese armoured cruiser; one of the Argentine ships bought by Japan; 7,700 tons.

Kasagi—Japanese armoured cruiser, 5,000 tons, 15,500 h.p.; speed 22.5 knots; armour, 4.5 in; armament, two 8in., ten 4.7 guns. Built by Cramp Philadelphia.

Katsura, Count—Prime Minister of Japan. A General on half-pay. Held a high command in the Japanese Army during the Chino-Japonese War, in which he won great distinction.

Kawamura, Lieut.-General Baron—In command of the 10th Division of the Japanese Army. Distinguished himself during the Chino-Japanese War.

Khabarovka (Khabarovsk)—Formerly the seat of the Governor-General of the Russian Empire in the Far East; an important town on the Amur. Population, 10,000.

Kiauchau—A post in the Chinese province of Shantung leased to Germany.

Kobe.—Treaty port on the Inland See of Japan. Important centre of trade. Has a navy repairing yard. Population about 180,000.

Kodama, Lieut.-General Baron—Assistant Chief of the Army Etat-Major of Japan. A great tactician. Was Acting Minister of War at Hirosmma during the Chino-Japanese War.

Korea—Peninsula stretching out from Manchuria towards Japan, about 600 miles length and about 150 in breadth. Its coast line is very extensive, being nearly equal to that of Great Britain. It has at different times, and at the same time, acknowledged the suzerainty of China and Papan. After the Chino-Japanese War China gave up her claim, and Japanese influence increased; but the Koreans have no love for the Japanese who at their settlement in Korea have acted an overbearing manner towards the natives. The population of the country is variously estimated at from nine to twelve millions, of whom about 30,000 are Japanese, in whose hands are three-fourths of the trade. From the high political point of view, Japan has always regarded the independence of Korea as visit to her own safety.

Korea Strait.—Between Japan and Korea. Important strategically.

Kunsan—Treaty port on west coast of Korea.

Kure—Fortified naval base on the Inland See of Japan, a few miles from Hiroshima, with dockyards, arsenal, and factories. Now as important as Yokusaga.

Kuroki—Japanese General. Saw service in Chino-Japanese War, and helped to take wei-hai-wei. Now commands First Army Corps in Korea.

Kurupatkin, General—Russian Minister of War, in chief command of the Russian armies in the Far East. Has seen much service in Central Asia, conquered Kashgaria.

Kwantung—Small province in Liaotong Peninsula, consisting of the territory leased to Russia by China, including Port Arthur and Dalny.

L.

Lamsderef, Count—Russian Foreign Minister. For a time lost confidence of the Tsar but recently reappointed.

Liaotong (Liaotrung), Gulf of—Derives its name from the

Liaotong, Peninsula of the—The southern extremity of Manchuria.

Liaotong (Liaorung), Gulf of—Derives its railway between Mukden and Port Arthur, where the Russians are concentrating.

M.

Maizuru—Japanese naval port on island of Hondo

Manchuria.—Consists of the three provinces of China north of the Great Wall. Population about 9,000,000; are 963,000 square miles. Occupied by Russia in 1900 on the plea of suppressing the Boxer (Chinese) rebellion, and was to have been evacuated October, 1903. Her failure to do so the main cause of present war.

Masanpo (Masampg)—Treaty port of Southern Korea, close to Fusan. Is 20 miles from Nagasaki. Russia tried to obtain a coaling station here, but was prevented by Japan.

Matsakata, Count—Japanese statesman. One of the Genro. Most distinguished as former Finance Minister.

Matsue—Naval yard in island of Hondo, Japan.

Matsushima—Japanese protected cruiser, 4,277 tons.

Mikasa—Most powerful Japanese battleship; 15,200 tons, 16,000 h.p., speed. 18 knots; armour 14.6in.; armament four 12in., fourteen 6in guns. Built at Barrow.

Mokpo—Treaty port of South-West Korea; a fair harbour. A Japanese settlement here of 1,500. Has an important strategic value.

Mukden—Capital of Manchuria. Natal place of Manchu dynasty, now on the Chinese throne. Population 250,000. Has large trade, notably in furs. Occupied by Russian in 1900.

Muroran—Japanese fortified naval station in Hokkaido.

Mutsuhito—Mikado, Emperor of Japan—Born November 3, 1852, a. February 13, 1867.

N.

Nagasaki—Important port in Southern Japan, a few miles from naval station of Sasebo. Has been the rendezvous of the main portion of the Japanese fleet; has great accumulations of coal and other stores, and best general dock accommodation in the Far East.

Nicholas II., Tsar and Autocrat of all the Russias—Born May 18, 1868, a. November I, 1894.

Nishi, Lieut-General Baron—In command of the Second Division of Japanese Army. Greatly distinguished in Chino-Japanese war.

Nishin—Japanese cruiser, bought from Argentine Republic; 7,700 tons.

Newchwang—Treaty port of Manchuria. Population 50,000. Centre of large British trade. Seized by Russia in 1900.

Nozu (Nodzu)—Japanese General of great fame, with much experience in war. Took Pingyang, strongest place in Korea, and occupied by pick of Chinese Army during Chino-Japanese war, a victory that practically decided fate of China.

O.

Ogawa, Lieut-General Baron—Commands 4th Division, Japanese Army.

Oku, General Baron—A leading Japanese General, took distinguished part in Chino-Japanese War.

Oseko, Lieut-General—Commands 7th Division, Japanese Army.

Osaka—Large Japanese port on the Inland Sea—the Woolwich of Japan. Population 1,300,000. Second city of Japan; a few miles from Kioto, the old capital.

Oseed, Lieut-General—Commands 7th Division: Japanese Army.

Oshima, H., Lieut-General—Commands 9th Division, Japanese Army.

Oshima, Y., Lieut-General—Commands 3rd Division, Japanese Army.

Osliabya—Russian battleship, returning from Red Sea, 12,000 tons; armament, four 10 in., ten 6 in. guns.

Oyama, Field Marshal Count—Chief of Etat-Major, Japanese Army. Very distinguished General of great experience; aged 61. Led the "2nd Army" of Japan against China. Among other notable exploits took Port Arthur, Talienwan, and Wei-hai-wei from China.

P.

Pallada—Russian cruiser, 7,000 tons; speed, 20 knots; has eight 6in. guns; sunk at Port Arthur.

Peresviet—Russian battleship, 12,000 tons, speed, 19 knots; armament, four 10in., ten 6in. guns.

Petropaulovsk—Russian battleship, 11,000 tons; speed 17 knots; armament, four 12in., twelve 6in. guns.

Pingyang—Important inland Korean town, the scene of great victory of the Japanese over the Chinese in 1894. Population 50,000.

Poltava—Russian battleship, 11,000 tons; speed 17 knots; armament four 12in., twelve 6in. guns.

Port Arthur—Formerly Chinese stronghold, now Russian, at extreme end of Liaotong Peninsula. Taken by Japan in 1894, but retroceded. In 1898 leased to Russia by China. Has a garrison of 20,000 men, and is said to be provisioned for two years. Perhaps the most important strategic point in the Far East. Has a large harbour, and has been the rendezvous of the main Russian Pacific fleet; but the entrance is bad, and the harbour itself is of no great depth, while docking and repairing facilities are extremely limited. It has one dry dock 325ft. by 80ft. and 34ft. deep.

Port Hamilton—Small island on south of Korea: has fine harbour; occupied in 1885 by Great Britain, but abandoned on Russia promising China never to try to gain a position in Korea!

Port Lazareff—A roadstead on east coast of Korea Broughton Bay.

Possiet Bay—In the Russian Maritime Province of Asia, close to north-east frontier of Korea.

Pobieda—Russian battleship, 12,000 tons; speed 19 knots; armament, four 10in., eleven 6 in. guns. At Port Arthur.

Pusan—Same as Fusan.

Pusyrewski, General—In chief command of the Russian land forces; Deputy Governor-General of Warsaw.

Q.

Quelpart Island—Off the south coast of Korea. Has one passable roadstead.

R.

Retvisan—Russian battleship, 12,700 tons; speed, 18 knots; armament, four 12in., twelve 6in. guns. American built. Beached at Port

Rossia—Russian cruiser, 12,000 tons; speed, 20 knots; armament, four 8in., sixteen 6in. guns. A very formidable ship. At Vladivostok.

Rurik—Russian cruiser, 11,000 tons; speed, 18 knots; armament, same as Russia. At Vladivostok.

S.

Sameshima—Japanese Admiral, Commander-in Chief at Sasebo.

Sasebo (Saseho)—Large Japanese naval yard, with arsenal, a few miles from Nagasaki.

Surydlof, Admiral—Russian Commander-in-Chief of the Black Sea fleet and ports. Thinks Russia will win on sea and land.

Seoul—Capital of Korea. Connected with its port Chemulpo by rail. Population 200,000. Japan has a garrison here, and all the Powers have recently protected their Legations with small detachments of troops. The town as regards tramways, etc., has been largely Americanised.

Sevastopol—Russian battleship, 11,000 tons; speed 17 knots; armament, four 12in., twelve 6in. guns.

Shanhaikwan—At extreme east end of the Great Wall of China, on the railway from Taku to Newchwang.

Shantung—Chinese Province on Yellow Sea; Chefoo, principal city. The Germans have a lease of Klauchau, in Shantung.

Shibayama—Japanese Admiral, Commander-in-Chief at Yokusaga

Shikishima—Japanese battleship, 15,000 tons; 15,000 h.p.; speed, 18 knots; armour, 14. 6 in.; armament, four 12in., fourteen 6in. guns. Thames built

Shimonoseki—Strongly fortified position on Hondo Island, Japan. It was here that the treaty of peace was negotiated between China and Japan in 1895.

Shingking—The southernmost of the three provinces of Manchuria.

Songchin—Korean treaty port on north-east coast; no harbour, and a poor roadstead.

Songdo—Former capital of Korea; population 50,000.

Suwon—Present terminus of the Seoul-Fusan Railway at Seoul end.

Sungari River—Traverses Northern Manchuria, Tributary of Amur River. Harbini stands on its right bank, and river is spanned by vast bridge said to be 3,115 feet in length, over which railway passes.

T.

Tachimi, Lieut-General—Commands 8th Division, Japanese Army.

Taiku—Inland town of Korea, on line from Fusan to Seoul; has railway communication.

Takeshiki—Japanese coaling station and naval base in Tsushima.

Talienwan—Same as Dalny.

Talienwan—Bay of same name.

Tatungkao—Port near mouth of the Yalu, recently opened by treaty to Japan, and so to all nations.

Terauchi, General—Japanese Minister of War.

Togo, Vice-Admiral of Japan—In command of active fleet. A great fighter; saw much service in the Chino-Japanese war. Received early naval education on English training ship and at Naval College, Greenwich.

Tokio—Capital of Japan. Population 1,500,000.

Tokiwa—Japanese cruiser, 10,000 tons; 18,000 h.p.; speed 12.5 knots; armour 6 6 in.; armament, four 8in., ten 6in. guns. Built at Elswick.

Tsushima—Strongly fortified Japanese island in Korea Strait; of enormous strategic importance. Is thirty-five miles long, but at high tides forms two islands.

Tumen River—Forms eastern frontier between Russian Maritime Province and Korea.

V.

Vladivostok—One of the two chief naval stations of Russia in the Far East, Port Arthur the other. Was to have been terminus of Trans-Asian Railway, but after lease of Port Arthur the terminus transferred to Dalny. A splendid harbour, but icebound in winter. Has excellent docks. Population 30,000. Distant from Port Arthur 1,040 miles.

W.

Wei-Hai-Wei—On north coast of Shantung Province of China. Leased from China by Great Britain.

Wiju—Near mouth of the Yalu is North-East Korea. A railway line was to have been built from Wiju to Seoul.

Wonsan (Gensan, Yuensan)—Treaty port on north-east of Korea with a good harbour. Population 20,000, with considerable Japanese settlement. Telegraph to Seoul.

Y.

Yalu River (Amnok)—The north-east frontier between Manchuria and Korea. In 1896 Russia here obtained a timber-cutting concession on the south side from Korea, and made this a pretext for occupation. It was in the estuary of the Yalu that the Japanese won a great naval victory over the Chinese fleet in 1894, sinking four Chinese warships.

Yamagata—Field-Marshall Marquis— Great Japanese statesman and soldier, Commander-in-Chief in Chino-Japanese War; a member of the Genro; most important man in Japan after Marquis Ito.

Yamaguchi—Lieut-General Baron— Commands 5th Division of Japanese Army. Commanded Japanese forces with the Allies at Pekin, 1900.

Yamamoto, Admiral Baron—Minister of Marine Japan.

Yashima—Japanese battleship, 12,500 tons, sistership to the Fuji.

Yokchama—Chief port of Japan. Population 200,000.

Yokusaka—Very important Japanese naval station, arsenal and docks. Was the most important naval centre, but Kure now equals it.

Yongampo (Yonganpo)—Haven at mouth of the Yalu, now occupied by the Russians.

Yuanshihkai—Chinese Viceroy, in command of the Chinese forces in the north. A protege of Lihungchang.

Yuensan—Same as Wonsan.

Note—Where names are in breakets the second or thidd names of the particular place are given. Korean towns have Chinese and Japanese names as well as Korean.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, MARCH 10, 1904.

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS WORD, AND WORD WAS LAW.

THE officials wanted the Official Secrets Act and they have got it. The people objected, but their objections were disregarded. And why? Because the officials in this country manage everything themselves, the people having no voice in its administration. In days gone by, the non-official Anglo-Indian community had some influence, but though all their organs vied with each other in opposing the measure, they were as much ignored as the Indian Press. The officials wanted the Secret Act, and Lord Curzon, who is their leader, very naturally granted it.

According to the people, the officials should have no secret of their own, except in regard to matters in which the vital interests of the Empire are involved. On the other hand, the officials here being practically irresistible and irresponsible, the people are of opinion that they should have easy access to the secret doings of the former in order to put a check upon their conduct by an exposure when they are mischievously inclined; for, exposure is the only way to put some control upon them. By the Official Secrets Act, the officials, however, mean to protect themselves from such exposure and do whatever they like with impunity. How the general body of officials was anxious to have the original Bill passed as it was so that they might snap their fingers at the press was thus voiced by one of their members when giving his opinion on the measure:—

"The way in which clerks and other employes in the civil departments of Government offices betray their trust by communicating official documents, information, etc., to the press is scandalous and notorious. The taking as well as the giving of such documents, information, etc., without lawful authority or permission should in my opinion be made punishable. When a newspaper publishes the report of a commission or officer without the authority of the Commission or of Government, I would make the person publishing punishable under section 3 of the Official Secrets Act, unless he can show that he had reason to believe that lawful authority or permission had been given for such publication. It is the publishers of newspapers who tempt our clerks and other employes to break their faith with the Government that employs them and to divulge official documents, information, etc. I would therefore add to section 3 (iii) (c) of the Act a provision bringing the receiving of such communications as are there referred to into the category of offences punishable under that section, with the proviso I have mentioned above."

The above sentiments were expressed by a sympathetic Bengal official; and what is more, similar sentiments have been expressed by our good Lieutenant-Governor also in his speech on the O cial Secrets Bill, published else where!

In this country the Government wills and the thing is done. According to the Biblical theory, God willed that "there be light" and there was light. Is it not therefore more convenient and more economical on the part of the Government of India to follow that course? If the Government had adopted that method, not only would they have secured a still better Secrets Act but saved a large amount of money as well as a good deal of useless trouble to themselves and others.

Talking of trouble, fancy the position of the seven independent non-official members. Knowing full well that all their utterances would be thrown into the waste-paper basket, they had yet to prepare several long and short speeches. For days together they had little time for rest, sleep or even taking their meals. Friends found several of them, like the philosophers of Laputa, absorbed in their work. One of our letters to one of them yet remains unanswered. What could they do, poor fellows? They had to make a decent appearance, and could not talk at random like their opponents, though all the while conscious of the fact that they would have only to throw pearls before an unappreciative audience.

Let us describe our own botheration. On Friday last at about eight in the evening, our reporters came back from the Council Room, with reports of speeches and proceedings, and immediately all the machines were set in motion and worked to the fullest of their capacity, the whole staff being employed to have them linotyped, printed and published. The speeches of some of the non-official members came very late. We fully sympathise with them for the infinite trouble they had taken to make their speeches effective. The Viceroy's speech arrived here about three in the morning, and it contains, if the reader will take the trouble of counting, 416 lines or about 3,328 words, taking each line to consist of 8 words. As the biggest man in the Empire the Viceroy had of course the privilege of delivering the biggest speech on the occasion. Sir Arundel had probably used almost an equal number of words, and so, in this manner, the Viceroy, the Finance Member, the Law Member, the Lieutenant Governor vied with each other in adding to the volume of official utterances.

Words, words, words, mind, they were mere words, nothing but words. And the world would have lost nothing if they had not been uttered. Is this not wanton dissipation of energy? They of course enjoyed some pleasure—their vanity as speakers was satisfied to some extent. But the portion of our innocent establishment was unmitigated trouble, for they had to work the whole of the night up to seven in the morning, for the purpose of typing and printing the frothy words in our paper; while it is no less an infliction upon the public to go through these basketfuls of effusions.

Bettler let us give here a statement showing the approximate number of words used by some of the official members:—

Speakers.	Lines.	Words.
The Viceroy	416	3328
Sir E. Law	347	2780
Sir A. Arundel	321(?)	2567(?)
The L. G.	175	1410
Sir D. Ibbetson	0	0

Thus they uttered thousands and tens of thousands of words, and lo! the Official Secrets Act came into existence. What was then the good of making so much fuss about it? Why was public opinion invited? Why were the members asked to deliver speeches? The object of the Bill was so clear that no oratorical effort was necessary to explain its significance, nor would any such effort serve to conceal its principal aim and scope, which is to protect perverse or thoughtless officials from public exposure. This is so plain that it cannot possibly be kept hidden within the cover of any number of words, however cleverly put together. The way the Government carries out its measures shows clearly that a Legislative Council with non-official members is not at all wanted in India. Let the constitution of our Legislature therefore be changed, so that some useless trouble and expenditure may thereby be saved.

