

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, April 13, 1918.

THE SECOND ALL-ORISSA BENGALEE SETTLERS' CONFERENCE.

Whilst the Bihar Provincial Bengalee Settlers' Association is resting on its fancied laurels, our Bengalee brethren of Orissa have taken time by the forelock, and have rallied round a band of earnest workers thanks to whose activities, they have succeeded in holding the second Conference of the All-Orissa Bengalee Settlers. There was no doubt the usual rift in the lute, in the impossible attitude adopted towards the movement by the older Bengalee Settlers, who, we are told, do not count themselves as "settlers", or as "domiciled."

We think it was a narrow, not to say selfish, view that dictated these 'old fossils' to keep themselves aloof from the Bengalees who settled after the Moghal period. If our ancient settlers had totally forgotten their Bengalee origin and had become completely metamorphosed into veritable Oriyas in dress, manners, habit and tongue, then probably, they would be justified in their conduct. Even then we are doubtful whether the Oriyas themselves would like to admit these neo-Oriyas to their fold.

Moreover, we do not perceive any force in the artificial line of cleavage that was going to be adopted by them in practically styling themselves as pre-British settlers in differentiation to post-British settlers. Immigrations that have been brought into operation by the exigencies of the present ruling government must be given preference to those that happened during a government that has been discarded and replaced.

But we are sorry for the pre-British settlers. It would have been far better for them to have thrown in their lots with the subsequent immigrants and thus be in the full current of modern Bengalee thoughts and achievements. They should have regarded themselves as fortunate, in so far as it enabled them to mingle with the continuous current of Bengalee immigrants, which has enabled them to resuscitate their corrupt dialect and rejuvenate their lives that were fast ebbing away in lethargy and imperceptibly drawing them to be the inmates of the *cave adullam*. We hope they will reconsider their position for their own expansion. That their mental horizon has considerably narrowed is clear from the fact that they still think that their chance of getting Government employment would be much increased if they stand aloof from the subsequent settlers! What an infatuation!! The Government of Sir Charles Bayley declared in unmistakable words that all Bengalee Settlers who have attained 'domicile', not in the sense of our infatuated bretheren, but in the legal sense of the word would be placed on equal footing with other children of the soil. Our brethren appear to have naively ignored this historic declaration and asked the Government to treat them preferentially to the neo-Settlers. So far back as 1909, our present Lieutenant-Governor, then Commissioner of the Orissa Division, administered them a soft rebuke when he said in reply to a memorial by the Orissa Association:—

"The definition adopted by the Orissa Association will not entirely remove the hardship complained of, for it will still exclude some of those who have already established or those who

may hereafter establish a genuine domicile in Orissa and who are fairly entitled to share with the others the privileges in the way of law scholarships and posts in the public service allotted to Orissa."

With equal logic the neo-Settlers may divide amongst themselves by decennial settlement rules and deny subsequent settlers the status of *Romanes civis sum*. That this absurdity has not struck our ancient brethren is a proof positive that their mental outlook has deteriorated on account of their being stranded in the shallow waters of unprogressiveness to which they were so long consigned.

However desirous we may be to push our claims to our just shares in Government employment, we must convey a warning to our 'old' as well as 'new' brethren in regard to the very sanguine expectations they seem to cherish about it. In the filling up of appointments we would like to see the strict considerations of efficiency being observed all round. Certainly the ratio of officers to the population of each race or community is an egregiously wrong test. The ratio of the educated to the communal population is a much fairer test. The Government, however, in its anxiety to satisfy the clamour of a noisy section has been led to depart from the right path and has launched itself into considerable difficulty. It has from time to time adopted different and often conflicting principles in selecting candidates for Government posts. The result is that the departments of service are being more often than not staffed by inefficient men. It is not merely the executive or the subordinate judiciary that have suffered, but the educational and even the highest judicial appointments have been and are being most injudiciously made.

Even the appointment of some Bengalees is open to such criticism. We can very well understand young Bihar appreciating the methods of Government by which domiciled Bengalees are being practically discarded but we are surprised that our old brethren should call on the Government to follow the example in their own case! It is, however, hopeless, to deflect the Government from the line of action it has set itself to adopt in choosing its staff. It is only where flagrant injustice is done to the claims of the Bengalee Settlers that it becomes the bounden duty of the Settlers' Association to protest.

