

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Jan. 19, 1918.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE'S SPEECH ON BRITAIN'S WAR AIMS AND PEACE.

An important statement was made by the Prime Minister on behalf of the British Government before the Trades Union Delegates at Westminster on the 5th January last after consultations with the leaders of all the political parties in England and with the representatives of the British Dominions. He dwelt at great length on the character and purpose of the war aims and conditions of peace. It was a weighty and important pronouncement pregnant with principles of sound statesmanship and political wisdom. He began by saying that in violation of the solemn obligation of treaty, Germany having wrongly and wantonly invaded Belgium, the British Government had to join in the struggle most reluctantly and quite unprepared for it, so that brute force might not triumph over public right and international justice. They were not fighting for the disruption of Germany or the destruction of Austria, or for depriving Turkey of Constantinople or of the territories in which the Turkish race predominates.

What Great Britain and her Allies now insist upon is the complete restoration, political and territorial, of the independence of Belgium and due reparation for the devastation of its towns and provinces, as also the restoration of Serbia and the evacuation of the occupied parts of France, Italy and Roumania, with reparation in every case. The reparation that is asked for is not a black-mail such as was levied by Germany in 1871. It is in the fitness of things that Germany should pay for her outrageous and unlawful acts. The essential conditions of a permanent peace must be not only the complete evacuation of alien armies, but also there must be adequate reparation for injuries done in defiance of international right.

Regarding Poland, it was observed that "an independent Poland comprising all genuinely Polish elements, who desire to form part, was an urgent necessity for the stability of Western Europe."—A great wrong was inflicted on France by Germany in 1871, when "without having regard for the wishes of the populace," the two French Provinces, Alsace and Lorraine were torn from France and incorporated with Germany. This was the sore which poisoned the peace of Europe for half a century and there was no likelihood of healthy conditions being restored until Alsace and Lorraine were given back to France. In other words all the profits of German militarism must be surrendered.

"Government with the consent of the people", it was declared, must be the basis of any territorial settlement after the war and the same principle should be made applicable to the German colonies, the inhabitants of which should be placed under the control of an administration acceptable to themselves. There was no chance of general peace being restored unless genuine and truly democratic self-government was granted to those Austro-Hungarian nationalities who had long desired it. Then the Italian populations under the Austrian rule must be restored to Italy, the Roumanians of Roumania, and be united to the kingdom of Roumania, and the national claims of Arabia, Armenia and Mesopotamia were to be recognised. Mr. Lloyd George concluded his remarkable speech by laying stress on the fact that "sanctities of treaties must be

secured, based on the right of self-determination or consent of the governed."

THE USURIOUS LOANS BILL II.

Sir William Vincent, in introducing the Bill, stated that the Government fully recognised that moneylenders were not only necessary but very useful members of society. If that is so, no law tending to discourage moneylenders in continuing their business should be passed. If any relief is required in cases where the bargain is hard, that relief should be given by an amendment of the Contract Act and not by an Act dealing exclusively with loans. Cases occur daily in which men pressed by necessity are compelled to sell property at a grossly inadequate price. It would be anomalous if the courts, while confirming transactions of this character, were to afford relief, only when, instead of a sale, the transaction was by way of a mortgage carrying a high rate of interest. In our opinion, if any relief is required, it is more urgent in cases of sales of the above description by which the property passes irrevocably out of the hands of the owner.

One of the main objections to the Bill is that it is worded too generally and that it leaves a wide discretion to courts, which makes it impossible for the lender to know what interest he will recover in any particular case. Secondly, it throws a heavy burden upon him when the court is of opinion that prima-facie the rate of interest is too high. He has then to prove that the rate is not substantially unfair, having regard to the particular circumstances of the case. In our opinion, an attempt should be made by the framers of the Bill to define the words "excessive" and "unfair" with much more clearness and particularity than they have done. Surely the lender is entitled to know what rate of interest would in ordinary circumstances be deemed just and fair. We think, an indication may be given in the Bill as to the rate of interest which will be deemed fair in regard to secured and unsecured debts respectively, with a proviso, that he who disputes the fairness of the rate of interest so indicated, will have to prove either that it is unfair or that it is not in accordance with rates usually charged in the locality upon loans of a similar character. There is bound to be difference of opinion, as to what should in ordinary circumstances be considered to be a fair rate. But we think, that it will not be difficult to determine what the usual rate is in normal cases. The English decisions under the Money-lenders Act, 1900, will also be of great assistance in finding out what is ordinarily considered to be a fair rate. If it is found that the usual rate of interest varies in different parts of the country, the local Governments may be empowered to declare, by notification, the usual rate prevailing in different localities.

