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The Delhi Tragedy.

SWAMI SRIDHANANDA'S STATEMENT.

Delhi, April 1.

Swami Sridhananda has made the following statement to the press:

On Sunday, March 30th, every shop and business place was closed from the morning. Returning from morning service in the local Arya Samaj Mandir, I patrolled through the city. The tramcars had ceased plying because none would use them, and even 'tongas,' etc., had stopped and all was quiet with thousands of peaceful subjects walking on footpaths. I returned to my place after 12 a.m., intending to go to the meeting after four.

At two o'clock some gentlemen came running from the Railway Station, saying, that as some people asked the station shop to close a European railway official came and threatened them. When told it was no business of his to interfere he whistled to the police, who took two men out of the collected masses in custody. The masses said that if their men were given up they would go away. Then the police began to belabour them with a stick Soldiers with a machine-gun were arriving when they left to report to me.

MACHINE GUN FIRED INDISCRIMINATELY.

I left immediately for the Railway Station. There I heard that the machine-gun had fired indiscriminately and about a dozen had either been killed or wounded, the bodies being dragged into station yard. Those hit included a railway passenger with one woman. So they said. I saw the Gurkhas coming from the opposite side. The British soldiers were already there. I went to some Europeans, of whom one was Mr Curry, the City Magistrate, and asked them to tell me the true facts. They treated me with indifference. Mr. Curry actually turning his back upon me. I told him that I was taking the people away to the meeting ground, although early, and he ought not to irritate people by making a display of the military and machinegun.

25,000 ON CONGRESS GROUND.

The whole crowd, some 3 to 4 thousands, followed me Avoiding military cordons we marched through the city. Thousands followed and thousands had preceeded us and about 15 thousands assembled on Congress grounds. The number was swelling and had risen to 25 thousands, and I was addressing them, exhorting them to act like Satyagrahis and to controll their sorrow and anger, when intelligence reached that "Gora" soldiers had fired near the Clock Tower and that another dozen or so had been pierced with bullets. Some began to get excited and I again managed to pacify them. But then two British military officers on horseback came on full speed with some Sowars and wanted a talk with me. I went out and asked the officers the meaning of this. I said this was a meeting of peaceful citizens and they were exasperating the people by a show of military aggression. The officer said he would not interfere with the peaceful meeting but a brick bat had just passed him. Neither I nor any other had seen any brick bat passing. The officer went away with the sowars, saying it was not their object to disperse a peaceful meeting.

MACHINE-GUN AT THE DOOR.

The crowd was becoming huge and after putting up a platform in the middle of the maidan, we removed there. The crowd, some forty thousands, had hardly settled itself, and after extorting them in the name of Satyagrah, I had commenced a prayer to the Almighty when the same sowars came running again with a Mahomedan police officer. Mr. Curry and the Chief Commissioner. In the meantime a machine-gun motor had rattled to the door of the meeting maidan. I had to come down the platform and to go to the Chief-Commissioner outside the audience. The Chief Commissioner asked me what we were going to do, and how long the meeting would last. I answered that a resolution of protest against the Rowlatt Bills would be passed to be sent to Mr. Montagu and the meeting would last till 6-30. He asked me about the speakers and names were given. Then he told me that if I gave an assurance that the feelings of the people would not be stirred and that the crowd would quietly disperse to their homes he would not interfere with the meeting. In reply I said I am personally responsible and had been pacifying those whose relatives had been shot and wounded but, if on our way back your military give trouble again I will not be responsible. The responsibility will rest with you. I explained all the facts and said intelligence came that machine-guns again discharged volleys near the Clock Tower. The Chief Commissioner said in reply that no machine-gun was fired near the Clock Tower I said in that case I could reassure the people saying hat no people had been injured near the Clock Tower. The Chief Commissioner on this quetly said "rifles were fired not machine-gun". Then came an inquiry from me, "was anybody injured"? The reply was "I do not know and therefore, cannot say." Then the Chief Commissioner told me to give a message of his to the people to act on the instructions of Mr. Gandhi and create no disturbance. I was all alone speaking in a loud voice which thousands [illegible] Then I mounted the platform [illegible] and asked the assembled people cat[illegible] about what I had been telling them [illegible] all said that they would never depart from the principles of Satyagraha. Whatever oppression they suffered they would bear with patience. The Chief Commissioner went away, saying that if the meeting dispersed quietly neither the military nor the police, would interfere with the meeting. Then the resolution to be sent to Mr. Montagu was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Desai promised to bear the telegraphic expenses.

RIFLE FIRED INTO CROWD.

I asked the huge audience to follow me and to leave quietly when near their residence. We were walking in order. When we were nearing the Clock Tower, the Gurkhas were in the middle of the road in double file facing both ways On seeing us they marched to the right foot board. We thought they had left to enable us to pass but when we came near them a rifle was fired into the crowd. There was a stir and deep tone of resentment put I asked all to halt and they obeyed. In my Sanyasi dress I went up to the foot path alone and asked the Gurkhas why they were firing on innocent and peaceful people. Two rifles were immediately pointed at me and they began saying in a very insolent tone tum ko chhed denge".—"We will pierce you." I stood quietly before them and said "main khara hun goli chalao"—"I am standing fire." At once eight or ten more rifles were aimed at my breast and insolent threats went on The crowd could contain itself no longer and was about to rush when a wave of my hand and a short appeal stopped them. But they were saying "let us die and not you, oh let us die." The rifles had remained pointed at my breast for some three minutes when a European approached on horse back. I told him to mark the scene and the rifles at once went down. In my presence the European on horseback asked the only policeman present whether he had ordered the soldiers to fire The police man denied having ordered firing. I stepped northward and asked the European officer whether he heard the rifle fire he impatiently answered that he was enquiring about it I then left with the people following me.

STRANGE SIGHT.

Then there was a strange sight. A Gurkha came near me, brandshing his naked khukhri right and left. No one being cowed down he left. The machine-gun motor was rattling away encircling us with the gun constantly pointed at us and with the hand of the gunner on it. The crowd was neither cowed down nor impatient. Now, at Fatehpuri I sent many of them home. Again many followed till I reached my place when all Hindus and Mohammadans took affectionate leave.

I have no sense, of resentment against the military or Government officials. But those whose relatives have been murdered, or wounded are inconsolable and in the whole population of Delhi is sense of insecurity and complete distrust in the justice of the officers in charge. A helpless people, specially inbued nnw with Sasyagrah a principles, will keep quiet but this shedding of blood on a bloodless day will not pass unnoticed by the Master of the Universe. My message to my country men is "Celebrate 6th April with prayers and humiliation before the throne of the Father Spirit, but do not be deterred for fear of military force to hold mass meetings. The resolution against the Rowlatt Bills must go to the King-Emperor from every nook and corner of India."

Shradhanunda Sanyasi.

THE DELHI TRAGEDY.

(From the "Independent's" Correspondent)

Delhi, April 1.

Later information received contradicts the statement about using the machine-gun; but ball cartridges, it is borne out, were used. Most of the wounded and killed have been struck in the upper part of the body, which is evidence of the fact that usual and wholesome rule of firing at rioters as far as possible below the abdomen was not observed.

FUNERAL PROCESSIONS.

The most notable and redeeming feature of the whole of this gruesome episode is the unprecedented scenes of genuine fraternisation between Hindus and Mussalmans, witnessed yesterday, when 3 Hindus and 2 Mussalmans funerals met at the Clock Tower in the evening, on the very spot where when living they had been shot dead. At the lowest computation 40,000 persons followed the procession amidst scenes of most moving enthusiasm and fraternal intermingling, Hindus and Mussalmans shouldering the dead in a spirit of commendable emulation on their way to the burning and burying places. Roses carpetted the routes of the processions, which proceeded in opposite directions, but accompanied by Hindus and Moslems without distinction. This impressive spirit of unity has been infused among men by the common and the tragic fate the representatives of both communities have met with. They say that their unity has now been sealed with blood.

BLACK SUNDAY IN DELHI.

A RECORD OF FACTS AND IMPRESSIONS.

(By Sayed M. Rauf Ali, Bar-at-Law)

Delhi, Mar. 30.

The general impression in Delhi was that Mahatma Gandhi meant this Sunday (30th March) to be reserved for humiliation and prayers and fasting: hence the city of Delhi with all its suburbs is in mourning to-day. All the shops big or small are closed, Hindu as well as Mahomedan. There is no tramway service Tongas and gharis are not available. There is a silence in the city, which can be felt. The quietness is rather omnious. I am sitting at the table of my office and am recording what is passing on the road below. I hear musketry firing near the Clock Tower, in the centre of Chandni Chowk. The peaceful people have presumably gathered in the Queen's Garden to hear lectures on the return of good for evil . . . . I heard another fusillade much nearer my office this time. The day is rather cloudy and it sounds like a clap of thunder. I go out to the verandah to ascertain what has happened I see crowds of people running away in a panic. There is another fussilade. People take cover. I am still in the verandah and see a lusty young Mahomedan being carried on a stretcher to his unsuspecting people. He is soaked in blood and is unconscious.

AT THE RAILWAY STATION.

I call up one man, whom I know to be reliable. He comes up but his relations are tugging at him to take him away to his house. However, I beg them to leave him, and he comes into my room. He tells me that the Railway Station is guarded by English soldiers with guns and that about thirty or forty men are lying prostrate soaked in blood. The people are absolutely unarmed. They haven't got even 'lathies' with them. None among the crowd wanted to fight. They are surprised why they should have at all been shot at. My informant on his way back passed through the Queen's Gardens, where there was a crowd of absolutely unarmed and inoffensive people. The Police wanted to disperse them. They were not molesting anybody but were showing their sorrow and humiliation in a peaceful and law-abiding manner. After some remonstrance the police fired a volley into the dense crowd whose hands were quite empty. He saw about fifty persons fall, then he came away. At this stage I heard again the footfalls of a crowd passing On the road just below my office room, I see a Hindu youth wounded in the head and hands being taken away by his friends in a 'Doli' yet there is another doli' following him. A boy of eight years has been shot in the foot. One more stretcher carrying an old man!

"NO EXCEPTION TO THE CONDUCT OF PEOPLE."

My informant has left my office and gone home. I call up another respectable citizen of he locality who has been out in search of his boy. I ask him to give me details. He says no exception could he taken to the conduct of the people. He was present when the last volley was fired. As a result quite a number of men fell. The people did not wish to fight. There was no such things as the ugly mood of the mob. Firing was gratuitious. If the people had been left alone to express their disapproval of the Black Act so many precious lives would have been saved. He says the authorities have exhibited a callousness to human life, which is startling. Wounded men and corpses are lying about in the streets and there is no help for them.

"MY BLOOD SHALL BE AVENGED BY HEAVEN."

Here I am again interrupted. An old Hindu gentleman is being carried homeward shot in the foot. Stories of individual heroism are now pouring in. One man was asked by my informent to come away from the scene of action. "My dear chap" said he "I am out to suffer and die; I have not committed any crime I have not broken any law. If they kill me innocent as I am, my blood shall be avenged byHeaven." Although the crowd was taken by surprise, it is reported that men behaved with coolness and resolute courage. Most of them in the spirit of true Satygarhis stood where they were, faced death like heroes. . . . For the time being there is quiet. I have told you what I have been told by others, and therefore I cannot vouch for the absolute accuracy of the incidents except of what I have actually seen with my own eyes. However the moral that to-day's drama points connot be lost even on the densest head.

BAPTISM OF FIRE.

Delhi has so far enjoyed the unenviable reputation of a politically backward city. And there is no doubt that public life here has been of a less intensive character than in other premier cities of India. But to-day's incidents mark in its history an epoch which is fraught with far-reaching consequences. The citizens of Delhi are by nature inoffensive and law abiding. As a province, the record of crimes in Delhi will stand favourable comparison with that of any other province—the area of the latter being computed proportionately. On an average we hear of a murder perhaps once in three years Principally it is a market of grains and cloth for distributing in the northern India. Though great in her past history, the part, it has taken in the recent development of Indian political mind, can be guaged from the fact that the last Congress was the first to be held after its 32 years of strenuous existence The city has never after the Mutiny of 1857. been exposed to any violent political convulsions. To-day however Delhi has received her baptism of fire. It is not the divided Delhi of Hindus or Mahomedans, but it is the united city including all sections of the Indian nation and the number of those who have fallen this afternoon includes all sorts and conditions of his Majesty's subjects. At this point a friend of mine calls on me, whose brothers have just come back and have narrated the story which may be summed up thus: At the station the Railway authorities caught hold of four leading men who were persuading people to observe this day as a day of mourning. The crowd asked them to release their men. But instead of letting the men out, who had committed no crime, the Police were sent for, who began to use foul language and belabour the people. Some of the hot-headed men resented the treatment and resisted the Police. In the meanwhile the British soldiers were sent for by the Police and they came. It is said that the mob was bayonetted at first and that is how the trouble started. Now the roads are picked with Gurkhas, Sikhs and "Goras" and from the official point of view the situation seems to be well in hand.

FURTHER INFORMATION.

Delhi, April 3.

Wrong and garbled accounts of the Delhi disturbances are appearing in the press telegrams. The reports are cowed down and take their cue from the local authorities who have not yet dared to bring out their communique. No public enquiry is being made by the Government. It is not true that the Police and the Magistracy restored order with the help of the British soldiers and machine gun. It was the admirable Satyagrahi spirit of the people, their trust in their leaders and untiring efforts of Hakim Ajmal Khan, Rai Bahadur Sultan Singh, Satyagraha Sabha Secretaries and other Leaders which maintained order. The people were never panic-stricken. They remained calm to the last. The local authorities are trying their best to suppress the facts but a commission of the people has begun. Its sittings and facts about the savage and inhuman firing and bayoneting of unarmed innocent people by British soldiers, will come to light. Even shots on the opposite side of the town hall were fired into and bullets penetrated the cloth merchants' ware. The Grand Hartal would never have ended, if the Police and the magistracy had interfered. Whenever they came people became irritable and again closed shops. The Police version about its having restored order is absolutely untrue. The people have no faith in the local authorities. The Viceroy came at three on April 1st and the people hoped that he would enquire into their calamities and would pay sympathetic visit for the dead and the wounded. I earnestly beg His Excellency to come and heal the heart wounds of the people. Eleven wounded are still lying in the principal hospital of whom three are mere boys. The wounds shew that volleys were mercilessly fired. Five cases are very serious and their sufferings unbearable. 8 dead bodies have already been buried or cremated, over thirty wounded have been traced to their homes so far. The people still think some twenty to be missing supposed killed. Indian papers should send their own joint reporters to find out the truth.

THE NON-OFFICIAL COMMISSION.

(Associated Press of India.)

Delhi, April 3.

The following has been issued by the Secretary to the non-official commission:—The non-official commission appointed by the citizens of Delhi to enquire into the causes which led to the tragic events of the 30th March 1919 held its first sitting on the 2nd April 1919 at the Congress office at 4 P.M. Five witnesses were examined up to 7.30 P.M. when the Commissioners adjourned to the civil hospital to examine one of the wounded whose condition was reported to be precarious and who it was feared might not survive till this morning.

Colonel James, the Civil Surgeon, was good enough to make the necessary arrangement for the commissioners to record the statement. The Commission will hold their enquiry to-day at 4 P.M. in the civil hospital where the remaining eleven wounded are still to be examined.

Delhi, April 2.

A non-official commissioner is sitting in camera and recording evidence relating to the riots.

THE SITUATION AT DELHI.

RESULT OF ENQUIRIES.

(Associated Press of India.)

Delhi, April 1.

The city is quiet. There have been no further disturbances. The total casualties are 6 killed; 2 died of wounds and 12 injured. It is believed some wounded managed to get away unnoticed.

Detailed enquiries regarding local riots go to show that few days before Sunday last it was given out that Sunday would be observed as day of mourning and humiliation for passing of the Rowlatt Act. Nothing definite was, however, known until Saturday evening when the promoters of the movement after house to house visitation felt certain of a large following and they decided to observe the vow of passive resistance on Sunday to the extent of starving walking on foot and not doing any business. The authorities got scent of this too and they took necessary precautions by ordering out reserves. The night passed off quietly. On Sunday morning a British police officer of high rank patrolled the city and he reported that things were pretty quiet. Shortly after reports were received that those who had joined this movement were harrassing others by stopping tongas from plying and pulling out those who were riding in tongas or tram cars. On receipt of this report Mr Marshal, Supdt of Police, motored to that part of the town but the mob had evidently moved on in two different directions and all that he could see was harmless collection of the people uttering low familiar shouts on such occasion such as 'Bharat Mataki Jai.' Mr Marshal proceeded to Lal Char Bazaar. At this time he had with him seated in his car the City Inspector and a British police officer. The car on being sighted was mobbed it is alleged by young boys who were egged on by ruffians behind to do so. The result of this might have been very serious but for the presence of mind displayed by Mr. Marshall who backed his car and thus got out of the difficulty. This mob was subsequently dispersed by a party of police that have gone there for assistance. From this spot Mr. Marshall proceeded towards the railway station and his version is that he was absolutely unaware at the time that a serious riot was in progress there. It appears that more violent mob had proceeded towards railway station. A number of them got in and asked a vendor of sweets to desist from doing any business. On meeting refusal they started a fracas which resulted in the arrest of two of their party by the police at the station. This was enough provocation for the rest of the men to invade the station when they broke the windows and glasses besides doing considerable other damage. They also succeeded in rescuing the two arrested men. At this time Mr. Marshall was near the Duffering Bridge and from here he sent his police force to the station and himself went to the Chief Commissioner. While they were discussing the situation, information was brought to them that the situation at the station was very grave. All the police reserve were thereupon immediately dispatched and Mr. Marshall himself repaired to the station with seven men of the mounted force. It was about 2 p. m. now, the actual fracas having commenced about noon. On arrival Mr. Marshall noticed that a small party of about 25 British Infantry who were requisitioned in his absence and about 30 or 40 men of the police force were being heavily pressed on all sides by inturnated mob. He actually saw one of the mob trying to snatch the rifle from one of the infantry which had had to scuffle and in confusion that followed that party were pelted with stones and bricks. Mr. Marshall charged the mob with his mounted force. All this had occurred in station yard. Previous to this mob had been pushed out of the railway station by a force of Gurkhas who were proceeding by special train to Manpuri on their return from Mesopotamia

In charging the mob Mr. Marshall attempted to divide them. He succeeded in driving and dispersing one part to the left, but on the right he met with violent opposition. There was a heavy shower of stones and his men were all badly hurt. He himself was hit and very nearly fell from his horse. At this time the rest of the police force came on to the scene. The officers continuously urged the mob to move off, in many cases with folded hands, but the only response was a second and more violent attack. Mr. Currie, Additional District Magistrate, who had by then arrived on the spot then warned the mob that they would be fired upon if they did not disperse, but showers of stones continued and the order to fire was given. One volley was fired and a couple of men fell and the mob broke off. This enabled the police to clear the whole of Queen's Gardens and to place their men right upto the municipal hall.

