

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, July 27, 1918.

IN CONSIDERING THE REFORM SCHEME PREPARED by Mr. Montagu and Lord Chelmsford it is well to ask ourselves whether the proposed constitution will enable us to do what we cannot do at present. If we apply the new constitution to a few test cases it will be seen that it will not take us very far. For what are some of the burning questions on which the people and the bureaucracy have clashed during the last decade? They are undoubtedly the Press Acts, the Seditious Meetings Act, and the Defence of India Act. Over these matters the scheme proposes to give the people no power whatever. Take the case of the Arms Act again, which is not a question of a decade or two decades, but of nearly half a century. This subject too is "reserved", out of popular control. It is pertinent to ask, what is the worth of a species of popular government which gives the people no hand in such vital questions?

THE WORST OF IT IS THAT THESE TOPICS ARE by implication kept outside the purview of the Legislature. The legislature may feel ever so strongly on these matters. But what is the good of debating these questions when the Governor considers existing measures necessary to the "good" of the country? Questions like these will not be discussed on their merits, but will be left at the sole discretion of an autocrat. A popular assembly which can not institute measures for preserving and enlarging the liberties of the citizen is merely a magnified District Board.

THE REVIVED ACTIVITY OF THE PUNJAB Government in its relation to the Press has unfortunately synchronised with the publication of the Montagu-Chelmsford scheme. Only the other day an order was passed on the editor of the *Observer* requiring him to submit all his publications previously to the Government censor, which caused that journal to stop publication. *New India* from being imported into its territory. These measures are not reassuring to the press and the public and are not calculated to allay popular discontent.

THE ROWLATT COMMITTEE WHICH WAS appointed in December of last year to investigate on the nature and extent of criminal conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movement in India has published its report. The Committee hold that it has not been possible to repress crimes of this nature through the ordinary machinery of the Criminal Law, the reason being that the kind of evidence required to convict in a court of law is not forthcoming, although there can be little doubt of the guilt of particular persons. The committee suggest (1) certain additions and alterations in the ordinary criminal law of the land to secure more easy convictions; and (2) that the constitution of special tribunals and their present procedure should be altered. The Defence of India Act is to be retained in a modified form.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE regarding the composition of the special tribunals will, we believe, secure a more just administration of the Defence of India Act. "It seems inadvisable", says the Report, "that these tribunals should to any extent be composed of persons not

already members of the judiciary but selected by the executive for the purpose of the specific cases. Moreover, as the right of appeal is taken away, the tribunals should be of the highest strength and authority." They therefore suggest that the tribunals should consist of High Court or Chief Court Judges selected by the head of the Court.

AS REGARDS PROCEDURE THE MAIN SUGGESTIONS of the committee are (1) that proceedings should start with a detailed written complaint to be drawn up by the Government Prosecutor; (2) the prosecution witnesses should be first examined in chief, but the accused should not be called upon to cross-examine at this stage; (3) that the charge should be framed with regard to such of the accused against whom there is prima facie evidence; (4) that the case should then be adjourned for a period of at least ten days (5) that at the expiry of the period of adjournment the cross-examination of the witnesses and the rest of the trial should proceed.

MR. B. P. WADIA, PRESIDENT OF THE MADRAS Labourers' Union, in a speech at a meeting of labourers at Pirambar explained why their meetings had been discontinued since the 27th May. It appears from the speech that Lord Pentland in an interview expressed his disapproval of Mr. Wadia's activities among millhands of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills as the latter were engaged in doing war work. Mr. Wadia tried to convince His Excellency of the purity of his intentions, and at his request saw Mr. A. P. Symonds of Messrs. Binney and Co. Mr. Symonds evidently did not share in His Excellency's misgivings. Later on Mr. Wadia wrote a letter to Mr. Symonds stating the labourers' grievances, and demanded an increase of wages. Mr. Wadia in his letter stated that the labourers knew that owing to large war contracts the mills were making enormous profits, and they wanted to have a share. The letter also stated that they were aware that as a result of Mr. Gandhi's efforts the mill hands at Ahmadabad had got an increase of 20 per cent.

PENDING THE REPLY TO HIS LETTER TO MR. Symonds Mr. Wadia offered to stop the meetings of the labourers. Up to the date of the speech referred to above no reply had been received from Mr. Symonds. Mr. Wadia, addressing the meeting, said there were some among the labourers who were strongly of opinion that they should go out on strike immediately. The speaker wanted them to exercise moderation and to obey him implicitly. He was against a strike. If by a strike they were merely affecting the pockets of Messrs. Binney and Co., he would not mind. But the work on which they were engaged was of national importance. Our soldiers who were fighting on the battlefield must be clothed. They had no right to inconvenience them because they had fallen out with their European employers. Therefore there must be no strikes.