We are glad to note that the president of the conference, Rai Harendra Narayan Roy Mohasoy has pointedly referred to this matter in these terms:—

"Gentlemen, I now turn to a very different subject, namely, our disabilities in practical politics. Ever since the creation of the new province, our position has become extremely anomalous. Slowly and perceptibly we are going to lose our status as children of the soil in the eye of Government. Steadily our birth-right is being nibbled away and we are being relegated to a subordinate position."

His condemnation of the policy of Government in appointing men in the Education Department is convincingly expressed in these words:—

"But I am afraid unless the efforts of the University and of the Government are strengthened by a genuine demand on the part of the public for the very best men as teachers and professors irrespective of their race, the desired results cannot be obtained. There should be no caste-system in the matter of education.

"Gentlemen, the sacred Temple of Learning does not deny ingress to anyone by reason of his race, caste or creed. A pilgrim in the path of knowledge has this satisfaction denied to persons in the other walks of life that within the

sacred precincts of his Temple, no aristocracy is recognised except the aristocracy of talent. 'Education being the transmission of life from the living through the living to the living', it is necessary that education should be imparted through the medium of teachers who by reason of their intellectual and moral equipment have pre-eminently fitted themselves for that noble mission. I am painfully aware of the fact that in Orissa, the principle which has hitherto governed the selection of teachers and professors is not altogether free from objections, with the result that in many cases, efficiency is made to play the second fiddle to racial, credal and communal considerations."

The disabilities under which Bengalee boys domiciled in Orissa or, for the matter of that, in Bihar suffer in the matter of educational facilities are too well known to the community and we presume are not entirely unknown to Government. Some glaring instances have been mentioned by the president.

Readers of this journal may remember some instances in Bihar. Another instance may be pointed out. The scholarships for general merit, tenable in the various classes of the Temple Medical School of Bankipur were opened to all including domiciled Bengalees. On what principle it has been reduced to one scholarship only in the case of domiciled Bengalee students including sons of Bengalee Government servants, passes our understanding! But this is not all.

In order to be entitled to the scholarships, a certain percentage of marks have to be obtained. Supposing, as it not infrequently happens, that Bihari boys fail to get some or all the scholarships in not having obtained the requisite marks, why should not they be granted to domiciled Bengalee boys if the latter obtain the marks demanded for the standard? We do not mind so much if deserving Bihar boys should be given preference to equally qualified or even to more deserving Bengalee boys. What we strongly object to is the policy by which these scholarships would lapse on failure of deserving Biharis rather than go to a Bengalee boy howsoever high be his merit. Where is the justice in allowing the scholarships to lapse rather than be given to Bengalees settled in Bihar, for no fault of their own? We are not aware that Bengalee boys, who have been long domiciled in Bihar are appreciatively ahead of Bihari boys in education. But certainly, the step-motherly treatment of the boys will positively and rapidly deteriorate them. One of the great incentives to shine in education and specially in technical, scientific, and medical equipment is to obtain scholarships not only for past proficiency but as stimulus for better and more thorough achievement. It is the bounden duty of Government to develop talent in every citizen, irrespective of caste creed or colour, by every means at its command, and the award of scholarships for general efficiency is one of them. And yet to the misfortune of the Bengalee Settlers, these acts of injustice are being perpetrated. It is high time the attention of Government should be drawn to it.

It is for all these reasons we welcome the holding of such conferences of the Bengalee Settlers, sometimes in Orissa and sometimes in Bihar proper to lay our grievances before the Government and to formulate rules for the guidance for our own community. It is not that we have put too much faith on Government appointments or on general Arts education against the shutting out from which the president of the Orissa Conference has protested. It is because we recognize that Bengalee boys will have to abandon the beaten track and

take to new avenues be they medical, engineering, commercial or industrial that we are bound to see that the boys are not handicapped in the race of life by difficulties in the way of picking up their elementary and advanced knowledge in those respective domains enumerated above.

The Conference was well conceived and the organisation was almost perfect thanks to the efforts of the reception committee and the practical Chairman, Babu Ram Sankar Roy. As to the President, we hold out his speech as a model for such addresses; practical, condensed, and convincing. It is bound to carry conviction on the sympathetic attention of the Government.

THE BEST INVESTMENT OF THE PROFITS OF CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

II.

