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Mass Meeting at College Square.

ROWLATT BILLS CONDEMNED.

A monster public meeting was held at the College Square on the 1st February to consider the present situation. The people being fully conscious of the gravity of the present critical situation of the country mustered strong in the College Square to hear the speeches of the leaders of Bengal. The most modest calculation places the number of audience at 5000. Most people confess that such a vast gathering was not seen at the College Square for a long time. Many people had to go away disappointed for want of space. Even the speakers of the meeting could not easily make their way to the platform. The lectures were heard with spell bound interest and were often punctuated with cries of applause and "shame" as the circumstances dictated.

Babu Amulka Prasad Bajpai proposed the Hon. Moulavy Fuzlal Huq to be the President who occupied the chair amidst loud cheers.

The President delivered the following speech:

Gentlemen, I have been for some time past of opinion that so far as political activities in this country is concerned, we have practically to look to something like a closed book and that so far as the present generation is concerned—if I may say so—the Chapter of all political activities in this country has been closed. We know for certain that within a very few days a certain Bill is going to be introduced in the Imperial Legislative Council which will put an end to all our activities in this country and we therefore do not wish that such a Bill should be passed into law and placed in the Statute Book. But our wishes are not going to be a determining factor. It is the desire of the authorities to arm themselves with powers which they propose to do on the lines of the recommendations of the Rowlatt Report. You may take it from me that it is as certain as the death itself that these repressive legislations will be passed into law and in a few days will be the law of the land. But how is it that they are going to be passed without anything like a protest in this country? Is it because the people do not realise the danger that has faced them? How is it then that the united voice of India has not been raised from the public platform which will soon be stilled as if by the stillness of death? How is it that our public men and leaders do not come forward and raise a strong voice of protest and lead the public aright and let the Government know the feeling of the country in this matter? Whatever might be the reason, whatever might be the cause such is the state of things and the reason is that so far as our political leaders are concerned, they are all businessmen in all conscience. They are engaged in abusing each other and even ready to cut each others throat if they can (shame). Our political leaders think that for the last 30 or 33 years they have served India, but is it well on their part that they should stand aside and let their countrymen go to the dogs? Our leaders do not realise that if they had served the country for so many years, they might as well come forward at this moment of peril and danger and should sink all their differences and come forward on the public platform and together raise the united voice of the country against the repressive legislation, which will be a death knell to all political activities of the country not for this generation but for generations to come. Is it because that our political leaders do not understand what the situation at the present moment is? It is for this that we have come here this evening to discuss the present political situation of the country? Is there one single man who can lay his hand on his heart and say that "here I am, I am going to sacrifice all I can in the service of my country I am going to give up all—my profession and every thing for my country. I am not going to hanker after briefs, I am not going to run after clients." Is there no one who can say so? Then what is the good of going to the public platform? What is the good of congregating on the platform and making speeches? That is not the way to serve the country. You must sacrifice yourself at the alter of the country and must give up this running after wealth—this running after distinction and title—this running after all that you hold dear. If you advise the people to do this and that and when they have followed you up to a certain path you suddenly desert them. What is the difference then between Mr. this and Mr. that? Somebody may be running for Government title, some body after good position and still there are some who may be running after clients and patients. But they are all running after some thing which is different from the interest of the country. But that is not the way to serve the country. Unless you are ready to make sacrifice how can we expect that you will be able to serve the interest of the country. Let there be one single man who will make the country his only thought—his thought by day and his dream by night—who will think of nothing but India during the twenty four hours of the day, and how to serve her interest. Let him come forward and we will follow. There is much constructive work to do. Even the annulment of the Partition was something, which we must not forget; but there are something over which we have no control but which we should not take for granted. Have you done anything which you can show as a constructive propaganda? And why, because you found that politics would lead to trouble. My friends, the present situation is extremely gloomy. I have always been of the opinion that we are fit for Self-Government that we are fit for anything—we are fit for complete responsible Government this very moment. But that is quite different from anything like putting forth an energy for a constructive work. It is something different to say these things and put forth before the world than to translate this into action. And unless that is done all this speeches—all these gatherings—all these meetings will simply go for nothing. The Rowlatt Committee has been before the country for more than a year and it is a great credit to the leaders of thought in India that no one could master courage to hold a public meeting of protest against his Report. The report says that all young men are anarchists and we accept it. The report says that men should be interned and we do not raise a voice of protest. Silence is some thing like consent and your silence means that we approve of the Rowlatt Report. You took nine months to get up a meeting at the Town Hall. You must take nine more months when that act will be eighteen months old. If this is the progress you are making if this is the earnestness with which you are serving the country—it is not the Government that is to blame. Is it not a great fraud—if I may say—pardon me the freedom for this frankness of expression? I indlge in a huge fraud both on the public and the Government. What are you doing—actual work nothing. Getting up a public meeting and making speeches—is very easy—it costs nothing to-day and to-morrow you shall be running after clients patients—this and that and then on Saturday and Sunday when you have got a little holiday your energy returns for Self-Government. This will not do. You will have nothing but running after this and that when the Rowlatt Bill is passed into law. What I want to say is this—so far as the leaders are concerned they lead—but only lead by sufferance. Those who are led, it is for them that at moments of peril and crisis to lead the leaders. They will tell those who have arrogated to themselves titles of leaders that they should give up all personal abuse—sink all their difference—meet together in the common platform and have nothing but the good of India at heart and let them come forward and work up a constructive programme. Then and then only they can serve India and hope to expect a following of their work

The President then called upon the Hon. Mr. Abul Kasem to address the meeting.

The Hon. Moulavi Abul Kasem said the Montagu Chelmsford schemes are huge jokes because the Govt. have no mind to carry them out. As they are in earnest to give Reforms to the Indians the Govt. is thursting the Rowlatt Bills before the country. I can confidently say that the Rowlatt Committee had formulated these drastic measures at the instance of the Government. The introduction of these measures will kill all the political life of India. You will not get in the councils your representatives. The Magistrate, the Sub-Divisional Officers will send their nominees to the council. Even the Sub-Inspectors of Police will have a great voice in the election of the members and the Police stations will be turned into election grounds. For if then you exercise your discretion in the election of members you will fall under the clutches of the Police empowered under the new Bills. I know of a case at Burdwan. A student of the Zillah School was brutally assaulted by a Police constable. When the guardian of the boy was going to institute a suit against the constable the Sub-Inspector of Police came to him and said "If you make case against the constable in a law court, your name will be entered in the black book and you will be interned." The guardian therenpon dared not to take any action against the delinquent and the guilty man was allowed to go unpunished (cries of shame, shame.)

In the face of this immense difficulties, it is our duty to sink all our differences and present a united front against the introduction and passage of these murderous Bills in the Legislative Councils We must all try to induce, I don't say oblige, the Government to withdraw these Bills. If these Bill be passed into law, you all must be ready to have recourse to passive resistance. (cheers). The Hindus and Muhammadans are one in this matter. I appeal to both the Hindus and Mussalmans to come forward and oppose these Bills with all the forces they can command. Another cleavage now threatens the country, I mean the cleavage of extremists and moderates. I hope they will also make up their quarrels and will be of one voice in this matter. (Loud cheers.)

The President then called upon Babu Bepin Chandra Pal to address the meeting.

Babu Bepin Chandra Pal said:—What is the Rowlatt Bill? In a single word it is this—namely that there shall be no educative propaganda in India whether in regard to politics or in regard to economics or in regard to education, or in short, in regard to any matter that is likely to quicken any inconvenient national spirit in the young men of this country. Do you know what he said? He said that some of his best friends were members of the Commission—Justice Koomarswami Sastri of Madras and Srijukta Pravash Chandra Mitra C I E., Hon'ble Mr. Sastri said that Justice K. Sastri and Mr. P C. Mitra had signed the Report and he could not in the Imperial Council during the autumn session demand the postponement of the consideration of the Report until a fresh enquiry into the subject matter of the Report was made by an independent Commission. What happened to it? The Resolution went the same way as all resolutions by the non-official members of the Viceregal Council did. It failed. Where were our leaders then? They did not support it (shame). One gentleman Hon'ble Mr. Srinivasa Sastri a very sensible man—a very sweet and sober man with a view to undermine the public life of England. Now, history repeats itself and in these new appointments and in the process of others coming we have the beginning of the same process in Indian history. We have the beginning of the same process of not corruption—that is a bad word, I will not use a bad word—but precession—the same process of precession which will be applied to our public life to win away our public men. The process has already started and the result is seen in feeble and contempt ible opposition to the Rowlatt Report that you observe all around you.

The Rowlatt Report was published almost simultaneously with the Reforms Report—a few days after the Reforms Report. Our friend, the Chairman, has said we have done nothing; no Sir, we did something. There is a mad man in Berar, by name Ganesh Srikrishna Khaparde and he is the friend of a very mad man—and a mad man is always the friend of a mad man—that mad man is Bal Gangadhar Tilak of Poona. This mad man of Berar proposed a Resolution—be a brood of others again who will look up to the lion, so that they someday may also be clothed as the lion. It has been the teaching of English History. If you have read English History, you will remember that the moment there was a vital conflict between the prerogatives of the crown on the one side and the growing rights of the Parliament on the other—from the days of Walpole up to the time of Melbourne in the early Victorian era—this precious method was employed by the King's ministers to win over parliamentary leaders after the blessed reforms are passed. (shame); you will turn the pages of the Montague—Chelmsford Reform which we are told will bring the moon to us and the first instalment of which has already come through the elevation of Sir S P Sinha to the peerage and to the Under Secretary of State for India. We congratulate him. I was asked the other day by a gentleman in the Tram Car if I was very happy because of Lord S. P. Sinha's appointment. I will take you in my confidence and tell you what I feel. I said, if I were Lord Sinha's brother or nephew, I would have been rightly glad of it. But being neither, I do not see what is there for me to dance with joy over this appointment. It will widen the bounds of political freedom for India (hear, hear). It will not make my press freer than what it is today—It will not build the public administration of this country broad based upon the will of the people. What did he Lord Sinha do while opposing the main portion of Mr. Khaparde's resolution? He made a long speech complaining against the insolence of the C I D. He said—even he the President of the Servant of India Society, even he was honored with the attentions of the C I D.—and that was his only complaint. We do so much for you and yet you do not trust us. We vote for you, we work for you, we write for you, we say ditto to you and even if we protest our protest is mild, our protest is reasonable, our protest is sweet, yet the C I D is set upon us. That was his complaint and he said if it was a resolution demanding an enquiry into the methods of the C I D he would have support ed it.

Then came our lost leader Hon'ble Mr. Surendra Nath Banerji What did he say? He also said the same thing. The C I D is a troublesome thing It is always behind me, always dogging my steps. But to him the time was inopportune for such a resolution. If Mr Surendra Nath had supported Mr. Khaparde's resolution, if Maharaj Manindra Chandra Nandi had supported this resolution—if Rai Sitanath Rai Bahadur had supported this resolution—if the Bengal representative of the Moslems—Nawab Nawab Ali Chowdhury, C. I. E., had supported this resolution of Mr. Khaparde, if the other members from other provinces had done so, the Government would have there found it very difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to proceed with this measure in this indecent fashion. So the responsibility of it lies not with Lord Chelmsford. The responsibility of the Bill rests in the first place upon the Indian members of the Rowlatt Committee and so far as Bengal is concerned the responsibility lies with Babu Provash Chandra Mitra who in his unregenerate days was a frequent attendant at the Sangit Samaj where the Boycott Committee was meeting in 1905 and 1906. If I remember aright Mr. P C Mitra was I think one of the office bearers of that Committee and I remember that he was a prominent member of the Town Hall meeting which organised and proclaimed this Boycott. He has forgotten this old history. Does not he know who made the revolutionaries in Bengal? He must have a very convenient memory, otherwise how does he forget the incidents of the boycott—how does he forget the Beadon Square riots, how does he forget the Comilla riots—how does he forget the Jamalpur riots and outrages? How does he forget the incidents of the Barisal Conference? There is no mention of these things in the Rowlatt Report. Did they not contribute to the creation of revolutionaries in Bengal? Who did it? Ram Krishna Paramhansa—not directly but indirectly. In 1886 had died Ram Krishna Paramhansa. If he had died death finishes all, there is no continuity after death unless the continuity of life be eternal He had died in 1886. But he vouchsafed his mission to the great Vivekanand who started the Ram Krishna Mission and the Ram Krishna Mission was responsible (the suggestion came from Lord Carmichael first but subsequently afterwards he withdrew it) for the Revolutionary movement in Bengal. But the suggestion came and worked as a hypnotism. One master suggested something and the master might give up the suggestion but the subject continues. Therefore we have in the Report that Vivekanand is indirectly responsible for this Revolutionary element in our country. Barindra Kumar Ghose came to Calcutta in 1902 with a view to start a revolutionary movement in Bengal but he went back to Baroda disappointed. He saw no hope of getting up movement in Bengal. Yet he did get up a movement in 1907. What had happened between Barindra's first visit to Bengal and the year 1907? After his second visit the Revolutionary movement was started.

The Rowlatt Commissioner did not think it worth their while to enquire into all the ugly and incriminating details of the incidents of 1907-1908. What were the incidents of the break up of the Barisal Conference? What happened to one of our leaders? It is in the public records. Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose got up in the Conference after the police had committed assault upon all the delegates going in procession—he got up on the platform and made a speech in which he said that this is the end of the British rule in India if not the end, the beginning of the end. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea was next arrested and fined and insulted in Barisal after the break up of Barisal Conference. This is what late Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale said—he said something to this effect—this is the way to create revolutionaries in India. He said this in England and warned the Government against the pursuit of this policy but it was not heeded. Then came the Comilla and Beadon Square riots. The Beadon Square riot was enquired into by a non-official commission and the report is still to be found. The Commissioners found that the Beadon Square riots were directly provoked and indirectly helped by the Police And after this are we to believe that this revolutionary movement this pathological manifestation of the nationalist movement in India is due to the teachings of the Indian leaders or is it due to the mishandling of a delicate situation by men who had neither sense of the actualities about them, nor had any knowledge of the genesis and evolution of revolutionary movement in history? you are responsible the Executive is responsible for mishandling a very delicate situation and by thus mishandling you provoked this revolutionary movement. And do you think that a repetition of the same policy will be able to kill it?

