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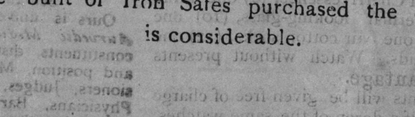
BEST PEBBLE  STEEL FRAME RS. 5

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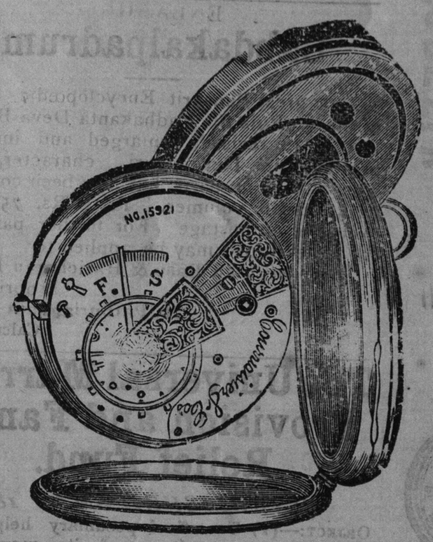

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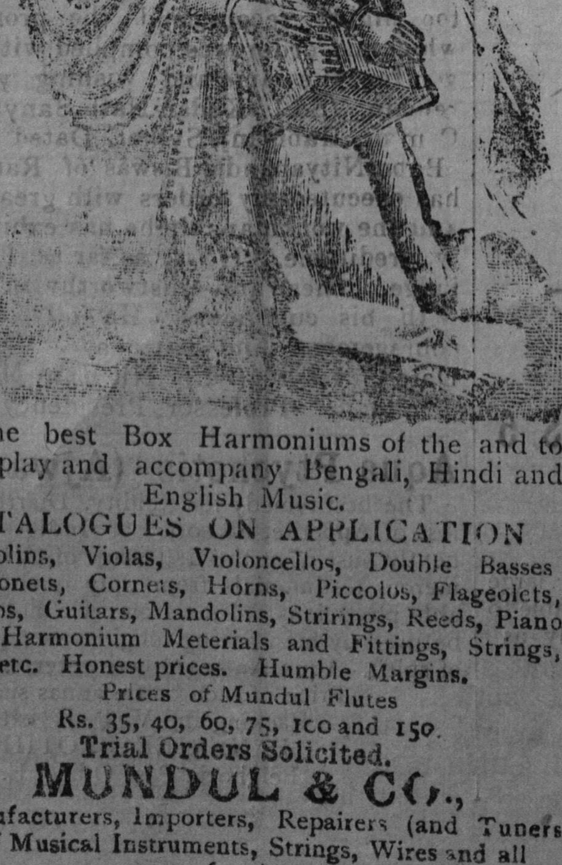

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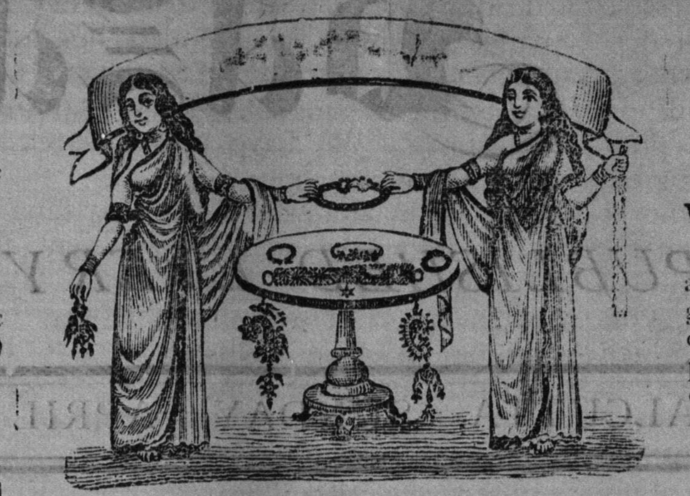

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 3, 1898.

THE DOINGS OF MR. A. M. BOSE IN ENGLAND.

As we ventured to guess, Babu Ananda Mohan Bose had much to do with the Liberal victory in Wiltshire. The successful candidate, Lord FitzMaurice, in a letter to him, acknowledges it in these terms: "I cannot sufficiently thank you for the valuable assistance you gave me."

Now this nobleman is not only a brother of Lord Lansdowne, but also a prominent Liberal, who was Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs during Mr. Gladstone's administration. He and Babu Ananda Mohan are now great friends; and the fact of his being a fellow-student of the latter at Cambridge and of having taken his degree at the same time with Mr. Bose, has formed an additional link.

There was a public meeting held at Wisbech on the International Peace Day. Placards, with large types, were put up, announcing that "the Hon. A. M. Bose, M. A. will speak." They all call him Honourable, against his protests. The *Wisbech Advertiser*, (Feb. 23) says that "a large audience assembled." At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. A. E. Clarke thanked Babu Ananda Mohan. The report says:—

He (Mr. Clarke) alluded to the great treat they had had in hearing the Hon. A. M. Bose, and added that he had always been proud of their great Indian Empire, but he had never been so proud as that night when an Indian spoke to them in a foreign language with so much pathos and eloquence (applause.)

In its editorial comments, the *Advertiser* remarks that "the chief speaker was the Hon. A. M. Bose, late a member of the Bengal Council", and that "Mr. Bose advocated the interests of his country with marked eloquence and ability."

We are sorry to learn that there will be no special Indian Resolution at the Leicester Annual Meeting of the National Liberal Federtion, as their rules require two months' previous notice and circulation of any Resolution to be moved. So, Babu Ananda Mohan Bose will be deprived of moving a a formal Resolution on Indian subjects. Practically, however, this will make no difference. As a matter of fact, the Liberal Federation expect a very good piece of oratory from him, and so they have invited him. They have also done him a special honour. On the first day of the meeting it is usual to invite a few of the more distinguished delegates to address some county meetings in or about the place where the Federation is held, and Babu Ananda Mohan has been selected as one of these few. We can guarantee that Babu Ananda Mohan will not let slip this additional opportunity of speaking on behalf of his country.

Babu Ananda Mohan Bose had to address two other meetings,—one in London and the other at Coltenham. At the latter meeting, a Resolution was passed, which reminds us of the one for which Dr. Mullick was blamed. Indeed, the sense of the Resolution at Coltenham and the one that was condemned, is exactly the same. But there was yet this difference. The Resolution that was condemned, was passed by the Indians, and the one that we are referring to, was passed at a meeting of Englishmen. Well, it was, first of all, a public meeting. Secondly, it was a meeting of Englishmen. It was presided over, not by a disciple of Mr. Hyndman, but Mr. Todd, a Justice of the Peace, once a County Councillor for Cambridgeshire. The Resolution was moved by Mr. Cross, a *pucca* Englishman, and was seconded by Mr. Foster, another *pucca* Englishman; and it was *unanimously* adopted by this public meeting of Englishmen. Now to the Resolution; it was as follows:—

This meeting strongly condemns the Forward Military Policy as well as the re-actionary and repressive Internal Policy adopted by the present Government in India, as alike unworthy of the traditions and honour of England and fraught with danger to the safety of the Empire.

Let us repeat: The above Resolution was unanimously adopted at a public meeting "amid a scene of great enthusiasm by a large gathering," every member of which, except the speaker Babu Ananda Mohan, was an Englishman.

The British Committee of the National Congress has at last found an opportunity of organizing a meeting at Oldham on or about the 17th, to utilize the services of Babu Ananda Mohan. This delay on the part of the Committee can be easily accounted for. Let us mention here a singular circumstance in connection with the presence of Babu Ananda Mohan in England. He went there to find work waiting for him. His advent was followed by spontaneous invitations from many quarters, even from parties who were uttterly unknown to him. The British Committee had, however, hitherto no opportunity of inviting him. We are glad to learn that God has given us a lady worker who does not, like Mrs. Besant, eschew politics. Miss Peckoner, sister of the Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, is a most devoted and earnest worker and a good speaker. Following in the wake of Babu Ananda Mohan, she has been speaking on behalf of India at several important meetings and acquainting the English public with the real situation in this unfortunate country.

THE SITUATION.

THOSE whom the recent repressive measures have thrown into an imbecile despair, do not deserve any political privilege. India only presents the natural condition of human progress. There must be repression for progress, for, without it progress does not come. If autocrats had never exercised their powers unwisely, the people would never have struggled for political privileges, and grown by the process. For, be it known, it is this struggle alone which secures the growth and progress of a nation.

First of all, the British Government is so excellent that it can never continue to be tyrannical for any length of time. We have safeguards innumerable to protect us from injustice. The Magistrate protects us from the Police, the High Court from the Magistrate, the Viceroy from the Local ruler, the Secretary of State from the Viceroy, and Parliament from the Secretary of State.

But our greatest protection lies in English character. Subject as Englishmen are to passion and prejudice, in the long run they are fair and sensible. If there is a wrong, Englishmen are sure to recognise it, if not in the beginning, at least, in the end. Just fancy that Englishmen in India came forward to oppose the sedition measures of he Government!

But such is the excellence of British rule that we have not to depend solely upon the good nature and sterling virtues of Englishmen for our safety. The terms of the rule alone afford us the adequate protection. What the Government asks of us, is some taxes for its support; and in this, it is within its rights. But, in most other matters, it leaves us absolutely free to do whatever we like. The country is ours, and we have every liberty here. How then do the repressive measures affect us? It is because we are a bad lot; we quarrel amongst ourselves and maintain these lots of Civil and Criminal Judges and the Police. If we could be good Vaishnavas and did our duty to one another.—if we could live in peace with our neighbours and pay our taxes,—even the existence of repressive laws would not be known to us.

So, you see, we have yet a way out of the difficulty,—a way which is open to us, namely, for ourselves to be as good as we ought to be in a country where Lord Gauranga appeared. Let all of us follow the teachings of Lord Gauranga, and this will not only make all repressive laws inocuous, but better our prospects in the future.

Of course, it is difficult to attain the high ideal that was practised and preached by the Prophet of Nadia. But it is possible. What is necessary for such a purpose, is for the people to be good family men, good neighbours, and good citizens. The laws in this country are rigorous, and they are also rather rigorously administered. But still they cannot touch an honest man. Innocent men are frequently sent to jail in this country. But this because their neighbours are wicked people. The people pay the excise revenue, because the people are wicked. They pay the stamp duty, because they are wicked. They are harassed, tortured, and sometimes ruined by the action of the authorities in the Executive Department. But this because the people are no good citizens and good neighbours.

Then, there is no harm in relying on the virtues and good feelings of Englishmen. For Englishmen, with instincts of fairness, and Englishmen, with good feelings for us, have not as yet disappeared from England. They do exist, if not strong in combination, at least as strong in numbers as ever.

There was a time when one Englishman protected the three hundred millions of Indians from the actions of high-handed officials. From the deposition of a prince to the oppression of an indigo-planter, nothing escaped his lynx-eye. The result was that none was harassed but everyone was benefited. His vigilance served the officials and the people alike. The former found in that vigilance a motive to be law-abiding, and the latter, the protection that they needed.

That illustrious Englishman not only afforded protection to the people from petty oppressions, but also secured for them the germ for future emancipation we mean, the Indian Councils Act. Need we mention the name of Charles Bradlaugh, whose image is enshrined in the hearts of the Indians?

He died, and his mantle fell upon Mr. Caine. He would have done as well; but he was defeated and Mr. Roberts is doing his work. It is often alleged that the future before us is dark, and there is not a ray of hope to enliven the gloom. No, that is not it. If Providence gives us one Bradlaugh, it will be enough for all our purposes. And is it possible that the race of Bradlaughs have come to an end in England?

Of course, we are now beating our breasts in sorrow; but only a few years ago we had well-nigh secured the prize. The prize slipped out of our hands, no doubt; that was because we did not deserve it. It was Mr Gladstone who is responsible for the farce of the local self-government that we have got now. If he had not intervened, Charles Bradlaugh and our other friends would have extorted more from Lord Cross.

Elsewhere will be found the full text of the speech of Mr. Paul by which we secured the privilege of simultaneous examinations for the Civil Service here and in England. This moral triumph was achieved only a few years ago. Now compare this speech of Mr. Paul and that of Sir A. Mackenzie.

How tremendous the difference!

But, as we said, if Charles Bradlaugh is dead, he has left disciples. When Babu Ananda Mohun Bose ended one of his speeches, they all cried "God bless India." That is the feeling among the majority of Englishmen. We have only to seek what we want, and we get it.

But we have never sought anything seriously. Babu Ananda Mohan went there to test the virtues of Englishmen. He was a believer in the creed that the way to get anything out of an Englishman is to bring the matter home to him. This creed led him to England merely to experiment on it. And this is what he says now:—

I have come back from my trip with my faith in the English people and my hope in the success of our cause, *if only we are true and earnest and faithful to ourselves*, stronger than it was before. It is my conviction that if facts relating to India are properly placed before an English constituency direct and face to face—our appeal will meet with a generous response from every true British heart. But the battle will not be won in a day. There is need for patient, persevering, loyal and earnest work for many a long day.

Ponder on what he says in the above. Despair does not suit men who have a noble country like India. Starve yourself to find funds for the purpose of awakening the conscience of Englishmen to their duty. Let Babu Ananda Mohan and a few others be stationed in England for some time; let them help the Liberals to attain to their original position which they have lost; and India will get what it deserves. The Liberal candidates for S. E. Durham and N. Wiltshire, Alderman Richard and Lord Fitz Maurice respectively, owe their success, to a considerable extent, to the services of Babu Ananda Mohan Bose.

THE BENGAL TENANCY BILL.

BESIDES the Calcutta Municipal Bill, Sir Alexander Mackenzie leaves behind him another legacy to he people in the shape of the Bengal Tenancy Act Amendment Bill. We were under the impression that sufficient time would be given to the lakhs of Government or Khas Mahal ryots in Bengal, who are vitally interested in its provsions, to represent their views on the subject. But Sir Alexander is in a hurry,—very great hurry—to go home; so, rather the interests of so many helpless creatures should suffer than the pleasure of witnessing the completion of his labours in this connection before his departure from this country should be given up. As in the case of the Municipal Bill, the principle of the Tenancy Bill also is almost revolutionary in its character; for, if the measure be passed into law, the tenants of the temporarily-settled estates and Khas Mahals will be placed at the absolute mercy of the revenue officials.

Indeed, the Bill does away with one of the most valued and sacred rights that the occupancy ryot has acquired under the Bengal Tenancy Act. Under the existing law, the rent recoverable from occupancy ryots must be presumed to be fair and equitable unless the contrary is proved. So, before the rent can be enhanced it must be established by a judicial enquiry that it is not fair or equitable. But the Bill empowers a Revenue Officer to at once propose a higher rent to he tenant; and, if the latter does not accept it, to enhance it after going through a certain procedure, which is unfettered by judicial control, with a pre-conceived object in view.

The innovation, referred to above, is then this: The control of the judicial officers (the Special Judge and the High Court) over the action of the revenue authorities in the matter of settlement of fair rent is proposed to be entirely swept away by the Bill. The High Court strongly objected to this innovation, and so did the Landholders' Associations in Bengal; and the Government has agreed only so far as to modify the Bill in this respect concerning the permanently-settled estates.