The provision relating to the reopening of "settled accounts" seems to us to impose an undue burden upon the lender. Money may have been lent many years ago and subsequently there may have been several times adjustments of accounts and novation of contracts. To empower the court to go behind all these series of transactions and enquire whether the rate of interest originally charged was unfair, will launch the court in investigations which in many cases will be useless. Such investigations can only be successful, if the Court can get all the evidence bearing on the question whether or not the rate of interest under circumstances existing at the time of the loan was fair. After the lapse of a

Large number of years such evidence will not be procurable and the court will have to decide the issue upon incomplete evidence, without a proper appreciation of both sides of the question. After all, in most cases, a man may be relied upon to look after his own interest and when he has allowed an account to remain unchallenged for a number of years, there should be a presumption that it was fair and just. We think a limitation of time ought to be imposed after which no settled account will be reopened merely on the ground that the rate of interest charged was excessive.

We have no doubt that the framers of the Bill have a laudable object in view. But the question is whether the Bill as framed will achieve its object. Admittedly, the legislature has not attempted to deal with cases of hard and unconscionable bargains, except when they take the form of loans. The Act, too, being worded in too general terms, will be open to a variety of interpretations, with the probable result of increase of litigation which the legislature should try to prevent. Even in England, the Moneylenders Act has been found to be difficult to interpret and an eminent English judge has humorously observed in *Smith v Cayley* that "there had been only one judge who could have to the satisfaction of any one understood this statute,—King Solomon." Such being the position, the Government should try to make it easier for the court to understand and interpret the Act and carry out the object it has in view. The just rights of the moneylenders should be safeguarded, and in particular, nothing should be done to discourage that useful body of men from legitimately carrying on their profession. The Act should not be allowed to be used as a cloak to protect impecunious debtors who show no honest intention to pay their debts. It would ill-serve the object the framers of the Bill have in view, if the only result of it is to encourage want of thrift and improvidence of which, unfortunately, we have too much in this country. The usury question must be considered with reference to the poverty of the people and the want of credit that exists among the mass of the people. It seems to us that the best way to deal with this is to promote the extension of the Co-operative system and to train the people in habits of co-operation, thrift and prudence.

EDUCATION IN BIHAR.

The Quinquennial Review on the progress of education in Bihar and Orissa deals with the period from 1st April 1912 to 31st March, 1917. It has been prepared by Mr. G. E. Fawcus, the officiating Director of Public Instruction, who was then Inspector of Schools, Chota Nagpur Division, but was placed on special duty for the purpose, under the supervision of the Hon'ble Mr. J. G. Jennings who was then the Director of Public Instruction. Mr. Jennings succeeded Mr. N. L. Hallward, the first Director of the new province, on 27th October, 1913, and held the appointment for the remainder of the quinquennium. The Province of Bihar and Orissa was constituted on the 1st April 1912, and this is the first quinquennial review dealing with its educational progress.

The number of public institutions rose from 24,246 in 1911-12 to 26,867 in 1916-17, an increase of 2.621 or 10.9 per cent. while the number of pupils rose in the same period from 716,248 to 797,471, an increase of 87,223 or 12.2 per cent. The expenditure rose from Rs. 53,77,319 to Rs. 81,52,080, an increase of Rs. 27,74,761 or 53 per cent.

One of the most notable features of the period was the progress made towards the inauguration of a local University.

There were seven Arts Colleges throughout the period under review, and all of them made steady progress, except the Diamond Jubilee College at Monghyr. The range of affiliation was extended and the staff was increased, wherever necessary. The total number of students rose from 1,430 in 1911-12 to 2,575 in 1916-17 and the expenditure from Rs. 2,44,803 to Rs. 3,99,099. The Patna College which is a Government institution, has undergone considerable expansion.

Progress has also been marked in the Ravenshaw College at Cuttack, which until recently was the only other Government College in the province and has for many years contained a larger number of students than the Patna College.

The state of the primary schools when the province was created was most unsatisfactory. The returns of the last census disclosed the fact that in Bihar and Orissa the proportion of persons between the ages of 15 and 20 who are literate, was less than one-third of the proportion between the ages of 10 and 15, who were at school. These figures were significant of the low standard of the education imparted in primary schools and showed that the majority of the pupils failed to acquire a knowledge of reading and writing or, at least, that their knowledge was so imperfect that they lost it soon after leaving school.

The number of high schools for girls, viz., three, remained unchanged, but the number of pupils rose from 286 to 330, and the expenditure from Rs. 20,292 to Rs. 49,970, of which Rs. 44,788 was contributed from Provincial revenues.

The total number of Mahomedan pupils in institutions of all classes rose from 97,017 in 1911-12, or 12.9 per cent. of the total school-going population to 110,152, or 13.1 per cent. The number of Mahomedan students in Arts colleges dropped from 505 in 1915-16 to 470 in 1916-17. The latter figure, however, is still more than double the corresponding figure for 1911-12. The number of pupils in recognized Madrassas remained almost stationary, and it is feared that the standard of these institutions is too low. The establishment of a Government Madrassa at Patna will, it is hoped, provide them with a much-needed stimulus and so do much to improve their efficiency.