I wish that this revolutionary movement should cease to exist in this country. I want it in the interest of our national life I want it in the interest of the peaceful evolution of freedom and humanity in India. I want it in the interest of universal peace. I want it also in the interest of the Empire. I want that this revolutionary movement should have no scope—no incentive—no justification—no plea to exist and spread. Yet if you go on doing this thing, if you deny legitimate expressions of public feelings in this country—if you wish to stifle open political agitation, if you clap the sensitive patriotism of the country into prison under suspicion of hatching and supporting revolution—if you try to crush the spirit of freedom under the heel of your boots, I do not know what it will lead to. We demand the divine right of nations to live and grow as we desire (hear, hear)—we want this legitimate—this moral—this spiritual demand to be satisfied. You find in man exactly that as you behave towards him. If you come to me as a god you have awakened the god that is in me, if you come to me as a man you awake the manhood in me, if you come to me as a brute you awaken the sleeping dog in me (hear, hear). And the method of repressing legitimate demands for popular freedom by autocratic legislation will effect all this. I am sure that at last you will have a tussle between the physical power of the government and spiritual instinct of the people. Therefore I say, we do not want it. We do not want it for your good, we do not want it for our good. But you do not want what is good for you. We shall do all that lies in our power to prevent you committing this suicide. We shall do all that lies in our power to help the continuance of the British connection (hear, hear—we shall prevent that want of faith of the people in association with you. How are we to do it? My Passive Resistance (cheers). Passive resistance not unorganised as it was ten years ago—not without the moral determination to suffer every wrong in the cause of our liberty (hear, hear). We shall call Mr. Gandhi (hear, hear) from Gujrat if Bengal cannot produce a soul like Gandhi. We shall import Gandhi to lead us in this fight. He led the fight for passive resistance in South Africa. It was easier there. The fight for Passive Resistance in Bengal is a more difficult thing. We shall resolve not to submit to any wrong. (No, never.) We shall not obey this law if it is passed, but take its consequence by disobedience. If it is prison—welcome. If it is internment—welcome. Nothing secret, nothing underground, nothing revolutionary—nothing physical but by the soul force of the youths of the country—the organised soul force of the youths—Hindus and Mahomedans of Bengal—we shall, as sure as there is God in heaven. We shall stand here and we shall defeat the ends of the enemies of India and the enemies of the Empire. (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

The President then called upon Babu Jitendra Lal Banerjee to address the meeting. His speech was heard with rapt attention and the audience was charmed at his eloquence

Babu Jitendralal Bannerji, after chafing the president for his invective against the leaders, said:—The subject is the present situation and, so far as I am concerned—so far as you are concerned—and so far as India is concerned—the situation centres round one phase, viz., the Rowlatt Bills that are going to be introduced. That is the question which is before the country—and nothing else matters to us now—neither reforms—nor constitutional changes—nor anything else. For what are reforms—what are constitutional changes—when our fundamental liberties are taken away—if we can be clapped into jail at the sweet will of the Executive without any charge formulated—without trial—without even a pretence of trial. Gentlemen, so far as these bills are concerned, our objections are clearly and easily formulated. In the first place—we take objection to them because they are inconsistent with the profession—the loud and emphatic profession which the English people have been making for the last four years. For the last four years, throughout the continuance of the war, the English people have been saying that they are fighting for the liberties of smaller nations. They fought with the German—they professed to fight with at any rate for the liberty of the smaller nations, and here you go against your professions by taking away the liberties of the people over whom you rule on the strength of your superior civilisation. In the second place, we object to these Rowlatt Bills because they are inconsistent with those professions about the pure and high administration of justice which you are so constantly making. Your only justification for ruling over another nation is on the score of superior civilisation—that you uphold a purer and better standard of administration before them. But by introducing these barbarous measures, you prove that you have no claim—no pretence to that superior civilisation. The introduction of these bills will be a negation of your moral right to hold this country in subjection. That is very second objection and lastly, we object to these bills because they are inconsistent with the fundamental liberties of mankind. Men are entitled to live free—men are entitled to live at liberty unless charges can be formulated and brought home to them and here you say—here you claim for yourselves the right of arresting people and imprisoning them without cause given—without reason shewn—without any justification produced (shame, shame). Such a procedure again is not simply inconsistent with your own professions—they are inconsistent with the primary and elementary privileges of mankind. On all these grounds we object to the Rowlatt Bill, and we hope that all India from end to end—from north to south—from East to West—will rise to a man and protest against these bills. If they are passed we shall have no option but to adopt Passive Resistence (prolonged cheers)—refuse co-operation with the Government—that is the only legal cause we can adopt and I hope that you will not shirk from adopting this course (cheers loud and prolonged)

Then Babu Jitendra Lal Banerjee moved the following resolution amidst shouts of 'Bande Mataram":—

The third meeting emphatically protests against the introduction of the Rowlatt Bills urges the Government not to proceed with them any future and in the meantime exports all elected members of the Imperial Legislative Council to write in resisting its introduction and passage.

Babu Suresh Chandra Samajpati was called upon to second the Resolution.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

SUIT AGAINST "CAPITAL"

RS. 7,500 DAMAGES AWARDED.

Mr Justice Rankin delivered a lengthy judgment at the High Court on Monday in the libel suit brought by Mr C J Hallifax against "Capital" Ltd claiming one lakh of rupees as damages.

His lordship in the course of the judgment said that Mr C J Hallifax was a Member of the Legislative Council of the Punjab. He had served thirty years in the Indian Civil Service and in the course of his career he had held high offices and posts of exceptional responsibility and was Commissioner for Lahore. when the paragraph complained of was published. The defendants were the proprietors of 'Capital' and its Editor. This action was brought for damages for libel in regard to an article which appeared in "Capital" of the 12th April, 1918. The case might be narrowed down to the very simple question whether the paragraph complained of contained an imputation of immorality against the plaintiff. After setting out the alleged libel his lordship proceeded to say that such actions were under the English practice tried by a Judge and a jury. It was for the Judge to determine whether as a matter of law the words were capable of a defamatory meaning and it was the function of the jury to see whether they were defamatory in fact, they had to see what meaning the words conveyed to a person reading the matter complained of. Unfortunately his lordship had to discharge both functions and found it rather difficult. On the first point his lordship found, as a matter of law that the words complained of were capable of defamatory meaning. The first sentence in the paragraph based on a more rumour made a very desovoury suggestion, and the plaintiff's name and position were mentioned with particularity. The defendants were unable to produce any evidence of any such rumour and its existence was disproved. The correspondent rushed into print with the plaintiff's name on nothing but rumour and the Editor thought to print it although he distinguished the nature of the suggestion, the result being to couple the plaintiff's name but only hypothetically with a proposal which never existed in connection with the Patrol Bill and the plaintiff never had any such thing in his mind. The story was a pure fiction from the beginning to the end. It was said that the plaintiff being a Member of Council and a public man should be prepared to have his conduct criticised and it was not in this connection a libel in itself. His lordship hoped no one would take this as a decision on his part. Where the plaintiff's name was coupled in this way, whatever view was taken of the legal rights of public men, the reader was being hustled into prejudice against the plaintiff whether the rumour was true or false. The element of hypothesis was left behind completely. His lordship then referred to the quotation from Scripture followed by the words "it is whispered" It was argued that the words "without sin" [illegible] reference to immorality in its more [illegible] sense. His lordship was quite of this opinion, but as he tried to persuade Counsel for the defendant, this kind of criticism did not help him much. His lordship had to put himself in the place of the ordinary reader. The accurate reference of the words in their original sense was not that but he thought that the reader would apply the words in the other sense. Indeed the words which followed made it impossible to escape this. The words here "who is without sin" and the "whisper's must go together. The subsequent references to high places were quite enough to carry on the suggestion once it had been made. That would apply to the plaintiff. In such matters no one was much deceived by genralities. The more general a thing, the more certainly would the reader put his nose to the ground and try to find out the query. Mr. James had argued that the latter part of this sentence was ironical, and what followed the sentence was a reflection upon the morals of Simla. His lordship had to consider not what the writer meant to convey but what he had in fact conveyed. He saw no reason to think that the ordinary reader would interpret high places as a double entente or would collect from the any reference to Simla. If one part was ironical one could not say that the whole was not. People who whispered in public newspapers must take cars of what they do. His lordship thought the writer wanted to be clever at some body else's expense and by the time he had finished he had not a vrey clear idea himself as to how far his suggestion went. In such cases it was not much use saying that the Patrol Bill was only meant to affect small towns and villages. The scope of the Bill was nowhere mentioned in the newspaper and the ordinary reader could not say whether Simla was indicated or not or whether it was a question of small towns and villages exclusively. His lordship held that upon the ordinary signification of the words they were libellous in their natural meaning.

As regards damages the plaintiff's reputation had not suffered at all. On the contrary he had not been cut by his friends or suspected by his superiors. Indeed since then he had been made a C B E. He was entitled to moderate but substantial damages. The paper might read by any one. It reached many people whom the plaintiff might not reach. If his lordship did not give very heavy damages this fact was due solely to the circumstances of the plaintiff. His reputation was beyond reach of injury by this silly paragraph. His lordship desired to say that he was not assessing the value of the plaintiff's reputation which had not been lost. In the result his lordship gave judgment for Rs. 7,500 damages.

Mr. Buckland asked for the costs of the suit as well as the costs of the commission, as also the cost of the witness who was brought down to Calcutta to give evidence on the question of rumour.

Mr. Amir Ali opposed the application and said that it was stated that the rumour was

(Continued on next column.)

ROWLATT BILLS.

A PROTEST MEETING.
REQUESTING NON-OFFICIAL MEMBERS TO SUPPORT MR. PATEL'S MOTION.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bogra, Feb. 3.

Under the auspices of the Bogra District Association and under the presidency of Babu Lalit Chandra Dutt, a meeting of the Bogra People held to-day in which resolutions were passed strongly and emphatically protesting against the proposed Criminal Law Amendment Bills, based upon Rowlatt Committees' Report as being fundamentally opposed to the principle of British justice, thanking Mr. Patel for his motion of postponement, requesting people's representative in Council to support Mr. Patel and to oppose the Bills and the Hon'ble Babu Akhil Chandra Datta for his manfully fighting for the release of unfortunate Internees and political prisoners and strongly condemning the conduct of Hon'ble Mr. P. C Mitra in opposing Hon'ble Mr. Datta's resolution and acting against the best interests of the country.

PROTEST MEETING IN BOMBAY

PANDIT MALAVIYA PRESIDES.

(Associated Press of India.)

Bombay, Feb 3.

A public meeting was held here this evening the Hon Pandit Madanmohon Malaviya presiding, to protest against the passing of the Criminal Procedure Amendment Bills on the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee report. Pandit Malaviya in the course of his speech said that at a juncture when Europeans and Indians were drawn together the Government could not have committed greater blunder than the proposed legislation. It would take away all grace of the reform scheme. He hoped that the Government would drop the Bill in view of the feeling of the country. Resolution emphatically protesting against the Bills which proposed to arm the Government and its executive officers with powers of most dangerous description, striking at the root of the liberties of people was passed. The meeting was also of opinion that if legislation was passed the effect on the public mind and relations between Government and the people would be most disastrous. A committee was appointed to carry on vigorous constitutional agitation to prevent the proposed enactment and to take steps, if necessary, to test the competency of Indian Legislature to pass such measure. Some twenty speakers addressed the meeting which was largely attended.

3RD ALL-INDIA MUSIC CONFERENCE.

To The Editor.

Sir,—We have great pleasure in announcing that it is finally settled to hold the Third Music Conference at Benares during the next cold weather. Preparations have for some time been afoot in Benares in this connection and we are glad to say that a very influential Reception Committee has now been formed under the patronage of His Highness the Maharaja of Benares and Raja Madholall Bahadur. Raja Moti Chand Bahadur, C I E., has been elected as President of the Reception Committee Raja Satyanand Bahadur, Srijuts Bhagwan Das Ji. M A., and Janandra Nath Basu, B A., Rai Krishnaji Shib, have been elected vice presidents and many of the leading raises of Benares have joined the movement. It is hardly necessary to point out that such a movement can not be a grand success unless the public realising the supereme importance of the mass education in music, which is its principal object come forward with appropriate money aid; and the secretaries look forward to whole hearted upport from all sides.

We appeal to our patriotic country men and women to help the great cause the "Renaissance of Hindustani Music" by helping the third All-India Music Conference in every possible way.

All correspondence should be addressed to Shri Sivendra Nath Basu, (Moni) Esqr, (Rais Zamindar and Honarariy Magistrate (Chowkhamba) Secretary, 3rd All-India Music Conference, Benares city and all contributions sent to him.

V. N. Bhat Khande B A, L L.B, Bombay.
M Nawab Ali Khan, Talukdar of Akbarpore and Sitapur.
S N Karnad B. A L L B. Bombay.
Secretaries Standing Committee
B. K. Koul K N Shivapuri Secretaries, 2nd All-India Music Conference, Delhi.

A LAKE OF SALT.

In South Australia there is a wonderful lake of pure salt. It is a huge depression in the earth which fills up in the winter months. In the summer the water quickly evaporates, leaving a thick deposit of pure salt. Seen from a distance the surface of the lake has all the appearance of being covered with a sheet of ice. The salt is so thick and strong that men and even carts and ploughs can travers it with perfect safety. Yet below the crust there is a considerable body of sluggish water. The yield of salt from this strange lake amounts to several thousand tons a year and it is amongst the finest obtainable. The lake is several square miles in area and is naturally a very valuable property.

A recent despatch from the Department of State, Washington, states that the American War Trade Board has re-imposed the restrictions on the importation of rice into the United States and instructs Consuls not to certify invoices for rice shipments. This restriction does not affect shipments in transit.

(Continued from previous Colms.)

irrevalent and did not come into question atall. The commission witnesses had not been utilised for the purposes of this case.

After hearing both sides his lordship allowed the plaintiff costs of the suit as well as of the commission and of the witness who was brought here to speak of the rumour.

GAZETTE OF INDIA

Delhi, Jan 31.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Mr P L Moore, I.C.S Madras, becomes Additional Member, Imperial Legislative Council vice Mr Loftus Totenham.

Mr Denys Bray replaces Sir Hamilton Grant as an Additional Member.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Principal H Maitra, Dr Mookherjee and Lt Col A Laventon to be ordinary fellows of the Calcutta University.

AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT.

Dr E I Ruler is appointed Joint Director of the Agricultural Research Institute Pusa, in addition to his own duties.

Mr G S Henderson is confirmed as Imperial Agriculturist.

Sir Verney Lovett becomes Member, Indian People's Famine Trust vice Mr Saunders.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Mr W J Drake, Assistant Secretary has six months' leave.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

Mr C W E Cotton, I.C.S is placed on s ecial duty and Mr A H Lloyd officiates for him as Collector of Customs, Calcutta.

Mr H S H Pilkington is confirmed as Postmaster General 2nd grade. Mr D J Martrie officiates in the 2nd grade.

Mr W A Roussao is confirmed in the third grade. Mr A H Lane Ryan officiates in the third grade and Mr J R T Booth is appointed Postmaster General 4th grade on probation for a year.

RAILWAY DEPARTMENT.

Messrs H L Thorne, N W Ry., Mr M S Green, E B Ry and Mr H N Young, N W Railway are confirmed as Assistant Traffic Superintendents.

MUNITIONS BOARD.

Mr A C McWaters, C.S is deputed on special duty to England.

EUROPEAN WITH REVOLVER

ARRESTED AT HOWRAH.

On Friday afternoon a European young man of 27 years who gave his name as F W Sharp, was produced before Mr B. C. Roy, Deputy Magistrate of Howrah on a charge of having smuggled a maund of opium in two trunks by a down passenger train into Howrah the same morning. It is reported that officers of the Excise Department who were awaiting his arrival on the platform stopped a taxi in which the accused was seated with, among other things; the two trunks which were opened with keys alleged to have been found on the accused. The latter denied the ownership of the trunks. It is stated that a search of the person of the accused resulted in the finding of a six chambered revolver which was also taken possession of by the police and produced before the Magistrate who ordered the accused to be released on bail of Rs 5,000. Sharp having failed to furnish the surety was remanded to the Howrah jail hajut.

FERTILIZER FOR GROWING FLOWERS.

A cheap fertilizer for growing flowers and vegetables is given in the "Queensland Agricultural Journal" as follows. "Collect a load of cow-dung not too wet, and make it into a round heap, covering it with a layer of sods. Then set fire to it to char the dung the charring destroys all seeds. When cool it is fit for use. It must on no account be allowed to get wet before using. If not wanted at once put it into bags and keep dry."

PLANTS AND FLOWERS

It is interesting to note that 4,200 species of plants are gathered and used for commercial purposes in Europe. Of these 420 have perfume that is pleasing and enter largely into the manufacture of scents, soaps, and sachets. There are more species of white flowers gathered than of any other colour—1,124. Of these 187 have an agreeable scent. Next for order come yellow bloosoms with 951 seventy-seven of them being perfumed. Red flowers number 123, of which eighty-four are scented. The blue flowers are of 564 varieties, thirty-four of which are perfumed, and the violet blossoms number 308, thirteen of which are pleasantly ordoriferous.

PHOTOGRAPHING ELECTRICITY AND HEAT.

Mr Frederick Hoverdin claims to have photographed the etheric wavers of heart and electricity, which are invisible, of course. He says they are a fluid which, properly illuminated, becomes visible to the nacked eye and can be cinematographed. He fills a square glass box with tobacco smoke, puts his finger through a hole in the side and turns on the box the rays from a powerful electric lamp. Then, he says, he sees the ether issuing from his finger and permeating the tobacco smoke. The ether escapes from his finger even when it is covered with a tight-fitting rubber cap. Mr. Hoverdin also demonstrates that the air we breathe is coal black in colour. He illuminates powerfully and microscopically enlarges ordinary air issuing from a hole in a glass box. Then the black molecules forming the air can be seen and photographed.

The Hon. Mr. W F Reci, Chief Secretary to the Government of Burma, is expected to succeed Lieutenant-Colonel Obbard as Commissioner of Pegu when the latter goes on long leave preparatory to retirement.

An interesting discovery of damage done by insects has just been made at Delhi The telephone wires there are carried through a lead sheathing, each separate wire having a paper covering. On several occasions communication has been interrupted owing to the perforation of the lead sheathing which admitted the damp and caused contact between the wires. It has now been found that the perforations were made by a species of bug, and in the course of enquiries the interesting fact has been brought to light that there is in existence a French official report which describes the damage done by simular insects to the lead bullets used by the French army in the Crimean War.

KATARPUR RIOT CASE.

HOW IT IS BEING CONDUCTED.