Here let us *en passant* refer, with much regret and surprise, to the change of front of the Committee of the British Indian Association in this connection. When the Road Cess was first sought to be imposed upon the Zemindars in Bengal, the British Indian Association opposed the proposal with great vehemence, as they alone were proposed to be fleeced. The Government, however, changed its tactics, and suggested that the Zemindars alone would not have to pay the cess, but that it would be shared in by the ryots also. If the British Indian Association had stuck to their original resolution, the probability is that the Government would have given up the idea of imposing the cess in this Province; for, the authorities in those days had some regard for Indian public opinion, and the British Indian Association carried a good deal of influence over them. Unfortunately, they swallowed the bait, and the cess was imposed practically with their consent, and the thin end of the wedge inserted into the fabric of the Permanent Settlement.

A similar proposal was also made to the British Indian Association by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, when he intended to amend the Bengal Tenancy Act. His Honour was for abolishing the operation of the Civil Procedure Code in the settlement of rent both in permanently-settled and temporarily-settled estates and Khas Mahals; and he suggested to the Association that both private landlords and Government should avail of this method and procedure for settlement of rents in their respective estates. The Committee of the B. I. Association, however, thanked the Lieutenant-Governor for his offer, but declined to accept it, preferring the Judicial to the Revenue Officer.

On the 11th of January last, however, the Committee of the B. I. Association suddenly retracted what they had stated before, and submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor that, "private landlords should be in the same position as the State, and that the procedure proposed for the settlement of rents in Government estates should be open to all private landlords." And what was the ground for this recantation? Says the Secretary to the Association in his letter, dated the 11th January: "My Committee have had the advantage of receiving important communicatious on the subject from several Muffasil members of the Association, who are of opinion that the proposal for the alteration of the procedure for the settlements of rents, and transfer of the right of appeal on questions relating to the fixing of rents from the Special Judge to the Revenue authorities, has much to commend it, and they are inclined to think that the proposed change will be an improvement upon the existing procedure."

We are left quite in the dark as to the personalities of those "several Muffasil members" who succeeded in persuading the astute Committee of the B. I. Association to prefer a Revenue Officer to a Judicial in matters relating to the settlement of rent. As expected, however, this change of front was very "satisfactory" to Sir Alexander Mackenzie, though he was unable to oblige the Committee as the matter had passed out of his hands. The ryots and zemindars of the permanently-settled estates are thus saved from the operation of the provision; it is the ryots of the temporarily-settled estates and the Khas Mahals who will bear the whole brunt of it.

Be it recorded here that the judicial control is more needed in the temporarily-settled estates and Khas Mahals than in the permanently-settled Zemindaries; and it is there that the Revenue Officer is proposed to be left the sole master of the situation. What will happen, is this. The Subordinate Revenue Officer (Deputy or Sub-Deputy Collector) will settle rents, according to the instructions of the Collector or the Settlement Officer; and the appeal against his decision will lie to the same Collector or Settlement Officer who issued the instructions! Is this not a beautiful arrangement?

We shall make the position still more clear by a concrete example. Take the case of the present settlement of Kharda Khas Mahal (Puri). There the Government has decided that the rents of the ryots should be enhanced three annas in the rupee. The Settlement Officer and his assistants have no option but to carry out this "mandate". Under the present law, if the Assistant Settlement Officer proposes the enhanced rent to the tenants and if they refuse to accept it, then he has to enhance the rent judicially after the record of evidence, and his decision is appealable before the Special Judge, who is not fettered by the mandate of the Executive Government. The aggrieved ryot has thus every chance of obtaining impartial justice. But, by the provisions of the proposed legislation, the Revenue Officer, in all cases of non-acceptance, will go through a mere formal process of classification of soil, rate-fixing, rate-publishing &c with the foregone conclusion in view, namely, to secure an enhancement of three annas in the rupee. Of course, there is an appeal against his order or decision, but who will dispose of it? The same Collector or Settlement Officer under whose direction he enhanced the rent! Surely, no Settlement Officer is such a fool, specially in view of the Government mandate, as to cancel his own instruction; so this appeal would be a mere farce, and would only add to the litigation cost of the unfortunate ryot.

Under the existing Act, the Revenue Officers have to work in constant dread of the Special Judge, and they are bound to curb their zeal to a considerable extent. But the proposed law will make them the sole masters of the situation. They will be at liberty to do anything they like with the rights of the ignorant ryots.

In Khas Mahals, the Collector, as representative of the Government, is the landlord; and the appeals of the ryots against the settlement of rents, made by his subordinates under his own instructions, will lie to the landlord himself. So, the "my dear Konstam" principle is going to be legalized!

Sir Alexander Mackenzie says that the great object of his amendment is to curtail expenditure and economize time in making big settlements. But, we think, the administration of unadulterated justice is above all considerations. Would the Government allow a private landlord to enhance the rents of his ryots through his Amlas, and then decide for himself whether the enhancement had been properly made or not? If any Zemindar makes such a proposal to the Government, he will be taken for a mad man. But what is madness in a private Zemindar, is supreme wisdom in the ruler of a Province. Sir Alexander talks of curtailing time and expense. But will not the definitions of "prevailing rate" and "excess area," proposed in the Bill, ensure great economy of time and reduction of expense in the working of the Settlement law?

THE Calcutta Municipal Bill is introduced mainly on two grounds. First, it is alleged, that the city has not only made no progress since the Corporation passed into the hands of the elected Commissioners, but that, at the present moment, it is in "an appallngi state" of filth. Secondly, under the present arrangement, European Commissioners are nowhere in the Corporation. Need we say that both the grounds are baseless?

We shall take up the last ground first. If there is not a sufficient number of European Commissioners in the Corporation, the fault lies with themselves and the Government. We can guarantee the election of a good many Europeans, provided they give an undertaking to the effect that they will do their duties properly. But the real fact is that they do not care twopence for the Municipal affairs of the town. They live in European quarters which require no improvement; or, if anything be wanting there, a word from the Chairman is enough to extort the sanction of any amount of money required to get it. The services of the Commissioners are thus required mainly to look after the places inhabited by the lower classes of the Indian population. But will a European Commissioner agree to visit a dirty lane or a latrine in Burrabazar or Goabagan? Mr. Risley says tnat as Port Commissioners the Europeans do very well. That is because they understand and are directly interested in the business relating to the Port. But what is there in the Municipality to attract them there? That the authors of the Municipal Bill are fully aware of this utter apathy on the part of the Europeans, is evident from the fact that they have made a provision for feeing those European Commissioners who would attend the meetings of the General Committee. Fancy that the members of the General Committee are to be induced to attend Municipal meetings by the payment of money! It is thus clear that if the number of European Commissioners is so small in the Corporation, it is because they do not choose to be there.

But granting that the Indian rate-payers do not elect the Europeans, why does not the Government avail of its right of nomination to the fullest extent in favour of the latter? We don't want a single nominated Indian Commissioner; let the Government nominate the entire 25 from among the European community. There is thus no necessity for changing the law on the ground that the present system bars the way of the Europeans to the Corporation. But does Sir Alexander Mackenzie or Mr. Risley seriously believe that the affairs of the town will be better managed if the European element preponderates? As we said above, what is there in the Municipality to interest a European in its work? The Indian Commissioner is differently circumstanced. If he does not do his duties properly, his constituents will make his existence intolerable. And then, he is personally interested in seeing that his ward is kept well-cleaned, well-watered and well-lighted.

As regards the other ground, it is a mere *assertion* on the part of half-a-dozen European medical officers that the city has not improved since the last two decades; but it is a *fact* that the Calcutta of to-day is heaven compared with what it was when its destinies had been placed in the hands of the executive. The best way of disposing of this matter is for a number of rate-payers to file an affidavit to the effect that the charge that Calcutta has not benefited by the management of the present Corporation, is not true; and that, on the other hand, they believe that, if the control of the Municipality were placed in the hands of a strong executive, as proposed in the Bill, it would be impossible for a large number of people to reside in the city.

It is not the good fortune of every ruler to confer boons upon the people committed to his charge; but, surely, he can avoid doing them vital injury. Sir Alexander Mackenzie has not been able to do one good act during his rule of nearly two years. We do not blame him for it. But why should he fasten upon the people a measure which they regard in the light of a national calamity?

THE *Pioneer* thus criticises the speech of the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis:—

Mr. Chitnavis made a long and rather rambling speech, in which he touched upon so many subjects outside the range of the Budget that Sir James Westland appealed to the Viceroy on a point of order. The hon'ble member, he said, had begun to discuss theories such as the payment of land revenue in kind,—theories which had been exploded years ago.

The Viceroy, while expressing sympathy in a way with Mr. Chitnavis, who had this one opportunity of expressing his views, remarked that some of the matter in his speech was scarcely within the scope of a discussion on the Budget Statement.

Mr. Chitnavis bowed to this decision; and omitting that portion of his speech which was pessimistic in tone, he concluded by a graceful reference to the Viceroy's retirement, and wished him the blessing of health to continue a distinguished career at home.

Yes, Sir James Westland called Mr. Chitnavis to order; but was he justified in doing it? It is true that the theory of the payment of land revenue in kind is now exploded; but there is no doubt of it that the Central Provinces and other Indian Provinces owe their famines and chronic state of poverty mainly to the unsympathetic and rigorous system of the payment of land revenue introduced by the present rulers. Mr. Chitnavis was thus quite within the cope of his subject when he referred to the ancient method of the payment of land revenue. But, if Mr. Chitnavis travelled out of his point, so did Sir Griffith Evans and Mr. Nicholson in a more outrageous manner. The attention of some of the official members was drawn to it by a non-official member and they admitted that

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Griffith and Mr. Nicholson had been really rambling; but Sir James did not appeal to the Viceroy to stop them. Mr. Chitnavis, however, took ample revenge upon Sir James Westland. When he was called to order, what he did was to finish every paragraph of his speech and then to ask the Viceroy whether he was in order or not and thus it was made manifest to the Council that an injustice was done to him. Mr. Charlu adopted a different course to show his utter indifference as regards the matter of the point of order. He said he would not read a portion of his speech before the Council lest he were also called to order, but would send it to the press where it would be much sooner published than in the *Government Gazette*. The omitted passages appeared in our yesterday's issue. Sir James Westland was good enough to compliment Mr. Chitnavis as "an ardent champion of the rights of his province," which he undoubtedly is.

For Bengal we preferred Sir A. P MacDonnell to Sir John Woodburn, simply on the ground that such an arrangement would be pleasing to the latter. We are glad, however, that Sir John was at last persuaded to waive his objection, for, if we were to take into consideration the interests of the Empire, Sir A. P. MacDonnell ought not to be removed from the North-West. That unfortunate Province has suffered much on account of a succession of incompetent rulers. For the last twenty years, with one single exception, the Province has been ruled by statesmen who were only instruments in the hands of their subordinates. But Sir A. P. MacDonnell has changed all that. He has been able to give a healthy tone to the administration, which is a greater service to the Empire than even winning a great battle. Judging from his career in the Central Provinces, Sir John Woodburn would prove a very good ruler for Bengal. In one point, Sir A. Mackenzie leaves us in the dark. His Honour was pleased to state that "very many" Indians gave support to his Municipal measure. Of course, they were men of position, or they would not have been consulted. In that case, their names, if known, would have served to remove, in some way, the impression that the reform is a blow dealt at Indian interests and nothing more. Can His Honour make their names public?

A Vakil of the Bombay High Cour has sent us the particulars of a pathetic story, showing, as it does, how the officia, atmosphere deadens the hearts of the best of our Judges. The story is, that a womant named Bhaghati, residing in the Thana District, had in January last, in the absence of her husband, gone to her father's house, taking her own baby, 15 months old, with her. It is alleged that she did not pull well with the female members of her husband's house. She had thus no other alternative than to go and live with her parents. The latter were, however, too poor, and grumbled at the burden which her maintenance had thrown on them. They at last told her plainly to return to her husband's house. This she was reluctant to do, and she resolved to put an end to her miseries by committing suicide. She went straight to a well, and leaving the baby alone on its brink to the care of Providence, plunged into it. She knew how to swim; and so she did not sink. While struggling in the well, she heard her baby crying. The cries made her forget her own miseries, and her maternal feeling prevailed. She got out of the well, and taking the baby on her arms, fondled it, and then once more jumped into the well. While thus placed, the baby slipped out of her hands and disappeared. But it soon appeared on the surface, when she caught it and came out of the well; but it soon afterwards died. The woman in due course was placed before the Sessions Judge of Thana on charges of attempting murder and suicide. The Jury returned a verdict of "not guilty" as regards both the charges; but the Judge sentenced her to two years' rigorous imprisonment and three months' simple imprisonment. On a reference being made to the Bombay High Court, their Lordships, Justices Parsons and Ranade, sentenced the woman to transportation for life, recommending, at the same time, the woman to the mercy of the Government of Bombay. The Hon'ble Judges, we presume, had good grounds to run counter to the verdict of the jury and the judgment of the Sessions Judge, who had the advantage of watching the demeanour of the prisoner, and pass the extreme sentence next to death upon the woman. But whom have their Lordships benefited by their decision? Surely, they have not benefited the society to which the woman belongs; for, her caste people would have excused her if they had any hand in the matter. Neither have they done any service to the woman who, if acquitted, might have led a better life; but, what her fate would be in the Andamans, can better be imagined than described.

Nemesis follows those Anglo-Indians who after ill-using the large powers that they enjoy here in India, return to their country. So familiar are the English people getting with the affairs of India that nothing now escapes their notice; and those officials who create discontent in this country by their acts, are brought to book for their "want of magnanimity to the dependent people of India", when they reach their motherland. Just see how Nemesis followed one official. During the last election, the Tories secured a majority of 472 at Stepney. But the Liberals have wrested this seat from them. And how? It was because the Tory champion was Major Gordon. It was he who was the cause of the violent deposition of the Maharana of Jhallawar. During the heat of the election, all that he had done to the Maharana was published, and the Tory majority was converted into a minority!

At the last Bombay Council meeting, the Hon. Mr. Parekh asked:—

Will Government be pleased to state whether they made any enquiries that the letter received by one of the nurses at Poona, purporting to be under the signature of one of the Natu brothers, really bore his signature, and whether the Natus were asked any question about the signature on the said letter, and, if so, what replies were received from them?

In reply, His Excellency the Governor said:—

Enquiries of the nature indicated in the question, have not been made.

The above is the reply of the Governor of Bombay. But below is the declaration of Lord George Hamilton in the House of Commons:—

One of the plague nurses at Poona made a deposition that she had received a letter, purporting to be signed by one of the brothers Natu, stating that it would be greatly to her detriment if she worked with the search party Since receiving this letter, she persisted in working in the search operations; and she had not had a midwifery case in the city in consequence. The difficulty the Indian Government had to contend with, was the subtlety of these malign influences, and there was no law at their disposal to stop intimidation of that character.