A Sanskrit Association has been constituted, with the Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwara Singh of Darbhanga as its President, for the purpose of fostering Sanskrit education, conducting examinations, and awarding prizes, stipends and rewards.

The hostel system is steadily expanding and five colleges, sixteen Government schools and thirteen other schools were equipped with hostels at an aggregate cost of about ten lakhs of rupees. A Students' Residence Committee was constituted at Patna in 1914 to assist those students who do not live in hostels or with their parents or recognized guardians to obtain healthy and suitable accommodation. Though its work is still in the experimental stage, the Committee has already effected a considerable improvement in the conditions under which these students live. It is intended to form a similar committee at Cuttack when financial conditions improve.

In accordance with the recommendations of a Committee which was appointed in 1914 to advise on moral and religious education, short lectures on moral instruction are now given in undenominational schools. The difficulty of finding suitable teachers has hitherto prevented the introduction of religious teaching, though a school in Chapra had made the experiment with success. The fact that many boys leave their homes at an early age and become exposed to the undesirable influences common in large towns renders this question one of peculiar importance.

NOTES.

The World's Gold Output.

An estimate of the world's output of gold in 1916 published earlier in the current year placed it at rather more than £99,000,000. A revised statement issued in New York shows that the total was £940,88,000 which represents a decrease of £1,638,000 as compared with 1915 but is £2,069,000 more than the output of 1914. The possession by the British Empire of the most valuable gold-fields in the world has been most valuable during the present war and it is gratifying to note that the production of the Transvaal mines in 1916, which amounted to £38,428,000, was £1,207,000 more than in the previous year. The value of the gold output of the United States in 1916 was £18,463,000, a decline of £1,744,000 and that of Australia £7,643,000, a falling-off of £1,396,000, while the Russian production at £6,950,000, derived principally from Siberia, showed a slight decline. In recent years the expansion in the world's output of gold has been enormous, the total for 1916 being practically double that of twenty years ago.

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Experiments in steam ploughing.

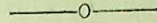
We draw the attention of readers interested in agriculture to the article on *Experiments in steam ploughing* by Sirdar Jogendra Singh published in the *Agricultural Journal of India*, Vol. XIII, part 1. In it we find what a man possessing a philanthropic zeal coupled with a dogged determination can accomplish. We think if the rich men of our country instead of depositing their money in banks or giving in high interest to the poorer classes go in for such enterprises, they can do immense good to their country. It is interesting to note how Sirdar Jogendra by the help of the "tenants who in spite of their large holdings and comparatively light rents were poor and did not know how to help themselves" and with an estate "situated in the backwater of the district" has been able to obtain a net profit of Rs. 22,870 a year on an investment of Rs. 1,07,800. It is still more interesting to hear him say how "the profit would be doubled if the whole area could be brought under cultivation" It is indeed a pity to see "the Brahman, the Rajput and the cowherd" well built and strong while "the poor village drudge.....a mere skeleton." The talk of compulsory education and sanitation seems to Sirdar to be a mockery, perhaps from the consideration of the fact that labouring classes have not even enough to eat. In conclusion we may say that his example is worth imitating

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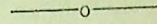
"Equal Freedom."

THE main provisions, as summarised by Reuter, of the draft report, outlining a policy of reconstruction after the war, which the Labour Party has issued, and which is to be considered at a Party Conference in June next, make out the Labour programme to be at once a comprehensive and a logical one. The proposals, indeed, might have been anticipated by those who have followed the trend of the thought of British Labour in recent years, both before and after August, 1914. Some of the items in the scheme of reconstruction represent convictions of old standing, and in this category may be put the proposals respecting industrial readjustment,—e.g., the enforcement of minimum wage, the substitution of the individualist or capitalist principle by the co-operative in the production and distribution of national wealth, and the nationalisation of mines, railways, electricity and insurance. On the other hand the result of the new national orientation that has followed upon the war, are reflected in the co-ordination of economic and

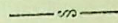
political reforms intended to evolve a harmonious and fruitful scheme of national life, which shall be in accord with the new world order. The British Labour Party insist that the basis of the coming social reconstruction should be an "equal freedom"—not, as heretofore, "enforced dominion over subject nations, subject colonies, subject classes and subject sex."



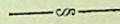
LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.



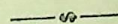
MR. Gandhi is expected to arrive at Chapra on the 27th instant.



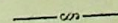
THE first Matriculation Examination of the Patna University will be held from April 2 to April 6, 1918. The I. A. and I. Sc. examinations take place on April 19-12, 15-18, 20 and 22, while B. A. and B. Sc. examinations are fixed for April 12, 15-18, 20, 22-27, 29 and 30 and May 1. The last date by which fees will be received by the Registrar is January 19 in the case of the Matriculation, January 30 for I. A. and I. Sc., and February 1 for the B. A. and B. Sc. examinations.