(Statement by an eye witness).

To The Editor.

Sir,—Having heard much complaints about the way in which the Katarpur riot case is being conducted to the great disadvantage of the accused, I made it a point to drop in at Saharanpur on my way back from Delhi and attended the Court on the 27th January, 1919. This was my second visit to the Court. It is a pity that none of the Daily papers in India has had the enterprize to send a short-hand reporter to the court, otherwise many interesting facts connected with the proceedings in this case would have seen the light of the day by this time.

The trial is held inside the District Jail of Saharanpur, where none can go without a pass. The accused who are by the bye locked up in "hajat" in this jail, number 172 persons. But only a maximum number of 15 persons is allowed to attend the Court as their "pairokars" or instructors to the lawyers on their behalf, while the space allotted for them (the "pairokars") can hardly accommodate a dozen men. Very few friends interested in the proper defence of the accused can, and do therefore, attend the court in that capacity. The trial is held in a thatched hall temporarily erected for the purpose, which is about 60 feet long and 20 feet wide. At one end of this big hall sit on dais the Special Commissioners appointed to try this case under the Defence of India Act with the President, Mr. Justice Tudball in the centre, and Messrs Alston and Dalal to his right and left, respectively, while the "Peshkar" of the court is said to be taking notes for the Associated Press, and a short-hand reporter for the Commissioners at the dictation of the President. Next to this "dais" comes the enclosure reserved for the witness box and the prosecution and defence lawyers. Among the former sits, from day to day, Mr. Goad, D. I. G. of the U. P. Police who has investigated the whole case until the trial began and who is to appeal as a witness in the case also. With him also sit the C I D. Inspector and Sayad Askari who have been associated with him in the investigation. These two enclosures among themselves take nearly 21 feet of this hall, while in the rest of it are accommodated the 172 accused in two long rows of bamboo fences with a passage between them, in which the accused are made to sit or stand in alphabetical order with a guard of police stationed over their heads at the interval of every few paces, so that no accused can stir from his place and approach his pleader. Nor can the accused send word to his or their pleader but through the police constable standing over them who carries the message if allowed by his head to do so.

The witnessess it on chair or stand up with their backs towards the accused, and the accommodation is so arranged that none of the accused is at the distance of less than nearly 12 feet behind the witnesses, while some are away from him at the distance of forty to fifty feet when he may be making statements on which the fate of their life and death is hanging. The tone in which the proceedings are generally conducted can hardly carry the voice more than 15 feet and even these depositions are made by the witnesses, as noted above, with their backs towards the accused. The result is that a large majority, indeed if not all of the accused, who are charged with the most serious crimes known to law, find it physically impossible to hear what is being stated by the witnesses produced against them, what are the exact charges brought at their door by them which they have to meet, what are the questions and what their bearing on the case, which the court or the prosecution or defence lawyers put to them and what are their answers to these questions, or how is the case proceeding either in favour or against them. Indeed it would therefore be no mere figure of speech to say that so far as the accused are concerned, the trial might as well be conducted, say in the drawing room of one of the Commissioners with only the counsels on both sides present to examine and cross-examine the witnesses that might be produced before them. Can this be called a fair and public trial of the accused who, it should be noted have been deprived of all rights of appeal by the autocratic decision of the United Provinces Government to try the case under the Defence of India Act, in the face of the strong protests of the entire Hindu community voiced through their accredited leaders and representatives associations? This is the manner in which the case has been conducted since it commenced on the 9th December, 1918, and during the time when most important prosecution witnesses made their depositions before the Commissioners.

Not only this, but I am informed that an application made by an accused who knew English and could intelligently follow the proceedings in the court, to be allowed to sit near the witness box was rejected on the ground that if every accused were to make such a request, it would not be possible to accommodate them. The answer to this is that every accused is entitled to hear the evidence against himself and therefore the accommodation should have been designed to meet and not to restrict the right of the persons who are to be affected by it.

Another incident that was brought to my notice was that one of the accused who has turned approver, and has made his statement in the court, is being given a seat next to or just behind the Public Prosecutor Mr. Wallach, and when the defence counsel took objection to this and asked the court to send him out, the request was rejected.

No satisfactory reasons have been assigned by the Government for the withdrawal of the case from the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of law which are empowered to try riot cases, and the result is that the accused, who include among them several Municipal Commissioners, the Secretary of the Municipal Board of Hardwar Union, a Sub-Inspector of Police, several heads of religious orders Sadhus and Pandits etc (have been deprived of the privilege of a regular, public trial, of getting time to know and meet the evidence against them as they would have had in a sessions case like the present, and last but not least, of the right of appeal against the orders of the trying court.

DEVA RATNA SHARMA
Hon. Secy. All-India Hindu Sabha.
Saharanpur,
Jan. 28th 1919.

MR. HORNIMAN ON THE ROWLATT BILL.

FILCHING THEIR LIBERTIES

Allahabad, Feb. 2. Under the auspices of the Allahabad Home Rule League a public meeting was held this evening with the Hon. Pandit Motilal Nehru in the chair to condemn the proposed Rowlatt Legislation. Mr. B. G Horniman, editor of the "Bombay Chronicle" and Mr Syad Hossain, editor of Independent were among the speakers. Mr. Horniman summarised various repressive measures enacted since the war and explained the provisions of the proposed legislation which he said was meant to filch away from subjects their liberties and urged that determined steps should be taken to stop it being passed into law.

We understand that steps are being taken to carry out meteorological investigations for the purpose of the proposed aerial mail service to India and of the services which will be established in India itself. The obtaining of reliable information as to conditions of the upper air is of great importance in this connection. "Pioneer."

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APPLY TO—DR. T. BISWAS,
AMRITA BAZAR P.O., (JESSORE.)

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

Thursday February 6, 1919

THE TOWN HALL MEETING.

We hope the Government will not fail to take serious note of the absolutely unanimous protest that has been raised from every part of the country against the Rowlatt Bills. Monday's meeting in the Calcutta Town Hall reminded one of the Town Hall demonstration of 1905 against Lord Curzon's ill-fated scheme of the partition of Bengal. And it required little imagination to see that we are on the eve of another upheaval, far more serious than what followed that insensate measure. The anti-partition agitation was practically confined to Bengal. But the present measures concern the whole of India; and no Government can afford to treat the possibility of an all-India unrest like that which appeared in Bengal thirteen years ago. We do not want it. There are far more vital affairs just now before the country upon which the attention of the public must be concentrated, if our people are to grow to the full stature of their nationhood in the modern world. In fact, even the question of the so-called constitutional reforms adumbrated in the M-C proposals dwindle into comparative inconsequence in the face of these serious problems, which concern our immediate economic and industrial future. We want all our intelligence and powers of organisation to avert the threat of economic serfdom which the present situation in Great Britain and the Empire and the trends of British policy seem to clearly hold out. In view of all this, we want no distractions just now, no agitation against any measures of the Government.

But these Rowlatt Bills touch us in our vital parts. If these are passed into law it will be practically impossible for us to agitate against the new economic danger and organise an all-India public opinion to avert it. These new Acts will cripple all our public activities except such as may be tolerated by the Bueraucracy. Indeed, it may not be very ungenerous of us if we say that these measures may not unlikely be part of one comprehensive policy, which has, on the one side, as its objective the silencing of all vigorous public opinion and the encouragement of the political exploitation of the Government and the economic exploitation of the country, on the other. It is the pursuit of the old policy of administration for exploitation and exploitation for administration, which, though always followed, was for the first time openly proclaimed by Lord Curzon twelve years back.

Mr. Chakravarty made it clear in his excellent presiedntial speech at Monday's Town Hall meeting, that the so-called revolutionary movment in India is the inevitable result of the conflict between the desire for political freedom of our sensitive youths on the one hand and the desire of the present alien Bureaucracy in the country to maintain their irresponsible and autocratic authority in our Government on the other, by putting down the former with the help of the police and repressive laws. The conflict is really not between the people and the Crown, as it was in England under the Stuarts, nor between India and the Empire. The people are loyal to the Crown. They are willing and anxious to continue their Imperial connection. All that they demand is that they should be placed upon the same footing as the citizens of the self-governing countries subject to His Majesty the King-Emperor. Their elevation to this status will, however, hurt the present irresponsible and autocratic powers of the foreign officialdom in India. And this is the root-cause of the Indian unrest of which the revolutionary movement is only a pathological manifestation. Will these new Bills, if passed into law, help to cure this unrest? Will these kill it? That is the one only question before us. And it must be plain even to the meanest intelligence that if the Government of Lord Chelmsford insist upon carrying those Bills through the present packed legislative council, they will soon find themselves face to face with a situation far more serious than what Lord Minto's Government had to face ten years ago.

They must not mistake the present lull in the country as a sign either of hopeful satisfaction with what is coming or of cowardly demoralisation due to what is present. The Defence of India Rules have been tolerated so long practically without any effective opposition or agitation, because of the war. We suffered the reckless violation of our personal liberties all these years of war, simply because we did not wish to embarass the Government needlessly at the critical period we have passed through. But the considerations that led to our passive acquiescence to the Defence of India Rules so long exist no longer. And there will not be the same passive acquiescence to the new measures which seeks to give permanent shape and authority to the most obnoxious of the Defence of India Rules. Why should the Government court this opposition at a time when all their time and energies should be devoted to the more important work of reform and reconstruction? The protest that has been raised from every part of the country and by all sections of Indian politicians and publicists against these pernicious Bills ought to warn the Government aganst obstinately pursuing these proposed measures. We still hope that wiser counsels will prevail.

THE ROWLATT BILLS.

We make no apology for Christening the new Bills as above. We only wish that the suggestion may be accepted by the Government with a view to perpetuate the memory of the great English Judge and his no less eminent Indian Colleagues, who laid the foundation of the noble pieces of legislation with which we are going to be blessed.

In several articles we have already dealt with the history and some general aspects of the proposed bills. But in order to make the Indian public fully alive to the dangers which threaten their civic life and liberty in the shape of these two bills, it is necessary to deal particularly with their specific provisions, how they violate the elementary principles of justice, and how they constitute a serious menace to the civic rights of the Indian people.

The ordinary public suffers under great disadvantages in the matter of forming a correct estimate about the character and effect of any proposed change in the law of the land. When a concrete measure like the Partition of Bengal is sought to be passed by the Government, the people understand it all right. But when an existing code of law is sought to be revised or altered it becomes quite difficult for ordinary people, not familiar with the jargon of law, to find out the real effect of proposals which are couched in legal phraseology and run through numerous clauses with cross references to various Acts. In order that the ordinary public may form an intelligent opinion about the proposed bills it is, therefore, of the utmost importance to explain in popular language, firstly, the specific provisions of the new bills, secondly, how the proposed law is unjust; thirdly, how it affects the civic life and liberty of the people.

SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE BILLS.

In the present article we propose to deal with the specific provisions of the two bills with a view to make these intelligible to the lay public. They contain forty nine clauses besides a Schedule of offences and these may be classified under the following divisions:—

I. New Executive Powers relating to
(a) offences against the State
(b) Commission of Scheduled offences endangering public safety
(c) Detenus under the Defence of India Act.

II. New offences and punishments under the bills.

III. New procedure for the trial of scheduled offences.

IV. New Rules of evidence for the above trials.

Class I (a) (Clauses 20—31 Part II, Bill No 2):—When in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, there are any movements in any part of British India, likely to lead to offences against the State, such part may be declared a notified area for the purposes of this part of the Act. In such a notified area the Local Government

(1) May order any person
(a) to execute a bond to be of good bevehaviour for one year;
(b) to notify his residence or any change of residence to particular authorities;
(c) to abstain from any acts specified in the order;
(d) to be interned in any particular area:
(e) to report to the nearest police station at stated periods. (cl. 21)

(2) A preliminary order to the above effect may continue in force for one month which may be extended further.

(3) A final order to the above effect, may be passed on consideration of the report of the Investigating Authority, for one year which may again be renewed for another year.

(4) Investigating Authorities will be appointed for such notified area by the Local Government, consisting of three persons of whom one shall be an officer not below the rank of a District Judge and one a non-official. The investigating authorities may conduct the inquiry in any manner deemed proper and shall not be bound to follow the Evidence Act. The inquiry shall be held *in camera*, the accused being allowed to appear at some stages to explain the charges against him, but no fact shall be communicated to the accused which may endanger public safety or the safety of any individual, and the accused shall not be represented by any lawyer. The report of the investigating authorities may be taken into consideration before passing the final order.

Class I (b) (clauses 32—37 Part III Bill No 2):—

(1) When in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council Scheduled offences have been or are being committed to such an extent as to endanger the public safety in any part of British India, such area may be notified under part III.

In such notified area the Local Government may pass any order mentioned in the last para and further may order any person:
(a) to be arrested without warrant at any place by any police or other officer;
(b) to be confined in such place and manner as may be specified;
(c) and may order the search of any place.

(2) The person arrested may be kept in custody for 15 days, pending further orders of the Government. And upon the report of the Investigating Authorities in the foregoing manner a final order may be passed for one year which may be renewed for another year.

Class I (c) (Clause 38 Part IV Bill No 2):
Detenus on the expiry of the Defence of India Act are to be deemed persons residing in an area notified under Part III, Class I (b) and any order may be passed against them in accordance with the provisions thereof.

The term Scheduled offences, needs some explanation. The offences given in the Schedule include in general terms the following:—

(1) Offences against the State (Chapter VI Indian Penal Code) such as waging or attempting to wage war against the King, conspiracy to wage war, sedition, possession of seditious document etc. etc.

(2) Rioting with deadly weapons (S. 48); promoting enmity between classes (S. 153A)

(3) Certain offences relating to murder, culpable homicide, grievous hurt, extortion, robbery, dacoity, mischief, house trespass and criminal intimidation.

(4) offences under Explosive Substance Act and under section 20 of the Arms Act.

(5) Attempt or conspiracy to commit or any abetment of any of the said offences.

To summarise:

Under class I (a) the Executive will have power to suppress any movement, political or otherwise, by imposing penalties described above upon whomsoever they please without any proper judicial trial.

Under class I (b), the executive will have additional powers even to arrest a person without warrant and to imprison him for two years without any judicial trial; and

Under class I (c) the hapless detenus will be placed entirely at the mercy of the executive and may be punished in any manner as under class I (b) without any judicial trial.

And all these are to be done in the name of the Law! What can be a more gross and perverted misuse of that term? We are not aware of any parallel for such provisions in the law of any civilised country. We are almost sure that no such parallel will be found either in Russia under the Tsars or in Germany under the much decried military autocracy of the Kaiser.

The proposed measures simply come to this, that at the option of the Executive Government the rule of law will come to an end in the notified area and the inhabitants thereof will be placed at the tender mercies of the police myrmidons of the Government. The only parallel in the civilised jurisprudence for such provisions is to be found in the declaration of Martial Law in any area. And the parallel furnished by history is that of a Nadir Shaha, on the pretext of some of his soldiers being killed in a bazar affray, making over the city of Delhi to the rapine, lust and bloodthirstiness of his brutal soldiery?

Bengal's Members in the Supreme Council.

Bengal has three Hindu and two Mahomedan members in the Supreme Council. The Hindu members are Maharaja Manindra Chandra Nandy, Rai Sitanath Roy Bahadur and Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea. If they fail to attend the next meeting of the session of the Imperial Legislative Council and vote for the motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Patel, they would deserve the censure of the whole country. We are quite sure that Mr. Banerjea and Babu Sitanath Roy will do their duty at this crisis. But will the Maharaja of Cossimbazar have the courage to go against the Government? We sincerely trust that the Maharaja will also not fail to do his duty at this juncture. As regards the Mahomedan members, we can express no opinion.

"A Monstrous Injustice."

The above is the heading of a leaderette in "John Bull" newspaper. And who committed this "Monstrous injustice?" Would the reader believe it? But let "John Bull" speak:

"On the same day (16.11.18) at the Devon Assizes, before Mr Justice Rowlatt, two cases were tried. In one, a man was convicted of a criminal assault on two girls of 6 and 8, which had caused the children to be infected with a filthy disease. This black blackguard got 40 months' hard labour. Another man set fire to a stack of straw, a stack of hay, and a stack of wheat. *He got seven years' penal servitude.* Is a farmer's property worth so much more than the honour and happiness of two children?"