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THE SPEAKER MADE SOME REMARKABLE statements regarding the attitude of Government towards labour leaders. "I have good reason", said he, "to believe that Government are going to apply repressive measures to all those who come here to help you. A couple of days ago there was published the following: 'A new rule issued under the Defence of India Act makes salutary provision against the stirring up of industrial agitation among the classes engaged in work necessary for the successful prosecution of the war. The maximum penalty for the violation of the rule is three years' imprisonment with a fine.' This meant that if he came to them and spoke to them on Saturday evenings, the government would under some pretext or other arrest him and put him into prison. He was not afraid of going into prison. But he asked them whether they wanted him to risk his freedom at this juncture. The fight for Home Rule was being waged just now. Home Rule was the big issue in which all minor issues were included, and if he had to go to prison he would prefer to go on the larger issue.

WRITING TO THE *Daily News* MR. JOSIAH Wedgwood, M. P. urges Indians to accept the new charter because, firstly, the provincial legislatures will be directly elected, the representation of minorities being at present left to nomination. In ten years we shall see whether India cannot pull together and whether the lines of cleavage will not be no longer racial and religious, but the well-understood divisions of Liberal and Conservative which will need no nomination privilege. Secondly, in ten years the scheme must be revised. Meanwhile Indian patriots can and must transfer their activities to the legislative councils where they will be protected by privilege, to Parliament where their words will be reported. The danger for the British Labour party is that election to Parliament too often means the opening of private chances of preferment and office. The intransigent can expect no jobs and nothing but injury to his fortune and profession. Fortunately, the members on the new councils will to some extent eliminate this danger. Mr. Wedgwood doubts whether the powers of the legislative councils will be important enough to ensure that men without axes to grind shall compete to sit on them and says that this depends primarily on whether the councils will or will not have power to impose, remit and vary taxation. Some Indians will see in the devolution to the provincial councils a desire to split India and so destroy the national spirit and movement. Even though there should be something of that sort behind the idea, yet that must be temporary and we know that devolution is right liberalism. It will make more political thought and more politicians and it is just the school for the future that is wanted to put India by the side of Britain as equals in freedom.

THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL HAS ISSUED the following communique:—The Government of India have sanctioned the re-opening of enlistment of persons other than European British subjects in the Indian Defence Force. The sanctioned establishment of the 4th Calcutta Infantry, which takes recruits from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam is 1,000 men. Last year 1,258 applications to join the battalion were received but only 200 men were actually enrolled and only 99 appeared for preliminary training. These figures do not, however, include the Calcutta University Corps and the Bengal Light Horse. For the former there were 1,099 applicants, of whom 411 were enrolled, and for the latter 344 applicants of whom 208 were enrolled. The Indian Defence Force is essentially a citizen

force and its primary use will be to support the civil power in the event of internal disorder. This duty will fall upon European and Indian units alike, but as soon as a suitable strength has been reached and the requisite degree of efficiency has been developed, it is intended to assign to Indian units a definite role in the defence of the country. The Government of India accordingly desire that the sanctioned units should be recruited to their full establishment as soon as possible so that immediate progress may be made with the training required to fit them for their duties. If an Indian portion of the Indian Defence Force is to be of real value in the present emergency it is essential that the units already formed should be rapidly completed. The response hitherto made in Bengal to the opportunities offered to young Indians to join the Indian Defence Force has been disappointing. Approximately 900 men are required to bring the Calcutta battalion up to its full strength. In view of the desire expressed in many quarters for opportunities of sharing in the defence of the country it is believed that the required number can be obtained without interfering with recruitment for the regular army.

IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT THE FOLLOWING classes of temporary officers of the Indian Medical Service may be permitted to re-engage under the terms of the Army Department letter dated 9th February, 1915, provided they have been continuously employed since their first appointment:—(a) Those who were engaged by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, for service overseas prior to the issue of the letter quoted above, as well as those engaged under the terms of that letter; (b) those who were engaged by the Bombay Relief Fund for service in Egypt and subsequently re-engaged by the Government of India. The officers referred to above should accordingly be paid at the rate of 24 shillings per diem whether serving in India or overseas.

WE UNDERSTAND THAT SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT of the present month three steamers have arrived in India, each bringing a large amount of American silver the total aggregating to well over thirty million ounces or enough to coin upwards of ten crores of rupees. These form only the initial instalments of the amount secured which will all arrive in due course, enabling the mints to keep up a continuous coinage programme. Though the mints have been handicapped in the last two or three weeks by the influenza epidemic which broke out first at Bombay and then at Calcutta the stocks of rupees actually coined in the paper currency reserve continue to show a steady improvement.

