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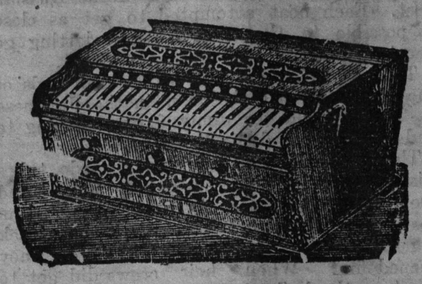

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Acts as a charm, even in obstinate cases of Diabetes—which have taken away from us, our best geniuses and worthies.
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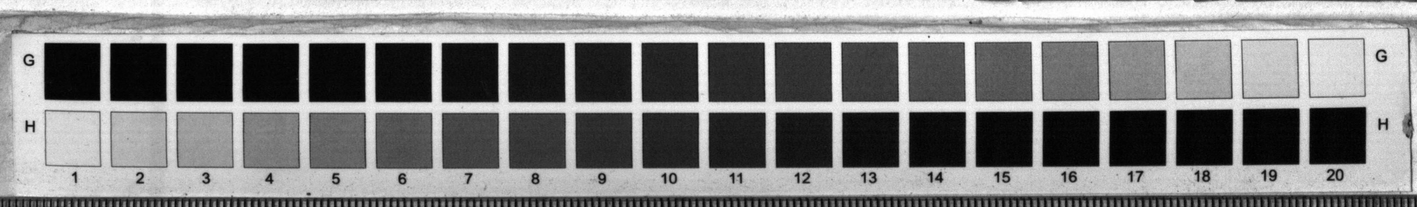
DEAR SIR,—The ornaments which you have supplied to me on order on the occasion of my danghter's marriage, have all been of approved design and of neat workmanship. I cannot but too highly recommend the promptitude with which my order was complied with. Thanking you for the same and wishing you success, I remain (Sd.) Kedar Nath Sanyal, Ex. Asst. Commr. Habiganj, Sylhet. Dated 3rd January 1890.

Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Boaliah has executed my orders with great promptness, and the workmanship he has exhibited is highly creditable. He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and fully deserves encouragement and patronage. He is trust, worthy in his dealings with his customers.
Dated 4-2-90. (Sd). Nil Kant Majumder,
Professor, Presidency College.



Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

—:-0-:—

THE LAND FIGHT—WHEN IT MAY HAPPEN?

Looking at the position as it stands at present we may be justified in concluding that no great battle on land can take place for sometime to come, for the Japanese cannot face the fighting until they have landed not only men, but vast stores of material and supplies, all of which have to be transported by sea. The Russians have, therefore, a breathing-space, and with the arrival of General Kuropatkin on the scene the feeling of depression caused by the naval disasters will probably begin to disappear. Kuropatkin may be compelled to act on the defensive owing to the great difficulties resulting from the distance of the army in Manchuria from its base in Russia, but he is none the less a dangerous adversary. The Japanese will be seriously handcapped in their advance inland—except, perhaps, in the limited area about Port Arthur—by the want of cavalry, the Russians having some 30,000 regulars and Cossacks in their force; and it will be interesting to note how an army without the "arme blanche" will fare under modern conditions of warfare. If the campaign becomes one of attack upon and defence of fortified positions or entrenched camps, the Japanese being the assailants, it may last for an indefinite time; and the final victory would then come to rest with the Power which has the longest purse, for the expense of maintaining armies in the field for years in a country like Manchuria will be enormous.—"Pioneer."

THE ACTION AT CHEMULPHO.

A special wire from Shanghai to the "Pinang Gazette" gives the following details of the action at Chemulpho:—The Japanese ordered the Varyag and Korietz to leave Chemulpho. The Japanese attacked these vessels six miles outside that port and drove them back into the harbour. The British, French, and Italian Commanders protested against this breach of international law but the Americans refused to join in the protest. The Russian vessels were then blown up while the Italian band played its national anthem. The Varyag casualties were 2 killed and 48 wounded and on the other vessel three killed and 56 wounded, while the Japanese had no casualties. The survivors of the Russian vessels were taken on board foreign cruisers. The Japanese demanded rendition but this was refused.

HOW THE YENESEI SANK.

A graphic account of the sinking of the Yenesei is supplied by the statements of a survivor telegraphed to St. Petersburg from Port Arthur.

The narrator, who was one of the crew, says: "The torpedo transport Yenesei while laying mines was driven on to a mine by the wind and current. The mine exploded, tearing a large hole in the ship's bows. The captain, seeing that his ship must sink, ordered the crew to save themselves. The boats were lowered, and the crew then entreated the captain to leave the ship and save himself with them. This he positively refused to do.

"All this time it was apparent that every one would be lost if the ship were not immediately abandoned. As the last man to be saved—a sentry who was guarding the ship's safe—sprang from his post into the sea the captain was still on deck, and he went down with his ship. His last words were 'Good-bye, my lads; save yourselves, and don't trouble about me.'

'A boat rescued the sentry, but the captain disappeared with the doomed vessel."

"GOING TO DEATH."

General Allen, of the American Army, witnessed the battle of Chemulpho at close quarters.

He said: "I have never seen or heard anything resembling the effect of the sharpnel fire. The Varyag was literally 'peppered' in plate, as though played on at close quarters with a machine gun. Evidently time-fuse sharpnel was used with blinding and bewildering effect. The heavy artillery work emphasises the fact that you fire a tremendous lot and get little for it.

"The firing lasted fifty-two minutes, and there were ten shots a minute. Only two heavy shells struck the hull. One shot exploded on the bridge, and strikingly demonstrated the effect of shell fire, everything around being torn to tatters, resembling the debris of a machine shop.

"All the torpedo tubes were filled after the fight, indicating that none had been fired.

"The Russians knew evidently that they were going to inevitable death, yet went and fought until the ship was unmanageable.

"Their commander did well to bring the ship into the harbour.

"Further fighting was madness."

CHINESE FORCES IN MANCHURIA.

According to data received from reliable sources in the North, there is reason to believe that in Heilungchiang province (Amur or Northern Manchuria) the Chinese Government has about 11,000 well-armed fighting men who have seen more or less active service, one-half of whom are mounted troops. In Kirin province or Central Manchuria are 8,000 good troops who can be relied upon and who are all well-armed, while in Lower Manchuria, or Fengtien province, there are only 5,500 modern armed troops, or a total of only 24,000 well-armed and reliable troops in the whole of Manchuria. Besides the above there are what are called "Tuanlien" or militiamen, who occupy the villages and country towns of Manchuria. Of these there are no less than 40,000. More than one-half possess serviceable rifles and enough ammunition for a year. These arms are hidden away from the sight of the Russians who are only allowed to see a number of old muskets of the "Brown Bess" pattern, when a demand for hidden arms is made on the Chinese. As a matter of fact there are plenty of good fire-arms of modern pattern in Manchuria which will be taken out of their hiding-places when the time of action approaches. As witness the mounted bandits who one day appear fully armed against Russian patrols and on the next seem to be innocent and harmless hired men working in the farms. So bitterly are the Russians hated that the moment Japanese armies enter Manchuria the population will rise 'en masse' against their Muscovite taskmasters and welcome the Japanese with open arms. In Chili, under General Ma Yu-k'un, Commander-in-Chief of that province, there are at least 35,000 reliable troops, amongst whose officers there are said to be no less than hundred and thirty Japanese of all ranks and attired like Chinese officers. Viceroy Yuan Shih-k'ai has under him now something like 50,000 troops of all arms. Of this number 15,000 were raised at the time Russia failed to evacuate Manchuria according to treaty, while 20,000 more are being recruited in Shantung, Honan, and the Liangkiang provinces, and may be expected in Chili province by the end of March next. Viceroy Yuan Shih-k'ai is said to have enough ammunition for one year for all of the troops enumerated above, and at a pinch can similarly arm and provide the necessary ammunition for another 20,000 men. Taking the whole into account, in the event of war, China has about 100,000 well-armed men in the North, which if judiciously used, will be able to assist Japan materially in Manchuria.

LANDING AT CHEMULPHO.

Mr. F. A. McKenzie wired to the "Daily Mail" from Seoul, Korea, on February 9, in the following terms, his message describing the landing of a small Japanese force at Chemulpho prior to the naval action:—

A Japanese division of 2,000 infantry, under the command of General Yasutsuma Kigoshi, landed at Chemulpho on Monday evening and proceeded to Seoul early on Tuesday morning. There was no disturbance.

The Russian gunboat Korietz left in the afternoon at ten past three for Port Arthur with the despatches, but returned at four, and behind it came the Japanese fleet, a cruiser leading five torpedo-boats and two men-of-war protecting five transports, while three battleships anchored at the mouth of the harbour, a mile apart. The Russian report that a Japanese torpedo-boat fired across the bows of the Russian warships, but this the British naval officers on the Talbot deny.

The ships entered swiftly and anchored at seven o'clock, when the landing began. The arrangements were perfection in every detail. The Japanese houses at Chemulpho had already prepared for the task, and hung out Japanese lanterns. The troops landed quickly and marched off to their billets. The holding of numbered paper lanterns on the wharf, showing mooring places, produced a picturesque effect. Log fires were lighted at short intervals along the water front, while paraffin continually thrown on the iron cradles of coal fires on the wharf illuminated the heavens. Added to this, sudden white flashes revealed the ubiquitous American photographer Dunn, of "Collier's Weekly," taking flashlight views. The Japanese brought their own coolies, and four lighters of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha supplied the launches.

The soldiers looked in the pink of condition, with their new grey uniforms, with dark yellow-braided star-fronted caps, white putties, and sheepskin neck mufflers. They were in heavy marching order.

There was absolute silence and order among the troops. Scarce a word was spoken.

There were three transports with troops and two with supplies.

The landing was finished soon after midnight. General Kigoshi made his temporary headquarters at the Nippon Yusen Kaisha offices. The general, who possesses a soldierly figure, and who was wearing a dark scarlet-lined coat, high boots, and a dark blue uniform with silver star, received me about eleven o'clock. He expressed his appreciation of English sympathy. He, indeed, showed me the greatest cordiality.

Three Russian ships are here—the fast cruiser Varyag, the Korietz, and the mailboat Sungari.

The landing was, however, unopposed.

The Korean fort was shrouded in darkness, and the Korean policemen helped the troops

A JAPANESE ADMIRAL.

Admiral Uriu, in chief command of the Japanese squadron which fought and practically destroyed the Russian ships, the "Variag" and the "Coreetz," at Chemulpho, is one of the Japanese admirals, being no more than forty-six years of age. He received his early naval training not in England nor Japan, but in the United States. When little more than a boy he was put on board an American training ship, and took the regular course of instruction at the United States Naval College at Annapolis. Soon after his return to his native country he was placed on the Naval Headquarters Staff at Tokio, and became in time president or head of one of the three bureaus or departments into which it is divided. He has served as lieutenant, commander, and captain on various ships of the Japanese Navy, but his main business has been what might be called largely educational, and more or less connected with the Japanese Naval Intelligence Department, which is known by European naval men to be very highly organised.

Hitherto, he has been more of a staff officer than a naval commander. During the Chino-Japanese War he was stationed at Hiroshima, where he acted in the capacity of adviser on the course of the war, from the naval point of view, to the Emperor. Later he was raised to the rank of Rear-Admiral—his present position. His squadron consists of second-class cruisers, and his flagship is the "Chitose" one of the fastest ships in the Japanese Navy. She is only of about 5,000 tons displacement, but has 15,500-horsepower.

In personal appearance Admiral Uriu forms a striking exception to most of his countrymen, inasmuch as he is of fair complexion; indeed, he looks very like a European.

He is of average eize for a Japanese, and has the distinction of being perhaps the most fluent and perfect speaker of the English language among his countrymen. He is a man of very polished and refined manners.

THE NIGHT ATTACK.

Mr. A. Curtis wired on February 16th from Kobe to the "Daily Mail":—I have obtained full particulars of the torpedo attack at Port Arthur from men who were present at it in the Japanese flotilla, as the destroyer Oboro, which was damaged by a collision with the Inazuma just before the attack on the night of February 8, has arrived at Sasebo.

Lieutenant-Commander Takimura reports that the destroyers, formed in five flotillas, parted company with Admiral Togo on the night of February 8th at a distance of about fifth miles from Port Arthur. Flotillas 1, 2, and 3 proceeded to attack Port Arthur, flotillas 4 and 5 steamed to Dalny. The first three flotillas were composed as follows:—

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
Asashio	Ikadsuchi	Usugomo
Kasumi	Oboro	Shinonome
Shirakumo	Inazuma	Sazanami
Akatsuki		

The three flotillas were quickly on the scene of action, and found the Russian ships almost exactly in the position that had been anticipated. Each destroyer fired two torpedoes, the first flotilla advancing to the left and the second and third to the right of the Russian fleet. Each boat attempted to get as close as possible to the enemy before letting go her torpedoes.

The boats closed within 500 or 600 yards of the big ships, till the men in the Japanese destroyers could see dimly figures moving to and from on board the Russian ships.

The first of the Inazuma's torpedo tubes missed fire, whereupon she calmly turned and fired it once more. A panic occurred on board the Russian ships when the attack began, and it was some time before they opened fire. When their crews did get to quarters the hail of shells was terrific. The searchlights were turned upon the flotilas, but, notwithstanding this, so bad was the Russian gunnery that no destroyer was even struck by the Russian shells.

The firing of torpedoes ceased about two o'clock, when the destroyers headed for the open sea. As they ran out of the bay they sighted the Russian torpedo-boats, and opened fire on them, but drew no reply. They then steamed off to the main fleet, which they rejoined in safety.

The two flotillas that proceeded to Dalny found no trace of any Russian warships there.

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A GRAND PUBLIC MEETING.

[From our own Correspondent.]

Krishnagore, March 6.

To-day at about 6 p.m. a public meeting was held at the Charity School Hall to protest strongly against the proposed partition of Bengal. The Hall was overcrowded. The elite of the town all assembled to discuss this all-important and vital question of the proposed partition. Babu Girindra Nath Mukherjee, B. A., Zemindar of Ula, was elected Precident. He opened the meeting after making brief observations as to the object of the meeting. Resolutions were passed and the following delegates were elected from Krishnagore to represent the town in the coming meeting to be held in the Town Hall, Calcutta. They are Messrs. U. Banerjee, M. N. Banerjee, Murari Mohun Ghose, J. Choudhuri, T. P. Banerjee, D. N. Roy, Babus Hari Prasad Chatterjee, Hara Prosad Chatterjee, Saroda Prosonna Sanyal, Indu Bhusan Bhaduri, Tarini Das Mukerjee, Bishambhar Roy and Prosanno Gopal Roy. Babu Hari Prosad Chatterjee spoke to the effect that the object of the meeting was to let the Government know that the people of West Bengal were as much interested in the dismemberment question as those of the East. It was proclaimed in some high official quarter that the people of West Bengal were not at all concerned in the present partition question. They would not lose any right and privilege by the proposed partition. They were not in friendly terms with the people of East Bengal whom they style contemptuously "Bangals". The speaker pointed out to the people assembled the utter hollowness of that sort of argument which was fallacious, sophistical and rotten at the very bottom and which might find place in the mouth of a time-serving diplomat whose sole object would be to gain the point in the teeth of the vehement and reasonable opposition. He also pointed out the danger in case the partition was effected and a province he constituted with separate adminitration with a Lieutenant-Governor and with a Board of Revenue. The enormous cost of creating a new province, the additional burden of taxation which would fall on the shoulders of the already over-burdened people, the extra expenses over and above the present expenditure of the Bengal Government, which would be borne by the people of West Bengal only—these are the considerations which should unite the people in making one common cause against the reprehensive legislative measure. The partition question would affect both the East and the West Bengal. The West Bengal would emphatically protest against the proposed partition. Babu Indu Bhusan Bhaduri, a native of Faridpur and a pleader of the local bar then rose and said in Bengali that amongst other grounds he would press the ground of sentiment also as an important factor. By the proposed transfer the strength of the Bengali nation and the Bengali literature would be greatly reduced. As Mymensingh and Dacca were the two most advanced and enlightened districts of Bengal it would be an act of national disaster and calamity if they were transferred or in other words if they were not allowed to remain within Bengal proper. Eminent personages like Dr. J. C. Bose, and Mr. A. M. Bose, the two most brilliant stars of the East Bengal would not then be reckoned as children of "Banga Mata." There could not be any measure more objectionable, more pernicious, more detrimental to the traditions of the Bengali nation by the proposed partition and the East and West would make a common cause to protest strongly against the measure. Babu Bishumbhur Roy then rose. He said that it might be asked why Nadia people were crying themselves hoarse against the measure which did not affect them at all and its answer, he would say, was that the people of Krishnagore were also vitally interested in the dismemberment question. He would view the translation of East Bengal into some other province as tantamount to its death so far as West Bengal was concerned, and its death might be fairly compared to the death of the husband of the daughter of a Hindu father. As the loss of the Hindu father could not be recouped for ever though he would get his daughter living, so would be the loss which West Bengal should sustain if the proposed partition was to be effected. Some other gentlemen also spoke and a vote of thanks was proposed to the chair and the meeting dissolved.

THE LATE DR. SIRCAR.

Before the people dispersed Babu Noni Gopal Mukerjee proposed that the meeting also expressed its heart-felt sorrow at the death of the late lamented Dr. Mahendra Lall Sircar. A resolution was passed and a message of condolence was sent to the weeping family of the departed genius.

MR. B. G. TILAK.

Babu Hari Prasad Chatterjee then rose and moved that the meeting expressed its greatest satisfaction at the honorable acquittal of Mr. Bal Gangadhar Tilak, the "uncrowned king of Poona," the popular Marhatta gentleman whom the Hon'ble High Court had at last found not guilty. "He comes in our midst," said he, "surrounded by a hallow of light, the glory and renown of a persecuted martyr. A resolution was passed and a message of congratulation was sent to him at his honorable acquittal. The meeting then closed. It was a splendid success and was attended by all the leading gentlemen and the general public.

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WAR NEWS.

Forged notes to the extent of £10,000,000 have been circulated in Manchuria.

The Russian authorities at Vladivostok have detained the British steamer Rosalie, of 4,300 tons.

The Russian soldiers proceeding to the front have received only images, tea, sugar, tobacco, and clothing.

The Tsar has proclaimed a free pardon to all political prisoners willing to assist the Russians in the Far East.

The English ladies at St. Petersburg have formed an association for the purpose of preparing lint bandages for the Russian wounded.

A London telegram dated the 28th ultimo says that the Japanese are raising the Russian steamer Varyag, 6,500 tons, which was sunk off Chemulpho.

Australian telegrams from London dated 22nd ultimo say that Japan has established a system of wireless telegraphy between the Army and Navy.

The British steamer Chinpring on arrival at Wei-hai-wei complained that the Russians near Dalny fired and hit her in seven places along the water-line.

The steamer Korea, which was seized by the Japanese, has unloaded 12,240 barrels of mess-beef at Nagasaki, and been allowed to proceed on her voyage.

It is notified that press telegrams containing news or comments on Russia or the actions of that Government should be sent via Suez as they are being stopped at Teheran.

It is announced that the Russians captured the Nakanoura Maru on the 11th, and transferred the crew, except two who were killed, to the Russian warship Gnomoboi. The crew have since been liberated and have reached Nagasaki.

The "New York Herald's" correspondent cables on Thursday that during the attack on Port Arthur the Japanese silenced five Fort guns and seriously damaged the town, and states that one shell struck an anchorage of junks and many were destroyed. The shells fell near the arsenal and several guards were killed.

A Russian destroyer overhauled the British steamer Parisan in the Red Sea. The Russian Commander informed the Captain that Russia had captured three British colliers proceeding to Japan, and Russia thanked Britain for her help by the British cruiser Talbot in rescuing the survivors of the Russian warships Varyag and Korietz after the Chemulpho affair.

The Russian sailors on the Nam Sang are not to be landed in Colombo. They will be transhipped at the first convenient opportunity. It has not been decided whether the present naval guard will continue to look after the Russians, or whether it will be replaced by a military guard from the Royal West Kent Regiment. Final instructions from the Secretary of State for the Colonies are being awaited by the Government. The reason why it was decided not to detain the Russians at Colombo was, it seems, because, on enquiry, the Japanese Government said it had no objection to the rescued sailors being allowed to return to their own country on parole.

The B. I. steamer "Mombassa," which has arrived at Madras, on her voyage to Calcutta experienced a sensation, being held up by Russian warships in the Red Sea on the night of the 22nd ultimo at about half-past ten when most of the passengers had retired to their cabins. Searchlights were turned on the steamer and a gun was fired. The "Mombassa" shaped her course towards the Russan ships, and on another shot being fired she hove to and a steam launch then put off from one of the torpedo boats destroyers with two officers, who boarded the "Mombassa" and examined her papers. Needless to say, the shots brought the passengers helter-skelter on the decks. The Russian officers expressed their regret for having had to detain the ship.

According to our special telegram the Japanese occupied the Elliott group of islands some ten days after they made their dramatic descent on Por Arthur. Russia had evidently appreciated the strategic value of the islands, that lie some fifty miles from Port Arthur and command the approach to the Yalu river, for she had made an attempt to occupy them. Now that Japan has command of the sea these islands will prove of immense value in conducting the operations against Port Arthur. Stores can be accumulated there now with perfect safety and reinforcements for the Korean army will be provided with a base. The ready appreciation by the Japanese of the value of the islands and their prompt and secret occupation is in keeping with a campaign that has yet to show a flaw or weakness.

Even if Admiral Alexeieff's statement regarding the bombardment of Vladivostok be accepted as substantially accurate, that no material damage was done by the 200 shells poured into the town by the Japanese squadron (and Admiral Alexeieff is much too shrewd to elate the Japanese by informing them of the extent of their success) it is clear from the latest telegrams that the moral effect of the bombardment has been extensive. The inhabitants, fearful of a renewal of the Japanese cannonade, are fleeing from the town. Business, it may be presumed, is at a standstill, the schools are closed, and the price of foodstuffs has risen enormously and will continue to rise as long as the blockade lasts, so that in effecting these results, in addition to cutting off the Vladivostok squadron from its base, the Japanese may congratulate themselves on the success of their latest exploit.