THE Lieutenant-Governor in Council has learnt with deep regret of the death of Temporary Lieutenant E. J. Woodhouse, I. A. R. O. who died of wounds in France on the 18th December 1917. Lieutenant Woodhouse joined the Imperial Agricultural Service in 1907 and was posted to Sabour as Economic Botanist. In 1911 he was appointed Principal of the Agricultural College in addition to his other duties, and continued to fill this position until permitted to volunteer for Military Service soon after the outbreak of war. He was a man of the highest character and ideals and was respected and esteemed both by his colleagues and by the students of the college. His death is a great loss to the cause of Agriculture in this Province and to the Local Government.



OUR DAY at Patna has been a real success. The report of the Patna Our Day Committee has more than justified our best hopes. The district has contributed Rs. 31,286, not including the Hon'ble Raja of Amawan's generous gift of Rs. 10,000 to Lady Gait's Fund. The district may well be proud of its noble effort. The Committee have to be congratulated, but especial thanks are due to our popular Collector, Mr. John Reid, I.C.S., who worked so hard and spared no pains to make Our Day celebrations a great success.



THE appeal issued by the Honorary Secretary of the Bihar Provincial Congress Committee to the members discloses a state of affairs not at all creditable to public men of this province. Bihar and Orissa heads the list of the defaulters and we ask our political leaders in the words of the Secretary: "Does it not behove us as self-respecting members of the Indian nation to rise to the height of the occasion and strain every nerve to raise the required amount to be remitted to the All-India Congress Committee at an early date?" We note with the most unpleasant surprise that the dues against this province up to 1917 amount to Rs 6,713 i.e. more than one-fourth of the total dues from all provinces. The dues of

the Punjab, which ranks next in the list of defaulters, come up to only Rs. 3,885. Bihar and Orissa was represented by about five hundred delegates at the last Congress and if each of them come forward with an amount equal to their delegation fee, the difficulty of the Secretary in satisfying this debt of honour will be easily solved.

WE heartily endorse the following from the *Express* on the proposal to introduce the Patna University Regulations from 1920:—

"We understand a proposal will be made in the next Senate meeting of the Patna University to change the syllabus for the Matriculation examination from the year 1920. From the hot haste with which the change is going to be made it appears that the new University is going to cut off its relation in every way with the Calcutta University. Be that as it may, would it not be advisable for the new University to wait for a while and profit by the report of the Calcutta University Commission? Much can be said both for and against the new syllabus. But leaving the discussion about the advantage and disadvantage of the new syllabus in the hands of the Senators we would request them to pause and consider whether it would not be better to introduce it from the year 1921 in which the first School Final examination is going to be held. For if it be introduced at all from the year 1920, it will require another six months at the least to publish the circular. So the first examinees of 1920 will get a year and a half to go through the new syllabus. Moreover if the course be introduced in the middle of the school session, the students will be put to pecuniary loss owing to the rejection of their newly purchased books. It would be a great hardship, especially during the war time, if the students are fined in this way for no fault of theirs."

HIS Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, while at Darbhanga, in replying to the addresses of the Darbhanga District Board, Commissioners of the Darbhanga Municipality, and Members of the Muhamadan Association and Maithil Mahasabha, said:—

"I greatly regret the serious damage which has been caused in recent years by flood, and hope that the drainage survey which is now being carried out by the District Board in association with the Boards of the adjoining districts will show how this damage can be mitigated in future. If a good practical scheme can be devised, Government will contribute to the cost so far as they can do so with due regard to the claims of other parts of the province. I am glad to learn that the District Board is taking steps to found Union Committees. These Committees are capable of serving a most useful purpose, for the establishment of a really competent electorate, for the District Board in the first instance, and ultimately for the Legislative Council. Since the province of Bihar and Orissa was constituted Government have on various occasions drawn the attention of the District Boards to the desirability of establishing more Unions.

"The Municipal Commissioners have referred in their address to another measure which Government have recently taken in order to promote the cause of Local Self-Government, namely the grant to the Darbhanga Municipality of the privilege of electing its own Chairman. I shall watch the result of this measure with sympathetic interest.

"The Members of the Muhamadan Association are mistaken in thinking that it has been decided to establish a Government Arabic College under the Patna University. There is no such proposal before Government at present, but various

Islamic studies will be given an appropriate place in the Arabic courses for the Arts degree."

At a public meeting of the ratepayers of Giridih held on the 7th instant at 3 p. m. at the Svetambari Dharamsala to protest against the recent increase in the municipal rates the following resolutions were unanimously passed, viz:—

Resolution I.—That as there appears no real need or urgency for an increase of the municipal income at this moment, it was undesirable, inopportune and unwise to increase the rates at a time when the prices of everything were so high and everybody is required to contribute all they can for the prosecution of the war.