THERE IS A STRONG RUMOUR THAT THE HON. Mr. Sharfuddin is going to retire from the Executive Council (either temporarily or permanently), and that Sir Ali Imam is going to succeed him. It is even whispered in some quarters that Sir Ali is himself trying to seek nomination to the post. Perhaps the report has its origin in his recent visit to Ranchi to see his uncle. We do not believe it. However we strongly object to nominations to high Executive offices from the Bench. If the Bench is regarded as a stepping stone to higher places, the High Court will lose its independence. When Lord Morley adumbrated his reforms he gave a very definite understanding that the Indian member on an Executive Council should always be a non-official. Appointments from among the judiciary runs counter to this policy. We also object to the policy of distributing high offices among a selected number of persons for long periods. Sir S. P. Sinha was member of the Governor General's

Executive Council. But soon after his retirement from that office he was appointed to the Bengal Executive Council, and now it is rumoured that he is going to be offered the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bihar. Sir Ali is slightly behind Sir S. P. Sinha in the race. But his career seems to have been chalked out on the same plan. We have the highest opinion of Sir Ali Imam's abilities, but we see no reason why other men should not be given the opportunity to show their abilities. The field for training Indians to high administrative functions is exceedingly limited, and its usefulness should be made maximum by making the few high posts open to Indians circulate rapidly among the leaders of public life. It is in this way alone that the bracing atmosphere of public life can be made to infuse vigour into the closed citadel of officialdom.

WE HAVE RECEIVED WITH MUCH SORROW THE news of the death of the Maharaja Visva Nath Deva Sharma, Feudatory Chief of Athgarh. The Maharajah was a true Vaishnav and a lover of Sanskrit poetry and was himself a poet of no mean order. His enthusiasm for the spread of ancient learning and culture are too well-known to require mention here. He spent large sums in erecting and maintaining Hindu temples. But his munificence was not limited to charities of this nature; for he donated a sum of rupees twenty thousand towards the establishment of the Engineering School at Cuttack. The Maharaja leaves behind him a minor son and two "ranis" to mourn his loss. We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.

SOMETIME AGO COMPLAINTS APPEARED IN THE columns of the *Bengalee* regarding the misconduct of some Gurkha troops at Hazaribagh. It was reported that a few Gurkha soldiers entered the house of a respectable gentleman, but left when the master of the house appeared on the spot. When that gentleman and his son accompanied by the police went to identify the offenders, they were assaulted by the Gurkhas. It was further reported that some Gurkhas pursued a Brahmo lady. The editor of the *Sanjibani* wrote to the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh enquiring if these allegations were true. The Deputy Commissioner's reply has been published in the columns of the *Sanjibani*. He admits that the first part of the allegations is substantially correct, but asserts that the statement regarding the insult to a Brahmo lady is baseless. We are not satisfied with the Deputy Commissioner's reply. We should like to know what steps Government has taken in this matter, and what punishment has been meted out to the men who entered a respectable gentleman's house.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE MONTAGU Chelmsford scheme is going to be considered in the special session of the Congress, it is important that all members who are going to take part in the deliberations should have a clear conception of the principles by which they are to be guided. Of all the opinions which have been published on this subject none seems more reasonable and straightforward than that expressed by Mr. P. R. Das of the Patna High Court Bar in a letter written to the *Leader* some time before the publication of the Report. Below we make an extract from this letter, and commend it to the notice of not only the average Congress man, but of every right-thinking and educated Indian:—

For myself my position as one of the rank and file is clear. To my mind the Congress-

(Continued on page 4)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Second Indian War Loan.

The whole of the cash subscriptions received will be given to His Majesty's Government for the prosecution of the War as part of India's £ 100 million contribution.

ISSUE OF

- 5½ per cent. Income-tax Free War Bonds, 1921 Repayable on the 15th September 1921 at Rs. 100 per cent.
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POST OFFICE 5-YEAR CASH CERTIFICATES FREE OF INCOME-TAX.

Principal and Interest on the Revenue and Assets of the Government of India.

WAR BONDS 1921, 1923, 1925, AND 1928:

Issue Price : Rs. 100 for every Rs. 100 applied for
Interest : Payable half-yearly at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum on the 15th March and the 15th September.

Advance interest from the date of purchase to the 14th September 1918 will be paid at the time of purchase of Bonds.