Reuter tells us that the construction of the Korean Railway from Seoul to Wiju has commenced, and will, no doubt, be pushed on with all the energy of which the Japanese are capable. Wiju is situated on the east bank of the Yalu, opposite Antung, which the Russians are hastily fortifying in order to check the advance of the Japanese troops into Manchuria, and is distant from Seoul, the capital of Korea, about 200 miles. At the present moment a large force of Japanese troops are advancing on Wiju from Pingyang, and there is reason to believe that the first land battle of importance will take place in that vicinity. Were it not that the Yalu is frozen at this time of year, the Japanese Fleet would probably make short work of Antung, which is situated near the mouth of that river, and clear the way for a flank attack on Dalny and Port Arthur, which the Russians so much dread and are doing their very best to prevent by massing in that quarter all the troops they can spare.

THE WHEAT CROP.

The second General Memorandum on the wheat crop of the season 1903-04 issued by the Government of India states: The latest reports indicate a considerable addition to the area under wheat. Compared with last year, the percentages of increase are about 6 in Bengal, 8 in the North-West Frontier, 11 in the Punjab, 20 in the Central Provinces, 104 in Berar, 69 in Hyderabad, and in the Bombay Presidency (43 in Sind alone.) The acreage in the United Provinces is not yet reported, but it was estimated in December to be 10 per cent in excess of last year's area. In the matter of outturn the reports are ltast favourable from the United Provinces, where the divisional estimates range from 75 to 90 per cent of the normal with the possibility of deterioration from rust induced by cloudy and unsettled weather. The Bengal crop is good, being estimated at 94 per cent of the normal, and the anxiety regarding the prospects of the crop in the Punjab and the North-West Frontier should have been allayd by the recent burst of rain over the whole of North-Western and Central India. The crop in the Central Provinces has suffered somewhat from want of rain, and 107 per cent is the revised estimate in lieu of the anticipated bumper crop. The injury from the same cause is believed to be greater in Berar, which has reduced is estimate to 90 per cent. The outturn in Hyderabad is expected to be 87 per cent as compared with 85 per cent last year, and a fairly good outturn is anticipated in Sind and Bombay, except in parts of North Gujarat and the East Deccan, where moisture was deficient, and the Karnatak, where the crop has suffered from rust.

From an extract from the Proceedings of the Hon. the Chief Commissioner, Central Provinces, published in the "Central Provinces Gazette,') we see that alhough it was only in the Raipur District that the distress in the Central Provinces in 1902-03 amounted to famine, and the total number of persons on relfef of all kinds never exceeded 4.14 per cent of the population, the cost of Relief operations, direct and indirect, in the Provinces reached nearly half a crore of rupees. Of this, more than a quarter of a crore took the form of Land Revenue and Loans remitted, and a further sum of nearly 17 lakhs was nominally recoverable, though probably a considerable portion of it will never be recovered. The Chief Commissiontr, it may be noted, is of opinion that the prompt suspension and resaved a much larger expenditure on direct mission of a large amount of Land Revenue measures of relief, the actuall expenditure on whiich was under six lakhs. No less than 15 lakhs of rupees, we see, were advanced in the distress for the purchase of rice seed.

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, MARCH 13, 1904.

"AN EXAMPLE FOR BRITAIN TO FOLLOW."

We have much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following communication from our London correspondent:—

"*I believe we shall, in time, grant a practical independence to the Philippines.*"

"The man who made this remark was the United States Secretary for War during the conflict between the American Republic and the ancient Kingdom of Spain. Upon him rested the responsibility for the conduct of a war in Cuba and in the Philippines at one and the same time. So well did he do his work that the late President McKinley declared that the United States would never realise how much they owed to his genius for constructive administration. The ex-Secretary, who is no longer in office, but, a practising lawyer, has done what Sir Bhashyam Iyengar is said to be on the point of doing; that is to say, he is going back to his private practice after having occupied a public position. But, there is this difference between the two men: the American will not practice before the men who were recently his colleagues.

"A few moments before uttering the observation I have quoted above, Mr. Elihu Root (the statesman in quesion) remarked: 'Our ability to administer the affairs of an alien people is as great as that of Englishmen, and I believe we are even more adaptable.' The boast is justified. Certainly—the ex-War Secretary being witness—the Americans propose to deal with the large islands in the Far East which the fortune of war placed in their hands, with a wisdom and good sense—which qualities combined spell 'adaptability'—that surpasses anything ever done by Anglo-Indians, and quite beyond their power of imagination as requiring to be done. Practical independence is to be given to the Philippines.

"Whilst these Far Eastern Islands will thus be within measurable distance of virtual control of their own affairs, India is coming more and more under the thumb of the autocrat. Lord Curzon when he departs from India will, in all that makes for liberty and the higher qualities of peoples, leave it worse than he found it. While he is harking back to the days of privilege, monopoly, and of blind and foolish officialdom, the Americans, with a wide-eyed recognition of the rights even of Asiatics, pave the way for an early granting of practical independence. I have before me a conversation between Mr. Elihu Root and Mr. James Creelman, the latter one of the most accomplshed of American journalists. What Mr. Root said on the essential principles which should apply in the dealings of a conquering race with an alien people is of so much importance that I give it the first place in my Letter of this week:

Mr. Creelman: And the Philippines, Mr. Root, what is to be their future?

Mr. Root: *I believe that we shall in time grant a practical independence to the Philippines—that they will have the same relationship to this country that Cuba has.*

Mr. Creelman: Do you think that Philippine independence is already in sight?

Mr. Root: That depends on what 'in sight' means.

Mr. Creelman: Have the Filipinos shown sufficient understanding of the requirements and obligations of civilised government and also sufficient administrative and political ability and stability to prove their capacity for self-government?

Mr. Root. I believe that a sufficient number of Filipinos have shown those qualities to warrant the prediction what the body of the people will develop them in time.

Mr. Creelman: Has your experience as Secretary of War convinced you that they are adaptable to republican institutions?

Mr. Root: It has. When we took possession of the Phillippines the people were headed straight for a dictatorship. Mabini's revelations have exploded that idea that Aguinaldo was an Oriental George Washington. The truth is that he was selfish and mercenary and that his personal ambitions were largely concerned in the confiscation of the lands of the friars.

Mr. Creelman: Do you believe that the future civilisation of the Philippines will run along the lines of American civilisation?

Mr. Root: No; it will more probably be Asiatic in character. The influence of Japan is likely to be felt in the archipelago. All brown men are proud of Japan and her progress. The Filipinos, when independent, will take Japanese civilisation as their model, I think.

Mr. Creelman: But will remain republicans.

Mr. Root; Undoubtedly.

"There is much in the foregoing which tempts one to comment. For, example, who can conceive of any Anglo-Indian, any single Anglo-Indian, now on active service, who could say that such broad-minded and noble sentiments towards the Indian people actuated or influenced his policy? Then, as to the model on which the Filipinos are to frame their free institutions. Not the wholly alien Western standard is to be followed. "The Filipinos, when independent, will take Japanese civilisation as their model." Certainly. And if India had such a bright opportunity before her, assuredly it is Eastwards and not Westwards that she would look for inspiration and example. Altogether, the fragment of an important talk, which I have just given, ought to be profoundly interesting to the people of India, and should lead them to consider how they can bring their British rulers to regard as American statesmen regard the Philippines and the Filipinos."

India is nearly two hundred years under British rule. Is it progressing onward or retrogressing downward? There can be no two opinions on the subject. The race is deteriorating and that very fast. The Japs are no better than the rice-eating rustics of Nadia and Jessore. How is it that they have become so powerful within the last fifty years as to be able to fight Russia and inflict terrible defeats on her, while the Indians, though under the most enlightened Government in the world, have forgotten fighting altogether?

Then, take note of another dismal fact. More than half of the higher classes here have already disappeared within the last five or six decades of years, and the rest are bound to die out in a still shorter time if timely measures are not taken to prevent their disappearance. There cannot be any manner of doubt that people are not improving in any direction, and it will certainly not redound to the glory of England if an ancient nation like the Hindus either vanishes or remains in a state of perpetual pupilage under its fostering care.

And yet, by a more liberal policy, not only might have the Indian nation been elevated to a higher position from what it was when it first came into the hands of the English, but it would have possibly become a source of great strength to the ruling country. The great ambition of Englishmen, at least, of most of them, is to hold sway over India for ever and ever. Of course there are some who do not go so far and who think that the functions of England are only to prepare India for a free existence in future. But the number of such Englishmen is very small; and, if they venture to give utterance to their sentiments, they are persecuted by all other classes of their countrymen, and are regarded as traitors to their country. Because somebody was supposed to have used the expression, "perish India,"—though, as a matter of course, nobody, had ever actually done it—his name has ever been cursed by the majority of his countrymen.

In short, the greatest object of the life of almost every Englishman is to see that this Empire of India never slips out of the hands of England. Strange as it may seem, in this view there is no difference between the natives of India and their rulers. If the prospect of losing India gives most Englishmen a shudder, it affects the Indians also in a similar manner. Here is then a perfect accord between the children of the soil and their rulers with regard to English supremacy in India. If the English people are resolved to hold India at any cost, the Indians too consider British supremacy essential for peace, in this land of Hindus and Mussalmans.

And yet, Indians and their rulers will not agree and are engaged in an irreconcilable feud. Why? Because what they will have is "a perpetual military despotism for India;" and what the Indians want is gradual relaxation of this despotism. They will not only have despotism, but one that must be perpetual. They will not even make a beginning of an eventual relaxation of their iron grip; and, if they were led, now and then in the past, to make any provision for a future relaxation of this hold, they would repent and do their utmost to see that such provisions were rendered a dead letter.

Herein lies the root of the mischief. What Indians expected was British supremacy in the beginning, and British citizenship in the end. The rulers are, however, tightening and not relaxing the grip. The people were more free fifty years ago than they are now. In days gone by, they had the privilege of holding arms, though they were not yet reconciled to foreign yoke; but they were disarmed subsequently when they had learnt to appreciate fully the blessings of British rule. About thirty years ago they were thought competent to manage the municipal affairs of Calcutta, but this privilege was withdrawn from them, after a successful trial of a quarter of a century.

The people have become so tamed that, as Lord Curzon pointed out the other day, one English executive officer can easily keep the peace of a district like Mymensing containing four millions of souls. All the same, military and police strength has gone on increasing. All this shows that, absolute and perpetual subjection, and not "practical independence" is the lot of the Indian. And yet, the Indians are not only an ancient people but as enlightened as any European nation—certainly far superior to the Filipinos in every respect.

THE PUSA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.
OR
MORE FAT BERTHS FOR EUROPEANS.

We are thankful to the Government for the establishment of an Agricultural College at Pusa. The Indian industries have almost all been destroyed, and the Indians are now being systematically, and sometimes in an open and flagrant manner, ousted from all departments of Government service for the benefit of the "Poor Whites." They expected protection from Lord Curzon from this gross injustice; but, his policy seems to be either to ignore such jobberies or plead ignorance of the doings of his subordinates in this respect, when they are brought home to his notice.

Fancy the situation. The Indians, though competent, are nowhere in the higher grades of the superior or the subordinate services of their own country. They are being expelled even from petty appointments. Such a spectacle is to be found in no other country in the world except India. The Indians have thus no other alternative but to fall back upon land for their very existence. Of course, the position of the tillers of land and hewers of wood is not enviable, but yet it is better than that of a starving educated man. From this point of view, the new Agricultural College at Pusa is welcome, provided it succeeds in teaching up-to-date scientific methods of cultivation to the masses of the country.

From the long Resolution of the India Government on the subject, one can see at once that, if the institution is started with the object of benefiting the natives of India, its other object is to create another "close preserve" for the "Whites," poor or well-to-do, like the Opium and several other Departments. Just see the number of fat berths which it is proposed to be created. First of all, an Inspector-General is to be appointed to exercise a general supervision and control over the institution. As "he could not, without serious detriment to his other duties, and without imperilling the prospects of the College, undertake its immediate charge," to quote the words of the Resolution, "it will be necessary to appoint a Principal to take charge of the Pusa Institution." So, in addition to the Inspector-General, we have also a Principal.

In matters connected with scientific research and scientific teaching, the Principal will be, however, assisted by a staff of experts consisting of an Agricultural Chemist, a Cryptogamic Botanist, and an Entomologist. The Agricultural Chemist, in his turn, will have an assistant in the person of a second Agricultural Chemist, preferably one with a special knowledge of Bacteriology. Besides, the Director or the Principal will be assisted in out-door work by an Agri-Horticulturist who will also give agricultural lectures.

Needless to say that all the above posts will be in the possession of Europeans, either appointed in England or in this country. As a matter of fact, all the posts have already been given away to Europeans, excepting those of Bacteriologist, Biological Botanist, and Agri-Horticulturist, which have yet to be filled up. Regarding these three appointments the Government of India, in its Resolution, says that "in the absence of any natives of India, possessing the necessary qualifications for these appointments it will be necessary to appoint men from England." It is thus quite clear that these posts also will be occupied by foreigners and not the natives of the soil.

What we find then is this. Of course, the Pusa Institution is started with the best of motives, but we will have to wait for one or two decades of years before we can expect to receive any benefit from it in a tangible form. Its success is also of a problematical nature, for, no one can guarantee it. But of one thing there is absolute certainty. The Indian tax-payers will have to bear an additional burden of maintaining the following highly-paid officers, namely, (1) an Inspector-General; (2) a Director and Principal; (3) an Agricultural Chemist; (4) a second Agricultural Chemist; (5) a Cryptogamic Botanist; (6) an Entomologist; (7) an Agri-Horticulturist,—all of whom will be recruited from the European community, either here or in England.

It may be urged that, Government has no help but to bring these experts from abroad, as Indians possessing necessary qualifications are not to be had. First of all, it is not quite true that qualified Indians are not available, at least for some of the posts named above, and this we intend to show in a future issue. And, secondly, if such Indians were not forthcoming, the proper course for the Government was to found scholarships to enable Indians to go to Europe or America in order to learn the art and science of agriculture, and put them in charge of the institution when they have passed the necessary tests. For, the truth should never be lost sight of that, if the knowledge of scientific agriculture is to be dessiminated in this country among the masses, it must be through Indian, and not, European agency.

It will no doubt look very grand to import highly-paid experts from England and elsewhere, but it will take them many, many years to study all necessary conditions here and master the situation. And all this time they will be only white elephants to the poor tax-payer of India. On the other hand, a two years' training of an educated and intelligent Indian in Belgium, Holland or America would have fitted him to utilize his knowledge to practical purposes in his mother country. Such a course would have been beneficial in every way; but then, it would not have enabled the Government to provide for a number of European interlopers.

GOVERNMENT BY HARASSMENT.

There is a policy followed by a section of the ruling community, which is detestable on moral, and dangerous on political, grounds. Mr. Tilak is a victim of that policy. We know for certain what the real feeling of the British people towards the people of India is. They held that since they have deprived the Indians of their national independence, the authorities in India should do nothing to remind them of their abject condition; on the other hand, they should rule them in such a way as to compensate them to a large extent for the loss of their political freedom.

The other policy is the reverse of the above. Its inevitable effect is to bring vividly the fact before the people that they are a subject race; nay more, to make them feel keenly that they are under the absolute away of an alien nation. Mr. Tilak is just now the object of profound sympathy, respect and admiration throughout India. When it was announced that he had been acquitted, his towns-people flocked to congratulate him on the result of the trial. When Cornwallis was taken a prisoner the members of the American Congress entered a Dutch Church for thanks-giving purposes. In the same manner, the citizens of Poona entered a Hindu temple to offer thanks to God, because of the release of Mr. Tilak.

There is no doubt that Mr. Tilak is a very worthy man, otherwise he would not have been held in such universal esteem by his countrymen. But quiet, gentle, and not pushing, he would never have come to the front. Somehow or other, however, he incurred the ill-will of the authorities and became an object of their persecution. In this manner, he was brought to the front and converted into a hero; and the whole India began to regard him, not only with respect but something like affection. The folly of his persecutors had served to convert the quiet Maharatta Brahmin into a national man. Indeed, when Mr. Tilak's acquittal was telegraphed to us, we had to issue an extra to remove public anxiety caused by his trial.

It was by a legal trick that he was implicated in a case of perjury and forgery. This done, the Government brought its limitless resources into requisition to have him convicted. The machinery of the administration was let loose and public money was wasted like water for the purpose of enmeshing this private individual.

We remember the purport of a conversation between Sir Hobhouse, a late Legal Member of the India Government, and a body of Indian gentlemen, who had waited on deputation upon him on behalf of the late Indian League of Calcutta, in connection with some provisions of the Presidency Magistrate's Bill, which conferred dangerous powers on the Government. The Legal Member was indignant when he was requested to expunge these provisions. He said that the Governmnt could never act like a private individual; that it was a passionless body, and had no vindictive feeling whatever. It had no motive, he continued to say, to take undue advantage of any provision, however dangerous. Its sole object was to see that justice was done. In the Tilak case, however, the Government has betrayed the feeling of an ordinary party man in a very pronounced manner.

The situation was this: The Government had no business to meddle with the matter, for it was purely a private dispute between Mr. Tilak and another party. But the authorities threw all decency, not to say sense of justice, to the wind, identified themselves thoroughly with Mr. Tilak's opponents, and transferred the case to their own hands. The Government then selected a Special Magistrate—a servant of its own—to try its victim, and engaged the services of best lawyers at the cost of the public to conduct the prosecution. Nor was this all. The report of Mr. Brewin, specially deputed by Government, to enquire into the conduct of Mr. Tliak was suppressed, though its production, it was urged by the defence, would conclusively establish his innocence.

Over and above this, the prosecution did not hesitate to take advantage of every illegality of the lower courts for the purpose of securing the conviction of the accused. Before the Chief Justice, the Advocate-General raised a most astounding plea. He said the High Court had no power to send for the original documents from the lower courts and examine them. What was the object of this move? Was it the fear that, if His Lordship came to examine the documents, the conspiracy against Mr. Tilak would be disclosed? As a matter of fact, it was by examining the records that the Chief Justice came to see the utter rottenness of the whole case. So it is as clear as daylight that the prosecution of Mr. Tilak was undertaken not to see that justice was done but that he might anyhow be put into jail.

Why did his prosecutors pursue Mr. Tilak with such relentless fury? The only one answer that suggests to us is that by humiliating and persecuting an Indian leader like Mr. Tilak in an outrageous manner, the people would be made to realize their abject condition. This must be the inevitable result of the policy referred to above. Whenever it is followed, it is bound to remind the people that they have lost their national independence. The wisest policy for the rulers, however, is to do all that lies in their power to make the people forget the fact of their subjection.

The policy that we condemn is however, not altogether undesirable to the people of this country from one point of view. They are so gentle and confiding that they will not move a finger to better their condition. If they are in this manner needlessly harassed and their feelings unnecessarily hurt, they may be roused to take more interest in the affairs of their country than they do now.

We are glad to find that all the important districts of Bengal are one by one electing their delegates to the Calcutta Town Hall meeting on the partition question, which, as the reader knows, will be held on the 18th of March. The importance of the demonstration cannot be overstated; for, it will prove conclusively that Western Bengal is as vitally interested in the question as the Eastern. Sentimental grounds apart,—though they are not less strong than practical ones,—Bengal will receive a terrible shock, from which it will never recover, if either Mr. Risley's idea or the Viceroy's is given effect to. What Mr. Risley proposes in his letter to the Bengal Government is that Dacca and Mymensing with the Chittagong Division should be transferred to Assam. This means not only grave injustice to the doomed districts, for, in that case, they will, through no fault of theirs, not only be deprived of the rights and privileges of a regulation Government but placed at the disposal of an inferior and retrograde administration, but also substantial loss to other parts of Bengal. For, Dacca, Mymensing, and Chittagong bear the lion's share of the cost of administration which is borne jointly by Western and Eastern Bengal.

The Viceroy's idea is to create a new province with a few more districts and confer on it all the privileges and rights enjoyed by Bengal. The plain meaning of which is that the inhabitants of the new Province will have not only to raise from amongst themselves crores and crores of rupees to meet the initial cost of building it up, but also to carry on their shoulders the permanent burden of maintining a first class Lieutenant Governorship. Either way it is a question of huge cost, and is therefore a terrible disaster. It is thus the duty of every resident of Bengal to oppose the measure. Bombay, Madras and other parts of India have become the permanent abode of famines. If Bengal has not yet been reduced to that position, it is on account of the Permanent Settlement which leaves some money in the hands of its people. But, if the cost of administration is nearly doubled by thrusting another highly-paid 280 Civilians, from Lieutenant-Governor downwards, upon the populaton of this Presidency, it is bound to come down to the starving condition of the provinces named above.

When the Hon'ble Mr. Morison, in his speech on the Official Secrets Bill, observed that the interests of the public were not always identical with those of the Government, both the Hon'ble Sir A. Arundel and the Hon'ble Sir Edward Law took exception to the assertion. They said that it was the members of the Government who represent the people, and therefore their views must always be indentical with those of the latter. Sir A. Arundel remarked that "the State is the representative of the public and we cannot say its interests are antagonistic to public interests." Sir Edward was still more explicit. He said, "Government is the representative of the public and the Bill is proposed in the sole interest of the public whom they represent." The Viceroy expressed the same idea in another form. "I must submit," observed His Excellency, "that, probably we, who are members of the Government, are better qualified to express an opinion on a matter such as this than Mr. Morison." Which means, we who belong to the Government of India, know better than the so-called popular representative members of the Council what will serve the interests of the people best. Where is then the necessity for these non-official members? On the other hand, things would be managed more smoothly and economically if their services were dispensed with altogether. A correspondent who, no doubt, is a wag, has sent us the following, which he calls a cutting from the "India Gazette," with reference to the above:—

"Whereas the so-called representative members in the Council are too ignorant to be able to guard the real interests of the people, and whereas the members of the Government are their natural guardians and know their needs and grievances better than they themselves do, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to appoint the following gentlemen as representatives of the Hindus, Mussalmans, Parsees and other races residing in India.

The Viceroy.
The Lieutenant-Governor.
Sir Edward Law.
Sir Arundel Arundel.
Sir E. Ellies.
Mr. T. Raleigh.

Vice.

Rai B. K. Bose.
Rai Sri Ram.
Mr. Gokhale.
Nawab Syed Muhamad.
Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee.
Mr. Morison."