So, Lord George Hamilton gave the House to understand that one of the Natus had really intimidated a nurse, while the Governor of Bombay states that no enquiry whatever was made into the subject! Is there no one in the House to tell Lord George Hamilton that as he is the Secretary of State for India he cannot afford to make reckless statements? This is what the *Madcnester Guardian* says:—

Lord George Hamilton has thrown a little more light on the Russianising of the British Government in India. The Natu brothers, who were placed under arrest last summer and remain under arrest to this moment, are not to be put on their trial at all, for the simplest of all possible reasons. There is no evidence against them, and if you have a criminal so presumptuous as to give no proof of his crime, what can you do but punish him without proof? In Alice's Wonderland, if we remember rightly, there was a dispute on the question whether verdict or evidence should come first. The Indian Government settle the matter by dispensing with evidence altogether. There being no evidence to be sifted, they acted logically in refusing to allow the culprits the opportunity of seeing a legal adviser. But what we should really like to know is whether they even made any charge against the brothers. Lord G. Hamilton evaded this question the other night by replying that they were informed of the reasons of their arrest. So was the public. It was informed on different occasions of two quite different reasons for the arrest. Last year we were given to understand that they were suspected of complicity in the Puna murders, and now we are told that they hindered sanitary operations. Which were they told? Were they told anything? In the whole of this case the only thing certain is the punishment. There is no trial, no evidence, no legal adviser, and it begins to look as if there were not even any charge. We hope that someone will press for further information on this point, for, if the Natu brothers are not on their trial, the Indian Government is; and we wish to have evidence, verdict, and, if necessary, sentence all in due order.

In another column we publish the full text of the Report, of the Committee of the Bombay Corporation, appointed to make a representation to Government to transfer the duties of the Plague Committee to the Corporation. In the Report, the Committee has brought a serious indictment against the Plague Committee, founded on facts and figures. The latter are charged with

(1) Inefficiency.
(2) Waste of money.
(3) No good results.

It remarks:—"The heavy expenditure of the Plague Committee is largely due to there being a total absence of responsibility for providing the funds and also to the fact that till quite recently they had no sufficiently competent person at the head of their Store Department who could organize an effective system of control."

So, the table has at last been turned. When the plague was at its height last year, the Bombay Government fell foul of the Corporation, holding it responsible for the unsatisfactory state of things and charging it with parsimony, want of sanitary knowledge and so forth, though it stood manfully by its duties at great sacrifices at a time of great crisis. The Government then appointed a Committee to supersede the Corporation to do the plague work. The Committee has been working for a year, and the Corporation has now presented to the world a review of its labours which is summarised above.

We are glad to learn that the differences between Dr. Brojendra Nath Sen and Mr. Kimber, Water-works Engineer, Berhampur, noticed in a recent issue of our paper, have been amicably settled. It may be remembered that in the case of assault instituted by Brojendra Babu against Mr. Kimber, the latter was fined Rs. 10. The counter-case brought by Mr. Kimber against some *barkandazes* of Brojendra Babu, was dismissed. Brojendra Babu was then preparing to sue his assailant in the Civil Court for a heavy damage. At this stage, the eyes of Mr. Kimber, through a third party, were opened to the seriousness of the affair, and he tendered an unqualified apology, which was very generously accepted by Babu Brojendra Nath.

We have received a copy of a memorial, submitted by Thakore Bhairon Singh to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council. The memorialist is a Jageerdar of Ajitpura in the Bikaneer State in Rajputana. He is a relation of the Maharajah of Bikaneer; and beside owning the jageers which yield an annual income of Rs. 25,000, he does extensive business in Bombay as an *arathdar*. The representation of the memorialist is as follows: In February or March, 1894, the Deputy Inspector of Balsamand Thanah, who, the memorialist says, had a grudge against him, submitted a report against him to the effect that he was a thief, house-breaker, robber, habitual receiver of stolen property, etc. On receipt of this report, the Tehsildar of Rajgadh instituted proceedings against the memorialist without waiting for the required sanction of the Regency Council, and commenced recording evidence against him. The memorialist protested, as he said that the Tehsildar was not on good terms with him; and the Regency Council transferred the case to the file of Magistrate Munshi Bishun Lall. After a hearing which extended over a period of nearly three months, the Magistrate sent up the file to the Appeal Court, with a recommendation that the memorialist be acquitted, The Regency Council, however, on the application of the Public Prosecutor, who said hat the inquiry by the Magistrate had not been sufficient, referred the case to a Special Magistrate, who also recommended that the memorialist be acquitted. The Appeal Court also made a like recommendation. The Regency Council, however, after a delay of more than eight months, passed an order that the memorialist should furnish security and bonds for Rs. 4,000 for good behaviour, and that in default the amount of security should be recovered by attachment of his jageers. The memorialist thereupon petitioned the Political Agent of Bikaneer against this order; but the latter summarily refused to interfere. And now the memorialist appeals to the Viceroy. He alleges that he has been a victim to personal grudge, and urges, besides his legal grounds, that in the above-named proceedings a large number of highly respectable witnesses bore clear testimony to his excellent character, social status and public benefactions. The case is certainly one that deserves consideration at His Excellency's hands.

We are astounded to learn from the *Behar Herald* that Mr. Ruskin, who, we believe, held a very subordinate post in the Hatwa estate during the life-time of the late Maharajah, and after his death was the *pro tem* manager of the Raj, and who will now retire from the Raj employment, is going to receive "a bonus of Rs. 67,000 for long and meritorious services." The Hatwa estate is now practically under the administration of the Government. So, a question ought to be asked in Council as to the nature of the services done by Mr Ruskin, which entitles him to such a huge sum. We believe, Mr. Ruskin did not serve the Raj gratis, but took his pay regularly for the servic he did. How can he then claim this bonus of Rs. 67,000? The Hutwa Raj owes its present prosperity to a Bengali gentleman and his relations. The late Babu Bhubaneswar managed the Raj with such efficiency that the late Maharajah used to regard him in the light of his own father. Babu Bhubaneswar left a worthy manager of the estate in his relation, Debendra Babu, who also endeared himself greatly to the Maharajah by the satisfactory discharge of his duties. The Maharajah expressed a wish that, after his death, the management of his estate should be left in the hands of Debendra Babu; but his wish was not reduced to writing and so Debendra Babu is now nowhere in the Raj; and Mr. Ruskin, who served under him, was made manager. We also learn from the *Behar Herald* that Mr. Markham, the newly-appointed manager of the Hatwa Raj, will receive a salary of Rs. 1500 plus Rs. 500 as sumptuary allowance per mensem. But how did Babus Bhubaneswar and Debendra manage the affairs of the estate with less than half of that amount? The big Behar estates, it seems, are now to exist for the maintenance of a number of European Officers.

The attempt of Mr. Justice Ranade to introduce a reform in the Bombay University examinations, has disturbed the mental equilibrium of the *Times of India*. Thus the Bombay paper seeks to demolish Mr. Justice Ranade by these words:—

He (Mr. Justice Ranade) stands as the anxious parent and says that he can no longer bear to see his son ruined in mind and health by not being permitted to pass his University Examinations piecemeal.

The above remarks are evidently sarcastic in tone, and intended to raise a laugh at the expense of Mr. Justice Ranade. But we utter a simple truth when we say that not only Mr. Justice Ranade but every Hindu parent all over the country feels in the way to which the *Times* has taken objection; for, his eyes have at last been opened to the fact that the present rigorous system of the University examinations has much to do with the physical deterioration of the Hindu youths. It is but natural and intelligible why Mr. Justice Ranade, or for the matter of that every Hindu parent should feel anxious to see his son "ruined in mind and health"; but it is quite inexplicable why the *Times*, which has nothing to do with University matters—he being a mere bird of passage—should be so exercised over the proposal of Mr. Justice Ranade.

The English press, generally speaking, have condemned the action of Lord George Hamilton in refusing India assistance, and sometimes the condemnation has been expressed in very strong terms. Thus says the *Bradford Observer*:—

It is not Imperialism, it is mean and cruel tyranny not only to force our rule upon India, but to make the impoverished population coin the very means of our lordship out of their scanty pittance.

This is what the *Weekly Times and Echo* says:—

The policy of the Government is mean and dishonest, and it will lose us India one day. It goes out to the world this week that a Government which has taken the money of the English workmen by millions to put into the pockets of Irish and English landlords, has neither a crust nor a penny to spare for the starving millions of India, but insists that they shall pay for a war which is only to be defended on the ground that it was undertaken for Imperial purposes. Every anna taken from the native of India, is wrung from his absolute necessary expenditure on food. He has no luxuries upon which he can economise when taxation is heavy and food dear. They are simply half-starved; and then when famine and disease come, they die off like flies. Is it any wonder, we are hated in India?

Says the *Dundee Advertiser*:—

It is ineffably mean on our part to compel the dumb millions to pay "for our adventures and our blunders.

To quote the *Bradford Observer*:—

The British farmer is sweetened; the Irish landlord squared; the West Indian sugar planter kept quiet; the ecclesiastical proselyte encouraged with sums of money which are styled "grants-in-aid;" but let the Indian ryot, with his dish of rice and his irreducible waist cloths, beg that his pinch of salt may not be diminished because he has been visited by calamities over which he had no control and a war which was none of his making, straightway this modest request is stigmatised as a conspiracy for a "dole."

The Irish Landlord gets his compensation, the West Indians their contribution, and we get "sympathy" from the Liberal papers.

We are glad to learn from the *Behar Herald* that the candidates for the First Arts Examination who were examined at the Patna Centre, have sent up a representation to the Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, through the Principal of the Patna College, complaining that 5 or 6 questions in mathematics (Conic Sections) were set out of the omitted portions of the text. The Principal has sent up the representation to the Registrar for favourable consideration. We are given to understand that similar representations are going to be made, if not already made, by some Calcutta Colleges.

We are glad to hear that Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein, C.I.E, the Northern Division Presidency Magistrate, has been granted two years extension of service from September, 1898.

A decision was come to some time ago by the Government of India to hold a competitive examination in England for entrance into the superior branch of the Finance Department. Hitherto it has been the practice to recruit, for such appointments by the system of combined nomination and competition, a certain proportion being thrown open to the Subordinate Service and members of the Indian Civil Service being occasionally transferred. The decision above referred to, has certainly brought the number of vacancies to be filled up in India almost to zero, as the number of annual vacancies is very very small. This is not all. Recently there were two vacancies, and members of the heaven born service have been imported. We note too that one candidate has come out to India from England. He is a son of Mr. Stephen Jacob, the Comptroller-General, and has been posted to the office of the Accountant-General, Bengal.

The readers of this paper are aware that a sensational news of attempt at wrecking a train was received from Chittagong. It was found that heavy stones were placed on the Assam-Behar Railway line near the Mirsarai Railway Station, evidently with the object of wrecking the train. We now understand that the culprits have not only been arrested, but have confessed their guilt and have been placed on their trial. The case for the prosecution is that the Station Master of Mirsarai, Babu Kanchan Kumar Mukerjee, had a grudge against a certain tradesman, and with a view to put him into troubie, he got the stones placed on the railway line with the help of his menial staff and not to do any harm to the railway train.

The attempt, which is now being made at the Madras School of Arts to introduce aluminium as a substitute for the brass and copper now used in the manufacture of domestic utensils, seems to have got beyond the experimental stage. At the present time there are some fifty workmen who have been brought up from the great metal working centres of the presidency, engaged in working off the large number of orders which have been received from all parts of India, and it is expected that the number will soon reach one hundred. Arrangements have been made to secure a regular supply of metal, and anyone desirous of testing the claims put forward for the new metal can now place orders at the School of Arts with the assurance that he will no longer be kept waiting. Mr. Murugasa Buther, the silversmith on the Mount Road, has seriously taken up the new industry, and has already a large number of workmen employed in making both utilitarian and artistic wares

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The New L. G.—Sir John Woodburn will arrive in Calcutta on Monday.

High Court Judge.—The Hon. Mr. J. Pratt acts as a Judge of the High Court in succession to Mr. Justice Wilkins, who goes on leave from April 4.

Easter Holidays.—The High Court, with all its offices, will remain closed from Thursday next, the 7th instant, to Tuesday, the 12th, both days inclusive, on account of Easter.

L. G. Staff. Mr. Gayer, Private Secretary to Sir Alexander Mackenzie, will remain in a similar capacity for the present with Sir John Woodburn, who will have as Aide-de-Camp Captain McEwen, 16th Lancers.

Run over by an Engine.—While a khallasie, who was employed on the Eastern Bengal State Railways, was crossing the lines at Titaghur on Wednesday afternoon, he was killed through being run over by a light engine.

Postal.—We understand that the nomination of Mr. Wilson to the office of Manager, Dead Letter, has not been approved of by the Director-General. Babu Mohendra Nath Bennerjee will continue to hold the appointment until the return of Mr. Smith from Rangoon.

Din jhur Dacoity Case.—The High Court on the 31st ultimo set aside the conviction and sentence passed by the Sessions Judge of Dinajpur upon eight persons, who were accused of committing dacoity, on the 27th November last, in the house of one Fatik Sarkar.

A New Association. A new Imperial Anglo-Indian Association was inaugurated in Calcutta on Monday evening: the plan proposed by the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association being unanimously adopted at the annual general meeting. It is, we believe, the intention of the Association to start a daily newspaper of its own.

Departure of the Viceroy.—His Excellency the Viceroy, accompanied by the Countess of Elgin, Lady Elizabeth Bruce, and party left Calcutta on Tuesday last by a special train. The departure was private but a salute of 31 guns was fired from Fort William yesterday announcing the Viceroy's departure.

Plague Rule for Passengers.—The Lieutenant-Governor has prescribed the following rule for preventing the importation of bubonic plague into this province. All passengers alighting at or passing through any railway station in Bengal shall, when called upon to do so, give their correct name and address to the Police Officer on duty at such station for the inspection or examination of passengers from areas infected with plague. Any such passenger shall, when required to do so, make over his railway ticket to the Police Officer travelling with the train, who shall produce and surrender the ticket when the passenger arrives at his destination.

Sri Chaitanya Yoga Samaj.—The following letter has been addressed to Babu K. Chakravarti, by Mr. C. M. Osman from America:—

"My dear friend and brother,—Enclosed find list of applicants for membership in the American branch of the Sri Chaitanya Yoga Samaj.' My intention is to organize them by mail at once, and hold an election of officers after which if the members take sufficient interest in the work, it will be no trouble to them to induce their friends to join. If I was supplied with printed prospectus, it would save me lots of work and would aid me considerably. I have received several copies of "LordGauranga" and shall write to Mr. Ghose next week. Hoping you are well and enjoying a happy new year.

Conviction of a Gang of Robbers.—For some time a series of violent robberies were being perpetrated in and around Ekbalpore which attracted the vigilence of the local police. Mr Yasobuddin, Inspector of the Ekbalpore Thanhah, came to know that a certain number of Punjabee Mahomedans were quartered within his jurisdiction who were living in good style without any ostensible means of support. Suspecting something wrong he lighted upon them unawares and succeeded in finding a large amount of booty which was identified as properties taken away in their daring thefts which were being enquired into by the police. Three persons were arrested on the spot. The leader of the gang was yesterday sentenced to three years by Moulvi Serjul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore, and the second to two years and the third to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

One Postal Delivery a year.—In these days of progress, when increasing demands for postal facilities are being made on all sides, complaints have now and then been made of the practice of weekly postal deliveries in some post offices in this country. But it is of some interest to hear of a community which is satisfied with one postal delivery in a year. This is the island of Tristan d'Acunha, situated in the South Atlantic Ocean, whose little community of about 90 persons is under the protection of the Cape Government. It enjoys only one postal communication a year with Cape Town, where the correspondents for the inhabitants of the lonely island has to accumulate till an opportunity occurs for its transmission. Last year the mail bag for Tristan d'Acunha was conveyed by the English gunboat Magpie and contained ten letters, three newspapers, and two book packets.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH.—APRIL.—1.