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Special Rights : War Bonds 1921, 1923, 1925 and 1928 will be accepted at par during the currency of the Bonds as the equivalent of cash for the purpose of subscription to any future long term loan issued by the Government of India, whatever rate of interest is attached to such issue.

Interest of War Bonds 1921, 1923, 1925 and 1928 will be income-tax-free but will be taken into account in determining the rate at which the tax levied on other income and will be liable to super-tax.

Form of Securities : War Bonds will be issued in the form of (a) Inscribed Stock Certificates, or (b) Promissory Notes. These will subsequently, if desired, be exchanged, free of cost, for Bearer Bonds when the latter are available.

If no preference is stated by the purchaser, War Bonds will be issued in the form of Inscribed Stock Certificate.

Promissory Notes, will in order to avoid delay, be issued in the first instance in as few separate pieces as possible but these will later on be exchanged free of charge for pieces of such denominations as may be applied for. A single Stock Certificate will be issued for the amount required.

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Issue price.

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League scheme is not something so sacred that it cannot be touched. But for the present I stand committed to the Congress-League scheme. I have made my offer and I am waiting for the counter offer on the other side. But, I reserve to myself the right to discuss the counter-offer on its own merits without any reference to the Congress-League scheme, but to discuss it in the subjects committee meeting of the Special Sessions of the Congress or on the Congress platform. If there is anything substantial in the counter-offer though it may fall short of our scheme I reserve to myself the right to try and persuade the Congress to accept it. But if the Congress does not accept it, I stand by the Congress, and not by the Chelmsford Montagu scheme. But of one thing I am certain: I have made my offer and shall join no league (however national or liberal it may be) until the Special Session of the Congress has met and deliberated on the subject. I shall not either expressly or by implication tell the Government of the day: "Our deliberations in the Congress are in the nature of a farce. We have by laborious enterprise merely built a house of cards. Blow into it, if you like, and give us if you prefer another house of cards to play with."

IN THE OPINION OF SOME PEOPLE THE EASIEST thing in the world is to be a critic. Byron very well represents this contemptuous attitude towards the critic's function when he says,—"A man must serve his time to every trade save critics, they are always ready made." It goes without saying that those who have such a low opinion of the critic's function will themselves make critics of not a very high order. It will be some comfort to those who like us belong to the much-abused profession of journalism to read the following extract which we make from a contemporary:—

There is a period in the life of every man when he thinks and says that he should have been a great editor, because he is quite certain that he could run his favourite paper, good as it is, better than the present editor. To fill any position, it is necessary to undergo training, to acquire all the desirable qualifications. Those of an editor are not less varied and numerous than for other and better paid occupations. Will Carleton once wrote a poem on the subject. Some of the lines are given below:—

"Is your son a small, unbound edition of Moses and Solomon, both?
Can he compass his spirit with meekness and strangle a natural oath?
Can he leave all his wrongs to the future and carry his heart in his cheek?
Can he do an hour's work in a minute and live on sixpence a week?
Can he courteously talk with an equal and browbeat an impudent dunce?
Can he keep things in apple-pie order and do half a dozen at once?
Can he press all the springs of knowledge with quick and reliable touch?
And be sure that he knows how much to know and knows how to not know too much?
Does he know how to spur up his virtue and put a check rein on his pride?
Can he carry a gentleman's manners within a rhinoceros hide?
Can he do all and be all with cheerfulness, courage and vim?
If so, perhaps, you can be making an editor out of him."

THE CENTRAL PUBLICITY BOARD IS DOING good work in issuing pamphlets urging men to help the cause of empire, and pointing out the means by

which they can do so. But we must confess, its enthusiasm for the good cause sometimes preponderates over sound economic principles. In a pamphlet recently issued by the Board entitled "India's opportunity; why I should subscribe to the War Loan," the writer after stating that "every rupee subscribed to the War Loan will be spent in India and strengthen her agriculture and her industries", goes on to say in the same breath that "every rupee subscribed to the War Loan will help to keep down prices by reducing the currency." The fallacy involved in the above statements is obvious. For even if we admit that there is a direct relation between the quantity of goods and the quantity of currency, it is difficult to see how the subscription to the War Loan will of itself reduce the currency. Subscription to the War Loan means a transfer of money from the credit of private individuals to that of the Government. If Government were to leave this sum unspent with the Banks, or if it locked up the currency in its own strong boxes, the matter would have been different. But if it spends this money in purchasing Indian products, the money comes back to the market just as if it had been spent by individuals. We cannot imagine how government can at the same time give a stimulus to Indian industries by appearing as a large buyer, and keep down prices. We are always inclined to make large allowances for "puffing," but statements published under the sign-manual of such a body of *quidnuncs* as the Central Publicity Board should be a little more circumspect.