Things appeared to be quiet for about half-an-hour, when a mob began to collect in Chandni Chowk. Mr. Marshall, on receipt of news of this took a party of about forty Gurkhas with him and proceeded to the spot. On arrival at the Town Hall in front of Chandni Chowk he found a body of 15 British Infantry and 15 police being heavily stoned. Numerous warnings were given but were of no avail and at last a volley was fired over the heads of the crowds. Far from this having the desired effect the crowd rushed in and there was imminent danger of a hand-to-hand fight, in which the body of 40 Gurkhas who had followed Mr. Marshall would have certainly joined with disastrous results. To save this orders were given to fire, but it was made absolutely clear that the boys whom the ringleaders had taken great care to keep to the front were not to be hurt. As a result of this volley three or four men dropped dead and a few were wounded. Quiet was then restored and in about half-an-hour's time a body of 40 cavalrymen arrived from the new cantonment and patrolled the Chowk. Later the Chief Commissioner and General Drake Brockman arrived on the scene.

About this time it was reported that a public meeting was being held in the People's Park to protest against the passing of the Rowlatt Act and the Chief Commissioner and Mr. Currie proceeded there but found the meeting peaceful.

In the evening the Manipur Gurkhas were being marched to Kotwali when they met a large mob headed by Swami Sardanand. This mob had returned from the meeting and was shouting the usual cries The Gurkhas took this to be a threatening attitude on the part the mob and their N C O gave order to load their magazines. While they were so doing with their rifles pointed in the air one of the rifles went off Swami Sardanand maintained that the shot was deliberately aimed at him and more confusion ensued which would have ended disastrously but for the timely arrival of Mr Orde, Superintendent of Police, C I D. With great tact he quieted the mob and promised to make an inquiry into the matter personally. Mr Orde, as a result of his inquiries is satisfied that the rifle went off accidentally, and points out in support of his conclusion that the Chowk was thick with people at the time and that had the shot been deliberately fired it would have hit somebody.

It may be added that the report that a machine-gun was fired is without foundation. No machine-gun was brought on the scene, although there was an armoured car there.

The night passed off quietly, but on Monday morning the shops had not been opened and mobs were again to be noticed in the Chowk. The day, however, passed off without any fracas and by evening all the shops in Subzi Mundi and Sadar Bazar were opened. The shops in Chandni Chowk remained shut.

This morning mobs again turned out in the Chowk where a few shops had been opened, and again pulled passengers from the tramcars, with the result that in that quarter the Tramway Company had to suspend traffic. The authorities have yielded to the urgent exhortations of the leaders to allow them

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

to appease the mob and were assaulted. Sardarsingh [illegible] from the [illegible] though he must say [illegible] they have been [illegible] at home. So far the leaders have met with partial success but the situation seems uncertain. The total casualties so far have been six killed two died of wounds and 12 wounded. It is believed that a few wounded men have gone off and the exact number of men wounded is not known.

Delhi Later.

About 4-30 p. m. the mob dispersed altogether and the tramway service was resumed. Nothing untoward has happened since.

Delhi, April 1.

The night passed without any disturbance but this morning no one showed any desire to resume business. Most of the shops remained closed and the mob paraded the streets in silence but with agitation depicted on their faces. The military guards who had been posted in the principal streets and at the city gates on Sunday are still kept as a precautionary measure. The number of killed and wounded cannot be ascertained but it is reported that six men died on Sunday and that about eight persons succumbed yesterday to injuries received during the affray. Towards evening yesterday the funeral of five of the rioters passed in procession through the town. A large crowd followed. The procession, which included the corpses of two Mahomedans and three Hindus divided at the Clock Tower, the former going in the direction of their burial ground and the latter towards the Jumna. After the bodies had been disposed of speeches were made urging the people to go home quietly.

It is now ascertained that the city inspector and Mr Jeffreys, Superintendent of Police, were roughly handled by the mob on Sunday, and that Mr. Marshall, very nearly came to grief near Lal Kua.

Shops were opened this afternoon at the request of some leading citizens of the town.

CALMNESS VESTORED.

Delhi, April 2.

Quiet has been completely restored. All shops are open and business is proceeding as usual.

COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY.

(Associated Press of India.)

Delhi, April 2.

The non-official commission of inquiry relating to the riots commenced the examination of witnesses to-day. They decided to hold their sittings in camera. Several witnesses were examined.

AT SHIKARPUR (SIND.)

(From a correspondent.)

Shikarpur (Sind) April 2

The Humilation Prayer Day was celebrated here most fittingly with the co-operation of the leading citizens, both Hindus and Mahomedans. All markets and shops were closed with the exception of a few here and there. Grain, vegetable and fruit markets were entirely closed. The Main Bazar was all calm and quiet. All business was at a standstill. Several persons and shop-keepers who had puchased mutton in ignorance of the Humiliaton Day threw the same to birds and dogs when they were informed of the importance of the day. An unprecedentedly huge meeting was held in the evening in Seth Khusiramabad where over 6000 people had gathered and an equal number had to go back for want of accommodation. Dr. Mohanlal presided at this meeting. Maharaja Lunidaram explained fully the mission of Mahatma Gandhi and the significance of Satyagraha movement and the object of the Humiliation Day. His soul-edifying speech created favourable impression. A Mahomedan Khaze dwelt then upon the mercy of God and the King and the unity of the Hindus and the Mahomedans Mr Murlidhar also delivered a fine speech. On behalf of the Mahomedan the Kazi offered prayers to God for the repeal of the Rowlatt Acts. The Brahmans also offered similar prayers on behalf of the Hindus. The meeting was most orderly. Several men and women had observed fast for 24 hours A telegram has been sent to the viceroy.

AT CAWNPORE.

A District Conference was held at Cawnpore on Sunday last which was very largely attended and at which resolutions were passed protesting against the Rowlatt enactments and supporting Mr. Gandhi's propaganda. The Satyagraha will be observed here on the 6th inst.

AT PUNJAB.

(Associated Press of India.)

Lahore, April 1.

In Lahore arrangements were made to observe the national protest day on the 30th ultimo but were cancelled at the last moment owing to Mr. Gandhi's decision that the day should be observed on Sunday the 6th instant. The protest day in Lahore will now be observed on the 6th April.

In the meantime the signatories to the notice convening a meeting were asked to see the officiating Deputy Commissioner in the Court on Saturday last when they had to discuss with him the manner in which the meeting should be conducted. They were told in the first place that the Lieutenant Governor did not approve of the tone of some of the speeches delivered at the last Rowlatt Bill protest meeting and that it was epected that they would see that the speeches on this occasion were more sober and restrained. The signatories were further told that there should oe no procession and that they should prevent students from attending the meeting.

The 30th ultimo was observed as protest day at Amritsar and Multan where shops were closed and many people fasted. Protest meetings were held at both the places and resolutions passed requesting the Secretary of State to withhold his assent to the Rowlatt Bill.

SITUATION AT DELHI.

SEDITIOUS POSTER AT CLOCK TOWER.

SLIGHT DISTURBANCE IN TOWN.

Delhi. April 3.

Last night the police discovered from the Clock Tower a poster written in the most violent language inciting to murder. It is understood the poster was there about ten minutes before it was discovered. There was a slight disturbance again last evening at about half past seven at the top of the Adjutant Road but the situation was well kept in hand and a small military party was picketted there.

SATYAGRAHA FAST

A GOOD SUGGESTION.

(Associated Press of India.)

Bombay, April 2.

A correspondent writing to the public press suggests that the Satyagraha believers shall devote the food money that they have by fasting to the famine funds. As there are about one thousand Satyagraha fasters, the fund would profit by about a thousand rupees each fast day and everyone will hope these people will fast often.

SATYAGRAHA MEETING AT AMRITSAR.

(From a Correspondent.)

Amritsar, April 3.

An open air and highly crowded mass meeting of the citizens of Amritsar was held on Wednesday the 2nd April at 5.30 P.M. at Bagh Jallanebala. Swami Satya Dev the co-worker of Mahatma Gandhi delivered a very effective address on the Passive Resistance or Soul Force. He said that Mahatma Gandhi has taken birth to destroy materialisam of Europe by preaching his religion of Soul Force. He preached that Gandhi's religion is the religion of love and fearlessness and gave the examples of Miranbai who disobeyed the orders of her husband and of Pralhad who dis-obeyed that of his King. He said the police and the authorities are not our enemies and we should not hate them as they are our brothers. They are ignorant and we should therefore, forgive them as Christ did it to His enemies at the Cross. He exhorted the people to prepare themselves to go to jail in the cause of their country. When the common herd would come forward to go to jail the jail would no longer be a fearful thing but a pilgrimage and then we would win our goal. After the speech of the Swami, Hafiz Bashir Ahmad read a very interesting self-composed poem. The audience numbered from 18 to 20 thousand. Great enthusiasm prevailed. People are demanding for a Satya graha Sabha which is going tc be established shortly.—(By Wire.)

Marwari Agrawal Social Conference

(From a Correspondent.)

Wardhagunj, April 2.

The All India Marwari Agrawal Social Conference was held yesterday at 3 P. M. in the conference pandal. Numerous delegates attended. Ladies seat was fully occupied with lady visitors. There were two thousand distinguished visitors and delegates from different parts of India including the Session Judge, District Supdt of Police and Civil Surgeon, Wardha. Hymns were chanted by Brahmins, pandits and songs were sung by the students of the Marwari Vidyarthi Griha Wardha. An effective speech was delivered by Rai Bahadur Seth Jamnalal Bajaj, President of the Reception Committee for one hour. Babu Debiprasad Khaitan B.A. Attorney at law, a delegate from Bengal proposed Seth Khemraji of Bombay to the chair. It was seconded by Seth Ramnarainji Ruiaga of Bombay, Seth Soorajmalji Gocuka of Berar, Seth Jinaraj Potdar of C.P. Seth Kesheodevj Newalia of Rajputana, Seth Protapji of Khandesh and was unanimously carried out. Influential presidential speech was delivered for an hour, relating to the necessary reforms urgently needed in the society. Messages came from men like Sir Rawindranath Tajore, Poet Laureate, Sir J C Bose, Mr C F Andrews, Pandit Dindayalji Sharma and other sons of India, wishing every success to the conference. These highly instructive messages evoked unprecedented enthusiasm and joy amongst the audience proposed by Babu Dewaprasad and seconded by Seth Ramjasrai Agrawal. The resolution on the constitution of subject committee was unanimously passed after a heated discussion. The Conference for the day terminated at 6.45 P.M. The Subject Committee sat at 9.30 P.M. and continued till 2 A.M. After well contested discussion 6 resolutions were framed which will be put to day at 12 A.M. when the conference begins.

(From a Correspondent.)

Wardhganj, April 3.

The Conference began at 12.30 P.M. yesterday audience out numbering previous days attendance. The proceedings commenced with songs of boys of the Marwari Hostel Dhamangaon, and girls of Maganbai girl School, Wardha. Letters and telegrams of sympathy were then read. Remarkable among them were from Mrs Sarojini Naidu, Rai Bahadur Nawarang Raiji Khaitan, Rai Bahadur Hajarimal, Messrs Dudhaewewalla Seth, Ramlalji Ganediwala Seth Shiranjilal Bagala. Five resolutions were passed congratulating the success of the British arms urging the necessity of spreading suitable education for the community and enacting free compulsory primary education in India condemning the child and the old age marriage and 'Heda' (feasings after death). Stirring speeches were delivered. The conference closed for the second day at 5 p.m. The delegates afterwards were entertained at the Marwari hostel ground with the excellent programme of Indian exercises, prayers, music and speeches by the students for about 2 hours. The Subject Committee met for the second time at 10 P.M. and resolution were framed which will be put at 11 A.M. to-day

TROUBLES IN BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY.

(Associated Press of India.)

Benares, April 2.

Efforts are being made by interested parties to minimise the present troubles in the Benares Hindu University which date back to the appointment of the present principal It is said that some people are persuading junior professors to contradict the allegations that have been published. Senior Professors have all refused to sign the proposed disclaimer. The Vice Chancellor is understood to be giving his most anxious consideration to the matter.

VICE-CHANCELLORSHIP OF MYSORE UNIVERSITY.

TALK ABOUT PROF B. N. SEAL.

Bangalore, April 3.

There is no official confirmation yet but it is generally stated that Prof. Brojendra Nath Seal of Calcutta will be appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Mysore University.

Criticism about the organisation of the University has been appearing in the Press for some time past and the appointment of a Vice Chancellor with the experience of British and foreign Universities organisation has been urged

THE HON. MR. PATEL AND THE GOVERNMENT

The following is the correspondence passed between the Hon. Mr. V J Patel and the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Department, as regards the ruling of the Viceroy with reference to the Select Committee's Report on the Rowlatt Bill that the hon. members who wish to attach dissenting minutes, can only do so if they are parties to the Report:—

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

From the Offg Secy to the Government of India to the Honourable Mr. V J Patel.

"Delhi, 28th February 1912.

"Sir

With reference to your minute of dissent to the Report of the Select Committee on the Rowlatt Bill, I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency the President has ruled that Honourable Member who wish to attach dissenting minutes can only do so if they are parties to the Report. I am to say, therefore, that your minute will not be presented to Council with the Report of the Select Committee to-morrow unless you have in the meantime signed the Committee's Report."

MR. PATEL'S REPLY.

Delhi, 1st. March 1919.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 602 of yesterday's date received yesterday afternoon in which you say that my note of dissent would not be presented to the Council to-morrow, unless I sign what is called the report of the Select Committee, and you add that this is in accordance with a ruling of His Excellency the President. I am sorry that this Excellency the President arrived at this conclusion without affording me an opportunity of stating the reasons which led me to act as I did. I regard the Select Committee as one body to which the Rowlatt Bill was referred without any particular directions. Every member of it had the equal right of recording this views on the bill, either jointly with other members or separately from them, or partly jointly and partly separately as he liked. The body met and considered all the provisions of the Bill. Some of its members who happened to form a majority, agreed in a particular view, the others did not. The former put their views on one paper and signed it in token of their assent. The remaining members, say the minority, acted similarly, but several of them wrote separate minutes expressing their individual views. You would regard the former as the report of the Select Committee, and the latter as no part of it. unless the authors of the separate minutes—the minority—sign the report of the majority. This I submit amounts to elevating the majority into the whole Committee and ignoring the minoirty altogether. I submit that the separate reports of both the majority and minority taken together form one complete document which represents the report of the whole Select Committee. Further there is nothing on the rules for the conduct of Legislative business to prohibit what has been done. Where the rules are silent, it is I believe, permissible to act on the analogies of the majority and minority reports of Commissions and Committees and these support what has been done by me I may also add that there is nothing in the Government of India Act. 1915 and the rules framed thereunder to authorise His Excellency the Viceroy to make such a ruling which therefore is "ultra vires"

I request the favour of your placing this before His Excellency the President. I shall be glad to render any further explanation which my be called for. I do this as I am anxious that the whole matter may be fully placed before his Excellency and considered by him so that the necessity of raising it in the Council may be obviated."

Mr. Patel writes to the Secretary Legislative Department,

"Sir,

In continuation of my letter of date relating to the report of the Select Committee on the Rowlatt Bill, I request you to kindly draw the attention of his Excellency the President of Rule 24 of the rules for the conduct of the Council Business of the Legislative Council of Bombay which is to be found at p. 199 of the Bombay Legislative Council manual of 1916, a copy of which is herewith sent.

This supports the view which I have submitted for His Excellency's consideration in my letter of date."

To the above Mr. Patel got the following reply:—

"Sir

I am directed to inform you that after consideration of the further points put forward in your letter of the 1st Instant His Excellency the President is not prepared to reconsider the orders already passed in the matter."

NATIONAL PROTEST DAY AT LAHORE

DECISION TO HOLD THE MEETING.

(Associated Press of India.)

Lahore, April 3.

Owing to the recent incident at Delhi and owing to the Deputy Commissioner's warning to the signatories who called the National Protest Day Meeting which was to have been held on the 30th ultimo but deferred to the 6th instant there had arisen differences of opinion amongst the organisers of the public meetings here and consequently a joint meeting of the Indian Association and the Punjab Provincial Congress Committee was held on Wednesday evening in order to make arrangements for a fresh protest meeting to be held on the 6th. The meeting lasted for three hours and sat till about eleven at night. Dr Gokul Chand Sarang Barrister-at-Law presided. On Chairman's putting before the house whether a protest meeting should be held or not on the 6th instant two proposals were put forward. The first moved by Mr. Ratan Chand was that the proposal of the Indian Association to hold the meeting (as announced before) be rejected and that no more meetings be held till the situation had improved. The second proposal moved by Mr. Dev Raj Shamey Bar-at-Law was that a meeting should be held on the 6th to request His Majesty the King Emperor to veto the Rowlatt Bill passed in the teeth of the solid non-official opposition. On the proposals being put to the house, Mr Ratan Chand's motion was rejected and that of Mr Dev Raja was carried by a majority 24 voting for and 2 against the motion. It was also decided by the majority that the meeting should be an open air one and if no suitable place be found for this purpose it would be held in the Bradlaugh Hall.