(Before Justices Ameer Ali and Henderson.)

A CONVICTION SET ASIDE.

IN the matter of Empress vs. Chatter Sing their Lordships delivered the following judgment which deals with the facts of the case :—

"The petitioner in this case was convicted by the Deputy Magistrate of Singbhum under section 417 I. P. C. and sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment along with another person Ramdhani. Both of them appealed to the Judicial Commissioner who upheld the conviction of both and reduced the sentence to one year's imprisonment in each case. On the 3rd March, 1898, the petitioner Chatter Sing obtained a rule from this Court calling upon the District Magistrate to show cause why the conviction and sentence in the case should not be set aside on the ground that the evidence did not warrant the conviction. We have examined the evidence against him, and we have heard the learned counsel for the Crown. It appears to us that the evidence adduced with the object of bringing home the guilty knowledge against the petitioner is not sufficient to warrant his conviction. It appears that these two rings were accepted by the complainant, a man of some position and experience, as genuine rings made of gold. This man Chatter appears to have been in the shop of Ramdhani when Ramdhani gave these two rings to the complainant, and Chatter seems to have stated that they were made of gold. If does not appear from the complainant's statement that any opportunity was given to Chatter to test the ornaments to find out that they were or were not made of gold; nor does it appear upon the evidence what experience the accused had in the matter of testing gold. So far as the evidence of the complainant is concerned, that evidence is not only meagre but insufficient to warrant a conviction in the case. The only other evidence is that of Golam who is said to have taken these ornaments to Chatter afterwards. He says that the accused rubbed these rings with a stone and told him that they were gold. But, again, there is nothing to show that these articles were not plated with gold or were not so concealed as to furnish an indication of their being made of real gold. In the second place it does not show that this man is such an expert as to be able to say merely by the ordinary test applied to this country that they were gold. Guilty knowledge and dishonest intention must be brought home to the accused sufficiently by the evidence before he can be convicted. This has not been done in this case. It appears to us upon the evidence that the conviction cannot stand. We accordingly set aside the conviction and sentence, and direct that the petitioner be set at liberty."

AN ILLEGAL ORDER OF A SESSIONS JUDGE.

IN the case ofEmpress vs. Taki Mahomed their Lordships delivered the following judgment :—

"In this case certain persons were prosecuted before the Deputy Magistrate of Naraingunge on various charges under sections 447 426 etc., and they were acquitted in February 1897, by the Deputy Magistrate under section 245 Criminal Procedure Code. On the 4th June, 1897, the Sessions Judge directed a further enquiry in Taki Mahomed's case. On the 7th March, 1898, the petitioner obtained a rule from this Court upon the District Magistrate to show cause why the order of the Sessions Judge should not be set aside as not warranted by law, and in the application to this Court the cause of delay in moving this Court is set out. No cause is shown against the rule. It appears to us that the order of the Sessions Judge is not warranted by law. If the Sessions Judge was of opinion that there was a miscarriage of justice in the order of acquittal by the Deputy Magistrate, his proper course was to refer the case to this Court. He had no jurisdiction to order a further enquiry on his own account. We, therefore, set aside the order of the Sessions Judge, dated 4th June, 1897, and direct that the order for further enquiry be set aside."

Babu Promotho Nath Sen appeared for the petitioner.

IS A MOOKTEAR A PLEADER UNDER THE EVIDENCE ACT?

THIS question was discussed in the appeal preferred on behalf of Abbas Peada and Chiru Gain, who were convicted by the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergannas accepting the unanimous verdict of the jury and sentenced under sections 346 and 365 of the Indian Penal Code (kidnapping and wrongful confinement in secret) to rigorous imprisonment for 4 years and 3 years respectively.

Babu Dasarathi Sanyal appeared on behalf of the appellants and Mr. Leith, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, for the Crown.

The facts of the case are shortly these:—There was a case of kidnapping a girl named Lakhi against the appellants in the Court of the Deputy Magistrate of Diamand Harbour. The 30th August was fixed for the hearing of the case. On the night of the 29th August, the girl Lakhi with her husband Nabakumar and 2 or 3 other persons were coming to Diamond Harbour from their village Kontola. On the way they met the appellants and others of their party, who were alleged to have assaulted Nabakumar and forcibly taken away the girl and her husband. They were kept in the house of the appellant Abbas for the night. In the morning the husband was let go, but Lakhi was taken to a village, named Jhampaberia, 10 to 12 miles off, and there kept in the house of one Abbas for several days, and from that place she was taken to a village, named Kalikapota, where she was kept for some days and afterwards given up to her relations. The vakeel contended that the learned Judge has not directed the Jury at all on the question of law arising in the case. No explanation of the sections 365 and 346 was given. The intention to confine in secret ought to have been prominently brought to the attention of the Jury. The vakeel referred to the evidence of the father who deposed that he visited the girl 3 times only during her confinement. Various cases were cited in support of the proposition. Next objection was taken to the appellants being put upon their trial, on severals charges as being opposed to the provision of the Criminal Procedure Code. Lastly, it was contended that the Judge should not have allowed to go in the evidence of the muktear Kedar Nath, who was formerly the muktear of the appellants in the previous case, and who deposed to certain facts which came to his knowledge in the course of his professional engagement. The vakeel submitted that under section 126 of the Evidence Act, the pleader or muktear could not disclose any communication so received, and it would be a dangerous precedent if they were allowed to do so. Similar objection was taken to the evidence of the muktear Hem Chandra and his clerk.

Mr. Leith, on behalf of the Crown, said that under the law the Judge has to record the "heads of the charge." The sections of the law were referred to and that was quite sufficient. If the verdict of a Jury was set aside on such ground the Jury trial would be a farce. As regards the second objection, the several offences were committed in one transaction. Section 239 would be applicable. Lastly, the privilege under section 126 of the Evidence Act was not applicable to muktears but pleaders. The legislature has intentionally omitted the word—"Muktears."

BabuD. Sanyal in reply submitted that it was the duty of the Judge to explain the law—a duty cast upon him by legistature. The heads of the charge must contain materials for the High Court to see if the explanation was sufficient or correct. A similar contention was raised in a similar case by Mr. Leith, but he was overruled (vide the case Empress vs. Tomy 1. Cal. W. Notes). For the meaning of the word 'transaction' he cited I. L. R. 15 Bombay. Lastly, the word 'pleader' as defined by the Criminal Procedure Code includes a mukhtear. The muktears for the purposes of a criminal trial are clothed with the rights of a pleader. They, in fact, do the duties of a pleader

Their Lordships after hearing both sides reserved judgment.

BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SPEECH BY H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

H. E. the President, in opening the proceedings said: My attention has been called to a letter signed by Mr Roughton in a newspaper of the 25th. In regard to the complaint he makes I can assure him and others that there are no grounds whatever for them. I never said Europeans were not to be employed by Government, and I am sure no less are the public appreciative and deeply grateful for the immense and unceasing efforts that have been made by so many private gentlemen, and I am well aware that the confidence their action has given to the public has been of the greatest service. Conspicuous have been the efforts of Mr. Roughton and Mr. R. Macdonald and many others too numerous to mention, I am fully confident that those efforts will in no way be relaxed, and the time for recreation, which has been so unsparingly given, will continue to be given in the same ungrudging way, and kindly and sympathetically used to guide matters as they are now being aranged.

INTERPELLATIONS.

The following questions were then answered by Honorable Members :—

The Hon. Mr. Bhalchandra asked: Will the Government be pleased to consider the advisability of preventing the sale of intoxicating liquors to persons under fifteen years of age, whether accompanied by their parents and guardians or not?

In reply Mr. Nugent said: Great practical difficulties would be involved in enforcing a prohibition of the kind suggested by the Honourable Member. Shopkeepers have seldom, if ever, the means of ascertaining the exact age of purchasers, and most of the consumers of liquor in this country are probably ignorant of their own age. It would be unjustifiable to attach a penalty to acts regarding which there is no certainty whether they do or do not transgress the law or conditions of their license. Government will gladly consider any suggestion by the adoption of which the consumption of intoxicating liquors by young persons would be legitimately discouraged, but for the attainment of this result public opinion must mainly be depended on.

The Hon. Mr. Parekh asked: Are Government aware that in some districts agriculturists find at present much difficulty in the disposal of their agricultural produce?

The Honourable Mr. J. Nugent said:—Government have received no reports to the effect of the statement of the Honourable Member, but are aware that restriction imposed under the Epidemic Diseases Act on free communication with various towns must to some extent intefere with the free movement and disposal of produce.

The Member also asked: Will Government be so pleased as to extend the time for the payment of the instalments of the Government land revenue which have become due?

In reply Mr. Nugent said. In any cases in which agriculturists experience difficulty in disposing of their produce, Collectors have, subject to the sanction of the Commissioner, power to fix such dates for the payment of the instalments as they may deem expedient, and they will exercise the power if sufficient reason exists. Special orders from Government are not needed.

The Hon. Mr. Parekh asked:—(a) Are Government aware that, notwithstanding the directions in paragraph 49 of the instructions issued by them for the guidance of district and other officers in matters of plague administration, travellers coming from uninfected areas with certificates from local authorities that they were during the ten preceding consecutive days continuously within uninfected areas, and who bear no suspicious symptoms, are subjected to detention and disinfecti n?

(b) Is this done because in the course of their travelling they come in contact with passengers from infected areas and are exposed to infection?

(c) If the answers to the preceding parts of this question be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to direct that the Railway administrations should provide separate carriages for passengers who are not liable to detention and disinfection from those that are occupied by passengers who are so liable?

His Excellency the President said: Government are not aware of any such disregard of their instructions. Government desire that it should be widely known that travellers who can satisfy the authorities that they come from uninfected areas are not liable to detention.

(a) The Hon. Mr. Parekh also asked: Will Government be pleased to authorize the District plague authorities in the moffussil to issue special passes similar to those that were issued by the Bombay Plague Committee and direct that the same effect be given to them?

(b) Will Government be pleased to direct special arrangements to be made at all detention camps for the custody and protection of valuable properties of travellers who are detained under the plague rules?

(a) His Excellency the President replied: District plague authorities include Patels of villages, and Government cannot recognise their certificates as of equal value with those of the Bombay Plague Committee. Government are not aware of any case in which the pass of a Collector has been disregarded at any Government detention camp.

(b) Government have heard no complaints of loss of property, and have no reason to believe that the arrangements made by the local officers have failed to protect property.

Mr. Daji Abaji Khare asked: Is it a fact that the Mamlatdar of Belgaum Taluka has issued orders to the village officers to treat any death in the village as a Plague death and to compulsorily remove and segregate out of the village, inmates of the house in which any death might occur for ten days?

His Excellency the President said: The complanit is not quite accurate. The Collector of Belgaum, on 26th January last, issued an order that in villages within fifteen miles of Belgaum town, where the mortality was unusually high, deaths should be treated as plague deaths. The Assistant Collector reported that the order was leading to hardships in one village, and the Collector modified the circular so as to include only plague deaths or deaths for which no cause could be assigned, and, therefore, suspected to be plague. The change was made a little more than a fortnight after the order omplained of was issued.

INTIMATION has been received that the Russian Government have prohibited their Mahomedan subjects from visiting the hedjaz during the present pilgrimage season.

IN the case of the sixty persons who were accused of being concerned in the recent riots at Sinnar, seven were discharged, thirty-three sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and twenty to one year's imprisonment with fine of Rs. 25, or in default of payment another month's imprisoment.

IN reply to a letter form the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Bombay Government say that inoculation is being given a fair trial, so much so, that the number of inoculation stations is far in excess of the demands for operations. They see no objection to the Plague Committee exempting from compulsory removal or detention persons who have been successfully inoculated within the preceding four months, providing their effects and clothing be properly disinfected.

FORTY-EIGHT Municipalities in Madras have adopted special precautions against plague infection, and ten other municipalities hitherto inactive have been called upon by the Government to follow suit.

IN commercial circles now-a-days at Delhi, says the *Tribune*, a vague sort of uneasiness prevails. A big firm had failed in connection with the breakd own of a Lucknow firm a few days ago, and now the business of Lala Kashi Nath Topkhanawala was stopped the other day. Other Sahukars are now on the alert and do not give much credit. Business is carried on by cash payments which is difficult to continue long.

ON Wednesday Mr. Webb committed three Mahomedans to the Sessions on a charge of setting fire to three plague ambulances, the plague ward office and the gallows screen near Oomercarry jail on the 9th instant. This was the last riot case before a Magistrate of the 147 persons arrested for rioting, consisting of 273 Mahomedans and 74 Hindus. Eleven Mahomedans and three Hindus were committed to the Session, 144 Mahomedans and 61 Hindus were convicted and sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from one month to four years, and 18 Mahomedans and 10 Hindus were discharged.

NO BUILDING BIG ENOUGH.

PROBABLY the two women whose names we are about to mention (by their good will and consent) never saw or even heard of each other. A broad bit of sea-water rolls between the places where they severelly live. Still the world is getting smaller every day, and it is quite possible they may meet; if they do, they will have a common subject for a talk. Without waiting for that, however, we will let the reader into the secret (so far as it is a secret) right on the spot.

The first lady to be named resides at Bishop's Nor on, neer Kirton, Lindsey, Lincolnshire, and in a letter dated the 16th of the blustering month of March, 1893, she says, "*I trembled from head to foot.*"

This would scarcely be worth mentioning if it had been simply the result of a fright and therefore bound to pass off in a few minutes. But it lasted for a long time and did not arise from a fright or from any other form of excitement. It meant sheer weakness and a wholesale upsetting of the nerves. "I was constantly sick and dizz," she says, "and had a dull pain between the shoulders. I had no appetite, and the effect of what little I did eat was so bad and gave me so much distress that after a time I hardly dared touch any food or drink. Durino this period I may just mention that I was terribly constipated, intervals of ten days sometimes elapsing between the actions of the bowels. No laxatives or enemas availed to relieve this condition, and I became more feeble and prostrated day by day. My illnese began in August, 1892, and after four months' suffering I was completely cured in December by your remedy. Indeed it was not necessary for me to take quite one bottle. If any one who reads this little statement of mine wishes to know more about my case, I will gladly answer inquiries. (Signed) Mrs. M. G. Walsham."

The second lady, writes from her home No. 12, Horgan's Buildings, College Road, Cork, dating her letter the 27th of the sunny month of June, 1893. She says, "Everything was a trouble and a burden. For nights together I got no sleep. I couldn't bear the noise of the children. I had no desire for company; I wanted to be alone in my misery. I often thought I was going to die. I was in this way for nearly twelve months."