THE *Searchlight* IN COMMENTING ON THE practice of the Patna High Court in the matter of permitting Advocates and Vakils of other High Courts to appear before it, says, "we are gratified to learn that the Chief Justice refused such permission the other day on an application that Mr. C. R. Das and Sir Benode Mitter may be allowed to appear for the Maharaja Bahadur of Dumraon in his litigation with Rai Bahadur Harihar Prasad Singh." We ask, "whom does the *Searchlight* represent—the public or the bar?" The latter of course will welcome any proposal to treat the crop of litigation in this province as a close preserve for its own benefit. But the public, whose servants the bar has the honour to be, has no cause for the peculiar gratification which our contemporary feels. If the litigant public consider that their interests will be better served by lawyers from other High Courts, there seems to be no good reason why they should be debarred from this privilege.

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Little's Oriental Balm is an Ache and Pain Insurance for those who keep it handy can have INSTANT relief from Backache, Headache, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sprains and EVERY pain, small or great. It soothes the throbbing nerves, it brings ease and comfort, it restores the injured, aching body or limb to its natural, normal health.

There is no question about this—no doubt whatever. Thousands have used it—thousands today keep it constantly close at hand, for emergencies, knowing its mighty power to save and soothe and relieve.

Why risk the torment of pain or endure the acute discomfort of tortured nerves when Re. 1 will supply you with a bottle of this proven, unfailing remedy—this INSURANCE against aches and pains?

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THE MONTAGU REPORT AND PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

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The more we study the otherwise careful and comprehensive report on the Indian Constitutional Reforms, the stronger does our conviction grow that on the subject of the re-arrangement of Provincial and Imperial Finance, the Secretary of State's proposals do not evince that amount of thoroughness and clarity which the importance of the question fully required. This is indeed a pity for when the scheme comes to be considered, the separation of provincial and Imperial revenues is the one really important suggestion in the scheme which has any direct and immediate bearing on practical politics. Whatever meaning people might have put on the expression "provincial autonomy," it has been used as one of the basic principles of all schemes of reform that have lately been put forward, whether proceeding from official or non-official sources. Great things were therefore expected in the Montagu Report, and the public cannot be blamed if after being kept on the tenterhooks of expectation it is sorely disappointed to find the whole subject but perfunctorily treated and proposals adumbrated which betray imperfect acquaintance with the various issues involved.

Thus the suggestion that the present system of divided heads should be abolished has been made as a means of separating the resources of the central and provincial Governments. Now, we agree that "it would be ridiculous to introduce wide measures of administrative and legislative devolution and at the same time to retain a centralised system of finance." But what is the proposal before us? It is that there should no longer be any divided head of income, the receipts from income-tax and stamps being made wholly imperial, and the remaining divided heads, namely, land revenue, irrigation, excise and judicial stamps being made entirely provincial. But what about the expenditure under those heads? At present, that is with the exception of that under land revenue as much divided as the income. So far as we can judge from the figures of provincial finance relied upon in the Report it would seem that the present division is to be retained with regard to the expenditure under these heads. So long as the present divided expenditure continues, we do not understand how Mr. Montagu claims to effect a complete segregation of the Government of India in financial matters. It is not that the question of expenditure has not been broached at all; it has, for example, been laid down that "famine expenditure and expenditure on Major irrigation works are for obvious reasons closely connected with land revenue, and if the receipts from that head are made provincial it logically follows that the provinces should take over the very heavy liability for famine relief and protective works." But nothing has been said about the other divided heads of expenditure, and we presume they will remain divided as before.

We have had the time or material to test the figures only of this Province. The gross provincial revenue of Bihar and Orissa is stated to be (in lakhs of rupees) 4,04; and the gross provincial expenditure 3,59, leaving a gross provincial surplus of 45. The gross provincial surplus for India is under the scheme estimated at 15,64 lakhs while the resultant deficit in the Government of India budget is stated to be 13,63 lakhs which comes to 87 per cent. of the provincial surplus. On this basis, the Report fixes in the place of the divided heads of income, a permanent contribution from the provinces to the Imperial chest amounting to 87 per cent of the gross provincial surplus. How arbitrary and shaky in its foundation the proposal is is clearly established from an inspection of the Bihar figures for instance.