One of the important matters that engaged the attention of Sir A. Fraser immediately on his assumption of office as Lieutenant-Governor was the alleged corruption in the Income Tax Office. Petitions signed by influential persons were submitted to the Government for an enquiry into this matter both during the time of Sir John Woodburn and Mr. (now Sir) J. Bourdillon; but they produced no effect. It was feared that the subject would be treated with the same indifference by the new Lieutenant-Governor; but such suspicion owed its origin to the fact that the public had yet to know the true character of Sir Andrew. If he is incapable of harming an official who is innocent, he is equally incapable of giving protection to one who has prostituted his position. The petitioners made two prayers to His Honour. One was that the enquiry should be entrusted to an officer who is not biased, one way or the other. The second was that immunity should be granted to those witnesses who might incriminate themselves by their own statements. The Lieutenant-Governor has acceded to both the prayers. His Honour has appointed Mr. H. Savage, the late Commissioner of the Dacca Division and now a Member of the Board, as a Special Commissioner to enquire into the charges brought against the officials of the Income Tax Office. The petitioners, Messrs Ram Krishna Zetmal and others, have been asked to appear before Mr. Savage at the Writer's Buildings, while their witnesses have been granted immunity. Here is an opportunity for the maligned officers to clear their character. Indeed, they themselves should have asked for such an enquiry to establish their innocence and prosecute those who have sought to damage their character. Such a commission was needed both in the interests of the public and the maligned officers, and we are glad it has been appointed.

Now that the Tilak case is over, one is anxious to know the amount of money spent by the Government to conduct the prosecution. The "Marhatta" says, the amount will, according to popular belief, come up to Rs. 60,000. The "Guzrati Punch" of Ahmedabad calculates that the sum will not fall short of more than a lakh. We hope some member of the Bombay Legislative Council will clear the point by interpellating the Government on the subject. There is no doubt of it, however, that a very large amount of public money has been wasted on this purposeless, mischievous and dishonourable case. Mind, the Government had to spend Rs. 2,000 for obtaining certified copies of Court papers, exclusive of printing charges, etc. As regards Mr. Tilak, the case has well-nigh ruined him. He had to spend some Rs. 25,000 to defend himself against a conspiracy, backed by the purse and authority of the Government. Nor was this all. The following extract from the "Marhatta" will give one an idea of how the case took up his time from May 1901 to March 1904:—

"Our calculation shows that in all these proceedings for about 160 sittings Mr. Tilak had to appear in Court and for the most of these days in person. Out of these 160 days, (more than 90 p.c. being of five hours each) the Probate proceedings before Mr. Aston took 33 days and the abortive charge for false complaint took 8 days including appeal, etc. The charge of perjury took 96 days up to the High Court decision including the commissions which took about 24 sittings, and about 20 sittings were taken up by miscellaneous motions or applications. Mr. Tilak's deposition extended over 15 days of five hours each and Mr. Khaparde was examined for about 7 days. Nagpurkar nearly took the same time, and also Tai Maharaj, though she was examined only off and on so as to meet her convenience, comfort and preparation. Of course having stated the actual number of hearings in Court we may leave our readers to guess for themselves how many additional days may have to be allowed for Mr. Tilak to prepare the case, instruct his pleaders, write out arguments, arrange his evidence, and personally travel to and from Bombay, Amraoti and Aurangabad. For, it may be remembered that Mr. Tilak was his own attorney throughout!"

The "Advocate" of Bombay, an Anglo-Indian paper, suggested that ample compensation should be given to Mr. Tilak. That is the only way by which the Government of Bombay can, to a small extent, wash away the huge odium which it has brought upon itself in connection with this disgraceful affair. Every Englishman ought to be ashamed of the conduct of those Bombay authorities who had a direct or indirect hand in this dirty business.

We have already announced that Mr. H. M. Kisch has been placed on special duty in connection with the future organisation of the Railway Mail Service. In this connection it will be interesting to learn that a Committee to consider this subject has just been sitting at Allahabad, presided over by Mr. Kisch, its members being Messrs. C. Stewart-Wilson, C. S., Postmaster-General of the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, J. Cornwall, Postmaster-General, of the United Provinces, F. Whymper, Postmaster-General Bombay, B. C. O'Brien, Inspector-General, R. M. S., H. C. Sheridan, Assistant Director-General of Post Offices, C. C. Sheridan, Superintendent of R. M. S., Punjab, and Rai Salig Ram Bahadur, Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General R. M. S. The conclusions arrived at and the recommendations made will be submitted in due course to the Director-General, Sir Arthur Fanshawe. If there was one department which was specially reserved for the natives of India it was the Post Office. This was done on various grounds. It was through the help of some eminent Indian gentlemen that the department was brought into a working order. English officials were at first entrusted with this duty, but they failed; and then they were

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replaced by Indians who showed wonderful powers of organisation in connection with this department. It was for this reason as well as in consequence of its non-political character, that all the appointments in the Post Office, excepting a few higher ones, were made eligible for the children of the soil. The Postmaster-Generalship of the N. W. Provinces was reserved specially for a pure Indian of the uncovenanted service. But all this has been changed, and now there is not a single Indian holding such a post as a Postmaster-Generalship, a Deputy Postmaster-Generalship or any other chief post. It will be seen that, the Committee referred to above is composed of "Whites" from the top to the bottom, with the exception of one solitary Indian Superintendent.

THE "Midland Herald," who is one of the best friends of India in the ruling country, thus explains a puzzle. Why was not the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal conferred upon Sir Henry Cotton? Our contemporary thus answers the question:—

"Well out of it:—And, by the way, we can see now how it would never have done to make Sir Henry Cotton governor of Bengal. What with Thibet expeditions and Bengal partition schemes, he would have been terribly in the way."

In another paragraph our contemporary says:—

"Government and Manliness:—Our friendly contemporary, the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," in reference to an article in the "Midland Herald" of December 12 last, in which I urged that the moral of the treatment the Indians suffered at the hands of the British was that their welfare depended not "on proclamations, or the 'kindness' of Anglo-Indians, or on their being allowed a share in British rule, but on the growth and virility of their own manhood," gently remonstrates, and points to the disgraceful treatment of the president of the late Indian National Congress on his railway journey, and to the legal persecution of Mr. Tilak.

"Yes, yes. These things make one blush. But I hope I have not been understood as wishing to lecture the Indians on their lack of manliness. On the contrary I consider the Indians to be, in many ways, more manly than we are. Their dignity and patience put us to shame. But what I do think we all—Indians, Britishers and all men—want to learn and remember is that governments, rulers and institutions cannot save us. Governments are mostly obstructive. They cannot help us to grow if we cannot grow of ourselves, neither, if we will only believe it, can they finally prevent our growth, if the will to grow is in us."

In India a very large number of people avoid blood-shed in every shape. They consider that fighting suits savages and wild beasts better than civilised human beings. The sedate Orientals do not think it manly to return blow for blow. The adage in the country is, if the fool strikes you, the wise man laughs over it. As a matter of fact, it cannot be an edifying occupation for an enlightened gentleman to fight with a drunken soldier or an angry boor. We must say, however, the proverbial gentleness of the Indians is not helping them much. It is far from correct that the Indians do not like to fight because they are afraid. One instance will prove it: they never avoid a cholera or a small-pox or a plague patient as they do in the West, though they know sure enough that to tend a man afflicted with such a disease is almost to court death.

THE rumour is that, Mr. K. G. Gupta, Commissioner of Orissa, is going to be appointed as a member of the Board of Revenue in the place of Mr. Buckland. If this be a fact, we ought to be profoundly thankful for it to Sir A. Fraser. By the way, is His Honour aware of the wrong done to a most deserving Indian official, namely, Mr. B. De? Will Sir Andrew be pleased to inquire why was his promotion stopped? He ought to have been a pucca Commissioner by this time; but not only is he yet in the grade of the District Magistrate but he has been put in charge of one of the most unhealthy and backward districts in Bengal.

THE Leicester "Pioneer" has the following excellent paragraph about the Tibetan expedition:—"The military expedition to Thibet is rapidly becoming a farce. The nations must have taken lessons under Dr. Clifford, at any rate they are turning out most excellent passive resisters. The expedition sits among the snow, and the curious Thibetan comes round gazing and selling provisions, but no one turns up to negotiate, and no one offers to fight. It really is most unreasonable of them. What's the poor captain to do? It would look too ridiculous to come back having got so far, and it is evidently most abominably cold sitting there waiting. Comic opera isn't in it. There, at any rate, we will leave them for this week."

From the 15th instant a through tonga service will run from Kathgodam to Ranikhet to conect with all trains at Kathgodam. Owing to the Military Classes of Instruction at Ranikhet, large numbers of officers are continually going up and down during the season, and without tongas the journey occupies three days It can now be done in about nine hours. Mesrs. Smith, Rodwell and Co. are the promoters of the extended service from the Naini Tal brewery to Ranikhet. The connecting service between Kathgodam and the brewery remains as before.

According to Moscow reports Russian infantry have occupied the Seol-Pekin road between Liaotang and the Yalu. Their front and flanks at the Yalu are strongly supported, the right flank being at Tatungkemu, and the left at Wiju, 70 miles from the railway. Some important bridges on the Harbin-Vladivostok section have been destroyed,as also between Dalny and Vladivostok. The sulprits are said to be Chinese, who are escaping. The Russians find it difficult to repair their damaged warships. Owing to this inability to repair, the Retvizan and Cesarewitch are both being utilised as coast guard ships.

A Mandalay correspondent writes: Sergeant Labh Singh of No. 11 Out Post, on the 1st instant, brought to the notice of Mr. Hartnoll Assistant Superintendent of Police, Eastern Sub-division, that he was informed by one Dhima that a man named Jhanda administered poison to one Ladhana and thereby caused his death on the 29th ultimo while the latter was undergoing treatment in the hospital. The Police, after inquiry, brought the facts of the case to the hospital authorities, who have, it is said, aranged to exhume the corpse for the purpose of examination. Jhanda is under arrest.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

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[From our own Correspondent.]

London, Feb. 19

THE LATE MAJOR PHIPSON.

India is not wanting in gratitude to those who have tried to serve her best interests. The gratitude may take various shapes, but one, at least, of those shapes is never wanting: that is, a strong desire to know all that is to be known of the champion who, though an alien, is nevertheless a champion, in order that she may the more thoroughly appreciate the services rendered to her. Last week, in these columns, I was permitted to lay my chaplet of appreciation before the remains of my most dear deceased friend. What I wrote had relation, however, almost entirely to Major Phipson's love for the Indian people and his desire to ameliorate their condition in every possible way. As to who Major Phipson was, and whether his concern for India was merely a fad or the outcome of a practical and noble character in his dealings with his own countrymen, I said nothing. I therefore take from the "Belfast News Letter" of Saturday last, some biographical details concerning this friend of India, knowing that they will be perused with interest by your readers. Your contemporary says:

"It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of Major Cecil B. Phipson, J.P., of Moy, Tyrone, late of the Mid-Ulster artillery, which took place on the 23rd ult. whilst on a voyage to the Cape. Major Phipson was widely known and respected throughout the north of Ireland, and his loss will not only be keenly felt by everyone who came into social contact with him, but in the neighbourhood of Moy and Charlemont, where all classes had learned to look up to and to rely on him for guidance or help, it will be little short of irreparable. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a Justice of the Peace for the County of Tyrone, a member both of the Diocessan and General Synod of Ireland, a nominator, trustee, and treasurer for the parishes of Moy and Charlemont; but there was no local work, charitable or ameliorative, promoted by any denomination, which he did not earnestly champion and support, striving in every way by his advice, example, and unique personal influence to inculcate those high Christian ideals by which his own life was invariably guided. Major Phipson, who had on several occasions contributed articles on land and economic questions to these columns, had for many years devoted himself to a laborious study of the great problems which lie at the root of British dominance and prosperity. His views on these subjects were embodied in two remarkable works, "The Redemption of Labour" and "The Science of Civilisation," the former of which develops in detail the thesis, dimly adumbrated by Adam Smith, that food and not gold is the true standard of value, while the latter work is an able attempt to free the study of economics from what may be called the three-fold incubus of the Malthusian theory of population, the Roman theory of justice which, holding the debtor to be the enchained of the creditor, forms the basic idea of practically every European civil code, and the philosophic theory of man, which seeks to elevate reason into the supreme guide of human conduct. The second of the above-mentioned works has a peculiar interest at the present moment, for a portion of it—dealing with what has since developed into the great fiscal policy—has recently been separately published in pamphlet form, and has attracted considerable expert discussion and Press comment in London. This pamphlet is entitled, "The True Cause of the Commercial Difficulties of Great Britain." The constant ill-health from which Major Phipson unhappily suffered in recent years obliged him to seek a warmer climate for the winter. He left in December last for Las Palmas, Grand Canary, but finding no benefit from this, was carried on board an outward bound steamer for the Cape, and passed away when only two days out at sea."

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE OF ENGLISH DAILY JOURNALS.

No man or woman who is fond of a quiet life need wish to occupy a responsible position on any London daily journal. The struggle for supremacy, even for existence, between the various newspapers is becoming absorbingly exciting—to the onlooker. The advent of Alfred Harmsworth with the "Daily Mail", as a morning journal at one halfpenny, and of Mr. C. Arthur Pearson, with the "Express", has metamorphosed the London press. These new men are forcing the pace with such vigour and with such immense resources at their back that they are able to dominate the whole newspaper world, and, in effect, to dictate what newspapers shall do. Fierce competition on the part of the "Mail," the "Express," and the "Morning Leader," with such popular penny papers as the "Daily News" and the "Daily Chronicle" has compelled these papers to lower their rates and to enter the arena of halfpenny journals. Just a fortnight ago, the "Daily Chronicle" came out with a statement that it would, on and after February 29 without reducing its size or making any difference in what it provided, be published at one halfpenny. "A great penny daily newspaper for one halfpenny," is the way in which it describes that it was prepared to come into line with the most active of its competitors. This announcement led to a hasty conference in the "Daily News" office on Friday last, and, the following morning, an announcement was made that it, too, was prepared to give a great penny paper for a halfpenny: with this difference, that it would make its start with the next issue, a fortnight ahead of the "Chronicle." This was rather sharp practice. But, in newspaper rivalry, as in love and war, everything that is done seems to be fair, these three important phases of human endeavour being a law unto themselves. By acting with so much promptness the "News" has certainly got the better of the "Chronicle." So, last Monday morning, we had what was promised to us. A little smaller in size, but neverthtless, a really excellent journal is the halfpenny "Daily News." All its best features have been retained, and it is a marvel of cheapness and of high class journalism. It was its best self unchanged, with, however, a few columns less of space available. One of its subscribers, whose communication was quoted a day or two ago in the appreciation he express voices the feeling of most subscribers to the paper "Your announcement in to-day's paper," he says, "has overwhelmed me with joy—I am as old man in my eightieth year—I well remember the days of bread riots, taxes on knowledge, dear food, dear books, dear newspapers, dear everything except dear freedom: and now we are to get a first-class daily paper, like the "Daily News" for one halfpenny! Marvellous! Yes, a first-class daily paper. I was beginning to despair of the cheap press, seeing how it so often appealed to the base and warlike passions of the people, but now we are to have a high-class paper that preaches the good old truths—Peace, Retrenchment, and Reform—for a halfpenny. May it reach the house of every working-man, and may God bless your noble effort to educate the people." Therein the writer strikes a good note. It is because the "Daily News" makes so conspicuous a stand for righteousness that the reduction in price by one-half is so eagerly welcomed. I do not suppose that the "Daily Telegraph", the "Standard," and the "Morning Post" will descend from the penny pinnacle to the half-penny hustle. They will remain on their dignity, which, sometimes, is a very wonderful thing. But they will lose by so doing. They will lose control over the vast proportion of newspaper readers. Probably, the next great change in newspaper cheapening will be that such considerable journals as the "Spectator," and the "Saturday Review," will be reduced to threepence.

MR. WEIR'S INDIAN QUESTIONS. IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

To-day's Parliamentary papers contain the following answers to Mr. Weir's three unstarred questions in the House of Commons yesterday:

1. Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India, if he would state how many agricultural banks have been established in the different provinces of India up to the present time.

Mr. Brodrick replied:

"The Papers presented last Session on the subject of the establishment of agricultural banks in India contain the available information as to the number of these banks which are at present in existence. More exact information will be obtained when the Bill before the Viceroy's Legislative Council to provide for their registration and working becomes law."

2. Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India, if he would state what sum it is proposed to spend on irrigation works in each Province of India during the present year, and when some of the irrigation works recommended in the Report of the Irrigation Commission are likely to be commenced.

Mr. Brodrick's answer was as follows:

"The information desired by the honourable Member, on the subject of the amount which it is proposed to spend on irrigation during the next financial year, will be given, as usual, in the Financial Statement, which will, in due course, be presented to Parliament.

"I am awaiting the views of the Government of India regarding the action that should be taken on the recommendations of the Irrigation Commission."

This afternoon Sir M. M. Bhownaggree asked the following question, but being unstarred, the answer will only be published to-morrow morning:

If the Secretary of State for India, had received from the Government of India information, as promised by the then Secretary of State on the 25th June last in answer to a question as to how many of the native states of India, the territory of which exceeds 100 square miles, are, or up to the end of last year were, under the administrative control of political agents on account of the infancy or incapacity of the chiefs of such states: and what has been the increase in their number during the last five years.

For Monday, Mr. Herbert Roberts has two questions on the paper, as follow:

1. To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he will state the nature of the modifications proposed by the Select Committee in the Official Secrets Bill; and, whether he can now give the House an assurance that the Bill will be confined to naval and military matters, and that the modifications referred to will provide for the retention in the Bill of those clauses in the original Act of 1889 which define the conditions under which a prosecution can be instituted and which place the onus of proving guilty intention upon the prosecution.

2. To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention has been drawn to an appeal made to the Viceroy by Mr. Malabari, Editor of East and West, to reconstitute village councils in India, and to the reply given by Lord Curzon; and whether he will give support to a scheme for increasing the usefulness of these village councils.

Special investigation is being made by experts of the scented woods of Burma. The enquiry at present includes the Burmese sandalwood known as "Kalamet" and certain species of Premna. Samples have been sent home and are also being botanically examined out here by the responsible authorities.

Parameria pedunculosa, Ecdysanthera micrantha, Rhynchodia Walr lechii, Marsdinia tinctoria and one or two others not identified. All are climbers and their discovery ought to give a further fillip to the measures already being taken by the Forest Department to cultivate certain foreign species of the plant at their Rubber Plantation and Experimental Garden at Mergui. Among rubber plants being cultivated there experimentally are: Hevea, Dichopsis Gutta, Castilloa elastica, Kickxia Africana or Lagos rubber, and Mimusops balata, the seeds of which have been obtained from distant Trinidad.

Several indigenous plants have recently come under notice and investigation in Burma as yielding good India-rubber. These are

morning of the 25th the Retvizan repelled several attacks by Japanese torpedo boats, two of which subsequently sunk in the open sea. Russian torpedo boats pursued the enemy's flotilla until they sighted the Japanese squadron, whereupon the Bayan, Diana, Askold and Novik left the harbour to escort the torpedo boats home. The Japanese shells mostly fell short. Admiral Alexeieff states that eight torpedo boats and seventeen warships assisted in the attempt to block Port Arthur. The Japanese are raising the Varyag.

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council was held on Friday at 11 o'clock at the Council Chamber, Government House. His Excellency the Viceroy presided and there were present: His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal; His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India; the Hon. Mr. Raleigh; the Hon. Sir E. F.-G. Law; the Hon. Major-General Sir E. R. Elles; the Hon. Sir A. T. Arundel; the Hon. Sir Denzil Ibbetson; the Hon. Rai Sri Ram Bahadur; the Hon. Mr. Cruickshank, His Highness the Raja Bahadur of Sirmur; His Highness the Agha Khan; the Hon. Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhale; the Hon. Mr. Cable; the Hon. Nawab Saiyid Muhammad Sahib Bahadur; the Hon. Mr. Lely; the Hon. Mr. Adamson; the Hon. Mr. Pedler; the Hon. Mr. Morison; the Hon. Dr. Bhandarkar; the Hon. Mr. Hamilton; the Hon. Rai Bohadur B. K. Bose; and the Hon. Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya.

THE MADRAS COAST LIGHTS BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir Edward Law presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to authorise the levy of dues on vessels for the provision of lights on the coast of the Province of Madras.

He said:—" No alterations of any importance have been made in the text of the Bill, except such as were necessary in connection with a revision of the Schedule. We have, after careful consideration of the most accurate obtainable estimates of the yield of the dues, decided to fix tentatively the general rate for steam-vessels at 7 pies per ton. The estimates which have been framed are somewhat doubtful as regards certain classes; and it has been found impossible to work out the precise effect of the 30 days' exemption. In these circumstances, we consider that the rates initially fixed should be revised, if necessary, after two years' actual experience has been obtained. Should the rates imposed prove excessive, they will be reduced; should the yield be insufficient to meet the legitimate charges on account of the coast lights, the rates will be enhanced, within the maximum limits prescribed in the Bill.

"During the discussion on the Madras Coast Light-dues, it has been represented that those at present levied for the upkeep of lights on the coast of Burma are unnecessarily high, and result in the accrual of a considerable annual profit to the Government. A detailed examination of the accounts of the Burma dues during the past 21 years shows that this impression is incorrect; the dues levied have, over the whole period, been insufficient to meet the charges legitimately debitable against them. The average annual deficit exceeds Rs. 3,500. The receipts for the past three years have been exceptionally high, however, and the yield will probably increase rapidly in the future.

"In these circumstaances, we consider that the rate at which dues are levied should be revised every five years, the first revision being made when the results of the year 1904-05 are known, and being based on the recorded average annual surplus during the quinquennium.

"At each revision, the rate at whi h the dues are levied will be readjusted, by even pies, so as to yield approximate equilibrium between receipts and expenditure."

THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY ACT.

The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Transfer Act, 1892, be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson moved that the Bill as amended be passed.

The Hon'ble Roy Sri Ram Bahadur said:—"My Lord: With your Excellency's permission I would like to say a few words in connection with the Bill, which is going to be passed into law to-day. The Bill, though very short is of considerable importance. In actual practice it will have an effect of a very far reaching character. My Lord, this piece of legislation will not be an unmixed blessing to the people at large. No doubt its provisions will serve the purpose putting an effectual check upon the doings of persons, dishonestly inclined but on the other hand in all places where the Transfer of Property Act is in force and especially in backward tracts of the country where Regisrtation Offices are at distances its operations will result in putting the poorer classes of rustics to much inconvenience and expense, not at all commensurate with the amount of petty loans, which such people generally take on the security of immovables. My Lord, we were told that the object of the Government in introducing this Bill was to make attraction and amendments in the law relating to mortgages and leases as specified therein, and no suggestions regarding the amendment of any other portion of the Transfer of Property Act could be entertained in the delibrations on this Bill. My Lord the policy of piece-meal legislation has not much in its favour and this Bill is intended to serve only as a patch-work. The Transfer of Property Act was passed in 1882. It was the first attempt by the Indian Legislative to codify the law relating to transfer of property. Its working during the last twenty-two years has disclosed many short-comings. The pages of the Law Reports are full of conflicting decisions by the different Indian Tribunals on many of the provisions of this enactment. It is therefore, the incumbent duty of the Legislature to remove these uncertainties from such an important branch of the law. The whole Act requires a general and thorough revision. It is, therefore, hoped that the Government will take up the revision of the law of Transfer of Property at no distant date."