Now this was bad; very, very bad. When a woman cannot bear the noise of her own children—which of all noises is least observed by a mother's ear—why her nerves are, as we might say, all gone to pieces. And, inasmuch as the nerves are only a part of the body, it follows that the whole system is badly out of order. And so it was. "The complaint," she says, "came on in October, 1890." It was marked by failure of the appetite, pain and weight in the chest after eating, a sinking feeling at the pit of the stomach, biliousness, flatulency, and other signs with which the readers of these articles are so sadly familiar.

Of the progress of the malady and how low it reduced her she has already spoken. The end of it all—a happy end, thank Mercy—was like this. "In September, 1891," she adds, "my husband persuaded me to try a medicine he had heard and read so much about. I did so and soon found relief—a relief that none of the other medicines I had used were able to give me. My lost appetite came back, and my food digested easily and strengthened me. You hardly need be told that I continued taking the medicine, and soon I was well as ever I was in my life and have ailed nothing since. Yours truly, (Signed) Mrs. Lucy Carrol."

Woman, like men, never agree on all the topics which come up in conversation. It would be a dull world if they did. But these two will agree that they were afflicted with the same complaint—indigestion and dyspepsia: and that Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, which restored them both to health, is one of the very best friends in time of trouble that their sex ever had.

And what is more, if all the women in this kingdom who think the same were collected in one meeting, no building could be found big enough to accommodate them.

HOLI IN ENGLAND.

LONDON seems to be threatened with an Indian social invasion. Scarcely had the interest excited by the beautiful performance of "Sakuntala" subsided, when Kumar Udaya Vira Singha Raghubansi and Munshi Kashi Prasad invited Society to a celebration of Holi.

Many distinguished people were present, including old Anglo-Indians, members of the bar and clergy, the arts and professions, with here and there an Indian student in the costume he had brought to be presented at court. Kumar Raghubansi received the guests with his friend Munshi Kashi Prasad, both attired in splendour. The entertainment was given at the new "Tea and Tiffin Bungalow," 170 Bond Street, which is just now much in fashionable favour.

A long line of carriages deposited their freight of loveliness and wealth, each face beaming with the anticipation of a novelty;—guests were sprinkled with perfume and powered with silver 'confetti' and even the staid English conventionality was broken through in the general spirit of enjoyment.

Bamboo arches and curtained recesses divided the company into picturesque groups, and the rooms were profusely decorated with Indian fabrics and ornaments. Many beautiful dresses were worn by the English ladies, notably that of Mrs. French Sheldon, the distinguished author and explorer, who was gowned in white satin brocade, bordered with masses of natural violets, and many wore real diamond ornaments.

After an hour passed in conversation and introduction, Kumar Raghubhansi gave in the graceful style and well-chosen words that always mark his addresses, a short account of the origin and observance of Holi and a welcome to the guests which was followed by the songs of the Holi festival.

Other songs were given in Hindi, Gujrati and Hindustani, by T. J. Desai, Diwan Mathra Dass and Syed Zeauddin Ahmed Balkhi.

The reading of the Ramayan by Munshi Kashi Prasad was much enjoyed.

Madam Pheroze Longana in a picturesque rose-coloured sarai sang with exquisite feeling and was much applauded.

Mr. Edmund Russell recited his now famous poem "The Arts of India."

"What broken lotus wilts upon thy steps
O Taj Mahal! The Jamuna and the Ganges
Unite to bear thy beauty to the sea
Which tells again the world knows none so fair."

An Indian supper was then served of many kinds of curry and nice "polao and kalea" which was greatly enjoyed especially by the old Anglo-Indian Civil Service officials.

Mofussil News.

SRINAGAR, MAR. 24.

WITH the sudden disappearance of the cold weather, various sorts of diseases have made their appearance. The public health is not good. Mr. Kicernander, Accountant-General, and Dr. A. Mittra, Chief Medical Officer of the place, were laid up with influenza; but they are well now. Mr. M. Nethersale, C. E., the State Engineer, has left Jammoo, and will reach here on 1st April. A public meeting of the Sikh community was held at the Sri Guru Singh Sabha. The meeting was well attended. Sirdar Gurmukh Singh, Divisional Engineer, presided and the following resolution was carried: That a memorial be submitted to the Punjab Government, praying that the Government will be kind enough not to criminally prosecute Sirdar Guru Dial Singh, Sessions Judge of Sialkote, and the only higher-graded Sikh officer in the Punjab, who is lately suspended.

MUNSHIGUNGE, MAR. 27.

IT seems that the promoters of the next Provincial Conference have not yet done with Khaja Mahammad Asraff. He took exception to the Conference being invited to meet at Dacca in the name of its people; and the Committee, to disarm all possible opposition, however factious, decided to welcome the delegates on behalf of the sympathisers with the Conference. But the Khaja still persists in warning the promoters against the fanaticism of the mob. It has never been the ambition of the Conference to speak for the mob or to tread on their corns. The Khaja may therefore well set his mind at ease and give his troubled brain the rest they so badly want.—There is a proposal to open a light narrow-gauge railway through the heart of Vicrampore as a connecting link between the Goalundo and Naraingunge sections of the Eastern Bengal Railway system. It will tap a strip of country which at present provides no satisfactory means of intercommunications; and we certainly would welcome anything that should bring us within easier reach of the metropolis and serve as an useful artery of trade. The School Committee have decided to start a Hostel for the accommodation of the local students. —The people here are very sorry to lose by transfer of Babu Aghore Chandra Hazra; Babu Hara Kumar Roy has come to take his place.

ON Thursday there were 161 attacks and 102 deaths from plague at Bombay, the total mortality being 233.

WHATEVER other effects the Cheragan Fair at the Shalimar Gardens may have, says the *Tribune* of Lahore, it has had the undoubtedly good effect of giving the Hindus and Mahomedans an opportunity of demonstrating the restored friendliness between them. During the last few years the Hindu-Mahomedan question was raised in connection with the fair, and the attendance of Hindu holiday-seekers and spectators was small. This year matters took another turn. The city was almost entirely denuded of its inhabitants, both Hiudus and Mahomedans. Hindu vendors of sweets opened stalls at the fair and were largely patronised by Mahomedans. *Chhabils* were erected by both Hindus and Mahomedans, and they were invited without distinction everywhere. Every man, however ingorant, was repeatedly saying that the Hindus and Mahomedans were now united and all past differences were forgotten. Some interesting reports were also flying about. It was given out that the Hindus and Mahomedans had jointly announced, by beat of drum, that the greatest cordiality was to prevail at the fair and that the people were more than willing to obey this direction. Everywhere Hindus and Mahomedans were equally anxious to display the good feelings they bore to one another, and to assure themselves that these feelings were reciprocated. From Delhi, Rai Bareilly and other important centres the reports are of the same nature

Telegrams.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

ST. PETERSBURG, MAR. 29.

A Circular from Count Muravieft, the Russian Foreign Minister, has been issued which informs the Powers that Port Arthur and Talienwan and the adjacent territory have been ceded to Russia in usufruct, and that Talienwan will be open to foreign commerce and the ships of all friendly nations.

LONDON, MAR. 29.

Two gunboats and the Egyptian troops attacked Shendy on the 26th instant and destroyed the Dervish orts there, besides capturing quantities of provisions and ammunition. The Dervish loss was 160 killed. The Egyptians had no casualties. Six hundred. slaves were liberated by the Egyptians.

LONDON, MAR. 30.

The Dervishes are still entrenched at Hilge and are starving.

The optimist reports regarding Spanish concessions are not confirmed and the war feeling in America has been vigorously revived. Numerous resolutions have been presented to Congress demanding American intervention in Cuba.

LONDON, MAR. 29.

It is understood that Great Britain has no thought of seeking to obtain a reversal of the Chinese arrangements with Russia and Germany, or of combining with two Pagan Powers against their Christian neighbours, but will secure an adequate compensation for herself. The "Times" urges the British occupation of a point from which we can make our influence felt at Pekin.

LONDON, MAR. 30

In the House of Commons to-night Sir Charles Dilke gave notice of a motion that the direction of Foreign Affairs for the past year had shown that it was desirable that the offices of Premier and Foreign Secretary should be separate. M. Balfour refused to give a day for the discussion of the motion, but said he would give a day for a direct vote of censure, if Sir William Harcourt desired to move it.

LONDON, MAR. 31.

Spain is earnestly considering President McKinley's demands which are the immediate cessation of hostilities in Cuba, release and relief of starving peasants, called reconcentrados, who were penned up in the towns by General Weyler's orders, and allowing of America to assist in relieving them. Meanwhile the Spanish Cabinet has granted three-million pesetos for their immediate relief.

LONDON, MAR. 31.

Mr. Curzon, replying to questions in the House of Commons, said Count Muravieff on the 16th of March assured Great Britain that Port Arthur and Talienwan would be open to foreign trade like other Chinese ports, and had not since withdrawn this assurance.

The battleship Victorious has arrived at Hongkong. The Centurion, Alacrity, Archer, and four torpedo destroyers have left Hongkong bound northward.

Both the assailants of the King of Greece have been sentenced to death.

The British revenue for the year shows a net increase of £2,664,119.

Captain Oliver Young, Conservative, has been elected for Wokingham by a majority of 1,036 votes over Mr. Palmer, Liberal, in place of Sir George Russell. The polling was: Young, 4,726; Palmer, 3,690.

General Hunter has closely reconnoitred Emir Mahmud's position, and found it very extended and strong, and swarming with Dervishes.

WE are told that orders regarding the reduction of the Tirrah Field Force will issue at once.

MR. MACAULAY, of Wallace and Co., and Mr. Liles, of the Education Department, have been elected Additional Members of the Bombay Legislative Council, in succession to Messrs. Abercrombie and Kirkham.

THE appeal of the Inspector-General of Police in Madras, against the levy of a profession tax by the Madras Municipality notwithstanding that he only spent a very short period each year in the station, has been dismissed by the Presidency Magistrates; the bench holding that the appellant "resided" in Madras within the meaning of the Act even while absent on tour. As this is a test case to which some importance is attached, it is to be presumed the High Court will be asked finally to decide the point at issue.

THE Bengal-Nagpore Railway workshop at Nagpore was the scene of a frightful explosion the other day. At about 2-30 P. M. when the workmen had returned to the shops after their dinner, a loud report not unlike the firing of a big gun, accompanied with a somewhat severe shock, occurred. It would appear that a pumping engine, erected immediately outside the figtting shops, was being tested to pump gas into the gas reservoirs of passenger vehicles for lighting them, when the engine, which had probably got an unduly high pressure on, suddenly exploded, its heavy cast-iron framework being shattered, and the heavy fragments propelled with considerable force in all directions. One of these, weighing fully fifty pounds, struck a chargeman named Gordon, who was working the gas engine, and hurled him bodily into an adjoining engine room, a distance of some thirty feet from where he stood, while another heavy fragment of metal struck a native fitter named Gool Mahomed, killing him on the spot. Gordon expired about half an hour after the accident. Three other native mechanics were more or less severely injured, and they were removed to the Mayo Hospital in great agony. Fortunately the spot where the gas-pumping engine was erected was not the busiest part of the shop, and hence there were not many persons about.

Recommended by A Medical Friend

THIS is how MR. J. SHAIL, the well-know Manager of LAURIE'S HOTEL, AGRA, commenced to use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Says he: "About six months ago I was suffering severely from a bad cough and cold, and a medical friend recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to me. I bought one bottle and it effected a complete cure. Since that time, whenever I have the least cough, I procure Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the results are always satisfactory."

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is sold

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

LONDON TOPICS.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

FLEET STREET, LONDON, MAR. 10.

A FULL-DRESS DEBATE.

THERE was a full-dress debate in the Lords last Monday on the Indian Frontier business. The debate was of singular interest and characteristic ability. Long before the commencement of the sitting, the corridor was lined with strangers and the rapid arrivals of Peeresses gave a further indication of the importance and interest attaching to the event. When Lord Roberts rose from the corner of the front cross-bench at half past four, the occupants of the Peeresses gallery included the Duchess of Devonshire, the Duchess of Portland, the Countess of Somerset, Countess Spencer, the Dowager-Countess of Dudley, the Marchioness of Lansdowne and the Marchioness of Ripon. Hardly a vacant seat was visible in the two side-galleries set apart for members of the other House. Lord Salisbury's indisposition prevented his attendance; and it had been expected that the Duke of Devonshire, who early took his place on the Front Ministerial Bench, would have followed Lord Roberts, instead of the Under-Secretary for India. The Earl of Kimberley and the Marquis of Ripon figured among the occupants of the Front Opposition Bench who had arrived betimes.

The speech may be summed up in a sentence. It was a defence—ardent and emphatic, not to say, a little impatient—of what is known as the Forward school in Indian policy. In more than one sentence, Lord Roberts laid it down as absolutely necessary that Great Britain should extend her empire over all the peoples and all the regions that stand between her Indian Empire and the frontier of Afghanistan.

The next morning, the "Daily News" came out with a long critique on the speech of Lord Roberts, and this is what it said :

We regret that Lord Roberts did not take the opportunity of withdrawing the unfounded imputation of complicity in the Afridi rising which he had made against the Ameer of Afghanistan. We regret also that as Lord Roberts did not feel himself precluded by his official position from laying down extreme views of Indian policy in the Legislature, he was not answered by the Commander-in-Chief, who could easily have demolished his military arguments. We are, however, bound to admit that the views of the Government, as expressed on behalf of the India Office by Lord Onslow, are far more prudent and sensible than the views of Lord Roberts. And when Lord Roberts deprecates the subject being made a party one, we can only declare our satisfaction that his scheme of advance at all costs, with no excuse, is repudiated by both the great parties in the State. Lord Roberts's history is fragmentary and erroneous. When he talks about the "non-interference" of forty years ago, he forgets that Lord Lawrence was Viceroy thirty years ago, and when he describes the conduct of that great man as "selfish," he forgets himself. We have never been able to understand what is meant by calling Lord Lawrence's policy obsolete. It may have been right or wrong, though we think that subsequent events have conclusively shown it to be right. But right or wrong, it rested upon the relative position of mountains and valleys, which has not changed since 1867, or in recorded time. The advance of Russia, a out which Lord Roberts said a good deal more than was wise, has nothing to do with it. Lord Lawrence had that in his mind, and his deliberate opinion was that next to the mountains themselves, the best barrier against invasion was the friendly independence of the border tribes. Nor did Lord Roberts even mention the Pamir Treaty with Russia, concluded only four years ago, which removed all ground for the annexation of Chitral. He speaks of the "cruel misery", inflicted upon innocent people by burning their houses and destroying their crops. The language is not too strong, though it comes oddly from him. But that is just what Sir William Lockhart has been doing in the Tirah Valley, and that would never have been necessary if the wise decision of the late Government had been maintained, "The only British officer," says Lord Roberts, "who ever ventured to enter Afridiland before Sir William Lockhart's force went there, was punished by being removed from his appointment." We regreat that any punishment should have been required. But its infliction has been abundantly justified.