The gross revenue and expenditure of the province as given in the last Budget, are as follows:—

	(In lakhs of Rupees)	
	Revenue	Expenditure.
1916-17 Actuals	3,18	3,13
1917-18 Budget	3,17	3,40
1917-18 Revised	3,27	3,37
1918-19 Budget	3,47	3,67

Taking the heads which are proposed to be wholly provincialised, we find that the Province would have gained the following amounts over the above figures:—

	(In Thousands of Rupees.)			
	Land Revenue.	Excise.	Irrigation.	Total.
1916-17 Actuals	65.78	28.07	13.00	1,06,85
1917-18 Budget	65.70	28.25	12.85	1,06,80
1917-18 Revised	65.50	29.75	13.11	1,08,36
1918-19 Budget	65.70	30.15	13.36	1,09,21

The total thus arrived at would be subject to a deduction of the loss that would be incurred by the transfer to Imperial of the entire Income-Tax and Stamps, which is computed below on the figures of the same years:—

	(In Thousands of Rupees.)		
	Income Tax.	Stamps.	Total.
1916-17 Actuals	10,11	36,61	46,72
1917-18 Budget	9,65	37,75	47,40
1917-18 Revised	11,00	38,00	49,00
1917-18 Budget	11,50	39,25	51,00

Deducting these totals from those of the preceding table we find that the net gain on the revenue in these years from the proposed abolition of divided heads and re-arrangement of Imperial and provincial heads would have been

	(In Thousands of Rupees.)			
	1916-17 Actuals.	1917-18 Budget.	1917-18 Revised.	1918-19 Budget.
Not Gain	60,13	59,40	59,36	58,21
Add existing revenue	3,18,61	3,17,52	3,27,07	3,47,22
Total gross revenue under the scheme	3,78,74	3,76,92	3,86,43	4,05,43

With respect to the gross expenditure, we must add to the figures given, famine expenditure and expenditure on major irrigation, we mean that portion of them which used to be met from Imperial. This leads to the following table:—

	(In Thousands of Rupees.)		
	Existing Heads.	Increase in Irrigation, and Famine.	Total expenditure under the scheme.
1916-17 Actuals	3,13,60	17,04	3,30,64
1917-18 Budget	3,40,73	18,95	3,59,68
1917-18 Revised	3,37,08	17,61	3,54,69
1918-19 Budget	3,67,16	17,71	3,84,87

We have taken some pains to give the figures that would be arrived at on a calculation from the accounts and Budgets of the preceding years on the basis proposed by Mr. Montagu. It will be found that the revenue according to the Budget of 1917-18 is much lower than the figure taken by Mr. Montagu. This is no doubt due to the entire amount of the income from stamps being credited to Imperial, while the Report contemplates that the income from Court-Fees should be provincial. On this basis, the gross provincial revenue should however be much higher than that arrived at by Mr. Montagu. Thus, if the entire income from Court-Fees be provincial the gain from stamps on the provincial budget for 1917-18 would be Rs. 29,93 while the loss would be 7,81 instead of 37,75 the

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figure which we have taken. In that case the net gain to the provincial revenue would be 1,19,27 which would bring the gross income to 4,36,79. It is obvious therefore that other adjustments must have been made, for the gross revenue of this province taken in the report is 4,04 lakhs.

In any case it is clear that the arrangement proposed is disastrous from the point of view, at any rate, of this Province. There are a hundred and one wants of the Province which have hitherto remained unattended to, firstly, because it was so long swamped in Bengal and, secondly, on account of the war. The strictest possible economy in the expenditure has been effected. The scheme contemplates a saving of about six lakhs annually on the basis of an extremely economical budget on the side of expenditure and of rare prosperity on the side of revenue. It does not at all contemplate the possibility of a deficit in the provincial budget, a by no means rare possibility, to judge from the events of the last eight years. It is extremely surprising that the report which has dealt exhaustively with all possible objections on every other subject should be so silent on a question on the satisfactory solution of which depends solely the success of the administration, whether reformed or otherwise.

It is equally astonishing that the proposals do not take into consideration two very important matters in connection with the relations between Imperial and Provincial Finances. The first is the question of Provincial Balances. There is a huge balance standing to the credit of this province representing the balance of the grant for the establishment of the New Province and subsequent accumulations. What is to be done with this balance? Is it going to be handed over to the Province or is it to be absorbed in the Indian Balance? If it is to remain to the credit of the Province shall we have complete autonomy with regard to its employment? Then again there are important dealings which are known as Transfers between Imperial and Provincial. These dealings are just now very much in favour of our Province, the net income from them as provided in the current budget being nearly 53 lakhs. Will all these be put an end to? The only hint that we have on both these points is given in paras 208 and 209 of the Report in the former of which it is stated that "there will be no more ear-marking of any portion of provincial balances; and that portions previously ear-marked will be available for general purposes," while in the next paragraph it is stated that "the mere provincialisation of heads of revenue and expenditure will therefore not of itself suffice to free the provinces from the restrictions on their spending powers which the provisions of Codes and other standing orders impose upon them," for to give the provinces a freer hand, "it will be necessary to relax India Office control." We are certainly told that "proposals for its relaxation are already under consideration," but the whole thing remains extremely vague and unsatisfactory throwing grave doubts on the supposed realisation of provincial autonomy, which has been boosted so much as the great point in favour of the scheme.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