THE TILAK CASE

WHY THE CASE WAS LOST.

MISDIRECTION TO JURY.

This was an action for libel brought by Mr Bal Gangadhar Tilak against Sir Valentine Chirol, the author of a book entitled "The Indian Unrest," and its publishers Messrs. Macmillan and Co. Mr. Tilak is a leader of the Indian Home Rule movement, and is known to be a fearless critic and opponent of the Indian Bureaucracy, and as such has been twice convicted of sedition for articles in his papers. But the author of "The Indian Unrest" went far beyond this, and accused Mr. Tilak of being the real instigator of murders and other political crimes in India. He also accused Mr. Tilak of extorting money from the public by the application of the lash in his papers and of dishonest conduct in the discharge of his duties as a private trustee. It was to vindicate his character against these assertions that Mr. Tilak travelled six thousand miles from his home to appear before a British judge and British jury. For, whatever may be alleged against his political crusade, nobody, not even his political antagonists, have ever ventured to question the purity of his life, his probity, and his truthfulness. Such is the man who appealed to British justice. But the verdict was given in favour of the defendants. The verdict will, without doubt, be read with regret and surprise throughout India, but it was inevitable after the impassioned charge of the Judge, with whom a simple judicial question between individual parties assumed a grave political aspect, as if it were an impeachment of the Government of India itself. Sir Edward Carson, on behalf of the defendants, urged that Sir Valentine could have avoided the whole litigation by an apology, but that to make an apology would be "a disaster of the gravest kind as regards the Government of India." What is still more remarkable is that such advocacy, instead of being reprobated was virtually accepted by the Judge, who declared that he had "never tried a more serious case, having regard to its possible public consequences." The result was that the gentle rebuke of Sir John Simon, plaintiff's counsel, when he exhorted the jury "to do their duty even if heavens fell, proved inefficacious. Laymen blissfully believe that it is the duty of the Judge to administer the law and dispense justice without regard to its consequences, and it is for the lawyers to decide whether such importation of State reasons into a Court of Justice amounts to misdirection sufficient to vitiate the verdict of the jury in the eye of the law. As regards the facts of the case, Sir John Simon, on behalf of the plaintiff, contended that there was no evidence to go to the jury on the libels complained of by plaintiff and enumerated in the plaint, more especially as regards blackmailing and want of common honesty. But the jury was manifestly influenced by the Judge's observation that the character of the plaintiff "was not above reproach" in view of his two previous convictions for sedition. The jury was also directed to consider the six different libels as one whole, and to remember that libel was an injury to a man's character and return a verdict accordingly. The Judge thereby confused personal with political character. This had its natural effect, and in spite of the warning of Sir John Simon that neither a British jury nor a British judge nor a British advocate is concerned with the political opinions of the parties in the case, the jury returned a verdict for the defendants. But a conviction for sedition clearly does not affect the personal character of the offender as a man of honour and common honesty. It was on this well-founded distinction that Mr Tilak sought justice in a British Court, but found out to his cost that a British jury does not make the distinction. One other matter which calls for remark in his case, is the assistance direct and indirect, which the defendants received from the Indian Government. Mr. Tilak had been refused by that Government access to the document on the strength of which the defendant has supported in his book one of his accusations against Mr. Tilak.—"Herald."

Mr. Baptista on the Tilak Case

In the afternoon of 27th March Mr. Baptista was waited upon by some of his friends, and naturally the first question that was asked to him was regarding the Tilak case. Mr. Baptista, in the course of his conversation, grave many interesting details of the well-known case, and emphatically asserted that the case failed simply because of the prejudicial political atmosphere that was created by Sir Edward Carson in his address and by Justice Darling in his charge to the jury which was composed of ordinary laymen subject to all the prejudices of their race. So far as law-points were concerned, the case was the strongest, and it was partially admitted by the Defendants also. But a bogey was conjured up by Sir Edward Carson that the Government of India would be impossible if the case was decided in favour of Mr. Tilak. The Judge in his charge to the jury magnified the two convictions of Mr. Tilak for sedition, and no effort was spared to stir up political prejudices. Mr. Baptista informed that the question of filing an appeal was being considered by legal experts when he left England in last month He said that Mr. Tilak's expenses together with costs which he has to pay would go to more than five lakhs of rupees Mr. Baptista expressed his great admiration and surprise when he saw Mr. Tilak least moved or affected by he adverse decision which had at the same time no effect on his political activities there.—"Maharatta."

MR. BAPTISTA ON THE TILAK CASE.

Bombay April 1.

So far the Tilak fund amounts to a little ove rtwentyeight thousand rupees.

Questioned regarding the Tilak case Mr. Baptista stated that the question of filing an appeal was being considered by legal experts when he left England last month. He said that Mr. Tilak's expenses together with costs which he has to pay would amount to more than five lakhs of rupees. Mr. Tilak was least moved by the adverse decision and it had no effect on his political activities there.

Mr. Josph Baptista has accepted the presidentship of the forthcoming Bombay Provincial Conference to be held at Ahmednager in April.

Great preparations are being made at Puri for the Bengali Settlers Conference. Some thousand delegates are exepected from all parts of the Province and a batch of singers and musicians of Calcutta have come.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

The Excess Profits Duty Bill was passed into law on Wednesday, the 19th March, and its provisions will have effect from the 1st April 1919. During the passage of the Bill through Council, a new section was added to it (now section 9 of the Act) enabling the Governor General in Council to appoint a Board of special Referees where it appears that the provisions of the Act would operate unfairly in the case of a class of business, for example owing to a business being a new business or subject to Government control. When any person desires to apply that the special procedure laid down in section 9 of the Act should be adopted for a variation of the basis or method of assessment in respect of such a class of business, he should make an application to the Finance Department, Government of India, as soon as possible, and, at the latest, before 30th June 1919 containing the particulars specified below:—

1. Name and address of the applicant.
2. Class of business.
3. Title and qualification of the applicant to represent the class.
4. The special circumstances on account of which it is alleged that the provisions of the Act for the calculation of excess profits would operate unfairly in the case of the class of business in question.
5. The variation of the basis or method of assessment applied for.
6. The place in which the applicant desires to be heard by the Board of special Referees.
7. The names and addresses of any persons whom the applicant desires to be heard by the Board of special Referees in support of his application.

It must be explained that the above remarks do not apply to cases in which a business falling under the Act wishes to apply for special treatment owing to circumstances peculiar to the individual business. In such cases any application should be submitted to the Collector of Income-tax concerned who will deal with it under section .

A MADRASSI MATHEMATICIAN.

Madras, Mar. 29.—The Registrar of the University of Madras, in the course of a communication to the press says that S. Ramanujan, F R S, who was recently elected to the efflowship of Trinity College, Cambridge, is not and has never been a Government State Scholar, but the last six years he has been receiving special scholarships granted to him by the syndicate of the University from University funds. The Board of Studies in Mathematics recommend a special soholarship of Rs. 75 per mensem to enable Ramanujan to devote his whole time to the study of mathematics and as there was no provision in the University regulations to grant scholarship permission was obtained from Government and scholarships given from 1st May, 1913. The following year the syndicate, on the suggestion of Mr. Littlehales, professor of Mathematics in Presidency College, requested Government's permission to grant him a scholarship of Rs. 250 a year from balances of the grant made to provide vacation lectures to teachers. Government sanctioning Ramanujan accepted the scholarship and proceeded to Cambridge in March of the same year. The scholarships with permission of Government extended till 1916. In March last the syndicate communicated to the Senate its intention of making a further grant of £250 a year for five years to enable him to pay visits to India and also to keep in touch with Western Mathematics. The Senate has allocated Rs. 5,000 in the budget for this purpose awaiting the sanction of the Government.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

Sunday April 6 1919

THE DELHI OUTRAGE.—II.

In the opinion of the "Englishman," Mr. Gandhi "is morally responsible" for the Delhi riot! Yes, he should be put on his trial for the death of the innocent men caused by the murderous volleys of the police and the military. That would be a fitting conclusion of the harrowing incident that has taken place in the Imperial city. In the meantime the agent of the Associated Press at Delhi is employed to justify the conduct of the officials, civil and military, who took an active part in this gruesome affair. Tedious details are given in his reports, published in our columns, and some of them are so amusing that we cannot help referring to them. We are told that "the car of the Police Superintendent being sighted, was mobbed by young men who were egged on by ruffians behind." Now, be it remembered that the Police Superintendent was accompanied by armed policemen and yet some young men ventured to mob his car! Here is another statement:—

"The fracas commenced about noon. On his arrival at the railway station Mr. Marshall, the Police Superintendent, noticed that a party of about 25 British infantry and about 30 or 40 men of police force were being heavily pressed on all sides by the infuriated mob. He saw one of the mob try to snatch a rifle from one of the soldiers which led to a scuffle and in the confusion that followed the troops and police were pelted with stones and bricks."

Fancy that though there was confusion and disorder all around, the Police Superintendent was able to notice the doing of a particular man among the crowd who sought to snatch a rifle from a soldier. And the man knowing full well that he might be shot dead immediately, risked his life to provoke a British soldier who was accompanied by many other armed soldiers! Here is yet another statement which will no doubt cause a good deal of merriment:—

"The officers continuously urged the mob to move off, in many cases with folded hands, but the only response was a second and more violent attack."

It is not stated if the officers also went on their knees and begged the mob to go home. Did the officers take a Satyagraha vow when they came out to put down the disturbance? This alone can account for their unprecedented humility. For policemen to appeal to an infuriated mob to move off with folded hands is verily a sight for the gods to see! We are further told that all the policemen were "badly hurt". Was the head of any of them broken? We are further told that the Police Superintendent "himself was hit and very nearly fell from his horse." We are very much relieved to hear that he did not fall and break his neck.

People may or may not believe that all policemen were badly hit and their Superintendent escaped a fall from his horse, but there is absolutely no doubt about the terrible fact that a number of unarmed men were shot dead and dozens, perhaps scores, wounded more or less severely. And the justification for this wanton act is that some unknown persons threw some stones and brick bats! Says the chronicler of the valiant deeds of the police and the military:—

"Mr. Currie, the Additional District Magistrate, arrived on the spot, warned the mob, but the showers of stones continued and the order to fire was given. One volley was fired and a couple of men fell and the mob broke off."

Can such an incident occur anywhere else except in India? The mob were not armed with even ordinary lathies. The police baton was quite enough to disperse them. But the firearm was ready at hand. Why should they not use it when they can take the life of a "Native" with impunity? The fact has been announced with a triumpet that no machine guns but rifles were used, as if there is a great difference between a murder caused by the one or the other. It is all the same to one whether he is killed by a machine gun or an ordinary rifle.

Good cometh out of evil. One of the results of the horrible tragedy at Delhi is a closer friendly relation between the Hindus and the Mussalmans. The two communities were not in the best of terms, but, in the face of the common danger, they have been united to a man. The funeral procession of the corpses in the Imli Musjid was, we are told, "the most impressive that Delhi has ever witnessed." Fifty thousand Hindus and Mussalmans took part. Swami Sradhanauda and Hasikalmulk delivered speeches at the grave yard to pacify the people. When the Chief Commissioner delivered five corpses, of three Hindus and two Mussalmans, they were carried in a procession to the Clock Tower accompanied by 80,000 people. Here prayers were offered for the Muslim dead and the procession divided into two, one half proceeded to the cremation ground, and the other to the grave yard. The Hindus joined the Mussalmans and the Mussalmans joined the Hindus. In compliance with the wishes of the public a graceful function was to have been performed on the first April when the leading Hindu and Muslim citizens of Delhi were to have assembled under the Clock Tower, near the scene of the tragedy, to exchange fraternal assurances and friendly tokens to seal the unity they have won by mingling their mutual blood and meeting a common destiny in pursuit of perfectly peaceful objects.

Now a word to the Government. Has the Rowlatt Act promoted or affected prejudicially the loyalty of the people of India? There can be no two opinions on the subject. So long as this venomous measure exists, the ruled and the rulers will know no rest. Is it good policy to retain such a provoking source of [illegible] discontent in the statute book? Secondly, will the responsible authorities institute an impartial enquiry into the Delhi tragedy and explain why were men killed by the police and the military and why were not gentler means adopted to put down the disturbance if one were really created by the mob without rhyme or reason? We need hardly state that the incident has created the profound est sensation throughout the country and evoked an amount of indignation and bitterness of which the rulers have not the faintest conception.

THE DELHI TRAGEDY—III

Swami Sraddhananda's statement on the Delhi tragedy, published elsewhere, will be read with thrilling interest. He writes not only from the scene of occurrence but he had to take, perhaps, the most active part in the Satyagraha function. And when it is remembered that he is a man of exalted character who is incapable of consciously telling an untruth, the value of his statement cannot be overestimated. And what does he say? He assures us that every precaution was taken to stick to the principles of the Satyagraha vow and the vast crowd who assembled actually did not deviate from them. The tragedy, he says, would not have happened if the local authorities had kept quiet. It seems that most of the shops were voluntarily closed and no pressure was used in stopping tram cars and tongas. But for the incident at the railway station the Satyagraha day would have passed most peacefully. Here some people asked the station shops to close. They did not use any force. They simply made a request and the shop-keepers were quite within their rights to accept or reject it. A European railway official, however, not only interfered, but whistled to the police who arrested two men arbitrarily and would not release them though repeatedly asked to do so. The police began to belabour them with sticks and armed soldiers soon after arrived and fired and killed and wounded innocent men when some brickbats were thrown at them. This was the long and short of the so-called Delhi riot.

It will be seen from the Swami's statement that the Satyagrahis exercised the greatest forbearance in the affair. The spirit which animated them was manifest when some 40 to 50 thousand people assembled in the course of that day to hear the Swami. No disturbance, no inclination to commit breach of the peace was in evidence anywhere. Swami Shraddhananda controlled the crowd with the utmost ease. If the authorities had put their trust in men like him to see to the tranquility of the city everything would have passed off quietly. But they believed in the efficacy of machine-guns and rifles and made parade of their physical force which instead of calming a mob was calculated to excite it. Not only this. They tried twice to interfere with the meeting which was being peacefully held at the People's Park on that tragic day. This conduct on their part, in the face of the absolutely peaceful character of the meeting, can only be explained on two suppositions, either they hoped to overawe the people by a show of force and induce them to leave the meeting or they wanted to provoke the people to acts of lawlessness so that the scene in the noon might be re-enacted to their own credit and to the prejudice of the cause of Satyagraha. It is amply clear from the statement of Swami Sraddhananda how they were baffled in their objects. The people remained true to their vow inspite of the outrageous event of the noon and the presence of the military force in a meeting of peaceful citizens.

Swami Sraddhananda gave his word for 50 thousand people that there would be no disturbance provided the authorities did not provoke any. And subsequent events proved that he did not give his word in vain. Such was the character of the people who were made the targets of rifle-fire and worse still, who are now the recepients of "unkindest cuts" from their own countrymen as the observations in the "Bengalee" and the "Leader" would show. The "Bengalee" says:

"Mr. Gandhi, with that regard for constitutional methods which have always distinguished him, has implored the vow taker not, on any account, to break the law. *His injunction has been departed from.* That was indeed inevitable when large numbers of people had taken the vow not to submit to a given law. Passive resistance in such a case was bound to lead to active resistance. And this is exactly what has happened." (The italics are ours).

The above would go to suggest that it was the people who broke the law and not the police or the military who wantonly subjected an unarmed crowd to volleys of fire. But how and when did the people commit a breach of the law? The two men who asked the shop-keepers at the station to close their shops, as we have remarked, did not use any physical force. They tried pursuasion which every citizen has a right to do. It was the police who arrested these men and is said to have subsequently released them, who committed a breach of the law. But the "Bengalee" has not one word to say against this manifestly illegal action of the police. Up till now, no allegation has been made that any of the police or the military was assaulted. What therefore was the justification for firing upon the crowd? Was it simply because they "did not show any indications" to disperse? Was that a sufficient reason to fire on them? The "Bengalee" has not a word to say regarding the legality of this procedure but throws the whole blame on his countrymen!

After declaring his inability to understand "why machine gun should at all have been employed on an unarmed crowd as we have in India" the "Bengalee" reads the following homily to his countrymen:

"In the meantime, we have a word of advice to offer to our countrymen. We beg to them to keep their heads cool and not to throw themselves into a state of unusual excitement. Let them bear in mind that upon the peaceful condition of India, large issues are dependent for solution. Riots attended with breaches of the peace are the weapons, offensive and defensive, which our enemies will use in their effort to defeat or belittle the Reform Scheme. Pointing to them, they will say "India is seething with excitement and unrest. Let us tranquilise Indian and then there will be time enough to think of the Reform Proposals." Let us see to it that we put no such weapon into their hands. Let us be calm and collected exercising the self-restraint of the oriental and thus frustrate the tactics of our opponents."

We think the people of Delhi "exercised the self-restraint of the oriental" under the gravest provocation as the statemtnt of Swami Saraddhananda would show. This self-restraint was not the outcome of cowardice and Swami Sradhanada made it amply clear when he held up his breast before the soldier who fired at him a blank shot, to kill him, if he liked. This was a form of self-restraint altogether different from the policy which would reap the greatest benefit at the minimum of sacrifice.

Lo! the reforms are coming like the Ganges from the matted look of Siva to infuse life into the moribund people of India. Machine guns and rifle-fire may be at work in the meanwhile to kill the moribund, new fetters may be forged to add to the already existing ones, but keep quiet, don't utter a syllable for the course of the reforms may be disturbed! Such is the advice of our contemporary. We leave it to our countrymen to judge of the soundness and the manliness of this advice.

While on this subject we are deeply pained to find "New India" has been misled by the report of the Associated Press regarding the Delhi incidents which on the face of it is the official or police version. It practically condemns the Satyagraha movement started at Delhi. We have no doubt that our contemporary will change his views when he reads the statement of Swami Saraddhananda which goes to show that no blame can attach to the promoters who did everything in their power to follow the principles of Satyagraha vow and as a matter of fact observed them strictly.