There is a wide-spread feeling among the Directors of Central Banks that the illiteracy of the people is a great obstacle to the success of the co-operative movement, and that the co-operative societies should take upon themselves the work of starting and administering Primary Schools for the education of the agricultural population. The funds may be drawn either from the profits of the co-operative societies or from grants from the Education Department. In this article we propose to consider (1) how far the progress of the co-operative movement is really hampered by illiteracy, (2) to what extent primary education is a good investment for the profits of the co-operative societies, and (3) whether it would be a good policy to burden the co-operative societies with the duty of administering Primary Schools.

First, then, as regards the relation of illiteracy to the co-operative movement. It is urged by a considerable section of co-operators in this Province that owing to ignorance, the cultivators are unable to understand the principles of co-operation and to foresee the advantages which may be derived from it. Further, their lack of intelligence renders them an easy prey to the wily Mahajan. So far as the charge is against ignorance we can very well agree with this criticism. But we are unable to comprehend why illiteracy should be considered responsible for the disappointment which co-operators everywhere meet. There is a general tendency among the educated section of the public to regard illiteracy as synonymous with ignorance, and to consider that education merely means a facility in reading and writing. It seldom occurs to anybody to ask the question, for what object we want a person to be educated? The sort of education which is given in Primary Schools is as ill-suited to the needs of co-operation, as our university education is for producing capable business men. For producing efficient business men we must have a system of business training, for producing clerks we must have a system of clerical education, for producing mechanics and artisans we must have technical schools, and similarly for training people in co-operation we must give them a training in the principles and practice of co-operation. Now, the best school for co-operative education is the society itself. Here there is ample opportunity for the Inspectors and honorary organisers to give the men sound advice and bring home to them the advantages of membership.

The education which co-operation aims at is more a development of the character than a cultivation of the intellect. It is not very difficult to make an illiterate cultivator of ordinary intelli-

gence understand how a connection with the mahajan is likely to ruin him in the long run. (Village life affords numerous instances of such unfortunate results.) But the really difficult task is to give him the incentive to check the temptation. One would have a very false opinion of a mere literary education to think that such education would be an adequate safeguard against such temptation. Intellectual development of the highest order is found not incompatible with a very low type of character. It is the corporate life of the institution—school, college, university or other organisation which is the greatest asset in this matter. The co-operative society is a nucleus round which should grow up a corporate life. Co-operators should seek to find the means of their improvement in the society and not outside it. Their aim should be primarily to infuse among the members a spirit of comradeship, a sense of pride in belonging to the society, and an enthusiasm for the society. Primary education, as we understand it, can only to a very small extent further the cause of co-operation.

So far, then, as the co-operative movement is concerned Primary Education should be considered as an end in itself, and not as a means to the further development of the movement. The question arises, whether this is an object so beneficent as to make it profitable for the societies to invest their own funds in it? To be able to answer this question we must first ask what other fields of investment are open to the primary societies. In a previous article we have noticed that the Registrar proposes to invest fifty per cent of the profits of primary societies in buying shares in the Central Banks and in Government Paper. We have also tried to show why the investment in these ways should have preference over any other. Supposing now, that the Registrar's scheme is put into practice, there still remains fifty per cent of the profits of societies for investment within the societies, and the most obvious course for the investment of this fifty per cent is to use it in making loans to members, and so lowering the rate of interest. When the claims of Primary Education are put forward as a charge on this part of the profit, the broad question which is put to us is—whether Primary Education is or is not more conducive to welfare (in the broadest sense) than a lowering of the rate of interest? Any person with the least acquaintance with the economic life of the Bihar villages ought to have no difficulty in answering the question. Lowering of the rate of interest means to the cultivator more money, better food, protection against cold, and comfortable housing; whereas Primary Education means a facility in reading and writing for which he will have little opportunity and less leisure. In the case of the middle class, education is the way to earn a living. It is not so in the case of the cultivator who will very probably remain a cultivator all his days.

We are not opposed to the education of the masses, far from it. We are aware that Primary Education even of the most rudimentary kind is an element of social well-being. But we contend that a certain minimum of physical well-being should be the basis of intellectual development. So long as the primary wants of the body are as inadequately supplied as they are in the case of the great body of cultivators in this Province, it is sheer waste of resources to devote funds drawn from the industry of the poor to the development of their intellects.

In no country of Europe, where primary education is compulsory does the burden of expenditure fall on the beneficiaries. The policy everywhere is to tax the rich to benefit the poor. State financing of Primary Education means neither more nor less than this. Of course there are other ways of

transferring resources from the rich to the poor, for instance, old age pensions, and State Insurance against unemployment. Each of these methods competes with the other, and the statesman, in giving preference to one or the other, has an eye to the maximum social well-being.