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE INDIAN TARIFF ACT.

The Hon'ble Sir Edward Law moved for leave to introduce a Bill to revive and continue section 8B of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.

Sir Edward Law Said:—

The Indian Tariff Amendon of Act; 1903 (VIII of 1902), was passed with the object of enabling the Government of India to countervail bounties on sugar created by private trade combinations such as "cartins." This Act expired on the 31st of August, 1903, but the Government of India were empowered by the Indian Tariff Amendment Act, 1903 (XII of 1903), to continue to levy the duties chargeable under the former amending Act on the 31st of March, 1904.

The object of the present Bill is to enable the Government of India to continue to levy special duties after that date on sugar imported from countries which, by maintaining high protective duties render possible combinations to manipulate the price of that sugar.

The Hon'ble Sir Edward Law then introduced the Bill and moved that the Bill with the Statement of Objects and Reasons relating thereto, be published in English in the Gazette of India and in the Local Official Gazettes.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council is adjourned to the 18th instant when the Ancient Monuments Bill will be taken up into consideration first, then the Universities Bill will be taken up. But as there is a large number of amendments in the latter Bill and as it is not expected to finish the whole matter in that day it is proposed to hold meetings at the Council on Saturday the 19th instant and then if required on Monday the 21st instant.

COTTON EXPERIMENTS IN BEHAR.

Mr. Mollison, Inspector-General of Agriculture, has prepared, at the Lieutenant-Governor's request, the following note, showing the results of recent experiments in cotton, the experiments he intends now to carry out, and the arrangements he has made to supply seed to those planters and cultivators who are willing to co-operate with him in this important work.

Mr. Mollison's note is as follows:—

Certain experiments with exotic and indigenous varieties have been in progress in Bihar during the last two years, and sufficient is known regarding the behaviour of each of the varieties which were tried, to determine, within limits, which should be most extensively cultivated. The following notes describe generally the results to date and the line of experiment which I propose for the current season. Free criticism from planters or others will be most acceptable.

The varieties which have been tried are—

(a) Egyptian varieties;

(b) Peruvian varieties;

(c) American varieties of the upland type which have been acclimatized in India for a good many years;

(d) American varieties of the same type which have recently introduced;

(e) A few indigenous varieties of the Broach or Surat type.

Mr. Morrison's note is as follows:—I am at present of opinion that in small areas where seed can be sown with irrigation early in May, it is probable that Egyptian varieties, which ripen late in India, may be profitably grown; but if the sowing of these varieties is deferred until the rains in June-July, they will not grow so well as the earlier crop with irrigation, and are likely to be damaged by cold or frost in December-January before they begin to yield freely. The lint obtained from plants grown from newly-imported seed is long and fine, but generally is discoloured to a considerable extent by boll worm. The Peruvian varieties which have been tried ripen later than Egyptian, and are therefore less suitable for Bihar.

4. The American varieties of the upland type, acclimatized, and newly-imported, ripen much sooner than the Egyptian or Peruvian varieties, and many of these, if sown in India, will escape the risk of damage by cold or frost in December. About 40 of these varieties have been tried. There is clear evidence that—

(a) acclimatized varieties in Bihar are less risky in an unfavourable year than newly-imported varieties of the same class, and are probably more productive in a normal season;

(b) that the produce from acclimatized varieties is not greater and the lint not much better, than from the best indigenous varieties of the Broach type;

(c) that some newly-imported varieties come to maturity quicker than others, and some are more productive and less risky to grow in an unfavourable season:

(d) that the lint obtained this year (a bad season) from each particular variety was variable in character, this being due to irregular growth of plants. The weakly plants produced bolls which opened prematurely and gave shrivelled seed and defective lint. The damage done by boll worm was considerable as is usual in cotton crops which have not grown vigorously. Bolls which did not open prematurely gave cotton of exceptionally fine quality in the case of many varieties.

It is possible that superior late ripening indigenous varieties, such as the "deshi" variety of Broach, may, on account of the risks of cold and frost, be as unsuitable for Bihar as the Egyptian and Peruvian varieties. There is some evidence, however, that these indigenous varieties are not so seriously affected in Bihar by cold as exotics, and probably can, in an ordinary season, be grown without risk, and at a profit without irrigation. Certain varieties of this type have grown well in 1902-1903 and 1903-1904, and the lint which has been produced is alike suitable for Indian mills and for Manchester.

Experiments have proved that we can now deal in the field with much fewer varieties than were dealt with in the experimental plots. I have watched these experiments closely, and can say that it is necessary to arrange for Bihar for considerable quantities of seed of certain exotic and indigenous varieties.

It has been proved that two or three acclimatized varieties of the American upland type are worthy of extensive trials in Bihar, and also that indigenous varieties of the Broach type are equally promising. I have therefore arranged for considerable quantities of seed and made special arrangements to collect seed true to variety. I believe that two of the newly-imported American varieties are likely to be more successfully grown than the other varieties. These two varieties are "Allen's Hybrid" and "King's Improved," and I have ordered 2½ tons of seed. I have ordered in the aggregate 2,500lbs. of 17 other American upland varieties, all of which have already been experimentally tried. I have also arranged for 500lbs. of each of three Egyptian varieties (Abassi, Mutafifi, and Yannovitch), and about 3 tons of seed of acclimatized American varieties, and of indigenous varieties of the Broach type.

The seed above referred to are intended for various parts of India, but chiefly for Bihar, the Punjab, and Sind. It will be sufficient to sow a large area, as 7lbs. of good seed per acre is sufficient. There is in my opinion great scope for extending the cultivation of superior cotton in these districts. A good deal of seed the last season been produced on Government farms and by planters in Bihar and cultivators elsewhere; but it is only natural to suppose that the seed of such varieties as have been proved most successful will be used for extended local cultivation in the Provinces concerned, and only trifling quantities for small experiments will be available for general distribution by my Department.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

I will arrange at Pusa in the coming season for extensive cotton experiments—

(a) in comparing varieties,

(b) in testing methods of cultivation,

(c) in improving varieties by selection and cross-breeding.

I am also arranging for cotton gins (manual and power machines) which will deal effectively with indigenous as well as exotic varieties.

In my opinion neither good indigenous nor good exotic varieties of cotton can be successfully grown in Bihar, unless the common method of sowing cotton subordinate to makai (maize) and arhar (tuer) is modified. It is possible that superior varieties can be grown as a mixed crop with maize; but arhar, which grows into a strong, tall, much-branched plant in Bihar, would smother any good variety of cotton. If cotton and makai are grown together, the seed of each crop should be sown in separate rows—two rows of makai alternating with one row of cotton. This can be easily done by a three-coulter drill which is commonly used in any good cotton district in India. Last year's Bihar experiments indicated that the maize in the mixed crop had a protective effect in shading the young cotton plants. At Arrowan (Chapra) the maize was worth Rs. 18 per bigha, and coming soon to maturity was removed sufficiently early to allow the cotton plant to branch out afterwards. The rows of cotton, when the maize was removed, were two feet apart; and I recommend this distance as suitable for the American varieties. The plants should be thinned out to 15 inches to 21 inches apart in the rows in the case of a healthy vigorous crop. It is important that the rows of mixed crop should be bullock-hoed, and when the maize is removed, the space between the rows of cotton again intercultured. The ordinary indigenous implement used in a good cotton district did excellent work last year.

In 1903 I arranged for experiments in Bihar in sowing and cultivation on the lines referred to in the last paragraph. It is necessary to have expert cotton cultivators to do the work; also trained bullocks and the necessary implements. One pair of bullocks dealt with about 40 acres last year. I cann provide this year from Pusa as a centre 5 pairs of bullocks, a trained man in charge of each pair, the implements required, and a fieldman from my office to supervise the work. I should like to deal with 5 or 10 bighas on each indigo concern within reach, provided the selected areas are grouped near to each other so that one pair of bullocks can sow expeditiously about 30 bighas altogether. The land must be of fair average quality and as carefully prepared as for makai, but should get no special treatment in the way of manuring or otherwise. The object of these trials is to determine whether cotton of superior quality can be grown profitably on extensive areas under conditions of cultivation which can be ordinarily arranged for.

I do not believe that the cultivation of cotton will extend in Bihar unless planters can through their tenants arrange to grow the crop under a share system or some other system. The difficulty in the way of actual cultivation by planters themselves is chiefly on account of losses by theft which would be considerable or great, there being 900 or more people to the square mile.

LATEST WAR NEWS.

A number of Russian soldiers were frozen to death while marching across Lake Baikal; many died while marching from the railway.

The Tzar has decorated General Kurupatkin and given him an autograph letter aiknowledging the General's self-sacrifice.

In Russia, from Court circles down to the peasantry all seem convinced that Japan is merely Britain's outpost in the war.

Mr. Bennet Burleigh states that the Russians are evacuating Dalny with the object of more efficiently defending Port Arthur. The Russians boast that they mind the Dalny break water, wharves and railway sidings to prevent their use by the Japanese.

It is amusing to note that Russia has of all the Powers been the loudest in demanding that coal should under no conditions be regarded as contraband of war. Her recent notification shows that she has changed her mind, as other people do when it is to their interest.

The "New York Herald" states that the Japanese on Thursday silenced five of the Port Arthur fort guns, and that the town was seriously damaged. One shell struck some anchorage junks, many of which were destroyed. Some shells fell close to the arsenal and several of the guards were killed.

It has been anticipated that the first big fight would be at the crossing of the Yalu, as the Russians were reported to have massed troops along the north bank to have heavily fortified An-tung. The Japanese also were said to be moving up towards the River, and had strongly occupied Ping-Yang.

The Russians declare that of the four sunken vessels the one nearest the harbour was ablaze for some time. Electric wires apparently connected with an infernal machine were discovered aboard. According to Japanese accounts, the vessels were laden with stones and were painted to represent warships. Each carried a captain, an engineer three seamen and ten latter (?).

The Admiralty shipbuilding programme provides for the commencement of two new battleships of a new design of the Lord Nelson class, four armoured cruisers, fourteen torpedo destroyers and ten submarines. Provision has also been made for increasing the personnel by 4,000 men. If the Chilian battleships had not been purchased the Admiralty proposed three battleships intead of two with a displacement of 18,000 tons, to cost £1,600,000.

Among sources of revenue to the Government Forest Department in Assam are what are called the cane "mahals," or plantations which must yield a very considerable profit to their purchasers, judging from the sums at which they are sold. Those in the Lakhimpur Division have been disposed of for Rs. 93,000 for a term of 5 years, as compared with Rs. 25,400 for the past 5 years. There is keen competition in the business between local traders and merchants from Bengal who are the ultimate purchasers of the cane.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank of Bengal.—The Directors of the Bank of Bengal at their last meeting reduced the rate of interest to 6 per cent.

Extension of Municipal Act.—The Bengal Government announces its intention to extend to Howrah the clauses in the Calcutta Municipal Act relating to the keeping of swine.

A case under the Age of Consent Act.—One Chhabdar Kahar, who was committed to the Barisal Sessions under the above Act, has been sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment.

B. E. Frontier Regulation.—The Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is pleased to extend the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873 (V of 1873), to the districts of Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

Official Charges.—Mr. H. W. C. of Carnduff, Legislative Department of the Government of India, is about to leave the Secretariat and take up the post of Judicial Commissioner in Chota Nagpur Mr. R. Greeven, who has been on special duty in the Legislative Department for several monlhs, will, we understand, succeed Mr. Carnduff sa Deputy Secretary,

Opium Department.—Mr. L. L. Parrott, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent is posted to Motihari. Mr. R. W. Blair, Sub-Deputy Opium Agent, Motihari is transferred to Monghyr. Mr. J. C. Roy, who is now performing the duties of Sub-Deputy Opium Agent at Monghyr, reverts to his appointment as Assistant Opium Agent.

Horrible Murder.—The "Barishal-Hitaishi" reports that a man of Bahadurpur being suspicious of the fidility of his wife, has killed her along with her sister, grandmother and a neighbour's young boy. Two other boys, who were present at the scene of action, have also been very severely wounded. The murderer is still at large.

Civil Engineering College.—There will be a meeting on Monday at 9-45 a.m. at the Sibpur Civil Engineering College in connection with the ceremony of starting the Engines of the new Electrical Power House of the College Workshops. His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, will perform the opening ceremony at 10 a.m.

Additional Police.—The Lieutenant-Governor declares that the conduct of the inhabitants of the villages Surajgaracha, Seoti, Nadawan and Akawana, in the jurisdiction of police-station Musaurhi, within the Sadar subdivision of the district of Patna, has rendered it expedient to increase the number of Police force by the appointment of an additional force to be quartered therein at the cost of the inhabitants of the aforesaid villages. This proclamation shall remain in force for a period of one year.

Assaulting Public Officers.—Before Mr. G. N. Deb, Joint-Magistrate of Hooghly, Shaikh Jitoo and several others of Chinsura were charged with having assaulted and obstructed the Public Servants in the discharge of their public duty. The Excise Constables Jogengra Nath Das, Kalipada Mukerjee and Gadadhar Ram obtained warrant to arrest Shaikh Jitoo for committing offence under Section 9 of the Opium Act. When the offender Jitoo was about to be arrested, Jitoo himself with several others in a body fell upon the excise officers and beat them severely. The accused Jitoo and Amrita Ghosh were convicted and sentenced to rigorous imprisoument for 6 and 3 months respectively.

P. W. D. Postings.—Mr. A. W. Dady is appointed to the Engineer Establishment of the Public Works Department as an Assistant Engineer, 2nd grade, Provincial Service, and is posted to Burma. Mr. G. P. Rose, C. I. E., Executive Engineer (on leave), is permitted to retire from the service of Government, with effect from the 11th March, 1904, and Mr. F. K. Cunliffe, Storekeeper, is permitted to retire from the service of Government, with effect from the 20th February, 1904.

Srious Disturbance in A Hindu Temple.—On Friday bepre Babu G. N. Paul, Depty Magistrate of Alipore, one Huro Kali Mookerjee and his two men of Madebpore were charged with having trsespassed into a Hindu temple and assaulted the priest therein. An elderly female member of the first accused went to the temple for worship to which the complainant objected and turned her out of the premises. On this accused were so enraged that they forcilely entered the temple and after severely assanlting the priest drove him out and asserted their right to the temple. The aecused were sentenced to four months' rigerons imprisonment and to pay a five of Rs. 20 each.

Weather and Crop Prospects in Bengal.—Light showers arereported from parts of Lower Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur. Rain is needed in Murshidabad and Bhagalpur. Slight damage to rabi crops has been caused by locusts in Pubna and by rain in Palamau. Prospects otherwise good. Harvesting of rabi crops, pressing of sugarcane, and transplantation of summer rice continue. Sowing of early rice and jute has commenced in places. Cattle-disease reported from ten districts. The price of comon rice has risen in eight districts, has fallen in one and is stationary in the remainder.

Wednesday Night's Storm.—By 9 o'clock gusts of wind swept the streets and as the 9-30 gun was fired a terrific tornado swoped down on the city with tremendous violence and for the next fifteen minutes the wind wrought frightful havoc. Windows from third storeys were wrenched off their holdings and went hustling through the air clattering down on to the ground below. The crashing of glass, the banging of doors and windows and the roaring of the wind as it rushed madly through lanes and ally-ways was truly appalling. Then the rain came down in sheets and the wind abated. At the Warren's circus just when the performers were about to enter the arena a terrible gust of wind caught the huge tent. Ropes strained and cracked the minor uprights smashed and the canvas came down with a flop on one side. At this the audience, rushed for the entrance, while the wind lifted and swayed the whole structure tearing it in many places and bringing the surrounding uprights down one after the other. The lights were put out and the tent lowered just in time. Meanwhile, the people had crowded under the menagerie tent which was held up by some soldiers. The lions were roused and roared angrily, children cried, ladies soaked through with the torrents of rain rushed about helplessly shrieking. By about midnight the storm had entirely stopped.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Mar. 9.

Reuter wires from Yingkow that the Russians detrained two five-inch siege guns and two six-pounder howitzers at Niuchwang station to-day. The neutral warships are leaving, and the British Consul is urging women and children and Britishers to leave.

Reuter at Tokio says that eight of the thirteen Russian warships inside Port Arthur are disabled and one of the forts half destroyed by the Japanese shells.

The Russan combatants number 2,000.

A telegram from Tokio states that last night the Japanese warships bombarded the forts at Talienwan and then attacked Port Arthur.

London, March. 10.

The rumour that the Japanese have attacked the Russian squadron at Vladivostok, is unconfirmed.—"Englishman."

The Chamberlanites have revolted at Mr. Wharton's amendment condemning protection. The existence of the Government was threatened whereupon the amendment was withdrawn.—"Englishman."

The Tsar has sent a telegram congratulating the garrison at Vladivostok on their baptism of fire. His Majesty says, he is convinced that all will make a rampart of their bodies to protect Russia's stronghold against the enemy.

The State department at Washington is informed from Chifu that the Japanese troops have arrived at Fungwangchung and Takushan, thus getting in rear of the Russians in Korea and threatening the Railway communication.

Yesterday evening's message from Tokio regarding the disablement of eight Russian warships at Port Arthur, is believed to be the general summing up of the situation antecedent to the attack made on 8th instant. The difficulties of communication and the activity of the censorship, permit of only occasional glimpses of events rendering it impossible to gauge the accuracy of numerous and often conflicting reports.

A despatch received at St. Petersburg from Port Arthur says that the Japanese fleet appeared at midnight on the 9th instant and bombarded intermittently until eight this morning. Official report published at Tokio of bombardment of Valdivostock on the 6th instant shows that it was a reconnaissance and effected considerable damage; batteries did not reply. Japanese squadron subsequently reconnoitred the neighbouring Bays, but nothing was seen of Russian squadron.

A Russian torpedo has been lost between Port Said and Crete. Crew all saved.

Le Temps in a telegram from St. Petersburg, says that Russian Baltic squadron will probably leave in July and attempted to force north-east passage.

London, Mar. 11.

Earl Percy replying to a question in the Commons, said, the question of Russian confiscation of contributions of British and Armenians in Madras, Calcutta and Bombay for Armenian Educational objects in Russia was one of internal administration with which Britain was not concerned.

Exportation of horses from Russia has been prohibited. A Military train lett the rails westaward of Irkutsk; twelve Cossacks were killed and injured.

Russian warship "Dimtridonskoi, which has been repairing at Suez, has entered the Canal.

Russian and Japanese mounted scouts had a brief encounter, north of Pingyank, on the 9th instant. No casualties were reported on either side.

Admiral Alexeieff reports that the enemy's torpedoers were detected at Port Arthur at one in the morning on the 10th insant. The batteries opened fire and our torpedoers went out at 2-40 and came in contact with the enemy at 4 a.m. After some shots the enemy withdrew. Later on our torpedoers reported that the Japanese squadron opened fire at 8 a.m. against our cruisers, fortress firing continuously from behind Liotishan Promontory.

London, March 9.

Construction of railway from Seoul to Wiju has begun. Most of the inhabitants of Vladivostok are sending their families inland whither Schools are also being removed.

Price of foodstaffs has risen most exorbitantly.

Admiral Alexeieff in a detailed account of the bombardment of Vladivostok confirms the statement that 200 shells were fired, but he says nothing about their failure to explode.

The Japanese squadron steamed up and down three times. No damage was done to the fortres or the entrenchments. The damage done to the town and other parts of the fortifications was insignificant. The operations of putting the batteries in readiness for action were carried out in perfect order.

On Monday, the squadron skirted the shore without firing and disappeared in the southerly direction.

Mr. Eugine Wason, member for Clackmannon, reada paper at the Colonial Institute on East Africa and Uganda. He said thathe thought if the paralysing the influence of Foreign Office was removed and local knowledge andinfluence brought to play, the prosperi- of the territory would greatly advance. Government, he said, should encourage emigration.

As an outcome of thelynching, Negro racea conflict has broken out at Springfield, Ohio. Two thousand whites invaded and ignited the Negro quarters. Twenty tenements were destroyed. Eight companies of Militia have been despatched to the Scene.

An Arab Chief, who was permitted to visit Aden with a hundred followers, arrived with 250 armed men, and refused to reduce his escort which became unruly and menacing, The Resident then promptly paraded the Buffhs, Bombay Infantry and Artillery, and sent anultimatum to the Chief to quit when he reluctantly complied

At a dinner given by Wesconsin Society in New York, General Wheeller referred to the Japanese naval successes as truly indicating the Japanese greatnesse. This was recieved with cheers. Mr Uchida, Japaness Consul, General who was present declared that Japan was struggling for national existence and only asked for fair play and straight dealing. At the end of his speech, the company rose up and cheered for some minutes. M. Pradt, Assistant Attorney General, saidhe hoped as a private citizen that Japan would continue as she had begun. Several members of Congress and others all spoke favour of Japan.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

During the discussion on the Army Estimates Sir H. C. Bannerman declared that the burden of military expenditure had become insufferable; the country was sick of the policy of conquest and adventure.

Mr. Balfour repudiated the assertions of Sir H. C. Bannerman and declared that the whole trend of circumstances in the Far East was to make us a continental power conterminous with another great military power. This must be taken into consideraion in the framing of army estimates.

Mr. Arnold Forster paid a warm tribute to Lord Roberts who had been consulted in reference to the new appointments.

Tenders for half a million sterling of twelve months India Bills amounted to 2,439,000. Tenders were at £96-14-3 and receive about thirteen per cent.; the above in full.

London, Mar. 10.

In the House of Commons last night a motion brought forwarded by Mr. Pirie, member for Aberdeen, condemning the continued agitation in favour of the preferential protective tariffs which was encouraged by the language of certain ministers, was rejected by 289 against 243. Twenty-six Unionists voted with the minority. Mr. Prize principally attacked Mr. Austen Chamberlain whom he called upon to choose between Imperial and filial duty.

Mr. Balfour maintained preciceness of government policy, which was based on sheffield programme, and said the latter would be submitted to the country at the next Election. He hoped that retaliation would be adopted after the next election.

Last evening's debate in the Commons is regarding as hastening a genedal election; both the ministerial and opposition speeches exhibited strong electioneering tendency.

Earl Percy in the Commons said, that immediately the General charged with reorganisation of Macedonian Gendarmerie, leaves Constantinople in order to assume his duties, he will be met at Salonika by ten British officers and eleven non-commissioned officers.