DELHI TRAGEDY—IV.

THE OFFICIAL VERSION.

The communique by the Government of India relating to the tragic incidents which took place at Delhi on the 30th March is published elsewhere. We find that it is an improved edition of the report of the Associated Press, which is, in fact, the police version of the affair. It does not mention some of the most important matters bought to light by Swami Shraddhananda's statement to the Press. For instance, there is no reference to the incidents which took place near the Clock Tower regarding the part played by the Gurkhas in wantonly interfering with a peaceful procession of the citizens by firing at them and then pointing the rifles at Swami Shraddhananda. As the latter's statement was published two days before the publication of the official version, one could reasonably expect that the statement of the Swamiji would either be contradicted or supported by the official communique. But, no, a complete silence is maintained with regard to these incidents. And as these Gurkhas, probably under the command of European officers, were engaged in dealing with the crowd at the station, one can readily imagine how they conducted themselves there inspite of what the official report may say or suggest to the contrary.

The official report admits that on that Sunday morning "the shops in the city generally were closed as a protest against the Rowlatt Bills." It is clear therefore that no pressure of any kind was responsible for the closing of the majority of the shops. The report says that "these shop-keepers who opened their shops were induced to close them at an early hour." It thus appears that even according to the official report, nothing like force was employed by the Satyagrahis to close the shops. In contrast with the cowardly and brutal manner in which the military treated Swami Shraddhananda, this self-restraint on the part of the people is not without its significance. It shows more than any amount of one-sided version can do, that the people were imbued with the genuine spirit of Satyagraha. The spirit which animated the military was evinced by their conduct which has been brought to light by the uncontradicted statement of Swami Shraddhananda.

Next we come to the railway station. Here, we are told, that "some persons entered and attempted to prevent the railway contractor to the supplies of food to the third class passengers from carrying out his duties and to make him observe the Hartal." "On the contractor's refusal,' we are told, "he was assaulted and the railway police and the staff arrested two of his assailants." Here we get an improvement on the Associated Press or the local police version. The latter did not mention any assault having been committed on the contractor or the shop-keepers at the station. We are invited to believe that the people who, even according to the official report, did not use force to close any of the vast number of shops in the city reserved their spirit of lawlessness to manifest itself in the station. On the other hand, we have the report of Swami Shraddhananda based on the statements of eye-witnesses that the shop-keepers at the station agreed to close their shops, but were prevented from doing so by a European official who arrived at the scene and got the persons who had pursuaded the shop-keepers to close their shops arrested. Our countrymen who are familiar enough with the ways of European officials and the police will have no difficulty in correctly estimating the value of each of these versions.

Then, we are told, that "several hundred men of the mob which had collected outside, invaded the station with the object of rescuing the two men who had been arrested." How was the station invaded? The report says nothing on this important point. Were seige-guns and dynamites employed by the Delhi mob? What a world of suggestions is involved in the word "invaded" which might be construed in any manner according to the exigencies of the circumstances! But how was this terrible invasion met? We are told that "the station was cleared by the police." But the scene did not end here. The report proceeds:

"As however the attitude of the mob outside the station was very threatening and the station authorities requisitioned help from the Fort, a party of some 20 or 30 British Infantry were sent from the Fort to the station. The Superintendent of Police arrived on the scene with a few mounted constables at about 2 p.m. and found his foot police under the command of the Assistant Superintendent and the party of 20 to 30 British Infantry *surrounded by a shouting mob* on the Queen's Road in front of the railway station." (The italics are ours).

The Associated Press used the word "dangerous" with reference to this mob, while the official report substitutes the word, "threatening" for it. But how clever must be the draftsman of the official report! What a terrible picture he draws of the awfulness of the situation! Fancy the position of 20 to 30 British Infantry assisted by a number of the police "surrounded a shouting mob"! A number of wolves surrounded by a flock of bleating lambs would not have found their position more desperate, dangerous and threatening. We expected to find the next thing mentioned in the official report to be that the bleating lambs had devoured the wolves. But, no, says the report:

"To relieve the pressure, the Superintendent of Police charged the crowd with his mounted men and *drove them into the Queen's garden* and down the road to the right and left."

So the wolves had no difficulty in proving to the hilt that they were the stronger party. But how could the machine-gun and rifle fire come to break the monotony of these incidents? Here the official report abruptly breaks the course of the narrative and goes back to the time when the lamb was not born but yet had meditated its antagonist. Says it:

"For some time the rioters had been throwing stones and bricks at the police and soldiers, and among others, the Additional District Magistrate, the Superintendent and the Asst Superintendent of Police and the District Traffic Superintendent were struck on their helmets.

Poor Associated Press! It could mention only one instance of assault and that was when the Superintendent of Police "very nearly fell from his horse." We are sorry for these officers and are relieved to think that none of them had to call any medical assistance to attend to their wounds. The report then proceeds:

"After the police and military had been contending with the mob for nearly a couple of hours without succeeding in driving them off the Addl. District Magistrate and the Superintendent of the Police came to the conclusion at about 2.30 P.M. that further postponement of sterner measures would only lead to infinitely greater bloodshed. An order to fire a couple of rounds was therefore given."

We were told a moment before, that "the crowd had been driven off into the Queen's garden and down the road to the right and left" by the police. Now we are told that the crowd could not be driven off. Which of these statements is the correct one? If the police were able to drive the crowd up to the Queen's garden, we think, it might continue to drive them up to the other end of the world by their batons instead of having recourse to machine guns and rifle-fire.

We reserve our comment on the second episode and of the report generally till our next issue.

It is quite evident however that the Government of India simply accepted the version of the local authorities without making any independent enquiry into the matter. It would have been better if the communique had been issued by the local authorities and not in the name of the Government of India.

A PARALLEL TO THE DELHI TRAGEDY.

The Delhi outrage reminds us of the atrocities committed at Barisal during the Provincial Conference held there in April 1906. The main object of that Conference was to try the strength of official illegality, when pitted against the majesty of law. The cry of "Bande Mataram" was prohibited by an illegal Executive order of Sir Bamptyde Fuller in every town and municipality of the newly-created Eastern Bengal Province. Those who attempted the cry had to suffer, here and there, insults and humiliation, at the hands of the police and the local authorities. It was, therefore, resolved that a large number of the representatives of Bengal, old and young, should assemble at Barisal and test the legality of the order, by shouting "Bande Mataram" in the streets of that town. For this purpose it was arranged that the representatives should be prepared to go to jail, if necessary.

A preliminary difficulty of a serious nature arose on the evening previous to the day fixed for the conference, when the steamers, carrying the delegates from Calcutta and Dacca reached the town of Barisal. The authorities had taken an undertaking from the Barisal people that they would not welcome the delegates with "Bande Mataram" when they arrived. There was thus no response from the thousands of people who had thronged the bank of the Barisal river when hundreds of throats in the steamers lustily shouted out "Bande Mataram" with all their force. The latter soon came to know the real situation. The Barisal people were not only not to utter "Bande Mataram" that evening but the authorities insisted that they as well as the delegates from other districts, must not do so the next and the following days when the meetings of the conference would be held.

When this was known there was great excitement, both among the Barisal people and the outside delegates. The attitude of the authorities was firm: if necessary it was understood they would use guns and bayonets, not to say regulation lathies, to disperse the conference processionists, were they to shout the penalised words. Thus they were prohibited from doing the very thing for which the conference had been summoned and the delegates had gathered in the town of Barisal! "And thus Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee wept and fasted" said the London "Times," "when he heard that 'Bande Mataram' would not be allowed to be shouted at Barisal." The "Times" here made a slight mistake which should be corrected. It was not Babu Surendra Nath but another gentleman who "wept and fasted" and we shall presently mention his name. He was one of those very few among us who loved to work from behind.

Of the many delegates who had gone to Barisal, Babu Krishna Kumar Mitter, editor of the "Sanjibani," with his band of eighteen young workers, known as "Anti-Circular Society Members," attracted general attention for their earnestness and determination. It was Babu Krishna Kumar who "wept and fasted" and took a vow that he would not swallow a morsel of food or drink a drop of water at Barisal if "Bande Mataram" was not shouted in the town. He and his young friends, inspite of official hostility, were prepared to form a procession for the purpose of shouting "Bande Mataram" at any hazard, if an elderly delegate in leading position would lead them on, but none was found to undertake such a risky business. Babu Krishna Kumar at last got hold of one, and the elderly gentleman, when requested by Babu Krishna Kumar, replied that "he will not only be glad to lead the procession but risk his head, if necessary for that purpose, though it (meaning his head) was not worth much." All this happened in the evening on board the steamer. The next morning thousands met and after some discussion resolved to start a procession of the delegates with the cry of "Bande Mataram." And then Babu Krishna Kumar agreed to take his food.

The processionists were more than five thousand in number before they started. Elderly men in leading position gave the following instruction to the younger delegates who formed the vast majority and who were bursting with enthusiasm: "Cry Bande Mataram at any hazard but don't quarrel with the police. If they assault you, bear it with patience and don't retaliate." And the rank and file promised to religiously obey the injunction.

How the police behaved with the processionists will be found in the report of an eye-witness, reproduced elsewhere from the "Patrika" dated April 19, 1906. It will be seen from it that the police made murderous attacks upon them as soon as they started. They were thousands and the police only a handful of men. They were at the time in a mood to run any risk. They only needed a hint from the elders to crush the police into atoms, but yet they uttered not a word of protest when one of the young men was all but murdered. The more the policemen assaulted him the more loudly and persistently he cried "Bande Mataram" to their face, without however raising a finger against them. The patience of the younger men was tested to its uttermost when one of the three elderly leaders (Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea,) who headed the procession was arrested, and another offered himself but was not arrested. Yet they restrained themselves because their leaders had asked them to exercise self-control.

Babu Nibaran Chandra Das Gupta, the leader of the Barisal Bar, recorded the following moral from the above incidents in a monthly magazine:

"Who will deny that there are not thousands among us willing to sacrifice themselves for their country when an ordinary young man almost done to death by some cruel-hearted policemen, did not cease uttering "Bande Mataram" though he felt that in a few moments it would be all over with him? Who will say that seeds of true patriotism have not germinated in Bengali hearts when the father of this grievously-wounded boy, quite unconcerned about the fate of his dear one, who was then in a precarious state, addressed immediately after the incident the assembled delegates and told them that he was proud of his son, and he would not shed a drop of tear if he were now to die? Who will say that our youths have not learnt self-restraint when simply in deference to the wishes of the leaders they stood motionless like statues, though they were burning with impatience to take revenge upon the police?"

The Delhi and Barisal incidents show clearly that Indian youths, whether they belong to the Punjab or to Bengal or to any other Province are not inferior in any respect to their compeers in other countries. They have given evidence of their capacity for disciplining their minds in a marvellous manner. What they now need is proper guidance at the hands of those who are to control them. If their guides are all right they have a brilliant future before them.

In short if the leaders themselves cultivate self-effacement and self-restraint there would be no difficulty in teaching their pupils these godly virtues. But if the leaders profess one thing and practise another, not only will they themselves lose their position in the country but they will demoralise our hopefuls beyond measure and their demoralisation means the ruin of the nation.

Be it stated here that Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea was one of the great heroes who controlled the Barisal Conference, and he is now denouncing the Satyagraha movement and throwing the blame of the deplorable incidents at Delhi upon his countrymen. What a sad change! We are tempted to quote the following couplet:

"If thou be'st he
O' how fallen!"

SOUL-FORCE AND BRUTE-FORCE.

When the bomb-thrower first appeared in Bengal in 1908, the "Pioneer" reminded the people of India of the "tiger-qualities" of Englishmen. The idea of tiger-qualities is, however, always associated with brute force; and no individual or nation should, therefore, be proud of these qualities. The idea must always be abhorrent to Hindu instincts. There may be modern Hindus, who have forgotten the traditions of their race and acquired a taste for brute force. But they are the products of Western civilisation and cannot thus carry any influence with the bulk of their countrymen. Passive Resistance to wrongs and reliance on soul-force, on the other hand, are more congenial to Hindu nature, being free from aggressive and violent elements. But because they are so—nay, they often times entail intense suffering and patient endurance—therefore they are not less potent in their effects than brute-force. Here are two instances to show what passive resitsance, based on soul power, can do. About one we have said now and then, namely, the heroism of the indigo ryots of Bengal; the other relates to a number of Russian subjects, which we shall describe to-day.

The example of true courage and self-sacrifice displayed by the indigo ryots of Bengal has perhaps no parallel in the world. It is a story which can never grow old. They were a race of down-trodden people whose lot was not less hard than that of the Carolina slaves. It happened in the beginning of the sixties of the last century. The indigo planters were then virtually all-powerful in the districts of Bengal. They built indigo factories every four miles and took possession of all the best lands of the ryots around. The latter were compelled to grow indigo plant in these lands for a pittance, failing which they were subjected to untold sufferings. The ryots were, in course of time, ruined and the planters flourished in proportion. The authorities were in those days too weak to protect the ryots from the oppressions of their powerful countrymen, and the victims of the indigo planters groaned unheard in silence.

The day of reckoning arrived at last. A few respectable middle class Bengalees took up the cause of the ryots and advised them to secure their deliverance by resorting to passive resistance. They deprecated [illegible]

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...ged them of "not doing ...o say, their advice was ...must no longer sow indigo. ...nage of Joyrampur in Nadia first ...nowed the way and others followed suit in ...quick succession. What the ryots did was to assemble at a sacred place and take the ...vow of never sowing indigo again. And, in a short time, five millions of them came to be *ek dil*—of one mind. The planters at first got furious. They arrested the ring-leaders and tortured them in an unheard of manner. The huts of the ryots were razed to the ground; a large number of them were confined in indigo factories and maltreated horribly; the vast majority of them were rendered homeless and their wives and children wandered over the country without food and ... But they would not yield and ... their guns bravely.

The planters now got ... all changed their tactics: w... helter. authorities they sough... luck to leaders of the move... due compensation ... in vain. One ... alarmed and were determ... the help of the last. It w... to conciliate the again ... ment. Better terms and Dia... were offered to them but ...y they had raised and they ...ned to keep it up till the as, "Saheb, this hand shall never ...ouch indigo." The Magistrates of ...icts and the Commissioners of Divi...ons now interfered. They promised justice and protection. They threatened and coaxed in turn: all in vain! "Sow the seed only this season" was the last request of the District Magistrates and the Divisional Commissioners. And their reply was—"Saheb, we have taken the vow; we shall never break it and sully our dharma; torture we don't mind; our hands shall never again sow indigo." As a matter of fact, they never sowed indigo again, with the result that the planters had to go away, leaving their palatial buildings behind, which are now the abodes of bats, jackals, snakes and leopards.

Thus a bloodless victory was won by the illiterate and emasculated ryots of Bengal in their struggle with the powerful planters, only by "not doing the thing." Passive resistance can have no better living illustration of its great potency than this incident. If the Indians, educated or uneducated could only resolve not to touch a foreign article so long its equivalent was not available in this country, to purchase home-made things even at some sacrifice, they could secure their industrial salvation in no time without coming into conflict with the law. Mr. Gandhi's advice is that, as no country is so capable as India of wielding soul-force, her people should always use the higher powers of the soul in accomplishing their objects. Passive Resistance should be their chief weapon of defence and offence. They should avoid "the drive and hurry of modern civilization", which has the effect of materialising the soul, adopt the simple life of their ancestors and never forget that the main object of human existence is to live rightly, think rightly and act rightly, and that the soul is bound to languish if we give all our thoughts to the body.

The other striking instance of the triumph of soul-force is that of the Dhinkobars. They have also shown by their conduct what great things can be accomplished by relying on the power of soul. They were Russian subjects, and, as such, were subject to the law of conscription. But their religion forbade them to fight and shed blood. So, many thousands of them left the Russian territory and sought an asylum in some other European country but found none. At last they migrated to Canada and the Canadian Government permitted them to settle in one of its uncultivated forests at their own cost. Here they reclaimed the land and raised a beautiful town for themselves. Their motto is peace and good-will to fellow-beings. As a matter of fact, poverty and misery are practically unknown to them, the rich among them sharing with the poor, and the latter helping their neighbours according to their capacity. Now, why should Indians fail to do in the matter of their political or industrial regeneration what the illiterate indigo ryots did in the sixties and what the Dhinkobars accomplished only about two decades ago by resorting to soul-power and passive resistance?

An Incident of the Delhi Tragedy.

The following further account of an incident of the Sunday tragedy at Delhi will be read with interest. It is a translation from the "Brahman Samachar" dated Mar 31, a Hindi weekly, published from Delhi:

"After the tragedy near the Clock Tower, the Home Rule volunteers were proclaiming throughout the city that a Satyagraha meeting would be held in the Congress maidan. At 5 o'clock in the evening a huge gathering of ten or twelve thousand people began to gather at that place. Swami Sradhananda was the President of the meeting. The President stood up and expressed regret over the incident of the noon. At that time a European Police Captain (Police Sergeant?) of the city with a small detachment of mounted police arrived on the spot. The Swamiji was asked whether he was prepared to fight. The answer was "No, I will adhere to the vow of Satyagraha peacefully." The Captain then retired. Afterwards the Chief Commissioner with a small detachment arrived at the spot. They surrounded the meeting. The Chief Commissioner held an interview with the Swamiji for some minutes. Afterwards it transpired that the Chief Commissioner asked him not to use any strong language in the meeting. All agreed that it would not be so. The Chief Commissioner then left the place. After the Satyagraha Resolution was passed the meeting dispersed. People proceeded towards their home peacefully. It is said that when the Swamiji was passing near the Clock Tower, a blank cartridge was fired at him from the military posted there. But the Swamiji stood undaunted and said "I am a Satyagrahi, if you like to kill me, do it effectively. I stand here calm, what is the good of using a blank cartridge?" After this everything was calm and quiet."