Lord Roberts, like his friend and pupil, Sir George White, appears to be incapable of learning from experience. Confronted with the melancholy failure of the forward policy, he replies that it failed because it was not pushed far enough. He would go, as Sir Lepel Griffin once put it, from the Indus to Candahar, from Candahar to the Hindu Koosh, and from the Hindu Koosh to bankruptcy. He quotes the Duke of Wellington as having said that "we must be able to see the other side of the hill." If the Duke did say so, his meaning is obscure. What he was commonly credited with having said, is that strategy must be largely a process of guessing what lay on the other side of the hill. But strategy altered since the days of Wellington. When Lord Roberts says that the forward policy is one of "peaceful conquest" he severely taxes the receptive powers of ordinary minds. Peaceful conquest is, we presume, the introductory step to Mr. Curzon's "pacific control" and is form of "no campulsion, but you must." A display of overwhelming force may ensure submission. But it involves neither contentment nor acquiescence, and produces no lasting result. Lord Roberts repeated the old allegation that the road to Chitral was made with the consent of the people. The statement has been refuted as often as it has been made. So far from consenting, the Swatis attacked the British forts, and had to be put down with a strong hand. Lord Roberts' professions of impartiality cannot be regarded as serious. His whole speech was vehemently controversial; and while he deserves credit for his courage in adhering to a discredited system, his assumption of a judicial attitude is absurd. To sneer at the opponents of annexation as "comparatively ignorant of the subject," is simple impertinence. Is Sir Donald Stewart ignorant of the subject? Or, Sir Neville Chamberlain? Or, Sir John Adye? Or, Sir James Lyall. Or Sir Lepel Griffin? Or Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick? If Lord Roberts wishes to be treated with the respect he undoubtedly deserves, he should show a little more respect for others, not less distinguished than himself. His own opinions, as Lord Northbrook showed, have undergone a remarkable change; and though there is no disgrace in that, the fact might make him a little more modest in the exposition of his present theories. The financial point of view he pronounces himself unable to take. Yet, it is vital; for, we have no moral right to carry out costly experiments which impoverish the resources without alleviating the condition of the Indian people. There is no fault to be found with the speech of the Under-Secretary for India. Lord Onslow, last night, was moderate in the proper sense of the term. He reminded the House that the North-west Frontier of India was a thousand miles long, and that the occupation of the Tirah Valley, even if it were feasible, would protect that extensive line. He pointed out proposals of the slightest value, and he declared in the terms of Lord George Hamilton's despatch, that the policy of the Government was to avoid any further control of the tribes.

INDIAN POST OFFICE BILL.

The "New Age" has a very smart article headed "What are we coming to?" on the New Postal Bill of India. It says :—

The hitherto unrestricted circulation of British newspapers throughout the British Empire will receive a rude check by the passing of the new Postal Bill of India. The Bill is, of course, another of the reactionary measures which Lord Elgin and his Council are adopting in order to stamp out sedition in India. One section (23) of the Bill provides that "any officer in charge of a postal office, or empowered by the Postmaster-General in this behalf, may open or unfasten any newspaper or other article in course of transmission by post, which he suspects to have been sent in contravention of any of the provisions of the Act, and either detain or destroy such article at pleasure." The Act referred to in this section is that prohibiting the transmission by post of any obscene, indecent, or grossly offensive matter to which seditious and defamatory writing has recently been added. Another section (26) empowers the Governor-General or any such authority, to intercept and dispose of any postal article or class, or description of articles in course of transmission by post. This is a most impudent attempt to tamper with the privacy which the British postal system has always enjoyed and that, too, solely because the present Government of India has shown itself utterly unsuited and unfit for its onerous duties. It has now sunk so low as to wish open private letters in order to safeguard itself from the evil results of its misrule. Since seditious utterings and seditious writing in India are now punishable by law, there can be but one object for this new Postal Bill, and that is to prevent the circulation among Indians of British newspapers and pamphlets which may have in the eyes of the Indian Government a tendency to foster what it chooses to think sedition. Radical, Socialist, and other papers giving expression to advanced thought will therefore have to run the gauntlet of the censorship of the Indian Government. Papers containing criticism adverse to its rule are liable to be detained or confiscated. We also see no reason to suppose that our private letters will escape official prying. The word "article" in the code has a suspiciously unlimited meaning. Is the post-officer considered competent to judge what is seditious and what is not? The whole matter requires urgent investigation, and we feel sure that the British press, which has been, and continues to be, jealous of any appearance of any attempt to curtail its liberties, will demand an explanation from the Secretary for India. We must not be content with a repetition of the quibbling of Lord G. Hamilton. It is all very well to assure us that these new laws in India are to be worked "with leniency", but we would rather not have laws which admit of contraction or expansion. The fact of the matter is the Indian Government is in a blue funk. An Englishman writing from India to a contemporary says, "Things are very bad here so bad that even Anglo-India is getting alarmed. If the Government want to make sedition they are going the right way to work The last few months have produced a great change in the tone of the educated natives, and there is now a bitterness of feeling which is quite a novelty but which will not be eradicated or sweetened for many a year." Surely we have only to contrast this state of unrest and dissatisfaction with the peaceful conditions and content under Lord Ripon's administration to learn what methods suit India best.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Private cables, it is said, have reached the city, stating that the Indian Government had forwarded a recommendation to the Home authorities, advising the adoption of the Lindsay plan for the establishment of a fixed exchange between England and India. Leading men in the city are unanimous in condemning Mr. Lindsay's proposal as utterly impracticable and dangerous.

I hear that Lord Cromer had refused the offer of the Viceroyalty of India, being anxious to remain in Egypt till Khartoum is re-conquered, and then to return to England. It is probable that Lord Balfour of Burleigh will get the next offer of the post. His reputation as a sensible, pleasant, and high minded Minister has been steadily growing of late years, and his nomination as Viceroy would Command general approval.

The result of the London County Council election has been a victory of the Progressives over the Moderates by a majority of 22. The "Morning Post" (a Tory paper) with attempted cheerfulness acknowledges that it is a Government defeat, and no good can result from blinking a plain fact.

A good story is being told of one of the candidates for the London County Council. The constituency which he sought to represent, contained a good many electors of sporting proclivities; and in addressing them, he dilated on his great interest in sport. A voice—"what have you backed for the Waterloo cup?"

The candidate :—"Although, I love sport I never myself bet on horse races." Of course, there was a loud laughter; for you know the Waterloo cup is a dog race. But the the Lecturer did not know this. He looked non-plussed, and grinned.

This puts us in mind of the late Col. North—"the Nitrate King." who thus finished his election speech at Leeds : "Gentlemen, before I conclude, I would strongly advise you to back my mare Philomel for the Steward's cup. Put your shirts and boots on her. She is sure to win. Take my tip, and back her and you will find yourselves in clover."

Strange to say, thousands did back Philomel but did not find themselves "in clover", for, the mare lost.

"THE HINDU SYSTEM OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE AND ART."

BABU N. K. BOSE, District Magistrate of Dinajpore, thus writes to the author of the above book :

I have read your book, 'The Hindu System of Religious Science and Art" and have made an analysis of its contents which, I trust, may assist your readers in grasping the grand truths of religion treated in your book. The ultimate conclusion that western science has arrived at, regarding the Deity, is stated by Herbert Spencer as follows:—

'One truth must grow ever clearer—the truth that there is an Inscrutable Existence everywhere manifested, of which he can neither conceive the beginning or end. Amid the mysteries which become the more mysterious the more they are thought about, there will remain the one absolute certainty, that he is ever in presence of an Infinite and External Energy from which all things proceed.'—*Ecclesiastical Institution.*

Herbert Spencer thinks that this great mystery cannot be solved, although man is always prompted to imagine some solution of it. It is, however, claimed by the Hindus that their Rishis and Saints have solved his great enigma.

The Hindus think that as there are laws governing the material or sensual world, there are also laws which govern the spiritual or super-sensual world. The Hindu Darsans and Shastras treat of three things :—

(1) Cosmology, or the doctrine of the universe.

(2) Psychology, or the doctrine of the soul.

(3) Theology, or the doctrine of God.

In Europe, there has always been a conflict between Cosmology and Theology (science and religion) and, to a smaller extent, between Cosmology and Psychology (Physical science and metaphysics). In the Hindu Shastras, there is no such conflict; the same theories explain Cosmology, Psychology and Theology. I need here allude to the theory of Purush and Prakriti, and that of the three Gunas, which the author has so lucidly explained in his "Treatise on the Hindu System of Moral Science." According to the Hindus, just as the material world is perceived by six senses, including the Manas, there is a seventh sense (called buddhi) by which spiritual facts may be perceived and systematized into law. The existence of buddhi or spiritual sense is not an invention of the Hindu Rishis, but is a belief common to all religions of the world. Even the great philosopher Descartes (if we are to believe the author of the 'Chariot of the Flesh"), admitted the existence of a higher sense. A summary of Descartes' chief conclusions is thus given in the book, quoted above.

"The lower orders of life have a varying number of powers of perception, which are termed senses.

"The higher orders of life have five. These senses diminish in power as they increase in number, being relieved one by the other.

"No deterioration in sense-power is known to have taken place without causing deterioration to the possessor, unless at the same time accompanied by the development of a new perceptive faculty.

"Man alone is credited with being an exception to this rule. He is inferior in keenness of sense to the animal below him, yet superior in power. It is also noticeable that the savage is in like manner superior to the civilized man. It is, therefore, probable that man is the possessor of a sixth sense, as yet imperfectly developed and unequally distributed."

It is by the development of this spiritual sense, according to the Hindu system, that spiritual truths are discerned. There are many Shastras (e. g., the Tantras) which teach us how this spiritual sense can be developed; how by developing this spiritual sense, one can, without the aid of material science, control the force of nature. Some Beings are born with such perfectly-developed spiritual sense that they discern spiritual truths without any seeming effort. Perfect subjugation of the body is essential to the development of the spiritual sense. For the successful use of this faculty, one should be able to keep his body under perfect control, should be perfectly unselfish, pure and free from pride.

The teachings of all systems of Hindu religion agree in this that the ultimate state of the soul to be aimed at, is union with Divine Life, union which gives eternal Peace. But Divine Life may be looked at from two points of view,—one as Supreme Intelligence and the other as Supreme Love : as former, he is Impersonal; as latter he is Personal. For the sake of scientific method, such a distinction is made, although, in fact, there is no such distinction. The system of spiritual science which looks upon Divine Life as Impersonal is called Adwaitabad or the monistic system,—and the system of spiritual science which considers Divine Life as Personal is called Dwaitabad or the dualistic system. The former may be called Gnana Yoga and the latter Bhakti or Karma Yoga. True religion knows no distinction between these two Yogas; and (to quote from Yoga Vashisata Ramayana) as the two wings of a bird ensure its motion, so do Gnana and Karma lead to the attainment of beatitude.

As, thus, there is a two-fold spiritual science (Tattwa-gnan), there is also a two-fold spiritual art of Paramartha Sadhan, *i. e.*, the realization of spiritual truths. *Isvara* is both Law and Lord. In the *gnan* method of achieving union with Divine Life, pure reason in the chief guide,—more is thought of Divine Law pervading the universe and of duty to be performed. In the Bhakti method of achieving union, pure emotion is the chief guide,—more is thought of Divine Love. According to the gnan method, union with Divine Law is achieved by renunciation. Some seek renunciation by being recluses and living away from objects of all desires : others, by living in the midst of worldly affairs, but at the same time, subduing all outward-going energies and harmonizing all the constituents of man till they vibrate in perfect attunement with the Supreme Self. Some regard the body as the enemy of the spirit, and therefore mortify the flesh. There are others who regard the body rather, for the time being, its help-mate. Without the aid of matter, the spirit on earth is powerless; and, as a bird, deprived of its plumage, can no longer leave the earth, so the spirit, when the body is injured or weakened, becomes a prey to passing delusions and is unable to accomplish any work. The teaching of the Bhagavat Geeta is to lift the human soul from the lower levels of renunciation where objects are renounced, to the loftier heights where desires are dead,—where both body and mind of man are actively employed in discharging the duties that fall to his lot in life.

The Bhakti method thinks more of Love towards the Deity than the performance of one's own duty. The Bhaktas say that God can be attained by love. From the lowest life in the flower to the highest-created spirit in the universe, there is one law of growth; life meets life, uniting and strengthening. As atoms unite and re-unite to form what we call elements, and then again unite and re-unite to form chemical compounds, even thus do lives join and unite to form perfect life,—even thus one spirit meets another kindred spirit, unites with it and gives birth to a more perfect spirit. The lower animal-life unites with its female element and thereby rises to more perfect existence and so on, up to man. So two suitable spirits unite and form a higher being, or as Swedenborg says "the death." And this joining together does not cease even then but angel unites with angel, and so on, up to God.

What we call attraction, fascination and love, are the forces that draw the kindred elements together. Has the love between parent and son, brother and sister, husband and wife, anything in common with Divine Love? What is love as we understand it? When we love a person we fancy that we love not the body but the personality—that there is something therein which attracts and draws forth those sensations, wholly apart from anything to do with mere animal passions or even with mere moral and mental characteristics. It is not the beauty of form or even the nobleness of character which draws out pure love. It is a subtle attraction which reaches us through the medium of our imperfectly-developed spiritual sense. Whatever comes to us through the ordinary channel, is merely passion or companionship, though, owing to our complex nature, these usually accompany spiritual love. The marriage tie is considered so sacred, because, being a wise law fitted to the present condition of our lower animal nature, it likewise shadows forth the nobler union of souls. The attraction of the sexes rises from the crude and physical to the subtle and psychical, with growth of love. But as the Baisnavas teach us, the love between man and God transcends this love between husband and wife. It is the love of Radha for Sri Krishna. The test of true spiritual love is self-renunciation. When there is no tinge of egoism in one's love, it is true spiritual love. The love of parent for the child partakes of the nature of this love, so far it is not egoistic. Egoism and altruism have both their roots in our nature; and every man becomes a saviour or destroyer through self-renunciation or selfishness. From time to time Saviours appear in the world, who, possessing fully the spirit of Divine Order and Divine Love, show to the wonderers of all times the potentialities of man's nature and the path by which he can attain to the Lotus-feet of God.

Viewed thus from the eye of wisdom and holiness, there is one Law, Love,—one Path, Order,—and one State, Peace. This is the teaching of the Hindu Scriptures; and the author has proved this by numerous quotations from the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Geeta, the Darsan Shastras and the Puranas. This little book forms, as it were, a key to the understanding of the different schools of Hindu Philosophy and religious system; and every man who has a soul to save, should read it.

THE CHITTAGONG CYCLONE.

THE following passages are taken from the Resolution of the Bengal Government, dated Calcutta 28 ta March:

On the night of the 24th of October, 1897, the Chittagong district was visited by a cyclone of extraordinary violence. The cyclone was accompanied by a series of storm-waves more disastrous than the cyclone itself. The main force of the disturbance was felt across the whole breadth of the district from about fourteen miles north of Chittagang town to a point about four miles south of Cox's Bazar, a distance of some seventy miles. In the southern portion of this tract lies the delta of the Mahamuri river. The low-lying lands of this delta and of the islands which lie off it were completely swept by the storm-waves. In many villages half the inhabitants were drowned. The survivors found their houses levelled to the ground, their crops entirely destroyed, a great part of their cattle drowned, and themselves without any stores of food or clothing.

