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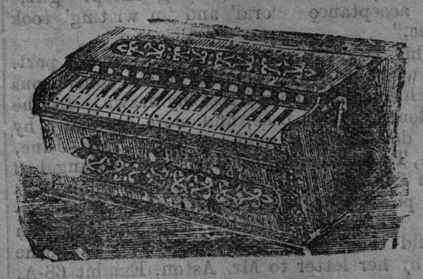

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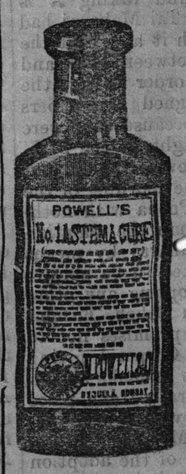

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE TILAK APPEAL.

—:0:—

JUDGMENT.

(*Concluded*)

Exhibit D 57 runs as follows:—"You honoured my request and gave me in adoption your middle son Jagonath to continue the name and family of my deceased husband and as he has after him. . . . Dattakputra has been executed separately." "I shall not adopt any boy other than this your son." Mr. Clements is of opinion that these documents amount to nothing more than an agreement to adopt, but they may at times also under certain circumstances be evidence that an adoption had actually taken place. It is a significant circumstance that Tai Maharaj has herself executed no formal deed in favour of Bhau Saheb, but has only signed the letter D-57. When she subsequently adopted Bala Maharaj she passed a regular deed in his favour. Tilak and Tai Maharaj returned to Poona on 29th June. From this date onwards there are numerous letters, telegrams, etc., and from these it must, if possible, be ascertained what really took place at Aurangabad. I shall go through them at some length quoting the passages which appear to me to be pertinent, and afterwards I shall show the conclusions at which I have arrived on 29th June. Tai Maharaj signed two letters, one in English and the other in vernacular, to Mr. Aston, Agent for the Sardars of the Deccan. Tilak himself admits that he himself wrote one and dictated the contents of another. I may quote from 68-A as follows: "I have with the advice of several respectable gentlemen selected one Jagonath. Preliminary documents have been executed, and the ceremony of adoption will shortly be celebrated in Poona. I have written this letter to give you early intimation of what has been done in the matter up to the present time. 68-B is concluded in similar terms but the same day Tilak discovered Nagpurkar's dissentient minute on the proceeding of the meeting of 18th June and wrote below what he had to say about it on 30th June. Three letters were written, viz., one to Bhau Saheb Deo, one to Khaparde, and one to Khumbojkar. The latter were not produced in the Magistrate's court. It appeared to me that the letter to Khumbojkar must be a very useful document that it contained a full account of what took place at Aurangabad. It was brought to my notice by Tai Maharaj. It is quite certain that the contents of these letters were known to Tilak, and had his full approval. Along with it D-65 were known to Tilak and had his full approval. Along with D-63 were sent copies of Baba Maharaj's will and the probate: there is nothing of particular importance in this letter; from the letter of Khumbojkar I may quote the following extracts. "Mr. Khaparde told me to adopt anyone of these (five boys) especially, if possible the one who has now been adopted on Thursday (27th June) the Shastris, etc., assembled in the room and in their presence and in the presence of the people who had come from Nidhone, the question which of the five boys should be adopted was discussed, and it was decided that Jagonath should be adopted. In the assemblage of the aforesaid Shastris, etc., Mr. Tilak on my behalf requested Bhau Saheb Deo to give his boy and he agreed to the request. After that a draft of the Dattakputra was prepared and documents were engrossed on Mogiai and British stamped papers and were signed by Bhau Saheb Deo and myself. After breaking our fast on Friday we started by the 10 a.m. train. After coming here (Poona) a letter was sent to the agent intimating that Bhau Saheb Deo's son, Jagonath, was approved. In short, there remains no work connected with the adoption. The ceremony which was to be performed will be performed soon after the selection on an auspicious day. You should obtain soon the permission to adopt from the Kolhapur State—obtain a permission for adoption in general." On 5th July Tilak wrote a report to the co-trustees. This was written apparently in consequence of the discovery of Nagpurkar dissentient minute. I may quote from this as follows: "He (Nagpurkar) has clearly written that he is not against the wishes of the trustees, and on that understanding we went to Aurangabad, and after giving a boy on the lap of Tai Maharaj returned after personally disposing of the matter as settled." The words on lap in Marathi do not necessarily mean that the boy was actually placed on Tai Maharaj's lap. They are used as the equivalent of adoption (vide Baba Maharaj's will). Exhibit 63 is a statement of the expenses incurred in connection with the journey to Aurangabad, copies by Nagpurkar on 4th July." The heading of these accounts contains the following: "Expenditure incurred when the trustees and Tai Maharaj had gone to Nidhone, near Aurangabad, on 19th June, 1901, after fixing upon a day. Tai Maharaj on 6th July, 1901, had an interview with Mr. Aston, in the course of which she wrote D-22, which she says contains all she said to Mr. Aston. This I regard as an important document, because it is the first time that Tai Maharaj has written anything to show that the trustees were in any way coercing her (I omit from consideration Exhibit 45 for the reasons already given). In Exhibit D-22 she says "the boy made (sic) by Tilak is not approved by me' and she proceeds to throw herself on Mr. Aston's protection beseeching him to assist her in carrying out the wishes of her deceased husband.

By this time Nagpurkar had brought his influence to bear on her. During the absence of Tai Maharaj and the trustees at Aurangabad Pandit Maharaj, the brother of Bala Maharaj, had come to Poona and seen Nagpurkar. Tai Maharaj was, no doubt, anxious to adopt Bala Maharaj when she saw Mr. Aston. It is to be noticed in D-22 that not one word is to be said about ill-treatment at Aurangabad or having been compelled forcibly to sign the adoption deed. On 11th July Tai Maharaj wrote to the Kolhapur durbar respecting permission to adopt Bala Maharaj. By this letter she has thrown down the gauntlet to Tilak. He replied without delay by a number of letters and telegrams to the Kolhapur durbar. D-41 is a telegram of 11th July from Tilak to the Diwan: "Trustees cannot sanction adoption; another boy has already been grown and taken. Any other adoption would be invalid in law." D-42 is another telegram of the same date to the Diwan: "Any adoption by Tai Maharaj without trustees' consent is void and illegal, according to Baba Maharaj's will." D-43 is a telegram of the same date in the same words as D-42 to a member of Council at Kolhapur. D-45 is a letter dated 11th July, and marked urgent from Tilak to the Diwan of Kolhapur. From this I quote as follows: Tai Maharaj, Khaparde and myself therefore started for Aurangabad, and in accordance with the resolution of the trustees selected and settled to take in adoption a boy named Jagonath, and thereupon a registered deed was passed by the father of the boy to Tai Maharaj giving his son in adoption and Tai Maharaj accepted the gift by a 'shera' on the documents. The adoption bueiness is thus practically completed so far as the giving and receiving of a boy is concerned and no other boy can now be adopted according to law. What remains is the ceremony which the trustees have resolved to celebrate. A boy from the Aurangabad family or branch has been selected, given, and taken for adoption." On the 12th July Tilak wrote another letter, Exhibit 46, to the Diwan. This contains nothing of particular importance. On the 13th May Tilak wrote a letter, Exhibit D-36, to Mr. Aston. "As a matter of fact the giving and receiving in adoption of such a boy has been effected with the full consent of Tai Maharaj at Aurangabad city. . . . The adoption now proposed is virtually a second adoption." On the 14th July Tilak wrote Exhibit D-47 to the Diwan of Kolhapur—"but I hope that the durbar has intimated to Guru Maharaj as well as Tai Maharaj that no adoption can take place without the consent of the trustees appointed by the late Shri Baba Maharaj's will." Before this, i.e. on the 12th July, Tilak had filed a suit (vide Exhibit 42) against Tai Maharaj and others for an injunction restraining Tai Maharaj from adopting a boy without the consent of the trustees. Not a word is said in this plaint about any adoption having already taken place at Aurangabad. This I regard as a very significant fact.

On the 12th July the Maharajas from Kolhapur arrived at Poona and the adoption of Bala Maharaj was arranged to take place at once. This was frustrated for the time being by Tilak who called Khaparde and Kumbhojkar to his aid. From 16th to 20th July occurred the events which form the subject of the second alleged statement. On the 28th July Tai Maharaj wrote a letter to the Maharaja of Kolhapur intimating that for the present she had postponed taking Bala in adoption. On the 19th August Bala Maharaj was adopted at Kolhapur and Tilak's authority was definitely at an end. On the 16th September Tilak and others filed a suit against Tai Maharaj and others (vide plaint, Exhibit 43) praying that Jagonath might be declared to be the adopted son of Baba Maharaj, and that Bala Maharaj's adoption might be declared to be illegal. In connection with this suit Tilak on 15th November, 1901, filed as an affidavit, Exhibit 11, which purports to be a full account of all that took place at Aurangabad. It is dated 1st August, 1901. This document I regard as being about the most important piece of evidence in the case. Tilak has sworn on oath to the truth of its contents, and it is minute in its details as to what took place at Aurangabad. I quote below as to the events on the afternoon of the 27th and the morning of the 28th June: "When the meeting was convened Shri Tai Maharaj was present. But she had gone in the meanwhile to pay her respects to God, and returned. After the boy was unanimously approved—the gift and acceptance 'in words' by the boy to be adopted was performed in the presence of all people. Then a draft of the deed of adoption was prepared and made over to the father of the boy and Tai Maharaj. This dattakputra' was executed on the 27th June, 1901, and then the signatures of Tai Maharaj and Bhau Saheb and the witnesses have been made in the presence of all the people assembled. In this very session Tai Maharaj wrote and signed a letter to Bhau Saheb about her having accepted Jagonath as her adopted son. As Tai Maharaj had no time to stay there any more, she, and Tilak and other persons started on the 28th June for Poona. In short the selection and confirmation of the boy were made and the gift and acceptance oral and in writing' means of the 'dattakputra' are made the in full meeting.

After her arrival (in Poona) she distributed sweetmeats for having come after having fixed upon the boy for adoption. 'A copy of the will was sent to Bhau Saheb' the father of the boy, 'to be adopted' or the adopted boy ('datakmul') bears both meanings. In this way the proceedings regarding the adoption of a boy were completed. The adopted boy ('datak ghethla mulga') is one of the sapindas. . . . . Besides Mr. Tilak has informed the Kolhapur State that 'a boy has been adopted' at Aurangabad. This is the account up to date." On the 21st November, 1901, Tilak asserted before Mr. Aston the 'corporal giving and taking.' I have set forth above the materials upon which I am now going to base my decision, as to whether or not Tai Maharaj actually took Jagonath on her lap on the morning of the 26th June, 1901, at Aurangabad. I have not commented on the various documents as I mentioned them but have satisfied myself with quoting verbatim what I consider to be the important passages. As far as the accused is concerned all his written accounts or allusions to what took place at the Aurangabad culminated in Exhibit 11 which purports to have been drawn up on August 1st. 1901. With regard to Exhibit 11 a very surprising difficulty arises. Tilak asserted before Mr. Aston on the 21st November that on the morning of the 28th June Tai Maharaj signed the documents and took Jagonath on her lap. In his written account, Exhibit II, he states that everything relating to the adoption was completed on the 27th June. If then he wished to state falsely that the corporal giving and taking (without which no adoption could be valid) took place, why did he not represent it as having taken place on the 27th which was the natural time for such an occurrence to have taken place? I say 'the natural time because if Tai Maharaj was willing to dopt Jagonath at Aurangabad she would naturally have done what was necessary to make the adoption valid in presence of the Shastris and others who had assembled on the afternoon of the 27th and not in the hurry of departure next morning. Neither side can give me any satisfactory answer to this question. The only explanation I can think of, assuming the statement to be false, is that Tilak knew, as a matter of fact, that Tai Maharaj signed the papers on the morning of the 28th, although they were completed on the 27th, and he himself admits that he endeavoured to get her to sign on that day. Knowing this he may have thought it the better plan talk on the corporal giving and taking to the signing of the documents which did actually take place on the 28th rather than to assert that it took place on the 27th, thereby contradicting Exhibit 11, in which he has distinctly shown that nothing except "gift," and acceptance 'oral' and 'in writing' took place."

This, however, is only a surmise on my part.

I will now briefly summarise the conclusions to which I have been irresistibly drawn. By the evidence in this case, and more especially by the documentary evidence after 28th June, 1901, Tai Maharaj went willingly to Aurangabad with Tilak and Khaparde to see the Babre boys and possibly to select one of them for adoption what she intended that the adoption should take place in Poona. This is borne out by her letter to Mr. Aston, Exhibit 68-A. The defence urge that the 'ceremony' alluded to in this and other documents means only a sort of social function which had nothing to do with the validity or otherwise of the adoption. This I do not believe. The boy Jagonath was selected at Aurangabad by the trustees. Tai Maharaj probably being a consenting party. I say 'probably' because there is nothing whatever to show that she was coerced into signing the adoption deeds and the letter to Bhau Saheb. She apparently said nothing about any coercion to Mr. Aston on the 6th July, when she could easily have done so. She steadfastly refused to do anything towards making a really valid adoption. Even as to the alleged 'oral' giving and taking it is quite clear to my mind that Tai Maharaj had nothing, whatever to do with it and that the solemn force gone through between Tilak and the Shastris was merely in order to get the Shastri's certificate. She signed the papers on the 28th in the morning because they were not ready till late on the night of the 27th. Tilak himself supports this view. She did not take the boy on her lap on the morning of the 28th and Tilak returned to Poona with nothing more tangible to go on than the adoption deed and letter to Bhau Maharaj by means of which he, no doubt, expected to be able to prevent Tai Maharaj from adopting any other boy (vide the letter to Bhau Saheb, Exhibit D-63) in which Tai Maharaj promises not to adopt any other boy. This Corporal giving and taking is the essential act to make an adoption valid. It would naturally take place along with whatever spoken words were necessary. I quite agree with Mr. Clements in thinking that the splitting up of the adoption into two parts, oral and corporal, is an invention of Tilak's brain. That Tilak's knowledge of the law of adoption was 'hazy' I do not for a moment believe. He knew that a giving and taking was the one and only thing essential to an adoption. His subsequent conduct shows conclusively that he could not have regarded the adoption as valid. Else why should he have applied for an injunction restraining Tai Maharaj from adopting Bala on the sole ground that the trustees had not given their consent to this adoption? If a valid adoption had already taken place surely this was a 'conclusive' reason why no second adoption could take place. Why then advance the very 'doubtful' ground that the second adoption without the trustees' consent would not be valid? In his letters he raises such expressions as 'virtually' a second adoption, 'practically' an adoption, an adoption 'by registered deed,' and so on. Would a man who knows that a valid complete adoption had taken place write in such guarded terms? I feel certain that he would not. Tai Maharaj in her letter to Mr. Aston (Exhibit 68-D) admittedly written by Tilak, says "preliminary documents" have been executed, the "ceremony" will therefore take place. This "ceremony" can mean nothing else than the formal giving and taking which Tai Maharaj interested all along should take place at Poona. Again it is not conceivable that Tai Maharaj or Nagpurkar should, almost immediately after the former's return from Aurangabad, have set about making preparations for adopting Bala Maharaj if the boy at Aurangabad had already been adopted. The fact that there was nothing more than "preliminary documents "which had no legal force at all paved the way for Nagpurkar to push forward his schemes for the adoption of Bala Maharaj.

Tilak aware that no valid adoption had taken place, used every means in his power to prevent the adoption of Bala Maharaj, and yet until his statement to Mr. Aston he never asserted in so many words that the one essential act to make the Aurangabad adoption valid had taken place. For all these reasons I hold that he intentionally made a false statement to the effect that Tai Maharaj took Jagonath on her lap on the morning of June 28th, 1901. The question then arises, What was his motive in making this false statement; motive is not essential to his conviction in this case but it certainly is to be taken into consideration when estimating the criminality of his act. Mr. Clements does not come to the definite conclusion that he had any corrupt motive in what he did. He says "the only alternative is to regard the act of perjury of which he has been found guilty as the demented act of an obstinate man who has been completely defeated by people whom he apparently made the mistake of despising." I think that in saying this Mr. Clements has come somewhere very near the truth. I believe that in desiring the adoption of Jagonath the accused's motives were pure and that he foresaw evil consequences to the estate if Nagpurkar succeeded in geeting Tai Maharaj, to adopt Bala Maharaj. When Bala was ultimately adopted on the 19th August, 1901, his mother passed a deed to Tai Maharaj (Exhibit D-17), a persual of which shows that although Bala was even then a minor, and as such entitled at once to enter upon the control of the estate he became a mere pensioner, and all the management of the estate remained with Tai Maharaj, a young Hindu widow, who was under the thumb of an unscrupulous schemer like Nagpurkar. Assuming as I do that Tilak really desired the welfare of the Maharaj family and the improvement of the estate he must have been, to say the least, disgusted at the course events had taken and exasperated at having been outwitted by a man like Nagpurkar. Such feelings would be merely human nature. I am not prepared to say that he had any excuse for deliberately committing perjury, but I do think that there are extenuating circumstances in his case, the more so as Nagpurkar and Tai Maharaj have, I am convinced, both of them given false evidence against him before Mr. Clements. Again, to an obstinate and masterful man such as Tilak undoubtedly is, the long punishing examination which he underwent in Mr. Aston's court, must have proved a severe trial of temper.

I now come to the consideration of the second alleged false statement. Mr. Clements says that this was "a defence to an imputation side 63 of his judgment). I may quote from Tilak's statement to Mr. Aston, page 23, giving the alleged false statement with its content." Court: The suggestion appears to be that you were looking in the lady Tai Maharaj and preventing ingress and egress so far as that lady was concerned. I do not gather from your answers how you answer that 'imputation.' We never kept her under restrain nor intended to do so. Court: Your previous answers do not show that and this is why I made this above remark. A.—I can explain any of the answers which may appear to go against this "view.' Q.—How was she to leave the house or be communicated with if you kept the door locked and kept watch? A.—She never usually wanted to go into, and if any one wanted to see her he had to send in his card and give information to Mr. Khaparde." From the foregoing it appears that Tilak's view was that he had not confined Tai Maharaj. Now it is quite concernable that different persons may hold different views as to what constitutes 'confinement.' If Tilak confined Tai Maharaj at all presumably the confinement was 'wrongful.' The definition of wrongful confinement in the Indian Penal Code is as follows: "Whoever wrongfully restrains any persons in such a manner as to prevent that person from proceeding beyond certain circumscribing limits is said to wrongfully confine that person." As is to be expected the oral evidence regarding the alleged confinement of Tai Maharaj between the 16th and 28th July is altogether unreliable. The accused and Khaparde admit that they kept the front door of the wada shut, or if not shut a watch was kept there from 16th to 20th July. There is no satisfactory evidence to show that Tai Maharaj was prevented from moving about inside the wada just as she likes; indeed the fact that when the court officials visited the wada on the 20th July. They found her in Nagpurkar's quarters, goes to show that she could go about inside just as she liked. The reason alleged by the accused for keeping the wada in a state of siege during these days was that they found Pandit Maharaj and his followers might effect a forcible entrance. Admitting the accused and Khaparde were doing all they could prevent Tai Maharaj from adopting Bala Maharaj and to bring Nagpurkar to a frame of mind consonant with their wishes. It is quite possible that they intended to prevent people from outside holding communication with Tai Maharaj in the wada, but this of itself would not constitute confinement. By Tai Maharaj's room admission she only once made an attempt to go out of the wada during the days from 16th to 20th July when she sent a message to Khaparde by the man Shankar Gurao (not called as a witness). This was on Thursday (15 June) on which day Tai Maharaj wished to visit the temple of Rama as she was accustomed to do on Thursdays.

She says that Khaparde sent back a message of refusal we have not her word for this as against Khaparde's.

Khaparde says in his examination-in-chief at p. 283 "on that day (19th) after 5 o'clock Tai Maharaj sent word to me saying that she wished to go to a temple in Maharaj's garden. We were writing a memorandum for the information of Mr. Aston and I requested her to wait and assist in its preparation: So she sat down there and waited and as we did not finish the memorandum till late in the evening she did not go to the temple. In cross-examination she says (page 317) one of the servants brought me Tai Maharaj's message on Thursday afternoon. . . . . I did not send for her. I do not remember that I asked her to come to me. When we were preparing the letter to Mr. Aston I have a notion that she passed that way or was thereabout. . . . The passage in my examination-in-chief: She sat down there and waited is correct. She may have sat down in the room where we were or in the room adjoining." Taking the statements of Tai Maharaj and Khaparde into consideration I do not think I am justified in concluding that Khaparde actually forbade Tai Maharaj to go out to Rama's temple that day. It must be remembered that Tai Maharaj was a lady of position and would certainly not go in and out of the road at all hours of the day like an ordinary Hindu woman. Besides it is amply shown by the record in this case that upto a certain point she never did anything without consulting one or other Trustees. Of course the assertion of Khaparde and Tilak that Tai Maharaj was practically their ward is absurd. Tilak and Khaparde left the wada on the 20th July and it was not till the 28th July that she made any complaint to the police about having been confined, some of the witnesses for the prosecution have been proved to have stated falsely, e. g., Balwant Baburao (Exhibit 81) nephew of Nagpurkar who says he was not allowed to leave the wada to go out to school on the 16th July as the door was locked. The school register shows beyond all doubt that he did attend school on that day. I feel certain that no conviction for wrongful confinement could have been obtained against Tilak on such evidence as has been brought in this case. For all these reasons I am of opinion that it has not been proved that Tilak stated what he believed to be false or did not believe, to be true when he said "we never confined Tai Maharaj nor intended to do so." I confirm the conviction of the accused so far as the first of the two alleged false statements is concerned. Under ordinary circumstances an examplary punishment is necessary for an offence such as this. But as I do not take such an unfavourable view of the accused's conduct throughout as Mr. Clements has done and as I think there are certain extenuating circumstances in the case I reduce the sentence to one of six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000, or in default further rigorous imprisonment for two months.