A disastrous fire hts been raging atw Penang and has destroyed the principal streets. The damage is estimated at one million dollars.

Prolonged rioting at Valladolid has culminated in a pitched battle between the inot and tdoops, in which several people have been

London, Mar. 11.

News from Somaliland states that General Manning made a raid and killed 150 of the enemy and captured three thousand camels.

A Naval petty officer, named Martin, employed on naval headquarters staff in Paris has been arrested owing to the interception of a letter alleged to have come from the Japanese Naval Attache referring to offer Martin to supply confidential documents. The Legislation has issued unqualified denial.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

Colombo, Mar. 10.

Admiral Evans, Commander-in-Chief of the United States East Asiatic Fleet, fears the war may result in a rising in China, and has advised that 1,500 Marines be held in readiness in the Philippines.

Japan has captured at Okhotsk the Russian steamers "Kotic" and "Bobrik" belonging to to the Kamschatka Commercial Industrial Company.

A St. Petersburg Journal pulishes a remarkably frank "Communique" dealing with the situation. It states that the Siberian Railway cannot be guarded by the few troops at Admiral Alexeieff's disposal, and that concentration of a sufficient number will take at least three months. Regarding the Port Arthur disaster, it states that the Japanese torpedo-boats were watched for years and that the watchers grew tired and that it was ridiculous for a nation to lose self-control over small disasters, when much greater ones are probable.

Extensive embezzlements have been discovered in victualling Port Arthur. Stocks of sugar are largely made up of sand, tea and other goods are extensively adulterated and large Military stores, supposed to be at the depot, are non-existent.

The local relief fund for the Japanese is already over five thousand rupees.

King Edward, through the British Minister at Seoul, has presented the Emperor of Korea with a monster silver cup as a Birthday gift and a sign of British friendship.

The Dominion Government intends immediately increasing the strength of the Militia forces of Canada to a hundred thousand officers and men, and will make arrangements for the quick mobilization of sixty thousand troops in the event of England becoming embroiled in the war.

A wealthy Russian has contributed a million and-a-quarter sterling in aid of the Russian Navy, and a million and-a-half to the Red Cross Society.

The British and Foreign Bible Society has distributed a hundred thousand Bibles to Japanese and Russian soldiers.

The Japanese have seifed the steamer "Korea" of eleven thousand tons, carrying mess beef for Valdivostok.

The "Straits Echo" says that news from Peking has been received stating there exists every probability that the Chinese Government will declare war. Court officials are rabid to send soldiers to the front to whip the Russians, and the people, including the troops, are eager for the fray. Not since the antiforeign affairs which preceded the attack on the Legations in 1900, has such intense excitement been witnessed at Peking.

It is reported from Tientsin that Colonel Monsky, formerly in command of the Russian Legation Guard at Peking, has been murdered. It is rumoured that he was done to death by Chinese brigands while "en route" to Harbin to take over command of the garrison there.

The German Emperor has placed the Naval Hospital at Yokohama at the disposal of the Japanese Government.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

General Denjewich has been appointed Commander of the Russian troops in Liotung and General Stoessel is commanding at Port Arthur.

Bombay Mar. 10.

The Consul for Japan in Bombay writes:—The following telegram was received yesterday from the Japanese Government on the official report of Admiral Kamimura: "On the 6th instant we approached the fort on the north-eastern point of Vladivostok, and from 2 P. M., for about forty minutes, a demonstrative bombardment was made on the port, and then we retired. We saw soldiers at the fort, but they did not reply to our fire. In the morning of the following day we scouted in American bay and Stroroku bay, but saw nothing particular. At noon we again returned to Valdivostok and approached its eastern entrance, but did not find Russian warships. We then turned to Possiet bay, where we did not see the enemy."

Allahabad, Mar. 11.

A "Pioneer's" London cable dated the 10th instant reports:—"There is the best authority for stating that an important American news agency has been secured in Russia's interest which explains the organised attempt being made to influence American opinion."

Bombay, Mar. 10.

A Press Note issued by the Revenue Department says that an influentially signed representation on the subject of the improvement of horticulture and agriculture in the Bombay Presidency was received by the Bombay Government early in September, 1903, but for a considerable period before that date the subject had been under consideration by the Government of Bombay, and had been discussed with the Government of India. As a result of this consideration and of further consideration given to the matter on the receipt of the representation of August, 1903, proposals for the extension of agricultural research and improvement of agricultural education in the Bombay Presidency have been made to the Government of India, but they cannot be published until they have been dealt with by that Government and until such sanction of the Secretary of State for India are required have been received.

Allahabad, Mar. 11.

There were 96 seizures and 96 deaths from plague on Tuesday at Aallahabad.

Bombay, Mar. 11.

We are now approaching the period of maximum plague activity. This year the season of greatest virulence will probably be reached a little later than usual, owing to the tendency of recent epidemics to push their highest points forward. The position we have to face at this stage is a steadily progressive mortality, which has now reached a total of 105.57, and which must be expected to develop 1,574 (plague 978) equal to a mille rate of at least until the end of the current month. At the same time we are far better off than we were this time last year, when the mortality was 9,996. We have so much in hand in this epidemic that unless it is protracted very late and suddenly attains altogether abnormal virulence; this year's visitation will be the lowest in the history of plague.

News of the Day.

"Finds" of elephant tusks in Government reserved forests in Assam in 1902-03 realized on sale the sum of Rs. 985.

Specimens of Assam bamboos have been sent home for the Royal Gardens at Kew and of planks of Assam wood to the Imperial Institute.

The East Indian Railway Company propose to construct a small branch line to serve the Joyrampur, Jheenagurrh, and Prabad collieries on the Damudar Branch.

In the State of Hill Tipperah special attention is now being given to mulberry cultivation, and silk rearing is also to be undertaken as a source of revenue to the State.

Among other commercial plants on trial at the Mergui Experimental Garden are Southern India cardamoms, vanilla, tea and coffee, the Liberian variety doing particularly well.

Samples of laterite from Southern India have been sent Home by the Government for quantitative analysis in view to ascertaining its possibilities as a source of aluminium.

During 1902-1903, the route mileage of the Madras Electric Tramways was a little over 9 miles, of which 2 miles was double track. The Tramways carried 6,290,610 passengers during the year.

The investigation of new Irrigation projects in the Madras Presidency is receiving much attention at present, the Imperial Government having helped with special grants for the purpose.

A large number of specimens of crude rubber from Upper Burma supplied by the Forest Department are under examination by the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India.

Merchants and traders extracting lac from the Garo Hills forests are now mulcted in a tax which during 1902-03 brought in the sum of Rs. 12,053. Until lately the tax was levied on the actual Garo collector.

An official has been placed on special duty for the purpose of acquiring lands in the Champaran District for the construction of the Bettiah-Bagaha extension of the Bengal and North Western Railway.

The cultivation of the camphor plant is being experimentally tried by the Forest Department in Upper Burma, where in the Myitkynia division a large number of plants have been successfully raised.

The sisal hemp plantation at Hindupur in Southern India, which is being "run" by the Madras Agricultural Department, has been making excellent progress and the area under cultivation is accordingly to be increased.

The camphor plant has been successfully raised at the Government Gardens at Ootacamund in the Nilgiris, where cultivation is to be further developed for the purpose of securing a good supply of leaves for the preparation of camphor.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

EDUCATION IN INDIA.

IMPORTANT RESOLUTION.

The following Resolution, dated Calcutta 11th March, was issued under the signature of Mr. H. H. Risley, Secretary to the Government of India:—

HISTORY UP TO 1854.

Education in India, in the modern sense of the word, may be said to date from the year 1854, when the Court of Directors, in a memorable despatch, definitely accepted the systematic promotion of general education as one of the duties of the State, and emphatically declared that the type of education which they desired to see extended in India was that which had for its object the diffusion of the arts, science, philosophy, and literature of Europe; in short, of European knowledge.

2. The acceptance of this duty was an important departure in policy. The advent of British rule found in India systems of education of great antiquity existing among both Hindus and Muhammadans, in each case closely bound up with their religious institutions. To give and to receive instruction was enjoined by the sacred books of the Brahmans, and one of the commentaries on the Rig Veda lays down in minute detail the routine to be followed in committing a text-book to memory. Schools of learning were formed in centres containing considerable high caste populations, where Pandits gave instruction in Sanckrit grammar, logic, philosophy, and law. For the lower classes, village schools were scattered over the country in which a rudimentary education was given to the children of traders, petty landholders, and well-to-do cultivators. The higher education of Muhammadans was in the hands of men of learning, who devoted themselves to the instruction of youth. Schools were attached to mosques and shrines and supported by State grants in cash or land, or by private liberality. The course of study in a Muhammadan place of learning included grammar, rhetoric, logic, literature, jurisprudence, and science. Both systems, the Muhammadan no less than the Hindu, assigned a diiproportionate importance to the training of the memory, and sought to develop the critical faculties of the mind, mainly by exercising their pupils in metaphysical refinements and in fine-spun commentaries on the meaning of the texts which they had larnt by heart.

3. The first instinct of British rulers was to leave the traditional modes of instruction undisturbed and to continue the support which they had been accustomed to receive from Indian rulers. The Calcutta Madarassa for Muhammadans was founded by Warren Hastings in 1782, and the Benares College for Hindus was established in 1791. Provision was made for giving regular assistance to education from public funds by a clause in the Charter Act of 1813, which empowered the Governor-General in Council to direct that one lakh of rupees in each year should be "set apart and applied to the revival and improvement of literature and the encouragement of the learned natives of India and for the introduction and promotion of a knowledge of the sciences among the inhabitants of the British territories in India."

4. This grant was at first applied to the encouragement of oriental methods of instruction by paying stipends to students. But the presence of the British in India brought about profound changes in the social and administrative conditions of the country; and these in their turn reacted on the educational policy of Government. The impulse towards reform came from two sources the need for public servants with a knowledge of the English language, and the influence in favour both of English and of Vernacular education which was exercised by the missionaries in the early years of the nineteenth century. The well-known Minute written by Lord Macaulay (at that time Legal Member of of Council and Chairman of the Committe of Public Instruction) in 1835 marks the point at which official recognition was given to the necessity of public support for western education. Then followed a period of attempts, differing in different provinces, to extend English education by the establishment of Govrnent schools and colleges, and by strengthening the indigenous schools; while missionary effort continued to play an important part in promoting educational progress.

DESPATCH OF 1854.

5. In their Despatch of 1854, the Court of Directors announced their decision that the Government should actively assist in the more extended and systematic promotion of general education in India. They regarded it as a sacred duty to confer upon the natives of India those vast moral and material blessings which flow from the general diffusion of useful knowledge. They hoped by means of education to extend the influence which the Government was exerting for the suppression of demoralizing practices, by enlisting in its favour the general sympathy of the native mind. They also sought to create a supply of public servants to whose probity offices of trust might with increased confidence be committed, and to promote the material interests of the country by stimulating its inhabitants to develop its vast resources. The measures which were prescribed for carrying out this policy wree:—(1) the constitution of a department of public instruction; (2) the foundation of universities at the Presidency towns; (3) the establishment of training schools for teachers; (4) the maintenance of the existing Government colleges and schools of a high order, and the increase of their number when necessary; (5) increased attention to all forms of vernacular schools; and finally (6) the introduction of a system of grants-in-aid which should foster a spirit of reliance upon local exertions, and should in course of time render it possible to close or transfer to the management of local bodies many of the existing institutions.

HISTORY SINCE 1854.

6. The policy laid down in 1854 was reaffirmed in 1859 when the administration had been transferred to the Crown. The Universities of Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay were incorporated in 1857 and those of the Punjab and Allahabad in 1882 and 1887, respectively. The growth of schools and colleges proceeded most rapidly between 1871 and 1882, and was further augmented by the development of the municipal system, and by the Acts which were passed from 1865 onwards providing for the imposition of local cesses which might be applied to the establishment of schools. By the year 1882 there were more than two million and a quarter of pupils under instrutcion in public institutions. The Commission of 1882-83 furnished a most copious and valuable report upon the state of education as then existing, made a careful inquiry into the measures which had been taken in pursuance of the Despatch of 1854, and submitted further detailed proposals for carrying out the principles of that despatch. They advised increased reliance upon, and systematic encourgement of, private effort and their recommendations were approved by the Government of India. Shortly afterwards a considerable devolution of the management of Government schools upon municipalities and district boards was effected, in accordance with the principles of local self-government then brought into operation.

EXTENT OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM.

7. As a result of these continuous efforts we find in existence to-day a system of public instruction, the inbuence of which extends in varying degrees to every part of India, and is upon the whole powerful for good. The system includes five Universities, those of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, the Punjab, and Allahabad, which prescribe courses of study and examine the students of affiliated colleges. These colleges are widely scattered throughout the country and number in all 191 (exclusive of some collges outside British India, which are no not incorporated in the Provincial statistics), with 23,009 students on the rolls. In them provision is made for studies in Arts and Oriental learning, and for professional courses of Law, Medicine, Engineering, Teaching, and Agriculture. Below the colleges are secondary schools, to the number of 5,493, with an attendance of 558, 378 scholars, and primary schools numbering 98,538 with 3,268,726 pupils. Including special schools, technical and industrial schools of art, and normal schools for teachers, the total number of colleges and schools for public instruction amounts to 105,306, with 3,887,493 pupils; and if to these are added the "private institutions" which do not conform with departmental standards, the total number of scholars known by the Education Department to be under instruction reaches about 4½ millions. The gross annual cost of maintaining these institutions exceeds 400 lakhs, of which 127 lakhs are derived from fees, and 83 lakhs from endowments, subscriptions, and other private sources; while the expenditure from public funds aggregates 191 lakhs, of which 104 laks are derived from Provincial and Imperial revenues, 74 lakhs from local and Municipal sources, and 13 lakhs from the revenues of Native States. It is a striking feature of the system, and one which must constantly be borne in mind when dwelling upon its imperfections, that its total cost to the public funds, provincial and local together, falls short of £1,300,000 annually. The wider extension of education in India is chiefly a matter of increased expenditure; and any material improvement of its quality is largely dependent upon the same condition.

ITS MERITS AND DEFECTS.

8. It is almost universally admitted that substantial benefits have been conferred upon the people themselves by the advance which has been made in Indian education within the last fifty years; that knowledge has been spread abroad to an extent formerly undreamed of; that new avenues of employment have been opened in many directions; and that there has been a marked improvement in the character of the public servants now chosen from the ranks of educated natives, as compared with those of the days before schools and universities had commenced to exercise their elevating influence. But it is also impossible to ignore the fact that criticisms from many quarters are directed at some of the features and results of the system as it exists at present, and that these criticisms proceed especially from friends and well-wishers of the cause of education. Its shortcomings in point of quantity need no demonstration. Four villages out of five are without a school; three boys out of four grow up without education, and only one girl in forty attends any kind of schools. In point of quality the main charges brought against the system are to the general effect (1) that the higher education is pursued with too exclusive a view to entering Government service, that its scope is thus unduly narrowed, and that those who fail to obtain employment under Government are ill fitted for other pursuits; (2) that excessive prominence is given to examinations; (3) that the courses of study are too purely literary in character; (4) that the schools and colleges train the intelligence of the students too little, and their memory too much, so that mechanical repetition takes the place of sound learning; (5) that in the pursuit of English education the cultivation of the vernaculars is neglected, with the result that the hope expressed in the Despatch of 1854 that they would become the vehicle for diffusing western knowledge among the masses is as far as ever from realization.

The Governor-General in Council having closely considered the subject, and having come to the conclusion that the existing methods of instruction stand in need of substantial reform, has consulted the Local Governments and Administrations upon the measures necessary to this end, and believes that he has their hearty concurrence in the general lines of the policy which he desires to prescribe. He therefore invites all who are interested in raising the general level of educaition in India, and in spreading its benefits more widely, to cooperate in giving effect to the principles laid down in this Resolution. With this object in view, an attempt is made in the following paragraphs to review the whole subject in its various aspects to point out the defects that require correction in each of its branches, and to indicate the remedies which in the opinion of the Government of India ought now to be applied.

EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

9. A variety of causes, some historical and some social, have combined to bring about the result that in India, far more than in England, the majority of students who frequent the higher schools and the universities are there for the purpose of qualifying themselves to earn an independent livelihood; that Government service is regarded by the educated classes as the most assured, the most dignified, and the most attractive of all careers; and that the desire on the part of most students to realize these manifold advantages as soon and as cheaply as possible tends to prevent both schools and coleges from filling their proper position as places of liberal education. On these grounds it has often been urged that the higher interests of education in India are injuriously affected by the prevailing system of basing selection for Government service on the school and university attainments of those who come forward as candidates for employment. Some indeed have gone so far as to suggest that educational standards would be indefinitely raised if it were possible to break off these material relations with the State, and to institute separate examinations for the public service under the control of a special board organized on the model of the English Civil Service Commission.

10. The Government of India cannot accept this opinion. It appears to them that such examinations, if established admittedly as a substitute for, and not merely as supplementary to, the University course, would necessarily be held in subjects differing from those prescribed by the University; and that two distinct courses of study would thus exist side by side, only one of them leading to Government service. If students attempted to compete in both lines, the strain of excessive examination, already the subject of complaint, would be greatly intensified; while, on the other hand, if the bulk of them were attracted by the prospect of obtaining Government appointments, the result would be the sacrifice of such intellectual improvement as is achieved under the existing system. Success in the Government examination would become the sole standard of culture, the influence of the Universities would decline, the value of their degrees would be depreciated, and the main stream of educational effort would be diverted into a narrow and sordid channel. Such a degradation of the educational ideals of the country could hardly fail to react upon the character of the public service itself. The improved tone of the native officials of the present day dates from, and is reasonably attributed to, the more extended employment of men who have received a liberal education in the Universities, and have imbibed through the influence of their teachers some of the traditions of English public life. Nor is there any reason to believe that in introducing its own examinations the Government would raise the standard of fitness, or secure better men for the public service than it obtains under the present system. There is a general consensus of opinion among all the authorities consulted that no examining board would do better than the Universities. If a separate examination did no more than confirm the finding of the Universities, it would be obviously superfluous; if it conflicted with that finding, it would be mischievous.

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

THE ABUSE OF EXAMINATIONS.

12. Examinations, as now understood, are believed to have been unknown as an instrument of general education in ancient India, nor do they figure prominently in the Despatch of 1854. In recent years they have grown to extravagant dimensions, and their influence has been allowed to dominate the whole system of education in India, with the result that instruction is confined within the rigid framework of prescribed courses, that all forms of training which do not admit of being tested by written examinations are liable to be neglected, and that both teachers and pupils are tempted to concentrate their energies not so much upon genuine study as upon the questions likely to be set by the examiners. These demoralizing tendencies have been encouraged by the practice of assessing grants to aided schools upon the results shown by examination. This system, adopted in the first instance on the strength of English precedents, has now been finally condemned in England, while experience in India has proved that, to whatever grade of schools it is applied, it is disastrous in its influence on education and uncertain in its financial effects. It will now be replaced by more equitable tests of efficiency, depending on the number of scholars in atendance, the buildings provided for their accommodation, the circumstances of the locality, the qualifications of the teachers, the nature of the instruction given, and the outlay from other sources, such as fees and private endowments or subscriptions. The Educational Codes of the various Provinces are being revised so as to embody these important reforms, and to relieve the schools and scholars from the heavy burden of recurring mechanical tests. In future there will be only two examinations preceding the University course. The first of these, the primary examination, will mark the completion of the lowest stage of instruction, and will test the degree of proficiency attained in the highest classes of primary schools. But it will no longer be a public examination held at centres to which a number of schools are summoned; it will be conducted by the inspecting officer in the school itself. The second examination will take place at the close of the secondary, usually an Anglo-Vernacular course, and will record the educational attainments of all boys who have completed this course. In both stages of instruction special provision will be made for the award of scholarships.

In giving effect to this change of system, it will be necessary to guard against the danger that the subordinate inspecting agency may misuse the increased discretion entrusted to them. The principles upon which the grant to an aided school is to be assessed must therefore be laid down by each Local Government in terms sufficiently clear to guide the inspecting officer in his recommendations; precautions must be taken against the abuse of authority, or the perfunctory performance of the duties of inspection; and in those provinces where the application of standards of efficiency other than those afforded by written examinations is a novelty, it will be incumbent upon the Education Department, by conferences of inspecting officers and by other meons, to secure a reasonable degree of uniformity in the standards imposed. The Governor-General in Council does not doubt that the discipline and ability of the educational services will prove equal to maintaining, under the altered conditions, a system of independent and efficient inspection.

GOVERNMENT CONTROL AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE.

13. From the earliest days of British rule in India private enterprise has played a great part in the promotion of both English and Vernacular education, and every agency that could be induced to help in the work of imparting sound instruction has always been welcomed by the State. The system of grants-in-aid was intended to elicit support from local resources, and to foster a spirit of initiative and combination for local ends. It is supplemented by the direct action of Government, which, speaking generally, sets the standard, and undertakes work to which private effort is not equal, or for which it is not forthcoming. Thus the educational machinery now at work in India comprises, not only institutions managed by Government, by district and municipal boards, and by Native States, but also institutions under private management, whether aided by Government or by local authorities, or unaided. All of these which comply with certain conditions are classed as public institutions. They number, as already stated, 105,306 in all; and over 82,500 are under private management.

The progressive devolution of primary, secondary ,and collegiate education upon private enterprise, and the continuous withdrawal of Government from competition therewith was recommended by the Education Commission in 1883, and the advice has been generally acted upon. But while accepting this policy, the Government of India at the same time recognize the extreme importance of the principle that in each branch of education Government should maintain a limited number of institutions, both as models for private enterprise to follow and in order to uphold a high standard of education. In withdrawing from direct management, it is further essential that Government should retain a general control, by means of efficient inspection, over all public educational institutions.

PRIMARY EDUCATION.

14. Primary education is the instruction of the masses, through the vernacular, in such subjects as will best stimulate their intelligence and fit them for their position in life. It was found in 1854 that the consideration of measures to this end had been too much neglected and a considerable increase of expenditure on primary education was then contemplated. The Education Commission recommended in 1883 that "the elementary education of the masses, its provision, extension, and improvement should be that part of the educational system to which the strenuous efforts of the State should be directed in a still larger measure than before." The Government of India fully accept the proposition that the active extension of primary education is one of the most important duties of the State. They undertake this responsibility, not merely on general grounds, but becuase, as Lord Lawrence observed in 1868, "among all the sources of difficulty in our administration, and of possible danger to the stability of our Government, there are few so serious as the ignorance of the people." To the people themselves, moreover, the lack of education is now a more serious disadvantage than it was in more primitive days. By the extension of railways the economic side of agriculture in India has been greatly developed, and the cultivator has been brought into contact with the commercial world, and has been involved in transactions in which an illiterate man is at a great disadvantage. The material benefits attaching to education have at the same time increased with the development of schemes for introducing improved agricultural methods, for opening agricultural banks, for strengthening the legal position of the cultivator, and for generally improving the conditions of rural life. Such schemes depend largely for their success upon the influence of education permeating the masses and rendering them accessible to ideas other than those sanctioned by tradition.