And this Mr Justice Rowlatt, in whose opinion "a farmer's property is worth so much more than the honour and happiness of two children" was brought all the way from England by our paternal Government to prepare the basis of the forthcoming Acts, with the help of which the executive will be able to put half the population of Bengal in jail at their sweet will! Did not the Government announce with a flourish of trumpet that an eminent English Judge had been appointed over the Sedition Committee? And it now transpires that the sense of justice of this learned Judge is so great that he gave only 40 months' hard labour to a black blackguard who ravished two little girls of 6 and 8 and infected them with a filthy desease, and seven years' penal servitude to another who burnt some hay and straw and wheat.

"Divide and Rule".

Divide et impera is a well-known and ancient game which has lost none of its attractiveness even in these days of democracy and civilization. In our country, the Anglo-Indian papers often play it and it must be admitted to our sorrow that they do it not unoften with success. But there are occasions in the life of a nation, however humble and helpless it may be, when the game does not succeed. We see that the "Statesman" is much troubled at the prospect of the failure of this favourite game in connection with the Rowlatt Bills agitation. We find in its report of yesterday of the great Town Hall meeting held on the 3rd February last to protest against the Bills—the Black Bills as they have been appropriately called by the 'New India'—the following statement: "There was a noticeable absence of nearly all the well-known leaders of the Moderate party." This, as the "Statesman" must have been aware if its reporters did not mislead it, is altogether a false statement. In the report which has been published in our columns the reader must have seen that almost all the Moderate leaders who were in Calcutta that is to say, those who have actively been engaged in political movements were either present—and many of them took active part in the proceedings—or expressed their symnathy with the object of the meeting. In fact, the outstanding feature of the meeting at the Town Hall, was its representative character. Moderates and Nationalists, Hindus and Mahomedans were strongly represented. Prominent Moderate leaders like Messrs J. N. Roy, Principal Heramba Chandra Moitra, Babus Krishna Kumar Mitra, Satyananda Bose, Pramatha Nath Banerjea, Messrs B. C. Chatterjea and J Chowdhury attended and Mr J. N. Roy moved the most important resolution of the meeting. Sir Rash Bahari Ghosh is the acknowledged leader of the educated community in Bengal. He could not attend the meeting for ill-health and wrote to the President, Mr. Chuckerburty, fully expressing his sympathy with the object of the meeting.

Of course, a few prominent moderate leaders did not attend but they laboured under certain disadvantages. They were either Knights or were not in the habit of attending any other meeting except those which are convened for the purpose of giving thanks to the powers that be, or of expressing condolence or to congratulate their countrymen on their being given high posts or titles of honour. All the same, we have not the slightest doubt that though they failed to attend, everyone of them felt keenly the frightful character of the Rowlatt Bills. Indeed, no Indian who has a drop of love for his country in him can not but feel otherwise. But the meeting did not simply represent political parties in Bengal. Men who had never joined in political meetings came out to record their emphatic protest against the proposed legislation. Dr. P. C. Roy who has recently been honoured by a bureaucracy, not very appreciative of real merit, with a knighthood felt that it was an occasion when he must leave his test tubes to attend to the call of his country. The depth of feeling which the proposed repressive measures have evoked and which brought out Dr. Roy from his Laboratory found a tremendous expression from the vast audience in the overflow meeting which greeted him again and again as he rose to speak. If the bureaucracy has eyes to see and ears to hear, it will not, we fervently hope, see things through the eyes of the "Statesman" or hear the advice of the few self-seekers, a suggestive reference to whom was made by the President in his well-reasoned speech. More than one speaker expressed their gratification that the Rowlatt Bills have united brothers who were separated over the Montagu Reforms. Let this unity on which the Town Hall meeting set its seal be abiding till India gets the right of self-determination which will make it impossible for an irresponsible and irresponsive bureaucracy to launch measures like the present Bills at their sweet will and pleasure.

Executive Officers for District Boards.

In Bengal the privilege of electing a non-official Chairman of the District Board has been granted to four districts—Berhampur, Jessore, 24-Pergunnas and Burdwan. The same privilege has also been offered by the Government of Behar and Orissa to Patna, Muzafferpore, Cuttuck and Bhagalpur—Muzafferpore alone having declined it. There is, however, this difference that while the Government of Behar have coupled this small mercy with a humiliating condition which no self-respecting Board can accept, the Government of Bengal have not insisted it in the case of the Bengal Boards. The reader is already aware of the nature of this condition. It is to fasten an Executive officer on the non-official Chairman. Why? Because, says the Government of Behar, that the non-official Chairman will be so busy with his own private affairs that he will have very little time to devote to the work of the Board; and hence the Government is lending an officer of its own to dispose of the ordinary work of the Board. That is to say, while this executive officer will tour over the district to inspect its roads, bridges, schools, dispensaries, pounds, ferries, dak bunglows and draw his pay and travelling expenses at the cost of the cess-payers, the function of the non-official Chairman will be to sit in his office-chair like a figure head and train himself and the members of the Board in the art of self-government by doing all necessary work through an official proxy! Do the authorities really take our public men for donkeys?

How could the District Collector, overwhelmed as he is with one hundred and one duties, perform the functions of the District Board Chairman without the help of an executive officer? How are the non-official Chairmen of the Bengal District Boards carrying on their work so splendidly well inspite of their being extremely busy men? One of them is Rai Bahadur Baikuntha Nath Sen. Another is Rai Bahadur Jadu Nath Mojumdar. Yet another is the Hon'ble Raja Rishikesh Law. Those who know them are aware that public and private calls on their daily activities are too many in all conscience, and yet they feel no need for the help of an outsider to enable them to do their duties properly. We do not mention the name of Raja Mani Lal Sing, who is also doing excellent work as non-official Chairman of the Burdwan District Board, as he has more leisure than his other colleagues.

Here is then another important question. The District Boards have no sufficient funds at their disposal to meet the cost of the numerous works thrown on them. Where will they get money to maintain this white elephant of an executive office? We are glad that a number of patriotic non-official members of the Bhagalpore District Board have entered a strong protest against the thrusting of this white elephant upon their Board. The white elephant only eats and is otherwise a harmless creature. But the officer who is threatened to be associated with the non-official Chairman will not only draw his pay and travelling expenses at the cost of the cess-payers—who pay the cess but see very little of its benefits so solemnly promised to them by the Secretary of State, the Duke of Argylle,—but be in a position to do immense harm to the Board by his hostile attitude. The non-official members of the Patna and Cuttuck Boards should follow the example of their confreres of the Bhagalpore Board and protest against the generous offer of the Government to give them a costly and perhaps a mischievous executive officer. If the Boards need the help of such an officer, surely they should be left free to appoint one themselves so that they may control him as their own servant and may not be under the necessity of treating him as if he were their master.

Katarpur Riot Case—how it is being Conducted.

We invite the pointed attention of the Lieutenant-Governor of U. P. to the letter of the Hony. Secretary of All-India Sabha published elsewhere, describing the manner in which the trial of the accused in the Katarpur Riot case is being conducted. It may be in the recollection of the reader that a petition signed by a large number of Hindus, including many gentlemen of high position, was submitted to His Honour, praying that the case might be tried by the ordinary Court of Law, and for reasons best known to His Honour he did not find his way to comply with the request. And what a curious light does the letter of the Hony Secretary on the conduct of the trial? In the interests of justice and humanity, we appeal to His Honour, to order an inquiry into the matter and remove the serious grievances.

"Fitness for Self-Government".

The "Statesman" has expressed its satisfaction that the Hon. Mr. Patel has given notice of a motion to postpone the consideration of the Sedition Bills till six months after the expiry of the present session of the Imperial Legislative Council. Because, our contemporary thinks that the attitude of the non-official members with regard to the motion will show if India has been fit for any degree of Self-Government. The oracle of Chowringhee argues that if the non-official members support Mr. Patel's motion they will show by their conduct that they have no proper appreciation of their responsibility. This piece of sophistry might have been ignored with contempt had it not been a fact that there are still some among our countrymen who consciously or unconsciously draw their inspiration in political ethics from the Anglo-Indian papers. It is fortunate for the "Statesman" that its queer views are not seriously considered anywhere but in India. The argument that the executive should be armed with the powers of the Judiciary and should supersede ordinary courts of Justice, that a mere *fiat* of the executive Government should nullify the law of the land—and all these in normal times when there is peace and order in the country—can only be seriously advanced in a country where the people have either forgotten their elementary rights as citizens or have not the power to "defend" their rights.

In the United States of America, the Judiciary have the power to declare the most solemn Acts of the congress as *ultra vires* and of no effect. This power of the Judiciary is considered in America as the greatest safe-guard of the liberty of the subject not only against the Executive but even against the Legislature which is elected by the people themselves. In England, the Judiciary have got the power to declare any act of the Executive Government illegal and effectually nullify it. And mind the executive in England does not consist of O'Dwyers and Fullers as in India but men of the type of Lloyd George, Henderson, Churchill etc. who by training and tradition, unlike the bureaucrats in India, are thoroughgoing democrats. In democratic countries like England and the United States where the executive depend for their existence on the will of the people, it has not been found safe to invest the executive with powers independent of he control of the Judiciary. But here in India we are invited to submit implicitly to the decisions of the executive with which the Judiciary will have no power to interfere. And when the Rowlatt Bills propose to invest the Executive here with powers which are not enjoyed by the Executive in any country and our people object to it, they are put down as utterly unfit for self-government! They will prove themselves unfit indeed for self-government if they do not fight tooth and nail to defend their elementary rights as men.

Hard Fate of the Mussalman Editors.

It will be remembered that the late Mussalman disturbance in Calcutta was followed by the externment of the editors of all the Urdu papers in this city. They had nothing to do with the disturbance—at least their connection with it has never been established judicially, or even executively. All the same they were expelled from Calcutta under the Defence of India Act and interned in the various parts of India. The letter published elsewhere over the heading "Strangulation of the Mussalman papers: heart-rending fate of these editors," will show how harshly and unjustly have these gentlemen been dealt with. They have all been interned but no allowance has been given to them. This, to say the least, is repugnant to all sense of justice and fairness. When the State has taken away their liberty without any judicial trial it is bound to maintain them according to their position in society. One of them, the editor and proprietor of the "Daily Jamhoor," we are informed, has lost his entire business and suffered a loss of Rs. 20,000 owing to his externment. And the Act which empowers the executive to ruin people in this way without being held responsible to any body is going to be perpetuated with the help of the Rowlatt Report! Four months have passed away since their expulsion from Calcutta; and as they have been sufficiently punished, though for what crime the public has yet to know, we trust, the Government of Bengal will be pleased to recall their order of externment and allow the victims of the C. I. D. to return to Calcutta.

The Calcutta Liners Conference have consulted the Indian General Conference, London, with reference to the question of reducing homeward passenger rates, and have received the following telegraphic reply: "Cost of food and running steamers enormously increased over pre-war cost. It is impossible to reduce passenger fares. They must bear their share of increased running cost."

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

INDIA OFFICE REFORM.

COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY APPOINTED AGA KHAN A MEMBER.

Delhi, Feb 2.

The terms of reference to the Committee are as follows: To advise what changes should be made in (A) the existing system of Home Administration of India affairs and (B) the existing relations between the Secretary of State or the Secretary of State in Council and the Government of India both generally and with reference to the relaxation of the Secretary of States powers of superintendence direction and control.

2. To examine in particular (A) the constitutional powers of the Council of India, its relations to the Secretary of State as affecting his responsibility to Parliament and otherwise, and the financial and administrative control exercised by the Council. (B) The composition of the Council, the qualifications, method of appointment, and term of office of its members and the number of Indian members (C) the working of the Council in relation to office procedure. (d) The general departmental procedure of the India Office. (e) The organization of the India Office establishment and question of modifying the system of its recruitment so as to provide for (1) the interchange of appointments with Indian services and (2) the throwing open of a proportion of the appointments to Indians.

3. To advise whether any of the charges on account of the India Office and if so what charges should be placed along with the Secretary of State's salary upon the estimates.

4 To advise how effect should be given by legislation or otherwise to the committee's recommendations.

5. To enquire into and report upon any other matters cognate or relevant to the above which it may consider expedient to take into consideration. The committee will have regard generally to the proposals made in the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms for the Reform of the Government of India and provincial gove and in particular to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 290 to 295 of the Report.

EUROPEAN SENTENCED.

Bombay, Feb. 3.

The "Bombay Chronicle" publishes the report of a case which recently concluded before Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore Mr. R. A. Wilson, I C S and a jury. In this case a European named Maclarron, who till lately was a Lieutenant in I A R O attached to Supply and Transport Corps was on 27th January found by unanimous verdict of the jury guilty on the charge of having tortured two of his servants by branding them with hoop iron and was convicted and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 which, if realized, is to be awarded to two servants as compensation and in default one month's further imprisonment. The case was transferred from military to Civil Court on his dismissal from the military service. The trial lasted about a week. Among witnesses examined were several I A R O officers, a Captain of R I A, Superintendent of Police and the Civil Surgeon. The accused was defended by Mr. Russell, Bar-at-Law. The mother and the wife of the accused awaits another trial at Allahabad High Court. In this case, the accused with three Indian sepoys stands charged with an offence of dacoity.

GLASS FROM PADDY HUSKS.

EXPERIMENTS IN BURMA.

Rangoon, 1st February. Mr. A. P. Morris, principal of the Government Engineering School, Insein, and provincial art officer, Burma, has written an interesting note on the possibilities of glass manufacture in Burma, one of the principal method being by the use of paddy husk.

In the course of his note Mr Morris says that the production of glass has so far not been attempted in Burma. One reason has been the lack of supply of sufficient pure silica. This, indeed, had been the chief factor in the failure, until very lately, of any attempts to produce good glass on a commercial scale all over India, though recently suitable supplies had apparently been found.

Proceeding Mr. Morris says:— It seemed to me that paddy husk might be useful. Experiments show that the ash is mostly silica and the husk gives about 18 per cent. of white ash. Using this as a source for my supplies of silica I have with the help of Mr. Nicholas, science lecturer at the Engineering School, conducted a few experiments. The husk used was not cleaned and a small amount of iron indicated by the tests was probably most of it due to clay present in the dirty husk. Even so the silica yielded glass of a light green or yellow colour. By the use manganese dioxide colourless glass can be prepared and I have managed to produce in the laboratory colourless lime soda glass of fairly high fusibility."

If the husk is washed, states Mr. Morris, the percentage of iron is greatly reduced, but he was not sure that it would not be more economical to use it as it was and to add mangan

The second important ingredient in glass manufacture is soduim carbonate or, better still sodium sulphate and this, says Mr. Morris, is also available locally, in fact if production can be stimulated there should be no lack of supplies. Lime of pure quality can also be obtained and manganese is available in Burma or could be imported from India. The experiments conducted indicate that (1) paddy husk can be used to develop sufficient heat for glass manufacture; (2) paddy husk yields as a bye-product, silica, sufficiently pure to be suitable for the manufacture of colourless glass. Further silica is in a finely divided state which makes its conversion into glass particularly easy; (3) either ingredients for lime soda glass are available locally and the glass obtained is of a high fusibility nd good quality; (4) with husk fuel at such a low price and silica in a finely divided from the manufacture of glass would be particularly cheap.

BENARES RAPE AND ABDUCTION CASE

Benares, Feb 1.—The jury returned a unanimous verdict of guilty against all the accused. The judge sentencing accused Monak Husain, sub-inspector of police to 5 years rigorous imprisonment under each section for rape and abduction observed that as he was a police officer whose duty it was to protect people a lesser sentence would not meet the ends of justice, but considering that in the past, accused discharged his duties well as was deposed by Mr. Scott O'Conor, superintendent of Police the maximum sentence was not passed, He directed that the sentences would run concurrently. In sentencing accused Mt. Zina to six years' rigorous imprisonment the judge observed that this lady had fallen in evil ways, and but for her action the offence of rape could not have been committed. Ishul Hasan was sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment under secs 147 and 325. It was impossible not to realise that this accused was placed in a difficult position. Had he acted contrary to the wishes of the daroga it is possible he might have been ruined. When once the offence of rape, was committed he could not undo the evil but then he did not tell the truth. The judge acquitted him of abetment of abduction. Sentences were concurrent in the case of all the accused persons. Appeals will soon be filed.—"Leader."

THE ALL INDIA NAD-VATUL ULMA CONFERENCE.

It is hereby notified for general information that the Eighteenth Annual Sessions of the All India Nad-Vatul Ulma Conference will be held at Belgaum (Bombay Presidency) on the 19th, 20th and 21st of April 1919. Khan Bahadur Mon Mr Ibrahim Haroon Jaffer Sait of Poona and Mokana Molvi Kutbodeen Ahmed of Belgaum have been elected as Chairman and Secretary of the Reception Committee respectively.