The Viceroy consulted his conscience and was satisfied that the measure was a good one. Let no Indian official, however high and noble, trust his conscience absolutely. For in India they are beset with temptations on all sides, and, like our gas light, their conscience is apt to be very much dimmed. And then, if the officials have their conscience, so have the people theirs. What is one to do when official conscience comes into conflict with popular conscience? So let the poor thing, conscience, alone in matters like these. Here officials are influenced by three motives in doing their work (1) how to serve themselves; (2) how to serve the Empire; and (3) how to serve the people. Now it must be borne in mind that these motives oftentimes run counter to one another and the conscience is very easily bewildered. The Viceroy was satisfied that the measure would do good. Good to whom?—to the officials, the Empire, or the people? Of course, His Excellency will say,—to all the three parties. But at least one of them,—the people—will not admit it.

THE PRODUCT OF AMATEUR LEGISLATORS.

THE official members of the Government of India who took part in the discussion of the Official Secrets Bill were the Viceroy; the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal; the Finance Member, Sir Edward Law; the Law Member, Mr. Raleigh; and the Public Works Member, Sir A. Arundel. Strangely enough the Home Member, Sir D. Ibbetson, did not speak one word, one way or the other. It will be seen that, with the exception of Mr. Raleigh, none of them has any legal training, and even he is known more as a philosopher than as a lawyer. It was thus a sight for the gods to see, namely, that about half-a-dozen men, quite innocent of all knowledge of law, sat to manufacture a piece of legislation which even the most experienced jurists would not care to undertake.

This reminds us of a case of hysteria in a village in the interior, the party affected having been put under some amateur doctors. As the patient was only an old widow, it mattered little to the world if she survived or not the course of dangerous treatment to which she was subjected. But amateur lawyers legislating for three hundred millions of people is a serious affair; and they should ponder many times before taking such grave responsibility in their hands.

As if to make the position still more ludicrous, Sir A. Arundel, a Public Works man, whose proper forte is to deal in bricks and mortar, was entrusted with the charge of the Bill! But it is one thing to make a road or a building, and another thing to draft a law. And thus the first product of the joint brains of the official members, headed by Sir A. Arundel, was so hideous a monster that even they themselves were ashamed of it, and the Viceroy hastened to discard it and assure the public that all its ugly features would be taken away later on in the Select Committee.

How ignorant of even the first principles of criminal jurisprudence were the authors of the measure will be evident from the fact that they actually inserted in the original Bill a provision to the effect that the burden of proof should be upon the accused and not the prosecution! Need anybody now wonder that, "instead of the image of a god they created that of a Bhoot," as the adage goes? The Viceroy thus bears testimony to the above fact in his closing speech:—

"I readily admit that we did not at first proceed very skilfully about it. When a Bill is badly drawn in the first place, it is very difficult to amend it by a well-drawn Bill, and I think that our first attempt was open to well-merited criticism."

What a confession of incapacity from the head of the Government! But, is the result of the second attempt very much better than that of the first? This was, however, not admitted by a single independent non-official member, including the Hon'ble Mr. Morison; neither has it been admitted by any one outside the Government of India and its obedient following. Nay, as Dr. Ashutosh declared in his speech and we can add our own testimony to it, that there are even many high officials who are as much disgusted with this measure as the members of the non-official community. One such official, with whom the Viceroy now and then may come in contact, told us that "it was a wretched business, this Official Secrets Bill."

As the reader knows, the main change in the Bill consists in the introduction of the words, "civil affairs." The Indian Official Secrets Act of 1889, which was only a reproduction of the English Act, did not contain these words, and for a very good reason. The main object of the measure was to protect only naval and military secrets. It is quite true that another class of offences was also brought within the scope of the measure, but they were not "civil." "This class of offences," as the then Lord Chancellor, Lord Halisbury, said, "is the disclosure of official secrets." Thus the English legislators had no occasion to insert the expressions "civil affairs" in the Act of 1889. In the place of "civil affairs" they had the words "official secrets." And they defined these words thus: "Where a person who is holding, or has held, office under Her Majesty or has in his possession or control any official document, should, in like manner, communicate with those who may become the Queen's enemies, severe penalties are enacted."

In short, the Lord Chancellor of 1889 explained the scope of the measure in the following way. Two classes of offenders would be brought under the operation of the Act. First these men who would betray the interests of the State and the country by helping the military operations of Her Majesty's enemies by supplying them with plans or sketches of fortresses and like places or by giving them information of official secrets. This class of offenders belong both to officials and non-officials. The other class consists of officials only. If they disclose official documents to these "who may become the Queen's enemies," it is then that they are liable to severe punishment. One can see at once that, in order to bring home an offence under this Act, it is essential that the offender should communicate official secrets to "the Queen's enemies."

Now, if the framers of the Indian Official Secrets Bill, instead of introducing the words "civil affairs," had introduced the words "official secrets," into the measure, and defined them in the way the Lord Chancellor did, then not only would military secrets but also another class of important secrets might have been protected by legislation, without arousing the alarm of the Indian public. But that would not suit the purposes of the officials. For their real object was not to protect such official secrets the disclosure of which would harm the important interests of the State, but prevent the exposure of gross official misdoings which would not bear the light of public criticism. And hence they resorted to the words, "civil affairs."

But as legislators they were bound to give a clear definition of the above words. This was however a feat beyond their capacity and thus they made themselves ridiculous before an acute lawyer like Dr. Mukherjee. This is how Dr. Ashutosh exposed the utterly vague and illogical character of the definition of the words, "civil affairs":—

"As soon as an endeavour is made to define the term "civil affairs," it must be upon the admission that the term is vague and does stand in need of a definition. The definition, however, becomes a delusion, if in addition to the mention of two or three specific cases, it contains words of a general character which make the definition all-embracing; such a definition, I venture to think, is rightly open to the charge of being a definition which defines nothing at all. One of the greatest legislators who ever sat in Council laid it down, at the first principles of legislation, that we must have uniformity when we can have it, diversity when we must have it, but in all cases certainty. It would be difficult to conceive of another definition of "civil affairs" more uncertain than the one proposed in the Bill. It is impossible to say, with any approach to certainty, what is or is not included in the characteristically vague expression, "any other matters of state." But whatever vagueness may be admissible in other departments of the law, the law of crimes is undoubtedly the last place where any such vagueness ought to be tolerated specially when it is desired to create new offences. If we are not in a position to use language more precise, we ought to be content with the specific enumeration already contained in the definition."

How beautifully vague is the definition! And how wide its scope! Sir A. Arundel, in reply, said that he and his colleagues had done their best in the Select Committee to give a more sensible definition, but they could not do it. And he helplessly appealed to Mr. Gokhale to bear him out on this point. But why do you introduce such expressions at all which you cannot define precisely? Why did you not drop them when you were incompetent to define the words? And a body of men, who are incapable of giving a decent definition of the most important words in the Bill—a definition which involves the question of the personal liberty of the subject—felt themselves fully qualified to carry through the Council a universally condemned measure!

With such a definition of the words, "civil affairs," any journalist may be hauled up for publishing the most innocent thing in the world. The Lieutenant-Governor apparently is under such an impression; for, says he in effect, that with the help of the Act, he would now be able to safely write demi-officials to his Secretaries which, in his opinion, hitherto found their way into the press. So, if a journalist foolishly publishes a private letter of the Lieutenant-Governor, relating to, say, an ordinary case, he is liable to be prosecuted under the Act! Is that the object of the Act? That is at least the notion of many officials. One can thus easily imagine the mischief that will accrue from the measure and the exultation that it has caused among the members of the service.

THE VICEROY AND THE PARTITION QUESTION.

THE attitude of the Government, in regard to the partition question, reminds us of the story of the wife who turned the table upon her husband. Having contracted an illicit connection, she used to see her gallant at dead of night when her husband had fallen asleep. His suspicions were, however, aroused and he determined upon a watch. One night he feigned sleep, but remained awake. The wife, sure enough, stealthily rose and went out. The husband also stealthily got up and closed the door behind her as soon as she had left. In due course, the woman returned and realized the terrible situation on finding her passage into the room barred.

Alarmed, she collected all her wits to extricate herself from the compromising position. She explained her conduct to the husband by saying that she had to come out for a necessary purpose; that he would create a scandal unnecessarily if he kept her out of the house; and she entreated him to open the door. The husband remained unmoved. Then she threatened him with a dire calamity, namely, that she would drown herself in the nearest tank if not admitted into the room. Even this threat had no effect. The woman then left the place with the mournful remark "Farewell, husband; I go to drown myself and you will one day repent for this." And a few seconds after, the husband heard a splash in the water of the tank with the loud plaintive prayer of his wife to the effect, "Hari, (God,) accept my soul!"

The husband, who was a kind-hearted fool and loved his wife passionately, was staggered. He hastily came out, ran to the side of the tank, and jumped into it to save his drowning wife. But the woman, who had not thrown herself but had thrown only a big piece of stone in the water to deceive the man, finding the latter engaged in diving for the purpose of rescuing her, quietly left him alone, entered the room by the door left open by her husband, and barred it from inside. The husband, failing to find any trace of the woman after a close search, came back to his house, exhausted and in an indescribable state of mind, to see the door shut up against him!

He knocked at the door and the wife angrily rebuked him in these words: "You faithless man, I have caught you at last; I shall this moment call out all the neighbours to witness your rascality;" and she began to scream and tear her hairs. The neighbours, awakened by the noise, came to the spot to learn what the matter was. The wife explained the situation in a few words; and when the husband tried to contradict her, nobody attached importance to it; for the circumstances were against him. She was found in, and he, out of the room; how could the people believe her to be guilty and him to be innocent. So the neighbours showered their sympathy upon the woman, and their contempt upon the man. Only three parties however knew the real truth,—the wife, the husband and God.

But did the wife gain anything by turning the table upon her husband? The neighbours no doubt sympathised with her, but they could do her no good, as the husband, knowing her faithlessness, cast her off. Some of her neighbours blamed her husband, but her home was rendered desolate; so the agreeable words of the neighbours availed her nothing. In the same manner, the Government in India is powerful enough to carry the partition scheme through at the point of the bayonet, without in any way minding the protests of the people. By a stroke of the pen it can divide Bengal into two, and place each under a separate Lieutenant-Governor. But the Government does not choose to adopt this drastic method, as it has a reputation to maintain; hence the people have been allowed to represent their views to the authorities. But if, by ignoring popular representations, Government succeeds in getting its pet scheme—the alternative scheme—backed by an official address from the Dacca District Board and Municipality, or by an address of a few Mussalmans who are under the influence of the officials,—how can such a thing help the authorities? Such support of the partition scheme will deceive neither the people nor the Government.

When the Government has realised that the people, to a man, are opposed to the scheme, it has two courses open to it,—it should either disregard or listen to their wishes. As an enlightened Government, it should not run counter to popular voice; but, if it is not disposed to do so, what will it gain by making ninety-five Mussalmans and an official body like the District and Municipal Board prefer an alternative scheme? The Government has three parties to please: (1) the people and God; (2) the authorities at home; and (3) itself. But, surely, neither the first nor the second is likely to be deceived into the belief that the scheme has been backed by any class of the community simply because, the Nawab of Dacca and his dependents as well as the Magistrate of Dacca and his obedient following have accorded some indirect support to it.

We have more than once submitted to Lord Curzon that he is making himself unpopular, needlessly. The partition of Bengal, if effected, will, except creating some berths for Europeans, do no service to the Empire. And we cannot for a moment suppose that Lord Curzon, who has so strenuously sought to protect the revenues contributed by a starving people from the encroachments of the ruling country, can ever be a party to such a mean policy of increasing the burdens of India simply for the purpose of providing for a number of his own countrymen.

Why then does Lord Curzon sully his bright reputation by running counter to the wishes of the people? Why does he prefer unpopularity to popularity, and that apparently for nothing? The situation is simply inexplicable to us, specially as his Lordship has a generous heart and extraordinary intelligence. The people would like to remember him as not only one of the greatest of Viceroys but also the best. Why should he not allow them to do so? The Viceroy is the greatest enigma to the people of this country. He has, as it were, without rhyme, or reason associated his name with that obnoxious law, the Official Secrets Act; but, the odium attaching to the partition measure is still greater. Every well-wisher of Lord Curzon would wish him to wash his hands out of this wretched business.

THE seven independent non-official members in the Council did their work,—each in his own way,—admirably well, when opposing the Official Secrets Act. Our special thanks are due to Mr. Morison, for, we did not expect such independence and good sense from one nominated by the Government. Mr. Gokhale opened the attack with a temperate and well-reasoned speech and expressed the hope that the Viceroy would either protect the newspapers or drop the Bill. He also moved several important amendments and supported them with his usual ability and independence. The Nawab Syed Mahomed sustained his previous reputation by a sensible speech. Babu Sri Ram fingered the real plague-spot when he reminded the Council of the English Official Secrets Act, of which the Indian Act is only a reproduction, and how the Parliamentary debates on the Act left no room for doubt that, it was only to protect military, and not civil, secrets that the measure was enacted in England. The point was so well put that both Mr. Raleigh and Lord Curzon thought it necessary to give a reply to it, but, they only made assertions which are the reverse of facts. Babu Bepin Krishna Bose, with his usual modesty, did not take any prominent part, but, it is an open secret that his colleagues derived much help from his clear head and sound judgment. As regards the most junior of the members, we mean, Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee, well, he displayed an amount of tact, independence, good sense, legal acumen, and debating powers which astonished even his intimate friends, and of course confounded his opponents. The Viceroy himself, though mercilessly attacked, had the generosity to acknowledge "the acute intelligence of the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh." "It would be a national calamity," remarked a Congressman, "if Babu Ashutosh Mukherjee were elected as Bengal member in the Supreme Council." Of course this Congressman is a malicious opponent of Mr. Mukherjee. But there is no doubt, every Bengalee nay, every Indian, will be proud of him now that he has given incontestible evidence of his patriotism, fearless independence and high intellectual powers. Nay, even an Anglo-Indian journal bears testimony to his superior worth. "The brunt of the attack"—says the "Indian Daily News,"—"was borne by Dr. Ashutosh and Mr. Gokhale. Of the latter, we expected much, and there was no disappointment; but it was the former who covered himself with glory, both by the insistence of his assault and the brilliance of his exploit. An impression had taken shape in some quarters recently that the Bengali Mathematician and lawyer was little more than a creature of Government. After yesterday's performance, it is hard to conceive a greater libel. Dr. Ashutosh proved himself not only the most courageous but also the most able critic of Government that has represented the non-official element in the Council for a decade or more." The appreciation is all the more valuable as it comes from an impartial critic. Whatever Dr. Ashutosh might have been in the past, it is now impossible for him to do anything unworthy. It is needless to point out that God never blesses those who prostitute His precious gifts to themselves for the purpose of serving their own selfish ends.

WE have received the following telegram from Bombay:—

Bombay, Mar. 5.

"Commenting on the Tilak case the "Advocate of India" demands that the Government should explain why such a flimsy prosecution was instituted and that compensation should be paid to Mr. Tilak for the injury done to him. The acquittal has given immense satisfaction everywhere and congratulatory letters and telegrams are pouring to Mr. Tilak. The Chief Justice in his judgment vindicated Mr. Tilak's conduct completely and declares that the whole prosecution was full of errors and illegalities and it was against the English law and practice."

If the Government of Bombay has any sense of honour—and in spite of its many horrible blunders we believe it to be as honourable as any civilized Government in the world,—it should pay ample compensation to Mr. Tilak. It is now quite clear that, he was the victim of a conspiracy, and that the authorities were unconsciously led to lend their support to it. The Government should, therefore, do everything in its power to mitigate—for it is impossible to make full reparation—the terrible injury done to him under its ægis. That is the right course open to the Government. Unfortunately, there are officials who are likely to view the matter from a different stand-point. In their opinion, the offer of any compensation to Mr. Tilak by the Government will only lower its prestige. It is such advisers of the Government who bring disgrace upon British rule in this country. Now, if a private gentleman had done Mr. Tilak the injury inflicted upon him by the Government, the former, if honourable, would have done everything in his power to undo the mischief when he came to realize the real situation. Why should the Government act in a different manner? Is not the Government as good a gentleman as a private individual? We do not know if Mr. Tilak has any legal hold upon the authors of his misfortune or not. The "plea of good faith" covers a multitude of sins when the Government is concerned. Indeed, the executive authorities here can do anything they like in the name of "good faith." Yet it is not impossible on the part of Mr. Tilak to prove "mala fides" with regard to those who had brought all this trouble upon him. So, in order to avoid another scandal, the Government should make up matters with Mr. Tilak. For, several high officials in Bombay may find themselves in a most embarrassing position if Mr. Tilak is advised to bring a suit of heavy damage against the Government. We hope Mr. Tilak will not be driven to this step by the unwisdom of the advisers of the Bombay Government.

AN esteemed friend asks us to take note of the mournful fact how one by one our good men are dying out or passing out of the field of active work. We are, however, beset on all sides with so many distracting circumstances that we really feel ourselves in the position of the man whose house is on fire. First of all such a man tries to save his clothes and other articles of minor importance. He finds however that his almirah containing valuable jewellery and documents are in danger of being destroyed. In going to save it, he hears the shrieks of his children who are almost enveloped in flames. He runs to their rescue, and is perhaps burnt to death with his whole family, the house being reduced to ashes. So many bombshells have been thrown in our midst at one and the same time that we are simply dazed. The Official Secrets Bill, just passed, will render even walking within the precincts of the Secretariat building unsafe. The sacrificial sword, hanging over the head of the Indian Universities, will be dropped down in a week or two, and thereby a death-blow will be dealt to the progress of high education in this country. And the last and the worst is the proposed dismemberment of Bengal, which may be considered an accomplished fact unless some higher power intervenes and comes to the rescue of the people. As we have only one mind, surely, we may be excused for our inability to take note of other important incidents in the way we should do.

YES, not only are our rank and file but also our principal men disappearing fast, leaving their places absolutely blank. The death of a man like Dr. Mohendra Lal Sarkar is a serious loss on more grounds than one. During a long life of many-sided active work in the cause of science, he was a patriot in the true sense of the word; for he had steadily held out before the younger generation one of the main causes of the regeneration of our people, namely, that the most effective way of our salvation lay in the adoption of Western methods for the revival of our industries. There can be no doubt that in the death of Mohendra Lal Sarkar we have lost one of our great workers in the cause of reform.