The above will show the firm determination of a brute Satyagrahi and his readiness to fight the brute force with soul force.

Two sides of the British Empire Shield.

The following account of a riot that took place in London three weeks ago will no doubt be read with attention and interest by the general public here to-day in view of the tragedy that has occured at Delhi:—

"THE AFFRAY IN THE STRAND"

London, Mar 9

"A riot took place in the Strand as the result of a constable endeavouring to arrest American sailors who were gambling outside the Y. M. C. A. refreshment hut. The sailors resisted the constable, who summoned assistance. A melee followed, wherein several American, Canadian and Australian soldiers fought the police, who were reinforced from the Bow-street police station. An American policeman drew a revolver and threatened the civilian police who rushed at him. The soldiers attacked the civilian police and overpowered him. The policeman attempted to rescue the policeman and in the struggle he was knocked down and trampled upon. The police using their batons, felled many soldiers, and, forcing others along Aldwych, gradually broke up the rioters. The police arrested seven, including the military policeman.

Owing to a subsequent rumour that the latter died at Bow-street, 3,000 soldiers and sailors proceeded to the Bow street police station breaking the station's windows and boo-hooing. Thirty police rushed out and charged the mob batoning right and left. Most of the rioters fled towards the Strand. The police were reinforced from neighbouring stations and drew a cordon across Bow-street. A mob of soldiers assembled twenty yards away. Answering their leader's call they *rushed the police*, who simultaneously charged and dispersed the rioters after five minutes vigorous fighting. Twenty were arrested. Subsequently mounted police patrolled the approaches to Bow-street."

Italics are ours. It will be noticed that though the American, Canadian and Australian sailors and soldiers forming the rioters resisted and fought the Police and an American "drew a revolver and threatened the civilian police" and later the mob in a body "rushed the police" and engaged them in "vigorous fighting," neither were they killed by a machine-gun, nor by volleys of rifle fire. The Police simply used their batons all the while. But we forget that England is the God-protected side and India is the God-forsaken side of the same British Empire shield.

Drafting the Indian Reforms Bill

"It is stated," so says the "Englishman" "that seven members of the Indian Civil Service are engaged in drafting the Indian Reforms Bill." It never rains but it pours—one would have been bad enough but seven I. C. S. men engaged in a work which specially belongs to lawyers who have attained eminence in drafting and conveyancing! The visitors to our gardens called by us "Sat-Bhaira" and by Englishmen "seven sisters" probably are responsible for the number of drafters chosen, and it may be also because they are, like these birds, hatchers of other than their own progeny. It will be interesting to know if all seven sit upon this reform-Egg, by reason of its size, all at once, or, take it by turns. The air is rent with demands for an eight-hour-day and we should like to know who is doing the odd hour—or, is it Lord Sydenham who in the excess of his zeal lending the warmth of his person for this extra hour? When their names are revealed we are sure to find that they are no better than ancient maids, to whom it is a strange and new experience.

"Snatchers and drafters, ancient Maid,
How many may you be?"
"How many? Seven in all," she said
And wondering looked at me.
"And who are they" I pray you tell
She answered, 'Seven are we"

Bengal Provincial Conference.

The ensuing Bengal Provincial Conference augurs to be a grand success and a representative gathering of all parties. We note with satisfaction that the Indian Association has elected all its members to the Conference. We are passing through a period of extraordinary crisis. The Rowlatt Act has agitated the whole country to an unprecedented extent. Bengal leaders of all schools of thought have not yet sat together to consider how to conduct the campaign against the Cobra Act. In this supreme moment of the nation's history, we must be united and our line of action, to be effective, must follow the same direction. We would therefore, earnestly request leaders of all parties to assemble at the Conference. We expect also a muster of delegates from all and every district in Bengal. It will have been seen from the letter of our Mymensingh correspondent, published yesterday in these columns, that the people there are up and doing to make the Conference worthy of the occasion. It now rests with our countrymen to attend to the call of duty.

National Education Week.

Elsewhere is published a programme of the National Education week celebration which will commence this year from the 8th instant. The celebration was a great success last year, and it is hoped that it will be a greater success this year. The National Council of Education under whose auspices the celebration is being held, has been silently doing much useful work in promoting the cause of education in this country. Want of funds and particularly the apathy of our countrymen who still hanker after Government service for their boys are responsible for the failure of the Council to develop its literary branch as it should have done. But in the direction of technical instruction it has been able to do much valuable work. The students turned out by the Bengal Technical Institute, as the technical department of the Council is styled, obtain ready employments in the growing industrial concerns of the country and it is satisfactory to note that the efficiency of these students, proved on trial, is being appreciated and suitably rewarded with their promotion to higher and more responsible situations. It is indeed gratifying to learn that "there is not a single pupil trained by the Technical Institute, who is not engaged in some useful work or other—far better employed than the ordinary graduates of the University."

The object of the promoters of the National Education week celebration is to attract public sympathy and support to the cause of national education and the National Council of Education—hitherto its poor and neglected temple in Bengal. The education which our officialised universities impart has not been able to meet the demands of the country. As Sir John Woodroffe remarked it has only fitted our youngmen for work in narrow grooves and has not helped them to grow up to be self-reliant and resourceful men. It is the aim of national education to make our youngmen, better fitted for the struggle of life in these hard days, likely to become harder still in the near future, and better trained for useful careers in new and wider fields of work. Every Indian who has the welfare of the country at his heart will thoroughly sympathise with these objects. We wish this year's celebration an all-round success.

The Spy.

It is a remarkable letter that Mr. C. F. Andrews has written to the press and which we published in our columns on Tuesday last. He says:—

"A subtle and very deep evil lies beneath the surface of Indian life, especially in the student world. Spying is already a terror and a dread, but it will become armed with fresh powers of evil if these Bills (Rowlatt Bills) are carried into law. To show by example what I mean—while I was teaching in College, two of my own students whom I trusted, were found to be paid Government spies introduced into the College for that very purpose. I had myself the experience of catching red-handed a government spy in my own room in College searching my private papers. He confessed to me that he had been sent to spy upon me by the C. I. D."

A parallel to this extensive system of spying which does not spare even the sacred precincts of learning can only be found in the administration of the late Czars of Russia. Germany had also a very developed spy system, but her spies were exclusively employed against foreign powers. She has, however, been justly held in opprobrium by the civilized world for her Secret Service department. Russia was the only country which had a vast army of spies to watch the movements of persons—her own subjects who would throw off her autocracy. But the C. I. D. in India spreads its net far wider. It cannot, of course, limit its activities to revolutionaries and anarchists, because these being few and long non-existent, its occupation and justification for existence as a department would be gone. What then can it do than search the private papers of inoffensive school-masters like Mr. C. F. Andrews, and iron safes of orators like Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjea? What can be a more delectable occupation than searching the motor cars of Hon'ble members of the Legislative Council when they are busy exercising their lungs in the Council chamber? And how impartial are these C. I. D. men in their attentions! The Home Member or the Law Member may be discriminating in their treatment to non-official Indian members of the Council. But the worst enemies of the C. I. D. would not venture to bring this charge against it. If it follows faithfully the footsteps of Mr. Jinnah or Mr. Khaparde like a well-known creature, it is no less assiduous in dogging the steps of Mr. Sarma.

Th spy is detested everywhere in the world and by persons whose loyalty to their Governments cannot be questioned for one moment. Why? Because treachery is the vital breath of the spy and nobody likes a traitor even if he betrays the secrets of thieves and becomes instrumental in punishing them. The dislike of the spy is not confined to him as a person who has sold his manhood for a mess of pottage. It extends to his employer also. The Rowlatt Act, as Mr. Andrews has pointed out, will only increase the spy evil, and as he says:

"if the Government of India is prepared deliberately to increase the "spying" evil and to rely still more upon this weapon, it may do so. But it will lose the respect of those who have wished all along to hold it in esteem."

It is trust which begets trust. In an atmosphere polluted by the breath of thousands of spies trust is impossible and talk of co-operation, a mocker.

Hunger Strike in Hazaribag Jail.

"An afflicted parent" writes:—

"I am credibly informed that the State-prisoners now confined in Hazaribag jail, one of whom is a son of mine, have begun hunger strike for about two weeks. I am quite in the dark as how my son is faring and one can easily understand how the parents of these unfortunate youngmen are dying with anxiety to know their present condition. Will you kindly enlighten me what I am to do for the purpose?"

Our correspondent may send a prepaid telegram to the Superintendent of the Hazaribag jail for necessary information about his son and, we doubt not, he will get a reply. At least, this was done on the occasion of the previous strike. It is also time the Government of Behar should issue a communique, detailing all circumstances of the strike with a view to remove public misgivings in this connection.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE

AN APPEAL TO OUR COUNTRYMEN

You are aware that the Bengal Provincial Conference meets here on the 19th and 20th April. This session is specially important owing to the passing of the Rowlatt Bill which has thrown the whole country into convulsion. What course should we adopt at such a crisis? That is the great problem before us. Hence, it is absolutely necessary that all our leading men should assemble at Mymensingh and put their heads together to solve it. Kindly, therefore, do not fail to come. If there was an occasion when Bengal expects her sons to close their ranks and do their duty with one united mind, it is now. The Bengal Provincial Conference has never been a party organisation. We, therefore, take the liberty to invite all to this place, irrespective of their political creeds and opinions, to help us in our deliberations. Several other matters will also be taken up at the Conference, though the Rowlatt Act will necessarily demand our first consideration.

Monomohon Neogi,
Secretary Reception Committee
Satyendramohon Choudhury,
Joint Secretary, Reception Committee.

Dated Mymensingh, the 2nd April 1919.

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS IN CANADA.

PERMISSION TO TAKE FAMILY.

London, Mar. 29.

Ottawa. An order in the Council has been passed approving the declaration of the Imperial War Conference in 1918 permitting the admission into the dominion of the wives and children, who are still minors of the Indians already permanently domiciled there. It is estimated that there are more than twelve hundred Indians in Canada

The Delhi Tragedy.

OFFICIAL REPORT

(Associated Press of India.)

Simla, April 4.

A Home Department communique says: As misleading accounts of the disturbances in Delhi on Sunday, the 30th of March have appeared in certain newspapers, the following summary of the official report received from the local administration is issued for general information:

The shops in the city generally were closed on Sunday morning as a protest against the passing of the Rowlatt Bills. Those shop-keepers who opened their shops were induced to close them at an early hour. By 10-30 a.m. the crowds in the streets were making efforts to extend the Hartal to the tonga-drivers and to compel all passengers to walk. The usual police precautionary measures had been taken, and all the reserves in the police lines and at the various stations were in readiness. About 1 or 1-30 p. m. a large crowd assembled outside the railway station and some persons entered and attempted to prevent the railway contractor to the supplies of food to the third class passengers from carrying out his duties and to make him observe the Hartal. On the contractor's refusal he was assaulted and the rail way police and the staff arrested two of his assailants. Several hundred men of the mob which had collected outside, invaded the station with the object of rescuing the two men who had been arrested. A complete stoppage of the work of the station was thus threatened. The station was cleared by the police, assisted by various British soldiers who happened to be present on the platform, and by a party of 250 Manipuris on their way home from Mesopotamia, who were in a train in the station yard. As however the attitude of the mob otuside the station was very threatening and the station authorities requisitioned help from the Fort, a party of some 20 to 30 British Infantry were sent from the Fort to the station. The Superintendent of Police arrived on the scene with a few mounted constables at about 2 p. m. and found his foot police under the command of the Assistant Supdt and the party of 20 to 30 British infanry surrounded by a shouting mob on the Queen's road in front of the railway station. The mob was so close to the men protecting the station gates that one of them attempted to snatch a rifle from a British infantry man, and was wounded with the bayonet. To relieve the pressure the Supdt of Police charged the crowd with his mounted men and drove them into the Queen's garden and down the road to the right and left. For some time the rioters had been throwing stones and bricks at the police and soldiers, and among others the Additional District Magistrate, the Supdt and the Asst Supdt of Police and the Dist Traffic Supdt were struck on their helmets.

After the police and military had been contending with the mob for nearly a couple of hours without succeeding in driving them off the Addl Dist Magistrate and the Supdt of Police came to the conclusion at about 2-30 p. m. that further postponement of sterner measures would only lead to infinitely greater bloodshed. An order to fire a couple of rounds was therefore given. Two of the rioters fell The remainder broke and the police and infantry were then able to drive them back through the Queen's Garden which was cleared in about half an hour. Picquets were placed up to the Town Hall the Manipuris, already referred to, being utilised to line the road round the Queen's Garden. The crowd maintained its threatening attitude in the Chandni Chowk and the Supdt of Police on riding up after hearing a couple of shots from the direction of the Town Hall found about 15 British infantry and 15 police men being heavily stoned. The mob surged over the railing into the Queen's Garden. It appeared inevitable that some of the police and infantry would soon be seriously injured and as the attacks of the mob continued the order to fire on them was given. Two or three rounds per man were fired and three men were seen to fall, but others were probably hit. This ended the trouble and the rioters dispersed.

So far as has been ascertained, eight men were killed and some 12 or 13 have been treated for wounds at the Civil Hospital. In spite of the rumour and newspaper reports to the contrary none of the killed were boys, and though an armoured car was sent from the Fort the machine gun in it was not fired. The squadron of cavalry which had been sent for from the New Cantonment arrived in the city after the rioters had dispersed. In the opinion of the Local Administration, the police and the British infantry employed to scatter the rioters behaved with great restraint, and a very sudden and awkward situation was tackled with great firmness by the Addl Dist Magistrate and the Supdt of Police.

INFORMAL MEETING AT TOWN HALL.

(Associated Press of India.)

Delhi, April 4.

Col Beadon, Dy Commissioner, held an informal meeting in the Town Hall this evening to discuss with the leading citizens of the town what steps should be taken to prevent recruidescence of unfortunate happenings of Sunday last. A large number of gentlemen responded to his invitation and this included three members of the non-official commission of enquiry namely Khan Bahadur Hakim Ajmal Khan, Rai Saheb Piary Lal and Rai Bahadur Sultan Singh. In opening the proceedings Col Beadon said there were rumours of another strike on Sunday next and he sought their co-operation in inducting the people not to strike and furthermore if some persons persisted in striking to take such steps as would prevent rioting. He said he proposed to issue hand bills which he asked them to distribute broadcast. He read to them the text of the hand bill which was in vernacular. It runs thus:—You have all heard of the rioting which took place on Sunday, the 30th March, with the unfortunate result. That some eight persons were killed and more have been wounded. For this reason I publish the following words. On that day certain persons had determined to close their shops as a sign of protest against the Act which has been passed by the Supreme Govt to prevent murderous outrages and anarchical crimes and to protect the public from such criminals. Those persons who organised this protest concealed the fact that though anarchical and Revolutionary Crimes Act had been passed by the Imperial Council it is not actually in force and no part of it can be brought into operation unless and until the Governor General in Council publishes nouncation declaring that he is satisfied that any part or parts of India in which it is to come into force anarchical or revolutionary movements are being promoted and certain serious offences connected therewith are prevalent to such extent that special procedure for their repression prescribed by the Act is necessary to ensure public safely. It should be known to you that at present the Act is not in force in any part of India and it is hope of Govt that it will never be necessary to enforce it. Action of Govt in passing the Act is merely that of a prudent house holder who keeps buckets full of water to put fire if one takes place or zemindar who sleeps on his thrashing floor when wheat has been reaped to prevent its being stolen. Citizens of Delhi have no need to anticipate that enforcement of Act will be necessary here. What reason is there then for excitement which has been aroused. This strike was foolish and unnecessary. Those who had determined to close their shops took law into their own hands and prevented other shopkeepers by threats from opening their own hands and prevented other shop keepers by threats from opening their shops. The result was that bazar was closed and many people were idle and crowd of badmashes created disturbance at railway station. So-called passive resistance turned at once into active rioting which sircar can not allow. Those who created strike are entirely to blame for creating situation which they could not control. Be warned by this notice not to bedeceived by persons who wish to compel you to close your shops. If you close your shops you hurt yourselves You may hurt innocent victims but you do not hurt sirkar. If anyone forces you to close your shops get their names recorded at the nearest thana. Sirkar can not help you unless you help sirkar in this way. Now that city is quiet again do not agitate yourself and cause more trouble to your relatives and fellow citizens. Sirkar as you know has not any wish to see riots or to have to use force to repress riots. I want you all to realise how much we who are Govt servants deplore that men should have been killed and wounded. I am therefore asking raises of Delhi to raise subscription for wounded and their dependents.

After this notice was read Col Beadon asked meeting if they would propose any other measure. Dr Shroff said so far as he had learnt there would be no strike on Sunday next. He had obtained this information from Satyagraha Camp. Asked if strike occurred Satyagrahis would be able to stop it or prevent rioting he replied he was not in position to reply. Haji Abdur Rahman said they were asked to induce public to desist from striking, but public was in state of terror. On last occasion he was compelled by mob of over three hundred to close his shop and he could secure no assistants. Rai Bahadur Sultan Singh said Satyagrahi executive committee had decided there should be no second strike on Sunday as they all realised only evil and no good could come out of it. They however proposed to hold public meeting that evening and he desired to know if they would be allowed to do so in Queens Gardens or in grounds near Fort. Col Beadon said this matter was beside object of meeting and proper application should be made for purpose. He asked if anybody would come forward to help in preventing riots in case they occurred but no reply was forthcoming. Membershowaver said they would appoint sub committee to collect funds for wounded. Meeting then dispersed. To-day prayers were offered in afternoon in Jumma Mosque for those who had fallen in recentriots on more wounded person has died in hospital. Large procession accompanied his funeral.

AGRAWAL SOCIAL CONFERENCE THIRD DAY'S SITTING

(From a Correspondent.)

Wardhaganj, April, 4.