In India, too, if a state-financed system of Primary Education should come to be recognised as a means of transferring resources from the rich to the poor, it will have to be considered whether the money thus spent for the benefit of the poor might not have been employed in ways which would be more beneficial to them. If means could be devised by which money taken from the rich could be invested in developing the physical powers of the poor and in bringing to them in a greater measure the comforts of life, we have no hesitation in saying that those means should have preference to the claims of Primary Education. In England during the middle of the last century, care for the physical well-being of the poor was the first consideration; and education was given a secondary place. It is the greater wealth and a raising of the material welfare of all classes which has of late made possible a vast and organised system of Primary Education.

Our object in referring above to the various systems of state aid to the poor has been to show that in selecting the best means, physical well-being has the preference over mental culture. If this be so in the case of state aid, it is more true when it is proposed to help the poor out of their own corporate savings.

We now come to the third part of our argument, viz, whether it is advisable to burden the co-operative societies with the work of conducting schools. Our answer to this question is emphatically in the negative. When an organisation is in its infancy and its powers still untried, it seems to be a good principle to limit its activities to a single object. Our Co-operative Societies have enough to do to improve their own organisation, and it would be unfortunate if in the present stage of their development they should encumber themselves with the additional work of a different nature.

Our conclusions then are these. Illiteracy is an not an obstacle to the progress of the co-operative movement, and investment of society funds in Primary Education is likely to be less profitable than in other ways. Apart from all other considerations, societies should, in the interest of efficiency, limit themselves to their own work. We appeal to all those who may be interested in the co-operative movement not to be led away, by this fad of Primary Education too far but to concentrate their efforts on the work directly before them.

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POWER OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURES IN INDIA TO CREATE COURTS OF JUSTICE. BY A VAKIL.

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I.

In a recent decision of a Full Bench of the Patna High Court (Parmeshwar Ahir v. The Crown) it was held that the Governor-General in Council had the power to establish Courts of Justice and that therefore, the special tribunals constituted under the Defence of India Act 1915, are courts whose legality cannot be questioned. It was contended on behalf of the applicant, who had been convicted by a special tribunal for having taken part in the Bakrid riots in Shahabad that the Governor-General in Council, had no power to establish courts

and so far, at any rate, as Bengal and Behar were concerned, that power vested in Parliament alone. This contention was rejected,—the High Court holding that the power which the Governor-General in Council had under Section 22 of the Indian Council Act 1851, to make laws and regulations, included also the power to erect Courts of Justice.

The point raised in the case referred to had never before arisen, and elaborate arguments were addressed on both sides as to the nature and origin of the power of the Governor-General in Council to establish judicial tribunals. It did not come within the scope of the decision of that case nor was the point considered whether the Provincial Legislatures had also the same power and if so, its nature and extent.

It is in our opinion of some importance to consider whether the Local Legislatures are empowered by the Government of India Act 1915, to create courts of law. It is understood that the Local Government are contemplating an enactment for the constitution of Panchayets in different parts of the Province, on the lines of those in force in Madras and the Punjab. Have the Local Government power to pass such an Act and to what extent are their powers if any, of establishing courts *intra vires*?

It will be advisable to deal very shortly with an objection that may be made, viz., that Panchayets such as those in Madras and the Punjab are not courts at all, but are merely boards of arbitrators whose jurisdiction exists only when parties willingly submit to it. The word Court originally meant the King's Palace, but it is now understood in the sense of a tribunal which exercises jurisdiction over persons by reason of the *sanction of the law* and not merely by voluntary submission to such jurisdiction. The distinction as pointed out by Fry, L. J., seems to be not whether a tribunal is a Court of Justice but whether it is a Court in law. It may be true that Panchayets exercise their jurisdiction, with the consent of parties; but it is a jurisdiction which is created by law and the manner in which the jurisdiction is to be exercised is also provided for by law. The Punjab Panchayet Act (VI of 1912) speaks of suits cognisable by a Bench of Panchayets who are empowered to pass decrees and provision is made in the Act for the execution of those decrees.