WE have lately had occasion to notice the retirement of Dr. Gooroo Das Bannerjee from the Bench of the High Court. That he was a great ornament of the Judicial Service is acknowledged by Indians and Europeans alike. Good and capable as he was, it is well known that this universally respected Judge had to resign his post partly no doubt on account of continued ill-health, though at the time of his retirement he was strong enough to have continued longer on the Bench if he had cared to, but really because he was too conscientious to do so. It has been found possible to replace Dr. Gooroo Das by a worthy Indian Judge; but his memory on the Bench as a great and good Judge can perhaps never be obliterated from our minds.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THERE is still however another distinguished Indian Judge on the Bench of the older generation to whom the words of Mr. Woodroffe on the retirement of Justice Bannerjee may be applied with equal force; for any practitioner who has ever had the privilege of pleading before Justice Chandra Madhav Ghose will bear testimony to the fact that his client has had full justice done to him. No one has ever found Justice Ghose otherwise than patient and courteous towards every advocate who has appeared before him; while towards juniors of the legal profession he has not only been kind but helpful. We fully agree with our friend the Editor of "Capital" that what we want is capable Judges and not more Judges. As an illustration of this fact we need only point to a recent instance. Justice Ghose presided over the Criminal Bench from the reopening of the courts. When he took charge, the board was about 10 feet long with about 200 cases and about 300 motions, which had been noted during the vacation but not heard, pending disposal. As a usual rule the practitioners know to their bitter experience that the Judges have of recent years become so imbued with the fear of a long board that the patient hearing or the reverse of a case or motion depends to some extent on the length of the board, but Justice Ghose is an exception to the rule; and we are also informed that his learned colleague Justice Stephen is also impervious to any such influence.

NOT a single suitor as a fact was sent away without a patient hearing during these three months that Justice Ghose presided over the Criminal Bench, which is in the eyes of the people of this country the most important Bench of the High Court. We may safely say that during the time that Justice Ghose had taken the criminal work, there was no cause of complaint and our thanks are due to the learned Chief Justice for having lent the services of the best and most experienced Judge of his Court in the disposal of the long list of the criminal cases which were pending after the holidays. Justice Ghose and his colleague have had to work hard to dispose of the cases, and they did succeed in doing so as the result shows. When the Bench was changed at the end of the last month, there were only about 16 cases on the defended list pending disposal.

IF there were more Judges like Justice Ghose on the High Court Bench we feel sure that Lord Curzon's taunt about the congestion of the business in the High Court would have no meaning at all. All this leads us to the reflection that the time will come, but we sincerely pray that it may not be soon, that this illustrious Judge whom every suitor in this province looks up to and regards as a great and good Judge will also leave the arena of active work and retire from the Bench. That again will be a great calamity; and in this case it will be extremely difficult to find another man with those great qualities of the head and heart which Justice Ghose possesses and which endears him to his countrymen, to replace him. We hope however most earnestly that this contingency may not arise soon; for Justice Ghose is yet hale and hearty and may he long continue so is our earnest prayer.

THE story of a Christmas spree of Tommy Atkins formed the subject matter of decision in a law court. There is nothing new in the facts—the usual scenes followed when British soldiers visit Indian villages with liquor bottles in their pockets. But the finding of the Magistrate—a European gentleman—is astounding, at least to the Indians. On the last Christmas eve five British soldiers, belonging to the Leicestershire Regiment stationed at Madras went out for a Christmas spree. They first went into a liquor shop and took two dozen bottles of beer. They then made for the Rifle Range near St. Thome, a small village inhabited mostly by fishermen, to enjoy and be merry. After an hour's enjoyment and the consumption of six bottles, two of the soldiers started for a comrade's house near by and had some "homemade" wine. The remaining three followed them there with the bottles of beer. Here they began their pranks more seriously. They ogled a lady in a passing carriage and started singing, chased the people on all sides and beat a young boy in the street with a stick. One of the soldiers threw an empty bottle at a coach that was being driven past the place where he was. They then rushed into the hamlet and dragged a young Indian girl out by the hair. The girl was sweeping the ground near her house and she was dragged violently to near a water-tap till she fell down. The soldiers, it was said, also attacked several other people who were more or less injured. Unable to bear any more the injuries, assaults and insults at the hands of a band of intoxicated British soldiers, the peaceful, law-abiding and illiterate villagers took the law in their own hands and, it was alleged, chased the soldiers with lathies in hand. It so happened that the Lord Bishop of Madras with his wife was walking on the footpath at that time when the soldiers crossed their way. The Bishop kept the crowd back and drove to the Police Inspector who put the soldiers in a cart and sent them to the Barracks. These are the facts of the case. The soldiers made no complaint to anybody, and everybody expected that the matter would end there. But no, the vigilant police would not let this opportunity to be lost in silence. Two months after they prosecuted seven fishermen before the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Madras on charges of rioting, being members of an unlawful assembly and assaulting British soldiers. They were put on their trial for two days, and witnesses for the prosecution were produced including the Lord Bishop of Madras. It was established that the soldiers were drunk and disorderly in a public thoroughfare, that they assaulted and molested innocent men on the road, dragged a girl by her hair and had been the means of a serious breach of the peace. The Magistrate in the course of his judgment acquitting the accused said:—

"From what the witnesses had said it was clear that the soldiers were to blame. Corporal Randall's story, that out of the 24 bottles of beer they took with them they only drank about six, was a pill rather too hard to swallow and the truth appeared to be that the soldiers were a bit the worse for liquor and in their intoxication began annoying poor natives. The conduct of the soldiers was highly culpable and, unfortunately, at the time there was only one policeman to preserve order and it was no wonder that the natives took the law into their own hands and tried to overawe the soldiers. Of course, it might be true that the soldiers were attacked as the Lord Bishop said but there was no evidence in support of it. The evidence of the soldiers themselves did not corroborate it and there was much in it that had to be discounted. The rest of the evidence brought forward by the prosecution did, certainly, go to show that the soldiers had not stated every thing to the Court. The evidence of the girl who was assaulted as also that of many other respectable and independent witnesses, all tended to shift the blame on to the shoulders of the complainants. The soldiers had certainly seriously misbehaved themselves and had freely used their canes on everybody they chanced to come across. If the poor fishermen had attacked the soldiers it must have been in pure self-defence and for this they were not to blame."

Of course the poor fishermen must thank their stars for having escaped with a whole skin from an ordeal in which British soldiers were alleged to have been assaulted. For who ever heard of "natives" acquitted and discharged in a case in which they were charged with assaulting imported British soldiers? One curious fact is that the police who found the soldiers drunk and disorderly did not think it their duty to prosecute the aggressive soldiers and as if to add insult to injury they thought it proper to drag seven innocent villagers and attempted to get them heavily punished by adding several serious offences against them. The Magistrate deserves thanks from every right-thinking man for thus dispensing justice with an open heart. Now that the soldiers have been found breakers of law in a British court of justice we hope the authorities would see their way in doing justice to the aggrieved persons. The Anglo-Indian Association of Madras moved heaven and earth for compensation in the late notorious Emerson case. Is it not proper for them, at least for the sake of decency, to advocate the cause of the weak and innocent fishermen and ask for an adequate compensation?

WE draw the attention of the authorities of the E. I. Railway to the letter of Babu K. Banerjee, pleader, Muzaffarpur, regarding the discourteous and arbitrary conduct of some of the railway officials at Mokameh, which is published elsewhere. The matter deserves the serious attention of the authorities. They should always take into consideration that the intermediate and third class passengers contribute mostly to their income, and as such they should look to their convenience and comforts for their own interest. Fancy two ladies and a baby one year old, were made to wait in open air in the small hours of the morning on a river-side platform, although an unoccupied waiting room for ladies was available and although they were willing to pay for the higher class tickets!

It was expected that the line to Azhikal would be open for traffic on the 1st instant.

The Ceylon Railways in 1903 yielded Rs. 83,33,614, being an increase of Rs. 3,63,107 over the returns of 1902.

The reconstitution of the Gujarat Irrigation District is contemplated in connection with the restoration of small irrigation tanks in the Ahmedabad and Kaira districts.

The Turkish Government are busy constructing a railway which is to be the first link in the great line from Damascus to Mecca. It runs from Acre via Haifa, Jezreel, Galilee and Hauran, to Damascus.

It is notified that the Government of India have sanctioned a survey being made by the Agency of the North-Western Railway Administration for a line of railway from Lodhran via Kahror to Mailsi, a distance of about 40 miles.

Colonel O'Brien, Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, United Provinces, is taking leave to England and starts via Calcutta at an early date. The reason, is the state of his health, for which the long sea voyage is recommended.

Serious rioting has occurred among coolies who were being conveyed on a junk from Singapore to Ceylon. Two policemen were murdered, the riot being caused by the belief that the Police were "head hunting" for the Government, who were supposed to be wanting heads to put underneath telegraph posts.

An English passenger who travelled over the Siberian Railway last November states that the line was then in such bad order that a speed of only eight miles an hour, instead of eighteen as scheduled in the time-tables, was possible for most of the distance. He confirms the statement that the rails are only nailed to the sleepers, no chairs having been used. At that time apparently there was not much military traffic on the line, winter having already set in with great severity.

The annual sale of liquor licenses in Rangoon took place last week in the CFourt of the District Magistrate. Twenty-two public houses licenses realised Rs. 4,78,000 as against Rs. 4,45,700 last year. Seventeen tari licenses realised Rs. 83,050 as against thirteen last yeor Rs. 84,300. Thirteen hlawzaye licenses realised Rs. 2,76,700 as against eight last year Rs. 2,07400, making a total of Rs. 8,37,750, an increase of Rs. 1,00,350 over last year. The right to extract toddy within Municipal limits excluding Sanjaung and Dalhousie Park realised Rs. 400. The same for the Cantonment limits realised Rs. 3,500. The Kemmendine Seikgyi ferry license realised Rs. 4,600.

The final report of the sugarcane crop of the Punjab for the year 1903 in which 14 districts are dealt with shows that the total area under sugarcane as actually ascertained was 321,200 acres against 309,400 acres last year. The reports show an average yield and an average harvest. The total yield of "gur" works out to 232,644 tons as compared with an estimated outturn of 335,306 tons in 1902. Last year's crop having been below the average, the difference requires explanation. The cause of difference is that the Director of Land Records has this year taken the average rates of yield calculated in 1902, whereas, for previous forecasts, temporary rates fixed by his predecessor were used. These rates were, it turns out, pitched far too high and were almost double those now adopted.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

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[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT]

London Feb. 19.

THE PROPOSED GOVERNMENT BREAK-UP OF BENGAL.

No systematic attempts, nor, indeed, save in one instance, any isolated attempt, has, apparently, been made to bring the breaking up of Bengal to the notice of English people by means of the newspapers. Nor, to the moment of writing, has even a notice of question or motion been given by a Member of Parliament. It is much to be regretted that no organisation seems to exist in India, whose mission it is to see that Viceregal proposals, which are objectionable to the Indian people, are brought to the attention of the British public in a systematic manner. The other parts of the Empire are not in such evil case, as witness the two days' debate in the House of Commons this week on the labour proposals of the Transvaal rulers. However, it is of little use lamenting what has not been done—what, indeed, is never done really thoroughly unless a proper organisation exists. Yet, apart from what has been said at Leicester at the Conference, to which reference is made elsewhere, there has been one journalistic notice of the unwise action of Lord Curzon, Mr. Risley, and others. "Truth" has given attention to the great dissatisfaction, the sense of burning injustice, which now dominates the minds of every thoughtful person in Bengal and, indeed, in India generally. This is the truth as I find it in "Truth":

"A great deal of excitement has been occasioned locally by a recent Government ordinance, annexing East Bengal with its capital, Dacca, to Assam. Dacca is the ancient capital of Bengal, and is now, I believe, only second to Calcutta in wealth and population; and the people appear to feel it as a great insult that they should be separated from the ancient kingdom or province with which they have been so long connected, and united to Assam which they look upon as a barbarous country. The following letter on the subject from an influential Indian has been sent to me by a gentleman in London to whom it was addressed. Possibly the feeling is exaggerated, and no doubt the Government had good reasons for the change which has provoked this outcry, but, in dealing with Orientals, it is often desirable to consult sentiment in preference to practical considerations, which, in the West, would take precedence as a matter of course: It has pleased His Excellency the Viceroy to announce that East Bengal, with its capital, Dacca, should be annexed to Assam, a non-regulation province, having a scanty population of barbaric tribes, totally different from the Bengalis in origin, mode of life, manners, and customs. I wrote to you in my last of the great consternation which this proposal has excited all over the country. The people have received the news with a panic which is simply indescribable. Mass meetings, attended by tens of thousands, are being held in every village; and men who never before interfered in any political matter have come out of their places of seclusion, and are foremost in making agitation. An open-air meeting was convened last week at Dacca. Nearly 20,000 people attended. Such a meeting was never held before in this town, and it was indeed a grand spectacle to see that the residents of this usually lethargic town—dull and indifferent in matters that do not closely affect their interests—had united in a body to record their voice of respectful but emphatic protest against the Government proposal. This proposal, if carried out, will be a serious blow to the progress and culture of the people of Bengal. May I request you to persuade Mr.—to take our cause in hand? The Government seem deaf to our cries and we do not think they will listen to our entreaties unless the British public takes up our cause and brings pressure to bear upon them.'"

THE END OF THE CHAMBERLAIN CRUSADE.

A few months ago it seemed to the casual observer as if Mr. Chamberlain had the votes of the majority of people of England in his pocket. His deluded followers declared that he would "sweep the country" whenever he chose to have a general election. To some of us, in the very heyday of his riotous campaign, it seemed as if there were more "sound and fury" than solid substance in the turmoil that was being raised. Last Friday's election in Mid-Herts, the division in which stands Hatfield, the Salisbury home for centuries, and in the declaration on Saturday of the result of the previous day's voting, convinced the most sceptical that Chamberlainism was dead. That a Liberal should have been returned for such a division is a great marvel in British electoral experience. Not one Tory paper could stand up against the decision with brave words of convincing force. Mr. Chamberlain has made many mistakes in his too strenuous and too varied career, but this fiscal agitation is greater than all his other mistakes put together. All that is soundest in the politics and the commerce of the nation is opposed to him. How ridiculous he and his Commission are may be judged from a letter which Mr. C. H. Wilson, M. P. for Hull for thirty years, has sent to the Secretary of the Commission. Mr. Wilson, in his communication to Mr. Hewens, says that as chairman of Earle's Shipbuilding Company, the Circular of January 30 came before him, and he wrote to say that with "infinitely" more business experience than Mr. Chamberlain (fifty-four years) he looked upon his agitation as one that risks the commerce of England which relies in free imports of food and raw material. He goes on to remark: "Our shipbuilding and ship employment on the East Coast of England and Scotland is entirely with Protectionist countries, and Fiscal Policy means ruin to it. I am utterly amazed at business men poining this Tariff 'Commission,' and I do not propose to answer any of the printed questions you send. I think I have the largest and most general knowledge of the shipping interests of this country from 1850 to 1904, and my utter opposition to Fiscal Policy might have some weight. Parliament can deal with glaring cases of unfair competition from Protectionist countries. It all resolves itself into a gross neglect of shipping and commerce by Conservative and Liberal Governments. In England, too, such horse-racing, gambling, and drinking—those are the evils for a 'Social' Commission to fight. Mr. Arthur Chamberlain is right and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain is wrong."

The mingled reason and scorn of this communication is a fair criterion as to what is thought by men who are the mainstay of England's world-wide and ever-growing commerce.

THE NECESSARY LASCAR.

Not long ago I sent you full particulars of the conditions laid down by the Australian Government for an "all white" ocean mail service from which Lascars were, of course, excluded. This step was rightfully regarded in India, as elsewhere, as an injustice to the Indian sea-faring folk who had so well discharged their duties on board the mail steamers between Great Britain, India, and Australia. Those who felt most keenly the unfriendly action of their fellow-subjects of the King-Emperor may, perhaps, find some consolation in the news which comes from Melbourne to the effect that very few tenders have been received for the "all white" ships. It is regarded as likely that the whole scheme must, perforce, collapse, and that Australia will be compelled to relax her restrictions against the Lascars. In this case the entire question would be re-opened with the British postal authorities. The Lascars may, after all, come out of the ordeal triumphantly, even though a few months ago, their case looked almost hopeless.

WHAT JAPAN MAY DO FOR INDIA.

Mr. F. H. Skrine, late of the Indian Civil Service, whose work lay wholly in Bengal, with an excursion in 1877 to Madras on Famine Relief, is one of the most notable of Russophilists. In him Russia has a warm-hearted and most devoted friend. His most recent literary production concerns Russia and makes it appear that in the early part of the Nineteenth Century the Czar of that period had almost as much influence in Europe as Napoleon Bonapare himself. Indeed, in the making of the widespread military net which led to the capture of Napoleon, Mr. Skrine will have it that the Czar played a part not second in importance to that usually ascribed to the Duke of Wellington. Mr. Skrine went to Russia about two months ago, and, I believe, is there still, for, on the 15th of this month, he wrote to the "Pall Mall Gazette" to point out a number of reasons why, if Japan did force on war, Englishmen ought to condemn unreservedly the Far Eastern Power. His chief reason was this: It would be a terrible misfortune if Japan were to beat Russia. Of course that is quite impossible—(this was said before the naval conflict began)—but if it were to happen, think what it would signify: an Asiatic nation, alone and unaided, would have beaten a Europeas power. So far, he proceeds to remark, Europe has been predominant in Asia because it has not appeared possible that any Asiatic people, unless in alliance with a powerful European nation, could 'stand up' to a European State. If Japan should beat Russia, what will be the effect on the mind of the warlike races in India? Will they not be uneasy under British supremacy? Will they not want to try conclusions with the sovereign Power, emboldened thereto by what Japan has done? Thus did Mr. Skrine discourse. His argument implied that if England did not want to lose her supremacy in India, she had better not wish Japan to be successful in her struggle with Russia, and, above everything else, must not in the slightest degree encourage or help the Japanese.

