

# The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, March 23, 1918.

## THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN BIHAR AND ORISSA

Of all the movements which are at the present day working for the renovation of our old Indian Society there are few so full of promise for the future of the masses as the co-operative movement. Though co-operation is no new idea in India, yet in the early days of the movement grave doubts were entertained whether an institution which is in its nature democratic would thrive in Indian soil. But that stage is now passed. The experience of the last decade shows that it is eminently suited to Indian conditions and that the movement has taken firm root. The opinion of distinguished economists and co-operative experts (Wolfe among others) is that the progress made in the past is in every way satisfactory, and that with proper guidance the movement will continue to thrive, and will leaven the poorer sections of the Indian community with its healthy influence.

The recent Provincial Co-operative Conference at Bankipur affords a suitable opportunity for stock-taking of the movement in this Province. For this it is important to have a clear idea of the end which co-operation is expected to serve and of the proper method to be applied in measuring the progress. To some people the object of co-operation is to extricate the cultivator from the clutches of the mahajan; and its success is consequently to be measured by such things as the increase of membership, increase of capital, and the reduction of the rate of interest. Easy and safe credit is no doubt one of the objects of co-operation. *But this is not the sole object.* For serving this purpose there are several other ways, for instance the system of government loans, known as Taqavi, the difference between the two being the combination of the material with the moral element in the one, and the practical absence of the same in the other. It is recognised, however, that though cheap credit is a thing essential to the prosperity of the cultivator, it is not an unmixed blessing. To an ignorant and unthrifty population cheap and facile credit is more often than not a source of great danger, because it leads to reckless borrowing and unprofitable expenditure. What the rural population wants is a system which will provide money at rates which are not burdensome, and will at the same time restrain non-productive and non-speculative investments. A co-operative credit society is the institution which serves this double purpose.

Co-operation, then, is a system of business organisation. But it is also something more. It is a school of training in thrift, honesty and industry to the millions who have no access to any other educative methods. A proper system of co-operative should therefore teach men to stand on their own legs, to look to their own organised efforts for improvement instead of relying on outside help. Co-operation has certainly its value as a type of business organisation, but its main importance is its educative or moral influence. The movement is essentially a moral one. In their Report the Maclagan Committee on Co-operation rightly lay down:—"But we wish clearly to express our opinion that it is to true co-operation alone, that is, to a co-operation which recognises the moral aspect of the question, that Government must look for the amelioration of the masses, and not to a pseudo

"co-operative edifice, however imposing, which is built in ignorance of co-operative principles." In selecting the test to be applied in judging of its results we must keep this fact clear in view.

The standards which have hitherto been applied to estimate the progress made by the co-operative movement do not lay sufficient stress on this fact. We are told at length how the number of Co-operative Credit Societies has increased, how, the financial position of the Central Banks is being strengthened, how efforts are being made to insist on punctual repayment. But none of these facts touch the main question, viz., are the members of the co-operative societies growing more and more self-reliant, are they bound together by a strong sense of mutual responsibility. The success of the co-operative movement is to be judged by the extent to which these conditions are realised in the internal life of the primary societies. The reports published by the department do not throw sufficient light on these questions. It is true that the vitality of the societies and the amount of cohesion among the members, are subjects which do not lend themselves easily to statistical measurement. But officers of Central Banks, who come into close contact with the primary societies, ought to be able to make some statement of a general nature. So far as we are aware the co-operative tie in most societies is anything but strong. The members are loosely held together by motives of self-interest, but nowhere has this self-interest developed into an enthusiasm for the society and progress in this matter (if there be any) is so little as to be inappreciable. So long as this state of things continues it will be necessary for the Central Banks to keep a strict eye on the affairs of every member of the societies and the circumstance of every loan. In other words, the Central Banks will have to discharge duties which in a sound system of co-operation should be left to the societies themselves. External interference in the matter of membership and advances to members is absolutely foreign to the idea of co-operation. It may be necessary in the first beginnings of the movement. But if a progressive realisation of self-government in this matter be not possible, it must be acknowledged that the system is placed on an unsound basis.