By Regulation V of 1816, Village Panchayets were established in Madras. In a case reported in Indian Law Reports, 8 Madras 59, it was argued that the Madras Civil Courts Act 1873, in as much as it did not provide for the tribunal of Panchayets, must be deemed by implication to have repealed the earlier regulation of 1816. The High Court said, "It is not within the purview of Act III of 1873 [M. C. C. Act] to enumerate all judicial tribunals and it is not to be inferred that because district Panchayets are not expressly mentioned by it as a judicial tribunal, that they have ceased to exist." It appears therefore that the High Court thought that the Panchayet was a judicial tribunal, and indeed the argument advanced before the High Court was in effect this, viz., that the Panchayet was a Civil Court which must be held to have been abolished by the Madras Civil Courts Act 1873, which consolidated the law relating to Civil Courts in the Madras Presidency. When provision is made in Madras Regulation V of 1816 and the Punjab Act VI of 1912, for suits, decrees and the execution thereof, it is useless to argue that the tribunals created by the Madras Regulation and the Punjab Act, are not Courts in the proper sense of the term but are merely bodies of arbitrators.

The nature of the legislative authority of the different legislatures in India was considered by the

Judicial Committee in the case of *Empress v. Burah* (1878) 4 Cal. 172. The several legislatures in India derive their authority from Statute. They are however not delegates of Parliament but bodies invested with plenary though limited powers of legislation. As Lord Selborne observed in the case referred to, "The Indian Legislature has powers expressly limited by Act of Parliament which created it and it can of course do nothing beyond the limits which circumscribe those powers. But when acting within those limits it is not in any sense an agent or delegate of the Imperial Parliament and has and was intended to have plenary powers of legislation as large and of the same nature as those of Parliament itself."

In order therefore to understand the nature and extent of the authority given by Parliament to the Local Legislatures, we have to consider the power conferred upon them by Section 79 of the Government of India Act (1915) which defines and limits their powers.

Section 79, clause (1) of the Government of India Act, gives the local legislatures power to make laws for the peace and good government of the different provinces. The subsequent clauses of section 79 limits those powers. The Local Legislature cannot pass any law affecting any Act of Parliament. It cannot without the previous sanction of the Governor-General, repeal or alter any existing law not passed by itself; nor can it without the previous sanction of the Governor-General alter in any way the Indian Penal Code, or any law affecting religious rites and usages of any class of British subjects or affecting the public debt of India, customs duty or tax imposed by the Government of India, conveyance of letters by post offices or of telegraphs, current coins etc., patents or copy rights, maintenance and discipline of naval and military forces, and the relations of Government with foreign princes and States.

But an Act passed by a Local Legislature will not be deemed invalid on the ground of its not having received the previous sanction of the Governor-General, if as a matter of fact it is made and is subsequently assented to by him in the manner provided for in the Act. As the Local Legislature has no power to affect any Act of Parliament it cannot exercise those powers which are expressly conferred on the Governor-General in Council alone. For example, the Provincial legislature cannot alter the local limits of the jurisdiction of a High Court or interfere with the exercise of those powers of superintendence, which the High Court by virtue of section 107 of the Government of India Act 1915, exercises over Courts for the time being subject to its appellate jurisdiction.

Reading Section 79 as a whole it seems to follow, that the Local Legislature, with the previous sanction or subsequent assent of the Governor-General can pass any law for the peace and good government of the province, provided it does not affect any Act of Parliament or usurp any power of legislation which the Parliament has expressly limited to the Imperial Legislative Council.

(To be continued.)

THE CALL.

His Excellency the Viceroy has received the following message from the Prime Minister, dated April 2:—

"At this time when the intention of the rulers of Germany to establish a tyranny, not only over all Europe but over Asia as well, has become transparently clear, I wish to ask the Government and

people of India to redouble their efforts. Thanks to the heroic efforts of the British armies assisted by their Allies the attempt of the enemy in the west is being checked, but if we are to prevent the menace spreading to the east and gradually engulfing the world, every lover of "freedom and" law must play his part. I have no doubt that India will add to the laurels it has already won and will equip itself on an even greater scale than at present to be the bulwark which will save Asia from the tide of oppression and disorders which it is the object of the enemy to achieve."

The Viceroy has sent the following reply dated April 5:—

"Your message comes at a time when all India is stirred to the depths by the noble sacrifices now being made by the British people in the cause of the world's freedom and by the stern unalterable resolution which those sacrifices evince. India, anxious yet confident, realizes to the full the great issues at stake in this desperate conflict and your trumpet call at this crisis will not fall upon deaf ears. I feel confident that it will awake the princes and the peoples' leaders to a keener sense of the grave danger which stemmed in Europe now threatens to move eastwards. I shall look to them for the fullest effort and the fullest sacrifice to safeguard the soil of their motherland against all attempts of a cruel and unscrupulous enemy, and to secure the final triumph of those ideals of justice and honour for which the British Empire stands."