In this main reasoning I do not believe that there is any force whatever. What the Japanese Admiral may accomplish at sea and the Japanese General on land will not lead to the warlike races of India determining to try conclusions with Britain for supremacy in India. This is the last thing likely to happen, unless, indeed, a generation or two hence Japan and China and Siam and Tibet had united in a policy of Asiatic supremacy for the Asiatics and had invited the various peoples of India to join hands with them. All the same, in a direction other than that which Mr. Skrine indicates, there is occasion for consideration whether the controlling influence which Japan has secured for herself in Asia, combined with a victory over the Colossus among the nations, would not have, as one result, the freeing of India from aught but a nominal over-lordship by the nation which now rules her millions according to its will. For myself, I believe that the most active, if unconscious, agency in bringing self-rule to India, or, as the ex-Secretary for War in the United States calls it "practical independence," will be the influence of Japan. The Islands of Japan will, probably, play the part in Asia which the British Isles have played in Europe. Just as free England, with its Parliament and its limited monarchy, its free press and its free people, has controlled and guided the various nations of Europe, so Japan will become the regenerative force of Asia and, in an even more powerful degree, be the England of the East. This being so, public opinion concerning the possibilities of self-rule and the adaptabilities of Asiatics will make clear the iniquitous wrong committed in keeping three hundred millions of Indian people in a state of pupilage to a Western nation, and will thus become omnipotent in forcing a relaxation of existing bonds and in the promotion of widened and thorough self-government. Indian publicists and reformers do well in acclaiming the achievements of Japan. The more thoroughly the plucky Japs establish their supremacy, particularly in fighting Russia, the sooner will come the political redemption of India and the "practical independence" of her peoples. The period when freedom shall become operative will begin early or late exactly in so far as Indians themselves are alive to the possibilities of the changed situation, and do their part in seeing that all the advantages they should reap from it are secured, and that speedily.

Since the foregoing was written an article has appeared in the "Daily Chronicle" by Mr. Coldwell Lipsett who, if I remember rightly, was for some time Editor of an Anglo-Indian daily paper. In his opening paragraph he says that the "ordinary native of India is exceedingly ignorant and incurious, but the educated classes are now-a-days taking an increasing interest in world politics, and even the apathetic masses are stirred in curious and often unexpected fashion by the news of great wars." After giving examples of distorted and very incorrect news, given by a Mahomedan news-writer in 1897, Mr. Lipsett proceeds to discuss the situation in such a manner that I cannot forbear quoting the rest of his article. He says:

"It is to be supposed that at the time of the Japanese Alliance our statesmen took into consideration how this agreement on equal terms with an Asiatic race, inferior in civilisation and antiquity to many races in India, would be regarded by our Indian subjects. But even if they did, public opinion in India is so undeveloped that there has hitherto been very little means of gauging what was thought on the matter, or even whether the fact of the Alliance was widely known among the masses of the people. This war is now bound to spread the news of the alliance, and to bring any latent opinion to the surface. Already we hear that the Amir of Afghanistan is closely watching events, and that the chiefs on our frontier are showing interest in their development.

"Looking at the question from a merely *a priori* point of view, it is evident that the defeat of a white race by a yellow race must injuriously affect the prestige of the white races in general in the eyes of the Asiatic, who has been accustomed hitherto to regard the white man as his superior in battle. Even during the course of the Tirah campaign, when British and native regiments were employed side by side, and some of the British regiments did not shine in the hill warfare against the Afridis, it was found that the prestige of the British soldier had suffered, and that some of the native regiments were saying that they could fight as well as he. Such comparisons are always dangerous in the case of an Empire founded, like our Indian Empire, on the power of the sword. On the other hand, every Indian who looks beyond the boundaries of his own farm knows that Russia is the great Power across the mountains, from which alone any invasion of India is to be feared. He will soon know, if he does not know already, that Japan is the ally and friend of England.

"If Russia eventually wins in the present conflict, we stand to lose, so far as India alone is concerned, by the increase of power and prestige of our only great rival in Asia. Our alliance with Japan will give the Russian victory an appearance of being a victory over us, and will make the Russian bogey infinitely a greater reality than it has ever been before. On the other hand, if Japan wins, the gain to us will be very problematical. It depends on the balance of good done to us by the decline in Russian prestige over the amount of harm done to us by the general decline in white prestige. The net result of the present situation, therefore, is that we stand to lose a good deal and to gain very little, in the eyes of our Indian subjects, whatever may be the final issue of the war."

THE REVOLT OF THE TORY FREE FOODERS.

Political life in England, now and again treats us to some strange surprises. The strong independence of character which marks most Englishmen yields more surprises of the kind I am about to indicate than is possible in the United States where the Party Machine is Omnipotent, or in the respective European countries where Party ties and a love of logical action also dominate the people. I cannot call to mind any incident in the political history of the last century in either the United States or the chief countries of Europe which is comparable with the revolt of the Tory Free Fooders from the Unionist Party. If any one had said a year ago that, in February of this year, Lord George Hamilton would not only cease to be a member of the Government, but on a crucial division which, practically, amounted to a vote of censure, would vote against his colleagues and against a Unionist administration, there would have been no term of ridicule quite strong enough with which to discomfit the prophet who dared to foretell so impossible an incident. But, in life the impossible happens often enough to confound the conceited and cocksure folk, and to lead the most confident of critics to express with a considerable amount of reserve and caution his absolute certainty with regard to a future event. On Monday night twenty-seven of their habitual supporters voted against the Government on Mr. John Morley's motion of condemnation of Retaliation and Protection. Some of the best men of the Tory Party were included in the group, but Indian readers are chiefly interested in the fact that an ex-Secretary of State for India, Lord George Hamilton, and an ex-Under-Secretary of State, Sir John Gorst, were among the malcontents. It speaks well for the spirit underlying English political procedure that such a stand for political principle should have been made. The action of this score and a half of statesmen and politicians is in the same rank with that most noble episode of recent political life in England, though it is not quite equal to it. I refer to the readiness with which the greatest of Liberal Statesmen, Mr. W. E. Gladstone, and two-thirds of the Liberal Party, preferred the cold shades of opposition, faced a long exclusion from office and the chance of directing the destinies of the Empire, rather than give up the remedy for Irish discontent which they believed it was right to provide. English character will not lose its virility and good name while such incidents are possible. Judging from the conduct of the Hon. G. K. Gokhale, C. I. E., and the Hon. Nawab Syed Mahomed, in the Viceregal Legislative Council, such exhibitions of consistency and honour will not be lacking in India when your country has real Representative Institutions. In addition to the twenty-seven of their whilom supporters, who voted against the Government, there were nineteen absentees from the division. With one or two exceptions, they were absent because, while they deprecated the cause that was being pursued, they could not bring themselves actually to vote against their old and attached Party. Among these absentees was Lord Henry C. Bentinck. His absence, however, is to be accounted for by the fact that he has not yet returned from his cold weather tour in India. Had he been present he would, no doubt, have been obedient to the Government Whip. The Irish members, too, voted against the administration which has done so much for them; they did it gleefully, too, for the "Freeman's Journal," of Dublin,

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

says: "Every British member in the audience was made to realise, if he never realised it before, that the correlative of British rule in Ireland is Irish rule in Britain. Even in the dependent and disorganised days of Irish politics the course of British policy was decided by Irish votes. Now that these are organised, disciplined, and independent, and that the natural balance of British political opinion is asserting itself on an issue that really divides Englishmen, the fact again leaps to light that the Englishman cannot play the autocrat in Irish domestic affairs and rule his own household without disagreeable Irish irruptions." By the way, Sir Antony MacDonnell is a little slow in acting on his convictions. He has not yet left Dublin Castle for the India Office.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

The Acting Municipal Chairman.—It has been settled that Mr. C. G. Allen, C.S., will act as Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation when Mr. Greer proceeds on leave.

Rat Plague.—Rats are dying throughout the whole of Tikari and people are running away. The Police have taken shelter in some garden and thus the fright is very great.

Indian Museum.—50,265 persons visited the Indian Museum during the month of February the total being made up of 1,122 Europeans, and of 49,143 Natives of India. The daily average during the 21 days on which the Institution was open to the general public was 2,393.

Civil Medical Department.—Assistant Surgeon Lolit Mohun Laha, of the Patna City Dispensary, is allowed privilege leave combined with leave on medical certificate for six months. Assistant Surgeon Kali Das Pal is appointed to act at the Patna City Dispensary.

Education.—Mr. C. W. Peake, Assistant Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, is appointed to have charge of the current duties of the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in addition to his own, during the absence, on special duty, of the Hon'ble Mr. A. Pedler, C.I.E.

E. B. S. R. Earnings.—The approximate statement of gross receipts for the financial year from the 1st April 1903 to the 20th February 1904 shows a total increase in 1903-1904 of nearly 9 lakhs of rupees over the total receipts for the same period of 1902-1903.—"Indian Engineering."

Amta-Sheakhala Light Railway.—We hear that the Company intend making some radical changes in the maintenance and working of their line. It is very probable that certain sections of it may be worked either by the E. I. R. or by the B.-N. R. on formal agreement.—"Indian Engineering."

Indian Samples.—The Financial Department has issued a circular to the effect that when samples of any goods are sent by Indian officials to English firms or public institutions in connection with commercial questions, duplicates should at the same time be sent to the Board of Trade Intelligence Branch with an explanatory letter.—"Indian Engineering."

Small Cause Court.—From April 1904 and until further notice, the Judge of Small Cause Courts of Hooghly, Serampore and Howrah will sit—at the Hooghly Court—from 1st to 10th of each month; at the Serampore Court—from 11th to 22nd of each month and at a Howrah Court—from 23rd to the end of each month.

The Indian Weather Bureau.—The Indian Meteorological Department is to be strengthened by the addition of two skilled observers from England. They will undertake original research. Another Assistant is to be posted to Kodaikanal Observatory in Madras. In Calcutta, Mr. Kuchler will combine the duties of local weather reporting and scientific observation at Alipore, the separate appointment of a Meteorological Reporter to the Bengal Government being abolished.

Registration Department.—Mirza Muhammad Nazir, Rural Sub-Registrar of Bhadrak, in the district of Balasore, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Tirtol, in the district of Cuttack. Babu Benode Behari De, Rural Sub-Registrar of Dhamnagar, in the district of Balasore, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Bhadrak, in the same district. Maulvi Manzur Mohammad, Rural Sub-Registrar of Tirtol, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Dhamnagar.

Alleged Assault on a European.—Mr. Morton is the manager of the factory at Motihari. He oppressed some of the "pakdars" of Katani so much so that they attacked and severely beat him the other day while he was inspecting the vat room. On his dropping down senseless on the floor, the ruffians took him to be dead and ran away. He was subsequently taken care of by other people, and has instituted a case in the local Criminal Court. Six persons alleged to be implicated in the affray have been sent up for trial. The case is proceeding.

A Tiger Killed.—The other day a very large tiger made its appearance at Balia, a village in Mymensingh. His first prey was a goat which he snatched away from the house of a villager. When it was ascertained that the sudden disappearance of the goat was due to the appearance of Master Stripes in the village the villagers in a band sallied out of their homes to cut short the life of their unwelcome visitor. He was found out, brought to bay and killed, but as a reward to his polite persecutors he wounded two of them severely ere he breathed his last.

A Postal Grievance.—A correspondent writes from village Altapole, Jessore.—In spite of our repeated representations, the postal authorities, it seems, are determined not to open a branch post office here, though this village is inhabited by influential Taluqdars and respectable gentlemen, and though letters and other articles that come in and are sent from this village are not small in number. Although the Keshubpur P. O. is only 2 miles off from here, we scarcely derive any benefit from it. Letters and packets are often left undelivered for days together in the post office and the peon, whose jurisdiction forms this village alone, does not come here daily. During the time of the predecessors of the present post master, the peon used to come here daily and few complaints were made against the peon. We hope the authorities would be pleased either to order the opening of a Branch Post Office here or inquire into the allegations made against the local post office and remove the grievances of the people.

Viceregal.—As a present arranged, the Viceroy leaves Calcutta after the Budget Debate a short etaoin shrdl cmfwyp vbgkqj ,.zfi at the end of the current month, and goes to Burdwan where a day will be spent. His Excellency thereafter probably goes on a short shooting expedition, whence he proceeds to Simla, where he remains until the first week in May, when he leaves for England.

Public Works Department.—Mr. T. Butler, Superintending Engineer of the Gandak Circle, is granted privilege leave for three months, combined with furlough for four and-a-half months. Mr. Lewis S. Deane has been appointed to the Superior Accounts Branch of the Public Works Department as an Assistant Examiner, first grade, and is posted to the office of the Examiner, Public Works Accounts Bengal. Mr. A. F. Higgins, Superintending Engineer, first class Bengal is appointed to officiate as Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of Bengal, with the rank of Officiating Chief Engineer, third class, Babu Jnanes Chunder Bhuttacharjee, Apprentice Engineer, Bengal, is promoted to Assistant Engineer, third grade, Mr. C. A. White Executive Engineer, first grade, attached to the Gandak Division, is appointed Executive Engineer of that Division, Babu Jnanes Chandra Bhuttacharji, Assistant Engineer, is posted to the 1st Calctta Division.

Clerkship Examination.—The following list shows the names of selected candidates who obtained highest marks at the recent examination for clerkships in the lower division of the Secretariat offices of the Government of India and the Department directly attached thereto and in the offices subordinate to the Government of Bengal:—Nagendra Nath Sen, Amulya Dhan Banerjee, Monmotha Nath Neogi, Sohan Singh, Gauri Shankar II, Satish Chandra Bose I., Bankim Behary Banerjee, Suresh Chandra Mullick, Kashipati Chattopadhya, Ram Nath, Amrita Lal Banerjee, Sudhir Chandra Basu, Sudhir Chandra Sanyal, Charan Das Kurra, Satish Chandra Bose II, Keshabananda Basak, Ashutosh Das Gupta, Promode Kumar Sen, Sailendra Nath Sen, Rajat Chandra Seal, Radhabilas Das, Kali Charan Ghose, Manindra Krishna Deb, Khagendra Bhusan Sen Gupta, Kunja Bihari Roy, Girish Chandra Pal, C. Pereira, Rajendra Lal Pande, Chandi Charan Chatterjee, Santosh Kumar Banerjee, Babu Rao.

Calcutta Improvement Scheme.—The report of the Committee, which sat last month with Sir Andrew Fraser as Chairman, to revise the scheme for the improvement of Calcutta, has been considered by the Bengal Government and is now before the Government of India. The Committee contained responsible representatives of the Government of India in Mr. Risley and Mr. E. N. Baker, of the Bengal Government in Mr. Shirres and Mr. Banks-Gwyther, of the officials of the Corporation in Mr. Greer and Mr. Bignell, and of the Indian community of Calcutta in Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee and Babu Nalin Behary Sircar. Its conferences enabled the question of the improvements to be considered from the different points of view of the various interests concerned, and it may reasonably be hoped that the scheme it has drawn up will be found to have escaped the objections to which the one first propounded was subject, and that it will survive the critical examination of the experts to which it will now be submitted as a preliminary to final official sanction and adoption.

The Dumraon Raj and its Present Manager.—A correspondent writes from Ghazipur:—The H. H. the Maharani of Dumraon with her able Manager Babu Sheo Saran Lal B.A., came here in the end of the last month owing to the rigour of plague at Dumraon and left this city on the 13th February for Ajodhya. It will not be out of place here to mention that since the management of the Raj has passed from the European Managers to the hands of Babu Sheo Saran Lal, Manager and Babu Lakshmi Prasada Mutazim the Raj has prospered much. They have paid off all the debts amounting to more than Rs. 3 lacks incurred during the management of the European Managers, beside this they have increased the rental of the Estate, and now they have turned their attention to repair and improve the Raj buildings not only at Dumraon but elsewhere as well; this thing was not even done during the well talked of administration of the late Rai Jai Partab Lal Bahadur. The Raj Thakurbari, the equal of which is rarely found was in a delapidated condition, the Maharani and the Manager inspected it and ordered its repair at any reasonable expense. The repair work has been entrusted in the hands of Pande Ram

Inventions and Designs.—Applications in respect of the under-mentioned inventions have been filed:—Luce Compress and Cotton Company, manufacturers of cotton presses, of Delaware, United States, improvements in cotton presses; Otho Cromwell Duryea and Morris Columbus White, mechanics, of 933, George Street, Los Angeles, a high compression gas or vapour engine; Robert Chamberlin Hislop, manager of the Royal Dutch Petroleum Company's Bulk Oil Installation, Bombay, economising solder used for soldering tin cans by means of an improved form of solder bath; Frederick Lister Croft and Tom Arthur Perkins, engineers, both of Great Northern Works, Thornbury, Bradford, York, and Frank Croft, engineer, of Alder House, Pudsey, near Bradford, improvements in self-lubricating gearings; Robert Norrie, boiler maker of Dalla Dockyard, c/o Irrawaddy Flotilla Company, Limited, Rangoon, improvements in machines for punching or shearing metal; Montague Kelway Bamber, analytical chemist of Colombo, process for rendering jute fibres, jute hessian, or other fibres or fabrics non-inflammable and apparatus therefor; Thomas Skone, locomotive inspector residing at Tindharia, D.-H. Ry, Bengal, a safety push or protector against injury by the bursting of aerated water bottles during the operation of opening; Oswald Loffler, gentleman, of 81, Wahringergurtel, Vienna, and Dr. Wilhelm Weidle, of 35, Alleegasse, Vienna, improvements in filters; and Sarva Ranjan, Lahiri, engineer, Mymensingh, a new rice mill, to be called Lahiri's rice mill.

Dr. Abdul Ghani, who was detained at Jellalabad under orders from Kabul, arrived at Peshawar on the 2nd instant. His detention lasted a month.

TELEGRAMS.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Mar. 4.

Reuter wires from Tokio that bombs were thrown at the residences of the Foreign Minister and Secretary at Seoul. Both escaped injury. The outrage is attributed to the intrigues of the Anti-Japanese faction.

Reuter wires from Yingkow that owing to the impossibility of defending the coast until a thaw sets in, the Russians are preparing to retire on the main Railway and depend upon an engagement inland to arrest the Japanese advance.

London, March 5.

A score more of Japanese officers have sailed from Southampton, homeward bound to-day via America.

The troops for Singapore and Hongkong mentioned on the 2nd instant sailed to-day.

In connection with the many weeks delay at Toulon in preparing a single warship to go to the Far East, there have been delays of months in other cases, also in the construction of new battleships and the "Pelletan" especially.

Seven hundred Russian troops in hospital at Dalny are being sent in trains to the north in order to clear the hospital.

A heated controversy is going on in France owing to the revelations of deficiencies in the personnel and equipment. The administrative inefficiency of the Navy is especially attacked.

Reuter wires from Aden that General Egerton has sent a message to the Mullah that Government is determined to prosecute operations until he is captured or killed and that surrender will not be accepted unless he brings a proportion of rifles.

In the fifth test match played in Melbourne, the Australians made 247 in the first innings, and England made four runs for two wickets.