CAUSING DEATH OF A SERGEANT ACCUSED FOUND NOT GUILTY

(Associated Press of India.)

Madras, Feb. 4.

Justice Ayling resumed the hearing to-day of the case in which Private Hugh Burrows of the Norfolk Regiment pleaded not guilty to the indictment charging him with having on 10th December last committed murder by causing the death of Sergeant McDonnough of Lanch by shooting him through head with a rifle at King's Barracks, Fort St. George.

The Jury after twenty minutes' deliberation returned the verdict that the accused fired a shot which caused Sergeant's death, that the time accused fired the shot he did not realise the nature of the act or that it was contrary to law and that accused was therefore not guilty.

His Lordship accepted the verdict and directed that accused be kept in safe custody pending orders of Local Government.

TELEPHONES.

PROSPECTS OF NEW APPARATUS.

Delhi, Feb 1.

The restrictions on the construction and importation of new telephone connections, which it was necessary to impose owing to the demand for plant for military purposes having been, under the changed conditions removed, it will now be possible for the Telegraph Department to supply extra connections at certain places, though any considerable development obviously cannot take place until supplies of switchboard apparatus and plant have been received from England. Some little time must elapse before these can be expected owing to the state of the English markets, but the Telegraph Department is doing all that it can to meet the demands of the public and it is as well that the public should realise the position and understand the troubles and difficulties which hamper extensions at present.

SCARCITY OF FOOD GRAINS.

RESOLUTION IN BOMBAY CORPORATION

Bombay, Feb. 4

A lengthy discussion took place at the meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation on Bombay on the Hon Mr C V Mehta's motion inviting attention of Government to the necessity of bringing down the high prices of the food stuffs in Bombay and of reducing the freight on the shipment of rice from Burma to a minimum. The Proposition found support from every member who rose to speak. The main point made by various speakers was that there was profiteering in connection with the sale of the food grains. This, it was pointed out, was the system under which the Controller gave grain to a small number of merchants who, it was alleged, transferred it to their relative and friends and the latter sold it to the people at exorbitant prices. Various suggestions were made to remedy this evil. One was to open a Government Central Depot from which arrangements should be made to sell grains to ordinary shopkeepers at a particular price. The Proposition was carried.

ASSAM CROP REPORT.

Harvesting of winter rice is nearing completion and that of pulses and mustard pressing of sugarcane, plucking of cotton, pruning of tea, transplantation of spring rice and ploughing for autumn rice and jute continue.

Outturns and prospects of crops are generally fair.

Cattle disease is reported from one dist. Price of common rice rose slightly

RAJA OF PURI

ADOPTS SON FROM GAJAPATY FAMILY

(From a Correspondent.)

The Raja of Puri had executed a will to adopt 3rd son of the Raja of Bodokimedi of the Gajapate Family in the Ganjam district. The boy has now been adopted and the deed of adoption has been registered at Puri on 3rd instant.—(By W:

The Sedition Bills

PROTEST MEETING AT FARIDPUR

At a Public Meeting held to-day in the Mela Pandal, Babu Mathuranath Maitra, Chairman, Faridpur Municipality presiding, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted.

(1) This meeting of the citizens of Faridpur records its respectful but most emphatic protest against the introduction of the two drastic bills based upon the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee into the Imperial Legislative Council on the 6th February next as the proposed measures will in effect infringe the most cherished rights of personal liberty of His Majesty's Indian subjects: and this meeting is of opinion that on the eve of the inauguration of the Constitutional reforms these repressive laws are wholly inopportune and likely to defeat the very object and purpose of the proposed Reforms.

(2) That the meeting urges upon the non-official Indian Members of the Imperial Legislative Council the desirability of opposing the introduction of these two bills into the Legislative Council in the best interests of the country: or, in the alternative, of moving for their postponement till the reformed Legislative Assembly comes into existence.

It was further resolved to send a copy of the above resolutions to the Government of India and to all non-official Indian Members of the Imperial Legislative Council. The meeting was a crowded one attended by Hindus and Mussalmans alike and great enthusiasm prevailed. It was a great success and reminded many of the days of Anti-Partition Agitation

PROTEST MEETING AT AMROATI.

(By wire.)

Amroati, Feb. 4.

The Amroati Citizens' public meeting was held in Ganesh Theatre last Monday under the auspices of the Home Rule League, Berar Provincial District Congress Committees, protesting against the black bills. Hon'ble Mr. Deshpande presided Hon'ble Mr. Tambe proposed: This meeting emphatically protests against the two new Criminal Law Amendment Bills based on Rowlatt Report involving dangerous principles perilous to the Liberty of His Majesty's subjects being unnecessary, unwarranted, unjust interference with the natural rights of Indians, being retrograde, repressive measure which will save the effect of Indians losing confidence in the honesty of British statesmen and inconsistent with self-determination and the responsible Govt. declared by His Majesty's Govt. and the allies. If passed, it will deepen the discontent, make administration difficult, impede health, growth of public opinion and prejudically affect passing constitutional reforms.

Mr. Sharangpani seconded, Mr. Shewade supported and it was unanimously passed.

Mr. Shastri proposed a second resolution calling upon people's representatives in the Supreme Council to collectively oppose. Mr. Dismukh Ladha supported and it was passed unanimously.

THE GREAT RUNGPUR SENSATION

HEAD CLERK ON TRIAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Rangpur, Feb 2.

Rames Chandra Ray, Head Clerk of the Dt Judge's Court has been placed upon his trial before Mr T C Mitter, Deputy Magistrate, specially deputed by the District Magistrate, to try this case. The case for the prosecution is that on the 24th of January 1919, the present accused who was a great friend of the husband of the complainant entered his inner apartment, when his wife (the complainant) was busy in cooking the morning meal, and the husband was away to some house. It is alleged that he stealthily entered the kitchen, seized the hand of the complainant when she, taking the kitchen broom-stick administered it upon the accused, and also taking a half-burnt fuel struck him with it. An up-country servant who was grinding spices in a corner of the verandah of the kitchen, hearing the 'golmal', entered the cook room to see what the matter was, and the accused, in the meantime, slipped away to the Public Road. His house is only about a hundred feet from the house of the complainant. The complainant is a respectable Brahmin lady highly connected, and her husband is a contractor of the District Board, Municipality and P.W.D. at Rangpur. It is further alleged that the lady narrated the whole occurrence to her husband when he returned home, at about 10 o'clock in the morning. Messrs C R Das, Nishi Kanto Sen, C. C. Bose, and S Ray, Counsels, instructed by a number of local pleaders are appearing for the accused; and, Babus Bidhu Ranjan Lahiri, Jitendra Nath Chakraburty and Satis Chandra Chakraburti are conducting the prosecution a number of respectable gentlemen of the town have been examined on behalf of the prosecution. The lady has been examined and cross-examined at her own house, under a special prayer, by the prosecution.

Another feature of the case is that a petition has been presented to the District Magistrate to initiate proceedings under Sec 110 Cr P. C. by a number of gentlemen of the locality where the accused is, alleging that his being at liberty is hazardous to the safety of the community. The investigation into this case has not been finished yet, and the trial-court has ordered the production of the records of that case, upon the prayer of both parties.

MINERS' DEMANDS.

VIEWS OF LEADERS OF INDUSTRY.

London, Jan. 21.

The leaders of industry fear a disastrous effect if the miners' demand for a thirty per cent. increase in wages and a six-hour day is granted. It is estimated that this would mean an increase of four shillings a ton in the cost of coal to the consumer and an addition of £40,000,000 to the collieries' wages Bill. The result would be very serious.

CALCUTTA GAZETTE.

Feb 5.

Mr M H B Lethbridge, Jt Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Burdwan sadar.

Mr H C V Phitpot, Jt Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Mymensingh sadar.

Mr E Hodson, Asst Supdt of Police, is appointed to have charge of the police work of the Contai Subdivision.

Babu Tapendra Kumar Ghose Chaudhury, Dy Supdt of Police, is posted to Rangpur sadar.

Khan Sahib Ghulam Rabbani, Dy Supdt of Police Madaripur, is posted to Faridpur sadar.

Mr Ashutosh Gupta, sub pro tempore Dist and Sessions Judge, third grade, is confirmed in that grade, from the 16th July 1918.

Rai Priya Lal Gangali Bahadur, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, 24-Parganas, is allowed an extension of leave for thirty days

Babu Nagendra Nath Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed an extension of leave for ten days.

Mr S C Mallik Dist and Sessions Judge, Baukura, is allowed combined leave from the 2nd January 1919 to the 14th February 1919, inclusive, viz privilege leave for eight days, and furlough on medical certificate for the remaining period.

Mr R G Watling Supdt of Police is granted furlough for nine days in extension of the leave already granted to him.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Third class powers have been conferred upon Babu Paresh Nath Mazumdar for a period of three years in respect to such cases as may be made over to him within the limits of village Sailkuna in Jessore and also in respect of cases under section 34 of Act V of 1861, occurring within the limits of that village. He is vested with powers under section 190 (1) (a) and (b) of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

In supersession of previous orders Babu Debendra Nath Mukharji, Sub-Deputy Collector Birbhum, is allowed combined leave for six months, viz., privilege leave for three months and leave on medical certificate for the remaining period.

Babu Aswani Kumar Gangali, Sub-Deputy Collector Rampurhat, is allowed combined leave for six months, viz., privilege leave for one month and twenty-two days with effect from the 15th Dec 1918, and leave on medical certificate for the remaining period.

Maulvi Azizur Rahman (No II), Sub-Dy Collr, Ulubaria, is transferred to Bogra sadar.

A CASE AGAINST THE "RATNAKAR"

PRESS UNDER THE PRESS ACT.

In the High Court, on Monday last, the Chief Justice and Justices Courts and Manuk delivered judgment in the case of the keeper of the "Ratnakar" Press, Muzaffarpur. In that press a certain leaflet had been printed and the Local Government being of opinion that the leaflet came within the scope of Section 4 of the Act, directed the forfeiture of Rs 500 deposited by the keeper of the Press as security. Two points were urged on behalf of the applicant, (1) that the notification of forfeiture issued by the Local Government was not in proper form and therefore illegal and (2) that the leaflet, was an innocent piece of writing, having no tendency direct or indirect of bringing the Government into hatred or contempt. Their Lordships held that the High Covrt had no jurisdiction to go into the question of the legality of the notification and that the only ground on which the order of forfeiture could be set aside was that the leaflet did not come within the purview of the class of writings contemplated by Section 4 of the Press Act Their Lordships were however of opinion that as a matter of fact the notification was in proper form and that the leaflet was covered by the comprehensive phraseology employed in Section 4 of the Act. The application was dismissed with costs.

SHOOTING ACCIDENT

GIRL AND A CHILD WOUNDED AT MONKEY HUNT

News of a fatal sequel to a monkey hunt in the village of Basantapur in the jurisdiction of the Amta Police Station in the Howrah district has just come to light. It appears that this village has recently been infested by monkeys. The other day an inhabitants of the village, named Mahomed Khan, borrowed a shot-gun from a neighbour and set out to kill the monkeys. On seeing a monkey seated on a tree he fired but he missed the monkey, some shot striking a fourteen-year-old Mahomedan girl, by the name of Basiran Bibi and a child aged seven The wounded girl and the child were at first removed to the Uluberia hospital, but they were subsequently brought down to the Howrah General Hospital The shots were extracted from the girl's abdomen, but despite all efforts, she succumbed. The child is still lying in the Howrah Hospital in a precarious condition.

The scene of occurrence is about 6 miles from the Amta Police Station.

SELF-DETERMINATION FOR INDIA

INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVES AT PEACE CONFERENCE

PROTEST AGAINST ROWLATT BILLS

MAHABIR JAIN SAMITY'S OPINIONS

The Mahabir Jain Samity over the signature of its President, Mr Padam Raj Jain has sent cables to the Premier of Great Britain and the Peace Conference asking self determination for India and the representation of Messrs Tilak, Gandhi and Hasan Imam as India's representatives to the Peace Conference. Another telegram has been sent to the Viceroy protesting against the introduction of the Sedition Bills in the Legislative Council.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS

PEACE CONFERENCE

London, Jan 31.

The "Daily Mail" learns from Paris that it is understood that the Premiers of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have agreed on their own scheme regarding the powers to be relegated under the mandatory system, and are urging this strongly upon the Conference. It would provide practically freedom of administration on the present Dominion plan. The Wilson theory of international ownership as applied to the German colonies is now an inevitable decision of the conference. Japan to-day formally accepted the theory, and in view of the Imperial Cabinet's support it is understood that South Africa will no longer oppose the theory. The only Government continuing formal objection to-day was Australia, which claims New Guinea, but as M. Clemenceau promised his support in safeguarding Australia's position Australia will not continue in independent opposition to President Wilson's plan.

London, Jan 31.

The "Daily News" Paris correspondent says: The reports that there are serious difficulties in the way of a settlement of Colonial questions are exaggerated. It is understood that the representatives of the Dominions have accepted the view that their interests will be adequately protected if they are nominated as mandatory authorities under the League. Thus South Africa would become trustee for German South West and East Africa; New Zealand for Samoa; and Australia for the Pacific Islands, south of the Equator. It is understood that Japan is prepared to apply the same principle of Kiaochao which, under certain reservations, will revert to China. The only question remaining is the destination of the Pacific islands north of the Equator, which Japan claims.

THE FIRST TERRITORIAL QUESTION.

London, Jan 31.

A telegram to the "Times" from Paris says: The fate of the German colonies is most important as regards world's settlement, since it is the first territorial question tackled, and its settlement will establish a principle applicable on a much broader scale, not merely in regard to Europe but in regard to the freedom of the seas. The mere fact that Britain and the Dominions are becoming mandatories of the League of Nations, and are assuming the responsibility of administering further great territories, must gave additional weight to Imperial and Dominion voices in the settlement regarding the sea.

Washington, Jan 31

The China Agency reports that China will ask the Peace Conference to revise the Chino-Japanese treaties of 1915.

BRAZIL'S ATTITUDE. TO FOLLOW GREAT POWERS.

Paris, Jan. 31.

According to the "Temps" the chief Brazil delegate at the Peace Conference stated that as regards questions of general interest Brazil would follow the lead of the Great Powers, with whom she had always maintained the most friendly relations.

London, Jan 31.

A communique from Paris says: A meeting of representatives of the five Great Powers was held in the afternoon. The delegates of the Great Powers composing the Inter-Allied Commission which will shortly be proceeding to Poland, stated the conclusion they had reached after hearing representatives of Poland and the Czecho-Slovak Republic regarding the provisional exploitation of the industrial district of Teschen. After hearing a report on behalf of their colleagues by M Noulens and Sir Louis Botha, the Allied ministers decided to send Allied delegates to Teschen in order to assure peaceful exploitation in agreement with the Czechs and Poles pending the territorial settlement of the question by the Conference. The delegates of Rumania and Serbia gave their views of their respective interests and rights in the Banat of Temesvar.

POLISH AND CZECHO-SLOVAK QUESTION. DEBATES IN COMMITTEE.

Paris, Jan. 30.

A committee of the five Great Powers devoted their morning and afternoon sittings to the Polish and Czecho-Slovak questions. The Polo delegate M. Dmowski explained Polish claims to the recovery of territory held before partitions of 1772 and 1793 and free access to the sea at Danzing. The Czecho Slovak delegate Benes explained the incidents leading to Czecho-Slovak and Polish encounters on the Silesian-Bohemian frontier. The committee stated that it was necessary to terminate these encounters. A proposal was made that the Allies should occupy the disputed zone, to which the Poles and Czecho-Slovaks agreed. No final decision on territorial problems was reached, but the Poles and Czecho-Slovaks were most conciliatory and declared their willingness to abide by the judgment of the Conference. The essential thing is that frontier incidents should henceforward cease.

THE COMMISSION TO POLAND. HEARD BY DELEGATES OF GREAT POWERS.

Paris, Jan 31.

An official meeting attended by President Wilson, the Premiers and Ministers of the Allied and Associated Powers, with representatives of Japan, to-day heard the commission which is going to Poland, and afterwards the representatives of Serbia and Rumania.

Paris, Jan 30.

The inter-allied mission to Poland is composed as follows: France, M Noulens and General Niessel: Britain, Sir Esme Howard and General Bethe: Italy, Signor Montagna and General Romei: America, Mr Lord and General Kernan. The mission will leave for Warsaw via Vienna next week.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

PEACE CONFERENCE.