The third day's proceedings of the all India Marwari Agrawal Social Conference commenced with songs of students of Marwari Hostel at Dhamangaon and of the Jain Hostel at Wardha. Letters and telegrams of sympathy with the conerence were then read, remarkable among them being messages grom Mahatma Gandhi, Rai Bahadur Bishesarlal Halwasia and Rai Bahadur Annumchand Singhania. Nine resolutions were passed It was demanded that in accordance with the Queen's Proclamation no difference should be shown in locating Indian and European traders Ifpressive speeches were delivered.

It was proposed to invite the Conference to Bombay nevt year. Babu Debiprasad Khaitan and Mahabirprasad Potdar on behalf of the delegates thanked the Chairman and the members of the reception Committee for the excellent arrangement. The President expressing gratitude thanked the Receiption Committee. The Conference closed amid cheers at 5 P. M. There were 650 delegates, 238 members of the Reception Committee and 100 volunteers besides about 500 visitors present in the Conference. In the evening Mr. N. B Jamnalal entertained the President and the delegates the members of the Recepton Committee and other gentlemen at a dinner party in his garden.

THE SATYAGRAHA

GANDHI'S MESSAGE TO S. K. IYENGAR

(Associated Press of India.)

Madras, April 4.

Mr. Gandhi has sent to Mr S Kasturiranga Iyengar, Vice President of Satyagraha Sabha, Madras, the following telegrams from Bombay dated 3rd inst: "I hope the Delhi tragedy will make Satyagrahais steel their hearts and that waverers will reconsider their position. I have no shadow of doubt that by remaining true to pledge we shall not only secure withdrawal of Rowlatt legislation but we shall kill the spirit of terrorism lying behind. I hope speeches on Sunday will be free from anger or unworthy passion. Cause is too great and sacred to be damaged by any exhibition of passion. We have no right to cry out against suffering which are self invited. Undoubtedly there should be no coercion for suspense of business or for fast."

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE DELHI TRAGEDY.

Here is the telegraphic account of the Delhi correspondent of the "Bombay Chronicle" re the happenings of March 30:—

Delhi, Mar. 30.

Gruesome details of the killed and wounded are pouring in, as well as details of personal heroism which might make one justly proud of those who were, according to the prevailing legal opinion, murdered in cold blood.

It is said that even the usual farce of reading the Riot Act was not gone through at the Clock Tower tragedy.

The public is very seriously exacerbated and they are urging that a public inquiry into the whole thing ought to be immediately instituted and those responsible for this murder ought to be publicly tried and justice vindicated.

Among the helpless and unarmed spectators killed and wounded, it is reported, were also found women, besides old men and children. Showers of bullets came pouring as far as Ballimaran and bullets struck houses round about the firing line. It is not yet ascertained whether any of these peaceful inmates were also struck or not, but it is probable, that some of them were exposed to the danger.

Bullets were picked up in the house of Haziq-ul-Mulk, Mr. Abdur Rahman, Vakil, and Mr. Rauf Ali, Bar.at.Law. An exhaustive inquiry would bring many more aggrieved persons to light.

All the killed and wounded cannot possibly be counted, as most of the injured went home as soon as struck and some of the dead were also taken home by the bereaved families. But it is a remarkable fact that corpses have not yet been given up to relations of the dead. In fact, I have heard that they do not allow relations to see the wounded either.

Some funerals took place this morning in perfect order.

JEERS ANSWERED WITH MACHINE-GUN FIRE.

Delhi, Later.

Sunday was set apart by the local Satyagrahis as a day of humiliation and prayer. A general closing of the market and suspension of all business was decided upon and great pains were taken to induce the public to observe the decision of the Satyagrahis as a mark of deep indignation and protest against the Rowlatt Act. An organised endeavour was made to induce the people to suspend all business. The day dawned with fair hopes of success and by midday the suspension of business was complete. The market was closed ,the tram cars ceased running, hackney and private conveyances were nowhere to be seen and thousands of men were wandering in the streets.

Soon after midday a large party of these wanderers strayed to the railway station, and on arriving there learnt that two young men, who were seen inducing certain 'halwais' or confectioners to shut up their shops, were roughly handled by the railway police and were taken into custody.

A very large crowd was quartered there and much that is wrapt in mystery took place between some of the leaders of the crowd and the railway authorities.

The crowd persisted in their conduct and demanded the release of the two men supposed to be in police custody. The protracted and unsuccessful negotiation incensed the crowd, and a scuffle is alleged to have ensued between a European police sergeant and one of the crowd. The scuffle led to an undreamt of result.

MACHINE-GUN CALLED OUT.

It is alleged a machine-gun and troops were called out and the crowd was fired at. According to various accounts some four or five were wounded and some were killed.

The mob then surged back to the Clock Tower where they were reinforced by thousands. Meanwhile, the troops and the machine-gun were posted outside the Town Hall opposite the Clock Tower. It is reported that the crowd jeered at the troops who, in their turn, used the machine-gun and fired three volleys at a crowd of thousands.

Various reports estimate the killed between 12 and 20, about double that number wounded, including a number of young children among the spectators. The first volley was fired, it is stated, between 12 and 1; while the crowd was sandwiched between the troops on either side of the road opposite the station. The second shooting took place between 3 and 3-30 p. m. opposite the Town hall. Casualties have not yet been officially announced, but various accounts by eye-witnesses are current in the town.

According to a previous arrangement, a public meeting was to take place from 3 to 6 to-day which came off, no less than ten thousand attending, Swami Shradhanand addressing the meeting. Two attempts were made by the military authorities to disperse the meeting. But the organisers and the audience remained firm.

NO INCITEMENT TO DISORDER.

Then arrived the Chief Commissioner accompanied by a D M and two military officers and parleyed with Swami Shradhanand telling the latter that he would be held responsible for any disorder, if the meeting were not dispersed immediately. The Swami told them that no disorder was likely unless the police interfered. The machine-gun, it is alleged, had already been used with fatal effect. How could they expect any disorder now? They were then left in peace and the meetings continued till the appointed time in perfect order.

But first before that the Swami addressing the audience required them to reassure the authority present unanimously that there had been no incitement to disorder. and there would be none as far as the people were concerned. They would help the Swami to keep order. The audience with one voice gave the assurance.

EUROPEAN CRIMINAL LUNATICS.

ESCAPE FROM THE ASYLUM.

Purulia, Mar. 31—Criminal lunatics, Habion a European and Pallegrins, a Eurasian, are reported to have escaped from the Ranchi Lunatic Asylum on the 26th March.

BEHAR PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE POSPONED.

The Behar Provincial Conference has been postponed 'sine die.'

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS

Internees in India

LIMITATION OF ROWLATT BILL.

London, Mar 19.

Replying to Mr Wedgwood in the Commons Mr Fisher stated that Mr Montagu had requested the Govt of India to supply as soon as possible a return of the number of persons interned and imprisoned without a trial in India during the war and the number released since the armistice.

Replying to Mr Rees Mr Fisher stated that Mr Montagu was unable to add anything to the Viceroy's reply to Goalor's address in the Delhi Conference. Mr. Yate affirmed that the Govt of India in proposing to limit the Rowlatt legislation to three years would throw an unfair burden on their successors owing to violent agitation that certainly would arise against the renewal of legislation at the end of 3 years. Mr Yate suggested that Mr Montagu should suggest to the Govt of India the advisability of reconsidering the proposal. Mr Fisher replied that Mr Montagu did not propose to adopt the suggestion.

DEMOBILISATION OF INDIAN ARMY.

London, Mar 24.

In the Commons replying to Mr Ramsden Mr Fisher stated that the Indian Army was demobilising as rapidily as circumstances permitted. About a quarter of a million combatants had already been discharged. It was proposed to retain with colours in India a force sufficient to provide for normal requirements of India and to keep up the strength of Indian troops employed in the occupied territories and Colonial stations demobilisation within practicable limits was favoured by the Govt of India and public opinion in India.

Replying to Mr Yate Mr Fisher stated that any gratuity granted to British and Indian army officers at the termination of war would be independent of bonus and increase of pay from February 1st and would be payable to the estates of deceased officers.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

FINISHES LABOURS ABOUT APRIL 5TH

London, Mar 20.

Paris: It is anticipated that the League of Nations Commission will finish its labours about April 5th. It is stated that neither Monroe doctrine nor Japanese amendment regarding racial equality has been formally before the Commission. The latter problem has become almost of primary importance in connection with the League. There is now no doubt that the entire Covenant will be incorporated in preliminary peace terms. One amendment adopted provided that the League cannot interfere with the internal affairs solely within any country's domestic jurisdiction. This is inapplicable to any territory held under a mandate.

Replying to a question a high authority declared that in the event of a civil war between Ireland and Britain the matter would not be within the jurisdiction of the League nor would the question of independence of Ireland. The principle of quality of sexes receives indirect endorsement, it being provided that women are employable on the secretariat and that they may also sit as delegates and on the executive council. Conventions dealing with white slave and opium traffics and treatment of natives are being included.

NEUTRAL COUNTRIES' HELP TO GERMANY.

London, Mar 31.

Copenhagen: A message from Berlin states that reports which are being circulated in Berlin to the effect that the Hungarian and Russian Soviet governments are offering Germany alliance have evoked a semi-official statement that nothing is officially known of such offers.

In order to assist Germany to obtain credit from neutral countries for purchase of food-stuffs Marshal Foch has telegraphed to Spa intimating that Germany will be allowed to negotiate with the neutral firms provided approval of the Supreme Blockade Council is obtained. German semi official newspapers demand abolition of this condition declaring that Germany's trade must be entirely freed.

REPATRIATION OF CHINESE COOLIES.

London, Mar. 25

At the question time in the House of Commons Mr. Churchill stated that about 83000 Chinese Coolies were employed in France on March 8th and of these four thousand would probably be repatriated by the 30th April. No date had been fixed for the repatriation of the remainder who would probably be required in France for some time.

THE EX-KAISER STILL AS FRESH AS EVER.

London, Mar 31.

Writing to the "Daily Chronicle" from Amerongen, Harold Begbie throws light on the present life and frame of mind of the Ex-Kaiser. Count Bentinct is not an old friend of the Ex-Kaiser but received him to oblige the Dutch Government. The Ex Kaiser, continued Begbie, is not at all a broken man but is still full of energy though his hair is white. His sole open air exercise now consists in half an hour's walk round the moat. The remainder of his time he spends in his room reading to the Ex-Empress while she is busy with her needle work or writing his auto-biography. The Ex Kaiser frequently expresses his appreciation of religious atmosphere of the castle. He does not fear a public trial but anticipates spending a peaceful retirement in Germany.

EX-KAISER'S PENITENCE.

London, April 1.

Continuing his narrative in this Morning's "Daily Chronicle" Mr Begbie says that the Ex-Kaiser is entirely impenitent and convinced that he strove harder than anybody to avert war. In this connection he holds that he is answerable to God alone. All rulers according to Ex Kaiser were against war which was made by diplomats. Germany was involved in war to defend. Austria against the aggression of Russia. The Kaiser declared that he regretted sinking of "Lusitania" which was a great blunder which he would never cease to regret. Shooting of Tdith Cavell according to Ex-Kaiser was ordered by a General after which the Ex-Kaiser ordered that no woman must be shot without his personal sanction.

Active Repression in Egypt.

Futiliiy of Defensive Measures.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S WARNING

London, Mar. 29.

Cairo. At a meeting of the Egyptian notables the Commander-in-Chief declared that he was now faced with the necessity of employing measures of active repression which must bring tremendous suffering upon the people and result in a great loss of public and private property. It has been found impossible to restore order merely by defensive measures. It was duty of every patriotic Egyptian to do his utmost in order that measures he was forced to take, might achieve the desired results at the earliest possible moment with minimum of suffering. The Commander-in-Chief concluded with the solemn warning. "I intend to do my duty. It is for you to do yours".

THE DANZIG DEMAND

GERMANY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE.

London, April 1.

The following is a corrected version of yesterday's message:—

Amsterdam, Mar. 31.—A message from Berlin states that the Entente has sent an ultimatum to the Government demanding assent to the landing of Polish troops at Danzig and declaring that refusal will be regarded as a breach of the armistice. The government "replied that it would not be responsible for the measure demanded but it" was prepared to facilitate Polish landing in Stettin Koenigsberg, Memel and Libau in the most effective manner.

GERMAN ATTITUDE REGARDING DANZIG QUESTION PRELIMINARY PEACE CONFERENCE DELAYED.

London, Mar. 31.

It is now believed doubtful whether Mr. Lloyd George will attend the next sitting of the British Industrial Conference on April 4th. He may be required in Paris, where Preliminary Peace Agreement is being delyed by the German attitude regarding the Danzig question and the problems connected with demarcation of the Rhine Provinces. As regards the latter question chief difficulty arises from France's desire to annex Saar Basin which the British and American delegates oppose. There has been much discussion touching guarantees which France will receive against the German aggression in event of non-annexation.

London, Mar 29.

Germany's reply to Entente ultimatum on the subject of Danzig is long and argumentative and contends that it was agreed under armistice to admit the Allied and not Polish troops. The papers declare that the real motive of the Germans is not fear of civil war as they allege but desire to profit from two conflicting views of Paris Conference on the subject of future of Danzig. It is suggested that the Allies while insisting that Polish army should land at Danzig should assure the Germans that the right of landing shall not be abused.

London, Mar 29.

Berlin: A German press denounces proposed Polish landing as an attempt to prejudice decisions of peace Conference by the creation of a 'fait accompli' and declares that the entente should be warned by the example of Hungary not to humiliate their opponents unduly.

London, Mar 31.

Amsterdam: In his reply to German note with reference to landing of Polish troops at Danzig Marshal Foch intimated that he will personally give at Spa on April, 3rd all information and guarantees required to German plenipotentiary who must be empowered to decide within 48 hours. The German Govt has decided to send Erzberger as plenipotentiary to Spa.

London, April 1.

Paris: The question of the future of Danzig is still undecided but probably the solution will either be internationalisation of the town and the railway connecting it with Polish Railway system or application of mandatory system.

London, April 1.

Paris: It is believed that the Council of Four has reached a practical agreement concerning the most territorial questions affecting Germany including the vexed question of Saar coalfields. Outstanding matters are Danzig with Polish corridor to sea and and indemnities. As regards the passage of troops through Danzig against which Germany that Polish divisions are under French officers and must be regarded as forming part of the Allied armies. Armistice compels Germany to afford unhindered passage to Allied troops.

WILSON ON THE LEAGUE.

London, Mar. 27

Paris, President Wilson to-day issued following statement: "In view of the very surprising impression which seems to exist in some quarters that it is discussions of commission on the League of Nations that are delaying the final formulation of Peace. I am very glad to take the opportunity of reporting that the conclusions of this commission were the first to be laid before the plenary conference. They were reported on February 14th and world has had a full month in which to discuss every feature of the draft covenant then submitted. During the last few days the Commission has been engaged in the effort to take advantage of criticisms which the publication of the Covenant has fortunately drawn out. A committee of the commission has also had the advantage of a conference with representatives of the neutral nations who are giving evidence of deep interest and practically unanimous desire to align themselves with the league. The revised covenant is now practically finished. It is in the hands of a committee for the final process of drafting and will almost immediately be presented a second time to the public. The Conferences of Commission have been invariably held at times when they would not interfere with thee consultations of those who have undertaken to formulate general conclusions of the conference with regard to the many other complicated problems of peace so that the members of the Commission congratulate themselves on the fact that no part of their conference has ever interposed any form of delay.

COMPLETE ANNEXATION OF SAAR BASIN TO FRANCE.

London, April 1.

Reuter's Paris correspondent learns that France has pressed for complete annexation of Saar Basin but this has not been agreed to. There is a disposition to cede Control coalfields to France for a fixed period as part of payment of indemnity.

NO MORE DEMAND BEYOND WILSON'S PRINCIPLES.

London, March 30.

Copenhagen: Replying to resolutions from Bhenish Westphalia protesting against the French alleged plans concerning Saar region Brockdorff Rantzau, the foreign Minister telegraphed that German ministry would absolutely reject any demands going beyond Wilson's principles. Stoessel the majority Socialist, declared that workers would rather have no peace than one making them work for forty years for the pleasure of victors adding "our executive committee has resolved if necessary to pursue the same [illegible] as that in Hungary.

MISCELLANEOUS.

London, Mar. 31

Rome. The blockade of the Adriatic ceased at midnight last night.

London, Mar 29.

Copenhagen: A messages from Berlin states that according to "Lokalanzeiger" suspension of an armistice is possible.

London, April 2.

Telegram from Berln says general strike has been begun in Berlin and threatens to be as serious as former troubles.

London, Mar 31.

Berlin: A breach has occurred between the Bavarian and the Imperial Governments in consequence of Bavaria's bid for the military independence. The Bavarian Government has prohibited all recruiting for the volunteer army. The "Mittagszeitung" is of opinion that estrangement will develop.

London, Mar 31.

The Rumanian Press Bureau reports that Budapest is seriously threatened with anarchy. The communists are losing control which is passing into the hands of the Bolshevists who are daily arriving from Russia. The Hungarian army is being reorganised in a feverish haste aided by German officers of Mackensen's former army.

London, Mar. 31.

Stockholm. A message from Helsingfors states that recent disturbances in Petrograd have assumed, a most threatening character against the Soviet Government. Lenin's authority has been considerably reduced. Trotzky is at present in Msocow closely guarded by the sharp-soooters.

London, Mar. 31.

Bale. A telegram from Weimar says: There is an unconfirmed report that the Hungarian Government has sent a short term ultimatum to the Czecho-Slovak State owing to the concentration of troops in the Czecho-Slovakia and the rumoured general mobilisation in Bohemia.

London, Mar 31.

Tokio March 20.—Mr Uchida replying to the interpellations stated that twenty six thousand Japanese troops were still in Siberia for the purpose of maintaining peace and order if these were endangered by Bolshevists. Any interference in the Russia's internal administration would be scrupulously avoided.

London, Mar. 31.

Copenhagen. A telegram from Budapest says: The Government has issued a decree forbidding anyone to leave the country. Those attempting to escape will be brought before the revolutionary tribunal. The decree says all rights of foreigners must be absolutely respected. Persons of foreign diplomats and flags designating residences of foreigners are inviolable under penalty of death.