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THE SALT COMMISSION.

A Cochin correspondent writes under date Jan. 5:—The Salt Commission arrives at Ernakulam, Cochin, this evening from Madras. The Dewan of Travancore arrived at Ernakulam yesterday from Paravoor, some of the Travancore officials are with him to give him the necessary information in connection with the subjects to be discussed by the Commission. One of them will be the question of introducing retail sale by weight and not by measure, as at present. The recent arrangements made by the Cochin Durbar in respect of the supply of Bombay salt for the State will also, I am told, be one of the subjects. The two Durbars will explain their respective systems of salt administration. It is understood that Mr. Shungara Soobyer, the late Dewan of Travancore, will be examined by the Commission on behalf of Travancore.

THE 'DECCAN TIMES" ACTION.

Secunderabad, Jan. 4.

Much public sympathy has been recently aroused with regard to the case of George Arnold Fernandez, editor and proprietor of the "Deccan Times," who, it will be remembered, was sentenced, in November last, to ten months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 under sections 406 and 417, Indian Penal Code. Whilst Fernandez was on trial in important letter, which the prosecution denied writing, and Fernandez's press copying book suddenly disappeared. Two European witnesses gave evidence as to having seen the letter, but the accused's wife repudiated their statements, and the Cantonment Magistrate, in his judgment held that no such letter could have existed. The letter was, however, subsequently found, and produced at the appeal before the Sessions Judge on the 2nd December, and threw an entirely different light on the facts. The hearing was then again adjourned to enable a search to be made for the letter book which had disappeared. When Mr. Eardley Norton was here he was consulted by the relatives of the accused, when the letter book was produced but it was somehow lost sight of after the interview. It was thought that Mr. Norton had by mistake got it mixed up with his papers and Mrs. Fernandez subsequently proceeded to Madras and interviewed Mr. Norton, who then remembered handing the booy to Mr. Galloway, Superintendent of Police, on the morning he left for Madras. Mrs. Fernandez swore to the information she received from Mr. Norton before Major Haig, Sessions Judge whereupon he addressed a letter to Mr. Galloway asking for the production of the book or for information as to its whereabouts, and adjourned the further hearing to the 29th ultimo, on which date no reply being forthcoming from Mr. Galloway he again adjourned the hearing to the 4th instant. No reply being forthcoming to-day he granted a further adjournment to the 13th instnat.—"Times of India."

THE KALACHERRA DACOITY.

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Arrest of 23 Kabulis.

We have received an account of how a number of Kabulis have been arrested in conviction with that sensational Kalacherra Dacoity. It appears that immediately after the occurrence the news spread like wild fire all over the Sub-division. That very night the Hailakandy Police deputed two Constables on the scent of the culprits. Next morning they joined hands with the Head Constable of the Cutlicherra Out-post who at once made for Olicherra in which direction, he understood, a number of Kabulis passed by his Thana early that morning. Proceeding a little way he was informed by certain villagers and a mail runner that some 26 Kabulis entered the jungle of an adjacent tillah whereupon the Head Constable called to his aid some coolies from the Manipore tea garden and Bustiwallas numbering 30 or 40. On their surrounding the tillah the Kabulis became furious and ran towards a Bheel. The Head Constable pursued them with his men and came down upon them. A hard fight then ensued and after great difficulty eight of the gang were arrested. The rest took to their heels. Immediately after one Mohabir Sirdar of the Manipur Tea Estate seized eight more and the remaining ten wended their way towards Chattacherra hill, the police pursuing them onward. On receipt of a wire from the District Superintendent of Cachar, the Inspector of Police, Karimganj with the Officiating Sub-Inspector of Patherkandy proceeded to the foot of the hills in the neighbourhood of Dullabcherra and Hatikhira, and it is said that owing mainly to the detective ability and exertion of the Sub-Inspector Babu Sarada Charan Sen 7 more Kabulis were put under arrest from time to time. The stolen property to the extent of Rs. 1400 and some ornaments and documents have also been recovered. The Kabulis threw away the stolen properties into the "Bheel" at the time of their arrest. It is now said that in order to disperse the dacoits a house in the Kalacherra Bazar was set on fire at the instance of Mr. Burt. To keep his movements in the dark, the District Superintendent came alone to Kalacherra leaving his force behind, when to his dismay, he was face to face with the miscreants. He however sought the help of Mr. Blackney, Manager of the Kalacherra Tea Estate, which, if at all given would have been too late to avert the daring robbery. The setting of the house on fire was possibly the only resource left to him to resort to. It is believed that under special orders of the Chief Commissioner, Mr. Davis, Inspector General of Police who had left Hailakandy after the occurrence, was recalled from Jorehat to watch the progress of the investigation. We are also informed that a Sub-Inspector from Sylhet has been deputed to Hailakandy. In this connection we can not too sufficiently thank the Hon: Mr. Fuller for the prompt and vigorous measures he has inaugurated for the suppression of Kabuli turbulence in the country. The courage and ability displayed by the two Police officers and a sirdar of the Manipore garden are highly commendable and will no doubt receive their fitting rewards.

Imaginary Ailments

THERE are many who have pains in the back and imagine that their kidneys are affected, while the only trouble is a rheumatism of the muscles, or, at worst, lumbago, that can be cured by a few applications of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, or by damping a piece of flannel with Pain Balm and binding it on over the affected parts.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE

Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY, 14, 1904.

THE PARTITION QUESTION DISCUSSED.

MR. RISLEY does not attach any value to sentiment. Perhaps he means sentiments which are absurd. Be it so. Does he remember what the old Sikh General said? He said that, if the British ever lost their Empire of India, they would do it over the cow question. Is not the sacred regard that the Hindus entertain for the cow a sentiment? And is not that sentiment, according to him, absurd? But yet, if the Government does not respect it, there will be a convulsion all over India. So good policy requires that the sentiments of the Indians, even when they are absurd, should be respected.

Does Mr. Risley know that it is not the "natives" alone that object to the partition, but there are Englishmen also who do so? We came across one the other day who, when this question was broached, declared, (let us use his own language):—

"This project of the Government means wanton waste of time, wanton waste of energy, wanton creation of needless misery, and excitement. It means, from an administrative point of view, utter confusion."

Perhaps it may be contended that the Englishman, who condemned the project in so strong a language, is a "traitor" like Wedderburn, or Digby. But no, he is an official who is fully the peer of Mr. Risley in position, and superior to him in experience. Of course we can not mention his name, for he spoke in confidence; but if Mr. Risley is anxious to consult his countrymen, whose opinion he is bound to respect,—who are his peers in every respect, and who have a wide experience of the country,—we can point out such men.

Talking of administrative inconvenience, which of course includes judicial arrangement also, when will the Government publish the opinion of the High Court on the proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division in 1896-97, and when will the Government invite the opinion of the High Court on the proposed transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh also? Mr. Risley, in his letter to the Government of Bengal, admits that the proposed transfer of the Chitagong Division was opposed by Sir Henry Cotton. It is but fair that his opinion should also see the light of the day. But though the public is anxious to know what Sir Henry said in this connection, the Government apparently is as anxious to withhold its publication. The Bengal Landholder's Association, we understand, applied to the Government for copies of the official communications noted above; but, though a fortnight has elapsed since they submitted their prayer, no reply has yet been vouchsafed.

The "Bengal Times," is an independent Anglo-Indian paper of long-standing, and, with some of its views on public questions, we do not agree. Many of its constituents are, we believe, among the tea planters of Assam who are naturally for the annexation of Eastern Bengal to Assam; for, it means prosperity to them all along the line. The editor is, however, an honest Englishman. He is in the midst of the people of Dacca, with many of whom, holding leading positions in society, he has been in intimate terms since the last thirty years, and he sees with his own eyes how the whole town has been convulsed over the question of the dismemberment. And though his personal interest lies in supporting the proposal of the Government, his strong sense of right will not permit him of doing so. Hence he describes in a long article, handled with ability, how hundreds and thousands have almost gone mad over this matter; how it is sentiment for cherished institutions and associations that is playing an important part; how the Government should not trample down but respect this outburst of national feeling; and how, if the dismemberment is effected, the religious and social usages of the people would be interfered with. We trust, Mr. Risley will read the article of the "Bengal Times" which is reproduced elsewhere; for, coming from an Anglo-Indian journalist who is interested in supporting the Government project, it has its great value, specially when the writer speaks from his own personal experience.

The "Bengal Times" does not exaggerate in the least when it says that the Vikrampur Pundits, who are now held in high esteem throughout Bengal, will gradually lose their position, and therefore, the privilege of being invited to important festivals and ceremonies in the West, if the province is placed under two separate Governments, and thereby forfeit the honorariums by which they maintain themselves and their "toles." Similarly, the scheme, if carried out, will deal a deadly blow to an important social reform, namely, the amalgamation of the Kayesthas of the East and the West, which is now in the hands of the Kayestha Sabha of Calcutta. The reason why intermarriages among the four sub-subdivisions of Kayesthas ceased to take place was that, previously, there was very little communication between East and West Bengal, as big rivers intervened between them. But as railways and steamers have removed this difficulty, the members of the different sub-castes are getting familiar with one another, and willing to introduce inter-marriages amongst themselves. But, if they live under different Governments and have different interests, the old estrangement will be revived, and the reform, which has now been practically effected, will again slip out of the hands of the Kayesthas.

BENGAL IN CONVULSION.

EVERY other question just now is nowhere before that of the proposed dismemberment of Bengal; for, the effect of the proposal, if carried out, would be the emasculation of the Bengalees as a nation. Indeed, if Eastern Bengal cannot do without the Western, so will Western Bengal be crippled for ever, if it were separated from the former. We have thus to devote a considerable portion of our space to the discussion of this all-important and all-engrossing topic of the day.

Mr. Risley, in his letter to the Bengal Government, was good enough to admit that "the Governor-General in Council thinks it not unlikely that the proposal (of transferring East Bengal to Assam) which has been here put forward may meet with keen criticism, and perhaps in parts with strenuous opposition." The nature of the agitation, however, shows that the Government had not the slightest idea of the volume and intensity of the opposition which the project would call forth. Fancy that already many scores,—perhaps hundreds—of protest meetings have been held, not "in parts," but all over the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh, though the announcement of the revolutionary measure, was made only about a month ago. Chittagong also has entered its emphatic protest, in spite of the assertion of Mr. Risley that it has acquiesced in the proposed arrangement of the Government. Such a spectacle was never seen in the annals of political agitation in this country barring the occasion when the Age of Consent Bill was introduced in the Supreme Council.

Hundreds of public meetings are yet to start up, as soon as the general masses come to realize the magnitude of the calamity that threatens them. Is further evidence necessary to disprove the allegation that the movement is not artificial, and that all classes of people have been powerfully moved by the proposed change? The Hindu Pundits, who do not know what agitation is, have been stirred up, and they are going to hold their protest meetings. Our Mussalman brethren have also their national way of expressing dissatisfaction, which is to hold prayer meetings in mosques and musjids, and many such meetings have been held in Dacca and Mymensingh.

Arrangements for a representative meeting of Zemindars, Talukdars, and other land-holders as well as delegates from the interior of Dacca were being made; but, public feeling became so keen that it was thought necessary to hold a mass meeting in the meantime in that town. An open air meeting was therefore held at Sadarghat, Dacca, on the 4th instant, a graphic account of which from our own correspondent was published in our Friday's issue. It was attended by the prominent members of all sections of the community, and some twenty thousand people attended it. "From Sadarghat to the Northbrok Hall the whole ground was, literally packed" says our correspondent. Rai Kali Prosonno Ghose Bahadoor, who addressed the meeting, said that he had never seen such a large gathering before.

Can it be possible that all this is the work of a few wire-pullers? Some mischievous fellows, it is said, tried to dissuade the Mussalmans from attending the above meeting on the ground that the Nawab Bahadoor of Dacca had no sympathy with the movement. But the Mussalman citizens of Dacca not only mustered very strong but said that they could not believe that "the Nawab, the premier Zemindar of Dacca, could keep himself aloof from a movement which proposes to lay the axe at the very root of their future progress and prosperity, both social and political." If such demonstrations from all classes of people will not convince the authorities of the genuineness of the alarm, which the project has created in the country, they will only remind the people of the adage that, a man who is sleeping can be roused but not one who is wide awake but feigning sleep. It should also be noted that, the people of Dacca and Mymensingh are carrying on the agitation in spite of the distinct request of their Commissioner, Mr. Savage, who is strongly in favour of the dismemberment.

The project, which the Government has thrust upon the quiet people of this country, has suddenly thrown them in a state of convulsion. Let us take the case of a big machinery, which is moved by electrical power, lying still. A key is turned, and ten thousand devils are let loose. Bengal was quiet, and if there was some unrest among the educated community on account of the many projects before the Council,—such as the Universities Bill, the Official Secrets Bill, etc.,—yet the fifty millions of the masses were quietly tilling their lands, cutting their paddy, and carrying on their other humble avocations. But the Government touched a key; and the whole country has been thrown topsy turvy. And this reminds us of the terse saying of the big and experienced official whose language we quoted yesterday, which, let us quote again. Said he:—

"This project of the Government means wanton waste of time, wanton waste of energy, wanton creation of needless misery, and excitement. It means, from an administrative point of view, utter confusion."

Let us live in peace; this hot pressure system of Government does not suit the lifeless and peaceful people of this country.

HOW DISTRICT OFFICERS ARE BEING WELL-NIGH KILLED BY OVERWORK.

WE stated yesterday how the Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality have been turned out by the Government and its affairs placed under the control of the District Magistrate. This is exceedingly kind of the Government. But why were not the Nadia people allowed to enjoy their filth which, it seems, they love so much? And why was thus some additional work thrown upon the hard-worked Magistrate of the district?

These Magistrates are overwhelmed with work, and, are, from one point of view, wretched creatures. One of the ablest among them, Mr. James Monro, when in active service, told us once that he was ashamed to confess that he had not been able to make time to open a new book for many months. Lord Ripon, recognizing the misery of the District Magistrates, tried, by his Local Self-Government measure, to relieve them of some work. It was, therefore, not actually an act of friendliness on the part of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to the Magistrate, to burden him with additional work.

Here one cannot but feel deeply gratified at the wonderful philanthrophy displayed by the authorities. The people of Nadia, though grown up, intelligent and rational beings, are determined to live in the midst of filth, and die miserable deaths. But the "ma-bap" is pained to see the perversity of its grown up children. It cannot bear to see the perverse children dying in this manner; and thus, though it means additional trouble and responsibility to itself, it has taken upon its own hands to remove this filth! Has any one ever seen such disinterested philanthrophy?

We, however, think that too much love is not always good. Too much love spoils children,—is it not? If the Government will not permit the people to manage their own domestic affairs, how will they grow, and learn to work, and be useful members of society? We think the Government might have been more patient than the irate Colonel whose action on a certain occasion very much resembles that of the Nadia authorities. John was shaving his master, and cutting him now and then. Whenever John did this, the kind master calmly remarked "John, you cut me." John cut again and again, and the master made the same remark calmly again and again. There was a friend sitting there, a fiery Colonel, who could not bear it any longer. So he said rising from his chair in wrath: "John, your master may have Christian charity and may forgive you, but, I tell you, if you again cut your master, I will knock you down." So this Colonel had too much fire, and the Government has too much love. The Nadia people could easily bear filth, but the Government could not, and so it has knocked the Commissioners down.

By the bye, which is the more hurtful—intoxicating liquor or possession of power? Don't those, who rule India, see that the more they enjoy power the more they hurt themselves? We do not mean to say morally—though they do hurt themselves in that way also—but physically. Has any officer, from the Viceroy downwards, one moment of peace, quiet and enjoyment? They are all like gally-slaves working incessantly. If they like it, we must say they are welcome to this sort of life to which we will give a wide berth.

We think, instead of adopting this drastic method, the Government might have followed a more peaceful, and agreeable, and in every way, better one. If the Magistrate, instead of reporting the short-comings of the Commissioners to the Government, sent for them and pointed out to them their shortcomings, they would have cheerfully done their best to please the authorities. And the Magistrate would have then been relieved of the additional burden, which,—no matter how able and intelligent he may be—weighted as he is with so much work and responsibility, he could never hope to do as well as the people of the district, who are interested in the work directly.

We never say that the Magistrate tried to make the Commissioners work but failed. No one in India can believe that a District Magistrate cannot control Commissioners of the muffasil Municipalities. Lord Curzon, the other day, when replying to Mr. Gokhale was pleased to say that the Government was never actuated by love of power. But the proceedings under notice have the likely effect of creating the impression that the failure of the Municipal Commissioners is a plea, and the real object is to appropriate power. Now, just examine the situation. The Magistrate reports that the Commissioners of Nadia are not doing their work properly, and that the power they are enjoying ought to be made over to him, and the Government unhesitatingly accedes to this impudent request. Any other man making such a request must have been considered a little impudent.

We wish Sir A. Fraser, who is a new-comer, had not anything to do with such drastic proceedings, so repugnant to the feelings of the people. The Nadia Municipality is not the only one that has been disenfranchised. The Government is slowly but gradually depriving the Municipalities of Bengal, one by one, of their independence; and yet we are told that it is not love of power that moves the authorities.

THE conduct of Mr. Tilak was viewed in two different lights by Mr. Magistrate Clements and Mr. Judge Lucas. The first was specially appointed by the Government to try him originally, and the latter heard his appeal as Sessions Judge of Poona. Mr. Clements is said to be a nephew of the famous Judge Mr. Aston. If this be a fact, the case of Mr. Tilak should have never been made over to his file; for, Mr. Aston was the author of the criminal prosecution that was started against him in connection with his dispute with Tai Maharaj, the widow of his friend, Baba Maharaj, who had made him a trustee of his estate in his will. Now, Mr. Clements, in his judgment, depicted Mr. Tilak as a monster,—a dishonorable man—who had practised refined cruelty upon the lady by confining her in a room. Mr. Lucas, on the other hand, not only rejects this conclusion of the Magistrate, but holds that Mr. Tilak was actuated by honest and disinterested motives, and that there was no evidence to convict him of such brutal conduct. Then again, Mr. Clements disbelieved the evidence of Mr. Tilak, but believed that of Tai Maharaj and her principal adviser, Nagpurkar. But, Mr. Lucas held that, the evidence of Tai Maharaj was unreliable, and that both she and Nagpurkar had combined to give false evidence against Mr. Tilak. Thus, the Magistrate and the Judge, criticised the conduct of Mr. Tilak from two diametrically opposite points of view; yet, they were quite at one when they came to decide the question of his guilt or innocence: they both arrived at the same conclusion, namely, that Mr. Tilak had been guilty of a serious criminal offence; and while the former gave him 18 months with hard labour, the latter has reduced the sentence to six months.

WE can understand the position of Mr. Clements. He is a young man, and believed that not only Mr. Tilak but several other educated Indian gentlemen were capable of perjuring themselves. Indeed, he did not conceal his contempt for the educated Indians generally in his judgment; it was thus quite natural that he should come down ferociously upon Mr. Tilak, whom, in his own honest way, he believed to be a scoundrel. But how to account for the strange conduct of Mr. Lucas? It has indeed surprised all who has gone through his judgment. He gives a good certificate to Mr. Tilak; he admits that Mr. Clements was wrong in his estimate of the prisoner; he says in effect that Mr. Tilak was the victim of a conspiracy; he further states that the Magistrate did great wrong by not taking the evidence of certain important witnesses who might have cleared several doubtful points; and yet, instead of acquitting the prisoner of all the foul charges laid at his door, at least by giving him the benefit of the doubt, he finds him guilty on one count, and sentences him to six months' rigorous imprisonment! Of course the matter will be finally decided by the High Court; but, judging from the conversation of Mr. Tilak's counsel, Mr. Branson, and the Hon'ble Chief Justice Sir Lawrence Jenkins, when an application was made before their Lordships on January 7, for a rule 'nisi' for the revision of Mr. Lucas' order, it seems, the matter has been taken note of by the Criminal Bench. Mr. Branson pointed out that, Mr. Lucas, though he said he disbelieved the prosecution evidence in the case, had convicted Mr. Tilak on the construction he placed on the statements made by him in certain documents regarding the adoption matter. These statements, Mr. Branson maintained, were neither contradictory to nor inconsistent with the story he had told of the adoption. There was absolutely no other evidence to convict him on. The Sessions Judge, counsel continued, had not attributed corrupt motives to Mr. Tilak, but has held that in the matter of adoption the trustees had acted with the best of motives. Thereupon the following conversation took place:

"The Chief Justice:—Your case is that Mr. Lucas, had misapplied the documentary evidence?