Resolution II.—That supposing there had existed a real need for an increase of the municipal revenue now, it hardly seems fair to have fixed, for the discussion and adoption of so important a measure, such a date as the 22nd December last i. e., the very closing day for the X'mas holidays when some of the Commissioners might really find themselves unable to attend a municipal meeting. And seeing that as a matter of fact only 7 out of a possible number of 12 of the Commissioners were present at the meeting, and of these 7, 4 voted for and three against the measure, this meeting is of opinion that the subject should be reopened and discussed, accepted or rejected at a fuller meeting of the Commissioners and that in the meantime the resolution as passed on 22nd Dec. should be kept in abeyance.

Resolution III.—That since those of the elected Commissioners who have supported the measure either by direct vote or indirectly by absenting themselves from the meeting in order to avoid displeasing the powers that be or some other motive of self-interest, have assuredly betrayed the cause of the ratepayers; they should in the opinion of this meeting resign their membership, as clearly they have not had the moral courage to serve the ratepayers honestly and faithfully.

Resolution IV.—That a copy of the above resolution be forwarded to the Commissioner of the Division, Deputy Commissioner of the District and also to the Chairman and Commissioners of the Giridih Municipality.

THE PRIMARY EDUCATION BILL.

Bengalee Settlers' Association's Views.

We commend to the thoughtful consideration of every one the following opinion on the Primary Education Bill submitted to the Government on behalf of the Bengalee Settlers' Association by Babu Ram Lal Sinha, the Honorary Secretary:—

"My Committee observe that the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Primary Education Bill have been mainly drawn from the "Elementary Education Bill" which the late Mr. G. K. Gokhale introduced in the Council of the Governor-General of India in the year 1911 and which was finally debated upon in the Imperial Legislative Council on 18th and 19th March 1912, and rejected by 38 votes to 13 votes. The learned framer of the present Bill has made certain modifications having regard to the opinions expressed on Mr. Gokhale's Elementary Education Bill.

"The two cardinal principles underlying the provisions of the present Bill, however, are

- (1) That elementary education of children between the ages of 6 and 10 should be compulsory, but not altogether free, in specified areas.

(2) The costs of such primary education should not be deemed to affect the public revenues of the Province of Bihar and Orissa or to impose any charge on such revenues.

"My Committee, on referring to the debate which took place on Mr. Gokhale's Elementary Education Bill in the Council of the Governor-General of India, find that the opponents of the Bill urged the following amongst other objections:—

(a) There is plenty of room yet for work on a voluntary basis, schools are filled as soon as they are opened and not compulsion and that in any case till persuasion is exhausted it is not desirable to go in for compulsion.

(b) Compulsion would cause hardship, would cause discontent and would prove dangerous to the State.

(c) There is no machinery to enforce compulsion,—school-attendance committees would be ineffectual.

(d) The Baroda scheme is not an assured success.

(e) The Bill is premature. There is no demand for it.

(f) The Bill if passed into law will damage the cause of Elementary education.

(g) The process of evolution must be slow, steady and gradual.

(h) Compulsory education should be free.

The present kind of primary education is worse than useless. Most of the teachers are untrained and the school buildings are unfit for holding classes. Until there is a sufficient supply of trained teachers forthcoming and until ample and decent accommodation is available the question of extension by compulsion should wait.

(2) Present system useless. A permissive scheme which allows areas to come under compulsion one by one is bound to result in a serious financial injustice and inequality as regards the assistance received from Government by different local areas.

Help to municipal areas would starve education in rural areas. Encouragement to advanced areas would leave the backward tracts in *statu quo*.

(3) Would cause financial inequality & injustice. It is not wise, it is not just, it is not practical statesmanship to stop the expansion of the voluntary system in the backward areas in order to make experiment in compulsion in advanced localities.

Mahomedans will be compelled to read in non-Moslem languages.

(4) Moslem objection. The costs would be prohibitive. Government was unable to bear the whole or even two-thirds of the costs estimated at 8 or 9 crores of Rupees.

(5) Costs prohibitive.

"My Committee anticipating that the same objections might be repeated against the provisions of the present Bill beg to state that

Objections met. they cannot persuade themselves to believe that compulsion in such a noble cause as extension of primary education in selected areas and under certain circumstances is likely to cause hardship to or discontent among the people or would be dangerous to the State. The school committees provided for in the Bill will be competent enough

to enforce the compulsory provisions of the Bill. Moreover since the debate in 1912 there has been a wide awakening in the land. New civic ideals are now animating the public life of the country.

"My Committee think the Mahomedan objection can be removed by making provision either in the Bill or in bye-laws to be framed under the Act that when more than 25 boys are Mahomedans separate arrangements should be made for their education in their own vernacular.