The Court of Cessation has granted the demand of Dreyfus for revision and ordered the necessary proceedings. The enquiry has revealed further forgeries on part of Generals Mercier, Gouse, and others, but the French public is now apathetic.

A telegram from Port Said says that Admiral Wirenneuss's squadron sails for Cadiz today and remains about the Mediterranean, where the Baltic fleet joins him in June. One of the Russian torpedoers is in a deplorable state and remains at Port Said for repairs. The Dmitridonski is in a pitiable condition. In fact, the whole squadron shows a lack of efficiency.

General Kuropatkin's and Admiral Alexeieff's head-quarters will be at Mukden.

Count Benckendorff, Russian Ambassador, has just returned to London from St. Petersburg whither he went to bid farewell to his son who is starting for the front. He visited the King this afternoon for the purpose, it is believed, of delivering an autograph letter from the Tsar in reply to one from King Edward assuring the Tsar that, despite the Press agitation, strict British neutrality would be maintained.

London, Mar. 6.

The Russians are reported to be retreating slowly towards the Yalu river and apparently intend making that the scene of the first engagement according to the original plan of the campaign.

The Death is announced of Count Waldersee Commander of Allies in China in 1900.

The Elections for London Country Council have attracted particular attention because the new council assumes control over education. There has been throughout a strenuous fight between the church and the non-conformists, the former supporting the moderates the latter the progressives. The result is, 83 progressives, 34 moderates and one independent. The last council was 84 progressives, 31 moderates and three independents.

A telegram received at St. Petersburg from Valdivostock states that five Japanese warships have bombarded the town for fity-five minutes-Details will follow.

Later news received at St. Petersgurg from Vladivostok states that the bombardment occurred at 1-25 this afternoon, five Japanese battleships and two cruisers firing all their guns at a range of five miles. No damage was done, as most of the two hundred lyddite shells fired failed to explode. The Russian batteries made no reply awaiting the closer approach of the enemy, who retired. The Japanese ships were covered in ice.

Reuter wires from Tokio that the Russians are briskly fortifying Autung, and withdrawing scouts from the neighbourhood of Anju towards Kasan. It is believed they will make Autung the base of operations.

Considerable numbers are volunteering at Vladivostok, and the man is selected from every two farms. Corps of irregulars are also forming.

Lindon, Mar. 7.

The Mullah is dismissing his spearmen owing to scarcity of food, this does not impair his fighting strength. Numbers of his starving followers are surrendering and seriously embarassing British commissariat.

As published, the telgram from Admiral Alexeieff transmitting the Vladivostock commandant's report, ends abruptly with the words "enemy opened fire." Yesterday evening's messages regarding the bimbardment were not official; they estimate the bombardment cost at twenty thousand pounds: shells used were mostly six and twelve-inch.

The Russians are removing all unnecessary rolling stock and railway equipment from Niuchwang—even furniture from barracks.

Fund is being raised in London for the widows and families of the Japanese soldiers and sailors killed in the war and has reached £7600.

Russian scouts report that the Japanese have landed at Plaksin Bay, and are returning in order to try a more practicable route towards Manchuria, the passes being blocked by avalanches.

Mr. Balfour, replying to a question in the Commons, said that the Russian declaration that coal is contraband is of great importance, and steps are being taken to obtain more precise information.

It is believed that the Vladivostock Squadron was absent at the time of the bombardment and will therefore be compelled to give battle to the Japanese on returning.

TELEGRAMS.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, March 8.

Further despatches from Alexeieff state that the bombardment did no serious damage to Vladivostok and there were no losses in the fortifications. In the town one woman was killed and a seaman was wounded. The enemy reappeared for a short time yesterday.

The Paris Municipality voted 20,000 francs in aid of the Russian and Japanese wounded and has sent an address to St. Petersburg hoping for Russia's success.

The Japanese took possession of Haiyuntan, one of the Elliott Islands on February 20th. They found only stores of coal and signalling flags, the Russians having evacuated the place on the 23rd.—"Englishman."

London, Mar. 4.

The Honourable Charles Hardinge has been appointed Ambassador at St. Petersburg. Sir John Eldon Gorst succeeds him as Assistant Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.

The Tibetan Mission to St. Petersburg, which was expected in February has been informed by Russia that a later date will be more opportune; the Mission will therefore probably reach St. Petersburg at the end of May, bringing presents for the Tsar from the Dalai Lama.

Reuter wires from Aden that a new Mulla belonging to the Ogaden Tribe has raised the standard of revolt at Webbe Shebeyli. It is understood that he is endeavouring to consolidate his power before starting operations.

London, Mar. 5.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain, in his reply to the India and Ceylon Tea Associations, says that owing to the present state of the finances there is no prospect of the remission of taxation in the coming year. He denies that the consumption of tea per head has diminished since 1900, though possibly the rate of increase has somewhat slackened. In reference to the increased duty causing a low grade of Chinese Tea to supplant the better class teas from India and Ceylon, and the suggestion that fiscal measures should be taken to check this, Mr. Asten Chamberlain says, that, under the existing fiscal system a preferential duty in favour of Indian teas was impossible.

The Association replied that the Board of Trade returns showed that the consumption of tea in 1900 was 6.06lb. per head and in 1903 6.03lb. The Association further said that it did not ask for fiscal measures only but asked for the exclusion of teas which were rejected by the customs of other countries, and it would again urge the attention of the British Government to the matter.

Aden, Mar. 7.

The P.O. steamer "Oriental" with the English Mails of the 26th ultimo left here for Bombay at ten this morning. The steamer "China" left for Colombo and Australia today at the same time.

In the Commons this evening Mr. Arnold Forster brought forward his army estimates. He said that the new field and horse gun will be without a superior in Europe. He hoped to produce in the coming year 108 field and 18 horse guns. India desired to obtain new guns as soon as possible, and this was fortunate because he would anyhow have wished to send them to India, which was the only possible place of contact with a great European army. India was the place where long ranges were common and it had, therefore, been decided to assign to India, practically the whole of the guns manufactured in the coming year. India would also take 71,000 stands of the new rifle in the coming year.

British trade returns for February show an increase in imports of £3,549,934, and in exports of £1,119,377 as compared with 1903.

In the fifth test match, England were out in the first innings for 61. Australia has made 13 for 3 wickets in the second innings.

Earl Percy replying to questions put by Mr. Foulmin in the Commons said that the Government approved of the action of Mr. Satow in ordering proceedings against Mr. Cowen, editor of the China "Times" at Tientsin which published certain virulent and defamatory articles against Russia.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

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THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE PRISONERS AT COLOMBO. FURTHER DETAILS.

Colombo, Mar. 7.

Captain Harris, belonging to the battleship Vengeance, who was in charge of the marines acting as escort to the Russian sailors, interviewed on board, gave interesting information about the Russians on the Namsang, who numbered 268 officers and men, including six commissioned and two warrant officers, the highest in rank being commander. The marine guard consisted of Captain Harris, four subalterns, one doctor, paymaster and 60 non-commissioned officers and men, chiefly Royal Marine Artillery from the Glory. Captain Harris said all the wounded with the exception of one or two men slightly wounded had been left behind in the Civil Hospital, Hongkong. The Russian officers, asked for an account of the battle from the Russian point of view said they were unable to say anything on the subject. All Russian officers are under strict instructions to make no statements to the press. Capt. Harris says he gathered that the Varyag and Corietz were in Chemulpho harbour on 6th February. The Japanese fleet cruisers and six torpedo boat destroyers were outside, the cruiser Asama being the largest of the Japanese cruisers. The Japanese Admiral called upon them to leave the harbour at twelve o'clock, failing which he threatened to "chuck them out." The Russians saw that the odds were against them, but came out of the harbour, and when they got outside were met by the Japanese fleet, which formed a complete semi-circle about seven miles away from the harbour. The Varyag was the first to reach the open sea. She turned a complete circle in her efforts to find an opening through the cordon of Japanese ships. Her steering gear broke down and she went on shore where she remained ten minutes. After getting off she returned to Chemulpho harbour, steering by means of her screws. The Corietz never fired a single shot. The Russian cruisers went out with the express intention of fighting. Indeed fighting had taken place on the previous day. The Corietz got very badly raked in the fighting. In the last resource the Russians torpedoed and sank their own cruiser, after which they took to their boats and removed to three neutral cruisers in Chemulpho harbour, the Talbot, Pascal and Elba. The Amphitrite took the Russian sailors from the Talbot to Hongkong. The wounded were taken ashore, the remainder being transferred to the Namsang. It is quite true that the upper decks of the Varyag resembled a shambles. The Japanese swept her decks so terribly with big shot that only one man out of a hundred escaped. The prisoners consisted of those who were working the engines, who were thus out of reach of the Japanese fire. The Russian sailors on board the Namsang are a splendid body of men, of exceptional physique and looked curiously like British sailors wearing the well-known straw hat and jack tars' flannel. A collection was made among the British men-of-war at Hongkong and a very miscellaneous lot of useful clothes was got together for the Russians. They were housed very comfortably on the Namsang and appeared quite contended. One marine said he was not sorry they had no more fighting to do. An armed guard was kept on duty on the Namsang but no need for extraordinary vigilance arose. In every other respect the Russians were treated as passengers pure and simple. Capt. Harris remarked that they were prisoners in no sense of the word. The Russian officers spoke English fairly well, but of the sailors aboard only one or two could make themselves understood at all although they were sociable enough. It was a quite journey, passing without any incident whatever. Last night the Russian Imperial Vice-Consul, M. Bournischeff, invited the Captain of the Namsang and the British and Russian officers to dinner.

Colombo, March 8.

Intelligence from Hanwantao states that a mass of Chinese troops is arriving by special trains to guard the railway.

In accordance with the promise given to the British Minister, the Japanese hold the complete command of the China Sea and the Gulf of Pechili.

Passengers arriving at Tientsin report that Japanese warships stop and examine steamers of every naionality for contraband.

Private letters received from Tientsin state that the garrison, 8,000 strong, takes a gloomy view of their ability to defend the town (Port Arthur?) against the Japanese, provided an attack was made simulaneously by land and sea. Corruption at Port Arthur is worse than under the Chinese adminismtration. The highest Military and Naval authorities are constantly wrangling with the contractors regarding commission on orders place through their influence. An order for a hundred thousand tons of coal was authorized and paid by the Russian Government, but only forty-thousand were actually delivered, the difference being divided between various officials.

Dr. Nicholas Senn, the celebrated American Surgeon, has accepted the post of Surgeon-General to the Japanese Army, and will take a Corps of trained American Surgeons.

Lieutenant-General Sir Ian Hamilton, who passed through recently, is armed with a letter to the Czar for permission to see as much of the operations as possible.

Ammunition is reported short at Port Arthur. For the defence of the harbour 500 torpedoes are at least necessary, but only 350 are available, fifty being useless.

Another batch of the Russian Survivors of the Chemulpho fight have been picked up by French and Italian steamers, and are expected here shortly, bound to Russia.

Bombay, Mar. 7.

The steamer "City of Bombay," Commander Show, which arrived in Bombay harbour on Saturday morning from Glasgow and Liverpool, reports that she was stopped and boarded by a Russian man-of-war in the Red Sea. As the Russian officers were unable to speak English, the services of a young lady passenger were secured to interpret into French, which the officers understood. They were asked if they wished to see the steamer's papers, but they refused, as they could not read English. They appeared satisfied with the information given them, and the steamer was allowed to proceed after a detention of half-an-hour.

Allahabad, Mar. 6.

Plague is still raging with unabated virulence in Allahabad, the figures available for the latest date showing 39 seizures and the same number of deaths. A curious fact in connection with the returns of plague here which appears not to have attracted the notice of the authorities is that the number of seizures and deaths are returned as agreeing daily with unvarying regularity. In view of a continuance of plague arrangements have been made to start a Health Camp on the plain near the Fort. The first set of quarters will be ready shortly.

Allahabad, Mar. 8.

The "Pioneer's" London correspondent wires:—The most important news to-day is contained in a telegram from the "Times" Peking correspondent. In describing a tour in Manchuria Dr. Morison shews that Russia is intriguing to secure the niutrality of Muching to the prejudice of Japan and at the same time the Russian troops are violating neutrality in the territory between the great wall and the Liao river.

A large tiger from Mundakavam has it is reported, carried off a buffalo belonging to Mr. Authappan, a D. P. W. Contractor. Though the monstrous animal was subjected to the markman's skill, yet it has made its escape to the jungles to die.

The District Magistrate of Rangoon on Saturday sentenced Ramcharan postal peon, to two years' rigorous imprisonment on a charged of wilfully detaining three letters. The accused was sentenced to eight months on each charge, or two years in all.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

High Court.—Mar. 8.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Amir Ali and Pratt.)

A GANG DACOITY CASE.

In this case an appeal was admitted on behalf of one Barfi Sing and Jadu Lal Marwar, who had been convicted under sections 400 and 401 of the I. P. Code by the Sessions Judge of Purneah and sentenced to transportation for life.

The prosecution story of the case was that several persons assembled together for the purpose of committing either dacoities or robbery, or theft during the period between the 5th February 1900 to 3rd April 1902. They used to commit dacoities all over the District of Purneah. They committed dacoities at about thirty different places. It was alleged that they threatened the people that every one of them should give them a monthly subscription of Re. 1 or Rs. 2 according to their circumstances. Out of fear many people gave them subscriptions. They also threatened the people by saying that the police were on their side. They also used to commit assault and robbery on any person whom they found alone. They were however, arrested and placed on their trial before the Sessions Judge of Purneah. The trial was held with the aid of assessors. The Sessions Judge agreeing with them found fifteen men guilty under sections 400 and 401 of the Penal Code and sentenced each of them to transportation for life. He, however, differing from the assessors found five of them guilty of the aforesaid sections and sentenced each of them to ten years' transportation under each of those sections, both the sentences running concurrently. Against that conviction and sentence two of the accused persons preferred an appeal to this Hon'ble Court. The appeal came on for hearing to-day.

Mr. P. L. Roy with Babu Dasarathi Sanyal appeared for the appellant. The Advocate General with Babu Charu Chunder Ghose appeared for the Crown.

ORIGINAL SIDE.

(Before Mr. Justice Stephen.)

A MUNICIPAL CASE.

DECREE AGAINST THE CORPORATION.

His Lordship delivered a very lengthy judgment in the matter of Shama Charan Paul and others—plaintiffs vs. The Corporation of Calcutta in which the plaintiffs claimed damages to the extent of Rs. 10,000 from the defendant Corporation.

Mr. Dunne, Mr. A. Chowdhery, and Mr. B. M. Chatterjee instructed by Messrs. Kali Nath Mitra and Sarbadhikari appeared for the plaintiffs. Mr. Jorab and Mr. Pearson, instructed by Messrs. Sanderson and Co., appeared for the Corporation.

The plaintiffs, it appeared, purchased a small plot of land measuring two cottas at No. 172, Harrison Road for Rs. 21,000. They submitted a plan for the sanction of the construction of a three-storied building on the said plot of land. The Corporation of Calcutta sanctioned the plan but the plaintiffs failed to commence the building works within a year. The original sanction was lost and a new one was granted and a true copy obtained from the Corporation by application. The plaintiffs commenced the work according to the new plans but they were ordered by the Corporation not to do so on the ground that the plaintiffs had no proper authority to carry on the construction of the building inasmuch as there was not the usual signature of the Chief Officer duly authorised to sign such plans. The plaintiffs subsequently brought this suit for realisation of the damages actually incurred by them and for an injunction restraining the defendant Corporation from interfering with the construction of the building.

His Lordship was of opinion that the contention, made on behalf of the Corporation, which was to the effect that the document, to wit, the plan re-sanctioned by the Corporation, was not genuine, did not hold good. He also discussed the question, raised on behalf of the Corporation, whether the suit was barred by limitation under the provisions of the Calcutta Municipal Act and decided it in the negative. He accordingly decreed the suit in favour of the plaintiffs and assessed the damages to Rs. 2,500 only. His Lordship allowed costs of the suit in scale No. 2.

SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

Babu Asvini Kumar Basu, B.A., acted as an Assistant Master in the Sanskrit Collegiate School and in Class VIII of the Subordinate Educational Service, on a salary of Rs. 50 a month, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Purna Chandra Bhattacherjea to act as a Professor in the Sanskrit College.

Mrs. L. E. Sharp, Assistant Mistress, Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong (Class V), is allowed leave out of India for six months, and Miss Cathleen Doran is appointed to act in her stead and in Class V of the Subordinate Educational Service, on an allowance of Rs. 50 a month.

Babu Akrur Chandra Sen, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Tippera is allowed privilege leave for two months.

Maulvi Altazuddin Ahmed, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Hooghly is allowed leave of absence for 15 days, and Babu Jogendra Nath Banerjea, Sadar Sub-Inspector of Schools, Hooghly is appointed to act as Deputy Inspector of Schools, Hooghly, during the period.

The following confirmation and promotions in the Subordiate Educational Service are sanctioned:—

Confirmed in class III.

Babu Makhan Lal De, B.A., Head Master of the Jalpaiguri Zilla School, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Maulvi Enayet Karim, deceased.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to class III.

Mr. E. E. Sharp B.A., Asssistant Head Master, Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Babu Makhan La lDe.

Confirmed in class IV.

Babu Akrur Chandra Sen, Deputy Inspector of Schools, Tippera, with effect from 5th November 1903, vice Bharat Bandhu Laha, confirmed in class III under the orders of the 9th February 1904.

Babu Rakhal Das Banerjea, B.A. Assistant Master and now Offg. Head Master, Sanskrit Collegiate School, with effect from 3rd March 1904.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to class IV.

Babu Khetra Mohun Banerji Assistant Master Hare School, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Babu Rakhal Das Banerjea.

Confirmed in class V.

Babu Sures Chandra Gupta, B.A, Assistant Head Master, Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack, with effect from 5th November 1903, vice Babu Akrur Chandra Sen.

Babu Sasadhar Sen, B.A., Assistant Master Calcutta Training School, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Babu Rakhal Dass Banerjea.

Promoted to class V.

Babu Gobinda Chandra Ghosh, Sub-Inspector of Schools, Mymansingh, with effect from 1st October 1903, vice Babu Jogendra Nath Sen, deceased.

Babu Sri Mohan Banerjea, Sub-Inspector of Schools, 24-Parganas, with effect from 5th January 1904, vice Babu Arun Chandra Ganguli, retired.

Promoted substantively pro tempore class V.

Babu Kali Pada Bhattacharjea, B.A., Head Master, Barasat Government School, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Babu Sasadhar Sen.