IN the court of Babu Abinash Chandra Nag, first subordinate Judge of Patna, a case has been filed by Mr. Hasan Imam against the Hon. Mr. F. Clayton claiming Rs. 15,000 for assault and battery. The defendant is Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa in the Public Works Department. The facts of the case have already appeared in a previous issue.

Mrs. Annie Besant was at Patna on the 25th instant. She had talks with some of the prominent leaders. It has been informally decided to request Sir Rash Binari Ghosh who is expected at Patna on the 29th July on behalf of the All-India Congress Committee to accept the Presidency of the special session of the Congress.

THE Bihar Provincial Conference has elected Mr. Mazharul Huq to the Presidency of the special session of the Conference to be held at Patna on the 3rd and 4th August to consider the Montagu Chelmsford Report.

THERE has been some discussion in the newspapers recently with regard to the currency question and with special reference to the shortage of silver and to the unpopularity of the small currency notes. The Government of India and the Railway Department have taken steps to ensure the general acceptance of soiled or cut notes. The Controller of Currency has already instituted measures in certain provinces for the free exchange of soiled notes for clean notes at all treasuries, and for withdrawal from issue of soiled notes. The Accountant Generals have been asked to arrange with post offices that they should keep only clean notes and send to the treasuries dirty notes received by them from the public. The Controller of Currency has also asked Banks to co-operate by taking similar action with such notes as are tendered to them and to present these soiled and dilapidated notes to the Currency Officers in exchange for clean ones.

Hemorrhoids.

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FEW maladies are more distressing, painful and dangerous than the itching, bleeding, blind and protruding forms of Hemorrhoids.

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UNDER the auspices of the Hon'ble the Raja Sahib of Amawan a largely attended public meeting was held on the compound attached to the guest house of Amawan for the purpose of raising subscriptions to the second War Loan. Moulvi Shamsuddin Haider M. A., Sub-divisional Officer of Bihar, and the Raja Sahib were present. A sum of rupees fifty three thousand and six hundred was subscribed on the spot, out of which the Maharaja alone subscribed rupees fifty thousand.

"WE remarked last week that rumour is again busy with the distribution of Provinces. The rumour is strong in Bihar that soon after Sir S. P. Sinha, K. C., returns from England, he will be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa in place of Sir Edward Gait who will not return. Sir Edward Lovinge, the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, will retire permanently on pension. Sir William Vincent will continue with the Government of India. The Reform scheme will bring in drastic changes, says a correspondent. There is a rumour that, as the Patna High Court cannot pay its way—there is a loss annually of over 40 lakhs over creating this Court, which is another of the follies of Lord Hardinge—it will be abolished and Bihar will be tacked on to the United Provinces which will then have a Governor, instead of a Lieutenant-Governor. Orissa, it is said, will be joined up with the Central Provinces under a Lieutenant Governor. If the Patna High Court be abolished, the buildings occupied by it will be used for the Bihar University, and all the buildings in the new city will be used as hostels connected with the University. Whether there is any truth in all these rumours remains to be seen, but ever since its inception the new Province has been most unhappily situated and it is widely felt that some change is inevitable."—*The Englishman*.

THE recruitment figures for the month of June show a distinct advance in Bihar and Orissa. Shahabad easily heads the list with a total of 378 recruits, of whom 291 are combatants. Saran comes next with 180 recruits, of whom 128 are combatants. Patna and Gaya come 3rd and 4th with 80 and 79 recruits respectively. Muzaffarpur furnished 42 recruits, Champaran 22, Darbhanga 16, and Monghyr 9. Hazaribagh, Santal Parganas, Bhagalpur and Cuttack furnished 1 recruit each, while Palamau furnished 2. The total number of combatants recruited in the Province was 590, and the total number of combatants, non-combatants and men recruited for Burma Military Police, was 810. The figures still fall considerably short of the quota required from Bihar and Orissa. It is very noticeable, in examining the detailed figures for portions of districts, that they vary considerably. For instance, Barh Sub-Division of Patna furnished 13 recruits, while Patna City furnished only 2. Shahabad Sadr furnished 181 recruits, against 14 for Bhabua Sub-Division. In Gaya district, the bulk of the recruits come from Jehanabad, which furnished 31 combatants.