"Mr. Branson:—And omitted to examine those witnesses who, in his opinion, were most important witnesses in the case."

Indeed, Mr. Lucas has shown considerable ability and fairness in sifting evidence and this makes his position all the more surprising. How could he see his way to uphold the conviction of the lower court and reduce the sentence to only six months, if Mr. Tilak's motives were pure and the conclusions of the Magistrate wrong? Needless to say that, the whole nation will await with intense interest the result of the revision by the High Court.

AN ugly aspect of the Tilak case has been commented upon severely by no less a critic than the "Times of India," a Bombay paper, which is a bitter and pronounced opponent of that much-persecuted Maharatta Brahmin. This shows that both friends and foes of Mr. Tilak are dissatisfied with the manner in which his prosecution was conducted. Mr. Lucas, the Sessions Judge, in the course of his judgment, says that much of the evidence recorded at the original hearing before the Special Magistrate Mr. Clements was in his opinion "quite irrelevant to the very simple issues to be decided." The same conclusion must have struck many people, says the Bombay "Times," who had watched the tedious progress of that dreary investigation. Our contemporary then goes on to state that, "the interminable length to which it was extended reflects anything but credit either upon the officer who tried the case, or upon the legal gentlemen who were concerned in it." We hope Mr. Clements will appreciate the compliment paid to him, not by a "Native" but by a full-fledged Anglo-Indian paper. The "Times of India" does not stop here. He comes down again both upon Mr. Clements and Mr. Lucas in the following sentences: "Mr. Lucas said in his judgment that he had little doubt that an expert in the law of evidence would be able to reduce the very bulky volume before him (the famous judgment of Mr. Clements) to very modest dimensions, and he added that this mostly irrelevant evidence had obscured the simple issues for decision, and unduly protracted the hearing of the case. Unless he has been misreported, he went on to say: 'I do not claim to be an expert in the law of evidence.' Surely that is a very singular admission for a Judge to make—above all, a Judge sitting in appeal"! What a commentary this upon the decision of the Poona Judge in which the life and death of a foremost Indian is involved! The Judge confesses that he does not know much of the law of evidence; yet he felt no hesitation in taking upon himself the awful responsibility of deciding the guilt or the innocence of a fellow-being which, it is scarcely possible for a Judge not well versed in the law of evidence, to ascertain correctly, specially in a case like that of Mr. Tilak which was confused by the introduction of various false issues by an ignorant Magistrate like Mr. Clements. In short, the case of Mr. Tilak was originally heard by a Special Magistrate who recorded evidence, "quite irrelevant to the very simple issues to be decided," and disposed of in appeal by a Judge who did not claim much knowledge of the law of evidence! And the destiny of millions of Indians is placed in the hands of these Magistrates and Judges! We must say, however, we are deeply obliged to Mr. Lucas for his frankness; for, it shows that, he is at least an honest man, though he may not know much of the law of evidence. The generality of Judges are no better than Mr. Lucas; but, how many of them have the candor to say that they are no experts in the law of evidence?

The following letter over the signature of Charles Mc Minn deserves notice:—

To the Editor of the "Statesman."

SIR,—I again beg to quote the patriot Ranade, and I appeal to those who, like myself, wish to see India progressing towards self-government, begging them to remember that "Nothing untrue is patriotic." Let me give a recent instance of the perversion of facts by a spurious patriot in order to cause bad blood, as His Excellency complains, between the races—in other words, to promote sedition.

The "Amrita Bazar Patrika" in its issuue of the 25th December refers in a leading article, to the bitterness between the British Army and the natives of India, quoting the "story told by Lord Wolseley that while Tommy in Crimea refused to hang a man (a brother soldier) though the reward offered was £20, here in India when a sepoy was to be hanged every one of the English soldiers wanted to do the job free."

If the reader will turn to Lord Wolseley's narrative, he will find something resembling this, but with the following vital accompanying facts which the editor has omitted. The affair happened "two days after the massacre" of Cawnpore; the English soldiers had just heard of the women and children being slaughtered, and the native to be hanged was a trooper of the very regiment which had been foremost in the massacres. The editor omits all this and implies, what is utterly false, that Tommy is always hankering after hanging natives. I can answer him that Tommy would indignantly refuse to hang any one, even himself. I appeal to you, Sir: Is this honest journalism? Is it treating his readers with common decency?—I am, your, etc.,

Now who is this Charles Mc Minn? We ask this question, because we know of one who bears this name. He was a member of the N. W. Province Civil Service, and, after his retirement, was employed by a "Native," whose name we need not mention. That C. M. was an Irishman,—a burning patriot, as much opposed to bureaucratic rule as any hot-headed Indian patriot is likely to be. If the writer of the letter is the same of whom we are speaking, then we cannot help exclaiming:

"If thou be'est he, Charles Mc Minn, oh how fallen!"

LET us now examine the credentials of C.M. as an honest correspondent, and fair-minded critic. He says that there was "perversion of facts," "in order to cause bad blood," and then he finds the motive, which is the "promotion of sedition." He is candid enough to admit that there is something in Lord Wolseley's book "resembling" the story told by us, which means, however, that the facts of the story were "perverted" by us. Then C. M. philosophies: "The editor omits all this and implies what is utterly false, that Tommy is hankering after hanging natives." And lastly C. M. gives vent to this eloquent outburst: "Is this honest journalism? Is it treating his readers with common decency?"

WE told the story thus: Lord Wolesley states that every British soldier refused to hang a man in Cremea who had murdered a comrade, though a reward of £20, was offered, but here in India, when a trooper was to be hanged, every one in the company was anxious to do the job. This is what we told,—this is exactly what Lord Wolesley said in his book; so when C. M. says that our story only "resembles" what was told by Wolesley, and that we "perverted facts" he only gives play to his imagination. Of course we might have adopted his coarse language and characterized his utterance as "utterly false," but we abhor to do it; for we know, coarse language does not harm the party against whom it is used, but the party himself who uses it.

HE then says that we omitted some further facts. Possibly the circumstances added to the story by C. M. are correct; we cannot say for certain, for we gathered the story from an English weekly, not from the book itself,—the weekly being either "M.A.P." or "T.P." where the story was told exactly in the way as stated by us. But supposing the additions of C.M. are correct, and supposing that we knew them, yet it was not essential for our purpose to mention them. Why? Our object was not to cause "bad blood" as C.M. incorrectly says, for it is "untrue" to use his expression again. Our object was to shew that an Indian training has the likely effect of deadening moral perceptions, and that because the country is governed under despotic principles. We said that Tomy Atkins naturally is as good as one can desire, yet in India he is sometimes demoralized, to prove which we gave the facts of the story. And pray why did Lord Wolsely contrast the conduct of the soldier in India with his confrere in the Cremian war if not to condemn the former? So our criticism was not directed against Tommy Atkins at all; and it is "untrue" and gross "perversion of facts" on the part of C. M. to say so.

AND then, though the expression, that despotic rule has the likely effect of affecting the morals of the rulers, may be sedition according to C.M. the correspondent, yet we believe, the Irish patriot of that name whom we knew, will not agree in that view. Thus when the writer says that the Editor implies that Tommy Atkins is "hankering after native lives," he speaks what is not, for, as we said before, our object was not to attack Atkins nor any body else but a system, and no honest man will find anything in what we said that we "implied" the suggestion attributed to us.

WE have examined C.M. as a correspondent, let us now test him as a patriot. He does not believe in our patriotism and C. M. as an Irish patriot has a right to call our partriotism in question, for the fire that burns in an Irish patriotic heart is not to be found in India, but C. M. as a correspondent has no right to condemn us. For, is he a true patriot? To quote his own language "nothing untrue is patriotic" and we have shewn that his letter is full of the grossest of misrepresentation from the top to the bottom. And a true patriot does not abuse a critic of his country, though the latter may say unpleasant things. We said that Tommy is some times demoralized here, and a true patriot, if the statement was correct, would have thanked the critic and suggested how the evil was to be removed, and not abused the critic who pointed out the short-coming. Possibly C.M. does not agree that Tommy Atkins gets demoralized here. Is that so? If that be so, we can remind him of the Rangoon outrage, of the doings of the 9th Lancers, and of many circulars issued to protect Indians from military violence.

THE "Times," the leading journal in the British Empire, perhaps in the world, is always wise, and he advises his country as to what it should do if war breaks out in the Far East and Reuter telegraphs these wise utterances to India for the benefit of the public. This is what the "Times" says:—

"If war comes, we must watch vigilantly and be prepared to protect our interests."

Now the wise suggestions, which occurred to nobody in the British Empire, must have sent a thrill of pleasurable surprise, mixed with gratitude, to the great newspaper, all over the world. Such suggestions make the "Times" the great organ that it is. It is the "Times" that will save the Empire this time, by its inestimable idea. We were assured that not only did the "Times" make the suggestion quoted above but used vigorous language in giving expression to it.

WE trust all the papers relating to the several allegations of corruptions in the Calcutta Income-tax office, made by various complainants, have been laid before His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. If they have not been, then we can only repeat the words of the learned Advocate-General; he deliberately said in his opening address in this connection before the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, namely, that unfortunately in this country, instead of giving any facility to complainants to bring to light corruptions, there are heads of offices, who are often found to try their best to burke enquiries when the charges are made against their subordinates. Will Sir Andrew Fraser be pleased to send for the petition of Dr. Kanai Lall Dass of 24 Nimtola Ghat Street, addressed to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division so far back as March and April 1903 and the proceedings of the Income-Tax authorities on that subject? They will reveal a state of affairs which seems incredible. His Honour will therein find that certain subordinate officials of the Calcutta Income-tax office behaved in such violent and insolent manner as to grossly insult and even to attempt to assault a gentleman by threatening 'to kick him on the face' and this in the very presence of both the Collector and his Deputy. And the fault of the

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gentleman was that, on being invited by the officers in charge to attend before them at an enquiry held by them in connection with his petition of complaint to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, he was indiscreet enough to accept the invitation, and reiterated his charge when confronted by the accused. His Honour will also probably find that although this enquiry in question was started by Mr. Finucane, it was shelved during Mr. Lyon's 'regime,' and it seems to have been adjourned "sine die;" for Dr. Kanailall is still smarting under the insult added to the injury deliberately offered to him after having invited him to assist in the enquiry ordered by the Commissioner Mr. Finucane. We say, the enquiry seems to have been adjourned "sine die" as Dr. Kanailall Das has not heard anything of his complaint for the last 10 months. All these cases seem to call for an open enquiry by a Commissioner as urged for by the Marwaries.

In these days of intense excitement, when the public mind is deeply engrossed in the proposed partition question, the Government of Bengal has thought it fit to strike a death blow to the Nadia Municipality, under section 65 of the Bengal Municipal Act. This act of vandalism has been committed on the ground that "the Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality are incompetent to perform and persistently make default in the performance of their duties." At first sight, after this emphatic opinion from the Government, one would naturally think that the Commissioners must have committed some very serious offence to deserve such a severe chastisement from the Government. But, let us see, how the matter really stands. The dispute between the Government and the Municipality is about the extension of Part IX of the Municipal Act, that is to say, the imposition of the Latrine-Tax and the stoppage of well-privies in the Municipality. The Nadia Municipality failed to carry out the orders of the authorities in full, and gave the following reasons for their inability:—

(1) That Part IX had already been introduced in the Lodging-house quarter, which is the thickly populated portion of the town, and to which pilgrims resort in large numbers during the occasions when fairs are held;

(2) That the health of the town was far better than that of any other town in the district to which Part IX had been introduced;

(3) That the level of the town was very low, and that it was often inundated during the rainy season;

(4) That the water for drinking and generally for cooking purposes was exclusively procured from the river Bhagirathi; and

(5) That the town was chiefly inhabited by poor people (Pandits and Bairagis) who are unable to bear the burden of a latrine-tax.

The situation then is this. The Government would have the Latrine-Tax enforced within the jurisdiction of the Municipality. The Commissioners imposed it within the thickly-populated part of the Municipality but could not impose the burden upon the thinly-populated wards which are inhabited by poor people (Pundits and Bairagies); and which, according to them are in a quite healthy condition. Surely they ought to know better as they are more interested in the question than the paternal Government which takes them for babies. The grounds adduced by the Commissioners for their failure to do the bidding of the Government would appear quite sound and reasonable to all right-minded men. At any rate, they committed nothing of such a serious character as to lead the Government to adopt this drastic course. The Commissioners simply refused to play into the hands of the authorities regardless of the interests of the rates-payers, and, it is, therefore, that they have thus been punished. This is the only light in which the decision of the Government will be viewed by the unprejudiced mind. By the bye, have not the North Barrackpur and some other Municipalities committed the same "grave" offence for which the Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality have been superseded? And will not the official management of the Nadia Municipality throw additional duties upon the District Magistrate? The District Officer is almost bent double by the weight of the works imposed upon him; but, he must have yet more responsible duties. By suppressing these Municipalities the Government is doing mischief all along the line,—it is preventing the people from becoming useful members of society; it is making the life of the District Officer more miserable than it is; and it is certainly not earning the blessings of the citizens of the Municipalities on whose behalf it is committing these acts of vandalism.

We are glad to hear that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is going to invite the opinions of such public bodies as the Chamber of Commerce, the British Indian Association, the Landholders' Association, etc., on the subject of the proposed dismemberment of Bengal. This is a move in the right direction. We trust, the opinion of the High Court will also be asked, as was done in 1896 when the Chittagong Division was sought to be made over to the Assam Administration. His Honour will kindly remember one point. The reasons for the revolutionary measure given in Mr. Risley's letter are not only no reasons at all, but they contradict one another in many places. The Lieutenant-Governor will therefore be pleased to state the grounds which have led the Government to dismember Bengal, and create this unprecedented excitement in the country; for, unless the real reasons are before the public bodies, it will not be possible for them to help the Government with any suggestion or correct information.

We learn from a reliable source that the India Government have asked the opinions of the Commissioners and the Magistrates of the Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahye Divisions on the following point, namely, that if these three Divisions were made over to Assam with a Legislative Council of their own, will that be agreeable to the public? The Commissioners and the Magistrates have also been asked to submit their individual opinions on the question. Now the real situation is this. The people of Eastern Bengal as also those of the Rajshahye Division are a part and parcel of the whole Bengalee nation. They speak the same language, they follow the same religion and social customs as their brethren of the West or the South. Why should they agree to be separated from each other for the sake of a mere Legislative Council? In Mr. Risley's letter to the Government of Bengal we find it stated that, the Government of India have received a petition from the people of Ganjam, (Madras,) in which they speak of themselves as dissociated from their Oriya brethren, and of Orissa as a "limb separated from the body," and they pray that the Government of India "will be graciously pleased to bring together the scattered divisions inhabited by Oriya-speaking peoples, that is, Ganjam in Madras, Sambulpur in the Central Provinces, and Orissa in Bengal under the Government of Bengal or under any one Government and one University." And their prayer has been considered reasonable, and they have been restored to Orissa. Now, with this stubborn fact before them, how can the Government make the above proposal with consistency and expect the people to acquiesce in it? As for the opinions of the Commissioners and Magistrates, surely none of them will care to speak out their mind freely and run the risk of incurring the possible displeasure of the Government. One of these Commissioners, Mr. Savage of Dacca, has already pronounced his views. This is what a gentleman of Barisal writes to us:—

"Mr. Savage, the Commissioner of the Dacca Division, came here in the middle of the last month. He gave out as his opinion that the partition will do immense good to Eastern Bengal people. He argued that the Bengal Government has done nothing for Eastern Bengal; the High Court has also done nothing. The former has not spent a pice for its improvement, nor has it given cheaper communication. He went further and advised the people of Backergunj and Faridpur to share the fate of Dacca and Mymensing by placing themselves under the Assam Administration."

Mr. Savage also tried his best to give an opposite turn to the agitation started in Dacca and Mymensingh, but failed in his endeavours. It is thus useless to ask the opinions of these executive officers who only echo the voice of the Government. Strangely enough, the opinion of a really independent and competent body like the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court has not yet been invited. It should not also be forgotten that the people, unless they are donkeys which they are not, will never willingly prefer the non-regulation Administration of Assam to that of the regulation, and, therefore, the more enlightened Government of Bengal.

The great protest Mymensing meeting on the dismemberment question will be held on the 17th instant. This is what our own correspondent at Mymensingh writes to us under date the 10th instant:—

"You will be astonished to hear that the Secretary of the Mymensing Association has been getting since the last few days about 300 letters daily from Muffasil enquiring as to whom to send memorials, how to send them &c. The Secretary is so overwhelmed with work that he has been obliged to send them printed instructions, as it is physically impossible even for a dozen clerks to reply them individually. One has to come to the office of the Association to be able to realize what the feeling in the district is. It appears that even the remotest villages have now come to realize the disadvantages to be caused to them by the proposed transfer. A deputation consisting of the leading Zemindars, Taluqdars, Pleaders, Doctors and other representative members will go to the District Magistrate to request him to be present in the town on the day of the meeting. The Secretary of our Association has got information up to this day that about 2,000 delegates from the moffusil will come here to attend the mass meeting. The Association is collecting money to give these delegates a fitting reception and accomodation."

We have been requested to announce by a member of the District Board, Chittagong, that "there is no foundation for the malicious and libellous attack made upon the Hon'ble Moulvi Seraj-ul-Islam, who, it is stated in a certain newspaper, had voted for the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhayay from improper motives against the wishes of his constituents"; that "it is absolutely false that the District Boards of the Chittagong Division ever requested him as their representative to vote for Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea;" and that the men who sent telegrams to the Moulvi to vote for Babu Surendra Nath were not his electors and had no right to press or dictate to him."

Lord Curzon from his seat in the Legislative Council emphatically declared that his Government had nothing to do with the deliberations of the Railway Conference at Delhi. But all the same we find that the resolutions passed at the Conference are being systematically given effect to to the detriment of the interests of the children of the soil. For instance we find in the "Indian Engineering," dated the 2nd, the Superintendent, Carriage and Wagon Department, East Indian Railway, advertising for 3 posts on salaries ranging from Rs. 200 to 400 per mensem and the Acting Loco Superintendent, Madras Railway Company, for a Correspondence Clerk on Rs. 75 to 100 per mensem. In both the cases, "none but Europeans or Eurasians" should only apply. They have, it appears, cast even all semblance of decency to the four winds, in their eagerness to serve the interests of their white brethren, and ostracised the Indians from public service; while the Government is looking on these things quite helplessly. Will His Excellency be pleased to enquire into these matters? By the bye, is it a fact that the "native" chief clerk of the Traffic Superintendent's office of the E. B. S. Ry. has been sent away to a backward District solely for the purpose of making room for a European?

We take the following account of fatal flogging from a Bombay paper:—

"On Monday, Mr. P. Byrne held an inquest in Bombay at the Morgue touching the death of Ramji Hariba, a Hindu, aged thirty five. It appears from the evidence that the deceased was a bullock cart-driver, and had been in jail four or five times. On the 24th ultimo, he was convicted of theft by Mr. Karsondas Chhabildas, and as he was an old offender, was sentenced to receive thirty stripes in jail. He was taken to H. M.'s Common Jail at Oomercarry, the same day, where the sentence was carried out. The flogging was inflicted in the ordinary way with a rattan in the presence of the Superintendent of the Jail and the Subordinate Medical Officer. He was a strongly built man and was examined by the medical officer as to his fitness for receiving the stripes, before the sentence was carried out. After the flogging deceased was advised by the jail authorities to go to a hospital as the sores caused by flogging were bleeding. The deceased, however, did not got to a hospital, but went home directly and took no care of the sores. Blood poisoning subsequently set in and he died. Dr. Arthur Powell, Surgeon to the Coroner, who made a "post-mortem" examination, was of opinion that the death was due to blood poisoning, which might have been caused by the sores. The sores were of at least a week's duration and in a neglected condition. Witness thought thirty stripes with a cane would probably produce bleeding wheals. The jury returned a verdict of death from blood poisoning, the result of neglected wounds caused by flogging, legally inflicted."

Though the jury held that the death was due to blood poisoning, the result of neglected wounds caused by flogging legally inflicted, yet we can say, without fear of contradiction, no one felt more keenly the tragic end of the unfortunate man than the Magistrate who sentenced him to be whipped. We hope this Bombay case will prove a warning to those officials who have a prediliction in favour of whipping, and who indulge in such punishments.