ITS EXTENT.

15. How, then, do matters stand in respect of the extension among the masses of primary education? The population of British India is over two hundred and forty millions. It is commonly reckoned that fifteen per cent. of the population are of school-going age. According to this standard there are more than eighteen millions of boys who ought now to be at school, but of these only a little more than one-sixth are actually receiving primary education. If the statistics are arranged by Provinces, it appears that out of a hundred boys of an age to go to school, the number attending primary schools of some kind ranges from between eight and nine in the Punjab and the United Provinces, to twenty-two and twenty-three in Bombay and Bengal. In the census of 1901 it was found that only one in ten of the male population, and only seven in a thousand of the female population were literate. These figures exhibit the vast dimensions of the problem, and show how much remains to be done before the proportion of the population receiving elementary instruction can approach the standard recognized as indispensable in more advanced countries.

(To be continued).

NOTES ON THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

THE GROWTH OF CHEMULPHO.

Chemulpho, where the Japanese have won a victory, was opened to foreign trade about twenty years ago. In that time it has grown from a cluster of fishermen's huts to a prosperous town of 20,000 people, with wide streets, imposing shops, a telephone and telegraph service, hotels conducted on European principles, and an international club. The complete strength of the foreign settlement, when last counted, was eighty-six, of whom twenty-nine were British. The number of vessels, other than men-of-war, that entered the port in 1901 was 1,036, of which 567 were Japanese, twenty-one Russians, and our English.

THE SITUATION IN PORT ARTHUR.

The "Overland China Mail" for 13th February says:—"We have interviewed a gentleman who has just arrived from Manchuria, and he assures us that the Russians have a very strong force between Vladivostok and Port Arthur. At every station along the line, there are strong garrisons, and sentinels were posted along the railway between stations, in Manchuria, with the object of preventing any interference with the permanent way. Our informant states that there was reputed to be 20,000 men in barracks in Port Arthur and in tents outside, and at Dalny 28,000 men representing all arms. He says he was ready to believe that these figures were correct, and he also believes that the Russians have between 100,000 and 150,000 east of Irkutsk.

"Port Arthur," to use his words, "is in a state of chaos. The officials there seemed to have too much to do, and as far as I could see there was not only very restricted accommodation for the Russian fleet, and only limited facilities for the repair of damaged vessels. It is a very small harbour, and always seemed to be full of grimy men-of-war. All the ships, as early as the 6th of January, had put on their war paint—a dark grey—which added to their formidable appearance, and how the Japanese were able to surprise them and get at them is more than I can understand. There were always two or three ships outside guarding the entrance to the harbour. There is only one dry dock, but there were plenty of men working night and day at a second dock, and there appeared to be an immense amount of work being done.

"There was a good deal of movement among the troops—marching and countermarching and drilling. They were drilling in the streets, and what struck me most of all was the youthful appearance of the men; they looked more like recruits than trained soldiers. There was an immense difference between the officers and the men. The officers are smart-looking and soldier-like. Of course, it was bitterly cold at the time, and the men were muffled up and possibly looked less businesslike in their overcoats and heavy clothing.

"There were no Japanese ships about but in Dalny there were plenty of Japanese—men and women—in evidence I went through Korea in December, and was told then hat there were upwards of 70,000 Japanese soldiers there in one guise or another. They were usually spoken of as farmers and farm labourers, but if I may judge by one Japanese gentleman I met on board the steamer on his way to Fusan and Seoul, there is no lack of officers among them. This gentleman was more like a European in appearance. He spoke a little English, was cultured, intellectual, and well informed. He told me he had obtained a farming concession near Seoul, but I should not be astonished to learn that he was an officer of considerable standing.

"The Japanese were everywhere in evidence—in fact, one would have been excused for surmising that Korea was already a part of Japan. The head of the Korean Customs for the three Eastern ports is a Mr. Wakefield, an Englishman, but all his subordinates appeared to me to be Japanese. Japanese soldiers watched the construction of the Railway from Fusan to Seoul. Japanese crowded streets and wharves at all the ports and Japanese policemen in the dress now familiar to the tourist in Japan, strutted the streets, with their small swords by their sides, the indispensable white gloves and the inevitable little note-book and large pencil."

The total value of Sikkim trade with Tibet in 1902-03 was Rs. 19,09,832 as against Rs. 16,59,748 in 1901-02. The former figure compares well with the years 1898-99 and 1899-1900 which are the two best trade years on record. No special cause appears to be assigned for the improvement in 1902-03.

The outturn of rubber from forests in Assam in 1902-1903 was 1,389 maunds valued at Rs. 42,511 as against 951 maunds valued at Rs. 35,918 in 1901-1902. A native firm, Messrs. Mysing Meghraj & Co., secured the exclusive right to collect rubber from Government forests in the Darrang Division in 192-1903 for the sum of Rs. 2,000.

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THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.

We give below the speeches of some of the hon'ble members made during the discussion on the above Bill on Friday last:—

HON. MR. MORISON'S SPEECH.

The Hon. Mr. Morison said:—

My Lord,—All reasonable people, I think, admit that there are certain affairs in regard to which secrecy is of such paramount importance to the state as to justify a considerable restraint upon individual liberty; of this nature are naval and military affairs and the relations of the Government with foreign states; there is no doubt that in these cases the interest of the Government in preserving secrecy is identical with the interest of the general public. But there are other matters, such as those mentioned in clause (b) of the definition of "civil affairs" with regard to which secrecy cannot be said to be essential to the state, although the premature disclosure of the plans of Government may cause considerable administrative inconvenience. In respect of these matters the interests of the Government and the public are not, to submit, so unmistakably identical as to justify the infliction of legal penalties upon the publication of news. Among affairs connected with the public debt, for instance, would certainly be included proposals for converting Government securities into a new stock bearing a lower rate of interest; the Government has the clearest right to keep its intentions regarding such matters secret, but a certain section of the public has so undeniable an interest in being forewarned of the proposed conversion that it is not fair to penalize a premature disclosure of the intentions of Government. Similarly, in all matters relating to taxation, the interest of the public is to a certain extent in antagonism to that of Government, and it is not clear that the public interest in its widest sense would be served by inflicting penalties upon the editor who warned one of the parties of an approaching danger. This clause also includes affairs affecting the relations of the Government with Native States; but it cannot, I submit, be maintained that these relations are any longer of that major importance which attaches to affairs upon which the stability of the State depends. Imperceptibly the Indian Princes have declined from the position they once held of independent sovereignty and have now become a part of the administration by which the Empire of India is governed; their right to exercise authority in Provinces divisions or districts, is derived, though with a different tenure, from the same authority which appoints Lieutenant-Governors, Commissioners, and Collectors; and though it is certainly not desirable that the public should be made aware of all differences of opinion between the Supreme and the Local Authorities, yet such revelations cannot, at the most create more than administraive inconvenience. On the other hand the Indian public has a natural and legitimate interest in knowing whether the Government of India proposes to curtail the area which is governed by purely Indian administrators and if, for instance, a Viceroy of the future were to be converted to Lord Dalhousie's views regarding the right of adopted children to inherit, an editor who gave early information of that fact would, I think, be doing a public service. At whichever part of the definition we look, it appears to me that the matters referred to in clause (b) are of the class in which the interests of the Government and of the general public are not infrequently in conflict, and I therefore submit that there is no clear case for legislating in the interest of the Administration.

The Government have, in effect, recognised the reasonableness of this view, inasmuch as the Bill proposes to submit all disputed cases to the arbitration of the Law Courts; but I submit that the safeguard here proposed will be ineffectual. By the provisions of this Bill, the question which the Courts will be asked to decide is whether the publication of a certain affair of State at a certain time was prejudicial to the public interest. The Courts may adopt one or other of two views; either that the statement of an officer in the Department, deposing that the interest of the State had suffered, is sufficient evidence that the publication of the news complained of was prejudicial to the public interests; or the Courts may refuse to convict unless the Government prove (1) that the interest of the administration has suffered by the publication and (2) that the interest of the administration is in this case identical with that of the public. If the courts adopt the former view, this Bill will authorize the injustice of making the Government the judge of its own case; but if the Courts lean to the opposite view it is doubtful whether the Government will ever secure conviction. I do not imagine that the Government will be willing to undertake a prosecution if they have to explain, first, exactly in what manner the administration has been damaged by a certain publication, and, secondly, that the prejudice to the administration was equally prejudicial to the interests of the general public and, thirdly, that the publisher was in a position to know that the publication at this particular time would be injurious to the administration. I contend therefore that if this provision of the Bill can protect the interest of the Government it will do so at the expense of the general public and that if it is consistent with fair dealing to the public it will fail to protect the interest of the Government. It is therefore either harmful or useless and in my opinion should be dropped.

After all is said and done the plain man will hold to the opinion that the Government ought to take better care of its own secrets and not punish other people because its subordinates are not under sufficient control. Every business man, indeed everybody who has to control an office, has to overcome this same difficulty and, if news leaks out of the office, which the master wishes to keep secret, the world's unsympathetic comment is generally that he has only himself to blame. It has yet to be shown that Government work is of so peculiar a character that it cannot be controlled by ordinary business methods; and even if this could be shown, the public has still a right to ask that the Government should not legislate until it has made an honest and whole-hearted attempt at putting its offices in order. It cannot, I venture to think, be said that the Government does at present take all reasonable precautions to secure secrecy, because Government offices open to every idler who cares to wander through them, and the multitude of chaprasis, who sit at the doorway of every Government office, do not apparently recognise that it is their duty to keep trespassers away. If chaprasis are incompetent to discharge this duty, it should be assigned to police constables, and if police constables fail, to head-constables and if they fail, to Sub-Inspectors. Surely there is somewhere in the Government hierarchy a grade of public servants which can be trusted to make out this duty with honesty and firmness, and venture to think that the Government ought not to be satisfied until, by the employment of competent men, they have secured their offices against unauthorised intrusion; the area over which this vigilance is necessary is not, after all, very extensive, because it is only a few offices at headquarters that have information which is at the same time confidential and of grave importance. When Government has taken every reasonable precaution to cseure secrecy and these precations have failed, then, and then only, I contend will cause have been shown for including such matters of lesser importance as are grouped under clause (b) within the operation of the Official Secrets Act.

Briefly to recapitulate, I beg to say that (1) I welcome this measure in so far as it provides greater security for official secrets in regard to military, naval and foreign affairs; but I contend that the affairs mentioned in clause (b) are not of such paramount importance to the security of the state that we should be justified in inflicting legal penalties upon the premature disclosure of the intentions of the Administration with regard to these affairs. (2) I believe that the provision to refer to the arbitration of the Law Courts the question, whether or not an affair is of such a confidential nature that the public interest would suffer by its disclosure would in practice prove to be either unjust or inoperative. (3) And in any case I contend that the necessity for secrecy in regard to the affairs mentioned in this clause is not so urgent as to justify legislation until the Government have exhausted every device of departmental administration to secure stricter conrol over their own offices. I therefore beg to move the amendment standing in my name.

HON. SIR EDWARD LAW'S SPEECH.

The Hon. Sir Edward Law said:—

The object of the amendment moved by my Hon. Colleague is to restrict the definition of 'civil affairs" to foreign affairs. He assumes apparently that whilst military, naval, and diplomatic affairs require the protection of a special law, no such protection is required in matters of civil administration. I hope to be able to convince him and any others whom a similar assumption may incline to opposition to the bill before us, that the assumption is entirely erroneous, and all arguments based thereon must therefore necessarily fall to the ground. I am convinced that if any one of my Colleagues who is now disposed to object to the Bill were to take my place for a few months in my Department, he would quickly ask that the public should be protected from the possibility of wrongful disclosure of confidential information. I am quite unable to understand what he means by saying that there is a divergence between the interests of the public and the interests of the Government. Government is the representative of the public, and my Hon. Colleagues at this table are on the same position as Government in representing the public to-day. They are speaking in the interests of the public, or in the assumed interests of the public whom they represent, and when ye speak in the same interests. My Hon. Colleague was not, I think, particularly happy, in the selection of the incidents which he quoted of divergence of interests between the Government and the public. He alluded to the possibility of conversions and he said that it would be in the interest of a certain section—these were his words—of the public that this information should be published or should get abroad. I should like to know what is the section to whose interests it would be: it could only be on the interests of that section of the public who desired to make money at the expense of the public, out of the pocket of the taxpayer.

There must always be numerous cases in which the disclosure of confidential documents indicating the grounds on which action is being considered, or has been decided upon in the Finance Department, must necessarily prove seriously prejudicial to those public interests which it must be the desire of every Member of this Council, to protect, and I will give some examples of the class of cases where the premature publication or disclosure to individuals of confidential documents would inevitably have a most harmful result.

As is well known, there is constant and considerable speculation in Government Rupee Paper, and at a certain period of the year that speculation is based on what are assumed to be the intentions of Government as regards the amount of the loan which it is intended to issue at a future date, while, when the date of issue approaches, fresh speculation arises on the price which it is supposed that Government will accept for tenders. Such speculations lead to the manipulation of the market in a sense adverse to the interests of the general public and it is therefore of great importance that the intentions of Government should not be disclosed.

Again, we have, for some months past, as you are doubtless aware, been purchasing silver for coinage into rupees, and such purchases, as all business men will fully undertand, must be conducted with great circumspection, and as much secrecy as possible. The silver market is a very fluctuating one, the price varying in a few days by as much as 8 to 10 per cent., and it is a market so well controlled by a certain group of speculators that the knowledge that the Government of India requires to immediately purchase, say, £500,000 worth of silver, is quite sufficient to raise the price in the London Market to an extent causing a loss of possibly £30,000 to £40,000 to the tax-payer whose interests it is our duty to protect. It is impossible to take decisions on such a question without receiving and considering the reports and opinions of the officials directly concerned and such reports and opinions must necessarily pass through the hands of a number of officials, any one of whom could profitably be offered what would be to him a small fortune for the disclosure of the intentions of Government.

But silver is not the only thing purchased by the Finance Department, it has also to consider both the necessity of purchase and the terms on which it is prudent to buy lands, railways, and other property of considerable value, and in all such cases it is self-evident that if the sellers should be prematurely informed as to our intentions the information acquired would be used to the detriment of the tax-payer. And again, what would the commercial world say if when we received tenders from rival firms competing for a contract, the terms of the offers received were disclosed to interested parties, and we could only fold our hands and say that even were the offender discovered, we had neglected to provide ourselves with sufficient power to secure his adequate punishment.

The Finance Department is in all such matters in the position of the business man contemplating a transaction and preparing for a deal, and the last thing that a business man would desire is the disclosure of his hand to the parties with whom he was negotiating or proposing to negotiate. There is, however, this difference between the situation of a Government department and that of the business man underaking a business. The commercial man keeps his counsel to himself, carefully avoids committing his ideas and decisions to paper, and trusts no one but his partner and perhaps a special confidential clerk, whilst the heads of a Government Department are obliged by their special responsibility to the public, to carefully record every reason for intended action, and unfortunately to cover pages of foolscap with opinions and arguments for and against any contemplated transaction, before definitely deciding to move in the matter.

Finally, there is the question of modifications of excise dues and of duties on articles of importation. It must surely be recognised that when Government is contemplating any reduction of enhancement of such dues or duties, it is before all things essential that no intimation of their actual intentions should get abroad until the moment of decisive action. Had it been known a year ago that Government had decided to reduce the salt tax by annas, from a certain date, the result could no have failed to be that stocks of salt in the hands of every dealer in the country would have been allowed to run down to an extent which would have led to a temporary famine in the articles, and caused great inconvenience by enhancing the price to consumers. Such an important decision could not be taken without voluminous correspondence and notes, not only in the Finance Department, but also with local authorities consulted on the question, and with the Secretary of State in England. Similarly should it be contemplated to increase the duty on any important imported article of general comsumption, it is manifest that the speculator who had succeeded in an unlawful manner in obtaining information as to the plans of Government, would make large profits out of his knowledge, to the prejudice of the public.

I could multiply instances, but I am unwilling to take up the time of Council and I will only mention one more of the numerous cases in which the interests of the public as represented by the Finance Department may be seriously imperilled by the communication of information. It is well known that the question of the introduction of counterfeit rupees into circulation is one which has for some time past been engaging our very serious attention. We are taking every means in our power to discover where counterfeit rupees are manufactured and by what agencies they are distributed. Now what would be the result were it to become known to the public through the agendy of enterprising journalism that the result of our enquiries had led us to believe that we had discovered an important centre of manufacture or distribution:—evidently that the criminals being warned in time, would take measures to avoid detection, and that our endeavours to check illegal coinage would be frustrated.

I do not say that to my certain knowledge, Government has been betrayed by the wrongful action of employes in connection with any of the questions I have indicated, but there have been suspicious circumstances, and anyone who calmly considers the situation must admit that existing laws and regulations do not give us the necessary power to cope with the danger. It is highly to the credit of the official staff that, having regard to the enormous and constant temptation to secure illegal gains, and, even leaving criminal intention out of the question, to satisfy personal vanity by indiscreet communications, we have escaped any serious scandal, but I must repeat the admission that there been occasionally distinctly suspicious circumstances and there are gentlemen in this room, who, assuming that such suspicious circumstances and there are gentleguit, have severely criticised what they assumed to be a culpable laxity of control in the matter. We ask to-day to be put in a position to insure effective control in the only manner in which it is possible, and that is by making it clear that neither the tempted employe, nor his tempter can escape the penalties of the law if his guit be established in the eyes of the judicial authorities of the land. A suspected official can of course be punished departmentally,—we prefer that he should be pronounced innocent or guilty by the established Courts of justice, and whilst arbitrary action is rendered impossible by the ample safeguards in the provisions of the Bill, we hope that in serious cases we may be enabled to secure through the Courts, the punishment of the tempter as well as of the tempted. I cannot believe that anyone would seriously wish to confine punishment to the tempted Government official, whilst allowing the greater culprit, the tempter to escape scot-free, and it should be understood that without the present Bill we must remain in the position of being able to punish only the less guilty of the two parties.

It has been suggested that, if private banks and firms are able to control their employes, Government should be able to do the same, without recourse to special legislative measures, but I have shown that the opportunities for acquiring confidential information are necessarily infinitely greater in a Government department than in a private office, and moreover the value of such information to interested individuals is incomparably greater, whilst cases are not unknown in which even private establishments have suffered heavy loss through breach of trust in the matter of disclosing information. It has been suggested to us today that the control might be established in a more efficient manner by certain measures that were specified and which, I am astonished to find included amongst them the placing of police constables in the corridors of public offices. I remember that on the first occasion when this Bill was brought before Council one of my hon. colleagues made one of his most magnificent periods by declaming against the possibility that when he came to see me in my office he should be discharged by an official employed to keep out loafers!

The Department over which I have the honour to preside is always desirous to take the public into its confidence as far as possible, but I trust that I have sufficiently established that there is a real necessity for the protection of public interests in the matter of wrongful disclosure of confidential information, and that it is frequently imperative that secrecy should be strictly observed for a time, and I therefore strongly urge the adoption of the Bill.

Some of our would-be candid friends and constant critics have, I presume, under the influence of serious misapprehension allowed their imagination to run in dreams of fanciful processions, to ice-bound dungeons, and of a Government of India suddenly transformed by the passing of this Bill into a body of raving madmen, but, now that certainly many, and I hope all misapprehensions have been removed, I think that we may reasonably ask for a little calmness in the consideration of a very important business measure, and that as the result of such calm consideration, the public sprit and patriotism to fall Hon. Members of this Council, will lead them to support a Bill which is proposed in the sole interest of the public whom they represent.

HON. MR. RALEIGH'S SPEECH.

The Hon. Mr. Raleigh, said:—I should like to add a few words on the questions which have been raised as to the history and true construction of the Act of Parliament passed in 1889, and of the Act which we now propose to amend. My Hon. colleagues. Mr. Gokhale and Rai Sri Ram Bahadur have referred to certain statements made by the present, Lord Chancellor, which would be authoritative, if they were complete; but I feel tolerably certain that the quotations are made from an imperfect report. We have before us here the debates of the House of Lords, and it seems clear that Her Majesty's Government intended their Act to extend to political matters; it is equally clear from our proceedings that Lord Lansdowne and his Council were of the same opinion. The Hon. Dr. Mukhopadhyaya says that if it was intended to include civil affairs, the intention was not carried out, that our Act does not extend to them. I do not set my own opinion on the point of law against that of my hon. colleague, but when I tell him that Sir Griffith Evans advised against the view for which he has contended, Dr. Mukhopadhyaya will at least admit that the point is doubtful, and that we should be wise in taking this opportunity of clearing it up.

I do not dwell on these preliminaries, because the question for Council is not what was done in 1889, but what ought to be done now. Is our proposal, to include civilaffairs generally in the Bill, a fair and reasonable one, as we contend, or is it unfair and oppressive, as the Hon. Mr. Morison has endeavoured to show? Mr. Morison wishes to exclude from the purview of this Bill all our correspondence with Native States, and all business connected with the civil administration. I differ from him on both points. In regard to Native States, it seems to me that my hon. colleague misconceives the situation w in which the Ruler of a Native State with a Lieut.-Governor or the Commissioner of a division. He is not an officer under our orders; within his own limits, he exercises an independent authority, historical in its origin, and protected by convention which the Government of India cannot alter at its mere will and pleasure. These conventions are not, strictly, international, but I have said enough to show that our correspondence with Native Princes possesses a displomatic character, and that are bound to treat them with special consideration and courtesy. If we exclude them from the purview of this Bill, we shall not be consulting their dignity or their convenience.

I turn now to the sphere of civil administration. It is very easy to make of civil administration. It is very easy to make points in debate by selecting any of the innumerable trifles which make up the routine business of a public office, and asking which of these are to be matters of State under this Bill. This argument might be in point if this Act were part of the ordinary law, which any officer of Government can set in motion. But it is in fact a special law, only to be set in motion by Government itself. I am far from supposing that Government is infallible, but I hold that Government may be trusted to decide, on its own responsibility, what matters are, and what are not, so important as to justify a prosecution under this Act. The final decision, of course, is with the Judge or Magistrate, who tried the case. After the speech of my hon. friend Sir E. Law, I need not adduce any further evidence to show that in each of the great Departments the public interest requires that our confidential papers should receive a reasonable measure of protection. These, I think are the main objections to the amendment, and they are sufficient to justify the Council in rejecting it.