"Financial inequality and injustice, if any, would not be much and my Committee do not think it would leave the backward tracts in *statu quo* if the scheme urged by my Committee be followed.

"My Committee find already provision for training teachers has been made. From year to year, the Government of India are providing funds for school buildings and there would be no difficulty on that score. My Committee do not think that the present system of primary education is worse than useless.

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"Then coming to the objection that compulsion is not necessary, till persuasion is exhausted my Committee regret to say that though more than 60 years have passed since the date of the memorable despatch of 1854 yet the progress of mass education in this Province under the voluntary basis has been very slow.

"In the year 1912-13 when the province was first formed there were 22,069 Lower Primary institutions with 5,47,118 boys and 32,770 girls or in all 5,80,488. The total male population of the school going age was 27,04,708 and female population of that age was 23,24,099. And the percentage of male scholars to male population of school going age was 27.6 and of girls 3.4 per cent.

"In the year 1915-16 the population of the province decreased from 18,032,708 to 16,859,929. The number of Lower Primary institutions was reduced to 21,617 and the number of scholars came down to 5,49,590. The percentage of male scholars to male population of school going age however rose to 28.1 per cent and of girls to 4.4 per cent.

"Thus we find in 4 years the increase is only 5 per cent in cases of boys and 1 per cent in case of girls. So on the voluntary basis it would take 575 years for every boy and 382 years for every girl in the Province to be in school.

"Thus there seems to be no chance for Elementary Education on voluntary basis breaking down the solid mass of illiteracy in the country in the near future. If the post-war reforms are to come, if this province is to occupy its proper place in the future federated British Empire the progress of primary education in the land should be accelerated. And the only means of accelerating the progress is by having recourse to compulsion provided funds be available.

"The whole question is really a question of funds. If financial difficulty had not stood in the way of the Government Mr. Gokhale's

Costs.

"Elementary Education Bill" would have been passed into law. So if it be desired that the present Bill might not be defeated for the same reason we must guard against that contingency by reducing the costs of the scheme.

"If elementary education be made both compulsory and free, for boys and girls, between the ages of 6 and 10, that is for that class of children who are now getting their education in Lower Primary Schools, the costs would be enormous. It would be about Rs. 1,38,24,127 per annum or about one-third of the total revenue of the Province, for there are at present 25,28,989 males and 26,44,523 females in all 51,73,512 children of the school-going age who are out of school. Taking off 30 per cent of them i. e. 13,15,642 to be above the age of 10 and fit to be in upper primary, secondary, and other special schools—that being the present proportion—we have left 30,69,831 children to be educated in the Lower Primary Schools. Taking the average costs of educating each pupil in the lower primary schools at the present rate of Rs. 3/13/7 pies the total costs would be Rs. 1,18,15,550. The present expenditure of educating 5,49,590 children already in Lower Primary Schools is Rs 20,38,477. Thus the total expenditure would be about 1,38,24,127.

"The Government of this province which is being carried on from year to year at a financial deficit cannot possibly bear such an enormous expenditure of over a crore and a quarter for Lower Primary Education only.

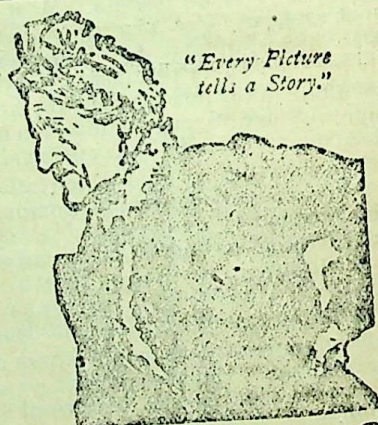
"The present Bill relieves Government of all financial responsibility in this matter, so the whole burden of one crore and 38 lakhs would fall upon

local bodies. Already District Boards, which are at present bearing 77.9 per cent of direct costs of Lower Primary Education of boys, have commenced murmuring (Vide Report on the Progress of Education in Bihar and Orissa for 1912-13, page 10). Moreover they cannot levy any tax on land without interfering with the rights secured to Zamindars under the Permanent Settlement. Municipalities too would not be able to bear their proportionate burden of this crore and 38 lakhs of rupees unless they neglect health and sanitation or have recourse to fresh taxation which would be unbearable and highly unpopular.

"If you want to make Elementary Education free for boys only all the over the Province the costs would be Rs. 75,27,398 or more than five times the present costs. For if out of 30,69,831 boys and girls of the age of 5 to 10 who are now out of school we take off 50 per cent as girls—that being nearly the present proportion of male to female population in the province we have still 15,34,915 boys to educate. Taking the cost of educating a boy in a Lower Primary School at the present rate of Rs. 3/12/8 pies the total cost of free education would be Rs. 58,18,885. The present costs of educating 5,03,002 boys already in school is Rs. 18,08,513, so the total costs would be Rs. 76,27,398. This also would be prohibitive.