Elsewhere will be found an account of the Jogee, who is now in England, taken from such a respectable paper as the "Daily Mail." It is alleged, he calls himself the chief of the 'Mahatmas' in India. We do not believe he ever pretended to that eminent position, for he is not the chief. A true "Mahatma" will never travel in the way he is doing and mix with the people promiscuously. He is a Jogee with occult powers, that is all. He is so far useful that he offers sound advice to the people of the West, wth whom the love of money is the absorbing passion of life, and shews, by his powers, that truths are known to the East which are yet unknown in the West. His presence will no doubt have a beneficial effect on the countries he honors by his presence.

It seems the authorities have not yet been able to overcome their prejudice against the Congress. We learn from Giridhi that the local police is making enquiries whether any meeting for the election of delegates to the Indian National Congress were held there or not. if held, who were the elected delegates. When pressed hard as to why the police officer was making such enquiries, he very reluctantly answered that he had been ordered to report on the point by higher officials.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

London, Dec. 24.

THE AMAZING LORD GEORGE HAMILTON.

To one man in England Mr. Chamberlain's fiscal campaign has been a god-send. That man is the ex-Secretary of State for India. In the storm and stress of the rough circumstances that now surround him, the noble lord is exhibiting qualities of a high order. He is stiffening himself against Caucus dictation and is displaying a firmness of character and breadth of statesmanlike foresight which are remarkable. One can hardly recognise him in the staunch Free Trader defying the Tory Caucus in Ealing—telling those who, quite recently, were his political masters, that, it matters not what they say, he will not bend to their will, he declines to follow Mr. Balfour, and that he will most certainly fight the constituency at the next election in the full belief that he will win. Is this hero in politics the weakling who let everything drift at the India Office? Yes, it is the same man; but the transformation is amazing. At the same time the change arouses feeling of sadness and regret. A like display of determination on behalf of the rights of the Indian people would have made him, whose period of service marks the lowest depths of administrative nihilism and indifference, the most potent friend India has ever had in official ranks. The present writer, who has not failed to stigmatise, again and again as very frequent opportunities gave occasion, the almost daily lapses from duty of the ex-Secretary, now, as heartily, acclaims the courage and farsightedness which characterise the noble lord's action. But, oh! the pity of it that it is not for India that all this political greatness is exercised. Lord George's adherence to principle is a gain to Free Trade, but, after all, Free Trade has many champions; he is but one good and brave man amongst a host of valiant defenders of a well-proven cause. Had his eyes been opened during his long term of service and had he shown like high spirit and resourcefulness on behalf of India, how much more of good would he have done than he can possibly do now! Then, he would have stood alone—for a time, and for a time only. He would have become a notable figure in the history of his times. This incident shows that there was excellent stuff in the noble lord if he would but have given it a chance to reveal itself.

Three weeks ago the Central Conservative Council of the Ealing Division called on their Member to put his pride in his pocket, to recant the views he held, and to support Mr. Balfour, otherwise he would no longer be Member of Parliament for Ealing.

Lord George replied:

1. The views of the Committee and my views are irreconcilably antagonistic. "I am an anti-Protectionist; the Committee are Protectionist."

2. You ask me to support Mr. Balfour's views. What are they? They are these: the country is not ready for the taxation of food. But if the country says it is ready, Mr. Balfour is quite willing to say the same. Again: the Prime Minister backs up Mr. Chamberlain's protective 10 per cent. duty on all manufactured foreign imports. "It is unreasonable that I should be asked in advance to pledge myself to blindly support" any course that Mr. Balfour or his colleague may decide to take.

3. Listen to my fiscal creed. England has greatly prospered under Free Trade. Improvements may be needed in detail, but the principle should remain unaffected. "Wherever Protection has been established the cost of living has been increased, the purchasing power of wages has been curtailed, and great fortunes have been made by the few thorugh the merciless fleecing of the consuming majority.

"Free Trade, on the other hand, has always tended to a wider diffusion of wealth and to continuous improvement in the well-being of the masses. If Protection be subsituted for our present system of Free imports few communities will suffer more severely from the change than my constituents. With the single exception of Messrs, Thornycroft, there are no great trades or industries within its limits to be benefited by higher prices, but there are tens of thousands to whom a rise in the cost of living will be oppressive, if not insupportable. This class has immensely increased in numbers during the last few years."

There is more of the same sort of virile statement of the facts of the fiscal problem, and a strong ennunciation of a determination to "reserve to myself," as he puts it, "both Parliamentarily and electorally, freedom of action." This is excellent; at the same time it is very distressful, for it shows that, had he really cared to exert himself, Lord George Hamilton might have been the greatest, instead of the smallest, Secretary of State India has ever known.

SIR HENRY COTTON'S VALUABLE USE OF HIS LEISURE.

It seemed a shame, almost a crime, that LordCurzon should have passed over Sir Henry Cotton for the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal. In one sense it was both a shame and a crime. Sir Henry would have ruled the Lower Provinces in as nearly an ideal manner as the conditions of an alien government permit, and a gross wrong was done to the seventy millions of Bengalees that he was not selected. When the history of Lord Curzon's Viceroyalty is impartially written, the smallness of mind exhibited by the Viceroy in his treatment of Sir Henry Cotton—and of Bengal—will outweigh many features of a showy, grandiose policy. I am, however, not at all sure whether the administrative blunder is not turning out a blessing owing to the fact that Sir Henry is making use of the leisure—which he ought not to have enjoyed—in such a way as will, most likely, be of greater service to India and to his own countrymen than if Belvedere had been his head-quarters for five years. After all, as Lieutenant-Governor, he would have been "cabin'd, cribbed, confined," hampered on every hand, limited in every direction, and a target for malevolent aspersions—aspersions the more malevolent as he put the interests of the people of the land first and those of the sojourners in India second. The full proof of this condemnatory remark is to be found in what happened to him humanitarian policy and to himself in Assam. In England, Sir Henry is unmuzzled. He can say, without fear or favour, that which is in his mind. He can use his great knowledge of India and the policies there prevailing for the enlightenment of his countrymen. And he is doing all this with great acceptance and great advantage. Last Monday's "Daily News" contained a most exhaustive and statesmanlike review of the circumstances underlying the invasion of Tibet. I enclose a copy of this article for your reproduction. Much of the information it contains will, probably, be new to Indian publicists and to nearly all Indian readers. Sir Henry writes as one with full knowledge of every phase of the subject he treats. In his first paragraph he deals with the trade Convention of 1890 made, not with the Lama of Tibet but with the Chinese Imperial Association Resident in Tibet, which Convention is declared by the Indian Foreign Office to have been broken. He next discourses on a "Diplomatic Blunder," derides (as well he may) "The Russian Bogey," declares the expedition to be one of "Pure Aggression," and, finally, declares that there is "Need for a Protest." Even though, Mr. Editor, you may quote the whole article elsewhere in your columns, I cannot refrain from giving the paragraph which appears under the title of "Pure Aggression:" it is a good example of the plain-spoken and lucid manner in which Sir Henry deals with his subject, whilst what he says about the composition of the telegrams sent to England is unpleasantly suggestive. Sir Henry said: "Our little army, it seems, has crossed the Rubicon, and we are now engaged in a campaign of pure aggression. I ask, again, what reason or justification can be put forward for such a course? I trust that this unwarrantable Tibetan invasion will arouse public opinion in England, and stir the national conscience into an indignant repudiation of what has been done. We are not well or fairly served in our telegrams from India. Their language is deliberately calculated to excite a prejudice against the Tibetans. I read in flaming head-lines, "Viceroy's Letters Returned," and in the text of the telegram it is said, "the letters addressed by the Viceroy to the Dalai Lama at Lhassa have been returned." The implication is that an insult has been offered to the King. I wonder what the actual facts are, and how the information for these telegrams is supplied. But I can offer what is, perhaps, an explanation of this apparent insult. Why should the Viceroy address the Dalai Lama when the Chinese Resident at Lhassa is the proper authority to whom he should write? It is at least possible that the letters were returned with a representation that the Dalai Lama had no authority to negotiate with the Viceroy of India, and that the Viceroy ought to address the Chinese Ambassador in accordance with the established custom between the countries." While he continues to do such work of enlightenment as this and other contributions to the British Press concerning Indian affairs, Sir Henry is, I repeat, probably serving the Empire to quite as good a purpose as he would have been doing were he, at this moment, Lieutenant-Governor of the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

"INDIA'S DARK CHRISTMAS BOX."

Under the above heading, the "Echo", two days before Christmas, makes the following sympathetic remarks concerning India: "Comte used to much a crust of dry bread after every meal to remind him of the sufferings of the poor, and it would hardly be right to let Christmas go by without remembering some of the sufferings of the dusky millions in our great Indian dependency. For the week, ending November 21, the plague mortality mounted up to the high figure of 18,329, as against 12,028 in the corresponding week of last year. And when it is considered that this is simply a weekly tale of woe, and that day by day more and more names are added to the hideous death-roll, we realise what a responsibility we have in taking over the government of this great and teeming country. We have driven a wedge through its ancient administration, we have unsettled its old customs, famine and pestilence devour it, and surely we cannot sit still and fold our hands all the time." It would be well if these facts could be brought home to every Englishman at this season.

SECLUDED—BUT CAPABLE—INDIAN LADIES.

The question of the possibility of granting help to *purdanashins* in India is once again being discussed in the columns of "The Times." In the course of a lengthy letter contributed on Tuesday last, Mr. Durant Beighton, whose service was in Bengal, testifies to the admirable qualities exhibited by Indian women on whom the responsibility of managing estates has fallen. Mr. Beighton, in his concluding paragraph remarks: "The remedy for the helplessness of the secluded ladies of India must be sought in other directions. Fortunately, in the one province of India with which I have been connected for nearly twenty-six years of official life—that of Bengal—both in executive and judicial posts, there are examples of women who have themselves succeeded in fitting themselves, by education and the cultivation of their business capacity, for the managing of their own affairs with skill and discretion. I have known many such women myself, and as their numbers increase—and in Bengal, at all events, this is the case—the scandals of the past will gradually diminish in frequency." This morning's "Times" contains a letter from Lady Hobhouse; writing on behalf of Lord Hobhouse, whose characteristic modesty is apparent, she says: "Lord Hobhouse himself wishes it to be understood that he does not pretend to speak with authority, as anybody may see who will read the few pages he has written [which appeared in the preface to Miss Sorabji's book "Love and Life Behind the Purdah" Freemantle, 1901.] He only brings some of his experiences to bear upon one side of the effects of the seclusion of women to which one at least of Miss Sorabji's tales relates.

MR. ROMESH DUTT AND SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN.

That one of the most recent of Mr. Romesh Dutt's many pronouncements on Indian topics which refered to India and the fiscal agitation was, by a correspondent, brought to the notice of the Leader of the Liberal Party. The speech in question was delivered in Finsbury some three or four weeks ago. Sir Henry's private secretary wrote to the gentleman who had communicated with the Party Leader to say that he was desired by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman to thank him for his letter and report of the speech on the Tariff question in India. He continues: "I am to add that, while Sir Henry is not prepared to offer an opinion as to all the details of a highly technical question, he is in complete sympathy with the view that there is no justification for the imposition of an excise duty on any class of goods which can be shown not to enter into competition with import-paying goods."

In this conection I may state that the last sheets of Mr. Dutt's book have passed through the process of revision, and, sometime in January, the work should be ready for publication. I have had the privilege of glancing through a complete set of the page-proofs. Having done so, I may tell all those interested in Indian affairs that they will find in Mr. Dutt's pages a most excellent and painstaking summing-up of the main features of Indian administration under the late Queen-Empress. The book is more than a worthy supplement of the volume which Mr. Dutt issued eighteen months ago. Mr. Dutt sailed from Marseilles yesterday, and, in all likelihood, will reach India for a brief stay about the same time that this letter is delivered at Bombay.

THE ABSURD FISCAL COMMITTEE.

The Committee which Mr. Chamberlain has appointed to round off his fiscal campaign is an object of contempt and laughter to the majority of Englishmen. From the first man appointed to the last, with a single exception, there is no one of commanding influence, known throughout the country, or who might have been expected to be one of the Committee. They are all of one mind, reminding me more than anything else of the Indian Public Service Commission, the recommendations of which were decided beforehand by the President, Sir Charles Aitcheson. Everyone who is not a Protectionist is told that there is no place for him on the Committee. Nor, indeed, is there. Nor, again, need any man of spirit and of honour desire to find himself a member of such a crew. Here is an example of the kind of man chosen by the great Fiscal agitator to represent the various trades of the busy town of Leicester. A. Mr. J. A. Corah has been appointed by Mr. Chamberlain, to the great amusement of Mr. Corah's fellow townsmen. A few days ago, says a Leicester resident, the cream of the local commercial world met together, at the instance of the Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the Chamberlain proposals. One after another the leading manufacturers—boots and shoes, hosiery, spinning, etc.—spoke against the so-called Tariff Reform. The speakers belonged to the Conservative, Liberal, and Unionist parties, but all were unanimous in favour of freedom of trade and greater technical knowledge. At length Mr. N. A. Corah was asked to speak, but declined on the ground that his views were well known to be at variance with all the other speakers. Evidently such a man was marked out in a special degree for advancement in the Chamberlainite circle. Promotion has speedily followed. He is now in a position to represent (?) Leicester manufacturers, and, as we may see, he will do it in a manner worthy of the Tariff Reform League traditions.

A spell of extremely cold weather has set in on he Eastern Himalayas. We may therefore expect to hear very shortly of snowfall in the Sikkim and Tibet Passes.

The traffic earnings of the Burma Railways, for the half-year ending December-1903, were Rs. 60,80,067 as against Rs. 54,35,077 during the second half of 1902, or an increase of Rs. 6,44,990.

A sad accident occurred at Rawalpindi on Saturday. Captain Jephson, R.A.M.C., went out shooting in the early morning acompanied by two dogs. Latter in the day he was found in the Park shot through the head, his gun lying near him, and he expired before he could be taken to the hospital. The deceased officer was a stranger to Rawalpindi and had arrived on the previous day, having marched up with a battery of artillery from Umballa.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Calcutta Gazette.—Jan. 13.

Mr. F. W. Ward, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kurseong, Darjeeling, is appointed to have charge of the Begusarai sub-division of the Monghyr district.

Mr. H. R. T. S. Perrott, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bhadrak, Balasore, is appointed to have charge of the Kurseong sub-division of the Darjeeling district.

Mr. P. G. Rogers, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Saran, is appointed to have charge of the Bhadrak sub-division of the Balasore district.

Babu Nogendra Chunder Sen, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rangpur, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Bankura district.

The Revd. Robert William Hall Stuart is appointed to be Honorary Chaplain of the 1st Battalion, Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, with effect from the 17th December 1903, vice the Revd. S. L. Graham Sandberg, resigned.

Lieutenant Samuel William Taylor, Unattached List, Lucknow Volunteer Rifles, is transferred, in the same rank, to the active list of the Third (Cadet) Battalion, Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, vice Lieutenant H. F. Pritchard, transferred to the Supernumerary List.

Mr. F. Roddis, Assistant Superintendest of Police, is posted to Shahabad, and is appointed temporarily to hold charge of the Police of that district.

Mr. L. J. Clarke, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, has been granted by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of extraordinary leave on medical certificate without pay for six months.

Babu Ashay Kumar Chaudhuri, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed combined leave for two years, viz., privilege leave for two months and four days, under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations, and furlough for the remaining period, under article 338 of the Regulations, with effect from the 2nd November 1903, the date on which he was relieved of his employment as Special Deputy Collector in acquiring lands for the Gaya Asansol Railway in the district of Hazaribagh.

Lieutenant A. M. L. Vonck, Second (Presidency) Battalion, Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, has been granted by the General Officer Commanding the Presidency District leave of absence from the 18th December 1903 to the 31st March 1904.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to accept the resignation of his commission tendered by the Revd. S. L. Graham Sandberg, Honorary (Church of England) Chaplain, 1st Battalion, Calcutta Volunteer Rifles, with effect from the 17th December 1903.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to accept the resignation by Mr. William Arbuthnot Inglis of his office of Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, with effect from the 4th January 1904.

Babu Rasik Lal Sen, Deputy Collector, whose service have been placed at the disposal of the Public Works Departments of this Government for employment on the work of acquiring lands required for the proposed Ranaghat-Murshidabad Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway in the district of Murshidabad, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act I of 1894 in that district.

The following order is republished from the "Assam Gazette":

Babu Jogendra Nath Ghose, late Munsif of Sylhet, was granted leave of absence, under Article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, from the 6th to the 29th November 1903. This cancels Notification No. 5430J., dated the 3rd December 1903.

Mr. Syed Nasirruddin Ahmed, Barrister-at-law, is appointed to act as a munsif in the district of Shahabad, to be ordinarily stationed at Buxar, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. Mohamed Waheduddin Ahmed, or until further orders.

Mr. Mahomed Wahiduddin Ahmad, Munsif of Buxar, in the district of Shahabad, is allowed leave for one month under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 11th January 1904, or from the date on which he may be relieved.

Babu Jagadish Chandra Goswamy, Munsif of Bogra, in the districts of Pabna and Bogra, is allowed leave for fifteen days under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations, with effect from the 2nd January 1904.

Mr. C. P. Beachcroft, Joint-Magistrate, 24-Parganas, is vested, under section 407 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, with power to hear appeals from convictions by Magistrates of the second and third clases.

Babu Ashutosh Bagchi, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Siliguri, Darjeeling, is vested with the powers of a Munsif within the jurisdiction of the Kuresong thana and with the powers of a Small Cause Court Judge to try suits of value not exceeding Rs. 50 in the Kurseong sub-division.

Mr. H. R. T. S. Perrott, Assistant Magistrate and Colector, Kurseong, Darjeeling, is vested with the powers of a Munsif and with the powers to try rent suits in Kurseong, and with similar powers in Siliguri, as regards cases transferred by the Deputy Commissioner from the Terai officers's file. He is also vested with the powers of a Sub-Registrar within the Kurseong thana and with powers of a Small Cause Court Judge to try suits of value not exceeding Rs. 50 in the Siliguri and Kurseong thtnas.

Mr. P. G. Rogers, Assistant Magistrate, Bhadrak, Balasore, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Under the authority vested in him by section 357, sub-section (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, Act V of 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor empowers Mr. Sarat Kumar Ghosh, Assistant Magistrate, Hooghly, to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

Mr. T. E. Emerson, Joint-Magistrate, Muzaffarpur, is vested, under section 407 (2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, wth power to hear appeals from convictions by Magistrates of the second and third classes.

Mr. Emerson is also vested with powers, under sections 108, 110, 133, 190 (1) (a) (b) (c) and 524 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

In exercise of the power conferred by sub-section (1) of section 565 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to empower Mr. A. H. Vernede, a Magistrate of the first class in the district of Backergunge, to order, at the time of passing sentence of imprisonment on any person referred to in that sub-section, that the residence or change of residenc of such person after release shall be notified as provided by the rules made under sub-section (3) of the said section.

Mr. Vernede is also vested with powers under section 110, 133, 190 (1) (C) and 524 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babu Hemanta Kumar Moitra, Sub-Deputy Collector, Buxar, Shahabad, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Patna district.

Babu Pulin Behari Bose, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Patna, is transferred to the Buxar sub-division of the Shahabad district.

Pandit Hridaya Narayan, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Patna Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Saran district.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

On being relieved of his appointment as Officiating Civil Surgeon of Patna, Captain T. H. Delany, I.M.S., is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Jessore, during the absence, on leave, of Major H. J. Dyson, I.M.S.

Honorary Lieutenant D. Waller, I.S.M.D., is appointed to act as Medical Officer, E. B. S. Railway, Kancharapara during the absence of Military Ass stant Surgeon R. Sharples.

Military Assistant Surgeon A. A. Allison, Civil Surgeon of Manbhum, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Birbhum. Honorary Lieutenant J. G. Fleming, I.S.M.D., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Tippera, acting for him.

Captain V. E. H. Lindesay, I.M.S., is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Tippera during the absence, on leave, of Captain A. Gwyther, I.M.S., or until further orders.

Major U. N. Mukerjee, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon of Mymensingh, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Khulna, during the absence, on deputation, of Lieutenant-Colonel R. N. Campbell, I.M.S. Captain J. G. P. Murray, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Nadia, acting for him.

Captain R. H. Maddox, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon of Nadia, is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Ranchi, during the absence, on deputation, of Major R. Bird, I.M.S. Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Banerjee, I.M.S., Civil Surgeon of Purnea, acting for him.

Captain W. D. Hayward, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Ranchi, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Purnea, during the absence of Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Banerjee, I.M.S.

Captain W. W. Clemesha, I.M.S., Resident Surgeon, Eden Hospital, Calcutta, at present Officiating Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Metropolitan and Eastern Bengal Circle, is confirmed in the latter appointment.