London, Mar 30

Twenty Sinn Feiners escaped from Mount joy prison in Dublin on Saturday afternoon The Number included Mr Walsh M P who was court-martialled on Friday and Mr. Beasley M P who was awaiting court-martial. It is stated that a gang of Sinn Feiners held down the warders while others climbed a thirty foot wall with the aid of a rope-ladder reaching the canal. The crowd outside watched escape.

CONVERSION OF WATER HYACINTH INTO POTASH.

Noakhali, March 30.—Under the supervision of the Divisional Superintendent of Agriculture, the manufacture of potash from ashes of the "Water Hyacinth" recently undertaken at Sonaimuri centre in this district as an experimental measure and the result obtained was on the whole satisfactory. People from far and near supplied the ash at a nominal price with the only object of getting rid of the pest. Machineries were set up in the Dark Bunglow compound and about 56 maunds of potash in the form of crystals were obtained. The value and importance of potash as manure for jute and rice was explained by the Superintendent to the agriculturists who seemed to take a great interest in the process of manufacture and the results obtained thereform.

Black Sunday at Lahore.

S. PS' NOTICE

Lahore, April 4.

The following notice dated April 2nd over the signature of the senior Superintendent of Police, Lahore, has been put up on the notice boards in the city:—

Being satisfied that it is intended shortly to convene or collect an assembly or form in the public streets, roads or thoroughfares near the Bradlaugh Hall or elsewhere a procession, which would in the judgment of the District Magistrate of Lahore if uncontrolled, be likely to cause a breach of the peace, I hereby under Section 30 of the Police Act (4 of 1861) require the persons convening or collecting such an assembly or directing or promoting such a procession to apply for a license not later than 10 a. m. on the day previous to that for which the license is required. This order will remain in force for one month from this date.

V. NAIDU'S CASE

Madras, April 2.

The appeal preferred by Dr Varadarajulu Naidu against the conviction under Section 124 A and the sentence of eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment by the Sub Divisional Magistrate of Madura came on for hearing to-day before the Chief Justice and Justices Ayling and Sadasiva Aiyer.

Mr K Srinivasa Aiyengar on behalf of the appellant submitted that the section under which the prosecution had been launched required a particular sanction from Government. Under Sec. 196 Cr P C without such sanction the Magistrate had no jurisdiction to entertain a complaint. There was no proof of the sanction which was said to have been given by the Local Government. When the question was raised in the revision petition in connection with the same case the prosecution might have formally proved it. As there was no proof of the sanction by Government to launch the prosecution the proceeding would have to be quashed.

Mr. Osborne for Crown submitted that this point had not been raised till the close of the case in the Lower Court, that the sanction under which the complaint was filed was valid authority and the District Magistrate was satisfied on the evidence of the Public Prosecutor that the telegram sanctioning prosecution came from the Madras Government. He further submitted if this point had been raised when the revision petition came to the High Court the defect might have been rectified.

The Chief Justice asked whether he meant it was an estoppel or anything of that sort.

Mr. Osborne replied he did not say it was estoppel. If it was a clever piece of advocacy it had borne fruit.

Their Lordships reserved judgment.

ACCUSED DISCHARGED ON APPEAL

Madras, April 4—Their lordships the Chief Justices Ayling and Sadasiva Iyer delivered judgment in the appeal preferred by Dr. Varadarajulu Naidu, who was convicted of sedition at Madura. The Chief Justice before reading his judgment, in which Justice Aylinz concurred, asked the Public Prosecutor if additional evidence was allowed to be let in would it not open up the question whether the telegram sanctioning the prosecution was sent with the authority of the Government of Madras. The Public Prosecutor replied that the prosecution was prepared to prove that the telegram was sent by the Chief Secretary. It was not necessary for the prosecution to prove that every member of the Madras Government was concerned in the matter of sending the telegram and evidence would establish that the Member in charge of the portfolio pertaining to political cases was cognisant of what the Chief Secretary was doing.

The Chief Justice hen delivered judgment quashing the conviction by the lower court and ordering cancellation of the bail bond executed by Dr. Varadarajulu Naidu. Their lordships in the course of their judgment said: It would not in my opinion be creditable to the administration of justice or in accordance with modern ideas on the subject that conviction on a charge such as this if otherwise sustainable should be upset owing to misconception on the part of the prosecution as to the proper mode of proving the statuary requisite that affects the merits a misconception which was shared by the trying Magistrate when the Appellate Court possesses statuary power to prevent such miscarriage by directing fresh evidence to be taken on the point I am unable with great respect to agree with the observations of the learned judges in 38 Madras pp. 457, but before allowing the prosecution to under additional evidence in this case we should I think be satisfied that the case is one of formal proof only. The sanction communicated in the telegram mustin order to satisfy the section, have been an act of H E the Governor in Council and not a single member. We have now elicited in court that this is not the case for the prosecution and in these circumstances we must decline to order fresh evidence to be taken. We are therefore constrained to allow the appeal set aside the conviction and sentence and discharge accused's bail bond on the ground that thatsequisite sanction has not been proved. We do so with great reluctance as the point in no way affects the merits of the case. The law leaves us no alternative.. Mr. Justice Sadasiva Iyed in a separate judgment was also for acquittal of the appellant.

MADRAS TRAMWAY STRIKE

NO SETTLEMENT AS YET.

Madras, April 1.

To-day is the twenty second day of the tramway strike. No settlement has been arrived at yet. The Madras Tramway Co has issued a notice inviting applications in workshops and permament way departments.

AMERICA AND JAPAN.

REFUSAL TO CO-OPERATE

Tokio, Mar. 26.

In the House of Representatives Mr. Manatta replying to an interpellation admitted the American refusal to co-operate in the fighting near Blagovestchensk, but refused to admit that this was tanta-amount to insubordination declaring that the refusal was probably to the difference in conception between Japan and America concerning Bolsheviks.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

LORD SINHA IN LORDS.

HIS MAIDEN SPEECH.

In the House of Lords during mail week, Lord Sinha made his maiden speech in answer to questions by Lord Sydenham.

LORD SYDENHAM.

Lord Sydenham had the following Questions on the Paper—

To ask the Under-Secretary of State for India—

1. If he can say when the opinions of the Provincial Governments in India on the Report of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State will be made available for the information of Parliament and the public.

2. If he can give any information as to the riots at Katarpur last year when, it is stated, a mob of 3,000 Hindus murdered a number of Mahomedans, burning some of them alive, and destroyed their village.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, among the most important proposals in the Report of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India were those which contemplated the establishment in all the Provincial Governments of a diarchical system. That system is quite unknown to past history and Government, and I confess I regard it myself as impracticable and fantastic. It has now been carefully considered by the responsible Governments who would have to carry it out, and I feel sure our Lordships will agree with me that their opinions should be made known as soon as possible to Parliament and to the public. These opinions, I believe, have now been at the India Office for several weeks, and what I urge is that they should be given to us as soon as possible. There is another set of Papers which are not mentioned in my Question but on which I gave private notice to the noble Lord. I hope he will undertake to make public the evidence given before Lord Southborough's Committees, which, I believe, have now finished their work. If this is not done I assure the noble Lord that there will be the greatest dissatisfaction among the non-Brahmana communities in India, which as your Lordships will know, compose the vast majority of the Indian people.

LORD SINHA.

After Lord Islington had spoken on the subject, the Under-Secretary of State for India (Lord Sinha) said: My Lords, it is with considerable diffidence that I rise this evening to address your Lordships, and I hope I may be let altogther out of order if I begin by thanking my noble friend Lord Islington, from whom I have in the past had a great deal of courtesy and consideration, for the more than generous terms with which he has been pleased to refer to me; and I thank your Lordships also for the very kind reception you gave to the remarks.

With regard to the Question on the Paper by the noble Lord, Lord Sydenham, my task is comparatively easy, because I have only to draw your Lordships' attention to what has been already promised as early as November last by Lord Islington himself and also last month—on February 17 and 19—by the Secretary of State for India in another place. The first set of Papers which, Lord Sydenham asked should be published refers to the opinions by the Local Governments on the great scheme known as the Montagu-Chelmsford Scheme for constitutional reforms in India. Replying in the House of Commons to a Question put on February 17 and 19 respectively the Secretary of State said:—

"I have at present seen only advance copies of the opinions of Provincial Governments as to the proposal for constitutional reforms, but I expect before long to receive them officially from the Government of India, together with the Government's considered views on the whole subject, and of course they will be presented to Parliament, though I cannot at present specify a date."

Then, as early as November last, Lord Isligton, speaking in your Lordships' House, said thus—

"The reports from the Local Governments on the Reforms Report, and all the material which will be of use in the discussion of this matter, in so far of course as they do not contain confidential matter, will, in due course, and without unnecessary delay, be published."

I repeat that assurance, but I cannot add anything further to it. The Government of India's Despatch giving their views on the opinions of the Local Governments has not yet been received, though it is expected that it will not be very long in arriving, probably not later than the end of this month. The Report of the Government of India should then be in the hands of the Secretary of State. As soon as it is received and has been considered by the Secretary of State it will be placed before Parliament.

There is another set of Papers for which the noble Lord asked—the Reports of the two Committees over which Lord Southborough presided in India, and also the evidence which may have been recorded by those Committees. As regards the Reports themselves the Secretary of State has definitely pledged himself to place them before Parliament. The Reports, so far as we know, have not yet been signed—at least our information is that it is only one Report of the Committee, that to determine the electorates, that has been signed. We have no information regarding the others. Lord Southborough and the members of his Committees are, I believe, already on their way back from India, and Reports will be in the hands of the Secretary of State I hope before the end of the present month. As soon as they are received they will be placed before your Lordships' House. As to the evidence, all that I am in a position to tell your Lordships at present is that the procedure to regulate proceedings of these Committees was left entirely to the discretion of Lord Southborough and the members of the Committee. It is not known whether they have recorded evidence with a view to publication, and in any case until the return of Lord Southborough and the receipt of the Committee's reports it is not possible to give any information on the subject or to publish any evidence that may have been given.

May I take this opportunity of expressing my entire concurrence with what fell from the noble Lord, Lord Sydenham. I also consider that absolute frankness is essential in the consideration of these most important matters; and so far as the Secretary of State is concerned, and so far as I myself am concerned, I hope that there will be no occasion on the part of your Lordships to complain in that respect. With regard to the documents to which my noble friend Lord Islington referred—namely, the Report of the Indian Industrial Commission—may I remind your Lordships that it was formally laid before your Lordship's House on February 19 last, and on an inquiry of the printers it has been ascertained that copies will be available for circulation on Thursday next by noon. Therefore copies will be available both for your Lordships' House and to the public on Thursday next. I entirely agree, if I may say so, with Lord Islington as to the importance of this report, and also with regard to the complaint which he has made—though perhaps it is not for me to urge it now—that the Government of India, before this Commission was appointed, could hardly be accused of having been too progressive in industrial matters. It is the earnest hope of all who are concerned in the Government of India, as well as of the Indian people themselves, that effect may be given to the recommendations of this Commission as soon as they have been considered by the Government of India in the first place, by the Secretary of State and by parliament. I can assure my noble friend that, so far as any action on this Report is concerned, the Secretary of State has already intimated to the Viceroy that no action should be taken until the opinions of the Local Governments on the Reports, as well as the considered opinion of the Government of India, had been received by him and there will be ample opportunity given to the members of your Lordships' House to study and consider this Report, and, if need be, to raise any discussion upon it before any action is taken in regard to it. That is, I think, all that I need say at this stage with regard to the first Question on the Paper.

KATARPUR RIOTS.

Lord Sydenham.—I beg to thank the noble Lord for the answer he has given me, and specially for his promise—which I know he will carry out—that there shall be greater frankness on the part of the India Office in future. I have now to ask the Under-Secretary of State the second question standing in my name—Whether he can give any information as to the riots at Katarpur last year when, it is stated, a mob of 3,000 Hindus murdered a number of Mahomedans, burning some of them alive, and destroyed their village.

There is a very great difficulty at the present moment in watching events in India. I do not know whether the Censor is still at work, but I see in private letters allusions to happenings which never appear in our public Press, and it does not seem to me as if we were not quite sufficiently informed as to what is going on in India. Since it was known that the Secretary of State would make large concessions to Home Rulers there have been certain distinctly unpleasant symptoms in India. There were riots in the three great presidency towns, and in all cases there was some evidence of political inspiration As to Bengal, the Government of Bengal itself has said so in its resolution as regards the very serious disturbances in Calcutta. As regards the strikes in Bombay it has been denied, but in a private letter from an Indian who was behind the scenes and who also did his utmost to preserve tranquility, these words occur—

"Home Rulers were abroad in the mill centres, instigating and assisting the strikers, and asking them to hold on."

In Rangoon troubles were planned, but were apparently frustrated by the action of Government. Other disturbances have taken the form of organised attack by Hindus upon Mahomedans. To the worst case of that kind the House has already had its attention drawn. That was in Behar, when an area of 1,000 square miles was held up by the rioters for several days. Something of the same kind appears to have occurred at Katarpur on the occasion of that last Bakr Id ceremonies. From the little I have heard of that case it does seem as if effective steps were not taken in sufficient time but that impression may be wrong and if so, doubtless the noble Lord will correct me.

In other case disturbances which might have been serious have been averted by the prompt action of British Officers. There is some significance to be attached to these happenings and the significance must not be ignored. The number of Indians who really understand what Home Rule means is in proportion to the population of India, very small, as the Report of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State admitted. But there is not a bazaar in all India where stories that Government is weakening or that Government is afraid would not be understood and would not be believed. That, I am afraid, is what is going on, and in a telegram from Delhi which "The Times" published yesterday there are these words:

"The Extremists appear to be animated by blind hatred of the Civil Service, which constantly finds expression on the platform and in the Press. The existence of this rancorous sentiment accentuates the difficultice of the political situation."

I really fear that the gross calumnies against the Government of India and against everything British which are rife at the present time are becoming a source of growing danger to the peace of India.

LORD SINHA'S REPLY.

Lord Sinha.—My Lords, with regard to the second Question on the Paper in so far as information has been asked for by my noble friend I shall proceed to give that information at once. As regards comments with your Lordships' leave I will reserve them until I have given the narrative of facts. This Question relates to riots which undoubtedly took place in a village called Katarpur in September last. The information which has hitherto been received by the Indian Office from the Government of India has been by cable, and is, therefore, necessarily meagre. I would have contented myself with giving your Lordships the bare facts as received by us by cable from the Government of India, but I thought it would give satisfaction both to the noble Lord who asked the question and to the members of your Lordships' House if I were able to give a fuller account from any other source that was available, and I have accordingly compiled one from newspaper account of the opening speech of counsel in the prosecution which has arisen out of this case, in order that your Lordships may have fuller information as regards the facts.

A serious riot took place in the village of Katarpur, in the sub-division of Roorkee in the district of Saharanpore, in September 18 last and it is alleged that in the riot at least thirty Mahomedans were killed sixteen injured and a large part of the village burnt down. The circumstances which led up to the riot extended over a series of some days. The village is one in which according to the latest census Report, there were 668 Hindus and 256 Mahomedans, and there is a mosque, or Idgah as it is called in the village. The surrounding villages were in the main what might be called Hindu villages, and the town of Kankhal (also chiefly Hindu in population) as well as the great place of pilgrimage, Hindwar, is also within a few miles of the village of Katarpur.

On September 11, the Bakr Id festival of the Mahomedans being close at hand, the police moved the Sub-Divisional Magistrate to bind over the leading Mahomedan and Hindu villages to keep the peace during the Bakr Id festival, which extends from September 17 to September 19 inclusive. They did so inasmuch as there seemed to be a controversy—which is the usual controversy in these cases—as to whether Katarpur was a village in which cow sacrifice at Bakr Id was customary or not, and it therefore seemed necessary that precautions should be taken On September 15, owing to the intercession of local officers, the parties appear to have come to an arrangement by which it was agreed that sacrifices should be quietly performed in the houses of two of the Mahomedans of the village. Later on, however, this agreement is alleged to have been repudiated by the neighbouring Hindus, with the result that on September 17, the first day of the Bakr Id, a crowd numbering thousands arrived at this village armed with big sticks. The local officers tried to get the people to come to some settlement but failing to do so, wired to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate at Roorkee to come to the place, and he arrived there on September 18, accompanied by a number of police constables. He found an excited crowd moving about in groups. It was when the local Magistrate was present in the village that suddenly some cry was raised which seemed to be the signal for a general attack by the Hindu on the Mahomedans, who were fewer in number, and the huts in the Mahomedan quarter were set on fire by groups of Hindu rioters. The fire stopped in the afternoon, and in the meantime an armed guard had been wired for from Roorkee. This guard arrived, and no further rioting took place. It is said that seventeen corpses were found by the Sub-Divisional Officer, either burnt or partially burnt, and some more corpses were found later inside Mahomedan houses. A number of arrests were made later, and about 100 persons are now on their trial. At the proposal of the Local Government, a special Tribunal, constituted under the Defence of India Act, 1915, presided over by Mr. Justice Tudball of the Allahabad High Court, was set up for the purpose. The Government of India has promised to telegraph the result of the proceedings as soon as they are finished. Those are the facts with regard to the rioting.

NOTHING WHATSOEVER OF POLITICAL CHARACTER.

I do not, for a moment, seek to minimise the significance of these riots; but your Lordships will have noticed that this particular riot in any case had nothing whatsoever of a political character about it. Unfortunately it is correct to say that these outbursts of religious fanaticism are still common in India, and on the occasions of these festivals, whether Hindu or Mahomedan, you had rioting taking place between the two factions of those communities. It is confined to the lower and poorer classes and, after all, the real remedy for this state of things is the progressive enlightenment and education of those classes, and the closer co-operation of the educated and wealthier classes in both communities for the purpose of getting rid of or preventing those disturbances. This riot had no political significance whatever, as I have already said, and I confess that I am surprised that the noble Lord took this as an occasion to point a moral with regard to the grant of Home Rule, which no one has yet suggested so far as I know, or anything in connection with that. Nor if I may say so with regard to the three other riots mentioned in Calcutta, in Bombay, and in Rangoon—is there any reason to suppose they had anything to do with the proposals for constitutional reform, or any reason of a political nature of that kind.