FUTURE OF CYPRUS.

M. VENIZELOS'S VIEW.

Rome, Jan. 30.

M. Venizelos, interviewed by a representative of the "Tribunal," spoke confidently of the prospective cession of Cyprus to Greece.

THE U. BOATS.

NUMBER DISTRIBUTED AMONG ALLIES.

London, Jan 31.

It is authoritatively stated that 37 of the surrendered U boats have been distributed as follows: France 16, Italy 10, Japan 7, and America 4. It is considered that the submarines are worthy of serious attention by naval constructors, as very fine work has been bestowed upon them.

TERRITORIAL PROBLEMS IN ASIA.

BARGAIN WITH SPAIN IS UNFOUNDED.

London, Jan. 31.

The "Daily Mail" learns from Paris that the British Government having accepted President Wilson's plan hopes for an earlier solution of territorial problems in Asia, Central Africa and notably in Mesopotamia of which India expects to be mandatory. India also desires to be mandatory of a large portion of German East Africa as a field of emigration.

The statements in the French press that Great Britain is considering a bargain with Spain for return of Gibraltar are unfounded.

GERMAN AND TURKISH TERRITORIES.

MANDATORY PRINCIPLES.

Paris, Jan. 31.

Although details have not yet been worked out respecting provisional arrangements for dealing with German Colonies and occupied Turkish territories, it is believed that compromise will be satisfactory and fulfil all reasonable hopes regarding the future of these territories. Compromise at present merely indicates no more than acceptance of mandatory principles for German and Turkish territories. It is pointed out that mandatory power will require greater authority over population in certain countries than in others hence there must be several kinds of mandates. Mandate for Mesopotamia will be offered to Britain. Natural development of south-west Africa will follow the lines of provinces of Union of South Africa ending in complete local Self-Government. Respecting German colonies adjacent to British Dominions the "Temps" anticipates a regime bordering on absorption pure and simple and this is doubtless correct. British circles at a conference consider that a mandatory power must be allowed to work without interference even from the League of Nations, as a case, where intervention by the League would be necessary, should never arise.

FRESH RIOTING IN GLASGOW AND ELSEWHERE.

London, Feb. 1.

Rioting in Glasgow broke out while a deputation was inside the Townhall awaiting Lord Provest's reply regarding Government intervention. The crowd of strikers outside attempted to disable a tramcar and on soldiers intervening to protect conductorette, precipitated the outbreak. When riot was at its height, the Sheriff surrounded by municipal authorities in open square persisted in reading Riot Act in spite of hail of missiles. Eventually Gallagher and Kirkwood were permitted to address mob from the Townhall and they appealed to the strikers to disperse quietly. The strikers marched off but indulged in rioting and some looting in other streets for two hours. There was a recurrence of rioting in the evening outside the Townhall Police again charged and quiet was retored later.

There was also serious rioting in the mining districts of Lankakshire especially at Bells Hill where much damage to property was done. The situation in Belfast last evening was unchanged. Patrols of strikers assisted the police to maintain order. Mr. Lloyd George replied to a telegram from Dublin asking the Government to intervene at Belfast that he wholly concurred in Mr. Bonar Law's reply to Lord Provost of Glasgow and said that Government did not control the hours of labour in shipyards.

A meeting of London District Amalgamated Society of Engineers last evening which was attended by two Clyde delegates decided to strike on February 6th for a forty hour week.

SITUATION ON CLYDE.

STRIKERS EVERYWHERE.

London, Jan. 30.

The situation on Clyde last night was disquieting. Three more big works are idle owing to lack of electricity while unofficial strike of thousands of miners and stoppage of carters complicated the situatios. The Minister of Labour telegraphed declining to intervene because the question of hours was a national one and should be settled by a national negotiating committee. A procession of strikers headed by bands marched to the town hall where the leader told Lord Provost that tramcars impeded the procession and if Lord Provost did not have them removed, the strikers would hold them up. They also warned him that unless he secured Government intervention, the strikers might adopt unconstitutional methods.

RAILWAYMEN'S CLAIMS.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY CONCEDED.

London, Jan. 30.

The Press Bureau says: Representatives of the Railway Executive Committee and the Railwaymen's Unions have signed an agreement establishing the principle of an eight-hour day. The Railwaymen's Trades Union representatives and the Railway Executive Committee will discuss forthwith the men's claims for altered conditions of service and rates of pay.

PEACE CONFERENCE

POLISH-CZECHO DISPUTE.

PEACE CONFERENCE DECISION.

London, Feb 1

Paris: A communique says: Representatives of the five Great Powers to-day approved the text of a provisional agreement between the Czecho and the Poles proposed by Delegates, regarding the Teschen district and also approved the instructions for the Inter-Allied Commission proceeding to Poland. Mr Bratiano made a detailed statement regarding the Roumanian claims.

Paris, Feb. 1.

Interviewed by Reuter's representative a high British authority said he was surprised by the smooth working of the Conference. There had been bickerings of course but willingness to bridge differences and do justice to the other side exceeded anticipations. Progress, too, considering everything, was rapid. The public might be forgiven if it failed to grasp these gratifying facts because it heard much about the irreconcilable claims of the British Dominions, Italians, Yugo-Slavs, etc. Nevertheless those who planned the Conference expected that obstacles to agreement would be more difficult than they proved. The machinery was now moving with reasonable absence of friction and great and small peronages were getting to know each other better with the result that they were working more smoothly together. But if the lions in path had not been so formidable as was anticipated they were nevertheless there. The provisional agreement in the matter of the former German Colonies and conquered Ottoman provinces seemed to have given unmixed satisfaction only in America. The dominions and France had wisely decided to be content with the substance of their claims, sacrificing the remainder to the ideal of the League of Nations. These sacrifices for the League, of course were pleasing to everybody.

The well-known political writer M Pertinax writing in the "Echo de Paris" regarded Mr. Lloyd George as a righteous man who having done good service in the war was straying into false paths in pursuit of the vision of a supernation. M Pertinax pleaded with him to return to "Real Politic". This view was common in France who knew when all was said and done that a block of 80,000,000 Germans was on her Eastern frontier. What was badly wanted was a detailed scheme of League of Nations but this was impossible until the extent of the territories for which the League was to assume responsibility had been settled as well as the boundaries of new States to be carved out of Austria-Hungary and Turkey. It was well known that Italy and Rumania were both presenting bills drawn before they entered the war endorsed by Britain and France. This was one of the many difficult problems still to be considered.

London, Feb. 2.

Speaking in support of the League of Nations in Albert hall Mr. Asquith said that any workable scheme must jealously respect sovereignity of States both great and small within their own domains and over their own affairs. The world was not going into liquidation and self-government must continue to be the only road to liberty and progress. No State must be called upon to sacrifice its personality. Subject to those conditions the League should be recognised as the ultimate controlling authority over international compacts and disputes. Mr. Asquith referred approvingly to what General Smuts said regarding the control of munitions, and expressed himself of the opinion that the moral and economic weapons of the League would prove more serviceable than the exercise of force. In conclusion Mr. Asquith emphasised the importance of the League in the post-war social upheaval.

STRIKE IN SCOTLAND

GLASGOW GUARDED BY TROOPS.

London, Feb 1.

Glasgow is quiet to-day. A large number of military have been drafted into the city. Sentries with steel-helmets and fixed bayonets are stationed at principal points. The Chairman of the strike committee who is a Municipal Councillor has been arrested. Trams are running. Thirty-four civilians and 19 police were injured in yesterday's rioting.

TERRIBLE SCENES IN PETROGRAD

REVOLT AMONG SOLDIERS.

London, Feb. 3

Helsingfors, Feb. 2.—Fugitives from Petrograd report that a revolt has broken out among the soldiers of the old Russian army in Petrograd. Machinegun fighting has occurred. Artillery at Kronstadt Bombarded Petrograd Many corpses are lying in the streets.

WILL ESTHONIANS OCCUPY PETROGRAD?

Accordingly to reports from Sweden and Denmark Esthonians are likely to occupy Petrograd. The Bolsheviks are removing their stores and headquarters to Novgorod. It is alleged that M. Trotsky has ordered yielding up of the capital without fight.

London, Feb. 2.

Berne. The International Socialist Conference opens on Feb. 3. Branting probably presiding. Foreign delegates have arrived. Britain 10, including Mr. J H. Thomas, M P. who will state British delegations views as to the League of Nations Mr. Ramsay Maclonald and Mr. Stuart who will define British delegates' views on territorial questions. Germany 8, including Haase and Eisner Sweden 7, Bohemia 6, Germany Austria Denmark and Norway each 5, France, Bulgaria, Russia, Finland and Georgia each 2 Holland, Greece and Lettland each one.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION COMMISSION

London, Feb. 2

A communique from Paris states that international labour legislation commission at its first sitting on February 1st unanimously elected Mr Compers as chairman.

ALLIES ATTACKED BY BOLSHEVIKS

RETREAT CONTINUED

London, Feb. 1.

A British North Russia communique says: Strong bolsheviks at Tarasheo compelled the Allies to retire 20 miles northward. The Bolsheviks commenced gas shelling but the Allies are completely equipped against gas.

ITALIAN ASPIRATIONS IN ASIA MINOR.

London, Feb. 2.

Paris. An Italian delegation in view of the prospective changes in Africa asked for the rectification of the frontiers of Tripoli in order to include in Italian sphere regions assigned to France and British by Anglo-French treaty concluded when Tripoli belonged to Turkey. Italy also asked that Jibuti and British Somaliland should be assigned to her as mandatory in order to link up Erythrea and Italian Somaliland. Italy in Asia Minor aspires to Vilayet of Adalia if Mesopotamia and Syria are assigned to Britain and France respectively.

SECRET TREATY WITH RUMANIA.

ITS ABONDONMENT.

London, Feb. 2.

Reuter learns from the Serbian source in Paris that the supreme council of the powers decided to abandon the secret treaty with Rumania promising her Banat and Temesvar which will be assigned to Serbia. The delegates of the latter country hope that the result of the declaration of invalidity of this treaty will result in the declaration of the invalidity of the secret treaty giving Italy ports in Dalmatia.

MORE BOLSHEVISM

London, Feb 2.

Amsterdam: In consequence of Spartacist disorders in Bremen, the Government at Berlin is sending troops with artillery with orders from Noski to eliminate Bolshevism on the ground that foodships cannot otherwise enter Bremen.

According to the "Vossische Zeitung" a meeting of officers in Berlin indignantly discussed a new regulation abolishing the insignia of rank, and passed a resolution demanding the restoration of the insignia. The speakers denounced system of Soviets. The War Minister. Colonel Reinhardt, who was present, said it was impossible to abolish the Soviets and appealed to the officers to co-operate with them.

Berlin, Feb. 1.

It is constantly becoming more obvious that the extremists are planning the establishment of a counter parliament with the primary object of replacing the influence hitherto exercised by Soviets, the abolition of which is now expected. The Extremists recognise that the Russian example of dispensing with a constituent assembly cannot be successfully imitated.

CONSTANTINOPLE

ENGLISH NEWSPAPER'S VIEW

INDIAN MOSLEM OPINION MUST BE RESPECTED.

London, Jan 29.

Commenting the Moslems' letter to Mr. Balfour the "Westminster Gazette" says: The manner in which the Mahomedans of the Empire rallied to our cause, despite the difficulty in which the war with Turkey placed them, has given them a special claim on the consideration of the Government, and it is our duty to safeguard their Faith and its traditions. If despite all that has happened they still look to the Ottoman Sultan as the Head of their Faith it is entirely their own affairs. The future position of Constantinople must be decided in accordance with the wishes of the people of the city and the surrounding territory. So far as the other questions raised are concerned undoubtedly the Allies will ensure to Christian and Moslem alike the free exercise of their Faith and absolute political equality, whatever rule they may be under.

Cairo, Jan 23.

Floods have rendered the Indian camp uninhabitable.

Brussels, Feb. 1.

Owing to a soldier accidentally dropping a shell a munitions train exploded between Aubange and Longwy. Sixty-four people including 60 German prisoners of war were killed and a large number injured.

SHIPPING DISASTER.

AMERICAN TRANSPORT ASHORE.

VESSEL TBANDONED.

London, Feb 2

The American transport "Narragansett" which went ashore at Bembridge Point has been abandoned.

London, Jan 28.

Mr. L J Robertson, ex-Principal of the Law School at Bombay University has been appointed Lecturer of Hindu and Mahomedan Law at the Inns of Court.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE.

London, Feb. 3.

Berne. Practically all the delegates to International Labour Conference have arrived It was decided at the meeting of Volkshus to-night to establish the commissions to draft reports upon the League of Nations' territorial questions and International Labour Charter. The Commission is expected to report next week. It is stated that Trade Unions which had been sitting in Paris are coming to Berne for a separate conference and with a view to securing unity between Unions and the conference a joint session will be held.

PROVISIONAL ARRANGEMENT BY PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, Feb. 1.

Paris. Interviewed by Matin Hughes said he refused to subscribe to provisional arrangement made by the peace conference as regards german colonies in the pacific. The peace conference was the sole league of nations at present and it should draw up a mandate for the jurisdiction of these territories and issue it immediately. The problem of new guinea was a matter of life and death for the Australians.

LATEST REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GREAT BRITAIN

INDUSTRIAL SITUATION IN ENGLAND

THE CLYDE STRIKE

DECISION OF TUBE MOTOR MEN.

London, Feb. 3.

While the industrial situation is still threatening it is regarded as by no means desperate. Partial success of the efforts to spread the Clyde Strike throughout the country appears mainly due to the coercion and not to persuasion.

The decision of the Tube motormen at the last moment came as a surprise in view of the conciliatory attitude of other grades. All London Tubes are expected to be held up on Monday but the motormen of the District Railway have refused to join the strike. The Railway Clerks Association at a meeting in Birmingham decided to refer to Cabinet. Stanley refuses to recognise the Association as representing station-masters. The Leaders well meet the Cabinet to-day.

The London doctors at a meeting on Sunday decided to form a body representative of whole of the profession to watch medical interests. A resolution to form a registered trade union was rejected by two votes amid uproar.

THE LONDON STRIKE.

MEN WANT 7 HOURS

London, Feb 3

The President of the Board of Trade states that the demand of small section of employes of underground and of London and Brighton railway who struck for inclusion of mealtimes in their eight hour day is entirely unjustified and contrary to agreement reached between government and railway unions in December. The demand if granted, would mean that these men would work only seven or seven and a half hours a day and if this arrangement were extended to other railways it would reduce working day to 6" 1-2" hours in some cases.

London, Feb. 3.

Four London underground railways are idle. Trams and buses are crowded and a thousand of city workers were forced this morning to walk to business, a feat which was rendered the more difficult by the slippery nature of the pavements following upon a night's frost.

THOMAS WILLIAM RADLEY.

ORDER OF EXTRADITION GRANTED.

London, Jan 27.

An extradition order has been granted at the Bow Street in the case of Thomas William Radley against whom a provisional warrant was issued in Lahore last October on a charge of fradulently obtaining money.

DISPOSAL OF SHELLAC.

London, Jan 27.

According to the "Times" there are substantial indications that the question of the disposal of Government's shellac surplus will be satisfactorily adjusted.

The Government of India has suggested that in order to prevent the undue dislocation of the market shellac should be sold by instalments not exceeding a thousand bags monthly. The "Times" states that the Indian liner freights will be substantially reduced from February 1st. New rates will probably be maintained until June 30th.

BORICISED LIQUID EGGS.

DETRIMENTAL TO HEALTH.

London, Jan 27.

The Chief Food Inspector points out that the use of the boricised liquid eggs from China is open to very serious objection from a health point of view. The Inspector suggests that eggs might be shipped dried.

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL

London, Feb 3.

Cape Town. Moving the second reading of the Public Health Bill in the Union House of Assembly, Sir Thomas Watt stated that during war union forces had lost 3605 natives while recent epidemic had carried off 11726 white men and 127745 natives and coloured people. The Public Healths Bill will create a portfolio of public health with central health administration and also special provisions dealing with special diseases like tuberculosis, small-pox and venereal disease.

BY ZEPPELIN FROM BULGARIA TO G E. AFRICA

London, Feb. 3.

In connection with the story told by Major-General Sykes in his address on commercial aviation before a member of the London Chamber of Commerce of the flight of a zeppelin from Bulgaria to German East Africa, carrying twelve tons of ammunition for the relief of Germans there, Major C C Turner, writing in the "Observer" now states that the zeppelin turned back at Khartoum and accomplished a non stop voyage of 4560 miles in 96 hours representing an average speed of 47" 1-2" miles per hour. The wind was very light.