There can be no doubt as to the profound significance of the message addressed by the Prime Minister to the Viceroy and through the Viceroy to every loyal man in India. The appeal contained in Mr. Lloyd George's stirring words should find a passionate and whole-hearted response. India is called upon to put forth greater efforts in order that Asia as well as Europe shall be delivered from the brutal tyranny which the rulers of Germany are striving to set up throughout the world. All other questions fade into insignificance compared with the momentous issues at stake. The battles which the British Empire and its Allies are fighting in the West are India's battles and on the success of the Allied arms depends the future happiness and prosperity of the people of this country. No responsible man will seek to belittle what India has done in this war. Her Princes have nobly fulfilled their high traditions. Her soldiers have fought with gallantry on many a stricken field. Their contributions to the victories achieved in Mesopotamia, in Palestine and in East Africa will never be forgotten. The mobilisation of India's resources has proved of inestimable value to the Allied cause. But when all has been said no one can deny that the time has now come for the Government of India to give a fresh lead to the peoples of all races and creeds who inhabit this great land. Let there be no half-heartedness, no vacillation, no surrender to sectional interests, but let all the country's resources be devoted to one supreme effort to rid the world of a tyranny which menaces all that makes life tolerable to true men. The resources of the Allies are fully employed in their great task in the West; it is for India to do her utmost with loyalty and self-reliance in meeting the menace in the East.

NOTES.

Allahabad Bank.

The result of the working of the Allahabad Bank, for the year ended the 31st December, last including the balance brought forward from the previous

account and after providing for any known bad and doubtful debt, is a profit of Rs. 6,04,000. The usual ad-interim dividend and bonus on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 18 per cent per annum and dividend on the Preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, both free of income-tax, were paid to the shareholders for the half-year ended the 30th June last and absorbed a sum of Rs. 1,80,000. The Directors recommend that the balance should be dealt with as follows:—Final dividend and bonus on the Ordinary shares at the rate of 18 per cent per annum free of income-tax Rs. 1,35,000; final dividend on the Preference shares at the rate of 6 per cent per annum free of income tax Rs. 45,000; transfer to Reserve Fund No. II Rs. 1,05,000; transfer to Contingency Fund Rs. 6,03,000 carry forward to the next account Rs. 1,19,000; total Rs. 5,04,003. The Directors have continued their policy of maintaining a strong position by holding larger cash balances than would have been necessary in normal times, and it is satisfactory that notwithstanding these large balances the profits for the year have been large enough to enable the Directors to pay the usual dividend, and a further sum of Rs. 1,05,000 to the Reserve Fund No. II, which will now stand at Rs. 5,25,000, and carry a substantial balance to the next account. The cash balances on the 31st December are over Rs. 1,69,81,000 excluding the Reserve Fund No. I of Rs. 44,76,000, and Rs. 24,53,000 invested in Government Paper and other securities. The working capital has increased during the year by Rs. 45,00,000.

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President Wilson speaks out.

President Wilson addressing a meeting commemorating the first anniversary of America's entry into the war delivered an important speech. He explained the reason of America's intervention. Justice was at stake, not that he was not prepared to do Germany justice. He exposed the hollowness of the German professions of peace and vividly described the menace of world-dominion. He was ready, ready still, ready even now to discuss a fair and honest peace that is sincerely purposed, a peace in which the strong and the weak shall fare alike. But the German answer in Russia was one the meaning of which could not be mistaken. In accepting Germany's challenge President Wilson exhorted the chivalry of America to rise equal to the occasion in the following eloquent words:—

"It shall appear in the utter sacrifice and self-forgetfulness with which we shall give all we love

IN THE COILS OF RHEUMATISM.

A man's most valuable possession is time.

Rheumatism is the thief of time. It robs the sufferer of minutes and hours and days and nights and weeks, months, or years of happiness and useful work.

No man can call his time his own while he is in the coils of Rheumatism. He owes his hours to the slavery of pain but thousands of other men have wisely insured themselves years of happy healthy freedom from pain by the use of Little's Oriental Balm. Its soothing effect and healing influence in cases of chronic Rheumatism is almost beyond belief, but the thousands of cures effected prove beyond question its miraculous power. Simply rub it in and feel the pain go. Continued treatment means permanent cure.

Little's Oriental Balm is more powerful than Doctors in cases of Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Sprains, Bruises and aches and pains.