Captain A. F. Stevens, I.M.S., Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, Metropolitan and Eastern Bengal Circle, at present Officiating Civil Surgeon, Shahabad, is appointed to be Resident Surgeon, Eden Hospital, Calcutta, but will continue to act at Shahabad.

Senior Assistant Surgeon Bepin Vihari Gupta, Officiating Civil Surgeon, Malda, is allowed privilege leave combined with furlough for two years, viz., privilege leave for three months under article 260 of the Civil Service Regulations, and furlough for the remaining period under article 338 of those Regulations

Senior Assistant Surgeon Durga Nanda Sen, of the Barasat subdivision and dispensary, is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon, Malda, during the absence on deputation of Honorary Lieutenant J. G. Fleming, I.S.M.D.,

POLICE.

The services of Mr. L. H. Burton, Probationary Assistant Superintendent of Police, in charge of the police force at the pilgrim camp at Chittagong, are replaced at the disposal of the Appointment Department of the Government of Bengal.

A CONSULTATIVE MEETING.

Mymensingh, Jan. 11.

A consultative meeting was held last evening, with Babu Jagat Kisore Acharjya of Muktagacha as president, at Moharaja Shusung's house to arrange the details for the reception and accommodation in town of the muffassil delegates, who are coming to attend the Mymensingh meeting. Many leading zemindars Muktagacha, Ramgopalpur, Gouripur, Kalipur and Sherpur and representative people of town joined in the deliberations. A strong representative reception comittee, with Babu Jagat Kisore as president, was formed. Two thousand delegates are expected from the Muffassil. The committee undertakes accommodating a thousand and the townspeople the rest. Amongst others the President subscribed two thousand rupees.

ASSAULT ON A EUROPEAN LADY.

Bombay, Jan. 12.

A young European lady is reported to have been assaulted and dragged off her horse recently at Jubbulpur by Punjabis. Some villagers came to the rescue, but her assailants escaped. A reward of Rs. 100 is being offered by Government for information leading to the arrest of the assailants.

BOMBAY PLAGUE RETURNS.

Bombay, Jan. 12.

A week ago there were symptoms that the cold weather epidemic of plague, which was so late in setting in, that hopes were entertained that the city was going to escape it, had commenced this week. The figures show nothing because higher plague mortality has been accompanied by no material increase in the total mortality, which is abnormally low for this season of the year. The mortality from all causes 730 and the deaths recorded from plague 188, an increase of 63 in the latter and two in the total. The total in the corresponding year was 1,077 and that of cases of plague recorded 349.

VACCINATION IN MADRAS.

Madras, Jan. 12.

The Madras Government just issued orders for formulating an elaborate scheme for the improvement and working of the Vaccination Department in this Presidency. The Government is of opinion that increase in pay will not alone be sufficient remedy for the existing defects, and though saving of labour has been achieved through the introduction of paste lymph and greater facilities in communications, vaccination has made but slight progress in reality which is entirely dependent on statistics which the Government believes are not trustworthy. The absence of progress is due in the Government opinion to the unsatisfactory character of the agency employed, and it is determined to improve this by establishing a graduated scale of appointment and the demanding of qualifications for these appointments and increasing the supervising agency. A scheme is now under consideration to provide additional officers of the grade of Assistant Surgeon in each district to look after and advise in regard to the water supply and sanitation of villages, and when these officers have been appointed they will also be made to supervise vaccination. The Government does not think it necessary to introduce compulsory vaccination all over the Presidency, but is prepared to consider the advisability of doing so in certain selected districts.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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Lady Curzon.—Lady Curzon and her two daughters have left Calcutta for Colombo, en route to England.

Mr. R. C. Dutt.—Mr. R. C. Dutt, C. I. E., arrived in Calcutta from England on Saturday evening by the Bombay Mail.

Madras Coast Lights Bill.—The Select Committee of the Madras Coast Lights Bill has, we understand, been summoned to meet next week.

Roy Chand Prem Chand Scholarships.—We learn that Prof. Adityanath Mukerjea, M.A., has been awarded the Roy Chand Prem Chand Scholarship this year.

C. P. Civil Courts and Prisons Bills.—The current number of the "Gazette of India" publishes the Select Committee's Reports on the Central Provinces Civil Courts Bill and the Prisons Bill.

Plague and Vital Statistics.—There were two cases and the same number of deaths from plague in Calcutta on the 10th instant. The total mortality from all causes was 51 i.e. 34 less than the last quinquennial average. The plague diary recorded only one death on the 8th as well as on the 9th instant.

Jherriah Station E. I. R.—We learn that sanction will shortly be accorded for the augmentation of the water supply at this station, on the Damuda Branch of the East Indian Railway, necessitated by the opening of additional sidings and the consequent traffic.—"Indian Engineering.

The Approach to Chittagong.—With regard to the question of improving the approach to Chittagong by removing the bar in the river, one proposal that may possibly be made is to give the Assam-Bengal Railway Company a free hand with the port. This certainly seems, says the "Pioneer," the most practical solution of the matter.

Defaming a Hindu Priest.—Before Babu G. N. Dutt, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, one Ram Lal Mookerjee, of Bostamparah, was charged with having defamed a village Hindu priest by circulating defamatory statements to his disciples and the public and thereby lowering him in the estimation of the local Hindu community. The accused was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 200, in default to undergo two months' simple imprisonment.

Legal Appointments.—The Chief Justice of Bengal has appointed Messrs. George May Simmonds, of 18, Austin Friars, London, Solicitor, and Christopher Tait Rhodes, of 3, Commercial Street, Halifax, York, also a Solicitor, Commissioners within all parts of England to take affidavits or affirmations or declarations in all suits, matters, and proceedings in the Calcutta High Court, and also the acknowledgments of married women in respect of property in India

A Huge Bean.—A specimen of a huge bean known by the Botanical name of "Entada Beandens" is being forwarded from Ootacamund to the Museum here. The bean is about 2ft. in length and each of the kernels within is encased in a dark brown shell which resembles a watch case. It is expected that this species, which grows in abundance near Coonoor, will be of economic value. The Forest Officer is also sending down a piece of the wood which is 3ft. in length and 8in. in diameter, but of twisted growth like a corkscrew.

Plague Figures.—The plague returns of the week ending on the 2nd instant show 16,503 deaths against 15,606 in the week preceding. The principal figures are: Bombay Districts 3,630 against 5,656; Untied Provinces, 2,613 against 2,522: the Punjab, 1,459 against 1,049; Central Provinces, 1,446 against 1,547; Bengal, 1,277 against 1,377; Central India, 828 against 1,176; Madras Districts, 709 against 539; Bombay City, 98 against 65; Calcutta, 18 against 15; and Kashmir, 11 against 26. Plague has also occurred in Coorg, where two deaths are reported.

Plague Measures.—Many and gratifying are the indications, says the "Pioneer," that come to hand from all sorts of quarters to point to the breaking up of the suspicions of the people on the subject of plague measures. In all parts of the country it appears that the policy of evacuation is coming to be thoroughly understood; and it is now quite rare to find a village where the people make any difficulties about turning out after a plague case or two has occurred. Indeed, in some parts of the Central Provinces we hear of instances where the villagers of their own accord have put up camps in advance in order to be able to quit their houses at the first sign of danger; and to show how keen is the look-out they keep, a case came to notice the other day where a whole village migrated into these huts because a mouse had been found dead in the malguzar's house, apparently from natural causes.

The Hon. Dr. Mukhopadhyaya's Maiden Speech.—We congratulate, says the "Indian Daily News," Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya on his maiden speech at Friday's meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council. The Transfer of Property Bill gave him ample opportunity for the display of his legal talents, and he took full advantage of it. His speech was distinctly heard all through the chamber, but occasionally the lawyer was detected by his repetitions of "I submit." On the whole he spoke upon a piece of complicated legislation, ably criticising both the principle and the details of the Bill, the latter eliciting the pious indignation of the Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson who, true to the traditional official instincts, resented the discussion of the details at the second reading of the Bill.

Murder.—The "Weekly Chronicle" has the following:—On Saturday last the 19th instant, the Namdang Colliery of the A. B. and T. Co. Ld., was the scene of a horrible murder the victim being Mr. J. T. Williams M. E., Foreman of the Colliery. It is said that on the day of occurrence Mr. Williams seeing a cooly, named Puron Gour, sitting down asked him why he was not working. The cooly said that he was only resting for a few minutes having worked for some hours. Hearing this and thinking that the man was arguing with him, Mr. Williams gave Puron a stroke with a cane. The latter said nothing at the chastisement but remained quiet for a few minutes, then stood up and dealt a severe blow upon Mr. William's head with a pick-axe that was in his hand. Mr. Williams fell down and Puron dealt more blows upon him and battered his brains out. The murderer was sent up for trial, and Mr. Edward, Assistant Commissioner of Dibrugarh, who tried the case and before whom the accused confessed his guilt, committed him to the Sessions.

TELEGRAMS.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

London, Jan. 8.

The followng is the result of the Mid Devon election:—

Mr. Eve, Liberal Free Trader, 5,034 votes.

Sir Richard Harrison, Conservative Chamberlainite, 3,558.

The Free Trade papers are jubilant over yesterday's trade returns, which they regard as a complete confutation of the criticisms on the present fiscal system.

Reuter wires from Port Arthur yesterday that several warships sailed the night before to reinforce the cruisers at sea. The combined fleet will then proceed to meet the Japanese squadron, which is approaching Korea.

Some 250 Sherwood Foresters at Hongkong have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness, and their transport is being arranged for. Their supposed destination is Pekin or Seoul.

Reuter's Pekin correspondent says that four Russian warships have sailed from Port Arthur.

Baron Hayashi visited the Foreign Office in Downing Street this afternoon. Baron Hayashi, being interviewed, said it was impossible to say whether Japan would send a reply to Russia or not. It was going too far, he said, to say that all hope of peace had been abandoned.

The price of corn has risen one shilling per quarter in consequence of the Far Eastern situation.

The Paris "Temps" says it is desirable that all Powers desirous of peace should consider the advisability of intervening, either collectively or separately, as soon as a conflict becomes inevitable.

The American Cabinet has decided to instruct Admiral Evans, on arrival at Guam, to proceed to Subig Bay, as it is not considered desirable that the American fleet should at present proceed to Japanese or Russian waters.

London, Jan. 9.

The visits of Count Beuckendorff and Baron Hayashi to the Foreign Office yesterday were almost simultaneous. The Russian Ambassador was received by Lord Lansdowne first, and a lengthy interview between Baron Hayashi and Lord Lansdowne took place immediately afterwards.

The "Standard's" Paris correspondent states that after the ratification of the new Franco-Siamese Treaty on the 15th February, Siam hands to France the territory conceded to it, and appoints delegates to meet for delimitation of the frontier between Cambodia and Siam, while France evacuates Chantabun.

The two Japanese warships have left Genoa for Suez, flying the Japanese flag. The crews are half English and half Italian, and are commanded by an Englishman. The other officers are all English except five Japanese.

A despatch from Tokio received at New York states that though dissatisfied with Russia's reply, Japan does not consider that it justifies a rupture of negotiations and will seek to secure modifications. The discussion is expected to occupy some weeks.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says that the Russian warships which left Vladivostock, are reported to have returned instead of proceeding to Port Arthur as was expected.

All the bourses are stronger to-day reflecting a sudden reversion to hopefulness based upon well-accredited reports that Russia's latest note recognises Japan's preponderance in Korea, which at the instance of Admiral Alexeiff was previously refused. It is generally believed that this concession will lead to a continuance of negotiations making for peace.

The meeting of the Elder Statesmen at Tokio which was to have been held in the Palace to-day has been postponed for a day or two.

The new treaty between France and Siam, mentioned in the "Standard's" telegram, will assign the whole of Luangprabang to the French sphere.

The International Rugby Football match between England and Wales resulted in a draw.

London, Jan. 10.

The death is announced of Madame Antoinette Sterling, the singer.

London, Jan. 10.

The mail steamer Clallan has foundered off Victoria, British Columbia. Three boats were launched, filled with women and children but were swamped, and the occupants perished, 53 drowned and 33 saved.

News from Salonika states that inportant events are expected in the direction of Kumanova, where a strong Bulgarian band has invaded Turkish territory. Eight Battalions and one battery of Turks have already proceeded to Kumanova, and a regiment of cavalry at Salonika, is warned to be ready in 24 hours. It is reported that the Bulgarians lost over a hundred killed in the fight at Kochana.

Reuter wires from Peking that Prince Ching and Ouchida Yasuya, the Japanese Minister at Peking, had a long interview and discussed the prospects of war Prince Ching announced that China had decided to maintain neutrality.

According to trustworthy diplomatic information received at Peking the Russian reply, though conciliatory in tone, is unsatisfactory in substance. Japan desires further delay in order to complete her preparations, and therefore continues the negotiations. The prospects of war before spring continue very strong.

Reuter's correspondent at Peking states that the Emperor has ratified the commercial treaties with America and Japan. According to the terms of the treaties China was to open Mukden, Autung, and Tatungkau immediately on the ratification. It is now most doubtful whether Russia will agree.

Telegrams, apparently semi-official, have reached Paris and Vienna from Tokio, stating that Japan does not intend at present to send an expedition to Korea. The Japan Legation in London has no knowledge of the despatch of any troops to Korea.

London, Jan. 11.

The death is announced of Jean Leon Gerome, the celebrated French painter.

An official despatch states that General Egerton, with 2,200 regulars and one thousand irregulars, attacked five thousand Dervishes at Jidballi, apparently the Mullah's main force on the 11th instant. The enemy charging caught the frontal and flank fires, broke and fled. Our mounted men pursued them for ten miles. The enemy's killed is estimated at one thousand. Many prisoners and four hundred rifles were taken, and more are being collected. Our casualties were 43 including Lieutenants Bowden-Smith and Welland killed and nine other officers wounded and one missing.

TELEGRAMS.

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REUTUR'S TELEGRAMS.

It is reported that Russia is conceding the Japanese terms.—"Englishman."

In a Somaliland engagement one thousand Somalis were killed. Two British officers were killed and eight wounded.—"Englishman."

The Servian regicides have been dismissed from Belgrade.—"Englishman."

The "Oriental" with the Outward Mails is expected at 8 a.m. on Saturday at Bombay.

Latest news from Mr. Dobbs shows that the demarcation work of the Russo-Afghan Boundary Commission is proceeding smoothly and cordial relations exist among the parties.

It is announced at Berlin that the Tsar has instructed Count Lamsdorff to prepare for official publication a statement regarding the negotiations with Japan which will show that Russia's proposals are essentially as follows:

Firstly, Japan is accorded various concessions in Korea.

Secondly, Japan is allowed to deal with Southern Korea economically and strategically as her interests require.

Thirdly, Russia leaves Japan full commercial freedom in Northern Korea, but neither there nor in Southern Korea shall Japan permanently occupy fortresses whether on the coast or in the interior.

Fourthly, The establishment of a neutral fifty kilometers zone along the Yalu to Tiumen where neither Japan nor Russia shall establish fortresses. The Korea Straits to be neutral and free for Russian ships.

Fifthly, Russia accepts no conditions in reference to Manchuria but is ready to accord Japan and other Powers representation for commercial interests.

It is also stated at Berlin that Russia has notified the Powers that she will respect all rights in Manchuria granted under treaties made with China.

Sir Arthur Havelock has resigned the Governorship of Tasmania owing to ill-health.

London, Jan. 12.

The Times Peking correspondent wires that the Chinese Minister at Tokio has telegraphed to Prince Ching that the Japanese Foreign Office requests him to make the following communication.

That the second Russian reply has been received at Tokio, is unfavourable, and cannot be accepted by Japan, who, unless Russia recedes, will be compelled to promptly resort to arms.

The Russian press attacks Great Britain declaring that by her attitude she will be morally responsible for any outbreak of war in the Far East, and accuses her of a breach of nutrality in supplying crews for the Argentine warships purchased by Japan.

The Elder Statesmen and Ministers had a long conference at Tokio yesterday.

Mr. Balfour speaking at Manchester last night declined to speak about the chances of peace or war in the Far East. None he said could contemplate the possibility of hostilities between two great civilized nations without misgiving, and depression. He hoped it would be unnecessary to say, that Britain would fully carry out all her treaty obligations in regard to any of her allies.

Referring to the fiscal policy Mr. Balfour pleaded for moderation and deprecated undue impatience. He dwelt upon the necessity for party unity, and said if the Unionists became disrupted, Home Rule would again figure in the party programme.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

TIBET MISSION.

Allahabad, Jan. 10.

The "Pioneer's" Siliguri correspondent wires on the 9th:—On arrival here, I find the Military authorities unable to supply transport owing to all available animals being engaged in hurrying up warm clothing and supplies for troops beyond the Jeylap pass. The prices of local animals run up to extravagant figures. For Jalpaguri tats worth twenty rupees, one hundred and twenty are asked. Bhutia ponies are not available at any price. However, I have managed to buy my own transport and am starting up the Teesta Valley immediately. In spite of Siliguri being the base of the Mission there are no signs of great activity here owing to the excellent smooth working of the arrangements of the Supply and Transport Departments. The convoy leaves quietly every morning for the Teesta Valley. The existing arrangements have answered so well that I believe there is no present intention of prolonging the railway to Sivok. It is a curious fact that the Punjab mules are standing the cold in the high altitudes better than the Nepalese Yaks. The local Nepalese and Bhutias, who at one time were alarmed at the preparations here, are now satisfied and apathetic. A Military siding has been constructed here, and the result is that there is no interference with ordinary traffic.

Col. Younghusband with the head quarters of the Tibet Mission left Phari on Saturday on a further move forward. The advance party has crossed the Tungla Pass on the road to Gyantse without much difficulty.

THE RECENT COUNTERFEIT CASE.

Delhi, Jan. 12.

The several men who were arrested at Delhi, Kapurthala and Khurja for manufacturing and uttering counterfeit rupees were to-day brought before the Deputy Commissioner, evidence being given by the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Dunsford, respecting the raid and arrests at Kapurthala at previously reported. One accused Hem Singh whose information led to the raid was recommended for free pardon. The Deputy Commissioner observed that it was beyond his jurisdiction to try three men arrested at Kapurthala and ordered the transfer of their trial to Jullundur. The necessary permit being obtained from the Political Agent at Kapurthala, the remainder were remanded in custody for trial at Delhi.

Telegrams from Japan reached Rangoon on Thursday ordeing shipments of rice to be suspended for the present.

The Government of India have sanctioned the withdrawal of regular troops from Wana, and the transfer of that post to the Southern Waziristan Militia.

Plans and specifications for the bridge over the Indus at Kushalgarh are now being made. It will be of the Cantilever pattern and the huge girders required are being designed in England.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Varieties.

HUGE ORANGE HARVESTS.

The orange industry of California owes its existence to the priests of the San Gabriel Mission, who, when they entered the State, located themselves a few miles from the present city of Los Angeles and planted a few orange trees. Now the fruit is raised in such profusion that it takes 200 railway trucks daily for 100 days to distribute it. Each day's distribution is 70,000 boxes, containing 7,000,000 oranges. The giant seedless navels which put upon the British market a few years ago caused such a stir in fruit trade circles are almost unobtainable in this country this Christmas season because, despite the fact that the yield has been doubled in five years, the demand is greater than the supply, and a few can be spared for Britain. Still, oranges are cheap in the United Kingdom, the imports, chiefly from Spain, exceeding 100,000 cases a week.

ENVELOPE-MAKING.

The manufacture of stamped envelopes for the United States Government is carried out by means of a machine invented by Mr. H. J. Wickham, which gums, stamps, prints, folds, and counts the envelopes into packets of twenty-five. At the commencement of the operation five hundred blanks are placed in a pile on a table or bed attached to the machine they are automatically picked up one by one, and carried to dies and type, where they are stamped and printed in the required colours. They are then passed on to the folding apparatus, where three edges are gummed and joined, the fourth, the flap of the envelope, being left to dry. Carried forward by an endless chain, they are again picked up one by one by pincers and arranged in packets of twenty-five. One machine, attended by a single workman, is able to make forty-five thousand envelopes per day, the cost of manufacture being reduced to a very small sum.

FLOATING ISLANDS.

The recent report of a floating island which drifted out to sea from the German coast has called attention to the circumstance that Britain can boast of a phenomenon of a somewhat similar character. It is mentioned in most of the guide-books to the Lake Country as occasionally appearing on Derwentwater not far from the famous Lodore Waterfall. The eminent meteorologist, the late Mr. G. J. Symons, who was well known in connection with the rainfall statistics, when visiting the Lake District had an opportunity of seeing this island, which only occasionally makes its appearance above the surface of the water, and generally in the month of June. Its appearance is that of a lawn, and while the centre portion rises perhaps to a height of a foot or so above the water-level, the edges are still anchored to the bottom of the lake. The phenomenon is attributed to a mass of vegetable matter which is normally attached to the soft bottom of the lake, but under certain conditions it gets charged with gas and becomes buoyant enough to tear itself away from its bed. Observations of its occasional appearances go back for many years, and it is marked on some of the old maps.