Loss of life and private property. The Commissioner has reported the total loss of life due to the cyclone to be about 14,000 persons. It is estimated that about 15,000 cattle were drowned. The rice crop, which had promised to be a 20-anna one, was in the tract submerged by the storm-wave entirely destroyed, in a further belt of country it was reduced to a four-anna crop of damaged grain, the rest of the 'disirict yielded a 14-anna crop. This loss, coming as it did on the top of two bad seasons, was peculiarly unfortunate. Throughout the affected tract houses and huts were unroofed and demolished. To afford some help in repairing this last loss, an immediate, seduction of one half was made in the rates ofthe forest tols in the severely effected tracts, fees on passes for cutting building materials in the khas mahal forest were entirely remitted, and the Collector procured 10,000 bamboos from the hills for gratuitious distribution in the worst villages where buiding materils were not to be had.

Health of the inhabitants of the affected area. For some days the submerged tract was strewn with the corpses of men and cattle drowned in the storm-wave. Every effort was made to secure the water supply from pollution, but, as was to be anticipated, cholera broke out with great virulence in places. It was reported to the Commissioner during his recent visit to Kotubdia that in this island alone no less than 1,300 deaths from cholera had occurred since the cyclone. No information is furnished as to the mortality which attended the epidemic in the remaining portion of the affected area. The Civil Surgeon has been authorized to entertain hospital assistants and to purchase medicines for distribution in the affected parts from the funds placed at the disposal of the District Magistrate by the Central Committee of the Famine Relief Fund. It is hoped that these measures will prove successful in arresting the progress of the epidemic.

Relief operations. The fund at the disposal of the District Magistrate for carrying on relief operations amounted to Rs. 65,204. This was made up of (1) a grant of Rs. 50,000 made by the Famine Relief Committee, (2) a sum of Rs. 4,000 transferred from the Noakhali Relief Fund, (3) Rs. 2,209 being the balance of the Chittagong Relief Fund, and (4) Rs. 8,895 collected by public subscriptions. Up to the middle of January last the expenditure amounted to Rs. 30,899, a balance of Rs. 34,205 being left in the hands of the District Magistrate. The Commissioner has satisfied himself that the relief administered has been sufficient to prevent any loss of life by starvation. Relief works were opened, but were not found to answer, partly because the adult males had migrated to Arracan in thousands to cut crops, and partly because the loans advanced by Government had placed the people in a position to repair their own private embankments. The number of persons requiring relief at present is considerably diminished by the exodus to Arracan, and will be still further reduced when the labourers return from that district with their earnings. In these circumstances, the Commissioner has already withdrawn some of the officers especially deputed to superintend the relief operations, and is restricting relief within narrower limits. He would, however, give gratuitous relief for some time more to widows and orphans, and to the women and children whose bread-winners have gone to Arracan. He would also continue medical aid until the rains bring the usual diminution of cholera. This course has the Lieutenant-Governor's approval.

Loans. The Commissioner was at first authorised to distribute one lakh of rupees under the Agriculturists' Loans Act. Subsequent enquiries showed, however, that loans under the Land Improvement Advances Act for the repair of embankments were more urgently needed. The authority of Government was therefore obtained to distribute one lakh of rupees under the latter Act, the amount allotted for loans under the former being, at the same time reduced to Rs. 50,000. Loans amounting to Rs. 85,162 have already been distributed under the Land Improvement Advances Act. Applications for loans under the agriculturists' Loans Act are being registered, and the total amount applied for already exceeds a lakh of Rupees. These applications will be taken in hand after those for the grant of loans for the repair of embankments have been disposed of. To be of full use, they should be dealt with promptly.

Remission of revenue. The Commissioner has separately submitted proposals recommending the remission of revenue in temporarily-settled estates, amounting to Rs. 1,34,295, which are being considered in the Revenue Department of this Government.

Never Knew It To Fail

MR. R. JOHNSTON, Rawalpindi, says : I have personally tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy, and have given it to travellers who were passing through a hotel I manaaged, and I must say I never knew it to fail, and s all it is supposed to be in its effects. It is a medicine I can recommend, and one that everybody should keep

CHAMBERLAIN'S Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy is the most successful medicine in use for Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, Cholera-Morbus and Colera, and is for sale everywhere. Price Re. 1

AN EPISTLE FROM HADDA MULLAH.

THE following is the translation of a letter from the Mullah of Hadda to the Mian Guls of Swat, dated the 2nd of September, 1897 : After compliments, I have to inform you that I am doing well, and I pray always for the health and welfare of you all. The news about the Moslems in Tirah and the Khyber as regards their relations with the villainous infidels is as follows : All the thanas of the infidels above Jam (Jamrud) in the Khyber have been by the grace of God burned and destroyed and the property seized. All thanas in the direction of Koha have also been plundered and burned. Thana of Lowargai (Landi Kotal) contained every kind of articles including ammunition, rifles, cash, &c. The whole of the above property has been taken away, and the Moslems have been satiated with the plunder. Now all the Moslems having regard to the religion of the Prophet have prepared themselves for a jehad. They intend to attack the cantonment of Peshawar and Jam. I am going to join the jehad. I had written to his Highness the Amir, "Zia-ul-Millat-wad-Din" on the subject of jehad. His Highness replied that we should wait; that His Highness would consult all the Military Officers, Khans and Maliks of His Highness's territory, and then write again in reply, telling me the arrangements and preparations for jehad. His Highness gave Rs. 100 to the Sheikh, who carried my letter to His Highness for his road expenses. This has been a great kindness of His Highness. I have told the tribesmen to wait telling them to be ready by the time the second letter comes, and that, on receip of his letter, arrangements for a jehad would bemade. I therefore write to you to be patient and to let no anxiety enter your mind because all the Moslems with great zeal for the religion of the Prophet and the honour of the people of Islam, have raised a general disturbadce against the infidels. I hope that God may be pleased for the sake of the holy Sheikhs to keep Swat safe, and that it may be left alone (by the English). Please God, His Highness the Amir will make arrangements for the jehad, and issue a notification to that effect. On receipt of the second reply, I shall let you know the contents. You asked me to inform the Sipah Salar about the state of your affairs. My friends, the Sipah Salar cannot do anything without the orders of His Highness the Amir. Your affairs will be arranged in accordance with the directions which His Highness the Amir will issue. Further, I pray for your welfare under every circumstance.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the construction by the Hurdwar-Dehra Railway Company of a branch line of railway from Hurdwar on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway to Dehra.

MR. Charles Dillon, Barrister-at-law, was formally gazetted to officiate as a puisne Judge of the Allahabad High Court on Monday.

KAVI Dulputram Dayabhoy, C. I. E., the celebrated blind poet of Gujerat, died at Ahmedabad of paralysis on Friday morning at the ripe age of 75. The schools and colleges were closed in his honour.

THE boundary disputes between Poonch Ilaqua and Cashmere State have been settled by Captain Goodenough. Boundary pillars are to be built to prevent confusion in future.

MAHOMAD Ismail of Fatehgarh Police, who was the other day sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment by the N. W. P. High Court, has fled from the jail.—"Advocate."

SURGEON-COLONEL HENDLEY, Principal Administrative Officer in Rajputana, comes to Bengal as Inspector-General of Hospitals, vice Surgeon-Colonel Newman, who has been transferred to the Punjab. Surgeon-Colonel Adams from Jodhpur succeeds Surgeon-Colonel Hendley.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab held a durbar in the camp at Kohat on Monday. The ceremony was largely attended by residents of the Kohat and Peshawur districts, and by the Kurram and Adam Khel jirgahs. All the civil and military officers of the station and a few from Peshawur and Kurram were present. After the usual presentation of the Durbaris had taken place, His Honour addressed those assembled, announting his intention of presenting khilluts for services in connection with the recent events on the frontier. To the people of Kurram he sent a message through their representatives, commending their conduct and announcing rewards, including a remission of revenue. His Honor finally told the Adam Khel of the appreciation by Government of the good spirit and friendly feeling which they had recently exhibited, as a sign of which he would present their leading men with lungis, and give them all a befitting rekhshatana. A translation of His Honour's address in Pushtoo was read out to the people. A large number of khilluts were then presented, after which the Durbar concluded.

I HAD the rheumatism so badly that I could not get my hand to my head. I tried the doctor'st medicine without the least benefit. At last I though of Chamberlain's Pain Balm; the first bottle relieved all of the pain, and one half of the second bottle effected a complete cure.—W. J. HOLLAND, Holland, Va. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is equally good for sprains, swellings and lameness, as well as burns, cuts and bruises, for sale at all drug store. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

NATIVES AND THE INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE,

FULL TEXT OF MR. PAUL'S SPEECH.