STRIKE OF THE MOTORMEN.

London, Feb. 3

London tube motormen, despite the decision of other grades to remain at work pending negotiations, have decided to strike on Monday as a protest against the refusal to include a half-hour mealtime in the eight-hour day.

OBITUARY.

London, Jan 27.

Death is announced of General Sir John Watson.

PEACE CONFERENCE

COLONIAL REPRESENTATION.

AT PEACE CONFERENCE.

London, Jan 28.

The French Govt has promised that the interests of the Colonies will be represented at the Peace Conference on similar lines to the British.

ABOLITION OF SUBMARINES.

BRITISH AND AMERICAN DELEGATES RECOMMENDATION.

London, Feb. 3.

The "Daily Mail" learns from Paris that the British and the American delegates recommend the Conference to abolish submarines.

London, Feb. 3.

A communique from Paris says: Representatives of five great powers to-day heard Venizelo's statement of Greece's claims which he will continue to-morrow after which the Czecho-Slovak Delegates will be reheard.

GREEK DEMANDS AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE

Paris, Feb 2.

Greek demands which will be considered at the Conference to-morrow are likely to arouse prolonged discussion. They include important trerritorial claims, amongst them being the whole vilayet of Aidin and other concessions, giving Greece control of the whole coast of Asia Minor from Aivali to the southern limit of the vilayet of Aidin Greece likewise claims Dodecanesos, Imbros, Tenedous, Cyprus and the whole of Bulgariar. and Turkish Thrace to Black Sea. Her proposed frontier roughly corresponds to the Chatalja line separating Greater Greece from the new international state of which Constantinople is capital.

RUSSIA

LEAGUE OF NATIONS

COULD NOT BE REALISED WITHOUT RUSSIA.

BOLSHEVISTS MUST ABDICATE.

London, Feb. 3.

Tchaykovsky the President of the Northern Russian Government who is proceeding to Paris stated in course of an interview that the League of Nations could not be realised without Russia. The Allies, he said, would have to find an organic solution to the Russian problem. Measures like the Prinkipo proposal were useless. The Bolshevists must be obliged to abdicate. If they did not the League of Nations must organise force to enforce decrees.

AMERICA

CUTTON SUPPLY.

QUESTION OF IMPORTS TO ENEMY COUNTRIES.

London, Jan 27.

Washington: President Wilson has cabled to Senator Smith of South Carolina that cotton can now be exported to all countries in amounts adequate to their needs; but the associated Governments were attentively considering the questions of policy raised by the question of imports to the enemy countries.

SITUATION IN PORTUGAL

London, Feb 3.

Messages based upon obviously coloured information are arriving in London regarding the situation in Portugal. On the one hand we have Royalist communiques reporting absolutely the normal conditions in Oporto in which town according to these statements Royalist Administration is discharging financial obligations and only torrential rains are preventing the Royalists from advancing southward. On the other hand have advices from Madrid to the effect that republicans after inflicting heavy losses on Royalists in a skirmish are now marching on Oporto.

Berne, Feb 3

The Swiss socialists have decided not to participate in the international Socialist Congress because the majority of socialists of the belligerent countries do not support class war.

C. AND M. GAZETTE CABLES

ROVING SPARTACISTS

MANACE TO NORTH SEA ISLANDERS

Lahore, Feb. 3.

London, Jan. 24.—Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent states that the inhabitants of the North Sea islands are seriously menced by roving Spartacists who plunder the villages A band of 200 strong landed on Wangeroog, South of Heligoland but were overpowered and arrested by the garrison.

FOOD PRICES AT HOME.

NO MARKED REDUCTION LIKELY.

Lahore, Feb. 3.

The "National Food Journal" states that no marked reduction in the cost of living will be possible for some time in view of the limited nature of supplies obtainable and the probable demands on them by Continental nations.

GOVERNOR RESIGNS.

Hongkong, Jan 28

The Governor has resigned.

MONARCHIST VICTORIES

ARRIVAL OF EX-KING MANOEL AWAITED

London, Feb. 2.

Madrid. A message from Oporto states that as Monarchist victories are confirmed, a national Government has been constituted with Paiva Conceiro as premier and minister of war. The Government controls large part of Portugal and arrival of Manoel is awaited.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

SEDITION BILLS.

Protest Meeting at Town Hall

Another overflow Meeting

NATIONALISTS' AND MODERATES' UNITED OPPOSITION

TWELVE THOUSAND PEOPLE PRESENT.

Exceptional circumstances bring about exceptional things. Since the memorable days of the Partition, the people of Bengal was sleeping like a huge leviathan. Even the introduction of the Defence of India Act, the parting shot of the Government of Lord Charmichael failed to break the lull that had over taken the political activities of the Bengalees. But at last the Sedition Bills which are going to be threshed in the legislative anvil stung the people to the quick. People realised that a new red chapter is going to be added to the statute book of the country; they realised that all their political activities were going to be stopped and the fate of India was going to be doomed. And to protest against these "Black Bills", the most vicious and retrograde measure, a fraud upon law, people assembled on the evening of the 3rd February in the Town Hall of Calcutta to raise hell before the Bureaucracy before the introduction and passage of these measures in the Legislative Council.

The Town Hall of Calcutta has seldom seen such a representative gathering, such a huge assemblage and such a firm determination on any former occasion. In this historic hall meetings have been held times without number, but one overflowing meeting on the outside with a full gathering inside the hall whose every inch was occupied, is really a remarkable phenomena in the annals of the Town Hall. Here assembled people of different shades and opinion, but one in this particular matter, representing all that is noblest, purest and holiest in the political life of the Province. The extremists and moderates all spoke against the Bills and it is difficult to ascertain whose voice was louder in its denunciation.

Every one realised what it would mean if the Bills were passed. So they sank their differences and assembled togather to show the firm opposition, in no faltering or uncertain voice, to these black measures. The bill was discussed thread bare. The lawyers pointed the legal drawbacks of the Bills while other discussed the bill from human point of view and every speaker convinced the audience that the Bills were inhuman, unholy, illegal, retrogade and profane and their introduction had no vestige of justification whatsoever. Every one clearly and explicitly pointed out that if these Bills were passed into law, a Reign of Terror would prevail in the country, and as a necessary consequence, the executive authority would have to face discontent piled upon discontent and unrest piled upon unrest until the powers that be would think it wise to retrace their steps. Speeches were heard with rapt attention and spell bound interest, and were punctuated with cries of applause and "shame" as the circumstances dictated. People burst into cheers when the name of Srijut Arabinda Ghosh was uttered by a speaker. Such enthusiasm, such determination, such cooperation and such a united front was not seen for a long time in the political life of Bengal.

People began to assemble long before the appointed time and by 4 p.m. the Hall was crowded to the utmost. It is difficult to estimate the number of audience, on every sides were seen human heads. The most modest calculation places the number at twelve thousand. The speakers and distinguished gentlemen entered the hall with utmost difficulty and some had to remain outside.

Mr C R Das rose up and said that as this vast number of audience could not be accommodated in this Hall, it was necessary that another over-flow meeting should be held outside. As regards the meeting inside the Hall Mr. Das proposed Mr. Bomkesh Chakravartty to the chair. The Resolution was supported by Mr. B M Chatterjee and Mr Chakravartty occupied the Chair amidst loud and prolonged cheers. Messrs. C R Das and Fuzlal Haq then left the hall to address the overflow meeting.

The President then read the following letter from Sir Rash Behary Ghosh.

"I regret that ill-health prevents me from attending to-day's meeting. But I beg to assure you that I am in entire sympathy with your object".

The President delivered the following address:—

MR. B. CHAKRAVARTI'S PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen,—A well-known writer on Constitutional Law has said "a revolution is the highest crime if it fails out it is the highest virtue if it succeeds". (cheers.)

EXISTING LAWS SUFFICIENT.

We concede that the first duty of a civilized Government is to secure law and order and preserve public tranquility and guarantee to the citizens the protection of their person and property. This object is attained by every civilized state by a system of Penal Law both substantive and procedural. We, here in India, have the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. My misfortune is that I have been obsessed with the idea that these two Codes were amply sufficient for the purposes of maintenance of Law and order and that without the most recent tinkerings with in those Codes. further hold that any kind of special legislation punitive or preventive is essentially vicious unless those who seek it can make out an overwhelming case for some cogent special reason such for example as a state of war of a far-reaching character.

We must bear in mind that there is an irresistible desire on the part of a Government which is not broad-based upon the will of the people which is not responsible to their wishes, to cry out for special legislation in order to suppress any attempt, on the part of some of them, to make the Government understand that it is not carrying on the administration of the country in the interest of the people themselves.

You find that the course of history gives instances of this from the earliest period. Let us take the conflict between the patricians and plebians; it was the same. In the Greek states—the same. Take the revolution in England at the time of King Charles I—the same. Take the instance of the Netherlands as against Spain—the same Take the instance of the French Revolution—the same. Take the instances of more recent dynastic disasters—the Russian Autocracy, the Austro-Hungarian Autocracy and the last, the German Autocracy. This is not peculiar to the West. In the East amongst autocratic rulers there are numerous instances of popular opinion leading to change or dynasties led by violence and assassination. But the cry always is and has been that the Government, by law established, is in danger.

Now, the question arises who is to decide that? Assume that it is the Government to decide the question. Now let us take the recent instances:

The Czar of Russia, with his advisers, believed in repression and repressive measures more than any body else in recent times. Could any body interfere with his decision? Did he ever think that he might possibly be wrong? Did he not reject every suggestion of political reform securing political freedom to the people under his charge as Unthinkable! But what is the result? It is Government, based upon repression and repressive measures, was swept away in a few days after the Government had succeeded in inflicting untold miseries upon the victims of his repression and if the newspapers are right the whole of Russia is on the melting pot.

Now, let us take the instance of one who but a few months ago was the all highest in Germany. Is not the tale the same? Is the lesson to be learnt from this and numerous other instances which I might give you if I had the time, that this repression may succeed in postponing political freedom for a time, nay, even for several centuries but a time at last arrives when the Government resorting to repression disappears in a dramatic cataclysm. Is not the nemesis this? Popular movement for securing political liberty is anarchy in the opinion of the Government for the time being. Is not the nemesis also this that for some providential reason no such Government has the eye to see and the understanding to appreciate and the modesty to apprehend that the Government may be wrong and the people may be right and after all it will not be denied that every Government, at least in theory, exists for the welfare of the people, that it exists for the people and not the people for it.

THE ROWLATT COMMITTEE REPORT.

Now, let us apply these considerations to the wisdom or otherwise of the intended legislation in pursuance of the Rowlatt Committee Report. The population of British India is over three hundred millions (31,51, 56,396) by the last census and what we find is that the number of persons interned rose to about two thousand at the highest but most of them have been set free under more or less galling and embarrassing conditions but 385. Is there any special wisdom in passing a piece of drasuc repressive measure to be applied to three hundred millions of people?

In the next place, is the bureaucratic Government good or bad? A Government which has been and is established by law if it is a good Government who is to decide that it is? The people or the Government which ascribes to itself the goodness? But I will assume that it is for the Government to decide that it is good. If it is good why should there be revolutionary movement to upset it? Our scriptural books say that even a fool does not move to action unless he has a motive to serve. Is it seriously contended that 385 people and for the matter of that the whole of the two thousand people and even I will go further that two hundred and fifty thousand people without national army, without artilery, without navy, without air services without the numerous other scientific instruments of destruction could have thought it possible to subvert the British Government? If that is unthinkable it may be suggested that these misguided people were relying upon the assistance of the Huns. That may be a justification for the Defence of India Act although I do not admit for a moment that there was any remote possibility of a tangible revolution in India with the assistance of the Huns. But that possibility is gone. The Germans have been humiliated and they have been made to sue for peace on bended knees. Then what is the justification for these drastic repressive measures to be held interrorem over three hundred millions of people in British India simply because the Government has at the present moment about 385 people interned without the open trial before the constituted tribunals of the country. I am not satisfied that those 385 men are political revolutioneries. The Government has told us that they belong to the Bhadralake or gentlemanly class and therefore it is assumed that they are political anarchists, but I feel that many of them have been driven, if it is true that they have been, to commission of crimes, as alleged by the Rowlatt Committee for economic reasons. I apprehend that the real fact is that many of them being of gentle birth but being devoid of wherewithals to support themselves and their families they have resorted to decoities and other crimes if at all, for economic reasons but they are ashamed to frankly confess that they are ordinary criminals and dacoits. However, that may be, we are concerned with the wisdom of the intended legislation. I can find no reason sufficient to justify this tyrannical exercise of Governmental power to suppress people and cow them down to political inactivity. To say the least of it it will miss its mark. It is within the reach of a Government to suppress 385 people but there is a limit if the cause is really political. Suppose the next day the number is 3,850 what then? Suppose again that on the 3rd day the number is 38,500 how are you going to meet the contingency? You will require an army to control them and you will require additional finances, probably over a million pounds. Is that the way to govern the country by a Government which says it's good Government after 150 years of its administration? (Shame) Whatever little knowledge I have on the subject tends to show that the political discontent is directed against the Indian Bureaucracy while every body is as true as steel in his loyalty to the British Crown (hear, hear). My information is that every body is satisfied that India must for years to come continue to be a member of the British Empire because she has no army, no navy and no air service.

DISCONTENT BITTER AGAINST THE BUREAUCRACY.

I must warn the authorities that be, that althougt I am satisfied that there is no revolutionary party against the British Crown, the discontent is bitter against the bureaucracy not only amongst the free intelligencia of the country but amongst the rank and file of the officers employed by the Bureaucratic Government itself whether in the judicial, executive police, revenue or other departments (hear hear). In point of fact I am satisfied that the Government servants in various departments are bitterest against thebureaucratic Government more so than the most pronounced Home-Rulers or Nationalists or ultra Exthemists as you would like to call them and I warn the Government against the bluff which is being utilised by the self-seekers who are supposed to be supporters of the Government. I frankly tell the Government in its own interests from information received by me from some of these self-seekers that although they may for tactical and selfish purposes purport to support the bureaucracy but if the provident so ordained that England had lost in the war and was humilated and made less powerful and innocuous for political purposes they would not only have rejoiced at her discomfiture and humiliation but would have hailed with acclamation her impotence for good or evil although I apprehend that they thought that I as a Home Ruler was a fool in speaking out my mind but that they were wise because they were watching events and might proclaim themselves either on the side of the Government or the Nationalist movement.

My suspicion is that they are trying to get advantages, concessions, previleges, appointments, titles, and preferments on the basis of the repugnance of the Government to the Nationalists and they thought it was supreme wisdom to feather their own nests when by pretending to subscribe to all the Government demanded they were serving their own purpose and they were utilising the odium in the eyes of the Government which attaches to the Nationalist movement The rumour was persistent that they thought that our fight is just but if they can utilize our fight for purposes of personal benefit why should we object? In the last resort if we win their heart is with us. But they are not sufficiently bold to think that we can secure political freedom and liberty for all but if we fail our party fails. They are taking a wise course to benefit by our failure or success. I beg to warn the Government that it is being bluffed in its blindness, by the self-seeking opinion of a few who are not voicing the true opinion of the people. If they choose to accept that opinion in preference to our frank statements let them take the consequences.

After I have done this I have done my duty. I am satisfied and so are my countrymen who have to be counted not by thousands or hundreds of thousands but by millions. In the course of my travel all over India from the last week of August till now I have found that there is very serious political discontent throughout the length and breadth of India. It is political wisdom on the part of bureaucracy to take note of the situation and act accordingly.

I feel and I am convinced that India, as she is is entitled to full and complete responsible Government but not severed and dissociated from the British Crown until she has had an opportunity of building a national army with Artillery and national Navy with all the necessary requirements and the national air service with all the necessary appliances so that she might stand on her own legs.

Therefore for the present grant her an adquate measure of reforms and watch and see whether the Reforms are able to abate political discontent. Do not therefore rush through this repressive legislation of a far reaching character at this moment.

I make this appeal in the interest of the Government and for its good name. I feel that this attempt to interfere with fundamental rights of personal liberty may lead to disastrous results both to the Governers and the governed. For I know in this protest the moderates and the Nationalists are united. (Hear hear.)

Now I proceed to consider the Bills in details.