The activities of the Government are at present mainly confined to the work of inspection. It is true that by keeping the appointment of managers of Central Banks, in his own hands, the Registrar secures the appointment of really efficient men to these posts. But we are not aware that the same amount of attention is given to the selection of the *Sir Panches* of the primary societies. The inspecting clerk, the bank clerk, the auditor, the manager, all these officers are in their relation to the society mainly inspecting officers. Their duty is to keep a strict eye on the accounts of the society, to see that money is borrowed for the right purpose, and to exercise pressure on defaulting banks. It is true that the work of training members to appreciate the principles of co-operation is also included in their duty. The report of the Committee lays down that the duty of the supervisors is "to see that work of the society is not only business-like and up to date but is genuinely co-operative." But the opportunities which are open to them for such work are so few that we should be surprised if their efforts resulted in any appreciable good. It is a mistake to expect that a set of men whose inspecting duties are so engrossing should also be able to take part in actual administration. A man who comes into contact with a society once or twice a year cannot, with the best intentions, do the same amount of good as an intelligent *Sir Panch* who devotes himself entirely to one society, and is constantly on the spot.

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to watch and exhort the members. The *Sir Panch* in this respect is in the position of the Head Master of a school. If the staff of a school distinguish themselves in educational work, it would be absurd to give the credit to the Inspector of Schools. For good and evil the powers of the Inspector are very limited. But it is a characteristic feature of the official policy at present to lay special stress on the inspecting work, and not so much on the improvement of the material to be inspected. In the recent Co-operative Conference, for example, the main points discussed were in relation to the training and functions of managers, the audit of accounts, methods of investing money and other similar things. The modes of improving the societies were discussed only in a general way.

We are not sure, however, that we can blame the government for the fact that our societies do not show that vitality which we would wish them to show. The conditions in an Indian village are very different from those in Europe. In Germany, for instance, during the early stages of the co-operative movement the village clergyman was the friend, philosopher and guide of the movement. He knew the villagers intimately, took a keen interest in their welfare and enjoyed their confidence. In India too we have priests in the villages, but they are not the men who are likely to command the confidence of cultivators in a matter like this. They are resorted to on occasions of religious festivities, marriages and other similar occasions. But their utility in matters relating to industrial life is nil. The only hope of the Indian village is the zemindar. It is from him that skilful leadership can be expected. He is the spring of action and enthusiasm. It is time for our landlords to come forward and take their share in this noble work. By so doing they would justify their position as landlords and will show themselves capable of taking a share in the government of the country. We should like to see them full of enthusiasm for this noble cause and faith in the future possibilities of the masses. That fervour which has characterised the members of religious communities at certain epochs of our history should distinguish the workers in this field. Discipline and expert guidance will be necessary. But the first thing is faith. Workers who strive for reform in any department of life are aware how discouraging circumstances often are. This is nowhere more true than in the attempt to transform the industrial life of the village. But if the rescuing of criminals in jails be an object within the limits of organised effort, there is no reason why the teaching of self-help and co-operation to a class of habitually honest men should be regarded as an end impossible to attain.

### THE CHAMPARAN AGRARIAN BILL.

A correspondent to the *Pioneer* sends the following extremely sober and impartial review of the Champaran Agrarian Bill:—

Everyone who attended the prolonged Legislative Council meeting at Patna on Monday must have realised that the accepted procedure of postponing any legislation which was unlikely to meet with ready acceptance had been abandoned. The discussion on the Champaran Agrarian Bill was certainly contentious and at times bordered on the acrimonious. The Bill in fact represented the culminating point of a difficulty which had existed in a more or less pronounced degree ever

since the indigo plant was cultivated in India under European supervision. The history sketched at a previous Council meeting by the Hon. Member who introduced the Bill showed that complaints and quarrels had for many years been inseparable from the cultivation of indigo. From the days when the publication of *Nil Darpan* sounded the death knell of the industry in Bengal down to the recent compromise effected by Sir Edward Baker with the Planters' Association at Muzaffarpur there had always been in certain quarters latent hostility to the indigo concerns. The ryots in many, though not in all, areas disliked growing the crop: they resented the conditions attached to the cultivation, more particularly that which permitted the landlord to select a portion of the tenants' holding for the purpose; they also found the supervision attached to the cultivation disagreeable, even though it might be profitable. They needed the advance of money for the rest of the land on which they need not grow indigo; but not unlike tenants all the world over they grumbled at any interference by the landlord or his agents. Except where the refuse indigo was of great value as manure for tobacco land they wished to be quit of the obligation to grow indigo at all.

The introduction of the synthetic dye from 1896 onwards resulted in the decline of the natural indigo. Many concerns found it better to close down manufacture and to take to zamindari, but in North Tirhut, especially in the district of Champaran, indigo was still grown though reluctantly as an incident in the tenancy of certain holdings. In many cases the planter released the tenant from this obligation by taking an enhanced rent for the holding, known as *sarabeshi*. In other cases he accepted a cash payment down known as *tawan*. With the advent of the settlement revision proceedings the disputes as to the right to insist on the cultivation of indigo, or the increase in rental to be demanded in lieu thereof became more intense. Meanwhile the war had revived the industry. Natural indigo, with Germany out of the market, fetched abnormal prices, and in consequence the idea of discontinuance was in abeyance and the prices paid as *tawan* or the increase in rent would probably be abnormal.