Sold at Rs. 1 per bottle. Of all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

and all we have to redeem the world and make it fit for free men like ourselves to live in. This now is the meaning of all we do. Let everything we say, my fellow-countrymen, everything we henceforth plan and accomplish, ring true to this response till the majesty and might of our concerted power shall fill the thought and utterly defeat the force of those who flout and mis-prize what we honour and hold dear. Germany has once more said that force alone shall decide whether justice and peace shall reign in the affairs of men, whether right as America conceives it, or dominion as she conceives it, shall determine the destinies of mankind. There is therefore but one response possible from us, force, force to the utmost, force without stint or limit, righteous, triumphant force which shall make right the law of the world and cast every selfish dominion down in the dust."

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

PREPARATIONS are being made to give a grand reception on behalf of the Bankipur public to Mrs. Annie Besant on the occasion of her coming visit to the town on the 18th instant.

WE hear that Khan Bahadur Ashfaq Hussain, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of the Patna Division, is soon going on leave and that Mr. Rowland Chandra from Gaya is coming in his place.

THE following Students have passed the school final Examination of the of the B. classes from the Bhagalpur Zilla School:—

Ganguli Nihar Chandra, Mitra Braja Mohan Rudra Navakumar.

It is likely that the services of Mr. Duke who has been gazetted Asstt. Director of Public Instruction, Bihar and Orissa, will be placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Education Department and that Prof. B. K. Chatterjee, at present attached to the office of the Inspector of Schools, Bhagalpur will succeed him.

A Monghyr correspondent writes:—A most warm and enthusiastic send off was given to Mr. Forrest the Collector on his transfer to Bhagalpur as Commissioner. There was a large and representative assemblage of European ladies and gentlemen and Indians at the Steamer Ghat. Mr. Forrest has the reputation of being a solid and unobtrusive worker and is held in high esteem for his impartial administration of Justice. The unusual gathering at the time of his departure bears testimony to the immense popularity he enjoyed at Monghyr.

THE following message has been sent to Mrs. Besant in connection with the National Education Week by the Hon. Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha: "Apart from the merits of the present system of education, its inadequacy is glaring. There is enormous room for National Education, not only to infuse a right spirit of nationality but also to spread light and remove ignorance. Education is the keynote of India's salvation: a supreme effort should therefore be made all round to make National Education a success. I appeal to all to take part in a general organisation. Funds and men will not fail if we have the heart to push through."

THE keeper of the Narayan Press, Gaya, has been called upon to show cause, before the District

Magistrate, Gaya, why security of Rupees one thousand should not be deposited by him for publishing an objectionable article entitled "Defence of India Act in Bihar" in the issue of the "Bihar Advocate" of the 10th December 1917. The cause was shown on the 6th instant before Mr. J. N. Mukerji, Sudder Sub-Divisional Officer, but Mr. Hubback the District Magistrate being away to Ranchi on ten days leave the case has been adjourned to the 15th instant. It is understood that the proprietor of the Narayan Press will stop publication of the "Bihar Advocate," in case any security is demanded from his Press.

THE Bankipur correspondent of the *Bengalee* writes:—

"The Behar Herald which was at one time the only newspaper in Bihar and which was for a long time famous for its independence is still living, and now and then writes strongly but it is too afraid lest it should meet the deplorable fate of the "Star of Utkal" which was stopped by Sir Charles Bayley for not singing hallelujah to the august ruler....."

Need we remind the correspondent that hostile or seditious writing against the Government does not necessarily display good or independent journalism? Where any real popular grievance is concerned or in any matter vitally affecting public interests the *Behar Herald* has never flinched from expressing its views with strength and force. Its conductors have, however, always considered it proper to avoid all appearance of sensationalism, to state facts soberly and as far as possible correctly, and to be ready to hear the other side. Above all, they have always inculcated what they honestly believe, that British Government in India as a whole is



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actuated by upright motives and a sincere desire to uplift the country. These are the principles which the *Behar Herald* has steadily adhered to during the last forty four years and God willing it will continue on these principles for all time to come.