"My Committee would, therefore, suggest as follows:—viz.

- The Committee's suggestions:—**
- (1) That the compulsory education of girls be deferred.
 - For the percentage of general education is very low—viz, it is only 4.4 per cent.



Are You Getting Old Faster Than You Ought?

WATCHFULNESS can add years to anybody's life. Some people are old at sixty, others are young at eighty.

Your habits mean sound or weak kidneys—good blood or bad blood, for weak kidneys let uric acid collect in the blood to ruin health.

Always keep the kidneys active, but especially after middle age. This is good insurance against nervous, rheumatic, and urinary troubles, stiff and lame joints, poor sight and hearing and hardening of the arteries.

Rest the kidneys by avoiding overwork, worry, and strong drink; by regularity of habits, daily walks, light diet, and plenty of sleep. And at the first sign of backache, rheumatic pain, or urinary disorders use Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. They are a special kidney medicine, and help the kidneys to filter the blood, excess uric acid which causes backache, lumbago, urinary troubles, dropsy, rheumatism, and gravel. You would know how good they are if you would talk to people who have used them.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are Rs. 2 per bottle; 6 for Rs. 10.3; obtainable from all dealers.

And there may be social objections to such compulsion in case of girls.

(2) Compulsory education of boys between the ages of 6 and 10 be enforced only in selected areas, viz, where at least 33 per cent of the school going children are already at school.

(3) That such education be made free only in exceptional cases. Then the annual direct costs of such education would be only about 10 lakhs.

"For from the Report on the Progress of Education in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1914-15 page 10 it appears that only in the districts of Patna, Cuttack, Balasore, Angul and Puri the percentage of boys in school to boys of the school-going age is above 33 per cent and varies between 40.6 and 57.4 per cent. In these five districts the number of boys of school-going age is shown in that report as 3,38,074, of whom 2,16,041 are already in school. We have thus in these districts to educate only 1,22,033 boys of school-going age. Taking off 30 per cent we have left 85,423 boys for education in lower primary schools. Taking the direct costs of educating each boy in the Lower Primary School at Rs. 1/9/3p as contributed at present by the Provincial Revenues and Local funds, the total direct increased expenditure would be Rs 1,83,918. This is on the supposition that all students will be paying fees and the subscriptions and endowments as at present paid would be forthcoming for increased scholars and contributions from the Imperial fund would be also forthcoming for additional buildings etc.

"If we take that 25 per cent of boys would be free and no income would be forthcoming from their fees then an additional expense of Rs. 33,480 would have to be borne by the Government and local bodies. Thus the total increased expenditure would be about 1,67,398.

"This increased expenditure should be borne by the State alone and it would not be an unfair arrangement. The direct expenditure at present contributed by Provincial Revenues, District Boards and Municipalities is Rs. 7,95,325 out of which

Provincial Revenues Rs. 1,39,484 or 17.6 per cent. contribute.

District Boards Rs. 6,20,948 or 77.9 per cent.

Municipal funds Rs. 35,889 or 4.5 per cent.

"The total expenditure would be Rs. 9,62,723. on the lines suggested. Taking the total costs at 10 lakhs of rupees per annum and fixing the proportion of contribution as follows:—

Provincial Revenues 35 per cent or 3,50,000.

District Boards 60 " or 6,00,000.

Municipalities 5 " or 50,000.

"This proportion will not increase any burden of the District Boards but will rather lighten it. It will slightly increase the burden of the Municipalities only. If the Government be pleased to double its present contribution from Provincial Revenues there would be no necessity of fresh taxation. My Committee think that Government ought to be generous in this respect.

"The Government of India are pledged to a policy of elementary mass education. From the days of the memorable Despatch of 1854 down to the present day the Government of India have persistently preached the need for diffusion of vernacular elementary education and have accepted this as one of the duties of the State.

"In the Educational Resolution of 11th March 1904 the Government of India in para 18 stated:— On a general view of the question the Government of India cannot avoid the conclusion that primary education has hitherto received insufficient attention and an inadequate share of the public funds. They consider that it possesses a strong claim upon the sympathy both of the Supreme Government and of the Local Governments and should be made

a leading charge upon Provincial revenues, and that in those provinces where it is in a backward condition, its encouragement should be a primary obligation."

"In the Government Resolution of February 1913 we find it stated that 'it is the desire and hope of the Government of India to see in the not distant future some 91,000 primary public schools added, to 109,000 which already existed for boys and to double the 4 millions of pupils who now receive instruction in them.'

"My Committee having regard to the observations made above urge the omission of clauses 15 and 20 of the Bill.

"In clause 9 sub-clause (c) in line two for 'two miles' substitute 'one mile.'"