The Local Government therefore decided that instead of waiting for the Settlement Officer's report, which it was realised would undoubtedly prove the need for legislation, it was quickest and therefore best to appoint a commission to study the whole question. On the unanimous findings of this Commission the recent legislation was based.

To credit Mr. Gandhi with a successful political campaign designed against a European industry is to overlook the facts recorded above. Whether Mr. Gandhi came to Champaran or stayed away meant only a difference of time. But for the war, it is doubtful whether the need for legislation would have been so insistent; but for Mr. Gandhi it would certainly not have been so advertised. That abuses had existed was known: equally true was it that the large majority of indigo planters had assisted in developing the Bettiah Estate, and that from the semi-feudal system they inaugurated the peasantry had in the past derived no small benefit. The problem remained to adjust the economic relations of landlord and tenant to very altered conditions. The Act just passed in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council appears to be a fair effort to solve that problem.

The fundamental idea is that no man shall be coerced into growing indigo. Existing contracts under which a tenant has agreed to "set apart nya

portion of his land for the cultivation of a particular crop" are void, with the very important proviso that where the tenant has received any advance and does not repay it the amount due "shall be determined by an authority to be prescribed by the Local Government, whose order shall be final, and shall be enforceable as a decree for rent payable in respect of the said tenancy." In other words, the interests of the concerns in existing contracts are safeguarded. And the Local Government declined to entertain a suggestion that any such advance should be recovered by a civil suit for the money value. As regards the future cultivation of indigo it is specifically laid down that a tenant may "agree to deliver a specified weight of a particular crop to be grown on the land of his tenancy." Advances can still be made with safety for a term of three years. Hence if a *satta* is cancelled under the new Act the planter can either call on the tenant to refund the advance given or can, and probably will, arrange with him to enter into a new contract for the supply of indigo by weight instead of cultivation by area. This should not be a disturbing innovation and should not result in an increase of litigation. It is in effect the substitution of the *khushi* system of advances for the unanimously discredited *tinkatia* system, or cultivation of a selected area with all its attendant evils. The only existing contracts which may suffer are those where no advance has been given. It is possible that in a few cases the cultivation of indigo has been undertaken by a tenant in consideration of some advantage other than a payment in cash, and it might be urged that such a person could repudiate the existing contract without losing the contingent gain. To recognise any "advantage" other than a cash advance however would undoubtedly cause grave difficulty, and would open the door to just that form of indirect pressure which has been the subject of justifiable complaint in the past, and which was unanimously condemned by the Commission. The Local Government were similarly wise in rejecting an amendment to allow three years for the completion of existing contracts, which would only mean the continuance of a fertile source of friction, the prolongation of a grievance and the postponement of a clear and final settlement.

There were two noticeable omissions in the debate as compared with that which took place when the Bill was introduced. No mention was made of *tawan* and there was no further attempt to prove that any individual had been misled by the Committee as to their intentions in regard to the refund. The Bill is of course silent on the subject, but the report of the Commission had recommended the refund of a portion of the *tawan* collected, or the termination of the lease in temporarily settled villages of the Bettiah Estate. The repayment by concerns which probably have by now distributed the proceeds of surrender, though a matter of some difficulty is one which should be capable of adjustment. The reduction in the rate of *sarabashi* by "twenty per cent in the case of rent payable to Turkaulia Limited and by twenty-six per cent in all other cases" represents the compromise agreed to by persons representing 95 per cent of the indigo interests in the district. The further amendment proposed on behalf of Government that the entry in the record of rights should be conclusive evidence of the amount of the yearly rent payable "in suits and proceedings pending at the commencement of this Act," should ensure the withdrawal of pending cases and as was the intention of the Commission, prevent litigation, which would probably cost the concerns far more than any loss that may be suffered by the replacement of existing contracts by new

agreements.

The interests of the planting community would, it appears, have better been served by an exposition of any practical difficulty that might be apprehended in the working of the new Act, such, for example, as to the principles and the procedure to be followed in estimating the increase of rent to be demanded in return for the surrender of indigo cultivation, or as to the authority to be entrusted with this difficult task, than in impugning the good faith or the personnel of the Committee appointed to examine the relations between landlord and tenant. It is a mistaken policy to attribute to sinister political motives what was in fact an earnest endeavour to settle an agrarian difficulty, a problem which but for war would probably have solved itself by the gradual disappearance of natural indigo as an economically marketable product. The personal attack made by one member on Sir F. G. Sly, the President of the Commission, is somewhat reminiscent of the old adage, "No case: abuse the plaintiff's attorney."