Confirmed in class VI.

Babu Siddha Nath Banerjea, Assistant Master, Arrah Zilla School, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Babu Sasadhar Sen.

Promoted to class VI.

Babu Rama Nath Chatterjea, Sub-Inspector of Schols, Bankura, with effect from 1st October 1903, vice Babu Gobinda Chandra Ghosh.

Confirmed in class VII.

Babu Narayan Das Ghosh, B.A., B.L., Assistant Master, Murshidabad Nawab's High School, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Babu Siddha Nath Banerjee.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to class VII.

Maulvi Faiz Baksh, Assistant Head Master, Anglo-Persian Department, Dacca Madrasah, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Maulvi Muhammad Wahidun Nobi, promoted under the orders of the 4th February 1904.

Confirmed in class VIII.

Babu Bidhu Bhusan Sen Gupta, M.A., Assistant Master, Hindu School, with effect from 3rd March 1904, vice Narayan Das Ghosh.

WHERE WILL THE LAND FIGHTING BE?

As the centre of interest is now inoving to the land operations of the Japanese, the following summary of Japan's intentions by Colonel Oka, an officer of high position in the War Office at Tokio merits attention. Colonel Oka made it clear at the outset that the plan of campaign which he advocated was purely unofficial, though it is supported by leading officers in Japan, and is perfectly consistent, apparently, with the situation.

"The war will probably be very long and very bitter" said Colonel Oka. "We think we are justified in assuming that we shall win in the naval campaign. Even many Russians are doubtful as to their superiority on the sea. To win on the sea we regard as one half the battle. Europeans think our bad time will come when the struggle develops on land. It will be full of trials and dangers, no doubt; but we feel strong and confident. The statement that Japan could only put some 200,000 men into the field is idle talk. We have many more, and we shall have the immense advantage of fighting within a comparatively short distance, not only of our sea bases in Korea but of Japan. An army crawls upon its stomach, and half the business of war is connected with transport and supply. Does anybody who knows anything of the frugal living of the Japanese soldier think that in this important respect we shall not be superior to the Russians? To put the matter plainly, we think that Asiatics have a better chance of fighting in Asiatic countries than Europeans, especially when, as in the case of the Japanese, every man has been trained in the European methods of fighting. "And the plan of campaign?" "Look at the map," said Colonel Oka, as he roughly outlined the coast of China, Korea, and Japan. "When war breaks out—and it will be to Japan's advantage to strike the first blow—you will find our transports with troops hurrying from Japan straight away to Chemulpho. We have contracted for plenty of vessels, and there is practically an unlimited supply. The transports will get away to Chemulpho in hot haste, under the protection of our warships. During the winter there is little chance of Russia's Eastern Squadron leaving Vladivostok to unite with her vessels at Port Arthur, and we think with our strength in the narrow strait between Korea and Japan we could prevent a junction at all times. Anyway, it is our great idea to bring the Russian navy to battle at an early stage, because the land operations depend greatly upon our supremacy at sea. The coast of Japan we regard as quite impregnable. After landing at Chemulpho we shall probably make a great march to Harbin, over 500 miles, which we regard as the key to the strategic situation. The roads from Chemulpho are fortunately good. South of Chemulpho the roads are extremely bad, and that is the reason we should not send the transports by way of Fusan. Otherwise Fusan being almost Japanese already, and quite near to Japan, has many advantages.

"Where will be the first great fight?"

Colonel Oka took a pencil and indicated the site marked on the map near Chemulpho. "Our strength on land," said Colonel Oka, would consist in concentration. Russia, on the other hand, with her troops scattered all over Manchuria, with big garrisons at Port Arthur, Dalny, Mukden, Niuchwang, and Vladivostok, would, we consider, suffer by her decentralisation. We think that by great effort of our troops the rush upon Harbin, with its immense stores of ammunition, forage, and tinned goods, would be a success. Once in occupation, we should hold the line at the vital point. To the south would be Port Arthur and Dalny cut off from their lines of communication. Both places would be at the risk of assault by the Japanese navy outside, and the Japanese army on the land side. To raise the siege the garrison would have to come out and fight in the open. We think that the campaign at this point will show how well Japan has learnt the latest lessons of the science of war. We recognise, I believe, that the introduction of smokeless powder, long range rifles, and machine guns has revolutionised things. The lessons of the Franco-German War, so long the text-book and guide in the military academies and still taught in some Western countries are pretty well obsolete nowadays. New strategy is required, and tactics must be adopted accordingly. In these respects we hope to show that Japan has kept well abreast of the times."

THE TIBET MISSION.

GANTOK TO CHUMBI OVER THE CHOLA.

Chumbi, Feb. 29.

Nowadays the Chola being the least frequented of the passses that lead down into this side of the great Tibetan Plateau, and reflecting upon, or rather, fancying all the grand possibilities that are in store for Chumbi under the British Rule, I think the inlets and outlets to it and the difficulties in traversing them should be known to the public as early as possible. At present only one and the least visited one is under report.

From Gantok one comes to Penlong-la, which contains two or three houses, by a good bridle path in excellent order. Here the Rungpo path (if path it be called, at times there being no track even) turns off the main road right and goes straight down-hill following the bed of water-course for three-and-a-half-miles to the Dikchu passing the village of Satak. At Satak the path under report passes to the east of the village and crosses a small marsh after which it is down the right bank of a small ravine to the Dikchu. It is very steep and seems to be quite impracticable to any form of transport except coolies; but it is surpassing strange that the 3rd Yak Corps has come by this route. The Dikchu is crossed by two or three bamboos kept across it. The river is unfordable at all seasons of the year, the river bed is about 3950 ft. below. From there we came to Rungpo, 2 miles, elevation 5950 ft. Rungpo has one house and is situated on the Feungong ridge up which is Chola Road.

From this place the water supply begins to be very limited, and in the next fourteen or fifteen there is no water at all. The path is steep and stony. From Rungpo the ascend is steeply up the ridge following the crest of the Feungong spur for three miles and along a path through dense bamboo jungles with no water and no encamping grounds. After another three miles of steep ascent a small camping ground can be found, whose altitude is 9200 ft. with a cave on the left of the road where some 20 men can bivouack. Another ascent of a steep rocky slope for about one-and-a-half mile would reach Delamcheu, whose elevation is 10,700 ft. Then we had to ascend to the summit of Feungong, 12130 ft., covered, except at the summit, with rhododendron jungles. The path now keeps along the ridge which is pretty level for about a mile. Then after an ascent of a mile the road becomes much more open and descends abruptly down a stony zigzag path to a place known as Bekup. Its elevation is 11,600 ft. The descend from Bekup is steepy. The road leads to Dikchu again at Talong, with an elevation 11,000 ft. Hence the road rises gradually keeping to the right bank of the stream through fir forest for about 6 miles to Chamnago. On the road there is a rude gak-way of pinelogs and a rock with a Tibetan inscription.

Two miles down Chamnago at an elevation about 11,600 ft., there is a permanent wooden bridge over the Dikchu joining the road with that to the Bynsaha. From Chamnago the road ascends east up the right bank of the Dikchu for three-and-a-half miles to the Chola. The main path leaves the Dikchu at about one-and-a-half miles. At one and three-fourth mile the hill-side becomes more open and at $2\frac{3}{4}$ th. mile there is a flat valley with an elevation of 14,000 ft., the hills rising about 1000 ft. above the valley. Here the path strikes the right bank of the Dikchu again which at this elevation is a mere brook. Leaving a small lake called Patheong Tso to the right, the path is now level along the right bank of the stream, then follows an ascent for $\frac{1}{4}$th of a mile. Here there is a second lake to the south of which rise two inacessible rocky peaks, their summits being some 900 ft. above the valley. The pass is a long open saddle, and owing to the high wind it is difficult for a weak man to stand on the summit. The fatigue due to the high elevation is quite appreciable here.

The Pass of Chola, 14,200 ft., was very much used formerly when the Raja of Sikkim had his residence at Chumbi (now old Chumbi) and there is even now traces of a good briddle path over the Pass; (the quaint but artistic four-storeyed palace is even now standing in disrepair in old Chumbi, surrounded by 30 or 35 houses. In one room of the palace there lives a Lama whose expenses are borne by the Raja of Sikkim).

The Chola route leads directly into the Chumbi, the distance from the summit of the Pass being about 14 or 15 miles. On leaving the summit the road descends slightly to a narrow valley choked and shut in from either side by huge precipices. The valley then makes a sudden bend to the north and the path descends along the edge of the stream which falls in a series of cascades, some of which are 40 or 45 ft. high. Down the sides of these water-falls the path leads in rough stone steps. The valley again turns east and opens out the path crossing the stream twice over rough and rocky ground. From here one can take to the best advantage the grand awful view of Chamulhari said to be worshipped by the Tibetans.

Beyond this there is no further difficulty, at least to him who could have traversed the path so far over the Chola, the left bank of the stream flowing down into a flat, open valley. The hill slopes to the north those to the south being covered with dense rhododendron. The stream is fordable everywhere. Four miles from here are the Rodhoo Tso lakes. At the lake the path ascends the face of the northern hill slopes and finally, as the range decreases in elevation, it runs along the summit of the ridge, eventually dropping into Chumbi (old). The nearly level path crosses the stream by the old Chumbi, keeps the left bank fir one-and-a-half miles and runs directly through the camp towards Phari Tong.

Calcutta Gazette.—Mar. 9.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS.

Mr. L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Cuttack, is appointed to act as Superintendent of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Mr. R. G. Kilby, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is appointed to act as Deputy Commissioner of Jalpaiguri.

Mr. E. B. H. Panton, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Sonthal Parganas, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of Khulna.

Mr. C. A. Tegart, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Patna, is transferred to Burdwan.

Mr. H. H. Duff, Assistant Superintendent of Police Monghyr, is transferred to Saran.

LEAVE.

Mr. R. H. S. Hutchinson, Superintendent, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is allowed combined leave for seven months, viz., privilege leave for two months and eight days.

Mr. C. H. Bompas, Deputy Commissioner, Sonthal Parganas, is allowed combined leave for seven months, viz., privilege leave for three months.

Mr. Satis Chandra Mukerjee, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Khulna, is allowed leave for two months.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Captain H. Innes, I.M.S., is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Backergunge.

The services of Military Assistant Surgeon J. A. F. Harvey, Medical Officer, Eastern Bengal State Railway, Sealdah, are replaced at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Captain B. R. Chatterton, S.M.S., has reported his departure from India on leave.

Major B. H. Deare, I.M.S., is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Rajshahi.

Captain E. A. R. Newman, I.M.S., is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Bhagalpur.

Babu Upendra Nath Roy Chaudhury, a passed student of Medical College, Calcutta, is admitted into the service of Government as an Assistant Surgeon.

GAZETTE OF INDIA.—Mar. 4.

The following notifications appear in the "Gazette of India" to hand:—

Home Department:—Captain Windsor, I. M. S., is placed permanently at the disposal of the Government of the United Provinces.

Captains Grant and Lawrenson are confirmed as Assistant Cantonment Magistrates.

Lieutenant-Colonel Garrette officiates as Judicial Commissioner at Berar during the absence on privilege leave of Mr. Batten.

Rev W. Ellison, Senior Chaplain, is permitted to retire from the 6th May.

Rev. C Stokoe is appointed Chaplain, Shillong.

Revenue Department:—Captain Burn to officiate as Assistant Surveyor General.

Foreign Department:—Major Daly, officiating Resident, Indore, is granted one year's combined leave from the 19th March.

Mr. Potton to officiate as Inspector-General of Police, N. W. Frontier Province, during the absence of Mr. Hastings on leave.

The services of Mr. Lloyd, C. S. are replaced at the disposal of the Home Department.

Mr. Moore I. C. S. (Madras) is appointed Collector of Bangalore.

Major Kaye, Political Agent, is granted combined leave for 20 months.

A RAILWAY COMPLAINT.

The following letter was addressed by Babu K. Banerjee, to the Agent, East Indian Railway, on the 3rd instant.

This morning I sent you a wire from Mokameh Ghat to this effect: "Travelling with ladies who were not admitted into Zenana Waiting Room." I hope the above telegram reached you unchanged by the Railway servants. This letter is in continuation of that telegram. Yesterday I with two ladies and a baby a year old left Calcutta for Muzaffarpur by the Loop Mail with Intermediate class tickets. We reached Mokameh at 4 a.m. and as there was still two hours before the departure of the steamer I wanted the ladies to wait at the Ladies' Waiting Room. But a Railway servant—not a menial but one belonging, I think, to the Booking Office told me that it was only for 1st and 2nd class passengers; and he shut the door in my face. I went to the Station Master who also told me the same,—on which I told him that I was ready to change the Intermediate class tickets into 2nd class tickets as I could not allow the ladies and the baby to be exposed to the chill. But he said even then the ladies could not be allowed to enter the Waiting Room as we had now ceased to have any connection with E.I.R. and we would now be passengers by the B. N. W. Railway. I asked him to show me some other room where the ladies might await. But to this he gave no heed and seemed rather to enjoy my embarrassment. The consequence was that the ladies with a baby a year old had to stand on the platform for full two hours from 4 o'clock in the morning. I am sure you do not wish your passengers to be treated in that way. If the Ladies,' Waiting Room could be only used by 1st and 2nd class lady passengers there must surely be a Ladies' Waiting Room for Zenana ladies at an important station like Mokameh Ghat. The Station Master on duty was a Beharee who seemed to be wanting in ordinary politeness to passengers. There is a rule, I know, to the effect that all incivilities and inattention to passenger should be reported and the Railway servants must look to the comfort of passengers. But instead of that, I found the men at Mokameh Ghat determined to make me as much uncomfortable as it lay in them. I am sure they would not have dared to treat any European Intermediate class passengers in that way for fear of getting a black eye.

I bring this to your notice hoping you will be pleased to take what steps you think proper to prevent the recurrence of such an occurrence which undoubtedly brings the management into great dispute.

I shall be much obliged if I hear from you.

WAR NEWS.

The London correspondent of the "Indian Daily Telegraph wires on the 7th instant:—A body of 2,500 Japanese troops, in attempting to cross the Korean-Manchurian mountains have suffered terribly, and so many perished that the march was abandoned.

It will appear from a telegram published in the usual place that the British India steamer "Mombassa" was surrounded by the Russian Red Sea Squadron about midnight on 22nd February, and "held up" for about an hour and a half. Three guns were fired over her, and after she had been hailed, and her captain had given the name of the vessel he asked to be allowed to proceed. To this there was no reply, but after the searchlight had played upon and round the "Mombassa" for about an hour an officer's party put off from the Russian flagship and, boarding the ship, examined her papers. They then returned to the flagship, which shortly hailed the Mombassa with the words "You may now proceed if you please."

It is becoming very evident that there will soon be a meeting between the Russians and Japanese on the Yalu River. The Japanese fleet is believed to have made its bass at the Blonde Islands, a convenient group that allows the ships to lie within striking distance of Port Arthur and also commands the approaches to the Yalu. The Japanese troops are steadily advancing on the Yalu and the Russians cannot afford to allow them to be unopposed unless they are prepared to sacrifice Port Arthur and Southern Manchuria. Admiral Alexeiff is at Mukden which is apparently to become the base of the Russian force that is to defend the Yalu. It is about 150 miles from the Yalu and road communications are comparatively easy. The Yalu is the largest river in the peninsula. On either side of its mouth are the Chinese town of Antung and the Korean Wiju. The Russians are now fortifying Antung and it is probable that the Japanese will occupy Wiju on the opposite side of the river and will project their attack from that position. It is very likely that the Japanese have accumulated troops at the Blonde Ilands and will be able to land reinforcements or make a flank attack on the Russians. The valley of the Yalu will suit the Japanese as a battlefield as they have already won knowledge of it in the Chino—Japan War of 1994. Three times they fought the Chinese near the Yalu River and they must be intimately acquainted with every stick and stone of the locality.—"Englishman."

The St. Petersburgh telegram describing the bombardment of Vladivostok, and insisting upon the harmless nature thereof, may possibly be supplemented before we hear the last of it. The Japanese are said to have engaged the forts with long range fire, but though they fired two hundred Lyddite shells they did no damage, and the forts were content to remain silent and make no attempt to reply, though there was the tempting target of a squadron of "five Japanese battleships," and the Vladivostok guns are quite as long ranging as anything that any Japanese battleship mounts. The Russians possess four very powerful cruisers at Vladivostok, and it is surprising that we have not heard that they made an attempt to find out more about the enemy even if they did not dare to engage him. It seems improbable that all these five Japanese ships were "battleships," as Japan has more than enough cruisers of sufficient power to undertake an enterprise of this description. The action was probably taken in the hope of enticing the Russian ships to come out to sea. A remark attributed to the Japanese Minister at Washington, has been much quoted everywhere: "When you hear no news from the scene of war, be sure that great things are about to happen, dash being the leading principle of Japanese strategy." We may yet, therefore, expect to hear that what happened at Vladivostok was something more than St. Petersburgh has conveyed to the world at large. It is highly probable that, when Vladivostok is free of the present encumbrance of the ice, it will find itself steel-bound by a far more formidable blockade, and that this reported action is but the beginning of a strict closure, similar to that which has been so effectively placed upon Port Arthur. The effect of the scaling up of Russia's one remaining sea port would, it need scarcely be pointed out, still further embarass an already over-laden system of land transport. It would also seriously interfere with the hare-brained scheme, which was attributed to the Rusian Admiral Virennius, of going all across the Pacific to link up with the Vladivostok ships and burst the Japanese bounds! Apart from the little difficulty about coal, Japan was never likely to allow these four cruisers at Vladivostok to steam out of the rat-trap in which they have allowed themselves to be caught.—"I. D. News."

THE TIBET MISSION.

In this expedition of Col. Younghusband the protest against the despatch of British soldiers to Thibet the "Novoye Vremya" writes:—

In this expedition of Col. Younghusband the European Powers will see a new manifestation of the lying and double dealing ways of English diplomacy. The Russian public will discern in the protet of our Government a fresh proof of that determination and serenity with which it contemplates events in Japan. The Far Eastern war will not so far absorb Ruhsian energies as to compel us to withdraw our attention from the Middle and Near East."