The total number of labourers recruited in Bihar and Orissa, during the month of June 1918, was 1337. The chief recruiting districts for labour are Santal Parganas with 374 labourers, Ranchi with 286, Mayurbhanj with 126, Muzaffarpur with 111, and Champaran with 68.

THE Secretary to the Government of Bihar and Orissa, Municipal Department, has addressed a long letter on the subject of the disposal by the Patna City Municipality Improvement Trust of the

lands acquired in Mohrampur in Patna. "It appears from the proposals of the Board of Trustees," the letter runs, "that a misconception exists as to the object of Government in creating the Trust. The Board propose to dispose of the reclaimed area at rates which will not recoup the expenditure in laying out the model area. I am therefore to explain that the Trust is not a mere spending agency but is in fact a body appointed to carry on the work of town improvement upon a commercial basis. While sites bought up for driving broad thoroughfares through congested areas may involve expenditure without any corresponding direct income from the improvement, the reconstruction of a model town area on the site of an insanitary basti should at least repay the whole outlay by the enhancement of site values. The Trust has been given certain capital to trade with and is expected to carry on its purposes permanently upon that capital, which may or may not be increased in future by further subvention from Government. The position of the Trust in the matter of outlay is on no account to be confused with the position of a Municipality presented with a grant for sanitary improvements.

"The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is therefore pleased to approve the proposals made by the District Magistrate and recommended by you, the main features of which are:—

(a) That the metalled portion of the roads should be reduced from 50 and 30 ft. to 20 and 15 ft. respectively to effect a saving of Rs. 45,000 in the estimated expenditure.

(b) That a quit rent of Rs 5 per acre should be charged.

(c) That the lands should be put up to auction, minimum prices of Rs. 5000 and Rs. 4,000 an acre being fixed according to the quality of the plots. Should sufficient bids at these or higher rates be not received the question of reducing the rates may be considered. The auction should be held by the Chairman, who should exercise the right of excluding the bids of undesirable candidates.

(d) That not more than one house should be built on each site and that it should be built strictly in accordance with the building regulations in force in the Patna City Municipality.

"I am to add that before the lands are settled the form of lease to be executed should be carefully drawn up by the Board of Trustees embodying the conditions which must be imposed on the settlers to make this a model residential quarter, the beginning of a new city which will be free from all the disadvantages of old Patna."

The letter ends with a request that the result of the experiment may be reported to Government.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

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For the Ravenshaw Girls' High School at Cuttack a Lady graduate strong in Mathematics and Sanskrit for the post of an Assistant Mistress in Class IV of the Subordinate Educational Service.

Applications should reach the undersigned not later than the 20th of August, 1918.

W. V. DUKE.

RANCHI. } Asstt. Director of Public Instruction, Bihar and Orissa, Ranchi-Secretariat P. O.
The 17-7-1918.
3-1

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CALCUTTA, } C. ISMAY.
Dated 24-7-1918 } Ag. General Traffic Manager.

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constipation, sluggish liver, acidity, flatulence, biliousness and such headache, or if you suffer from poor appetite, or are in a general out-of-sorts condition you

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a few doses of Beecham's Pills and you will speedily realise the benefit of so doing. You will feel lighter, brighter, fresher and more "fit" after taking these pills in accordance with the directions, because they operate directly upon the digestive organs, rousing them to healthy activity and assisting them to expel impurities from the system, thereby producing purer blood and restoring good appetite and digestion. A dyspeptic state spells misery of mind and body, a properly working digestive system means good health and good spirits. If you would enjoy the latter you really cannot do better than take a dose of this famous preparation now and then. Being absolutely safe for old and young, and possessing a curative value unequalled by any other Family Medicine, you can always rely upon

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NOTICE.

We beg to inform our kind constituents and the Public, that our Aerated Water Factory situated at No. 71 quarters near Freemasons Lodge Dinapur Cantt. is under Medical supervision. Our Waters are Manufactured with the greatest care and cleanliness, and with filtered Water, procured from the Station Hospital's well. Our rates are moderate.

We solicit the kind support of our Patron and to those who have not used our Waters. We respectfully solicit a *trial*. We supply the Station Hospital, Club Officers, and Gentlemen of Dinapur Cantt. as well as to the Club Officers, Gentlemen &c., of Bankipore and Patna City.

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Dinapore, February 2nd 1902.

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