### SECONDARY EDUCATION AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT—THE DANGERS OF ONE MAN RULE.

So the education department of Bihar and Orissa in the flush of its victory at securing the complete control of High Schools in the hands of the Director of Public Instruction has not let the grass grow under its feet. The following is a copy of Circular No. 9 dated Ranchi the 2nd February 1918, issued by the Director of Public Instruction to Inspectors of Schools and forwarded by them to Head Masters for information and guidance:—

"I have received from the Registrar, Patna University, a large number of letters addressed to that officer by Head Masters of Schools. They relate mainly to correction of age entries and to condonations of breaks of study, but concern other matters also.

2. The Patna University Act confers on the Syndicate no power of controlling schools or laying down conditions with which schools must comply if they are to be allowed to present candidates for Matriculation. Accordingly the regulations which the Senate has adopted unanimously make no mention of such matters, though they provide

(1) that a candidate who appears as a school student must have studied for a full calendar year immediately preceding the examination in a high school or schools within the province;

(2) That the above condition may be relaxed only by the special assent of the Syndicate and on request of the Inspector of Schools;

(3) That no candidate shall be admitted to the Matriculation examination, unless he will have completed the age of 16 years on the 1st day of July of the year in which the examination is held;

(4) That every candidate must produce a certificate, which in the case of school candidates will be signed by the Head Master, of

(a) good conduct, (b) diligent and regular study, (c) having passed satisfactorily the periodic school examinations or other tests, and (d) probability of passing the examination.

3. The effect of the above orders is that Head Masters (and a fortiori pupils) have now no reason to correspond with the Registrar except that Headmasters will continue to send direct to that officer the application forms and fees of candidates for the Matriculation Examination. I have

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accordingly to request you to instruct the Head Masters under you to refrain in future from writing to the Registrar, except as above. Applications for the correction of age-entries will be dealt with departmentally in accordance with the note to article 54 on page 87 of the code: that article empowers Inspectors to correct obvious mistakes, while doubtful cases may be referred to me for decision. As regards breaks of study it will be the duty of Inspectors to see that Head Masters exercise rightly the discretion which the regulations give them and for this purpose every Head Master should be required to submit to you early in January every year a statement showing the candidates whom he has sent up for the examination, together with the following information as to each:—

- (a) The date on which he joined the school;
- (b) If he studied less than a year in the school, the dates of joining and leaving any other school attended within that period;
- (c) The percentage of attendances kept during the past year. If you are not satisfied with the way in which a Headmaster has acted, you should submit a report to me on the matter."

This extraordinary circular does not need much comment, because it speaks for itself. It is an eloquent reminder of what is in store for high schools in this province. In this connection, however, several important questions arise. The first point on which public curiosity would like to be satisfied is what part the University authorities took in the issuing of this document. Did the Registrar or anybody on behalf of the University formally abdicate all its previous authority and ask the schools to do homage to the new regime? If so, at whose bidding? We wonder how both the Senate and the Syndicate will relish their fallen authority. We do not however grudge the authors of this circular the perfectly human exhibition of their long pent up feelings. Louis XVIII had probably less justification for "strafing" the least demonstration in favour of the Napoleonic emblems than has the education department in resenting the treasonable homage which schools are still rendering to the University in contemptuous disregard of the fact that the days of University control are gone, and that "another King now reigns" in its place.

But, however natural the action may be, the question still has to be asked where is the provision of law by which the Senate or the Syndicate has been deprived of the power of controlling schools or laying down conditions with which schools must comply if they are to present candidates for matriculation. It is admitted that there are in the University regulations provisions laying down the conditions (age and attendance being among them) which candidates for matriculation must satisfy. If that be so, what is it that prevents a candidate from applying to the University for a declaration that he has satisfied these conditions? The Regulations do not provide that the students should apply only to the Inspector or the Director for such declaration or that no student should be admitted to matriculation unless the Inspector or the Director certifies that he has fulfilled all the conditions? What authority then has the Director to prohibit by circulars any correspondence to the University on the subject of admission to it?