MR. H. W. PAUL, who was received with cheers, called attention to the system of examination in England for the Civil Service of India, and moved "That all open competitive examinations heretofore held in England alone for appointments to the Civil Services of India shall henceforth be held simultaneously both in India and England, such examinations in both countries being indentical in their nature, and all who compete being finally classified in one list according to merit." He said: Mr. Speaker, in rising to move the amendment which I have placed on the paper I must at once disclaim the imputation of originality in the substance of my proposal or in the terms in which it is expressed. The proposal which I now make was brought before the House in 1868 by the late Mr. Fawcett, whose services to India are so well known and gratefully remembered. (Hear, hear.) The terms of my amendment were derived from the report of a Committee appointed in the year 1858 by the then Secretary of State for India, and over which Sir John Willoughby presided. The Committee reported in 1 o. In the course of he debate in 1868 Mr. Fawcett got what I may call a sympathetic response from Sir Stafford Northcote (afterwards Lord Iddesleigh), who was then Secretary of State for India. He was opposed with great vigour in a speech of immense eloquence and power, expressed in most picturesque vernacular, by the present Secretary for Scotland (Sir George Trevelyan). I feel that we stand to-night at great disadvantage in discussing a subject which has an important bearing on the interests and welfare of India by the fact that in the present Government the Secretary of State for India does not sit amongst us. Where Lord Kimberley is at this moment we do not know. At this hour of the night he is probably not even in "another place." (Laughter.) He is beyond our control. We cannot even curtail his salary. (Renewed laughter). I am sure my right hon. friend the Under-Secretary who sits in this House will not think that I mean by these remarks to show any disrespect to him. (Hear, hear.) I only wish he was the Secretary of State for India himself. I have no doubt that the views of the India Office will be most ably represented by him. (Hear, hear.) Now, Sir, I may best express the state of things which exists at present and which my amendment is intended to modify when I state that according to a notice which has been given by the Civil Service Commissioners there will shortly be held in London an open competitive examination for the Civil Service of India, for which all subjects of her Majesty now between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-three are at liberty to enter. As a matter of fact the only subjects of the Queen not resident in the United Kingdom who desire to submit themselves for this examination are natives of India, and they are expected, in order to have a chance of succeeding in this examination, to come over to London and remain for such time as they may think necessary for the purpose of preparation, and if they are successful to remain still longer—for two years—to undergo a period of probation. Now, it will be observed that my amendm nt only relates to the preliminary competitive examination for civil servants of India. If it were carried, if the Government were to act upon it as they might do without any change in the law any native of India who were successful in the preliminary examination would be compelled to come over here and undergo the two years' probation and to improve themselves by association wi h ourselves and by acquaintance with our manners and customs as much as now. But such natives would not be obliged, at an expense which I believe I put at a very moderate figure if I estimate at £1,000, to come over here and reside on the mere chance of being declared qualified by the examiners. I hope that the House will kindly bear in mind that I do not seek to exempt any native of India from the duty of coming to this country and qualifying himself by residence and study here, if he is successful in the preliminary competitive examination. (Hear, hear.) This is at the foundation of my whole case. To read an extract from a report of the Committee to which I have referred which was presented to Parliament on the 20th January, 1860, in the second paragraph they say "We are in the first place unanimously of opinion that it is not only just but expedient that the natives of India should be employed in the administration of India to as large an extent as possible consistently with the maintenance of the British supremacy." They consider whether any increased facilities could be given in this direction and then they make a quotation from an Act of Parliament which shows, I think, that before the Government of India was taken over by the Crown, even in the old days of the East India Company, the natives of India had a statutory right to an equal chance of emp'oyment in the administration of the country with British subjects of the Crown. They say that it is true that at present no positive disqualification exists, that by the 3rd and 4th William Iv chap. 85, it is enacted that no native nor natural born subject in India shall by reason of his place of birth or colour or religion be disabled from holding any office, place, or employment under the Government It is obvious, therefore, that when the competitive system was instituted it could not have been intended to exclude natives of India from the Civil Services of India. (Hear, hear.) The Government may say that they are not excluded, but in a later paragraph in these report the eminent Anglo-Indians who formed the Comm ttee say that practically the natives are disqualified. The difficulties opposed to them are so great as a general rule that it is almost impossible that a native can successfully compete in a periodical examination held in England. Were this inequality removed the Government would no longer be exposed to the charge of keeping the word of promise to the ear and breaking it to the hope. (Hear, hear.) Now I come to the amendment. Two modes have been suggested by which the object might be attained. The first is to allow a certain portion of the appointments to be competed for in India by the natives. The other is to hold simultaneously two examinations, one in India and one in London, both as far as practicable identical in their nature; those who compete in the two examinations to be finally classified in one list by the examiners. The Committee to which I refer had no hesitation in giving the preference to the latter scheme. (Hear, hear.) I do not think that I need argue in this year 1893 that the natives of India have the same right as ourselves to take part in the administration. (Mr. Naoroji: More right.) The hon. member for Finsbury says "more right." Well, at any rate they have by law an equal right, I need not quote to the House the words of the Queen's proclamation so well-known are they in which Her Majesty declares her will that her subjects of whatever class or creed shall be freely and impartially admitted to any post for the duties of which they may be qualified by education and ability. And that proclamation has the force of a statute, for the principle of it is admitted in the Act of 1858 by which the Government of India was transferred to the Crown. Therefore you have been assuming and arguing from the assumption that it has been the intention of successive governments to admit natives of India on the same terms as the inhabitants of the United Kingdom. (Hear, hear.) Well, sir, it may be said that there are great difficulties in the holding the same examination in two places at the same time. But when the Committee of 1860 was sitting, the Civil Service Commissioners, under whom these examinations are placed, were consulted on this point, and they informed the Committee that so far as they were concerned there would be no difficulty whatever. It would be merely in Council by inserting aft London the words "Calcutta," "Madras," or "Bombay," and they were able to undertake the task. The University of London at this moment holds an examination not only in many distant parts of the British dominions but in the city of Calcutta itself. In the speech which Mr. Fawcett delivered in 186 he, who knew as much about examinations and the practical business of conducting them as any man who has ever sat in this House, said that there would be no difficulty in carrying out this plan, that the examination papers might be sent under seal to India, the examinations being fixed for the same date and the candidates' papers might be sent home under seal and inspected by the same examiners, the names of the successful candidates at both examinations being arranged in order of merit. I am aware that there might be some practical difficulty as to that part of the examination which is conducted viva voce. I do not, however, attach much importance to this method of examination though it does sometimes afford a convenient mode of testing the real knowledge of a man who in a written examination may be able to write fluently about something which he imperfectly understands. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But I cannot think that a great question of policy, as I hope to be able to show that this can be determined by a technical difficulty of this kind. From my experience of examinations, which, I am sorry to say, has been great, I do not think that the examination viva voce plays a large part in determining the ultimate selection of candidates by the examiner. (Hear, hear.) Well, sir, as I have said, I do not in the least want to interfere with the duty of the natives of India to obtain some experience of the method of government in this country before they undertake the task of governing in their own country. I have here the opinion of a man whose name is proverbial for calm and sagacious knowledge. I refer to the late Lord Derby, who, when in 1863, as Lord Stanley, he was Secretary of State for India, said in this House that he could not refrain from expressing his conviction that in refu-ing to carry on examinations in India as well as England, whi h was easily practicable, the Government were in effect doing that which they dec ared it to be one of their objects to avoid, namely, confining the civil service to Englishmen. Lord Derby invited the House to suppose that instead of holding those examinations in London they were to be held in Calcutta, and he asked how many Englishmen would go out or send their sons out to be examined. Nevertheless, that was exactly the course proposed to be adopted towards the natives of India. I am not aware that our Secretaries of State, the distinguished gentlemen who in this country are responsible for the affairs of India, are always submitted to the preliminary test of a visit to that country. Lord Kimberley, the present Secretary of State for India, has been in many places in a more or less official capacity, but I do not know that he has ever been in India. But it is not denied that we have had most competent Secretaries and Under-Secretaries, who have had no personal knowledge of the country for which they are responsible. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, I should be the last to underrate the advantages the candidates obtain by seeing something of our institutions. I know very well that they are required to make practical acquaintance with the inside of our courts of law. They are required, I believe, to attend that august tribunal, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, than which no court, I think I am correct in saying, has a wider and more ample jurisdiction. I have no doubt that the reports of their judgments, which can be read in India as well as here, are invaluable and necessary parts of the training of every Indian administrator; but, Sir, when it comes to what strikes the eye, when it comes to a mere spectacle, to see these gentlemen in plain clothes sitting round a table, cannot be compared with an alderman in all his glory at the Guildhall, dealing with drunks and disorderlies. (Laughter.) I do not wish to deprive the natives of India of the privilege of visiting our institutions. They may go and see the magificence of the Indian Institution, standing in a place where it ought not (hear, hear) they may have the advantage of the operation which I believe is called give and take of none of these advantages would my amendment deprive them. I believe there is some misconception upon the subject, as by the scheme I propose in my amendment no native of India would be relieved from any part of the duty incumbent upon him in having to submit himself to residence and training in this country before being admitted to the humblest post in the service of the Crown in India. I ought in candour to say that since the Committee of 1886 an important Commission had sat upon the same subject in Calcutta and had arrived at a somewhat different result. The Commission reported in the year 1886 and among many other subjects upon which that Commission expressed an opinion was this subject of holding simultaneous examination, and they reported against the proposal. Their reasons are, as it seems to me, extremely simple. In number they are two; in character they are mutually destructive. The first reason they give is that the system of education in India is not sufficiently advance to afford the requisite training. I should have thought that that was an evil which provided its own remedy, because if the candidates were not w ll prepared they could not pass. The second reason which for my part I cannot reconcile with the first is that these regulations would give such a stimulus to the system of education in India that there would be a danger of creating the system called cramming. What is cramming? Cramming, I suppose, is filling the mind of a boy or young man with phrases and formulas which he is always ready to repeat but which he does not understand. What, sir, is the business of an examiner? To pluck a crammer! An examiner is not fit for his business, he is not worth his salt, if he cannot detect the difference between a man who really knows and a man who only pretends to know. (Hear, hear.) I know, sir, there has been of late years a dead set against the system, among others by a very distinguished member of the Conservative party, Sir Stafford Northcote, and again by Sir Charles Trevelyan. I know well the enemies of this system of competitive examination; but, sir, this system of competitive examination is applied at this moment to the natives of India. It is only barred by a test which, I suppose, about five per cent. of them are able to surmount. Now, Mr. Speaker, I know there are two great arguments against my proposition, and I should be very sorry to say that either of them was dishonest. One of them is undoubtedly honest and that, if I may, I will presently allude to. The other argument is that it is a positive stimulus to the natives of India that it is really encouraging them to enter our service and take part in the government of their own country, and that at present they are on the mere expectation of obtaining employment in the service, compelled to submit to an ordeal that many are unable successfully to pass. I do not think that argument can be maintained in this House. The other argument the honest argument is that we don't want the natives of India in the Civil Service at all. If that were the point at issue I don't think that I possess the necessary qualifications for arguing it out, but as I said at the beginning of my speech, that is a position that cannot be honourably maintained. It is contrary to the law of the land; it is contrary to the Queen's Proclamation; it is contrary to the promise given to the natives of India; and it is contrary to the rule laid down by every Governor-General and Secretary of State. It may be said that there is no objection to a few natives being admitted, but that there is an objection to the Civil Service being flooded by natives. Well, sir, I don't think it shows very great reliance they would be defeated in that wholesale manner by Her Majesty's Indian subjects, but if that be an objection it ought to be met in a fair and straightforward manner. It ought to be met by saying that there are posts which cannot be filled by the native subjects of India, or that there are posts beyond which we cannot admit them to our service, but not to say that the service is just as open to them as it is to us, and then to impose upon them conditions to which we ourselves would never submit. (Hear, hear.) It is also said that the character of the native Indians, who are most successful in passing the examinations, does not fit them for high administrative posts. Well, under the present system, a considerable numbe have attained to positions of responsibility and I challenge contradiction when I say, because it is laid down by the Commission of 1887, that they have discharged the duties entrusted to them to the satisfaction of their superiors, and to the satisfaction of those with whom they have to deal. (Hear, hear.) I know that it is said in the prospectus drawn up for the guidance at candidates, that they must be of good moral character, and be able to perform journeys on horseback—(laughter)—which in plain English, I suppose, means that they must be able to ride and speak the truth—qualifications a great deal more ancient than our rule in India. I think, sir, if we wish to impress upon our Indian fellow subjects the value of straightforwardness we should set them the example (hear, hear) and that we should not adopt a system which is absolutely at variance with our own declared policy, and which prevents nine-tenths of those for whom we profess to open places of trust, honour, and emolument, taking advantage of the opportunities we have offered. At this present moment, among nearly a thousand members of the Covenanted Civil Service, there were under twenty natives eleven in Bengal, two in Madras, one in Bombay, and two or more elsewhere, for it was perhaps difficult to ascertain the exact figures. If this were the result of the system of competition with equal treatment for all, the natives of India would have no cause to complain but there is not one man who will maintain that that extraordinary disproportion has nothing to do with the fact that the examinations are held only in London to which the vast majority of, perhaps, eligible natives are unable to repair. There is a portion of the Civil Service in India there is a system of appoitment which is not the subject of competition, which is not fenced round with any safeguard against abu-e, but left to the selection of the Governor-General and his advisers and what has been the result? he Commission of 1887 unanimously condemned it as unsuccessful, whereas they reported in a favourable manner of those natives who had been admitted under a system of open competition. Of course I am aware that there were objections, and very strong objections to employing natives of one part of India in another part of India. I think it might very well be that if this system which I propose was adopted, and if this great bar to the employment of native Indians were thereby removed, some regulations restricting Bengalis to employment in Bengal and so on, might in consequence, have to be adopted; but that is no argument against my main proposition. Now, I do not wish to occupy the time of the House unnecessarily—("go on," and hear, hear)—I hope there are other hon. members who will desire to take part in this debate, including my hon. friend the member for Finsbury, who will give greater weight to the subject than I can pretend to. We shall have, I hope, the obvious advantage of listening to the views of the Under-Secretary for India, and I shall be most anxious to hear what line of objection, if he has any objection, he intends to pursue whether the present system is the best method of securing the services of competent natives, or whether he will take a bolder line and say the fewer natives employed in the Indian Civil Service the better. The right hon. gentleman can make a brilliant speech, and will not, I am sure, be restrained by considerations of original morality. (Laughter.) There is no man who can tell us plainly and simply what line of policy the Indian Government intends to pursue. It may be asked what authority I have for saying that this is desired by the natives of India. Well, sir, Lord Salisbury once said that India was politically dark, and one must admit that there are hundreds of thousands of natives whose opinions it is impossible to obtain; but there is an organisation in India which does in a great measure represent the better educated class of natives I allude to the Indian National Congress. That Congress has now sat seven years, and I believe I am correct in saying that at every one of their meetings a resolution has been passed in favour of the principle which is embodied in my amendment. One of the most distinguished Anglo-Indian subject of the Queen one of the ablest men who ever took part in theg overnment of India, remindso me that it is not necessary that Indian members of the Indian Civil Service should come to England at all. Whilst, however, there was no doubt that natives of India should become acquainted with our institutions by residence among the best classes of Englishmen, Scotchmen, and Irishmen, at the same time it was impossible to obtain training in the art of government from a better source than that great administrative system of India, of which we were so justly proud that system which, alike in the days of old and in the days of competition, has by the splendour of its services and still more by the spirit of justice which animates it from top to bottom adds to the name and fame and honour of Great Britain in every portion of the Empire and every nation of the world. (Cheers.) I beg to move the resolution which stands in my name (Cheers.)

THE CORPORATION AND THE PLAGUE COMMITTEE.

THE following is the report of the Committee of the Corporation appointed on Thursday last to make a representation to Government to transfer the duties of the Plague Committee to the Corporation. The report, which has been circulated to the members of the Corporation, will be submitted at their meeting this afternoon for adoption:

That the President respectfully submit to his Excellency the Governor in Council the following facts with a view to the executive duties of the Plague Committee being transferred to the Municipality, whose methods of dealing with the plague have been proved by experience to be as effective and much less costly than the plan put in force by the Plague Committee, and also suggesting that in order to secure continuity in the organization and administration of special plague measures, a special officer of Government be associated with the Municipal Commissioner.

The Committee make this proposal on the following grounds:—

1. That the first official intimation of plague reached the Commissioner on September 23rd 1896.

2. That the Municipal Commissioner and Health Officer at once took active steps, and the Corporation met and voted one lakh of rupees and gave the executive a free hand.

3. That from that date until it reached its maximum for the week ending February 9th, when the total weekly mortality reached 1,891, the executive of the Corporation spared neither money nor labour in fighting the plague, with the result that by March 9, three days after the Plague Committee were appointed, the mortality for the week had decreased to 1,311.

4. At the time when the plague was at its height in the month of February, 1897, there were more than 30,000 extra men employed by the Municipality for carrying out special measures which were required to deal with it.

5. The Plague Committee was appointed on working body until the beginning of April, by which time the mortality had decreased to 997 for the week ending April 6th.

6. The Corporation respectfully claim that this result was secured by them at a cost to the city of Rs. 4,31,000 (expended from September, 1896, to March 1st, 1897).

7. The Plague Committee commenced operations with a declining epidemic; but from their appointment until the plague practically disappeared, the plague operations cost the city Rs. 8,51,000, a portion of which sum was paid directly by the Municipality, who had to continue to maintain a vastly increased staff and to co-operate in many of the measures taken.

8. A reference to the Municipal Commissioner and Health Officer's reports will show that, gauged by results, the municipal measures fighting with a rising epidemic—were in no way less successful than the Plague Committee's operations against a declining one, and that the cost of the municipal measures were Rs. 4,37,000 for five months from September 1896 to March 1897, as against Rs. 8,51,000 expended while the Plague Committee was in power for seven months, from March 1897 to September 1897.

9. The outbreak of plague came suddenly on the Municipality, and yet their operations met with such a measure of success that by the middle of February the plague was practically mastered, and from that date there was a continuous decline in the mortality.

10. The Plague Committee, who from the 6th day of March, 1897, have had unlimited means and power and the entire control of large bodies of men and was fully organized with past experience to guide them, was retained for the purposes of fighting any recrudescence, and yet were unable on its re-appearance to do more than the Municipality did when it first appeared in the city. Indeed it would appear from recent facts and figures that their methods, to say the least, have not been more successful than those adopted by the Corporation.

11. But whereas the Corporation o tained good results by an expenditure of Rs. 4,37 000 from September 1896 to March 1897, the present Plague Committee and the Corporation have, from September 1897 to March 1898, spent Rs. 8,77,000, and at the present rate 13 or 14 lakhs will probably be expended before the e idemic declines once more, 2-2 lakhs being required for March alone.

12. There can be every little doubt that this enormous increase of expenditure with no appreciable difference in results is owing largley to the existence of a dual agency.

13. The Corporation have no v passed a scheme for the re-organization of their Health Dep rtment, which, when carried out, will place their executive in a much stronger position to cope with any epidemic.

14. But owing to the heavy expenditure entailed by the operations of the Plague Committee, they are unable to give effect to the scheme.

15. The Corporation in asking that the Plague Committee should be now dispensed with, and the work handed over to their own officers, do not wish to undervalue the efforts of the Plague Committee; but they are of opinion that the municipal executive officers, being whole-time men and thoroughly conversant wi h the city, would do better at lest cost than the Plague Committee, more especially if assisted, as the Corporation propose they shall be assisted by a special officer appointed by Government.

16. That there has been, and undoubtedly still is, considerable friction between the two sets, of employes, viz., those of the Corporation and of the Plague Committee, and that in the best interests of the City it is desirable that this state of affairs should cease, especially as it leads to discontent and disorganization of the permanent municipal staff. But this friction will continue as long as there is divided responsibility which must mean no reponsibility at all.

17. That the heavy expenditure of the Plague Committee is largely due to there being a total absence of responsibility for providing the funds and also to the fact that till quite recently they had no sufficently experienced person at the head of their Store Deparment, who could organize an effective system of control.

18 The Corporation have unstintingly a vanced the funds for carrying out plague measures till they have now reached a total of very nearly 25 lakhs. They would still not grudge, in the interest of the health of the city, to continue to make further advances that may be required—leaving open the question of the final adjustment of the respective liabilities of the Government, of the Port Trust, and the Corporation; but they respectfully submit to Government that the city should be saved from having its finances utterly dislocated and disorganized by wasteful and unnecessary expenditure, which could be avoided by a less costly, but intheir opinion equally efficient, system.

G. Cotton.
Bhalchandra Krishna.
Pherozeshah M. Mehta.
Ibrahim Rahimtoola.
Nanabhai Navrosji Katrak.
Oswald V. Muller.
G. W. Roughton.
K. N. Bahadurji.
D. E. Wacha.

Bombay Municipal Office, 26th March, 1898.

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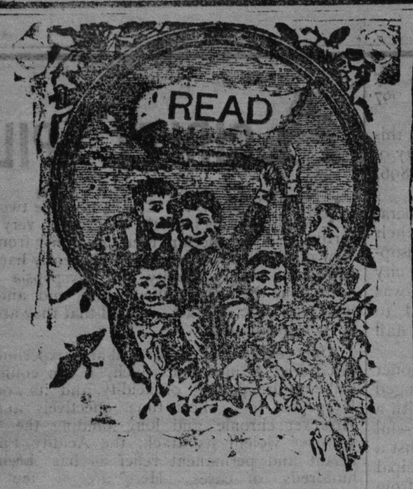

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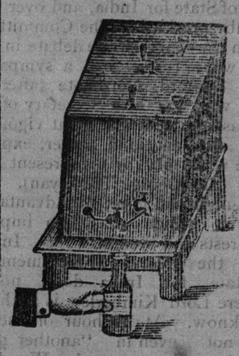

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