ANIMATED MICROSCOPY.

The work of the cinematographer has hitherto been to amuse rather than instruct, and when we see the announcement "Animated Pictures" we do not associate the phrase with anything of a technical nature. But it has lately been shown in the most conclusive manner that this form of photograph can be enlisted as an able expositor of facts in natural history which could not by any other means be brought before a classof students in such a realistic manner. Mr. Martin Duncan has succeeded in wedding the cinematograph to the microscope, so that organisms which are too small to be seen at all by the unaided eye are projected upon a screen in highly magnified form while their movements can at the same time be studied. An old but still a favourite experiment with microscopists is to secure a living frog near the stage of the instrument so that the circulation of the blood can be seen in its webbed foot. Mr. Duncan has produced an animated photograph of this phenomenon, in which the blood corpuscles can be plainly seen coursing in lively streams through the vessels. He has also photographed in the form of animated pictures living bacteria magnified by the microscope to one thousand diameters, the component images being taken at the rate of sixteen per second. To achieve this remarkable result a special system of lighting the original object had to be devised, and this, we understand from Mr. Duncan, is the subject of a patent application.

HUMAN MONKEYS IN JAVA.

A most interesting specimen of the baboon race, called a gibbon, was watched by Professor Haeckel at his house in Java. The species is found only in Java, and the natives call it "Oa," on account of the characteristic sound it utters. When standing it is scarcely taller than a child of six. The head is comparatively small, and it has a small, slender waist. The legs are short and the arms long. The face is more human than that of the ourang-outang. Professor Haeckel says:—"In physiognomy reminded me of the manager of an insolvent bank pondering with wrinkled brow over the results of a crash." Distrust of the Oa towards all white Europeans is very noticeable. On the other hand, he was on terms of intimate friendship with the Malays in the household of the Professor, especially with the small children. He never crawled on all fours when tired of running, but stretched on the grass beneath the tropical sun, with one arm under his head. When offered tasty food just out of his reach he cried like a naughty child, 'huite, huite,' a sound altogether different from 'oa-oa,' with which he expressed various emotions. He had a third and more shrill sound when he was suddenly frightened. The speech of these human monkeys embraces many different sounds but they are modulated and altered in tone and strength with a number of repetitions. They also use many gestures, motions with their hands, and grimaces which are so expressive that a careful observer can detect their different wishes and various emotions.

"'Oa' grasped a cup in both hands and drank like a child. He pealed bananas and oranges just as we are accustomed to do, holding the fruit in his left hand. Most of the Malays do not regard the gibbon and ourang-outang as brutes. They believe the former are bewitched men, and that the latter are criminals who have been changed to monkeys as a punishment."—"Science Siftings.

ANNIHILATING SPACE.

The turbine which was said to be destined to supersede the reciprocating steam engine, is, in its turn, threatened. According to reports, from the other side of the Atlantic, two separate investors, carrying on their experiments apart, have accomplished what has been the dream of engineers for several decades, and have discovered how to obtain electricity direct from coal, without the intervention of steam engine at all. A few years ago, an electrical engineer of high repute said there were no more surprises in the future of electricity. That but one thing was wanted, and that was the direct generation—the divorce of electricity from steam. That would surely come, he predicted, so surely as came Edison's divisibility of the electrical current, making the application of electric lighting to domestic uses possible at a time when so great an expert as Lord Kelvin was declaring it to be an electrician's chimera. If the experimenter has achieved all that it is asserted for him he has, that divorce has been accomplished by Mr. James H. Reid, of New Jersey, in what he calls the "dynelectron," and by Mr. Hugo June, of Chicago, who has with greater modesty termed his device a "cool battery." In both cases the boiler, the steam engine, and the dynamos are dispensed with, so the inventor claims. The cost is reduced to three-fourths of that of the present. The generation is steadily and practically unlimited. Mr. Reid is said already to have constructed a sixty-horse power machine, to have worked it satisfactorily in the presence of experts, and to have proved that the average efficiency in producing electricity by the Reid process is 45 per cent. as against 8½ per cent. by steam. If anything like this result has been attained the importance of the discovery cannot be overrated. A great change is indeed at hand So cheap a supply of electricity would revolutionise the world's industry.

STATE TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR NATIVES OF INDIA.

1. With a view to provide for natives of India the higher technical education which may qualify them to assist in promoting the improvement of existing native industries, and the development of new industries wherever this may be possible, the Government of India are ready, as an experimental measure, to give a small number of Technical scholarships, if promising candidates, well-qualified in some particular branch of industry, present themselves. The outlines of the scheme are sketched out below:—

2. Value of the scholarships.—The value of the scholarships has been fixed at £150 a year, in addition to fees payable to the institutions where the scholars will study, and travelling expenses; but Government will consider proposals for increasing it in special cases.

3. Places and periods of tenure.—Each scholarship is tenable for an average period of two years, which may be increased or reduced in special cases.

4. The scholarships may be held in Great Britain, on the Continent of Europe, or in America, and are payable from the date of the scholar's arrival in the country which he may select for study.

5. Subject of study.—Law, Medicine, Forestry, Veterinary Science, Agriculture and Engineering have been excluded from the scope of the present proposal. The scholarships are in the first instance proposed to be used for the encouragement of the mining industry in Bengal, but any other branch of industry can similarly be helped and fostered. Industries in which native capital and enterprise are engaged, or likely to be engaged, and in which the trained scholar might, on return to his country, find scope for his skill and ability, will be particularly appropriate for selection.

6. Conditions of award.—The scholarships are tenable by persons who are natives of India within the meaning of section 6 of the Statute, 33 Vic., Cap. 3. A competent knowledge of English, or the language of any other country in which the candidate proposes to work and study, is essential to enable him to take full advantage of the course of study.

7. In the matter of selection of scholars, Government will be guided by considerations of the candidate's capacity, intelligence, particular interest in and connection with the industry selected, and the assurance that he will continue to devote himself to the subject on his return to India. These being matters which cannot be decided by the holding of degrees obtained, by examination, or by competition, no special examination is considered necessary and none will be held. But a scholar before nomination should have received the best technical education available in the Province, in the particular industry which he has to study, and no candidate will be considered qualified unless he has displayed an aptitude for technical study.

8. No age limit has been fixed. But it may be fixed by Government in certain cases.

9. The candidates for scholarships will be called upon to submit certificates attesting (a) their moral character, (b) knowledge of the language of the country in which they elect to study, and (c) physical capacity, from recognized persons who may be considered fit to certify to these facts.

10. The scholars in England or elsewhere, as the case may be, will be under the control and supervision of the Secretary of State. The conditions under which they will hold the scholarships will be similar to those laid down for Government of India scholarships, and power will be retained to cancel a scholarship and to send the scholar back to India, if his progress and conduct be not satisfactory.

11. Returned scholars.—No scholar will be bound on his return to India by any engagement to serve Government or a private firm, and he choice of his career will be in the first instance determined, on his return from Europe, by his own inclination. Should any occasion arise Government will be glad to turn his ability and increased knowledge to account as teacher in an Industrial School or in other capacities connected with the improvement of local industries.

12. Applications for one or more of such scholarships for the development of the mining industry in the first instance should be made direct to the Director of Public Instruction. Full particulars should be furnished as to the past educational experience, training and future requirements of each applicant for a scholarship. Applicants should also indicate, if possible, what they wish to work at in their future careers on return to India. The scholarships will be awarded by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Local Government.

13. Written applications from candidates for the scholarships mentioned in Rule 12 for the year 1904 will be received at the office of the Director of Public Instruction, Writers' Buildings, Calcutta, up to the 1st March 1904.

RESULT OF THE B. L EXAMINATION.

First Division.

(In order of merit.)

P. Lobo, Morris Coll., Nagpur.
Damodar Marotee Bakre, Morris Coll., Nagpur.
Biswas, Praphullachandra, Ripon Coll.
Talukdar, Sureschandra, Private Student.

Second Division.

(In order of merit.)

Sen, Harendranath, Bangabasi Coll.
Jha, Ramkrishna, T. N. Jubilee Coll., Bhagalpur.
Ray, Satischandra, I, Ripon Coll.
Nandakumar Sahay, Bangabasi Coll.
Sinha, Nemdhari, Metropolitan Inst.
Chakrabarti, Harendrakisor, City Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Nagendranath, I, Ripon Coll.
Chandra, Bishnuprasad, Ripon Coll.
Das, Nilambar, Victoria Col., Cooch Behar.
Sarkar, Birajkrishna, Ripon Coll.
Keshaw Balwant Roa Shanede, Morris Coll., Nagpur.
Datta, Durgasankar, Ripon Coll.
Sengupta, Birendrachandra, Ripon Coll.
Guha, Abinashchandra, Metropolitan Inst.
Basu, Dwarkanath, Dacca Coll.
Ray, Dinescharan, Ripon Coll.
Majumdar, Binodlal, Ripon Coll.
Anand Venkatesh Zingarde, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Guha, Satyaranjan, Dacca Coll.
Chattopadhyay, Kshirodbihari, Ripon Coll.
Ghosh, Jyotishchandra, I, Ripon Coll.
Bagchi, Mahendranath, Metropolitan Inst.
Chattopadhyay, Manmathakumar, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Amritalal, Ripon Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Satchidananda, Ripon Coll.
Khaja Mohamed Noor, Ripon Coll.
Datta, Jatindranath, City Coll.
Maitra, Jatindrachandra, City Coll.
Mitra, Phanindranath, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Ramanimohan, Ripon Coll.
Ghosh, Ramprasad, Ripon Coll.
Mahmed Ibrahim Hasan, Bangabasi Coll.
Majumdar, Gokulchandra, Metropolitan Inst.
Datta, Bhabaniprosad, Patna Coll
Sil Praphudakumar, Ripon Coll.
Datta, Bhabaniprasad, Patna Coll.
Sil, Praphullakumar, Ripon Coll.
Mukhopadyay, Binodbihari, Dacca Coll.
Sen, Akshaykumar, Metropolitan Inst.
Sengupta, Nalinkanta, Metropolitan Inst.
Chakrabarti, Purnachandra, City Coll.
Chandrasekhar Prasad Singh, Behar National Coll.
Sen Atulchandra, City Coll.
Chattopadhyay, Ratneswar, City Coll.
Sen Saratkumar, Metropolitan Inst.
Sil, Asutosh, Ripon Coll.
Gupta, Kesabchandra, Ripon Coll.
Sen, Akshaychandra, Dacca Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Nandakisor, Ripon Coll.
Niyogi, Abniprasad, Ripon Coll.
Maitra, Hemprasad, Ripon Coll.
Mukhopadyay, Jitendranath, Ripon Coll.
Sanyal, Hemchandra, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyaya, Gajanan, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhay, Lalitmohun, Ripon Coll.
Pande, Murlimanohar, Patna Coll.
Mukhopadhaya, Radhaprasad, Berhampur Krishnath Coll.
Narayan Raghunath Bhide, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Trimbak Govind Rao Vaidya, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Das, Surendrachandra, Dacca Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Gopalchandra, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Saratkumar, Metropolitan Inst.
Mustaphi, Jatindranath, Metropolitan Inst.
Mitra, Jatindranath, Ripon Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Harendranath, Ripon Coll.
Jagamnath Gadi Kathecar, Morris Coll., Nagpur.
Basu, Satischandra, T. N. Jubilee Coll. Bhagalpur.
Ganpati Mahadeo Pendharkar, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Maitra, Krishnakamal, Ripon Coll.
Chattopadhyay, Krishnalal, Ripon Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Upendranath, Ripon Coll.
Pannalal Agarwala, Metropolitan Inst.
Ghosh, Kuladakanta, Bangabasi Coll.
Mitra, Sasadhar, Metropolitan Inst.
Sen, Kiranchandra, Ripon Coll.
De, Gosthabihari, Morris Coll., Nagpur.
Mingail, E. S., Ripon Coll.
Chakrabarti, Akshaykumar, Metropolitan Inst.
Chattopadhyay, Madhusudan, Metropolitan Inst.
Datta, Amulyachandra, Victoria Coll. Cooch Behar.
Sarkar, Satischandra, Brajamohan Inst. Barisal.
Set, Goshthabihari, Metropolitan Inst.
Ghosal, Mahendranath, Ripon Coll.
Palit, Gopalchandra, City Coll.
Datta, Kedarnath, Ripon Coll.
Nilkunth Poojari, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Sen, Jaminikanta, Ripon Coll.
Shripat Govind Bapat, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Pal, Upendranath, Metropolitan Inst.
Acharyya, Tarakanta, Ripon Coll.
Sarkar, Hemantakumar, Ripon Coll.
Sinha, Kalikumar, Patna Coll.
Mukhopadhyaya, Srikanta, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Niharnarayan, Metropolitan Inst.
Bandyopadhyay, Sasankasekhar, Ripon Coll.
Chattopadhyay, Sureshchandra, Ripon Coll.
Madhocharan, Bihar National Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Pyarilal, Private Student.
Das, Nripendranath, Bangabasi Coll.
Gupta, Praphullachandra, Rajshahi Coll.
Gogai, Kanakchandra, Ripon Coll.
Mitra, Saratkumar, Metropolitan Inst.
Mukhopadhyay, Narendrakumar, City Coll.
Rakshit, Rameschandra, Ripon Coll.
Abdul Hamid, Ripon Coll.
Kar, Upendrakumar, City Coll.
Munsi, Dineschandra, Metropolitan Inst.
Dasgupta, Rajendranath, City Coll.
Ray, Nalinibihari, City Coll.
Sinha, Jatindraprasad, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Manoranjan, City Coll.
Das, Nabadwipchandra, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Surendranath, I., Ripon Coll.
Chattopadhyay, Annandaprasad, Hugli Coll.
Sen, Surendranath, Ripon Coll.
Dasgupta, Debendranath, Rajshahi Coll.
Manik Chand, Patna Coll.
Mitra, Jnanendrachandra, Dacca Coll.
Ray, Sasadhar, Ripon Coll.
Sen, Dhirendranath, Metropolitan Inst.
Majumdar, Haridas, Ripon Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Anukulchandra, Victoria Coll. Cooch Behar.
Bhaumik, Dwijendranath, Bangabasi Coll.
Khasnabis, Jogeschandra, Ripon Coll.
Maitra, Sasikamal, Ripon Coll.
Mitra, Kalidas, Ripon Coll.
Pal, Radhikaranjan, City Coll.
Bhattacharyya, Taranganath Ripon Coll.
Kasinath Gajanan Kothe, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Raychaudhuri, Jogindranarayan, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Bhupalchandra, Bangabasi Coll.
Chattopadhya, Dasarathi, Behar National Coll.
Govind Chimnaji Bhagwat, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
De, Chandranath, Hughli Coll.
Md, Asghar Ali, Morris Coll. Nagpur.
Nandi, Jnanchandra, City Coll.
Bandyopadhay, Kshirodeswar, Metropolitan Inst.
Das, Mihirlal, Metropolitan Inst.
Sengupta, Rajanikanta, Ripon Coll.
Sen, Annadacharan, Ripon Coll.
Bandyopadhyay, Surendranath, II Ripon Coll.
Das, Mahendrakumar, Dacca, Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Nalinikanta, Metropolitan Inst.
Sarkar, Kiranchandra, Ripon Coll.
Sur, Srischnadra, Hugli Coll.
Basu, Debendranath, Ripon Coll.
Mukhopadhyay, Makhanlal, City Coll.
Nand Kisore, Behar National Coll.
Ray, Nisikanta, Dacca Coll.
Purushottam Keshao Palekar, Morris Coll. Nagpur.

SCIENCE FOR LAY READERS.

MANUFACTURE AND USES OF ARTIFICIAL CAMPHOR.

"It is not generally known that only about one-fourth of the total amount of camphor consumed in this country is used in medicine," says the "Scientific American," "the remaining three-fourths is consumed in the arts, being largely employed in the manufacture of artificial leather, in celluloid, in guncotton, photo films, etc. Artificially produced camphor, or synthetic camphor, for it is in no sense artificial, nor different from the natural wood product, promises to reduce the price of this important drug at least to some extent, and to be a wholesome competitor of the Japanese monopoly in the markets of the world. The distant and uncertain supply of the drug, and the monopoly have stimulated chemists to manufacture camphor synthetically, and the process used in a factory, twenty-five miles from New York, at Port Chester, was discovered during the course of some experiments in the synthetic formation of one of the essential oils. It was perfected in two years, and now a yield of 27 per cent. of the raw material used has been accomplished:

"Generally speaking, all of the essential oils and allied compounds belong to the terpene family; that is, they are hydrocarbons. The discovery made at the Port Chester plant was that by introducing the carboxyl group into turpentine, two new compounds resulted, both of which were readily converted into camphor. The possibility of this transmutation is the more readily seen when it is remembered that turpentine, derived so abundantly from the pine trees of our own southern forests, is, chemically considered, C10 H16, whereas camphor, derived directly from the camphor tree of far-away Formosa, is C10H16O; that is, the only chemical difference between turpentine and camphor is one atom of oxygen. Turpentine is derived from the pine tree very much as sap is obtained from the maple. It is, in fact, pine sap distilled and purified. In this state it is found to consist of ten atoms of carbon united with sixteen atoms of hydrogen, and the distilled juice of the pine tree and the distillate from the wood of the camphor tree differ only by the addition of one atom of oxygen to the latter.

"By introducing a carboxyl into pinine, which is the essential and main constituent of the American and French oil of turpentine, two new compounds are formed, namely, pinyl oxylate and pinyl formate, and both of these can by simple chemical means be converted into camphor. The oxalate yields camphor by distillation with steam in the presence of an alkali; the formate under the same treatment yields borneol camphor, which is a hydrate of the product sought for, and by simple oxidation yields camphor.

The borneol camphor, aside from being easily converted into pure camphor, is a constituent of many natural essential oils and perfumes. It occurs in small quantities in nature, and is quoted in the open market at about $10 per pound. After nearly two years of experimental research in the laboratory, the process gave such promise of practical results that it was decided to construct and operate a small commercial plant, and this was carried out at the Ampere Company's development station at Niagara Falls. A small equipment capable of producing in the neighborhood of 100 pounds of camphor a day was constructed and operated for almost a year, and from the data thus obtained, the present manufacturing plant was designed, built, and operated.,

"In steam-jacketed reaction tanks, oil of turpentine weighing at least 2,000 pounds is placed, together with anhydrous oxalic acid, the result of this reaction being pinyl oxalate and pinyl formate. After the completion of this step in the process, the mass, which is liquid, is pumped into a set of stills for treatment. Here it is distilled with live steam in the presence of an alkali, the resultant formation occurring or ordinary camphor and borneol camphor dissolved in the oily products of the reaction. These oils are fractionally distilled to extract the camphor and borneol further. After the pleasant-smelling oils have passed over, the camphor and borneol distil in the steam, and are precipitated in the condenser in a white mass somewhat resembling boiled rice. The crude product is then forced by compressed air through a filler press, and thoroughly washed to free it from all traces of oil, when it is dropped into an oxidizing tank, where the borneol oxidizes into ordinary camphor.

"The mass is again transferred to a rapidly revolving centrifugal machine, where the oxidizing liquors are thrown out, and the camphor, being heavier, remains behind, comparatively pure, but stained from the oxidizing compound, so that it resembles light-brown sugar. After removal from the separator it is placed in a large steam-jacketed sublimer. In this vessel a slow heat frees it from any water it may contain, and the temperature is then raised to the boiling point of camphor, and a rapid current of air projected over the surface of the pan, blowing the camphor into a condensing chamber, where it settles in the form of snowflake-like crystals.

"The subliming pan and its condensing chamber are so arranged that from the time the crude camphor is put in to the time it comes out, human hands do not touch it, but it is transferred mechanically into paper-lined barrels, thus insuring absolute freedom from dust or any extraneous matter or impurities. The yield of camphor by this process is from 25 to 30 per cent. of the weight of turpentine used. In addition to camphor, there are a number of light oils produced in the process, which are also found in nature, namely, dipentine, oil of lemon, oil of lime, and a number of other natural terpenes and essential oils. The process of synthetically producing camphor takes about fifteen hours."

RADIUM AND PLANT LIFE.

Prof. Henry H. Dixon of the Botanical Laboratory of Trinity College, Dublin, writes to "nature" on some preliminary experiments he has carried out on plants upon the sensitivity of protoplasm toward the radiations of radium. He says: "The first experiment I made in this direction was with cress seedlings. About 100 seeds were uniformly distributed over the surface of some moist sand contained in a flower saucer, and a tube containing 5 mgrs. of pure radium bromide supported at a height of 1 cm. over the centre of the sand surface. During the experiment the saucer, covered with aglass shade, was kept in the dark. It was hoped that this arrangement would show whether the radiations are harmful or not to the sensitive cells of seedlings, and at the same time indicate if they are able to act as a stimulus to evoke positive or negative curvatures. After the germination of the seeds, which took place within two days nearly simultaneously all over the sand, the growth of all the seedlings was nearly uniform. But close comparison showed that the seedlings immediately under the radium tube were to some small extent retarded in their development. The retardation was apparent in the seedlings situated within a radius of about 2 cm. from the radium bromide. Besides being smaller, these seedlings developed somewhat fewer and shorter root hairs than those nearer the margin of the sand.