And is it true that the Patna University Act does not give the University any control over schools? How do our educational lawyers interpret sub-clause (e) of clause (ii) in sub-section (1) of section 14 of the Act, which lays down that the Regulations may, among other matters, provide for "the admission of students to the University

and their examination." The words are certainly wide enough to empower the Senate to make regulations for the control and guidance of schools desiring to present students for admission to the University. It will be said, probably, that if the Senate had the right, it has abrogated it. If so, we are constrained to regard such abrogation as ultra vires, at any rate so far as it affects the rights of existing schools. The proviso to section 11 of the Act distinctly lays down that institutions enjoying privileges to which they had been admitted by any other University and of which they are now deprived, shall notwithstanding be deemed to have been granted *the like privileges* by the Patna University. The words which we have italicised seem to indicate that so far as existing schools are concerned, they cannot be denied the privilege which they undoubtedly had under the Calcutta University of having all matters connected with their affiliation and the matriculation of their pupils decided by the University and not by the Director.

Lastly, if it is a fact that the University is now nothing and that the Director of Public Instruction is "monarch of all he surveys" in the matter of High Schools, there remains the supreme question how the Government reconciles this extremely retrograde step with its declared policy of realization of self-government. It is not very long ago that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of this province declared that nowhere was a greater measure of self-government required than in the matter of education. And yet after sixty years of constitutional government (and be it noted it was but a shadow of really responsible government), how can one defend this going back to the primitive method of one man rule? Surely it will not be argued that the best step to responsible self-government is to remove the vestige of popular control which had been left by Lord Curzon to the Indian public so far as secondary and higher education was concerned.

### "DITCHER" ON LORD RONALD SHAY'S ADVICE TO STUDENTS.

Sidney Smith could imagine no more cruel form of torture than to be preached to death by wild curates. It seems to me that the average student in India could offer one even worse, namely to be lectured to distraction by bureaucrats on the profligacy of attending public meetings to listen to political speeches. The intelligent undergraduate or schoolboy can understand prohibition on the pain of expulsion, although he may regard it as tyranny; but he cannot understand why he should be made to swallow the most nauseous speciosity by officials whose own undergraduate days were spent in much political ferment.

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The Indian Bureaucracy, which includes the Viceroy and rulers of provinces, is largely recruited from the alumni of the Oxford, Cambridge and London Universities in England, the Edinburgh and Glasgow Universities in Scotland, and Trinity College, Dublin. All these institutions return members to Parliament, and it is notorious that at elections party feeling runs high among graduates and undergraduates who only indirectly influence the choice. At the unions or debating clubs there are frequent political discussions on party lines which do not lack virulence. It is not a thing unknown for public schools in England, Scotland and Ireland to be deeply moved by political contests. Yet students in Great Britain are not constantly bullied for attending political meetings and condemned for their party politics.

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It is a logical proposition that what is safe in Great Britain is unsafe in India; if that were the sole basis of the policy of preventing Indian students from taking an active or passive part in politics, there would be nothing more to say; but officials pretend there are other and weightier reasons, and it is this pretence that exasperates the educated Indian, whose intellect is subtle, and it does more harm than good.

Lord Ronaldshay, before returning to Calcutta, presided at the prize-giving of the Dacca College, and I am sorry to think that the temptation to join the band of academical pharisees proved too much for him. Instead of insisting that it was unsafe to the Government that Indian students should attend political meetings, he defended the official policy of discouragement by a piece of egregious special pleading. He said:—

Let me tell you, you are here to study; this is the time when you are forming your minds and characters; by all means think out political questions and discuss them with your tutors and fellows in a sober reasoned way. It is good that you should face the problems of your country's future. But it is another matter listening to political speeches: there the speakers present one side only of the question, they appeal to the passions and not the reason of their audience. I can speak from experience as I have been a politician and I have addressed many audiences from a political platform, attempting to persuade them that my point of view is the only one. If you do not wish to warp your judgment you must see both sides of the question; that is why I say, "Discuss these questions, by all means, with your tutors or among yourselves, but do not,—I was going to say "waste" but perhaps "spend" would be better—do not spend your time at political meetings.

At the risk of being charged with tu-quoquo, I would ask if Lord Ronaldshay himself adopted this plan at Cambridge or even at Harrow. It is surely an irony of circumstances that one who owes his present exalted position to the fact that he was a good party man should have to decry politicians for their one-sidedness.

One could write a great deal on this theme, but *cui bono?* Bureaucrats who do not love politicians will not stop telling tarradiddles; and it will never be possible, in the march of democracy, to confine Indian students to political theory when practical politics are so much more satisfying and profitable. Yet I think it would do some of our rulers no harm to remember that nothing is so galling to a progressive people like the Bengalees as a meddling Government which tells them what to read and say, where to go, what to eat and drink and wear.—From *A Dutchman's Diary in Capital*.