Gentlemen, when we met upstairs in this building about a year ago to demand the repeal of the Defence of India Act and the Bengal Regulation III of 1818 and the release or the open trial of the detenus, Sir Sidney Arthur Taylor Rowlatt was presiding over what be preferred to call "Sedition Committee" and as directed by the order which appointed the Committee he and his Committee were sitting in camera. But though not so directed by the order, he and his committee chose, for aught we know to proceed exparte in their investigation of the nature and extent of criminal conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movement in India. "Sedition Committee" sent in its report about the middle of April last. The report has since been published and I daresay you are all familiar with its exparte decisions, inelegant style and inaccurate summary of recent events. If "Sedition Committee" had been content with writing out to the best of its ability contemporary history from Indian police papers and judgments, Gentlemen you and I would then be willing even to congratulate Sir Sidney Arthur Taylor Rowlatt upon the Official recognition of his scholarly work in some form or other. But the threatened repression to which referred when we met here last was recommended by "Sedition Committee" and the bills to give effect to such recommandation will be introduced in a few days into the Imperial Legislative Council. It behoves us all in this vast gathering and those of us who have not been able to attend this meeting called at a very short notice, to discuss the bills in every part of the country and to consider carefully how best we can defend what little we have of the elementary rights of a British citizen.

THE PRESENT BILLS.

What are these bills? Read them and you will find that the provisions are an encroachment upon the fundamental rights of a British citizen whereon depends his allegiance to the Crown. They take away your right to personal freedom. They affect your right to freedom of discussion. They make it unsafe for you even to think freely. The first Bill seeks to create a new offence unknown to the code of any civilised State. It makes it penal to be in possession of a document with intent that the same shall be published if the court at the trial consider any portion of the document to be seditious within the meaning of the proposed section 124 B of the Indian Penal Code. To constitute this new offence it is not necessary that the document was declared beforehand to be seditious or was proscribed. It is enough if the accused was found in possession of it with the intention of publication, if at the trial the court found any portion of it to be seditious. Publication is not an element of this new offence. The document need not have been shown to any one, if there was the intention that it should be seen by some one other than the person in possession. The document need not have been known to be seditious. Possession and intention complete the offence. The so-called safe-guard contained in the words "unless he proves that he had such document in his possession for a lawful purpose" is a mere snare, for in practice this so-called safeguard will be found to be as illusory and ineffectual as Mr. Mahomed Ali of the "Comrade" found to his cost the so-called checks upon executive action provided by the Act I of 1910 which has served to deprive the press of its freedom. If this bill is passed, it will be unsafe for any public man or any citizen to keep a library for the use of his friends or relations. The intention of publication of the books and papers in the library being present, his possession of the books and papers being admitted, he will be with the clutches of this new penal law if in any portion of any book or paper in his library there is found a passage which the court as the trial may hold to be seditious.

While in England a person convicted of sedition and sentenced to imprisonment does not wear even prison dress in jail and in fact incurs little inconvenience beyond the mere detention and when he has served out his term of imprisonment, he can enter Parliament and becomes a cabinet minister. What will be his lot in India if the first Bill becomes Law? Upon release from prison he may be called on to execute a bond with surities for good bahaviour for 2 years, to furnish security and until he furnishes security to notify his address and change of address like a common felon. He may not until he has furnished security enter a specified town or a specified portion of a specified town even to earn his living. He may be ordered to reside at Kutubdia or some out of the way, malarious marshy island.

The second bill is even more drastic. Part I provides for a trial in Camera, if necessary by a special tribunal which will become a court higher than the High Court, for the High Court will have no superintendence over this special tribunal. It will be able to pass even a death sentence after a trial in camera and no confirmation of the sentence will be necessary. Part II and Part III are in fact the main features of our old acquaintance, the Defence of India Act, to be placed permanently on the Statute Book. There is provision for arrest detention and imprisonment without a trial, interment and enforced idleness with chances of insanity and loss of health after an investigation unrestrained by any rules of evidence. Part IV deals with those who are already under orders of restraint, interment or imprisonment under the provision of the Defence of India Act 1915 or the ingress into India ordinance 1914 or the Bengal State Prisoners Regulation 1818.

Gentlemen, the other day President Wilson in his address to the Peace Conference spoke of science and armed men being kept within the harness of civilisation. It is time to tell the Indian Legislature—that even Law should be kept within the harness of civilization. The Governor General in Legislative Council has no power to make a law affecting the unwritten laws and constitution of the British Empire whereon may depend in any degree the allegiance of the Indian citizen to the British Crown. But assuming that the Governor-General in Legislative Council has power to make the proposed laws. The fact that the Government is irresponsible to the Indian people and has sufficient strength to enforce any law that may be passed, does not justify it in framing laws which are subversive of all that is good and all that is noble in the British constitution. If in a State one can be arrested and imprisoned without a trial, if the only safeguard for one's personal freedom in a State be a secret investigation in camera without legal aid and without the wholesome restraint of the rules of evidence, if one can be convicted of possession of a document any portion of which is seditious even though it is not published and is not known to be seditious. I say it is a state where the law is not within the harness of civilization. It is a state where the individual welfare is so disproportionately subordinated to the will of the state that the state can lay claim to no better character than tyranny. (hear hear.)

Has it occurred to the Government that the law of deportation and internment without trial cannot be enforced indefinitely? You intern a young lad. How long will you keep him there? You make him more and more unfit for life the longer he is kept in a state of enforced idleness. Some day, may be 10 or 15 years hence he must be released, if he does not go mad or die meanwhile. It cannot be that Government counts upon chance to solve the problem which it will have to face when these interned lads will have to be released. You have already a few hundreds of them after a pretty long time of enforced idleness. Their experience during the restraint cannot reconcile them to system of Government. It can only serve to strengthen their determination to cherish their political ideal. Their method of trying to fulfil that ideal might have been wrong in some instances. But was their ideal a wrong one? If it was wrong, the best means of setting it right is not internment or deportation. Some positive measure is necessary and not merely the negative one of loss of liberty of body and mind. We believe however that on the whole their political ideal was right and their energy can be safely led into well-defined channels of sober political activity. It is the very ideal that all the civilised world is now setting up at the Peace Conference through their spokesman President Wilson in the following words:—

"We are masters of no people (mark the word) but are here to see that every people (and I add the word black and white) in the world shall choose its own masters and govern its own destinies, not as we wish but as it wishes." The present bureaucratic system in India is incompatible with the noble ideal and must be changed. It cannot be kept up long even by passing laws as repressive as those contained in these bills.

I therefore call upon you gentlemen to protest against these bills for the sake of your country and your King-Emperor and strenuously to fight against them for the welfare of India and England. (Loud and prolonged [illegible])

The President then called upon Mr J N Roy to move the 1st Resolution. Mr Roy stood up amidst loud cheers and moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting records its emphatic protest against Bill No. 1 of 1819 which, if passed into law, will seriously interfere with the liberty of the subject and the fair trial of persons accused of sedition and other political offences; and against Bill No. 2 of 1919 which by permanently enacting the provisions of the Defence of India Act and by its other provisions will place in the hands of the Indian Executive and the Police such arbitrary and irresponsible powers as are inconsistent with the fundamental rights and liberties of the British Subject and repugnant to all civilized ideas about the administration of Law and Justice.

"This meeting is of opinion that having regard to India's whole-hearted co-operation in the war and the peace and quiet now prevailing in the country and the absence of even erratic and sporadic political offences since sometime past it is unnecessary, unjust, unwise and inexpedient to introduce such reactionary and repressive measures of legislation into the Imperial Legislative Council at the present moment; and the meeting further urges that in view of the early introduction of responsible government into India, the Government should refrain from introducing the proposed bills, or at any rate, should postpone them until the Legislature in India is reconstituted on a popular basis."

The Hon. Mr. Kamini Kumar Chanda, Messrs B C Chatterjee, Kristo Kumar Mitra, Mozibar Rahaman, Jitendra Lal Banerjee and Abdul Haq supported the Resolution, which was unanimously accepted.

The President moved the following resolution which was unanimously accepted amidst loud cheers:—

"That a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor General in Council, the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for India and the Prime Minister of England over the signature of the Chairman of this meeting".

Mr. A N Choudhury, in a very telling speech moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting calls upon the elected and non-official Indian members of the Imperial Legislative Council to unite in offering a strong opposition to the introduction and passage of the bills."

The Resolution was seconded by Babu Sasanka Jiban Roy and accepted by all.

The meeting then separated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chair.

THE OVERFLOW MEETING.

There was an overflew meeting outside the hall. Mr. C R Das who presided read Mr B Chakravartti's Speech and the same resolutions were adopted

Sir P C Roy in supporting the resolution said there were occasions when a chemist like him must leave the test tube to serve the cause of the country. Lord Morley in writing to Lord Minto said "I beseech you not to do one thing, namely holding of investigation in the absence of the accused." The two Bills were the results of such investigation. He said if the proposed bills were passed they would be fruitful mother of many mischiefs. It was most un-English. Babu Suresh Chandra Samajpati also supported the resolution.

The second resolution was moved by Mr. Fuzlal Haq and seconded and supported by Rai Yatindra Nath Chaudhury, Mr. Abul Kasem and Mr. J. B. Sen.

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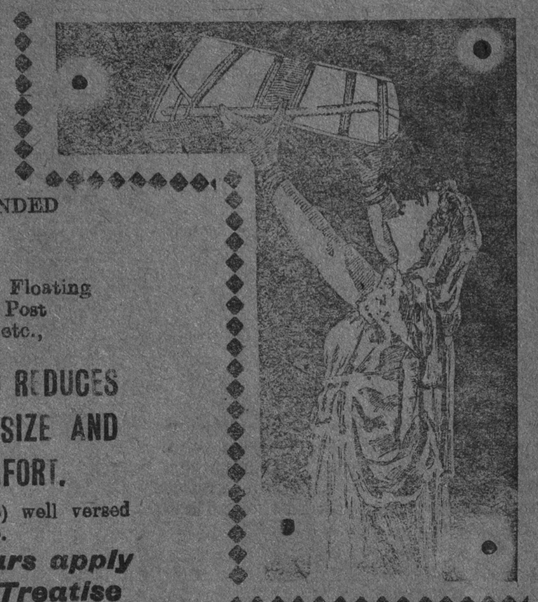

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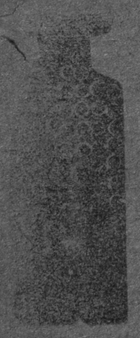

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IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The business set down for the 6th February, the opening day of the Imperial Legislative Council, shows that the session will be eminently a business one. It is highly improbable, considering the nature of several of the Bills to be introduced, that the motions on the notice paper will be disposed of on that day as in all probability many Indian members will desire to speak on the two measures embodying the recommendations of the Rowlatt Committee. When these measures, together with the Bill dealing with provincial insolvency, have been referred to select committees, there will be a long adjournment of the Council to enable the members of the committees to discuss the Bills in detail and prepare their reports. No resolutions are to be admitted during the forthcoming session, but a large number of questions will be addressed to Government and no doubt the subjects raised by means of interpellations will include questions as to the action of members of the Indian Civil Service in preparing a memorial relating to the position of the service under the reforms scheme. The Rowlatt Bills will evoke violent hostility from some of the non-official members, and a good deal of interest is felt as to the attitude the Moderates will adopt when these measures are under discussion. Mr Patel has given notice that when the motions are made for referring the Bills to Select Committees he will move in each case "that the consideration of his Bill be deferred till six months have elapsed after the expiry of the term of office of this Legislative Council." The idea which found credence in some quarters that Sir James Meston was anxious to drop the Excess Profits Bill has been dispelled by the Government communique on this subject.

PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATIVE CONFERENCE.

TENTH SESSION.

TO BE HELD AT CALCUTTA.

The 10th Provincial Co-operative Conference will be held in Calcutta on the 17th and 18th instant at the "Writer's Buildings His Excellency the Governor of Bengal will open it on the 15th instant at 11 A.M. Several important notes and papers will be read including the paper on "The Promotion of Literacy amongst members of the Rural Society" by the Hon'ble Sir D. P Saryadhikary" "An Indian Co-operative Service" by Professors J C Coyajee and P Mukherjee of the Presidency College. "Co operative Representation dealing with the question of direct representation of the agriculturist from Co-operative Societies in relation to the Reform Scheme," by Prof Coyajee and "Industrial co-operation by Mohammad Mahmud, Joint Registrar, Co-operative Societies of Bengal.

INDIA OFFICE ORGANISATION.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE A COMMUNIQUE.

(Associated Press of India.)

Delhi, Feb. 2.

In accordance with the proposal made in paragraph 293 of the Report of the Secretary of State and the Viceroy on Indian Constitutional Reforms the following Committee has been appointed to enquire into the organization of the India Office and the relations between the Secretary of State in Council and Government of India: The Marquiss of Crew—Chairman; H H the Aga Khan, the Viscount Esher, the Lord InchCape Mr. B. N. Basu Sir J R Brunyate Lieut Colonel Godfrey Collins Mr. Harry Gosling Professor A B Keith Edinburgh University, Mr. Evelyn Murray Secretary to Post Office.

RAILWAY THEFTS IN BURMA.

MAN SHOT IN AFFRAY WITH POLICE

Rangoon, Feb 1.—For some time past rice thefts have been very common on the railway line. The thieves usually boarded trains and pushed off bags of rice between certain stations, and members of the gang who watched along the line, on getting a signal that bags had been dumped, would remove them away. On Thursday Inspector Maung Won, of the Railway Police, Pegu, went to Kadok with some constables and villagers and lay in wait along the line. At about 4 A.M. four Burmans were seen coming from Kadok and were challenged. A man named Ba Tun, aged 28, is said to have rushed at the Inspector with a drawn 'Dah' and was shot by the Inspector. The other men fled on seeing their leader wounded. Ba Tun has been brought to the Rangoon General Hospital with two bullet wounds in the left thigh. His condition is serious.

THE VALUE OF RICE

Rice has never been appreciated as a food in England observes Mr Charles Raeburn in "Chamber's Journal," yet it is the staple food—almost the sole food—of more human beings than depend on any other cereal. Dietarians tell us that rice is almost a perfect food, lacking only sightly in protein and in fats, but of equal food value, weight for weight, with wheat. . . . The Japanese depend almost solely upon rice for their daily food. Their army and navy won the war with Russia on rice ration; and they are swifty and surely securing for themselves an unassailable position in the commercial and industrial world on a rice diet. A Chinese coolie probably exerts as much physical force in the course of a day as any three British dock-labourers do in the same time, and he is able to do this on a diet made up of three-quarters of a pound to one pound of rice per day, with one and a half to two ounces of fat pork and a few bits of vegetable.

State technical scholarships for a further period of two years have been awarded to Mr N V Modak for a further course of training in England in Sanitary Engineering and Sewage Disposal and to Mr Gurunath Prabhakar Ogale for a course of training in England in the technology by glass making with special reference to the construction and working of glass furnaces.

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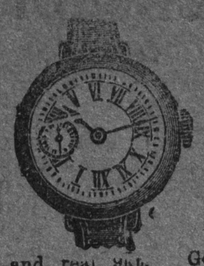

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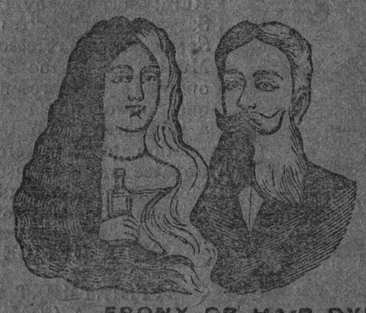

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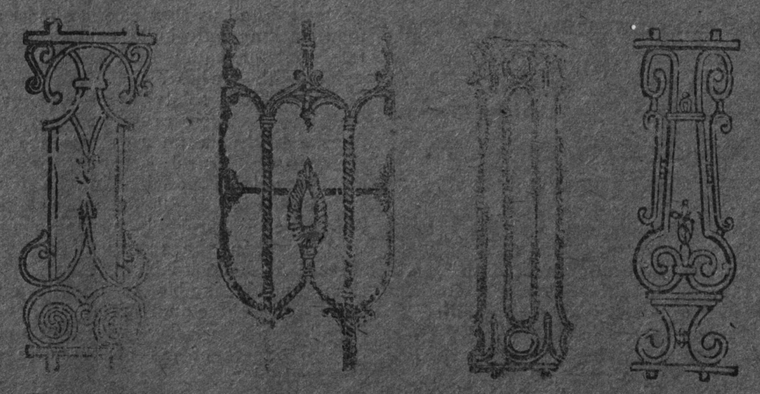

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