"In the subsequent growth the presence of the radium evoked no curvatures in the little plants close by it, or in those more removed. Nor did it appear to exercise any noxious effects, other than the retardation just described, on the seedlings within the period of the experiment, viz., thirteen days. The plants grew up beside it and against the glass containing it, neither influenced by it nor hurt by it, so far as one could see. This experiment was repeated on two other occasions (one experiment lasting three days after germination and the other lasting four days) with the same result, viz., no curvature was evoked, but the seedlings close under the radium bromide were slightly retarded in their growth.

"In order to determine if motile organisms are sensitive to the radiations, I enclosed the radium tube in a vessel of water containing large quantities of "Volox globator." Extraneous light was cut off from the experiment. After twenty-four hours many of the "Volvux" colonies had sunk to the bottom of the vessel, but they were evenly distributed over the bottom, and were neither aggregated under the tube nor dispersed away from it. Those that were still swimming in the water were also uniformly distributed through it, some actually in contact with the radium tube and some far away from it, but showing no sign of being attracted towards it or of being repelled from it. It is apparent from these few experiments that the radiations emitted by radium bromde are not able to produce marked effect in a short time on these vegetable colls and tissues. Even the phosphorescent light (which is quite perceptible to the eye under suitable conditions) emitted by the radium bromide is too feeble to be effective in calling out a phototactic response."

HYBRIDIZATION OF SPECIES.

Prof. Jacques Loeb of the physiology department of the University of California, in a bulletin published in the "University Press," gives a few details in regard to important experiments he has been making in the laboratory in the hybridization of species, a theory toward which he has been working for a number of years. He says in part:

"You are all undoubtedly familiar with the fact only such animals as are closely related can be hybridized. This fact finds an experimental proof on a large scale in the ocean, where the spawning seasons of many forms, whose eggs are fertilized in the water, must naturally coincide. As the motion of the water carries the sperm long distances and as, according to Ficher's observations, the sperm of a sea urchin keeps alive for a week or longer in sea water, it is indeed remarkable that, as far as we know, no hybride are found in the ocean, with the possible exception of closely related forms.

"For years I have tried to find a method by which these apparent barriers might be removed. It was more than the mere delight in experimental sport which led me to this attempt. I dare say that experimental biolongy is confronted with two great problems of transformation which it either has to solve successfully, or for which it has to to establish beyond doubt the possibility of a solution. One is the transformation of dead into living matter, the other the transformation of species. We have seen that normal sea water has a neutral action, and that in sea water, as well as in artificial solutions, when they contain sodium chloride and calcium chloride in the right proportion, and if they are neutral, the eggs of sea urchins can be fertilized by sperm of their own kind. The fertilization of the same eggs by sperm of the starfish is, however, impossible in such solutions. By a slight change in the nature of these solutions, the hybridization can be accomplished; it is only necessary to give the solutions a slight but definite degree of alkalinity.

"I was interested to find out whether or not the sea urchin eggs, fertilized by the sperm of the starfish, were able to form a skeleton. I am not yet ready to give a definite answer in regard to the results. It is certain that a beginning of a skeleton showed itself in a small number of larvæ, but it is also certain that the formation of a skeleton was retarded if compared with the formation of a skeleton of pure larvæ, and that, even at the best, was never complete. This looks, indeed, as if these larvæ behaved like a real cross between the sea urchin and the starfish."

•A Mysore landholder by name Mirle Krisnappa gave a donation by his will of Rs. 15,000 to educational purposes lately and died. His nephews have filed a suit in the Sub Judge's Court alleging that they have a claim on the funds from which the charity is made and their uncle was not right in willing away Rs. 15,000 from the common property for charity. An injunction was issued on the 8th instant restraining the use of the money till the claim was disposed and the hearing has been fixed to the 10th February.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE UTKAL UNION
OR
THE CUTTACK CONFERENCE.

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(*From Our Special Representative.*)

THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH.

The President of the Conference, H.H. the Maharajah of Mourbhunj, who has already established his reputation as a model Indian Prince, delivered a very thoughtful speech in which he described in some detail the aim and scope of the Conference.

Before proceeding to the main subject, the President made a feeling allusion to the lamented demise of the late Maharaja Sir Sudhol Deb Deb, K.C.I.E., Chief of Bamra, who was not only a liberal-minded and model ruler but also a great scholar, an author of repute, and a patron of literature and of the Fine Arts. Passing on to the object for which this Conference was convened, he said that they had met to promote in every possible way unity among the various races, castes, and sects of the people of Orissa, and to take all means in their power to foster and develop the industries and resources of every part of the country where the Uriya tongue was spoken, to help the spread of education, and to carry through social reforms as were found to be necessary. He contrasted their past history, full of strife and bloodshed and brigandage, with the benefits of peace they were at present enjoying under a benign rule, which promised exceedingly well for progress and prosperity. He wished to impress upon his hearers that they should not waste their energy over the larger questions which relate to the defence of the empire or to the foreign policy of the Government, nor should they agitate for those political privileges for which the Uriya people were not at present qualified. Such agitation was not only useless, but distracted their attention from other questions of more vital importance to them at the present moment. They should also exclude all religious subjects from their discussion, and take the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man as their common bond of union. In a long and exceedingly thoughtful speech, which was frequently punctuated with applause, he exhorted them to do everything in their power to promote the cause of education, which always made one a better man, a better father, a better husband, a better neighbour, and generated sympathy, co-operation and friendliness. He spoke in strong terms in favour of female education and referred in a similar strain to the importance of a proper training for the sons of rajas and zemindars for whom there should be a special institution in Orissa. The problem of a moral training was also of special importance in the present day when Western culture and civilisation had begun to unsettle men's minds from the old groove of thought. It had banished many of their prejudices and superstitions, but in the absence of religious and moral training it was also threatening to banish all religious and moral principles. His only object in referring to the subject was to point out what he considered to be the greatest deficiency in the present system of education. Passing on to the subject of social reforms, he said that they should avoid both extremes, and follow a middle course. They should retain all that was good and healthy, and take steps to root out those which stood in the way of their educational and industrial advancement, or barred the road to unity and progress. All leaders of society should take part and join together to guide the course of reform aright. After briefly alluding in sympathetic terms to the great future of Uriya literature, he dwelt at some length on the question of agriculture and made many very valuable suggestions, among which were the desirability of sending their young men to the Agricultural College, Sibpur, the introduction of sericulture and improvement in cattle-breeding. He next touched upon the importance of industrial pursuits, noticing with pleasure the success of the artisans engaged in the celebrated Cuttack silver filagree work. He pointed out that the proper employment of capital would materially benefit the country. In conclusion, he drew a favourable augury from the readiness with which such a multitude had sacrificed their time and comfort and travelled so far to attend this Conference, which he believed was the first of its kind in the annals of modern Orissa and which he felt confident would bear good fruit.

The Maharaja of Keonjhar moved the following resolution: "That this Conference, representing the people of the Uriya speaking tracts under the Bengal, Madras and the Central Provinces Governments, respectfully record their deep and sincere feelings of gratitude to His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India for his beneficent proposal for the administrative union of the whole Uriya-speaking tracts; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Private Secretary for communication to His Excellency." The Raja of Kallikote and Atgada seconded, and the resolution, which was supported by Raja Baikuntha Nath De, Bahadur, and Babu Viswanath Ker, was carried by acclamation.

Sri Bikram Deb Burma of Vizag moved the following resolution: "That the sincere thanks of this Conference be conveyed to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for having restored the use of the Uriya language as the court language in Sambalpur, while His Honor was at the head of the Central Provinces Administration, and that a copy of this resolution be communicated through the Private Secretary to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal." He said that when the fiat went forth that Uriya should cease to be the language of the law courts in Sambalpur, it had caused great consternation, and had this order been insisted upon, it would have been the deathblow to the Uriya tongue and to Uriya literature in the Central Provinces. Nobody would have cared to learn as unnecessary language, and he believed that even greetings would have ceased to be exchanged in Uriya.

Babu Chandra Sekhar Behera of Sambalpur in seconding said that the late Sir John Woodburn had caused great excitement in Orissa by directing that the Uriya tongue should no longer be the language of the Sambalpur courts, and a memorial had been submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy. The then Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Andrew Fraser, supported this memorial, and His Honor had earned the gratitude of the whole Uriya people, as it was entirely due to his sympathy and recommendation that this obnoxious order was revoked.

Babu Ram Chunder Dass of Puri, and Babu Gagan Behary Chowdhury, supported the resolution, which was put and carried.

RAJAH BOIKANTHA'S SPEECH.

Raja Baikuntha Nath De Bahadur moved "That this Conference emphasize the desirability of fostering and strengthening friendly relations between the Utkaliyas and the other peoples and nations with whom they are in contact."

In a speech, which was frequently cheered to be said that the friendly relations among the different races of this province would form the true foundation of the unity which they desired. They should extend the hand of fellowship and friendliness to all who had settled in Orissa or with whom they came in contact. Foreigners had always been well treated by the ancient Rajas of Orissa, and there were many who had adopted this country as the land of their adoption. He instanced the case of Napoleon who, though a Corsican by birth, was welcomed in France as a brother devoted to the country, and of Max Muller who, though a German, was recognised as a true Britisher. Their hopes of attaining a true national spirit depended upon their casting aside all narrow ideas. They should cast aside all personal differences and do all in their power to increase the strength and prosperity of their motherland. With regard to the feeling between the Uriyas and the Bengalees the Rajah said that it was of the best kind. It was to the Lord Gouranga, the Avatar of Nadia, who not only preached the religion of love but practised it Himself, and showed by His own example how to love God, the Temple of Puri owed its onward growth and sanctity. And He was a Bengalee. And the Bengalees were thankful to the Uriyas because, their King, Pratap Rudra, gave shelter to the Lord.

MR. DAS' SPEECH.

Mr. M. S. Das, who addressed the meeting both in Uriya and English, said that they had at last realised the value of unity, which was the foundation of all good work. The English nation was made up of several nations of Europe. Metals mixed with one another only when they were in a molten state, and then each metal lost its individual properties and colour, and in combination with other metals formed a new metal. So it was with the different classes of society. When the different classes of society were inspired with brotherly love and they were fused into one, they lost their speciality, and the result was an amalgam, which like gun metal could do anything which any one of its component parts singly could not do. Similarly in this assembly which comprised Maharajas and Rajas, Princes who were the descendants of proud Rajputs who came and settled here centuries ago, Mahomedans and Bengalis, and they identified themselves in interest and everything else with the Uriyas, and so these people had been fused together into one nation, which was no longer a race. (Applause.) Their common mother Orissa was lying on her death bed. She was not now wearing those jewels which had adorned her in ancient times, and her two feet which were washed by the Ganges and Godavery were now lying motionless. The finger at whose touch rocks would shrink and form caves to give shelter to ascetics could no longer move; she could not also speak, and the only person who knew the "montro" which could have enabled her to recover her voice was Upendro Bhonjo, the great poet of Orissa. (Applause.) But he was no more. They ought to raise another Upendro Bhonjo from amongst themselves. If the Uriya-speaking peoples were to do any great or grand work they must give up their selfish individuality and merge into one nation. It was said of Mahomed the Prophet, that when he was a boy an angel opened his heart and removed from it something that was black. The physicians of Europe in the present day, when a person was in a very low state of vitality, transfused another's blood into the patient's veins and thus restored vitality. If the children of Orissa wished to revive their mother they must transfer other blood into her, but it must be pure blood, the blood from their hearts, after the black spot in the heart had been removed, and that black spot was self-interest, selfishness, and pride. (Loud applause.)

The resolution was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

A Central Committee of some sixty members was then appointed (with power to add to their number and to form local branch committees) for the purpose of carefully educating public opinion concerning measures which may be regarded as expedient for the introduction of salutary social reforms among the Utkaliyas in response to the need of the present times, an account of the work done during the year to be printed and laid before the Utkal Union Conference at their next annual sitting. Here are the names of some of the members of the Central Committee.

Maharaja of Mourbhanj; Maharaja of Keonjhar; Raja of Atgarh; Raja of Khandpara; Raja of Atmallik; Raja of Bamra; Raja of Sonepur; Raja of Gangpur; Maharaja of Jaipur; Raja Bahadoor of Patrikud; Raja of Kanika; Raja of Talcher; Raja of Madhupur; Raja of Tigeria; Raja of Kalikote and Atgada; Raja of Bada Khemidi; Raja of Mandassa; Raja of Dharakote; Second Prince of Parlakhemidi; Prince Bikram Deo of Vizagapatam; Raja of Nursinghpur; Raja of Baramba; Raja of Ranpur; Raja of Boad; Raja of Desapalla; Raja of Nilgiri; Raja of Dhenkanal; Raja of Pal Lahara; Raja of Redhakhol; Raja of Hindol; Raja of Nayagur; Raja Baikuntha Nath De Bahadoor of Balasore; Babu Madhusudan Rao; Rai Radhanath Rai Bahadoor and others.

Standing Committees were also appointed for adopting organised measures for the improvement of the Oriya literature and language, in co-operation with the 'Utkal-sahitya Samaj' of Cuttack. A Central Committee was also formed for the purpose of improving the agricultural and industrial condition of the Uriya-speaking tracts, and for utilising the natural products thereof and taking steps to have the 'Silponnati Sabha' of Cuttack affiliated to this Conference, and making arrangements for holding an Annual Exhibition of Agricultural, Industrial and the Natural Products in connection with this Conference.

Babu M. R. Ry. Rajgopalachari Rajguru, of Mandrassa, seconded the motion, and Babu Radhanath Paty of Minapore, and Ram Narayan Misra of Sambalpur, also spoke in support.

THE REV. MR. YOUNG'S SPEECH.

The Rev. Mr. A. H. Young supported the resolution. He was glad to see so many present, and he trusted that their earnestness and enthusiasm showed that there were better days in store for Orissa. He fully sympathised with the purpose they had in view, viz., a United Orissa. He regretted that he was not sufficiently acquainted with the vernacular to be able to address them in it. The question was what should be their attitude towards the other nations, among them and close to them,—the Bengalees from the North, the Telegus from the South the Marwarees and Mussulmans. These were all the leading men in their own several departments, and their number was very likely to increase. Should they dislike these men and be against them, or apply to the Government to stop them from coming, these measures would be useless. The best thing for them to do was to gain respect for themselves, and go in for a fair generous rivalry. They should strive hard for the positions hitherto occupied by these people. They should remove, as far as possible, all hindrances to the progress of Orissa. They should use their money and position and every effort they are capable of for the purpose of raising Orissa. The strong should not oppress the weak, but help the weak, and the weak should not hate the strong, but work with the strong, all for one glorious end. This was the secret of the progress and power and position attained by all great nations now. They should examine their social customs, and see if there was anything which was hindering their advancement; if so, they should clear them out at once, as nuisances are removed from the streets. If there were religious customs which were hindering their progress, they should examine them clearly to see if they were really religious. It was his opinion that no true religion hindered the progress of the people: its nature was to raise and bless. From the lowest to the highest properly graded union was absolutely necessary. With reference to Education, which was very essential for their progress, he exhorted them to educate their girls as well as boys. The kind of rivalry he recommended was the best of feelings towards others, but constant endeavour so to improve, rise and advance, that everyone would respect and honour them and have friendly feelings towards the Uriya nation.

The Conference closed on the 1st January with an exhibition, where various articles, consisting of agricultural and industrial products of course, were displayed, and which was opened with a beautiful speech by Mr. K. G. Gupta, the Commissioner. In the course of his address Mr. Gupta said that, he had known the Uriya people since a long time, and he could testify to the fact that, not only they had a glorious past but a bright future also. He made several suggestions by which the people might improve themselves, specially in agriculture. He said the first duty of the Hindu was not only to revere the cow but feed it well. He advised every ryot to keep a plot of pasture land for the maintenance of his cattle. He expressed his deep sympathy with the movement, not only in his private but also in his official capacity. Mr. Gupta was frequently cheered while delivering his speech.

The absence of the District Magistrate, Mr. Fischer from the Conference was very much commented upon. Indeed, with the exception of the European Inspector of Schools, no other European official attended the Conference. The proceedings throughout were carried out in an orderly and serious spirit, and called forth much enthusiasm from the audience.

THE CONDITION OF THE MAHARS.

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The following appears in the columns of a Bombay paper:—The condition of the low castes of India, especially the Mahars, at the present day has been attracting a good deal of attention both in Poona and its outlying districts, and also in the Ratnagiri Collectorate near Bombay. The saying of "give a dog a bad name and hang him" never applied with more potency than to this community. In the days of old John Company, they were among the principal men in the Company's army; in the days of the Mutiny adequate military testimony of their valour is afforded. In later times they have striven unsuccessfully to free themselves from the stigma of low birth and iron fortune, and they have in many instances won the confidence of their European employers by their integrity. But it has been quite different with their Indian fellow-subjects. The rigid prejudices of birth and caste have kept the other classes of Indian society aloof from the Mahar. True, many of their latter have won academic distinction, some have taken honours in war, others in the great world of trade. But in whatever capacity they have shown themselves, the stigma of birth has held them back. At the present day the Mahar community, getting a smattering of education, are becoming restive under this stigma imposed by their own countrymen. Not very long ago a mass meeting of Mahars was held at Saswad in the Poona Collectorate, and the speakers implored Government not to sweep their name out of the Indian army, but to try and educate them so that they may be able to tell their wrongs with their own mouths. At the present moment they are suffering a good deal at the hands of native kulkarnis, patels, and village officials, and have absolutely no plea or redress. If Government only looked into the facts of the case in many a low-caste village, where the Brahmin kulkarni and patel rule supreme and nobody dare say him nay, they would find a state of things hardly believable. Should the unhappy cultivator resist the extortion of the one, or the "zoolum" of the other, he invariably has a bad time of it. He may figure like the hero in Gray's Elegy

Some village Hampden, that with dauntless breast,
The little tyrant of his fields withstood,

but, alas, he has no one to voice his wrongs or give him redress. The position of this caste to-day is a sad one, and, unless the authorities are disposed to help them, they may, as Lord Elphinstone said, in time become a menace and a reproach to the community.

The inquiry instituted into the case wherein two Medical Officers were attacked by villagers during the Punjab Manoeuvres last month has failed to discover any reason for the act of violence committed. The matter is the subject of Magisterial proceedings.

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ABSORPTION AND DISINTEGRATION.