The Odessa correspondent of the "Standard," writing on Feb. 9, says:—

"The explanations given by Lord Percy and Mr. Brodrick with regard to the object and scope of the Thibet Mission, and the diplomatic circumstances under which it was despatched from India, were duly reproduced in the Russian Press; but with one or two exceptions, all the leading political journals discredit or profess to discredit, the British Ministerial statements, and continue to describe the mission as an armed and aggressive expedition against Thibet. It is well to remember, however, that the Russian journals are, unfortunately, not for the moment in a mood to credit England's policy in Central Asia with either good faith, honesty, or legitimacy of purpose.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

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HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, Feb. 12.

The War in the Far East.—Wei-hai-wei.—Earl Spencer said he should like to ask the Secretary for Foreign Affairs a question as to a rumour which had appeared in the papers that we had given Wei-hai-wei to Japan as a naval base for their operations. It being a matter of some importance, perhaps the noble Marquess would tell them something about it.

The Marquess of Lansdowne: My attention was directed to the rumour that the noble Earl has referred to. I need not say that the rumour is entirely without foundation, and, so far as we can gather, is a mischievous allegation. (Hear, hear.) We have, however, thought it desirable to telegraph to our representative on the spot with the object of ascertaining whether any incident can have taken place to give the slightest colour to the report (Cheers.)

Monday, Feb. 15.

Japan and Wei-hai-wei.—Earl Spencer: I am not sure whether the noble Marquess of Lansdowne has any further information to give to the House with reference to the answer he was good enough to give me the other day about Wei-hai-wei.

The Marquess of Lansdowne: A telegram from the Admiralty was sent, and a reply has been received, with reference to the matter of which the noble Earl has just spoken. The telegram sent was as follows:—

"Admiralty to Commanderin-Chief, China Station, communicated by Admiralty, Feb. 12, 1904.—Rumour current in St. Petersburg, causing great exasperation, that Wei-hai-wei, with Great Britain's connivance was used by Japanese as a base for attack on Port Arthur. Important that his Majesty's Government should be in a position to give absolute contradiction. Report without delay."

The Admiralty has now received the following answer:—

"Hong Kong, Feb. 12, 1904.—Rumour absolutely without foundation. Wei-hai-wei did not even know operations were proceeding until I telegraphed fact. First intimation of operations came through Chefoo from steamer calling there from Port Arthur. Wei-hai-wei's first direct knowledge of belligerent proceedings was the visit of steamer "Fuping" to report circumstances of her being fired on. Air out here is full of baseless rumours, obviously deliberately concocted." 'Fuping' is the steamer that was fired at as she was leaving Port Arthur.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, Feb. 15.

Indian Railway Contracts.—Sir Charles M'Laren asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will for the future, adopt the system recently put in force by the London County Council in setting contracts for rails and railway material, by giving preference, in all cases in which there is no wide divergence in price, to the tenders of English makers over those of foreign makers; and whether he would allow English firms the opportunity of revising their tenders in cases where foreign firms tendered at lower prices.

Mr. Brodrick: The practice described in the question is that which is now in force in respect of stores for State Railways. In cases where there is no material difference of price, and where in every other respect the tenders are equally satisfactory or nearly so, a preference will unquestionably be given to a British tender. Where there is a wide difference in price and the quality of supply is identical, it is impossible, in justice to the Indian taxpayer, to ignore the lower tender. (Opposition cheers.) Large contracts for steel and other goods are executed for the Indian Government by Sheffield firms, and I doubt whether any distress in Sheffield can be attributed to the diversion of Indian Government orders to foreign firms in a very limited number of instances. The hon. member is, no doubt, careful to distinguish between the action of the Government, which affects only State lines, and that of Indian Railway companies in respect of the purchase of stores.

Sir C. M'Laren: Will the right hon. gentleman allow to English firms the opportunity of revising their tenders in cases where foreign firms tender at lower prices?

Mr. Brodrick: I think it would be impossible to do that.

Mr. Galloway: Is it merely a question of price and not of the date of delivery?

Mr. Brodrick: The date of delivery is carefully considered, and above all the quality.

Sir Charles M'Laren asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, in the case of the orders for tyres and axles recently given by the Indian railways to German makers, the specification as to analysis and breaking tests on which the German makers tendered was identical with that on which the English makers tendered; whether inspectors on behalf of the Indian railways were attached to the German works during the execltion of the contracts; whether any and what tests were imposed on the tyres and axles when delivered; and whether he will in future, in cases where an order is given to a foreign firm, cause the lowest price tendered by an English firm together with the price taken by the foreign firm to be published here.

Mr. Brodrick: In the case of the order for wheels and axles recently given by the Secretary of State in Council to German manufacturers, to which I presume the hon. member refers, the specification as to analysis and breaking test was identical with that on which the English makers tendered. Inspectors on behalf of the Secretary of State are attached to the German works during the execution of this contract. A copy of the specification showing the tests can be handed to the hon. member if he so desires. I do not propose to depart from the established practice of declining to divulge the prices at which German or any other firms have tendered.

Sir Thomas Dewar asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state the number and value of contracts for railway plant placed by Indian railways with foreign makers during the last five years, and what percentage of these contracts were secured by German firms.

Mr. Brodrick: The contracts entered into with foreign firms by the Secretary of State in Council in respect of material for Indian State Railways during the past five years are eight in number, and the total value is 135,567l. Twenty-five per cent. of these contracts were secured by German firms. As regards contracts made by Indian Railway companies, I am unable to give the information asked for. I may add that the total orders for materials given during this period amounted to 4,200,000. The percentage of orders given to foreign firms would be thus about 36½ per cent. of the whole.

British Interests in Corea.—Mr. Brynmor Jones asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: In view of the fact that the British and American mining concessions in Corea are situated north of the 39th parallel of latitude, and consequently within the area which Russia desires should be considered the neutral zone, whether, so far as British interests are concerned, that suggestion receives the approval of his Majesty's Government; and whether any, and, if so, what steps have been taken, or will be taken should necessity arise, to protect British interests in Corea, seeing that the United States have taken active measures for the protection of their interests in Corea.

Early Percy: No suggestion for the creation of a neutral zone in Corea is before his Majesty's Government, and there is consequently no occasion for us to express any opinion on the subject. His Majesty's Minister at Seoul will afford to British interests and subjects all necessary assistance and protection. I am not aware of the measures which the hon. member refers to as having been taken by the United States.

Recruiting Chinese Labourers.—Mr. Herbert Samuel asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether there are any treaties between Great Britain and China under which the assent of the Chinese Government would be necessary before the recruiting of labourers for the Transvaal could be initiated; and, if so, whether the Chinese Government have yet given their assent to such recruitment.

Earl Percy said: The recruitment of labourers in China is governed by the provisions of Article V. of the Treaty of Pekin. His Majesty's Government have been informed by the Chinese Minister that the draft Ordinance contains nothing which is likely to conflict with the proposals he may have to make when the time comes for negotiating the regulations provided for in this article.

Port of Neu-chwang.—Mr. Joseph Walton asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether, in the interests of British trade, his Majesty's Government are taking steps with a view of securing an arrangement betwen the Powers for the neutralisation of the Chinese treaty port of Neu-chwang during the Russo-Japanese war.

Earl Percy: No, sir. His Majesty's Government do not consider that it would be practicable to secure the neutralisation of any territory in the actual occupation of one of the belligerents.

Protection of Chinese Railways.—Mr. Joseph Walton asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether, in view of the fact that the net receipts of the Shan-hai-kwan, Neu-chwang, Hsin-min-tung Railway are allocated as security to British bondholders, his Majesty's Government have taken any steps for the purpose of safeguarding these lines and maintaining the present management and control.

Earl Percy: The answer is in the negative. The Shan-hai-kwan, Neu-chwang, Hsin-min-tung Railway is a Chinese line, and is protected by Chinese railway guards and troops.

Manchuria.—Mr. Joseph Walton asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether, in view of the omission of the Russian Government in their declaration of Jan. 8 to renew their assurances as to their intention of evacuating Manchuria, his Majesty's Government have addressed any representations to the Russian Government on this point; and, if so, whether he can state to the House the reply received.

Earl Percy: The hon. member will find the information asked for at page 98 of the Blue Book which will be distributed to-day.

Tuesday, Feb. 16.

Exemption of Indian Life Insurance Policies from Income Tax.—Sir Seymour King asked Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer: Whether, in view of the fact that the privilege granted to income tax payers resident in this country of exemption on premiums of life assurance policies is restricted to policies issued by companies whose head offices are in the United Kingdom, and is not applicable to policies issued by companies established in other parts of the empire, as in India, Australia, and Canada, he will consider the propriety of extending this privilege to the policies of alll Indian and colonial Life Assurance Companies which are now treated as foreigners.

Mr. Austen Chamberlain: Legislation is required in order to exend to Indian and colonial insurance companies the exemption from income tax on premiums which is granted to insurance offices with head offices in the United Kingdom.

I am making inquiries into the conditions under which insurance companies carry on their business in the respective colonies and in India, with a vew to finding ou whether in ach case the same treatment is accorded to companies with a view to finding out whether in each case officers in the United Kingdom. Until I am in possession of the result of those enquiries I am unable to make any definite statement as to legislation.

The Report of the Indian Police Commission.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the rport of the Commission on Indian Police Organisation which took evidence last year, and the resolution thereon of the Governor-General in Council, will be placed before Parliamnt early this session; and whether the recommendations of that Commission include proposals for admission, by promotion or otherwise, of experienced Indian members of that Service to any of its three higher grades, or any modifications of the present system under which youthful Europeans selected in this country without previous knowledge of India and its races, are, on appointment, posted directly to the higher ranks of the police service.

Mr. Brodrick: I do not anticipate that it will be possible to lay the Rport of the Indian Police Commission before Parliament early this session, or to make any statement on the subject, as I must await the recommendations of the Government of India. The whole subject is being carefully considered in communication with the local Governments.

Wednesday, Feb. 17.

The Thibetan Mission.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state the grounds upon which the Government of India decided that the present armed political mission to Thibet is not a contravention of the Act of 1858; and whether he will lay papers before Parliament containing a report of the proceedings of the Supreme Executive Council of India at which this conclusion was arrived at, together with the judicial opinions then given upon the question.

Mr. Brodrick: The fact that an escort accompanies the political mission does not necessitate any action under Clauses 54 and 55 of the Government of India Act, to which I presume the hon. member refers. The question is not one for the consideration of the Governor-General's Council, and there are no papers to be presented.

Mr. Weir asked the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Chinese envoy who left Pekin in December 1902 on a mission to Lhassa, for the purpose of arranging with the Tibetans a solution of the questions which the British Commissioner had been charged to discuss, had yet reached his destination; and, if not, whetheh he would consider the expediency of communicating with the Chinese Government with a view to ascertain the cause of the delay.

Earl Percy: We have no information of the arrival of the Chinese envoy at Lhassa; but having regard to the instructions which the Chinese Minister stated in his Note of Nov. 23 had been given, it is not proposed to make a further communication to the Chinese Government at present.

Mr. Robertson's Report on Indian Railways.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether Parliament will be supplied at an early date with copies of the Indian Government's recommendations, founded on Mr. Thomas Robertson's report, regarding the working of the Indian railway system, with his suggestions as to new lines.

Mr. Brodrick: The view and recommendations of the Government of India on Mr. Thomas Robertson's report are now under any consideration. I cannot present any further papers at present.

The Administration of Justice in the Calcutta High Court.—Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for India: Referring to the answer given by his predecessor to a question by the hon. member for the Frome Division of Somerset on Nov. 13, 1902, if he will state the result of the inquiry instituted.

[The question referred to expediting the administration of justice in the Calcutta High Court.]

Mr. Brodrick: I am informed by the Government that they should denounce that there has been any undue delay in the disposal of criminal work in the Calcutta High Court is entirely unfounded; that if the criminal work before the Court is found at any time to be more than one Bench can deal with, arrangements are always made for constituting a second criminal Bench to deal with the excess; and that the judges after careful search are unable to trace that any case has occurred in which a person on a short term of imprisonment who has appealed and not been released on bail, has served his term before his appeal could be heard.

Thursday, Feb. 13.

Russia and Manchuria.—Mr. Moon asked the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether, having regard to the breach by Russia of the Convention to leave Manchuria, the Foreign Office would propose to the Chinese Government that they should denounce hat Treaty of Aigun, whereby the Amor, Sungari, and Ussuri were opened by China to Russia exclusively.

Earl Percy: His Majesty' Government do not consider that failure on the part of Russia to execute the provisions of the Convention for the evacuation of Manchuria would justify them in recommending the Chinese Government to denounce the Treaty of Aigun, which has been in force since 1858, and to which no objection has hitherto been taken.

The Mail Service with the Far East.—Sir John Colomb asked the Postmaster-General: What, if any, alterations have been made in the mail service between the United Kingdom, British colonies or possessions, and Japan consequent upon the outbreak of war between Japan and Russia.

Lord Stanley: The mail service to the Far East via Russia and Siberia is suspended, and correspondence marked for conveyance by that route has to be sent via Suez or across America, as the case may be. Otherwise no alterations have been made in the arrangements connected with the transmission of mails between the United Kingdom, her colonies and possessions, and Japan.

The Succession to the Siemship of the Cherra Native State.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India whether he has received memorials from the people of the Cherra Native State, Assam, and from the ruling 12 clans of that State, protesting against the action of the Government of India in overruling a decision of the late Chief Commissioner of Assam, Sir Henry Cotton, in regard to the appointment of a successor to the late Siem (chief), U. Hajon Manick, who died on May 24, 1901; and whether, seeing that Chundra Singh, the nearest relative of the late Siem, was always recognised during that chieftain's lifetime as the heir-apparent to the Siemship, and that the Khardarkar, or representatives of the 12 clans, on whom from time immemorial the election to a vacant Siemship has developed, elected Chandra Singh by a majority of eight to four, will he explain why the decision of the late Chief Commissioner of Assam was reversed by the Government of India in favour of U. Roba Singh, and will the question of succession be reconsidered.

Mr. Brodrick: Memorials were received in 1902 from Chundra Singh, the rejected candidate for the Siemship of Cherra, and from representatives of the 12 clans who supported his claims. The Government of India, having regard to precedents and to all the circumstances of the case, were unable to approve the recommendation of the Chief Commissioner that the decision of the majority of the Durbar, referred to by the hon. member, at which only the 12 heads of the clans constituting the State were present, should be accepted, and ordered a popular election to be held, at which Roba Singh was chosen unanimously. The Government of India thereon confirmed Roba Singh as chief. The case has been very fully considered both by the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council. I see no reason for reopening the question.

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SERIOUS ALLEGATIONS AGAINST A POLICE OFFICER.

OBSTRUCTING A RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL.

(*From our Occasional Correspondent.*)

Comilla, March 2.

Scarcely had the illegalities committed by Mr. Garrett, then Magistrate of Puri, in stopping the car festival of Juggernath, been out of memory, than the news of an alleged fresh high-handed proceedings by a European official in obstructing the Doljatra ceremony reaches us from the outskrits of the town. It is said that Hindu music sounds jargon in the ears of certain Europeans, and sometimes it puts them to hysterics. Unfortunately we have here such a European police officer. It is known all over India specially in Bengal that every religious ceremony of the Hindus is accompanied by various sorts of music. On account of the Dol festival to-day, there was beating of drums when the ceremony of the ascension of Sri Krishna on the Dolmancha was performed in the house of a respectable gentleman of Kandipur. It happened that the said police officer was passing by the house at that time. The music, or noise as they are pleased to call it, was too much for him, and forgetting his position, the dignity of his office and the prestige of the nation to which he belongs, he appeared in the compound of the house of the gentleman in the midst of a crowd on his bike which he was riding at that time. The irate official at once ordered the musicians to stop. The sight of a white man in the midst of a Hindu religious festival quite unnerved the people assembled there. What followed was most extraordinary. The official so much forgot himself that he was said to have snatched away several drums and chased the drummers who took to their heels for their very dear life. Needless to say that the unjustifiable conduct of the officer has roused the greatest indignation among the local Hindu community.

THE TILAK CASE.

MISREADING OF DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE.

CONVICTION AND SENTENCE SET ASIDE.

On Thursday, on the Appellate Side of the Bombay High Court, the Hon. Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Chief Justice, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Batty delivered judgment on the application made by Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak for a revision of the decision of Mr. Lucas, Sessions Judge of Poona.

The Hon. Mr. Scott, Advocate-General, instructed by Rao Bahadur Kirtikar, Government Pleader, Bombay, and Mr. S. C. Davar, Government Pleader, Poona, appeared for the Crown and Mr. Branson and the Hon. Mr. Daji Abaji Khare for the appellant.

The Chief Justice, in a lengthy judgment, dealt with the evidence on which the prosecution relied, and said it would be instructive now to observe the standard of caution in relation to charges of perjury observed by the highest authorities. According to the criminal law of England, from which our system is so largely drawn, the assignment of perjury must be proved by two witnesses or by one witness, and the proof of other material and relevant facts confirming his testimony. And we have it on high authority that this "is not mere technical rule but a rule founded on substantial justice." The Indian Evidence Act, it is true, does not provide that there must be coroboration to support a conviction, but in ordinary cases and where the provisions peculiar to Indian law do not apply a rule which is founded on substantial justice may well serve as a safe guide to those who have to administer the criminal law in India. Judged by this standard the conviction clearly cannot stand, but even if it be discarded, it is in my opinion clear on the face of the Sessions Judge's judgment that there is not enough to support the conviction. To summarize the position it comes to this: According to the Sessions Judge, Tai Maharaj, the only witness for the prosecution on this point, has given false evidence against the accused in this case, and cannot be credited except where testimony has been borne out in one or other of the three modes named by him: the Advocate-General in reply to a question from the Court has been unable to suggest that any but the first of these modes can apply here; that is, that Tai Maharaj's statement is borne out by the documentary evidence. In our opinion the documentary evidence, when properly considered, absolutely fails to bear out Tai Maharaj's negation. A practical test of the value of these documents is furnished by supposing that they constituted the sole evidence in the case, and that the accused was being tried on them before a Judge and a jury. In such circumstances we have not the smallest doubt that it would be an error of law for the Judge to allow the case to go to the jury; and yet we find the Magistrate says that: "If it had been found impossible to procure Tai Maharaj's attendance in this Court, the case against the accused on the first and most important par of the charge, at any rate, would have lost none, or practically none of its strength." My view of these documents is, that even on the Sessions Judge's adverse reading of them, they could not in reason do more than create suspicion and fall only short of legal proof or even corroboration. When the judgment is analysed it will be seen that it is really based on the inferences drawn on an assumed silence, but as I have already shown that silence could only be assumed by wresting words from their plain and natural meaning, and even were that not so, the circumstances at no time demanded the deduction on whose absence the conviction is based.