ADVERTISEMENTS.

HEWETT ENGINEERING SCHOOL, LUCKNOW.

WANTED to inform that the Hewett Engineering School, LUCKNOW, has opened an overseer class. The revised prospectus for 1918 can be had from the Manager.

12-1

Notice.

Is hereby given that the surplus land acquired at Moharampore on Kadam Kuan Road for the improvement of the town measuring about 67 acres will be settled permanently with bonafide purchasers on term which can be enquired at the Municipal Office.

The plans and specification also of the sites proposed to be sold can be seen in the Municipal Office during the working hours on open days.

S. M. ISMAIL.

CHAIRMAN,

Improvement Trust Fund,
Patna City Municipality.

3-3

THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY LTD. (Incorporated in England).

Tenders for supply of Oils for the year ending 31st March, 1919.

With reference to the advertisement dated 22nd December 1917 calling for tenders for the supply of Oils for the year ending 31st March 1919, it is notified that the date up to which such tenders will be received is extended to 1st February, 1918.

J. WALKER.

Gorakhpur,
The 31st Dec.
2-2 1917.

{ Agent,
Bengal & North
Western Railway.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**NOTICE.**

With immediate effect, the booking of the undermentioned commodities by passenger train as parcels or luggage is prohibited:—

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Piece-goods | Chillies |
| Gunny | Ghee |
| Hides | Potatoes, |

This restriction does not apply when such commodities are booked on account of the Military or other Government Departments.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
Dated 14th Jan. 1918. } General Traffic Manager.
5-1

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**NOTICE.**

The Public are advised that it has been found necessary to place a restriction on the booking by passenger train of packages exceeding one maund in weight each to and from Delhi. This restriction applies to Public traffic only and not to Government and Military traffic and Personal Luggage booked as parcels.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
28th Dec. 1917. } General Traffic Manager.
3-3

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**NOTICE.**

In supersession of the notice dated the 28th Decembor 1917, it is notified that the booking of Military and Government traffic has been resumed, and essential merchandise traffic will also be accepted for despatch as far as possible.

Booking of non-essential merchandise traffic will continue to be temporarily restricted, and as it is not possible to give previous intimation of the imposition or removal of restrictions in goods booking, the public are advised to communicate with the Goods Superintendent, Howrah, or the Station Master of the despatching station and enquire whether traffic is being accepted or not, before sending goods to a station for despatch.

By order,
C. M. PEARCE,
GENL. TRAF. MANAGER'S }
OFFICE, } General Traffic
Calcutta, dated 4th Jan. 1918, } Manager.
3-2

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.**NOTICE.****Kumbh Mela.**

The public are hereby informed that during the period, January 3rd to 26th February 1918 (both days inclusive), no tickets will be issued to any person intending or believed to be intending to travel, for the purpose of taking part in the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad, any of the following stations:—

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Allahabad
Bamhraul.
Manauri.
Manotarganj.
Bharwari.
Shujaatpur.
Sirathu.
Kunwar.
Khaga.
Teni.
Rasulabad.
Faiz-ullah-pur.
Fatehpur.
Naini.
Jasra.

Lohgara.
Shankargarh.
Bargarh.
Dabhaura.
Manikpur.
Mirzapur.
Bindhachal.
Birohe.
Gaipura.
Jigna.
Mandah Road.
Unchdih.
Meja Road.
Bheerpur.
Karchana.

OUDH AND ROHILKAND RAILWAY.

Benares Cantt.
Lohta.
Chaukhandi.
Kapsethi.
Parsipur.
Bhadohi.
Mondh.
Suriawan.
Sarai-Kansrai.
Jarauna.
Bhanaur.
Salkhapur.
Jaunpur City.
Mau-Aima.
Bhupia-Mau.
Sarai Gopal.
Ram-Chaura Road.
Bhadri.
Gotni.
Unchahar.
Daryapur.
Jamnapur.
Dalmau.

Jalalpur-Dhai.
Janghai.
Barya Ram.
Bibipur.
Phulpur.
Serai Chandi.
Tharwai.
Phaphamau Junc.
Prayag.
Allahabad Junc.
Barsathi.

Mariahu.
Zafarabad Junc.
Siwait.
Bishnathganj.
Pratabganj (Oudh.)
Atrampur.
Lalgopalganj.
Harnamganj.
Pariawan.
Lachmanpur.
Rae-Bareli Junc.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Benares Cantt.
Balapur.
Raja-Talab.
Kachhwa-Road.
Madhosingh.
Konrh Road.
Bhiti.
Saidabad.
Jhusi.
Allahabad City.

Manduadih.
Hardatpur.
Nigatpur.
Katka.
Ahimanpur.

Jangiganj.
Handiakhas.
Hanumanganj.
Izat Bridge.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
24th Dec. 1917. } General Traffic Manager.
5-2