A LARGELY attended public meeting of the citizens of Patna was held on Saturday the 6th instant at 5-30 p. m. in the Anglo-Sanskrit School to organise the National Education Week in the Patna Division. Mr. Hassan Imam presided. At the outset Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha, the Provincial Secretary for the National Week Organisation in Behar, explained the objects of the National University in a lucid speech. He also said that education under the proposed University would not be without its gain in money. Although Government would not recognise the degrees of this University, they would get appointments under native merchants. An appointment bureau was going to be established and it is expected that all the leading Indian merchants would join it. He explained the various ways in which people should work for the success of National Education Week. He was followed by Nawab Sarfraz Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadar, who in a stirring speech exhorted his countrymen to join the movement. Babu Lakshmi Narayan Sinha, who spoke next, described briefly the kind of National Education that was prevalent in India and said that India has always been accustomed to this sort of education. The president then appealed to all the students present there to work as volunteers for the success of the movement. A Working Committee was then formed and Mr. Kuarnandan Sahay was elected secretary to the Committee. Many students enrolled themselves volunteers. It was announced at the end of the meeting that Mrs. Besant would be coming to Patna on the 18th instant and a lecture on "The present political situation and our duty" would be delivered by her in Ali Manzil on the same day.

A RESOLUTION of the Government of Bihar and Orissa announces the long expected revision of the scale of pay of the Lower Subordinate establishment. In lieu of the present graded scale of pay, a time scale which will rise from Rs. 40 to Rs. 60 by quadrennial increments of Rs. 5 and from Rs. 60 to Rs. 80 by quadrennial increments of Rs. 10. Two special increments of Rs. 10 each will also be given Sub-Overseers who have reached the maximum of Rs. 80 the first after 5 years, and the second after 8 years approved service, counting from the date on which the pay of Rs. 80 was reached. The minimum pay for new entrants holding an Upper Subordinate's certificate will be Rs. 80 and for those holding an Overseer's certificate, Rs. 45. While the promotion of the Lower Subordinates to the Upper Subordinate establishment as a regular practice is not considered desirable, this will not prevent the consideration of individual claims in special cases. Neither will it affect promotions to fill temporary vacancies. The ordinary conveyance allowance of Rs. 15 can be increased to Rs. 22-8 in certain circumstances which is considered sufficient. In the matter of house rent Sub-Overseers drawing less than Rs. 50 a month are already allowed free quarters while those drawing over Rs. 50 a month are required to pay rent subject to a maximum of 5 per cent of their salaries. These concessions are considered adequate. The revised scale takes effect from 1st March 1918. Sub-Overseers already in service have been given the option within three months to choose between the old and the new scales, the latter being applicable to all future entrants.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the facts and opinions stated by our correspondents.]

AN ACT OF VANDALISM.

To the Editor.

Sir,—As one who entertains the deepest veneration for the memory of our late illustrious townsman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Khoda Buksh, I beg to raise my humble voice of protest against the vandalism which has caused his historic house on the riverside at Chowhatta to be pulled down. We do not know what earthly purpose the P. W. D. want to serve by dismantling this old and handsome edifice, but I think every one will agree that the respect due to the saintly scholar who gave his life's work for the advancement of public instruction demanded a less cavalier treatment of the house which was hallowed by his associations. What would his pious remains resting in the simple grave only a stone's throw from the demolished house think of it?

BIBLIOPHILE.

A CIVIL COURT AMLAS' GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—You have so many times wielded your powerful pen against the corruption obtaining among Civil Court *amlas* in several parts of the province that it is not without a certain amount of hesitation that I solicit the favour of a little space for ventilating some of the grievances of that oft-abused but ill-paid and hardworking body.

It is not generally known that Civil Court *amlas* are not entitled to the one month's privilege leave on full pay that is allowed to ministerial officers in every department of Government for every year of service. In this matter, they are therefore, in the same boat as educational officers who enjoy long vacations in schools and colleges. The only long vacation that falls to the lot of the Civil Court *amlas* is the Dusserah holidays, when they get thirty days' rest. Other ministerial officers get only 15 days, but they have also 12 last Saturdays which very nearly make up the difference. As regards the other holidays, holidays gazetted for Civil Courts are certainly larger in number than those gazetted for other Government offices, but in every case the difference is more than made up by the local holidays which are allowed in the other offices. There can be no analogy between the case of Civil Court *amlas* with their grinding work and that of teachers and Professors with their long vacations, off days and light work. There does not seem to be any appreciable difference between the holidays they enjoy and those that fall to the lot of other ministerial officers. Why should then Civil Court *amlas* be deprived of privilege leave on full pay for a month after one year's service?

FAIR PLAY.

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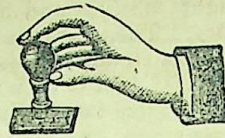
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