THE L.-G.'S SPEECH.

H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor said:—

I just wish to make one or two remarks on the Bill, because I do not think that it would be quite right for me to give a silent vote in support of it. In the first place I should like to say very clearly and definitely that I have a strong conception of the existence of the evil which this Bill is intended to meet. I have sympathy with the Hon. Mr. Morison, who comes from the United Provinces, in not feeling so strongly about the Bill as men who are accustomed to work here. I suppose that the work in the United Provinces is very much akin to what I had to do in the Central Provinces, where the press is not very numerous, not very strong perhaps, and not very inquisitive. But since I have come to Bengal I have felt that there has been a great evil in respect of the relations between Government offices and the press. I do not wish to enter into any detail, but I desire to state this that that I have found papers given perfectly freely to the press which were marked confidential; I have found notes marked confidential relating solely to the conduct of cases in the offices finding their way to the press; I have found demi-official letters which I have myself written finding their way to the press; so that I have actually adopted the rule when I write a demi-official letter of keeping the copy in my own office box. That of course makes me do precisely what a business man would do, as we have heard, in respect of correspondence affecting his business, but I need not say what an immense, what an intolerable, increase of work and responsibility and burden it means when I am unable to use my office for this legitimate purpose. Now I think, my Lord, in the first place that this is due, or largely due to the fact that there is no conpience whatsoever with regard to communication of confidential information; and I think that this is due partly to the fact that if there is one thing which this Bill will achieve which will be of advantage, it will be that it will enable people to understand that it is an offence to communicate important confidential affairs without the authority of the officer who is competent to give such authority. Then I wish to say distinctly that I entirely agree, to a certain extent within certain limits, with the view that the officers do not exercise sufficient control over their offices. I propose certainly to endeavour to introduce some reform in this way, but the idea that we should meet this by turning our public offices into private offices, and by putting constables and policemen to turn off everyone who was not able to disprove himself an idler, indicates I am afraid a very great want of appreciation both of the manner in which such work would be done by the police, and also of the view which would be entertained by the public generally of any such pdoposal; and I would also say that we cannot under the circumstances of public offices, and the necessity there is for putting everything on record, as has already been pointed out,—we cannot meet the difficulty merely by controlling our offices: but we must be able to interfere when gross and flagrant offences occur. And I wish to say in the second place that this is the point on which I take my stand. It has been admitted on all sides by this Council that the Government have a right to keep their own secrets. That is a thing, which we all admit, but it is not a thing which we enforce. But it is theft to take them away, and this is done habitually. It is done by inducements being offered to men to give information: it is done by the readiness with which illicit information is received; and it is done altogether against the public interest. And here I think that we have a fallacy which has come more than once into the discussion. The public interest is one thing, and the interest of a section of the community is another; and I feel very strongly upon this point, that these revelations which have been made of our official acts and of our discussions of great public questions, while they were still going forward, have been contrary to the public interest although they may have been in the interest of a section of the community which was prepared to pay for them.

And the third and last thing which I am astonished to find that my hon. friend Dr. Mukhopadhyaya speaking of this Bill as a serious menace to journalism in India. The menace, as he himself defines it, is this, that the editor must decide whether the information which he is about to publish is of such a confidential nature that the public interest will suffer by its publication. That is to say, what is going to take place is this, that an editor is called upon to think before he publishes something whether it will injure the public interests to publish it. I think that that will be a very great advance in journalism in certain parts of India, and I think that it is an advance that ought to be secured, and the Bill secures it without running any risk whatsoever.

I took exception to certain provisions of the Bill, and I am surprised to think that Hon. Members should come up and say, that the Bill is exactly as it stood before, and that nothing has been yielded to criticism, when we have, in respect of civil affairs, the great change which has been already effected in the Bill. Still, while a Bill is being read we hear Hon. Members speaking of the Bill as providing for the suppression of publication in regard to other matters of state. They do not go on to point out that there is a safeguard in that very clause where these affairs are of such a confidential nature that the public interest would suffer by their disclosure. I believe it is of the essence of the case that this provision should be introduced: it is also of the essence of the case to notice that under section 5 offences in regard to civil matters are not cognisable: It is also of the essence of the case to notice that under section 7 the consent of the Local Government is required for a prosecution. What I especially desire to say, my Lord, is this, that we cannot meet this evil which exists without having certain confidence in regard to these matters; and it is most desirable to make it an offence to publish information which it is contrary to the public interest to publish. On the other hand this Bill, while publishing this declaration, and making this an offence is so carefully safeguarded that there can be no honest or legitimate interest that can in any way suffer loss.

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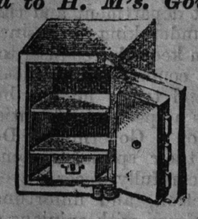

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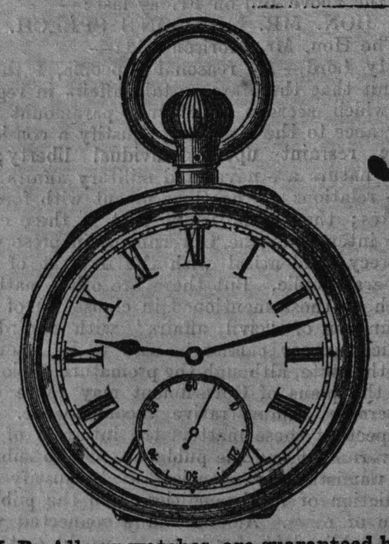

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High Court.—Mar. 10

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Amir Ali and Pratt.)

A MUNICIPAL CASE

Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter applied on behalf of Moharani Chandramoni Dassi, Kumar Gopendra Krishna Deb and several others of Sobhabazar Raj family, who had been convicted under section 312 read with section 574 of Act III (B.C.) of 1899 by the Municipal Magistrate of Calcutta and had been sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 100 together, for the issue of a rule calling upon the Municipal Magistrate to show cause why the conviction and sentence should not be set aside.

The petitioners were charged with having failed to comply with the requisition of a notice, under section 312 of the Municipal Act to provide a ten seated connected privy and a 12 seated urinal at their premises No 60, Mirzapur Street, known as the Ripon College. The Municipal Magistrate held that some little improvements had been made to the privy and urinals but they were hardly adequate. The petitioners were therefore fined Rs. 100.

It was contended that the Municipal Magistrate had no jurisdiction under the law to inflict a fine of more than Rs. 50; that the order was bad inasmuch as it was based upon the opinion of Dr. Cook, who had not been examined as a witness and whose opinion should have been held by the Magistrate, as not admissible as evidence inasmuch as it related to a state of things which existed before the alterations and improvements had been made.

Their Lordships issued a rule on the grounds stated in the petition.

APPEAL BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Their Lordships delivered judgment to-day in the appeal preferred on behalf of the Local Government against an order of acquittal passed by an Hony. Magistrate of Chinsurah in favour of one Guiram Nandan and two others. In this case it would be remembered that the accused were charged with having assaulted a Civil Court Peon, attached to the Munsiff's 1st Court, Hooghly, who had gone to attach certain movable properties belonging to one Dhiroda Moyi Dassi. The trial was held by an Hony. Magistrate, who acquitted the accused. Against that order of acquittal the Local Government moved the High Court. Their Lordships held that it was not a case in which they ought to interfere. The application was therefore rejected.

OUTRAGING FEMALE MODESTY.

This was a reference made by the Sessions Judge of Nadia, in a case in which a certain number of persons had been prosecuted under sections 147, 376 and 342 of the Penal Code and in which the accused were acquitted by the Jury. The Sessions Judge, who tried the case, disagreeing with the verdict of the Jury, referred the case to this Hon'ble Court.

The prosecution story of the case was that on the night of the 6th of August last one Hazari Lal Banerjee and another came to a woman named Surai and asked her to sing, but she refused to do so on the plea of illness. They then asked the woman to smoke and she replying that she had no tobacco in her house one of them went out to fetch the same. Thereafter the accused, who were large in number, came to the place, carried the woman away and outraged her modesty.

Their Lordships after hearing both sides delivered a very lengthy judgment in course of which they observed: "The offence of gang raping has become so common in certain parts of Bengal that we are of opinion that severe punishment has become necessary and if this offence do not stop, probably the legislature will have to consider whether an additional punishment in the shape of flogging should be provided." Their Lordships sentenced the accused, who were five in number, to eight years' rigorous imprisonment each under sections 376 and 147 I. P. Code.

CAUSING GRIEVOUS HURT.

Mr. S. Roy moved on behalf of one Aser Sheikh, who has been convicted and sentenced under section 324 I.P.C. by the Deputy Magistrate of Khulna to two years' rigorous imprisonment. There was an appeal to the Sessions Judge, who dismissed it by his order dated 6th February, 1904. The facts of the case are shortly these:—One Arman Daroga laid information against the petitioner, his father and another person at the Thanna of Khulna on the 31st December last. On the same day a counter-complaint was lodged against the complainant and his party under sections 147 and 323 I.P.C. The case against the petitioner was tried first and he was convicted as stated above. The counter case was taken up subsequently and the accused in that case has been sentenced to two weeks' rigorous imprisonment only.

The learned Counsel submitted that the sentence passed on the petitioner was disproportionately harsh; having regard to the finding that there was a free flight between the parties in consequence of a dispute regarding certain ridge which belonged to both parties jointly and also having regard to the fact that on the side of the petitioner four men were injured, one of them having his head fractured and been detained in hospital for over a month, whereas the complainant's wound was not severe and he had to be detained in hospital for only a fortnight. The learned Counsel further pointed out, the inconsistency of the Civil Surgeon's testimony with that of the complainant's story in regard to the direction of wounds of the complainant.

Their Lordships after hearing the learned Counsel declined to interfere.

CIVIL BENCH.

(Before Justices Prinsep and Harington.)

A RENT SUIT.

Babu Jadunath Kanjilal, Vakil, appeared for the appellant in the second appeal No. 1327 of 1901(Chittagong), and the Senior Government Pleader appeared for the respondent. The plaintiffs who were the respondents in the case brought a rent suit against the defendant-appellant alleging that the rent was payable in kind, namely, 150 aris of paddy, the price of which was to be assessed at the market rate for the time being. The defendant pleaded that he purchased the Jamah in question at an auction sale in execution of a rent decree obtained by the plaintiffs themselves, and that his sale certificate stated the Jamah to be Rs. 36 per year, and therefore the plaintiffs could not hold him liable for the rent in kind. The Sale Proclamation was not forthcoming, as the record had been destroyed. The plaintiffs wanted to make out by the production of a copy of the Register kept in the Execution Department that there was mistake in the sale certificate produced by the defendant, and that there was also mention of 150 Aris of paddy, the sum of Rs. 36 representing the price of the paddy at the time. The first court allowed the objection of the defendant to prevail, but the second subordinate Judge of Chittagong before whom an appeal had been preferred by the plaintiffs relying on the copy of the Register held that the Jamah was payable in kind and decreed the suit in toto.

The learned Vakil for the appellant contended that the copy of the Register was no evidence and that the sale certificate was presumptive evidenve that the Sale Proclamation mentioned the Jamah to be Rs 36, and that the plaintiffs at whose instance the holding was sold were bound by the sale certificate, and that it was immaterial as to what was payable by the outgoing tenant.

Their Lordships agreeing with these views decreed the appeal with cost.

PRESS OPINIONS ON THE ISSUES OF THE WAR.

RUSSIA.

RUSSIA'S TERRIBLE FUTURE.

There is a terrible future before Russia, but the Empire will stand firm.—"Novoye Vremya," St. Petersburg.

ONLY THE BEGINNING.

One war will not settle the matter, as England and the United States are behind Japan.—"Birzheviya Viedomosti',' St. Petersburg.

THE BEAR'S MISTAKE.

Japan has hiherto known only the generosity and confidence of Russia. Henceforward she must know her wrath and her power; for Russia's dignity is insulted, and she understands now the mistake she made in taking treacherous savages for a civilised Power.—"Viedomosti," Moscow.

HINTING AT TROUBLE.

It will be of no more advantage to the United States, which governs a people belonging to the yellow race in the Philippines, than it will be to Great Britain, which is in a similar position, if Japan emerges from the present conflict with an increase of authority.—"Novosti," St. Petersburg.

A CANDID ADMISSION.

Russian soldiers bear hardship better than any European troops, and the Siberian forces are even harder than the rest of the Russian Army, but in St. Petersburg it is well known that the Siberian forces stand far below the European army as regards tactics, rapidity of movement, and marksmanship.—"Czar," St. Petersburg.

ANGLO-SAXON HOSTILITY.

The frank action of the English has only shown us once more how hopeless are the aspirations of those who thought that it might some day be possible to enter into actively friendly relations with them. Their instinctive hostility to the growth of the Slav has taken too deep root in the envious hearts of this people for us ever again to cherish any illusions whatever on this point.—"St. Petersburg Gazette."

FRANCE.

PLEA FOR HUMANITY.

In the Asiatic duel the Paris Press ought not to take sides over the wounded. She should recognise neither the Red Cross nor the Yellow Cross, but human suffering all the world over.—"L'Action," Paris.

FRANCE AND HER DUTY.

France, who knows her duty, will remain faithful to Russia, who represents, in this conflict which he has not herself provoked, the interests of Europe. The victory of Japan would in a short time be the occasion of new and terrible conflicts. What would then become of our Indo-Chinese possessions?—M. Louis Barthou, in "La Republique Francaise," Paris.

RUSSIA'S GREAT WHITE TEETH.

European opinion is completely upset by the events of the past fortnight. Even our ally herself, who foresaw that she would be forced, perhaps, in a given time to show her great white teeth in order to arrive at a settlement of her differences with the Empire of the Rising Sun—even she was far from foreseeing that which has actually come to pass.—M. Jules Huret in "Le Figaro," Paris

UNITED STATES.

DUTY OF THE POWERS.

The world will hope that the conflict will be mercifully brief, clearly decisive, and scrupulously confined to the original combatants. The Powers should quarantine the war, like the deadly disease it is, and confine it within narrow quarters while it takes its destructive course.—"World," New York.

ENGLISH BOGEY DROPPED.

In official circles in St. Petersburg the cry is against the United States. There the English bogey has been dropped and the American peril subsituted. No secret whatever is made of the opinion held there that the United States Government at the most critical moment has placed a series of impediments upon the Russian political road. "New York Herald."

TALK OF REPRISALS.

The difficulty of the situation is increased by the fact that deep resentments have been aroused, and that talk of reprisals, for barbarity is already heard. Our Government can do nothing for the Japanese caught on land in the territory held by the Russians, but it is open to the Japanese to protest, through our Government, against the holding of Japanese passengers on neutral vessels who had embarked before the outbreak of hostilities.—"Evening Mail," New York.

GERMANY.

JAPANESE SPARTANS.

It is astonishing to watch the attitude of the populace in Japan. They suppress every expression of feverish excitement which doubtless possesses them. Fathers part from their sons quite coolly, and mothers say "Good-bye" without bears or visible emotion. Yet there is a general determination, if necessary, to shed the last drop of blood for Japan.—"Lohalanzeiger," Berlin.

GERMANY'S NEUTRALITY.

The attitude of Germany continues to be the maintenance of the most complete and straight-forward neutrality, which, so far as Russia is concerned, is very materially facilitated by the fact that, as has frequently enough been declared in Germany, no real incompatibility of interests exist between Germany and Russia. People have more important business than to puzzle their brains over the question of Wei-hai-wei.—"Cologne Gazette."

ITALY.

POWER OF THE FIRST BLOW.

History teaches us that everything yields to a first successful effort, so that we hope Japan will have the same good fortune on land as she has had on sea, and make Russia retire within her limits, which are already sufficiently extensive.—"Roma," Rome.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE THE ARBITERS.

All eyes are fixed anxiously on England and France, in whose hands rests the peace or war of the whole world. The former is the most formidable antagonist of the Muscovite mammoth in the struggle for the conquest of Asia. The latter is the interested ally of Russia and her principal banker. Should one or the other of these Powers move to the assistance of one of the belligerents, the conflict would inevitably become universal, and it is not possible to foresee the greatness of the disaster nor the tremendous changes in the political map of the world. It is, therefore, with almighty that we read the more or less reticent declarations made in the Cabinets of London and Paris, and the descriptions of incidents at Wei-hai-wei and Shas-hai-kwan.—"Mattino," Naples.

AUSTRIA.

PATRIOTIC SLAVES.

The masses long for the golden opportunity when their rulers may find his people can be made use of. It would be the right moment. The Czar, society, and all classes of the population are all in the same mood, a patriotically aroused, and eager to do their best for the greatness and dignity of Russia.—"Neue Fre[illegible] Presse," Vienna.

A [illegible]ER LINING.

Russia has [illegible] friends abroad except, perhaps, the German Emperor, who has sent the Czar the historic tin skull-cap of the old Prussian Guards, as an expression of his sympathy. But at home she may win back the goodwill of all those whom the autocratic system alienated; and the sore trouble imposed upon Russia by her land grabbing may have the salutary consequence that the Russian people can see the coming of liberty, and who knows if not of a Constitutional regime?—"Die Zeit," Vienna.

JAPANESE PROVERBS.

Our "Despise not the day of small things," is more picturesquely phrased by the Japanese, who convey the same meaning in "Famous swords are made of iron scrapings." Our common-place "Out of evil good may come," finds with them an expressive simile in "The lotus springs from the mud." and in point of poignancy our "Adding insult to injury" is vastly inferior to their "Rubbing salt on a sore." Judging from the numerous proverbs on the subject, one would be inclined to think that a large number of persons in Japan are apt to attempt impossibilities. Such persons are described as "building bridges to the clouds," or "throwing stones at the sun," or "dipping up the ocean with a shell," or scattering a fog with a fan." There is a strong pessimistic strain in the Japanese, which finds expression in such proverbs as "After pleasure comes grief," "Hearing is a paradise, but seeing is hell," Better nourish a dog than an unfaithful servant," "Catch a thief and find he is your own son." A very low appreciation of the pleasures likely to all to any man's share in this world is indicated in "If you hate a man, let him live." The Japanese have some really fine sayings worthy of universal acceptance, such as "Thine own heart makes the world," or "The poet at home sees the entire universe," or "The throne of the gods is on the brows of a righteous man" Their nice observance of manners is evidenced by sayings such as "Excess of politeness becomes impoliteness," their national suspiciousness in "Don't trust a pigeon to carry grain," and their abhorrence of a bungler in numerous quips such as "learning to swim in a field" or "scratching the foot with the shoe on."

INDUSTRIAL CONFERENCE.

A Conference of representatives of Industrial and Technical Educational Institutions was held at Bombay on the 9th insant this week under the presidency of Mr. Biless, D. P. I. The general understanding arrived at is that it is advisable to attach a Normal Class either to the College of Science at Poona or the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute with a view to providing specially selected men to become teachers in technical and industrial schools in the Presidency. The question of appointing an Inspecttor to look after the existing technical schools and those schools which may hereafter be started for the special purpose of developing the handloom industry was next considered. It was urged, and there seemed to be agreement on the point, that for the present experts in the handloom industry, such as those now working at Calicut and Cannanore, might be employed for a couple of months in the year to inspect the wtaving industries, and when these industries had assumed larger proportions the Government might appoint a "full-time" Inspector. Last by the Conference considered the proposal of the Government to establish schools in reference to the weaving industry. The Conference was of opinion that it was absolutely necessary to start such schools in certain selected places, and that ia these schools half the time of study should be devoted to weaving and the other half to reading, writing and arithmetic. It was stated that the initial cost of starting such a school with a large workshop for the weaving would be about Rs. 15,000.

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN JAPAN.

(Specially Reported for the Patrika.)

At a largely attended special general meeting of the Indian Industrial Association, open to the public, sometime ago at the hall of the Calcutta University Institute, which was presided over by Raja Peary Mohan Mukherjee C.S.I., the following lecture on "Technical Education in Japan" was delivered by Mr. Roma Kant Roy, who went some years ago to Japan and has returned having successfully qualified himself as a mining engineer in the University of Tokio. He was employed for some time in Japan under one of the mining companies. An evening party was given by his employers in recognition of his eminent services before his departure for India.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF JAPAN.

To begin with the very beginning of Japan, the land of the rising Sun, nay the land of the rising nation, lies off the east coast of the eastern continent covering an area of 147,063 English Square miles. More than half of this superficies is comprised in the main island and next in magnitude come Hakhaido, Kuishia, and Shikoku in that order. The coast line stretches to a length of about 37,332 miles. No part of the inland being removed from the sea by a greater distance than 146-170 miles, the facilities for transport are very great. The country is mountaineous and has comparatively little flat land. The main island of Japan being situated in the temperate zone, enjoys for the most part of the year a medium degree of temperature. Owing to the elongated shape of the country and to the elevations and depressions of its surface the climate is not uniform. Thus in the northern part the snow never disappears, the sea freezes in winter and sleet and fog prevail, while in the southern part of the island heat is very great and neither snow nor ice is seen in winter. The rain-fall is heavy in summer. Such is the general description of the island of which I am going to say something; but the greatness of things does not depend upon its size to quote the immortal Parsian Poet Sadi. Japan is a veritable example of the saying, "Look! how she is triumphing over the smallness of her size! How the Japanese are turning their land upside down to dig her hidden treasures! What awonderful network of Railways! What a gratifying sight it is to see the small factories tapering into narrow chimney heads puffing the smoke into various forms off to the sky!"

THE AIM AND ASPIRATION OF JAPAN.

The aim and aspiration, the ambition of Japan is as true as it is touching. "Japan Mission" to quote Mr. K. Uchemaradlay be multifarious but the one upon which we have laid so much stress is to reconcile the East with the West, to be the advocate of the East and harbings of the West. We stand in the same relation to Asia and did the ancient Greeks in relation to Europe. Here we improve what we receive fresh from the West. Here we charily keep watch over the rites and interests of Asia should another Xerexes of gross materialism, of rude irreverance threaten the life and growth of the sacred East. We too! shall fight over Marathons and Thermopalies to put an end to it is depredatory march..... as no man lives for himself so no nation exists for itself alone? The destiny of Japan is intimately connected with that of 1,000,000,000 one thousand billions of Asiatics.

THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM OF JAPAN GENERAL.