When the accused's statements are given the legitimate effect, I refer in particular to Exhibit D. 14, it would be found that so far from there being a significant silence on his part, there was a distinct assertion by him, which was never traversed until the proceedings in which he is supposed to have given false evidence. The onus has been wrongly placed, explanations have been demanded from the accused, when no occasion for them existed and the rule that there must be some thing in the case to make the oath of the previous witness preferable to the oath of the accused, has not been satisfied. We have not discussed individually the introductory documents, as it follows from our estimate of the direct evidence in the case that they can carry matters no further, for there is nothing established to which they can give support. This also applies even to the minute of the 18th June of the trustees' resolution, which has been much discussed on both sides, and we, therefore, only propose briefly to notice those whose value, such as it is, is derived from their nearness in time to the occurrence. First, there is the deed of adoption and as to this it is said that it contains no words indicating a corporeal gift, and that this becomes the more significant in view of the fact that words descriptive of that act, were struck out of the draft. On this we would make the comment that apart from the fact that the documents could not purport to be a narrative of events that had happened, they clearly contemplate that the only thing that would remain to be done would be the ceremonies of "Datta hom," etc., and that all that was essential to make Jagannath the son would be performed at Aurangabad, while the ceremonies of "Datta hom" might be performed at any place. The Shastry's certificate invites the same class of comment. D, 57, must be read as a whole that though the words "I shall not adopt any other boy, other than this your son," may admit of the view that it was a necessary safeguard, it is impossible to overlook the far more distinct expression. "He has the same position as my begotten son would have had if I had one." In this connection we may refer to the difficulty experienced by the Judge by reason of the accused's assertion that the actual placing on the lap was on the 28th, but only in order to point out that the difficulty solely arises if Tilak's statement is assumed to be false and that is the whole question in dispute. The fallacy into which learned Judge has fallen is patent. As we are dealing with this case in revision, we have accepted the Judge's appreciation of the oral evidence and refrain from discussing the probabilities, but we find it very difficult to understand what improbability could attach to the alleged incident of the placing on the lap, if the influence of the accused was sufficient to secure the execution of the adoption deed and that, as Tai Maharaj alleges, against her will and in spite of her protests. The Advocate-General's opening argument before us was based on the fact that the case is before us in revision and not on appeal, but section 435 of the Criminal Procedure Code vests this Court with powers to call for the records of inferior courts for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the correctness, legality or propriety of any finding, sentence or order recorded or passed, and as to the irregularity of the proceedings of an inferior Court, while section 439 defines our powers of revision. We have avoided re-appreciating the oral evidence; we have accepted the Sessions Judge's estimate of it, though, as we have shown, the accused had reason to complain of the failure to discuss the testimony of the witnesses called by him. Our ground of interference, it would be apparent, is the misreading of the documentary evidence and the fundamental errors in principle, which vitiate the conduct and disposal of the case.

Accordingly, we set aside the conviction and sentence and order the fine, if paid, to be refunded.

General Penno, Commanding at Umballa, has been bitten by a rabid dog and has gone to Kasauli.

On Saturday at Kalka the representatives of the East Indian and Simla Railways met. It has been decided to run two trains daily for passengers, the fares to be enhanced. With regard to goods traffic, through booking is arranged at rates from eight annas to one Rupee four annas per maund. Bullock trains will cease running from the 1st proximo. Through booking for passengers is still undecided.

The Annual report 1903 of the Natal Agricultural Department has the following note on the cultivation of tea there. An illustration is given of the tea and factory on the Kearsney estates, which look just like those of Ceylon high country. The Report says:—It is the uncontrolled ravages of insect and fungoid pests which are the chief drawbacks to crop growing in Natal; it is not the climate, for notwithstanding severe hailstorms here and there and so called droughts, Natal is favoured above the average in respect of its climate. Nor is the backward condition of agriculture here due, as some suppose, to any inferiority amongst the white farmers; on the contrary, the average intelligence amongst them is above that in most of the other colonies, in fact, they are more on a level with the planters in India and Ceylon, and many of them are men of education, comparative wealth and enterprise. Some of the agricultural developments in Natal are both creditable to the country itself and of interest to outsiders. The tea industry is a progressive one, and the fine factory on the Kearsney estates, in which the latest machinery is worked by electric power, would not be easily surpassed anywhere. The sugar industry is an important one, though not as progressive as it should be. Tobacco growing as an organised industry is yet barely in its infancy, but there are small beginnings both in cigars and pipe tobacco, which are promising well.

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VICTORIA MEMORIAL EXHIBITION.

His Excellency the Viceroy in opening the Victoria Memorial Exhibition on Thursday last addressed the assembly as follows:—

Your Honour, Ladies and Gentlemen,—Our meeting this afternoon marks a definite stage in a great undertaking. It is now three years since the late Queen Victoria died, and since it was decided at a public meeting in Calcutta to commemorate her by a memorial to be erected in this place, as the capital of the Indian Empire, by the subscriptions of all classes of the Indian peoples. The three years that have since elapsed have been busy years. No one who has not been engaged in the task can appreciate the amount of work involved in raising a fund from all parts of so vast a Continent; but when I tell you that the sums contributed amount with interest on investment to 58 lakhs, you will be able to form some idea both of the magnitude and the success of the undertaking. But there has been a more difficult task still. You will recollect it was decided that the Memorial should take the form of a great marble hall, known as the Victoria Hall, which was to be erected on the Calcutta Maidan and to serve primarily as a Monument to the Queen, and, secondarily as a National Gallery and Valhalla for the Indian Empire. The first thing that we desired to do was to provide a shrine of becoming splendour and dignity to contain the statue, and to perpetuate the memory, of this great and beloved sovereign: and the second thing was to frame the plans and to make arrangements for the construction of a building to contain the collections that we hoped one day to assemble within it. All this had to be done by correspondence with an architect at a distance of 6,000 miles; and you can imagine the labour and the detail involved. But we were fortunate in having recommended to us as our architect Sir William Emerson, recently President of the British Institute of Architects who is with us this afternoon, and who added a thorough knowledge of India to the most eminent professional qualifications; and after two years of anxious discussion and deliberation we have now settled all the preliminary points with him, and have been enabled, during his present visit to Calcutta, to start matters definitely on their way.

You may like to receive some rather more detailed account of the exact stage at which we have arrived. When I presently open the door of the neighbouring galleries, which have been most courteously placed at our disposal by the Trustees of the Indian Museum, we shall see hung on the walls the ground-plans, elevations, and perspective drawing of the great structure that Sir William Emerson has designed. He will himself add a few words, after I have concluded these remarks, in explanation of the style and conception. This great building, to be made of pure white marble, of which we propose to use as much as possible from India, will be erected on that part of the Maidan where is the avenue running up to the west end of the Cathedral. As you will remember, this site was finally decided upon a year ago as the one which satisfied the largest number of the public. The actual site of the Hall will be the spot between the two lakes and the north wall of the present jail; and when the latter is pulled down, as it presently will be, the whole of the grounds belonging to it will be thrown into the surroundings of the Victoria Hall, so that that corner of the Maidan will be converted from an eyesore, which it now is, into a beautiful and spacious park in the middle of which will rise the glittering marble structure, standing upon a terrace of white marble and facing northwards across the Parade Ground, with its central dome of white marble soaring into the air to a height of 160 feet, and visible from every part of the river and the Maidan. I daresay it will take several years before the fabric is completed. But a substantial beginning has already been made. The tests that were ordered to ascertain the nature of the foundations have been more satisfactory even than we hoped for; and if any one here were to proceed to that part of the Maidan and to procure admittance to the space that has been fenced off, he would find hundreds of coolies at work inside; there would be our friend, Sir Acquin Martin, superintending the operations; and in the excavated space below the surface of the ground he would see the bed of concrete being laid, which is to provide the solid and indestructible base that will sustain the huge weight of the marble halls and colonnades that are later on to rise above it.

So much for the building and the site. Now let me say something of the contents. It may be remembered that three years ago it was often said "You may erect your Hall easily enough, but what are you going to put inside it?"—to which my answer always was that, when once the building was raised, the difficulty would be not what to admit, but what to exclude. I pointed out that there already were in Calcutta and in India the materials ready at hand for one of the noblest and most interesting historical collections in the world: statues and paintings, documents and manuscripts, arms and accoutrements, trophies and relics, which, when brought together, would be an epitome of the history of India, and would keep alive the names and memorials of great events and great men. Ladies and gentlemen India has been one of the foremost stages of the panorama that we call human history. Why, then, here alone should its relics not be collected in order to tell its tale, to stimulate the sentiments of national patriotism and self-respect, and to demonstrate to the world that we have a past to be proud of, and a future to look forward to?

However, as years must elapse before the building could be finished and the collections installed, the more practical thing seemed to me to be to begin with the germ of the collection at once, and so to supply a concrete illustration of what it will ultimately become. His Majesty the King-Emperor was himself our first donor and patron. He sent out to us as his personal gift a number of oil paintings depicting the chief scenes in the life of the late Queen. They will ultimately be hung in the vestibule of the Central Hall, which will be called the Queen's Vestibule, and will be set apart for memorials personal to herself. You will see the pictures in the collection that I am about to open, and I hope in the course of my forthcoming visit to England to procure a number of objects to add to them.

Next one of the chief features of the Memorial will be the Hall of Princes, which will be set apart for the contributions and collection of the Indian Chiefs. Some of them will be given; others placed there on loan. I have not yet brought here a single one of these objects, though it would have been easy to collect a large numbed, because they are in so many cases of great value, and it would be a heavy responsibility to be answerable for their safety during the next seven or eight years. But during my tours I have found the most extreme anxiety on the part of the Indian Princes to contribute from the immense stores of arms, historical relics, and objects of art hidden away in their treasuries and toshakhanas, and had there been any point in doing so, I could have filled several galleries in this Museum several times over. The difficulty, when the time arrives, will be to select from the articles that may be offered, so as to make the collection thoroughly representative and of the finest quality. For you will remember that to everything that is to be placed in the Victoria Hall, one of two tests is to be applied: personal interest because the thing is connected with some illustrious man; or historical value, because it is connected with some notable incident or some remarkable scene.

However, as I could not at once begin with the Princes for the reasons that I have named I set about making such collections as were more readily at hand, and as seemed likely to furnish a clue to the class of objects that we shall want later on. In our Government archives here we possess a series of most interesting historical documents, seals, &c., which have been placed on view. A number of generous donors, among whom I must specially mention the Raja of Hill Tippera, have already presented to us several valuable engravings and prints. Mr. Wilson, who was my right-hand man in all the enquiries connected with the identification and commemoration of old Fort William and the Black Hole, has had made a most beautiful and interesting model of the Fort which you will presently see, and which will be the first, I hope, of a series of similar models that the Victoria Hall will ultimately contain. He has also written an admirable little explanatory monograph which will be procurable within. A number of busts and paintings have been given by individual well-wishers. There is the nucleus of a collection of objects connected with the Delhi Durbar of 1st January 1903. Some Indian gentlemen of scholarly tastes such as Colloulvi Khuda Baksh of Patna and others, have presented us with exquisite Oriental manuscripts. Finally the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, whose eldest son is here to-day, has presented to us a magnificent collection from the store-house of treasures in his palace at Murshidabad, illustrating the history of his famous predecessors when they represented the Mogul Sovereign in the "musnud" of Bengal. Here you will see the black marble throne on which Clive took his seat side by side with Nawab Nazim Nujmud Dowlah when the British took over the Dewani of Bengal, Behar, and Orissa in 1766. You will see the embroidered "kanat" which surrounded the camp of the invading Maharattas and was carried off by Aliverdi Khan in about 1764; and you will see fire-arms, guns, historical documents, and illuminated Korans and manuscripts of the utmost rarity and value. The Nawab presented all these objects to us unsolicited, and declared that he would far rather that they were seen by hundreds of thousands of persons in the year at Calcutta than by a few stray visitors at Murshidabad.

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, this is only, as I have said, the germ and beginning of what we hope to collect later on. But it will, I trust, serve a double object. It will give to the public some idea of the nature of the collections that the Victoria Hall is intended to contain, and it will act as a spur to the generosity of others. Large though the sum is that we have already collected, we shall want more if the building is not only to be raised and completed, but to be adequately decorated inside and out, and to be furnished with spacious and befitting surroundings. Then as to our collections, they must necessarily be largely dependent on the liberality of individuals. There are hundreds and even thousands of persons in India and in England who have in their objects of the very character that we desire, or who perhaps know where they are to be found. We must be greatly dependent upon their interest and aid. I think, if I may say so, that the principal need of the immediate future is a band of enthusiastic fellowworkers who will help to distribute the labour and will cooperate even from the most distant parts. I will not now detain you further, but will mention that the Trustees hope to bring out in a short time a second number of the Victoria Memorial Journal, which will contain our history up to date; as well as a list and description of all the objects hitherto presented. The successive numbers of this journal will thus in time provide a "catalogue raisonne" of the collection as soon as the Hall is opened. It only remains for me to bespeak the friendly interest of the public in the future progress of events. The realization of big schemes, such as this, depends almost entirely on voluntary effort. Though the subscriptions have come from all parts of India, yet it is in Calcutta that the activity must necessarily be centred; and I hope that there will never be wanting enthusiastic and cultivated spirits in this place, such as have worked with me so energetically during the past three years, to carry to successful completion the great and responsible enterprise which we have taken in hand.

SIR HENRY COTTON IN NOTTINGHAM.

INTERESTING LECTURE ON TIBET.

Sir Henry Cotton, K.C.S.I., the Liberal candidate for East Nottingham, delivered a most interesting lecture last night in the Morley Memorial Hall on the subject of Tibet. Alderman F. Puliman, J.P., presided over a large audience, being supported on the platform by Sir Henry Cotton, Councillor Dr. Brown Sim, the Rev. L. Knowlson, and Mr. W. Davis. Amongst those present were: Messrs. T. H. Goddard, sen., W. H. Goddard, R. Colton, T. Poole, J. Noble, E. Bretle, G. Hallas (Liberal Agent,) J. Keywood, A. Franks, J. P. Straw, W. W. Clark, W. Wilkins, W. Sadler, G. B. Goodb, W. Whiting, G. Marshall, J. Whiteman, J. Burgass J. E. Greenbury, Mrs. Lloyd, Messrs. C. Sanders, T. Hugh, J. S. Pullon, J. Sylvester, Mr. and Mrs. Sansom, Miss Richardson, Mr. T. Wood, Mrs. Hallas, Messrs. G. McCree, F. Richardson, &c.

The Chairman, in introducing Sir Henry, said they all felt, he was sure, that the present Government could not last very much longer on its present line of conduct. Their majorities were dwindling away on every division, and they had lost a very great number of their best supporters in whom the country had much confidence. He hoped the increasing numbers of the Liberal party would be used very successfully against His Majesty's present Ministry. (Applause.)

Sir Henry Cotton, who was very warmly cheered on rising, plunged at once into his subject with a description of the country. Tibet, he said, was a land of mystery and romance, and had always had a peculiar attraction for Englishmen. It should be, at least, of special interest at the present moment, inasmuch as we had a political mission now in the heart of the country and a large number of troops in occupation in part of the province, and escorting, as it was alleged, that mission. No Englishman ever visited Lhassa until the beginning of last century, Thomas Manning, a member of the Chinese Consular Service, and a very distinguished Chinese scholar, being the first and only Englishman who had found his way within the forbidden or sacred city. Tibet was a province of the Chinese Empire, and one of the grave complications which had been the occasion of the despatch of the present mission was that the Viceroy of India was animated by the desire of dealing directly with the Dalai Lama of Lhassa, and his failure to do so had been one of the troublous incidents connected with the mission. The Government had at last published a Blue Book on the subject of Tibet, and he was doing no injustice, he thought, to the Government when he said that the cause of the mission might be briefly described as twofold. First, it was alleged that it was necessary for the British Government to assert itself in Tibet in order to neutralise the intrigues of Russia in the country; and, secondly, to put it plainly, it was necessary to enforce our trade and commerce with Tibet by means of troops. There was naturally a prejudice against Russia amongst Englishmen, and he was the last to deny that the Russians were past-masters in the art of intrigue. He was, however, able to find no evidence—no justification—for the imputation of their intrigues in Tibet. Some time ago a number of Tibetans arrived at St. Petersburg, and were received by the Czar, but that was declared by Count Lamsdorff to have been purely theological mission. Subsequently, a mart was established at Yatung, as the result of negotiations, by which Englishmen were to be allowed to trade with the Tibetans and the Chinese to provide the buildings. The volume of trade, however, was miserably small; the Tibetans had not encouraged it, and they wanted as little dealings with foreign nations as possible. Considering that China was the suzerain of Tibet, it would be right and proper that our negotiations should be direct with China; but it was held by the Government of India that we should no longer deal with China, but direct with the Tibetans. For this purpose we sent an armed mission, which failed in its object, and, as it was held that our officer had been grossly insulted, the present expedition was despatched. He (Sir Henry) sincerely believed that the Government of India did not wish anything approaching a conflict with the Tibetans, but it seemed at this point the Tibetans had passively opposed any further advance by the expedition. The Tibetans had no army, but five or six thousand had assembled at a point about eight miles in advance of our army, and, he gathered, they had intimated that they would oppose any further advance. He gave the Indian Government credit for being reluctant to continue their advance by force to Lhassa, and so the expedition was halting. What the escape from the position might be he knew not. From the first he had condemned the expedition (Applause.) There was no adequate justification for our intruding upon the affairs of a peaceful country which had really no practical dealings with us and did not want to have any. The wisest course, in his opinion, was for us to withdraw and acknowledge that a gross error had been made. (Applause.) Both Houses of Parliament ought to make a vigorous protest against the aggressive policy of the Government in Tibet. (Applause.)

On the motion of Dr. Sim, seconded by the Rev. M. Knowlson, a resolution thanking Sir Henry for his address was passed with acclamation.

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

9. DR. R. MONIER, M. B. C. M. (Edin.), Resident Surgeon, Park Street, Government Charitable Dispensary, says—"... Healing Balm was used by me in several cases of Gonorrhœa and was found successful."

10. DR. R. A. FERMIE L. R. C. P. & S. etc., says:—"... I used Healing Balm for Gonorrhœa in a number of my patients and found it very efficatious."

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