**NOTES.**

**An Indian F. R. S.**

The unique honour of a Fellowship of the Royal Society has been bestowed upon Mr. Ramanujam, the mathematical prodigy, who is for sometime past, the cynosure of all eyes at Cambridge. It may be remembered that he was eking out a miserable living as an humble clerk at the Port Commissioners' office, Madras, having received no University degree or distinction. But his mathematical talents of a remarkable order did not take long in impressing the public

and he soon came to be marked out for higher things. At Cambridge, he literally took the learned bodies by storm and the wonder grew that the little head of this obscure young man from India could carry all the prodigious things he knew. And now the highest distinction has come upon him, which has shed lustre upon the country, of which he is a glorious product. The fact is significant that the first Indian F. R. S. had not much of the advantage of University education in this country, and his genius was not crushed under the deadweight of a bewildering variety of courses and a cartload of books. Had it not been for the fact that he found his way to Cambridge, he would have ended his career as a thirty-rupee clerk, drudging away at his desk till dewy eve, buried in files and ledgers.—*The Bengalee*.

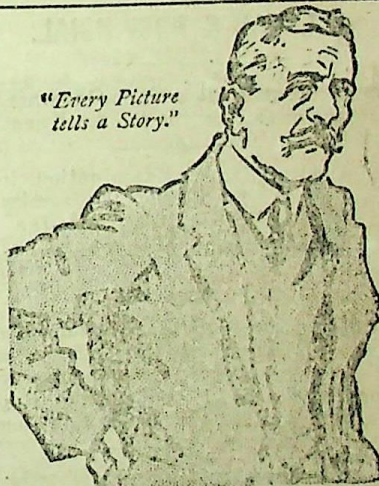
**Shall we throw up the sponge?**

Mr. Bonar Law in his plain businesslike language has made the most effective comment possible on Lord Lansdowne's ingenuous proposal to swallow Hertling's invitation to the Allies to accept a German victory over the world. All meticulous talk about what Hertling said is ridiculous, because

"We must judge the intentions of rulers of Germany by their acts not words. What is the use of talking about Hertling accepting Mr. Wilson's principles, when the Germans have taken Livonia, Esthonia and Courland, and are demanding that Rumania shall give up not only the Dobrudja but other parts of Rumania as part of the peace terms?"

And since these words were uttered even

"Every Picture tells a Story."



**How to Disperse URIC ACID DEPOSITS.**

THE ill-effect of excess uric acid may not end with lumbago, sciatica and rheumatism, for uric acid is the general basis of stone deposits in kidneys and bladder.

Little jagged uric acid crystals, very much like splintered glass, cluster round the delicate kidney cells, and form gravel stones, which break through to the bladder, and often grow so large that an operation would seem almost unavoidable. But a kidney medicine should succeed in preventing and dispersing uric acid deposits.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are a special kidney medicine. They induce kidney activity, cleanse the urinary channels, and disperse the uric acid poisons that inflame the body.

To ensure the best results patient should also help by drinking plenty of milk, plenty of water, and taking only plain, wholesome food, with little, if any, alcoholic stimulants.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are Rs. 2 per bottle; 6 for Rs. 10,3; obtainable from all dealers.

more ruthless terms have actually been imposed on the unfortunate Rumanians and Finland is in a fair way to become a vassal of the Teutons. To enter a peace conference with Germany in this mood would be to throw up the sponge. And as Mr. Bonar Law said, if the British nation were asked if they were prepared to do that, the answer would astonish our enemies and the Allies.

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### India and the War.

Incidentally, before leaving the subject of Mr. Bonar Law's statement, we may draw attention to one more exposure of the cant that has been talked in certain quarters by people who have persistently endeavoured to belittle the part played by India in the war as compared with the self-governing dominions. Sixteen hundred millions of the National Debt represents loans to the Allies and the Dominions. This year loans to the latter amount, up to the 9th March, to 108 millions, an increase of 38 millions on the previous year. India during the war has taken no loan from the Imperial Government. She has financed her own military effort, is financing the expenditure of the Imperial Government in this country, has paid off her debts in the United Kingdom and has made a gift of a hundred million to the Imperial Government, which comes in as a handy contribution towards the £154 millions in excess of the estimates. Yet the Imperial Government have not the imagination to admit an Indian representative, elected by the Indian members of the Legislative Councils, to the Imperial War Cabinet,—vide Mr. Fisher's answer to Mr. Denman's question in the House of Commons.

### LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

HIS Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and party leave Patna for Puri on the 4th April next.

THE ensuing M. A. Examination in History and Economics of the Patna University will be held on the 15th August next and the following days. Applications should be sent in on or before the 18th July.

THE Lieutenant-Governor has decided to place at the disposal of each district officer a grant of Rs. 500 to be expended on minor public works and petty local works of improvement subject to a maximum limit of Rs. 100 on any one item.

AN interesting social event is shortly expected to take place at Patna in the marriage which has, we understand, been practically arranged between Justice Sir Ali Imam and a grand-daughter of the late Maulvi Md. Yahya, who was in his days a leading Vakil of the District Court.

SIR Langlot Sanderson, the Chief Justice of Bengal, has accepted the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University. We look forward to the day when the same graceful arrangement may be made at Patna. The saving of Rs. 33,000 per annum to the slender purse of the young Alma Mater will not be the least among the good points which such a proposal would carry.

FOLLOWING on the precedent of the Bihar Council the Government of India allowed free voting on the Hon'ble Mr. Sita Nath Roy's amendment to the Income Tax Bill for the deletion of the clause affecting agricultural income, with the

result that the amendment was carried by 30 votes to 25, as many as 12 officials voting for it. The result will be nowhere so welcome as in this Province.

WE are sorry to learn that Bankipur is soon going to lose the services of Dr. Devendra Nath Ghosh M. B., the popular Assistant Surgeon, who is going on transfer to Cuttack. During the time he has been here, Dr. Ghosh has endeared himself to the public with his manifold qualities of the head and the heart. Dr. P. C. Ray of Dinapur is coming in his place and Dr. Devendra Nath Mukherji of Cuttack is coming to Dinapur.

SIR William Vincent's partial acceptance of Mr. Banerjee's resolution for the appointment of an Advisory Committee to examine the cases of internees, and of non-official visitors to report on the conditions of their domicile should go a great way in soothing the growing acrimony in the public mind. We trust that Government will extend the concession to all the Provinces where there are detainees.

PLAGUE has not yet subsided at Bankipur. Rats are still dying in several quarters, while deaths are still being reported.

A fatal house collapse occurred a few days ago at Machuatoli, Bankipur, when the wall of a mud-built house came down all of a sudden causing the death of three persons and severe injuries to several others.

AT the general election of Municipal Commissioners of the Gaya Municipality held on Wednesday, there was a keen contest in all the wards save Ward I from which Babus Mathura Prasad and Awadh Bihari Lal were by compromise returned unopposed. The results for the remaining Wards are follows:—

Ward II—Messrs. Parmeswar Dayal and Rajeswari Prasad; Ward III—Messrs. Fazlur Rahman and Gobardhan Misra; Ward IV—Messrs. Fasil Ahmad and Dasarath Lal; Ward V—Mr. Ashutosh Chatterji; Ward VI—Messrs. Reazul Hasan and Chhedi Singh; Ward VII—Dr. Umashankar Bhattacharji; Ward VIII—Messrs. Manikchand and Am-

## The Price of Pain-Sciatica.

No one wants pain—still we pay for it heavily in lost health—lost energy—lost ambition—often absolute financial ruin. Why pay this awful price? Why suffer the terrible twitching tortures of Sciatica when everlasting relief is so near at hand? Perfect health, absolute freedom from pain may again be yours. Go to-day—immediately—to the nearest Chemist and purchase a bottle of Little's Oriental Balm.

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Dea Prasad; Ward IX—Mr. Shyamji Mowar;  
Ward X—Mr. N. M. Anjoo.

It is in the fitness of things that the Government of India should go in for another experiment to raise what Mr. Jinnah called "a citizen army" from Indians. The first attempt was not started under the most favourable auspices, and though in India, some amount of official assistance is required in all first experiments, the official attitude to the movement was one of complete aloofness. Bihar and Orissa would be a case in point. What is wanted is a little more imagination and a little more sympathy on the part of the local authorities and the result is bound to exceed the most optimistic expectations. Let District officers and Principals of Colleges just call upon a few of the guardians of the rising generation and invite their co-operation and the rest is but plain sailing.

FROM a return furnished in answer to a question in the Imperial Legislative Council, it appears that altogether 109 associations were permitted to present addresses to His Excellency the Viceroy and the Secretary of State in connection with the scheme of constitutional reforms. A list of associations whose applications for a similar object were rejected is also given. In Madras 23 such applications were rejected, in Bombay 31, in Bengal 23, in the United Province 4, in the Punjab 9, in Burma 2, in Bihar and Orissa 4, in the Central Provinces and Berar 2 and in Delhi 1, altogether 104. Only 50 per cent of applicants were successful!