Your Lordships are aware that during the course of the war there has been considerable excitement amongst the Mahomedan population of India, an excitement which has in some cases and in some Provinces been shared by the Hindus. But to say that any of these riots can be justly ascribed either to the proposals for constitutional reform or to the supposed weakening of the Government, is, I submit, saying something which is not borne out by the facts. So far from the Report, of which so much has been said by the noble Lord, ignoring occurrences of this kind, as I read it—and as I believe most of your Lordships will have read it—the Report lays special stress on the fact that these religious dissensions still exist, that these religious riots still occur; and it is for that reason principally that they refuse to allow any control to the Legislative Councils over the departments of government which are concerned with the administration of justice and with the preservation of law and order. Therefore it seems to me at any rate, and I submit it with confidence to your Lordships, that to connect these riots—which have existed I am sorry to say for many years, long before any constitutional reforms were thought of—with the Report, or with the supposed concessions which are alleged to be going to be made, is somewhat far-fetched and unfair, if I may say so with great respect to the noble Lord.

After all, human nature being what it is, outbursts of this kind, however much we may deplore them, will occur from time to time. In countries blessed with one of the noblest religions, one of the most civilising and humanising religions known to the world, we find people fighting with each other, and we find them doing so not for any supposed spiritual benefits but for mere material benefits; and, after all, when these Hindus and Mahomedans fight on the occasions of these religious festivals, they are fighting, not for material benefits, but for what they believe to be the interests of their eternal souls. The only remedy is a closer co-operation of the officials with the more educated people for the purpose of spreading enlightenment and education amongst those poorer classes, and the more the people of the country co-operate with the Government and with the officials of the Government the greater will be the checks and safeguards for the prevention of these deplorable occurrences.

Delhi Tragedy.

Mahatma Gandhi's Message.

BLACKSMITH'S HAMMER TO CRUSH A FLY

APPEAL FOR SELF- RESTRAINT.

(Associated Press of India.)

Bombay, April 3.

Mr M K Gandhi who arrived here this morning has written the following letter to the press:—

It is alleged against the Delhi people assembled at the Delhi Railway Station.

1. That some of them were trying to coerce the sweetmeat sellers into closing their stalls.

2. That some were forcibly preventing people from boarding tramcars and other vehicles,

3. That some of them threw brickbats,

4 That the whole crowd that marched to the station demanded the release of men who are said to be coercers and who were for that reason arrested at the instance of the railway authorities,

5. That the crowd declined to disperse when the Magistrate gave an order to disperse:

I have read Sanyasi Swami Shraddanandji's account of the tragedy. I am bound to accept it as true unless it is authoritatively proved to be otherwise and his account seems to me to deny the allegations 1, 2 and 3. But assuming the truth of all allegations it does appear to me that local authorities in Delhi have made us of a blacksmith's hammer to crush a fly. On their action, however, in firing on the crowd I shall seek another opportunity of saying more. My purpose in writing this letter is merely to issue a note of warning to all Satyagrahis. I would, therefore, like to observe that the conduct described in allegations 1 to 4, if true, would be inconsistent with the Satyagraha pledge. The conduct described in the allegation 5 can be consistent with the pledge but if the allegation is true the conduct was premature because the committee contemplated in the pledge has not decided upon disobedience of the orders that may be issued by a magistrate under the Riot Act. I am anxious to make it as clear as I can that in this movement no pressure can be put upon the people who do not wish to accept our suggestions and advice. The movement being essentially one to secure the greatest freedom of all Satyagrahis can not forcibly demand the release of those who might be arrested whether justly or unjustly. The essence of the pledge is to invite imprisonment and until the Committee decides upon the breach of the Riot Act it is the duty of the Satyagrahis to obey without making the slightest ado the magisterial orders to disperse etc and thus to demonstrate their law abiding nature. I hope that next Sunday at the Satyagraha meetings all speeches will be free from passion, anger or resentment. The movement depends for its success entirely upon perfect self-possession, self-restraint, absolute adherence to truth and unlimited capacity of self-sugering. Before closing this letter I would add that in opposing the Rowlatt Legislation Satyagrahis are resisting the spirit of terrorism which lies behind it and of which it is a most glaring symptom. The Delhi tragedy imposes an added responsibility upon Satyagrahis of steeling their hearts and going on with their struggle until the Rowlatt legislation is withdrawn.

THE BARISAL CONFERENCE INCIDENTS IN 1906.

BRUTAL ASSAULT ON DELEGATES

SWADESHI MARTYRS.

(By An Eye Witness.)

Bright and busy was the Saturday morning of the 14th April 1906 at Barisal. Some 600 delegates were assembled from various centres of Bengal. The delegates were housed in more than a dozen places and they awoke early in the morning only to hear a Swadeshi song sung by quite a number of local young men with clear voice and charming cadence. As the sun rose delegates were seen flying about in lightness of heart in exchanging visits with one another. Long forgotten friendship was once again revived, new friends made and old scars healed, and all enjoyed the happy interviews and open hearted conversations all around. As the day advanced, a report ran to the effect that the Police would, under no circumstances, allow the shouting of "Bande Matarani" in the public streets. Arrangements were, however, made to escort the President from the Raja Bahadur's house to the pandal with shouts of "Bande Mataram." At 2-30 P.M. they all wended their way to the place of assemblage. It was a huge crowd despite the gathering of the police, who were armed with lathies, both regulation and non-regulation. The enthusiasm rose to fever heat when the band of young men—members of the Anti-Circular Society of Calcutta—came in there.

So far there was no attack, the police paraded the street in large numbers only assuming a threatening attitude. The first victim of the cowardly police assault was Phani Bhusan, Assistant Secretary of the Anti-Circular Society, who got a fist blow from a high Police official causing bleeding in his soft chin. Yet they sang patriotic songs in the compound of the place of start for the pandal. At this stage, all other persons than "bona fide" delegates were ordered out. No sticks or umbrellas there were in the hands of the delegates. A long procession was formed with the President Mr Rasul and Mrs Rasul ahead in a coach, the other leaders following on foot and, as if in order of merit; the rank and file of the delegates were three in rows and they began to move in a regular, and orderly procession escorting that day's Arch Pontiff. They came on the street—they moved on—shouting "Bande Mataram."

The leaders were allowed to go. Then came the A.D.S.P. a mere boy, on horse back, with sword in his sheath girded up around his loins, and he broke the line. The rear portion of the procession was detached from the rest. Scarcely had it gone a few paces ahead when the blows of lathies began to be showered backwards and forwards,—the Anti-Circular men became the principal target of the attack at first—their badges were torn off, they were belaboured with the lathies mercilessly—this was going on at the gate. The lathies were also wielded with equal effect on the delegates and by-standers right up towards the leaders. The Chowkidars used lathies with filthy languages—"You sons of—"

In the centre, Chitto Runjan, son of Mono Runjan Guho, one of the noted Swadeshi leaders, was seen surrounded with several police lathials just as Abhimanyu was by the seven charioteers in the Maha bharat. Chitto was pushed down in the road-side tank all but finished. At this stage, came running Lalit Mohan Ghosal to the front, and informed the leaders of what was going on in their back, and told them "Do you not see that, at your back, the delegates were being done to death, please look back." There was then a wild confusion—by-standers flying in all directions—all anxious for the victims behind. Chitta Runjan, all wet, was rescued by his father.

Sachindra Prosad, Secretary, Anti-Circular Society, was badly struck at the cheek

Kali Prosonno Das Gupta of Madaripur Cattel case fame got a heavy blow on his right hand.

Becharam Lahiri, pleader of Krishnagore and local correspondent of the "Patrika" would have got his head in twain, but he was a pelwan (robust man) and so he was [illegible]. The blow on his right shoulder was such as would have severed the arm from the shoulders if he were any other man than Becharam Babu.

Master Ganguli of Mymensingh fell flat on the gateway, his head opened at several places.

Kaliprosonno Kabyabisharad, editor of "Hitabadi," received a severe blow on his right arm which completely disabled the limb.

Hon'ble J. Chowdhury did not escape the general attack. A police lathi came down upon his hat, which fell to the ground but saved his head.

Then followed a scene of confusion.

Women on the other side of the Loan Office shrieked in awful confusion. There were policemen ready with guns—but no guns were used. Then came up the mighty D.S.P. from near the gate of the meeting place, after witnessing long with others, the savage attack of his armed myrmidons upon the unarmed delegates, who had not even a stick. To Surendra Nath he came and in a majestic tone and grand bearing, uttered in a sonorous voice:—"I arrest you." Surendra Nath followed him.

Moti Lal Ghose came forward and offered himself up to be arrested. "That was not the order," said Mr Kemp, the D. S. P. At the same time he apparently got confused to see how an old and thin man like Moti Lal could be so bold as to agree to go to jail of his own free will. The bold attitude of Moti Lal had an electric effect upon those present, who were all infused with feelings of myrtyrdom and Bepin Chandra and Sachindra and others offered to be arrested next. Surendra Nath was taken to the Magistrate and fined Re 400.

The clash of battle ceased, the blood-stained bodies rose; wounded hands were again uplifted, and parched tongues again salivated. Again with the shouts of 'Bande Mataram' as if nothing had occurred proceeded the grand procession, the police ceasing to molest excepting when a white man with the boy A.D.S.P tried to snatch away the whole packet of the Presidential speech from a sturdy young man. Kedar Babu of Chittagong remonstrated with him; one copy was taken and folded up by the boy A.D.S. P. muttering—"8 years"—Kedar retorted "you can't give that." Now came up Moti Lal and said "who is he, what business has he with these pamphlets?" The boy A.D.S was not prepared for this and he fell backwards.

When Surendra Nath returned to the pandal, defeaning cries of "Bande Mataram" rose from all sides. It was decided that there were to be passed no Resolutions asking favour from Government, as Government there was none.

Then followed a scene most heart-rending and pathetic. It was a living example of self-sacrifice and devotion to the cause of mother country. Mono Runjan stood up with his son Chitto Runjan who had, by that time, got fever—the result of severe beating. Mono Runjan took him there and said that as Ravana was glad at the death of his warrior son Birbahoo, he was glad to find his boy in the most critical condition. He was prepared to suffer the death of his son if thereby his mother-country could be served.

There then came martyr Ganguli, his head bandaged all over and his body all swollen with blows of relentless "lathies." He was glad for all that and declared that he was prepared to suffer more.

The speech of the President of the Reception Committee was read by another local gentleman, for Aswini Kumar was in the court, opened on a close holiday to do honour to Surendra Nath. Then the Presidential speech was read by Mr Gaznavi.

A Resolution was proposed by Moti Lal that they wanted no favour from Government as there was apparently no responsible Government in Bengal and they would do whatever they themselves could.

The sentiment reverberated in every heart and it was carried with wild shouts of "Bande Mataram." On Sunday at 11.30 A.M. was the Conference to begin its deliberations but it was dispersed by mighty Mr Kemp at 5 P.M.—"A. B. Patrika," April 19, 1906.

The latest hunting excursion in the Palamau district made by Sir Edward Gait with Lady Gait and party resulted in a successful bag comprising 6 tigers, inclusive of 2 cubs, a leopard and several fine sambhar and bheetas.

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Result of the War

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THE NATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK

THE SECOND YEAR'S CELEBRATION

The public, we trust, have not yet forgotten our celebration of "The National Education Week" last year. We are going to have a second 'National Education Week' this year from the 8th to the 15th instant. We have decided to devote this special week to carry on a National Education Campaign with the object of bringing home to the public of Bengal, the urgent need of a system of Education under National Control, which can bring to our children the greatest amount of good with the least possible cost—in other words the advantages of a National System of education, as a comparatively cheap and effectual means of helping our boys to grow up to be self-reliant and resourceful men better fitted for the struggle of life in these hard days, likely to become harder still in near future, and better trained for useful careers in new and wider fields of work, other than the few narrow ones too overcrowded to afford even breathing space for the huge numbers rushing heedlessly towards them.

The National Council of Education Bengal, took up the problem in hand about 13 years ago and has since then, been working at it, though under very unfavourable circumstances. There is a general impression in the public mind that its attempts have come to nothing. We who are connected with the Council cannot indeed, boast that it has even approached the success it aimed at, but it is too premature yet to pronounce that it must fail and cannot grow to be a very useful institution It is fraught with immense potentialities and they shall fructify if only the public will give it the support it needs and deserves. With difficulties, almost insurmountable in its way (to an elucidation of the nature and details of which we cannot enter now)—the Council has not been able to do anything very useful in its general or literary side. But it can justly take some pride in the fact that whatever attempts it has been in its power to make in the Technical side with the limited resource at its command, have proved to be successful, not merely in what it has actually done, but also in indicating the line in which the majority of our students should be trained, if they are to do any good to themselves and lend useful hands to the industrial development of their country. The students turned out by the Bengal Technical Institute, as the Technical Department of the Council is styled, obtain ready employments in the growing industrial-concerns of the country and it is indeed, greatly encouraging that their efficiency proved on trial is being properly appreciated and suitably rewarded with their promotion to higher and more responsible situations. If any one will kindly make enquiry at the office of the Council, at Panchabati Villa, 46 Muraripukur Road Manicktola, Calcutta he will be gratified to find that there is not a single pupil trained by the Technical Institute, who is not engaged in some useful work or other, far better employed than the ordinary graduates of the University. Indeed, they are more often sought for than seek employments themselves.

The National Council of Education has not, therefore lived its past 13 years altogether in vain, wasting public money, as is generally supposed. But whatever it may have done has been very small—only a tiny drop in the ocean, when we consider the vast needs of the country for such a system of education, not only in industrial lines in which it has attained partial success, but also in general lines in which we make no demur in owning that it has failed up till now. The Public if they have the real well-being of the country at heart should with all earnestness take up the cause and find means not only that it can do more and more useful work in the field of Industrial Education but also that, unfavourable conditions being removed, it can carry out its schemes of general education, to make India more truly Indian in culture as well as in her ethical and spiritual ideals.

It is with this object in view—to attract public sympathy and support to the cause of National Education and the National Council of Education, hitherto its poor and neglected temple in Bengal,—that we are going to celebrate the National Education Week this year.

May we not hope that the public will join us in the celebration in a spirit of earnestness and help us to make it a success?

The daily programme of its meetings, lectures and other demonstrations will be duly notified.

The National Education Week Office will be at work at 4-3A College Square (Theosophical Society's Hall) from the 5th April till the celebration is over.

Any contributions in money or other gifts from friends and patrons in Calcutta will be thankfully received by the officer in charge at the above address from the 5th to the 16th April.

Friends and patrons in Mofussil, desirous of helping the Council by any contributions during the Week or after it, are requested to remit them to the Secretary National Council of Education at the following address:—

Panchabati Villa, 46 Muraripukur Road Maniktola, Calcutta.

We need scarcely mention that the Council wants money most urgently to carry on its work and any help on the occasion will be most welcome.

The students of Schools and Colleges, members of hostels and messes, members of Public associations, and the inmates of private families may, if they like, constitute themselves into self denying bands, pledging to do without some comfort during the Week and contribute the savings to the Council. They can render thereby considerable help to it without any loss to themselves. It is a "Brata" which we hope very few will grudge to perform for such a noble cause.

(Sd.) Hirendra Nath Datta
Secretary,
National Education Week Committee.
(Sd.) Kaliprasanna Das Gupta
Assistant Secretary,
National Education Week Committee
Panchabati Villa, Maniktala,
Calcutta, 1st April 1919.

Sir James Meston has been in charge of the reforms at Delhi during the cold weather and it is probable that he will be leaving India for England in connection with this work on the 26th April. It is assumed that Mr. H F Howard will act for him during his absence, but nothing has actually been settled.

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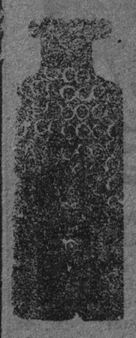

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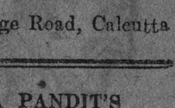

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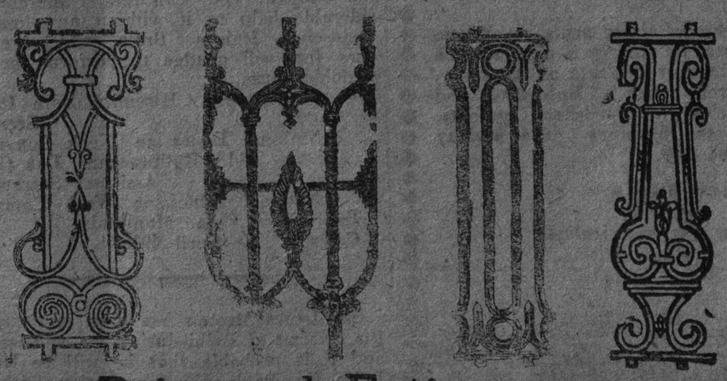

Price and Estimates on Application.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Buyers of Mohin Flute.

AWARDED GOLD MEDAL AT THE CALCUTTA INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

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and also the photo of the inventor
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Do do do C to C	Rs. 49
Do superior mellow tone gold mounted	Rs. 45
Do 4 stops 2 sets Reeds F to F	Rs. 60
Do Superior	Rs. 70
Do C to C 67 Vibration	Rs. 70
Organ Mohin Flute 3½ octave 5 stops 2 sets Reeds one pedal	Rs. 85
Mohin Flute 3½ octave 5 stops double sets of Reeds	Rs. 100
Do 3½ octave, stops 3 sets Reeds C to F	Rs. 150
Do Superior	Rs. 175
Folding 3 octave 3 stops C to C a set of Reed	Rs. 70
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Do 3½ octave 5 stops	Rs. 120

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