—:-0-:—

Last Wednesday, we endeavoured to interest our readers in certain disabilities inevitably attendant on an attempted amalgamation of a part of East Bengal with Assam, as our Supreme Government contemplates; we consider, unwisely and unjustly. We purpose to-day, endeavouring to demonstrate that, such a dismemberment as Mr. Risley's letter signifies, will amount to an irrevocable wrong, done to peoples, who, as regards their religious and socioreligious institutions, look to our Government in a special manner, to protect and preserve to them intact, their landmarks of faith and all that pertains thereto—an expectation that once received hope and encouragement from a sacred pledge of toleration and non-interference by our rulers; but which, we greatly fear, has long ceased to hold sway with Indian people generally, as a safeguard against usurpation and oppression. Now, if our Government is honestly disposed, and in earnest about non-interference with the religious prejudices of its Indian, and especially, with those of its Bengalee subjects, is it fair to place obstacles in their way, that will bar them from giving full scope and operation to institutions which are principally built upon canonical prescription? We think not, but upon this portion of our subject, and upon its geographical aspects, we will remark later. We would like to explain here, that certain semi-religious institutions, as we regard them, exist all over Bengal, abolition of which would be regarded as a heavy misfortune. There are certain 'tols' or 'toles,' maintained by pundits, who, from voluntary contributions, and from other private sources, feed and maintain numbers of students, whom they instruct free of cost, and in this way keep up a high standard of Sanskrit learning—and Sanskrit literature, it will be remembered—is more or less connected with theology. They receive invitations from all parts of Bengal, even from Nadia, and are held in esteem and respect. If these men and institutions are amalgamated with Assam, it must follow that, they will lose their prestige, hence their usefulness, and sink into insignificance. Thus, much theological as well as secular learning will be lost to Bengal, not taking into account that, numbers of well-born and highly-educated men will inevitably be thus deprived of far more valued privileges than any Government can replace. And, in this direction alone, our rulers will be guilty of an infraction, in a potential sense, of their solemnly-pledged word to their Indian subjects. But we shall see, as we proceed, to what an extreme of folly Government will commit itself by this rash and fatally ill-considered step, unjust to those who will and must suffer from its adoption, and impolitic in a Government that rules mainly by its justice and its celemency. Government in its correspondence has laid itself open to severe criticism, which a trifling amount of reflection might have averted. Mr. Risley has blundered egregiously in declaring that, Assamese and Bengalese harmonise in many of their habits, and that a fusion between them would be an easy matter for adjustment. In truth, it would be most difficult, if practicable, and it is very uncertain to what results an attempted amalgamation might lead. Obviously, it could never tend to produce peace and contentment, as Government appears to anticipate, and he cannot be any real friend of Bengal, who would display a persistence in any such act of policy, as would injure and wound a peaceable, loyal, and law abiding race, and sacrifice it to a mere caprice, such as this partition indicates. There is, in fact, not a single feature in common between Assam and Bengal. They are as different in their geographical surroundings, as they are in their social, political, and religious organizaton, and Mr. Risley's assertion of similarity is founded upon palpable and demonstrable ignorance. But we will return to that, probably by and by. Meanwhile, it may be said with indisputable accuracy, that a prospect of even partial amalgamation between Assam and Bengal has been received in this latter province with feelings of repugnance, grief, and alarm, amongst male and female, too acute to describe, and this feeling of aversion may grow stronger, but will never abate. Continued familiarity with trouble, people say, reconciles one to it at last, but we have not found it so in general. Loss of fortune and position to some, may be borne with heroic resignation, that, to an unreflective mind may savour almost of apathy, but loss of opportunity for well-doing, for exercising a benevolent habit, for relieving pain and distress will always be a cause of regret. To tear Bengalese from their long-cherished reverence to principles engrained into their existence, by a cruel measure of inexpediency, will be an act of tyrannical severity that will render our Government obnoxious to censure and condemnation, throughout our civilised globe. It will suggest itself to impartial calculation as mean, unmanly, disregardful of honour, and truth, and good faith, with a helpless and politically fatherless people. And we may depend upon it, should this act of spoliation be forced upon Bengal, that evil consequences, the magnitude and nature of which, we cannot yet measure, will follow with unerring ond unrelenting certainty. Already, we have heard in private life, expressions of profound grief amongst members of Hindoo families, and we have ample reason to believe that what we witnessed was but fractional, compared with what really prevails. People of high respectability, have assured us they would rather die than be identified as part of Assam; that they could never survive so great a calamity, and young persons, whose political knowledge must be exceedingly limited, have repeated this sorrowful tale to us more from a sense of shame and a premonition of coming disaster, than from an apprehension of loss of political "prestige." Whatever their motive influence, their demeanour shows that, it is exercising a powerful effect upon their feelings, and that, this feeling is spreading. Is it wise in Government to aggravate it? And Government, we hold, is bound to do more than weigh consequences from a merely political standpoint. Every question of this nature has its social, religious, and class claims, and may, with propriety and authority, demand to be analysed from a sentimental point of view as well, for, notwithstanding our contemptuous repudiation of sentiment, as a dominating influence in politics, we believe in its existence as a lever of human judgment, and we are quite prepared to endorse a wide-spread belief that, it enters largely into even the most serious affairs of life. Obviously it must do so in this case. If, by our unseasonable and superfluous policy, we seek to cut away from our Indian subjects institutions endeared to them by long association and as connected according to their accepted canons, with their spiritual welfare, we must naturally expect to meet with opposition whether in an active, or a passive form, and this should be a consideration with a Government like ours, that affects to rule with paternal solicitude over its subjects, whose wellbeing is, or should be, its first and most especial care. That it will arouse an unnecessary spirit of discontent, and undoubtedly passive obstruction to its purposed scheme, is as clear as daylight. That it should avoid all semblance to this, is equally clear to demonstration.—"The Bengal Times," January 2, 1904.

CENTRAL ASIAN NOTES.

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THE BRITISH MISSION TO THIBET.

The "Novoe Vremya," commenting on the British mission to Thibet, says:—

The English jingo must not forget that Lhassa is a kind of Vatican, in the fate of which all the States having Buddhist subjects are interested, and consequently Russia. We are convinced that, notwithstanding all the difficulties which can be created artificially in the Yellow Sea, Russia will not forget for a single instant that she has undoubted rights and interests in Thibet.

The "Novosti," on the othed hand, considers that the German Press attributes far too much significance to the British mission, whichs it says, is only of secondary importance and purely local. The journal declares that the German newspapers are mistaken if they see in it a fresh demonstration of traditional Anglo-Russian rivalry. The "Novosti" adds:—

We find that Russia's relations with Great Britain are incomparably more satisfactory at present than they were a year ago. We have even reason to think that the prudent and conscientious policy followed by Great Britain in regard to the Russo-Japanese conflict may lead to a still more marked "rapprochement" between this country and Russia, an eventuality which we sincerely desire.

Continuing to comment on the British mission the "Novoe Vremya" states that Russian interests are touched only indirectly.

We could not, it says, undertake anything serious in that direction, even if we were at war with Great Britain. . . . But if we must refrain from mixing in Thibetan affairs, we can do something else and proclaim, for instance, our protectorate over Kashgar, Yarkand, and Kulja. That would be all the more opportune as the tendency of the population of these provinces has been to gravitate towards Russia. We were in possession of Kulja for 10 years and only voluntarily gave it back to China in order to preserve good neighbourly relations with that country. Now, however, the state of affairs has changed, and we must exercise a more vigilant watch over these regions.

A YOUNG MONSTER.

The London School Board has been beaten by the fat boy of Peckham.

The fat boy of Peckham is a child of six, who lives with his parents, working people, at, Colgrove Road, midway between Rye Lane and the Old Kent Road.

He is about four feet in height, with a chest measurement of forty-four inches, and a weight of ten stone. He has enormous strength for his age, and altogether is the pride of Peckham. He is of school age, and the School Board has been concerning itself about his education.

After elaborate inquiries and an examination by a doctor it has been decided that he is too big and too strong to go to school. A correspondent in a letter which appeared in yesterday's "Times," calls attention to this month's agenda of the Special Schools Sub-Committe, in which there appears the report of the doctor who examined the child. In the course of his remarks he says: "This child is of abnormal development physically. The account given of his weight (ten stone) is quite true. The increase in weight is due not only to fat but to muscular development as well, since the child can easily lift an ordinary adult. . . . Mentally he seems in some ways precocious; he is quite educable. . . . Owing to his size and habits, I do not think it is possible to place him in any school. It is obvious he cannot attend an ordinary infants' department; not only would his extraordinary appearance create disturbance, but no desk would hold him, and his enormous strength would be dangerous to the other children.

"If token to a physically defective centre he would take up the room of three or four children in the ambulance, even if he could be roused and dressed in time, which from the history of the case I should think improbable. I therefore suggest he be exempt from school atendance."

The committee admit their defeat in the terse sentence "Agreed to exempt from attendance."

"Jack," as the boy is known in the neighborhood, is himself happily unconcerned about his education. During the day he is generally to be found in or near a beerhouse in Willowbrook Road, where in the doctor's words. "He earns his dinner by acting as an advertisement."

In brain he is a quick-witted, intelligent child; in body he seems a preposterous exaggeration. He has the breadth of shoulder of a big man, thighs and calves which a navy might be proud of and above all the healthy open face of a gigantic baby.

He runs up and down the road to the canal bridge with a cheerful waddle, and shows an activity which puts to shame those local prophets who foretold that he would be paralyzed in his lower limbs. He will lift a fifty-six-pound weight with one hand to show you his bulk is not made up with fat alone, and despite his lack of education he knows the difference between six-pence and a shilling.

He is a favorite with all who know him, and the Peckham policemen and omnibus drivers are never tired of talking of him.—"London Mail."

The case at Delhi in which eight persons are charged with coining and uttering counterfeit rupees has been adjourned to the 12th in the hope that Bhima, the principal, may be induced to turn King's evidence.

The recent severe weather has somewhat interfered with the work on the new railway from Quetta to Nushki, but this was only to be expected. Ample funds have been made available for the construction of the line, and the main difficulty is one of labour. The railway will be a light broad-gauge one, as the traffic will be limited.

The Government of Mysore have sanctioned the prosecution, under the Early Marriage Prevention Act, of certain persons who caused the marriage of (1) the infant girl named Ramakka with a boy named Rama of Huildore village in the Sira Taluk, Tumkur District, and (2) of the girl Hirigi with a boy named Era at Thorebail village Thirthahalli Taluk.

The Government of India have forwarded to the Secretary of State their definite recommendations upon Mr. Robertson's Railway Report, and Mr. Brereton, Secretary in the Railway Branch of the Public Works Department, is about to proceed to England on deputation to assist in the conferences that will be held there upon the subject. Mr. Hodson, Director of Railway Construction, will take up the duties of Secretary during Mr. Brereton's absence, and Mr. Shadbolt, Consulting Engineer at Madras, will probably act for Mr. Hodson.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MODERN MIRACLE.

STOPPING THE HEART BY WILL POWER.

In the presence of a "Daily Mail" representative and two other witnesses, the Agamya Guru Paramahansa stopped his heart for five seconds. It was in his bed-room in a Maida-vale boarding-house on Thursday evening that the chief of the Hindoo Mahatmas gave his wonderful demonstration of the power of his will.

The Mahatma has learned a good deal about England since he was interviewed on behalf of the "Daily Mail" two months ago. He has argued with the professors of Oxford and Birmingham, and has crossed the Channel to Ireland, where he was the guest of the Duke of Manchester at Tanderagee Castle. His impressions of England are interesting, but they are nothing compared with the miracles of which he is a supreme master.

"Place your hand over my pulse—so," he said, his uncanny impressiveness being heightened by his yellow turban and loose-fitting blue serge gown, which offered a strange contrast to the conventional studies of cat and dog life with which the apartment was decorated. In the corner a faithful disciple cooked native pancakes.

"No one believes me until he has seen for himself," the Hindoo added, looking immeasurably superior to the people who scoff at what they consider the pretensions of an uneducated black. "Feel carefully and wait."

"Can you feel it now?" No change was noticeable. One, two, three, four—the pulse was beating regularly.

Suddenly a strange light shone in the Mahatma's eyes. He was conquering the action of his body by the sheer power of his will. The pulse seemed weaker and more slow.

THE PULSE CEASES.

Then it stopped. There was no tapping, no motion. It was as though one was clutching the arm of a newly-dead man. The Mahatma's eyes were half-closed and intense and he sat motionless but upright in his chair.

One, two, three, four, five—one went on counting involuntarily, though there was nothing to count. Then the Mahatmas' rigidness became life, again, and he smiled.

"You believe, don't you?" he asked in a voice the carelessness of which implied that a negative answer would not offend him. "People believe when I have proved what I can do. When I visited the Duke and Duchess of Manchester two weeks ago I was asked to stop my heart in the presence of a dozen people, including a medical friend of the duke. He laughed when my powers were mentioned, but I convinced him."

The Mahatma has satisfied many prominent medical men in England and America, as well as in his native India, where he is venerated as only prophets are after they are dead.

"These are only child's tricks, he says scornfully, "and only fit for children and curiosity-seekers. I come to preach the truth, not to make children marvel. If I shut my eyes I can see what is going on far away, but I do not want to. Any one can do that who makes his will conquer his mind. If I do those things it only makes people come to see me whom I do not want to see. Why should I? I only want to teach the truth to your wise men, not to gratify your curiosity-seekers."

IMPRESSIONS OF ENGLAND.

The impressions which the Mahatma has gleaned during his two months' stay in England are by no means flattering. We are a money-grubbing race, he says; not so bad as the Americans, but bad enough.

"The rich people in your country are blind because the dust of money is in their eyes. If a man is a moneyed man and he doesn't spend his wealth for the good of others, his wealth is only a burden to him. I have great sympathy with all such people, for they are really very poor and they cannot understand the truth. What is the use of caring for worldly things? They cannot help one at the end. It is not my fault if they are blind. I have things more valuable than gold and precious stones to offer them, and I cry out here and there in the streets, but no one wants to hear.

"I cry more loudly, but they don't hear. They are deaf as well as blind. I put my precious stones in their hands, but they do not know they are there. They are dumb as well; they cannot reply. It is a matter of great grief to my mind, but it is not my fault.

"In England most people are curiosity-seekers. They have been misled by the many societies, who all teach differently and all teach wrong. They do not even know what the word Mahatma means. Of course, they are not altogether bad, although they teach in order to make money. You never find a man with all the virtues nor all the evils. Virtues and evils are always mixed.

"I ask these people: What is the germ of this world? What is the germ of all miracles? What is the germ of the mind? What is the germ of original force?

NOT SO BAD AS AMERICANS."

"The teachers in England cannot define these things, and yet they pretend to teach. English people are not so bad as the Americans, who flung stones at me in the streets and would have killed me if they could. But they are barbarians, so what can you expect? Their streets are full of liars and robbers, and their newspapers are all crimes and murders. Yet they call it civilisation.

"In England men are more intellectual than they are in America, and they care more for the truth. But, still, it was not much good coming here, for no one knows what the truth is. In my country I left more picturesque scenes than you have, and more beautiful rivers and trees. I left it all for nothing. I shall soon be going back."

After a brief visit to Newcastle, where he will instruct another small band or disciples, the Mahatma will return to the Hindoos, to the welfare of whom he has dedicated his life. "He is the only real saint who has come to English-speaking shores." said Professor Max Muller some years ago. Apparently his second visit has been wasted, for he goes back depressed by the money-grabbing selffishness which he has seen.—"Daily Mail."

Dysentery.

OR nflammation of the bowel or large intestine is of more frequent occurrence during the summer months. It can be checked and cured if Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhœa Remedy is taken according to the printed directions with each bottle. Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhœa Remedy is invaluable to all medicine chests. Get a bottle to-day, it may save a life-

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VILLAGE PANCHAYATS FOR INDIA

MR. KNOX-WIGHT'S NOTE.

Mr. Knox-Wight, I. C. S., formely Judge at Patna, favours Mr. Malabari with the following Note on the above subject:—

I consider the principle on which the proposals are based to be wholly good. In order that local self-Government may be a reality—a genuine, living reality—we should begin at the beginning. The village should be recognised as the administrative unit. Every village or group of villages should have its punchayat. This punchayat should be recognised by Government and through it should be carried out all the dealings of Government with the villagers. If this principle be once admitted by Government, the adoption of Mr. Malabari's proposal will follow as a consequence. These proposals are excellent in themselves and are well calculated as a beginning to instil into the Indian natives a knowledge of (which will inevitably be followed by a love for) a corporate existence. They will, if adopted, enable the villager to feel that he is an entity. What could be more just or equitable than that a portion of the local cess levied on each village or group of villages should be spent on that village or group? It might well happen that in a group of neighbouring villages the wants and requirements of one are more important than the wants of another. It would be a mistake to insist on the spending of money in one particular village, on wants not really felt—but if we deal with a group of villages, the money can always be spent most profitably. Of course where a village is large or important enough, it would be treated as a separate unit. This point being granted, who could be more qualified to spend the sum allotted than the local panchayat? At the same time, it would be necessary at first to require that the punchayat should submit schemes for the disposal of the allotment. In many cases no doubt there would be some person of commanding influence in a village (landlord, rich banya, etc., etc.,) and the panchayat might be disposed to spend its funds to further the wishes of that individual rather than for the benefit of the villagers generally. Until t he panchayats gained self-reliance and independence—which they soon would if assured of support by the authorities—it would be advisable to insist on the submission of proposals for the expenditure of any sums allotted. These proposals should not be interfered with except for very grave and exceptional reasons. It would be very simple to lay down a few rules indicating on what objects money might be spent (indigenous village schools, village paths, tanks, etc., etc) The panchayat should not be appointed for more than 3 years at most. The members could always be re-appointed "enbloc." But if they were appointed for 7 years, they might become slack, they would not have the fear of losing their position for a very long period: and if any members were unfit or negligent or dishonest, it would involve trouble, friction, inconvenience to hold enquiries prior to dismissing them. Where the appointment lapses after two or three years, the errant members would not be re-appointed and this would be the simplest way out of the difficulty. Where waste land is available, a certain area should be set aside in perpetuity for the use of the village as pasturage. As to recreation or garden grounds, the want is not felt. If ever the want come to be really felt, it could and would be supplied, by the generosity of some leading villager or by many other ways. Pasturage is essential. To prevent all attempts at encroachments, the pasturage area should be vested in the panchayat formally. Let the panchayat once realise that the land is vested in them as trustees for their fellow-villagers that their position makes them "protectors" of the village, that they do not hold the land in sufferance, merely, and it is certain that all rights to the land will be jealously guarded. It would not be advisable to fix any area absolutely as a minimum or a maximum. Nor would it be necessary to allot in all cases the present area that is used. In Bengal and Assam the present areas in many cases are unnecessarily large. Nor would it be necessary to assign a fixed percentage of the local cess. It would be sufficient to fix a minimum and a maximum—between wide limits. The advantages to the Administration in having recognised panchayats would be incalcuable. In every department judicial, revenue, police, etc. they would be of the greatest use in relieving the overworked officials at head-quarters.

MR. S. S. THORBURN'S VIEWS.

Mr. S. S. Thorburn, the well-known Punjab Civilian, offers this opinion on the scheme:—

I have just received and read your appeal to His Excellency on behalf of the rural population of India. I can only give an opinion for the Punjab. There we have in every village a certain area reserved as "common"—shomilt odeh—which is managed by the proprietary body through their representatives, but as numbers increase and pushful individuals, including outsiders who have acquired shares in the common, all that is culturable, is cultivated, and after a time partition is affected. Thus by degrees the common becomes held in severalty and disappears as common. I decidedly think that in the Jat tracts of the Punjab—Delhi division—where the proprietary brotherhood is still a farce the village panchayats, if given some authority might be worked usefully, but elsewhere, particularly in the Muhammadan half of the Punjab, village communities, as such have been broken up and cannot be received.

Now taking your proposals in the order given I think. (1) is already in force in the Punjab; (2) is done there to some extent under different nomenclature, but not very satisfactorily; (3) yes, where not already done; (4) I have already written about village "common;" (5) I should be glad to see Panchayats re-established and entrusted with real, authority—the experiment being begun in the most hopeful localities.

NOTES FROM "INDIAN GARDENING."

Professor Malden's Method of Potato Culture.—A remarkably interesting account has been given of Professor Malden's way of making the best of things. He bought 14 cwt. of the most famous resisting sort of potato last winter, from which he was able to cut 50,000 single eyes, each one of which he planted into a 3-inch pot. He put the 50,000 pots under framework furnished with a canvas covering, to be laid over the pots every night and rolled up off from every morning. The young plants were thus protected from night-frosts, but had all the sun and other beneficial atmospheric influences when requiring no protection by day. When there was no longer any risk of their receiving injury by frost, the plants were transferred to the open ground, where they have grown so luxuriantly that it is stated some of them have 5 lb. of tubers each, and in September the estimate of crop-yield was 11 tons per acre.

Banana Flour Dinner.—Col. J. M. Pennington, an enthusiastic banana flour promoter, of Havana, Cuba, recently gave a dinner at Marianao to some big people, all the food set before the guests being either all or in part composed of the banana in various forms. Among the items on the bill of fare were the following: Banana soup, with banana crackers; banana pancakes, with banana jelly; stewed chicken, with banana gravey; roast chicken, with banana dressing; roasts beef, with banana jelly: banana butter, banana jelly cake, banana muffins, banana fruit cake, banana plain cake, banana coffee, etc.

Puddling Roots of Trees.—The practice of puddling roots of trees before shipping them is a growing one on the part of nurserymen. The puddling consists in immersing the roots in a puddle of mud, thick enough that it adheres visibly to the roots when taken out. When served in this way there is a close-fitting coat of this mixture enclosing every part of the root system, keeping it moist until the tree is planted. Large shippers of trees—who have adopted this plan for some years past are well satisfied with it; so well, in fact, that they have followed the plan for stock intended for home planting, as well as that for shipping. Trees and shrubs when in boxes, or bales, are usually moist enough until uncovered; it is then that its trials commence. Then worst time is when the stock is unpacked and lying around for its turn to be planted. This period, too, is the time of trial for the nursery-man's own stock. Trees are necessarily exposed when planting is going on, and anything like a mud covering to their roots at that time is of very great help, and the plan is to be greatly commended.

How to make Barren Trees Fruit.—We receive many enquiries as to how to make barren fruit trees bear fruit. We have invariably recommended root-pruning, and occasionally "ringing." The late Professor Goff, of the University of Wisconsin, U.S.A., one of the highest authorities on fruit culture, and who made a special study of the root system of fruit trees, propounded the theory of renewal pruning or invigoration of fruit trees through the medium of what are called "water sprouts." These "water sprout" shoots are produced in the old age of the trees for the purpose of replacing the old and reproductive wood and thus extending the age and usefulness of the trees. They are due to extended root action, and when they appear in young trees, should be removed at once, as they produce wood without fruit. Root pruning will prevent this, and induce the trees to fruit.

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