According to an Associated Press wire, Swami Satya Dev, a graduate of the University of Washington, America, and a famous Hindi writer and preacher, was interned at Motihari and prohibited from making any speeches. The Swami, it is stated, refused acceptance of the order on the principle that laws denying the primary rights of citizenship were not binding upon individuals; also that the order confining him to Motihari would interfere with his wanderings incumbent upon him as a Sanyasi who cannot live at one place for any length of time. Further, man-made laws caused interference with religious views and were not binding upon Sanyasis. In this connection, the Government have issued the following Communication:—The attention of the Local Government has been drawn to a series of inflammatory speeches in support of the anti-kine killing movement delivered by Swami Satya Deva at various places in Bihar. In these speeches he has appealed to the Hindu Community to protect cattle at the cost of every sacrifice, has invited them to consider the numerical inferiority of the Muhammadans and has incited them to defy the forces which are at the disposal of Government for the maintenance of law and order. In a recent lecture in Patna City, he praised the action taken by the Hindus of Shahabad on the occasion of the Bakr-Id and reproached the Hindus of Patna for their failure to assist their brethren. In view of the tension which now exists between the Hindu and Muhammadan communities as a result of the late Bakr-Id disturbances, the Local Government consider that the action of Swami Satya Deva is highly prejudicial to public order. They have therefore decided to take action against him under the Defence of India Rules. For the present he has been ordered to remain at Motihari where he is now under trial for an offence under sections 348 and 330 of the Indian Penal Code, and has been forbidden to make public speeches.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### WANTED.

Applications will be received by the undersigned for the following temporary posts sanctioned up to 28th February 1919 under the following terms:—

- (a) Preference will be given to employees of Executive Engineer's offices in the P. W. D.
- (b) Applicants must be natives of Bihar and Orissa or domiciled in this Province or permanent employees of the province.
- (c) Applications must be in the candidate's own handwriting and will be received up to 25th March 1918.
- (d) Copies of testimonials, if any, should accompany the applications.
- (e) The selected candidate must join on or before 1st April 1918.
- (f) In case of candidates having no previous experience of the P. W. D. the qualification required is noted against each.
  - (1) Head clerk on Rs. 70/- p. m. Passed I. A.
  - (2) Record clerk on Rs. 40/- p. m. Passed Matriculation with office experience.
  - (3) Paid apprentice on Rs. 10/- p. m. Passed Matriculation.

Selected candidates will have to sign a declaration form for temporary employment as required by rule IV of para III of P. W. D. Code Vol. I.

It is probable that the sanctioned duration of the posts will be extended.

J. G. ALEXANDER

Assistant Sanitary Engineer,  
Bihar and Orissa,

In charge of Sanitary Works Division.

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## EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

### Sale of unclaimed property.

Notice is hereby given that unless the undermentioned goods are removed and all charges due thereon paid before the 2nd April, 1918, they will be sold by Public Auction and the proceeds disposed of in terms of the Indian Railways Act IX of 1890.

Consignment—101 bags salt.  
Ex. Gudha to Maheshmunda Invoice  
No. 1. R/R No. 9221 dated 18-9-17.  
Sender—Harmukh Dass Moti Lall.  
Consignee—self.

By order,

CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,  
Dated 13th March 1918. } General Traffic Manager.

**NOTICE.**

Applications are invited up to 1st April 1918 for the permanent post of an Estimator in the Divisional Office. Pay up to Rs. 60 according to qualification. A passed Upper Subordinate and who has had previous experience in estimating need apply. The candidate selected will be on probation first and will have to join immediately.

Preference will be given to a native of the Province or one domiciled in it.

Apply with full particulars to the undersigned.

CUTTACK, } K. R. BERY,  
The 5th March } Executive Engineer,  
1918. } Mahanadi Division.  
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**NOTICE.****GATECHISM ON THE INDIAN PENAL CODE.**

By S. N. Singh Esq. B.L. An excellent guide to examinees for the B. L., the Departmental and Mukhtearship examinations. Price Re. 1/- to be had of the author S. N. Singh Esqr. Assistant Manager Hathwa Raj.

**WANTED.**

At once six good mine carpenters for mica mines near Kodarma E. I. Ry. Salaries according to qualifications. Only good and experienced men need apply. Box No. 37/18, Advertisement Department, Behar Herald. 3-3

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ALEX. SMART,

Agent, Patna Branch.