To give a general view of the educational system of Japan of different grades we may tabulate them as follows:—

(1) Primary Schools.
(2) Middle Schools.
(3) High Schools.
(4) Imperial Universities.
(5) Special Schools.
(6) Technical Schools.
(7) Higher Normal Schools.
(8) Higher female schools.
(9) Dumb and deaf schools.
(10) Miscellaneous schools.

Altogether there are 29,335 schools containing 52,65,006 students. To make this intelligible it is necessary to state that a Japanese boy destined to receive a university education goes up step by step through the different grades of schools in the order mentioned above until he reaches one of the Imperial Universities. Those who want to have to begin life earlier usually go direct from the middle school to one of the many excellent institutions classed as special schools or technical schools.

The great majority, however, of the boys who continue their education at all after leaving a primary school have to be contented with a two or three years course in one of the business or industrial training schools which are found all over the country. In fact, the increase and improvement of the schools of this category has been one of the most conspicious features of the educational system of Japan.

Schools of all classes show a steady improvement. The rate of schools attendance in 1901 was 93.78 for boys 81.8 for girls, 88.5 for both; the increase compared with the preceding years being 3.23 for boys, 9.18 for girls, and 6.38 for both.

It may be mentioned here that the table given above does not include the institutions for military instruction under the control of war and the Navy Department. It may also be noted here that the largest number of the institutions devoted to primary and secondary education is under the control of local bodies.

The educational expense incurred by the central government and the local bodies for the year 1901-1902 is Rs. 73,876,676 compared with the preceding year there is an increase of Rs. 11,906,967.

In July 1872 the Board of Education was abolished and the Department of Education was established with the minister of education at its head "and soon afterwards a new educational system was introduced; the country was divided into eight school districts and the attendance at schools being declared compulsory for all children six years old and above. In 1872 by codes of education issued by the Government the educational system was made universal and complete throughout the country. Simultaneously with this publication, a special instruction from His Majesty the Emperor ran as follows throughout the length and breadth of the country, making the people "en massy" the object of this publication:—"All knowledge from that necessary for daily life to that higher may not be a village with an ignorant family nor a family with an ignorant member.

TECHNICAL SCHOOLS.

Technical schools are divided into three classes:—

1. Higher technological schools (2) Technical university colleges (3) Lower technical school including apprentice and supplementary school for technical education. There are altogether 401 technical or industrial schools including 9 Government, 365 Public and 27 Private containing 2,236 teachers and 36,787 pupils, besides a Government institution for training up of teacher for them. The object of all of which is to give instructions theoretically and practically in agriculture, industry and commerce.

HIGHER TECHNOLOGICAL SCHOOLS.

To give a typical example of these institutions let us first take the Tokio Higher Technological school. It is open to the graduates of the Middle School and its standard is not too high for the "matrico" of the Indian Universities. It is divided into two classes. (1) Mechanical Department (2) Chemical Department. Mechanical Engineering, Electric Engineering and Civil Engineering courses complete the one-half of this institution and another half contains Applied Chemistry glass and porcelain ware, Dyeing and weaving and electrical chemistry. Each course extends over a period of three years.

There are faculties for the sons and relatives of men engaged in some industrial profession, who may join it as electric students to acquire such theoretical knowledge which may be necessary for their particular pursuits, we can not lay too much stress upon the importance of the courses like Applied Chemistry which includes within its embrace (1) Paper-making (2) Oil refining (3) Soap-making (4) Essential oils (5) Brewing, Tanning, Glue-manufacture, Pigment-manufacture, Manure-making, Sugar-refining, Printing Ink making, Gas manufacture, Coal-tar, Petroleum, Wood Product, Rubber, Camphor, Dye-Stuffs; of course chemical analysis forms the foundation work. Excellent provisions are made for cement making in the glass and porcelain department.

Electric chemistry is an important and interesting subject. It includes (1) Electro plating, Electrotyping, Electro tanning Bleaching, manufacture of Calcium Carbide Copper refining etc., etc., etc.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

NEWS LATER THAN THE MAIL.

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THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Feb. 20.

The Japanese have captured the Okhotsk-Kamschatka Company's steamers "Kolik" and "Bobaik."

The French Socialist' Congress, now sitting at St. Etienne, has carried a resolution strongly condemning French intervention in the war. The Congress adopted a resolution advocating the maintenance of good relations with Great Britain.

M. Khovzoff has replaced M. Pleske as Director of Russian Finance. M. Pleske has been transferred to a seat in the Council of the Empire.

Many Russian newspapers accuse Great Britain of being the cause of Russian disasters in the Far East.

A Reuter's message states that Russian Official circles believe that Germany will ultimately assist Russian in her conflict with Japan.

Admiral Rojestvensky, Chief of the Russian Navy Staff, declares that he is unable to send all the officers that are wanted at Port Arthur, since, possibly, their services will be needed in the Baltic.

The Captain of the Russian gunboat "Koreitz," which, with the cruiser "Varyag," was destroyed by the Japanese at Chemulpho, writing a month before the occurrence of that disaster, declared that Russia was ready for the tussle, and quite expected that Japan would open the attack before making a formal declaration of war.

The "Times" correspondent at Tokio declares that the naval engagements, which have so far taken place, show that the Russian shells break up against the Japanese armour plated vessels, while the Japanese shells, with Shimose powder, are efficient and destructive.

Mr. Secretary Hay's view is that this decision cannot affect Messrs. Chesire and Davidson, who, at the conclusion of the recently-executed Chino-American Commercial treaty, were appointed United States' Consuls at Mukden and Port Arthur. Mr. Hay's opinion is based on the contention that Manchuria is a province of China, and that no other Power is entitled to intervene.

The "Daily Mail" states that when the Russian transport "Yenesei," was blown up some days ago, while engaged in laying a submarine mine at Port Arthur, 190 men were killed and that 90 men were saved. A storm, adds the same authority, brought the mines to the surface, and the cruiser "Boyarin" was sent to secure them, but was caught in the storm and was wrecked on the rocks. It is believed that the ship torpedoed on the 14th, and said to be the "Boyarin," was the Russian cruiser 'Bayan," 7,800 tons. News has reached Vienna of an appalling catastrophe on Lake Baikal. It states that the ice cracked for a distance of 200 years at a spot where the waters of the lake are 4,000 feet deep, and engulfed two regiments of Russian sappers and another regiment. The report of the Lake Baikal disaster proves to have been greatly exaggerated. According to official accounts, the alleged catastrophe is reduced to a troop train dashing into a snowdrift. Several casualties resulted. The export of Russian wheat to Germany has ceased, owing to the diversion of the Russian rolling-stock to military purposes.

China has notified the belligerents that her attitude is one of armed neutrality. Japan has replied, intimating that the fact of the Chinese Mausoleums and Imperial Palaces at Mukden and Hasing-King, in Manchuria, being secure from injury, is not to be attributed to Russia's action. Japan also reiterates her disclaimer of any intention to acquire territory at the expense of China.

The "Morning Post's" correspondent at Chifu declares that there are only three Russian warships at Port Arthur intact.

It is officially stated at Tokio that contraband of war, as defined by the Japanese Government, consists of two classes. The first-class comprises: Military weapons, explosives and materials used in making them, uniforms and other goods intended to be solely used in war. The second-class comprises: Provisions and drink, horses, harness, fodder, vehicles, coal, timber, coin, and gold and silver bullion, and materials used in the construction of telegraphs, telephones, and railways. The articles in the second class are to be regarded as contraband only when destined for the enemy's army or navy.

A Prize Court has been established at Sacho, near Nagasaki, with right of appeal to the Supreme Court at Tokio.

Admiral Evans, of the United States Asiatic Squadron, fearing risings in China as the outcome of Russo-Japanese hostilities, had advised 1,500 American marines to hold themselves in readiness in the Philippines.

A party of Cossacks, at Wiju, a Corean port at the mouth of the Yalu, has captured a Japanese major and five soldiers.

A rigid Press censorship is being exercised in the Far East.

There is no war news. All the war correspondents are still at Tokio. Not a single permit has been granted.

DAMMING THE THAMES.

SCHEME FOR A BARRAGE TO COST £4,000,0d0.

London, Feb. 11.

An important barriage scheme for the Thames, estimated to cost nearly four millions sterling, whereby a constant head of high water would be kept and tidal difficulties overcome, was discussed at a meeting in the Cannon-street Hotel yesterday.

Sir Thomas Brooke Hitching, who presided, said that it was proposed to build a barrage at the mouth of the Thames at Gravesend. Great advantages would accrue, as docks and wharves could be used for the whole day instead of for only a few hours. There would be constant high water, so that the London County Council could run small and handy steamboats continually in its proposed service.

Mr. James Casey, a member of the Institute of Naval Architects, said that there would be no loss of time through waiting for the tide. It would lead to fewer collisions on the river, and there would be no flooding of banks. The Manchester Ship Canal, he said, was nothing but a dock system of thirty-five miles.

Mr. T. W. Barbar, M.I.C.E., said that the proposal was to construct a solid masonry dam from Gravesend to Tilbury. On the Top there would be a roadway connecting Kent and Essex; and underneath a tunnel which would open up a route between the Midlands and the north, and Dover and the south coast, avoiding the congested London lines. The docks would be so constructed that no ship would be locked for more than fifteen minutes.

They would have a lake of clear, fresh water, always clean. It would afford great facilities for pleasure boating. He calculated that dock companies would be saved £50,000. The whole scheme was estimated to cost £3,658,000, including compensations and other contingencies. A toll of ¾d. per ton on the shipping passing up and down would pay the interest on this sum.

A resolution approving the scheme was carried the wharfingers present not voting, and a committee was called into being.

SHALL WE LIVE AGAIN.

THE VOICES OF THE DEAD.

One of the most famous French savants was asked by a friend of mine whether he had proofs of the existence of the soul. "While I am Professor——, no!" he replied; "but when I retire and become plain Monsieur ——, yes!

The layman does not realise, I think, writes Mr. Harold Begbie in the "Daily Mail," that the orthodoxy of science exercises over the minds of investigators a kind of despotism precisely similar to the old despotism of religious orthodoxy. I have talked to many men who shrink from telling their spiritual experiences for fear of losing their prestige as authoritative men of science. Every age is an attempt to awaken from the hypnotic trance cast upon it by the preceding generation, and at the present time scientific men are still deep in the spells of the agnosticism of the nineteenth century; they give no quarter to the daring soul who challenges the materialistic position, and asserts the possibility of the existence of a spiritual world. The reasonable critic asks of believers in immortality two questions: (a) How is it that so many of your messages from the dead are unintelligible or silly? and (b) How is it that the dead do not communicate with the earth in greater numbers and with greater consistency? The answers to these questions are the beginning of physical wisdom.

UNIVERSAL PROGRESS.

The ether has been in existence since the creation of the universe, perhaps from eternity, but we are only now beginning to employ it in the service of man. And even now, if the electrician has not a "sensitive" at the other end, he may send his etheric waves travelling through all infinity without impressing their intelligibility upon any single mind. So, too, the means of communication between the living and the dead have been in existence from the beginning, but we are only now rousing our minds to investigate them, and we cannot be sure that those with whom we desire to communicate are working on the same lines.

To suppose that the soul of man on leaving the body becomes perfect in wisdom and power is unscientific. We must suppose that the processes of gradual growth and evolution persist throughout the universe, and that those who have passed from the earth are still gleaners in the infinite fields of God's enormous scheme. They are struggling to communicate with us, we opine, just as we are struggling to communicate with them. The media of communication are not yet apprehended on either side; we are fumbling at the end of our telephone, and they are fumbling at the end of theirs. But we have innumerable records of appearances after death, of stammered spiritual communication through the mouths of unpaid mediums, and of marvellous messages from the dead by means of automatic writing. These are open to two interpretations: either they are marvellous instances of messages "getting through," or they are instances of telepathy—a mystery almost as wonderful. I venture to tell two stories which seem to me to establish the former hypothesis. They have not been published, they have not been investigated by the Society for Psychical Research; but he who told me the stories is a man eminent in science, whose integrity and critical acumen are not be doubted, and he himself inquired into both stories, and found them true.

THE INVISIBLE HANDS.

A lady, who knew nothing of psychics and had never heard automatic writing, was mourning the death of her husband—the best, the gentlest, the kindest of men—when she found herself one evening moved to sit down and write at her escretoire. Until the pen dropped from her fingers she was unaware of how she came to be writing, and of what she had written. When she read the pages it was to find that she had written a painful confession from her dead husband, and a passionate and imploring demand for her for-giveness. A name and an address were given in the letter, and inquiry proved that for many years the husband had been living a double life.

The second story was told to me during the Boer war. A young girl whose brother was in South Africa suddenly found herself constrained to write, and the words she wrote were from her brother; who told her that he had been shot through the heart at such a place, that he had fallen into the arms of two friends to whom he desired her to make certain gifts from a specified drawer in his wardrobe, and concluded by telling her that he was in a world like her own, that he suffered no pain in dying, and that he was then about to explore his new surroundings. Telegrams and letters from the two friends who had tended him bore out the facts.

Kant, as we know, was impressed by the marvellous faculties of Swedenborg. What does science make of them? Here was a man of the profoundest learning and the most earnest spirituality, who described a fire at the moment of its breaking out 300 miles away, who accurately foretold the day of his own death, and delivered to the Queen of Sweden a message from her dead brother of which the Queen declared on coming out of the swoon into which this intelligence had thrown her: "There are only God and my brother who can know what he has just told me."

With such stories I could fill books. But the purpose of these articles is only to show that we have knowledge sufficient to warrant our belief that immortality is demonstrable and that Science is steadily moving forward to that end.

It is not contended that Science should believe every ghost story in existence—it would make small difference to us if she did; but we argue that there is sufficient evidence in existence to draw Science away from much of her unprofitable materialism to consider the larger and more worthy subject to man's spiritual consciousness.

"Materialists" says Tolstoy, "mistake that which limits life for life itself." It is a mistake which Science is beginning to see, even if she has not yet begun to acknowledge it.—Harold Begbie in the "Daily Mail."

A GRAND WRESTLING MATCH.

"Ustad Noor-ud-Din, Contractor for wrestling matches," issues a notice of a grand wrestling match to be held at Shahdara Sarai (near Lahore) in which he announces that it is between the Rustom of India and the Giant of India named Kallu and Kikar Singh repectively. Some interesting statistics are furnished, they are 6 feet and 7 feet respectively, and their weight in in maunds is also exactly 6 and 7; their chests are 2½ and 3 feet, and backs 3 and 3½ feet. It is related how the late Ghulam was the only one who could face the giant, and now his broher has been enabled to succeed to that task, and ha been enabled to succeed to that task, and has challenged Kikar Singh to come out and wrestle with him. In view of this approaching contest, the Russo-Japanese war already begins to pall.

THE MAN WHO BEGAN THE WAR.

Captain Roudneff, late of the Russian cruiser Variag, who is reported to have blown up his ship when all was lost so as to prevent her capture by the Japanese, bore a very considerable resemblance in appearance to Captain Percy Scott, of the British Navy. Only Captain Roudneff was of fairer hue than our gunnery captain. In person, he was rather short, with a closely-clipped beard and moustache. Like several of the Japanese officers to whom he was opposed his face was pitted with smallpox marks.

In manner he was a pleasant companion; but with it he was of a singularly firm and decided disposition. He had the reputation of doing most things that he was determined on, and it was not his fault that the Variag was defeaed at Chemulpho. No one who knew him credited for an instant the report that he had surrendered his ship without firing a shot; that was not the Roudneff way, or the way of any Russian officer for that matter.

He and Admiral Alexeieff were old shipmates, and he had served under the Viceroy of the Far East in many capacities. He had only recently taken over the command of the Variag: had he been her captain longer the Chemulpho fight might perhaps have had a different termination. His previous service was assistant to the Admiral-Superintendent at Port Arthur, a post that he had held for two years. Special interest now centres in him because he was the man who began the war, in so far as the first shot was fired by the Korietz, a vessel of the division of which he was in command.

He is dead now; and the Russian version of how hostilities came to be commenced will never be known fully. But Roudneff was the last man in the world to have acted rashly or without a full sense of the responsibility of his act. In the Russian fleet his name will long be remembered as that of one who preserved the honour of its flag in defeat.

THE "SOUTH OF INDIAN OBSERVER" LIBEL CASE.

An Ootacamund correspondent writes under date March 4.—His Honour delivered judgment in this case on Tuesday last,. The evidence was limited, being only that of Mr. Rungiah Gownden for the plaintiff and of the Proprietor and Editor of the "South of India Observer" for the defence.

The first libel complained of was published as far back as the 6th June last, and was contained, it was said, in an article written in favour of the British Brewery. The Judge dismissed this part of the plaint by declaring that the article was not a libel. The second libel was said to have occurred in a paragraph published on the 15th August, which gave, as an ordinary piece of local news, the information that a prosecution of the Nilgiri and Castle Breweries by Government was contemplated for clandestine manufacture of beer. which had been going on for years. This paragraph, the Court held, was not justified. It was published on the report of the Deputy Commissioner of the Abkari Department, who, in addressing the Board of Revenue on the subject after his enquiries at both the Breweries, stated that malpractices of the kind had been going on, he believed, for years. In his evidence before Mr. Hannyngton, the Head Assistant Magistrate, however, the Deputy Commissioner modified this statement, saying he had no information of the fact that the malpractices were of longstanding. Mr. Rungiah Gownden in his evidence said that the damage suffered by him was in part due to what had appeared in the "South of India Observer." He added that he had for 20 years, worked amicably with the Abkari Department, which corrected him or his people, when they committed a breach of rules. It was only, on the present occasion, that they prosecuted him and his brewers. He further stated, that the paper was never hostile to him before in any of the various capacities in which he had carried on business on the Nilgiris, and that the defendant was unknown to him and had no reason to be hostile. Referring to the apology offered, he said he did not accept it, because it was no more than an apology, and was not accompanied with a tender of damages. He was of opinion that in a case of injury of this nature, damages should be offered with the apology.

The proprietor of the "South of India Observer" said that the first article did not refer to the plaintiffs at all, but as they thought it did, he was quite prepared to give an apology on any reasonable terms that they dictated and instructed his Solicitors to comply with such a request. As regards the paragraph of the 15th August, he said it was true to his belief, and was a matter of common conversation in the station and apparently in the knowledge of everybody. In the end no apology was accepted, though the witness was prepared to offer one and give it the publicity that the plaintiffs desired.

The judgment traverses the pleadings, considers the law of libel as applicable to the case and concludes by awarding the plaintiffs Rs. 500 as damages with proportionate costs. The plaintiffs, however, have to pay the defendant's costs on the amount of damages claimed but disallowed, amounting to Rs. 9,500.

LHASA—A CITY OF WOMEN.

—:-0-:—

In the Strand Magazine appears an especially interesting account of the Tibetan capital translated from the Russian of Mr. G. T. Tsybikov, who left Lhassa in September, 1901, although he did not reach home till the middle of a year. He was sent to Tibet by the Russian Imperial Geographical Society, and contrived to spend more than a year in and near Lhassa with a camera, with which the interesting photographs accompanying the article were taken.

The word Lhassa means "land of the gods" or "full of gods." It is after all not such an extremely ancient city, having been founded in the seventh century A. D., by the Khan Strontszen Gambo, who brought with him the famous statues of Buddha still preserved in Lhassa, and who settled on the hill now crowned by the Palace of the Dalai-Lama. The city is situated in a broad plain much subject to floods. It is almost circular in form and about one English mile in diameter. The circular road around it is not more than eight miles long. The houses of the common people are stone, plate, or unbaked bricks, without glass in the windows; and the ancient palace of the Tibetan kings is the only building in Lhassa not allowed to be whitewashed.

The palace of the Dalai-Lama, to judge from the photograph, is a most imposing-looking edifice. It was evidently originally built as a fortress. It is 1,400ft. long, and nine to ten storeys high. To build it the Tibetans used all the architectural skill they possessed, and it contains all that is best and richest in Tibet, especially the golden epitaph of the fifth Dalai Lama himself, but numerous officials, followers, and others, including 500 monks, whose chief duties are apparently to pray for the happiness and long life of the august one.

"The women in Lhassa seem to have it much their own way, and the city should afford many arguments for the feminist. Of its entire poplation—hardly more than 10,000—at least two-thirds are women; and not only Lhassa, but Tibet itself can be described as the land of women and women's rights. The clerks in the shops, except those kept by Kashmir and Nepaul merchants, are nearly all women. I can recall no occupation that is carried on in the country in which women are not actively engaged, and they often conduct great undertakings quite independently of men. The preponderating feminist influence is ascribed by the writer to the vast number of celibate priests. The result of this institution to a large part of the female population are complete independence both in business and in personal conduct. In family life both polygamy and polyandry are met with. The marriage of several brothers with one wife, or of several sisters with one husband is regarded as the idea condition."

OYSTER FISHING IN CEYLON.

We understand, says the "Times of Ceylon," that as a result of further dredging operations, Mr. Hornell has estimated 24,000,000 oysters or 11,000,000 more than the original calculation. This all means additional revenue to Government if the estimate is realised, but it does not necessarily mean that speculators' chances are improved. Taking the average price which Government will receive by the sale of the oysters at Rs. 30 per thousand—and this is rather under than above what might be expected—the receipts from the sale of 24,000,000 oysters would be seven lakhs of rupees, but the contingent expenses would considerably reduce this sum. The number of oysters which the various paars last year were estimated to contain totalled 81 millions; but there were four paars fished on the last occasion and only the West Cheval Paar is to be fished this year. It should be pointed out that the Government has not notified what the samples of pearls are like, this is an important omission, but Mr. Hornell may not yet have sent down a sufficiently full report. As regards last year's fishery it was well known that Government was the only party which came out of the affair with success. Speculators in oysters lost considerably; the buyers of pearls, of course, were safe enough; and one or two individuals were also smart enough to make a good deal of profit by bringing the oysters down to Colombo in large quantities and selling them at a much higher figure than they had given for them at Marichchikaddi. Syndicates—European and otherwise—after last year's experience, are likely to fight shy of such unprofitable speculation. We understand that Mr. R. G. Saunders is going to Marichchikaddi with Mr. Horsburgh to assist in looking after the arrangements, for the fishery. Mr. Dixon, the mining expert, is expected to arrive in the island in about a week's time, and he will be occupied at the fishery with his patent machine which was worked last year. The B. I. S. N. Company will make arrangements for regular sailings from Colombo to Marichchikaddi and back. The Bhadra is laying up for eight days, and her place on the run to paumben, etc., has been taken by the Amra. The Bhadra will probably run in connection with the forthcoming fishery.

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