

# The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Sept. 8, 1917.

## THE ANGLO-INDIAN PRESS AND MR. MONTAGU'S VIEWS ON THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

Quite a flutter has been caused in the dovecotes of Anglo-Indian journalism by the speech which Mr. Montagu delivered a few days before his accession to his present office, followed as it has been by his official declaration to visit India and by the announcement that he has cabled for the complete papers in connection with the Madras internments. It will be seen from the official report which we reproduce of Mr. Montagu's speech in the House of Commons on the 11th July, that he made the Mesopotamian debate the occasion for expatiating at considerable length on the question of India's political future. As he afterwards said in another speech to his constituents of West Cambridgeshire he had no sort of notion when that he was subsequently to become Secretary of State for India; none the less the opinions he expressed as a private member he would still hold as Minister. After this endorsement one not unnaturally turns with interest to the scheme of reforms Mr. Montagu had outlined. He found the Government of India too wooden, too inelastic. Councils as a disciple of Lord Morley he abhorred; "the statutory organisation of the India Office produces an apotheosis of circumlocution and red tape beyond the dreams of any ordinary citizen." He would have a far simpler condition of things: a Secretary of State, freed from the restraints of normal India Office procedure and more amenable to the House of Commons, a Viceroy more independent of the Secretary of State than his "agent" predecessors of the past, and a Government of India more and more responsible to the people of India. "As you increase responsibility in India, you can lessen that responsibility at Home." He would not advocate Home Rule for India, for which he did not believe there was any demand in India on any large scale. The goal he saw was "the great self-governing Dominions and Provinces of India organised and co-ordinated with the great Principalities, the existing Principalities—and perhaps new ones—not one great Home Rule country, but a series of self-governing Provinces and Principalities federated by one central Government."

These rather vague expressions however could not have afforded any justification for the theatrically militant attitude taken up in the following word to Mr. Montagu given prominence to by the *Madras Mail* :—

### A WORD TO MR. MONTAGU.

If it comes to choosing between Mr. Montagu and men of the spot, in respect of a matter which the Secretary of State is understood to be magnifying, European opinion in this country, backed by the opinion of the entire body of conservative Indians will know how to choose. There cannot at this time be the slightest toleration of any measure which lowers authority in order to placate a small irresponsible section of the people, and if the Secretary of State does really contemplate what is ascribed to him, we promise him an outburst of protest which may result in a change of personnel at the India Office in quick succession to any change here.

The true secret of this ridiculous piece of

bravado is of course, as was pointed out by the *Hindu*, the fear of a reversal of the policy of the Madras Government. Psychologically the attitude evinced by this shameful Anglo-Indian effrontery is however intelligible enough, being another instance of what is known as transference of interest. For long years, being accustomed to look upon the bureaucracy as the representatives of His Majesty's Government in India and expecting loyalty to it as loyalty to His Majesty, Anglo-India has now come to expect loyalty to the bureaucracy as such and has the temerity to express its open defiance of His Majesty's Government by threats of mutiny, when the measures recently adopted are being called into question.

The Madras paper has now come out with an explanation. The explanation is as sorry an exhibition as that which is sought to be explained. Referring to Sir Subramania Iyer's cable to the Premier and the Secretary of State, the *Madras Mail* objects to the suggestion that the article was officially inspired and protests against two misrepresentations. The paper says—"There is no ground for the charge that we wish to obstruct reform on the lines already stated by Mr. Montagu." It adds: "Our objection is to acts contemplated by him which have nothing to do with constitutional reform but which we think would very gravely damage the authority of Government in this country." The paper also observes—"We are entirely opposed to wilful obstructions of Government regardless of the race or political creed of those who undertake it." The paper adds: "There are innumerable matters in which the Secretary of State may interfere without objection. There are other matters in which interference amounts to a declaration of no confidence in Government and can have only one result." The paper concludes: "Circumstances are conceivable in which it would be the duty of a Secretary of State to do contrary to European opinion but in which it would be right to ignore or undervalue it, or reasonable to suppose that going contrary to it will not have some disadvantages. In respect of reforms Mr. Montagu may have to fight a considerable section of it and may be perfectly justified in fighting that section of it; but where European opinion champions basic principles of administration it will be invincible, not because it is European, but because it is right. Our warning was intended to convey to Mr. Montagu a caution against supposing that its usual apparent apathy meant inability to assert itself when necessary. Thanks to the enterprise of Sir Subramania Iyer it will reach him sooner than it otherwise would, though in the form of a dubious paraphrase." The flippant mirth displayed by our contemporary at the fact that its lucubrations will reach the Secretary of State, thanks to Sir Subramania, will however, we have no doubt, soon change, when we shall hear it cry to quite a different tune. The announcements made on Tuesday at the meeting of the Imperial Legislative Council only presage what is coming.

### THE PATNA IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

For some time past, we have been hearing of a mysterious body rejoicing in the rather imposing name of the Patna Improvement Trust. What this Trust is, who created it, who are the trustees and what are its aims and objects are things which ordinary mortals do not know. If it is something connected with the improvement of the area included in the Patna Municipality, as we presume it is, we welcome it but we must protest strongly against the hole and corner fashion in which it has been brought into existence.

and is being carried on. For years past, the Patna Municipality has been so hardened in the habit of setting at nought public opinion and regarding with perfect indifference the frequent and loud complaints of the unhappy rate-payers that it is only in the natural course of things that a scheme of improvement of the city should have been formulated and acted upon without the public being apprised of the details or given any opportunity of criticising them on the merits. The originators of the scheme evidently have grown wiser by the experience of Calcutta, where the obsolete method of giving publicity to the objects and aims of the Improvement Trust has been attended with no small complications.

That is how one fine morning we rose and heard that the tract of marshy land lying on both sides of the Kadam Kuan Road had been acquired for the Patna Improvement Trust with the object of re-housing those that would be rendered homeless by the demolition of the congested *bustee* of Backergunj.

The next time that we heard of the so-called Improvement of Patna was in connection with the acquisition of certain plots of land in the city for the erection of public latrines and night-soil depots. The outcry raised on the faintest whisper of the proposed site of two of these ingenious devices for torturing the public only shows how prudent those responsible for the inception of the idea had been in not consulting the public as regards the eighty four (are we correct?) night soil depots intended to be scattered all over the town.

For the last few days, the public have been marking with some degree of uneasiness what seems to be a renewal of activities on the part of the Improvement Trust. It would appear that surveyors and overseers have been going about measuring and taking notes of the houses on certain streets and bye-lanes of the town which are, it is concluded, going to be widened. From inquiries made we have been able to gather the following facts, though how far they are in accordance with the official plans, it is of course not possible to say. There are only two roads in the city which, be it said here, is the nearest approach to the geometrical line that could be conceived of in the physical world. It would seem that one of these roads is on the average 25 feet in breadth, while the other which runs parallel to the first along the southern extremity of the town is certainly much wider, but has only a narrow strip in the middle metalled, the two sides being in the rainy season probably required for the passage of boats, while in the dry season they are the easing ground of hundreds of men and cattle. The proposal seems to be that the short streets and bye lanes which join them must be widened to at least double the breadth of the main road.

Thus for example a few days ago the houses on the western side of the lane leading from the Cemetery on to the Subjibag street was measured with the object, we learnt, of widening it to a breadth of fifty feet. In this connection, the houses of several respectable gentlemen are proposed to be acquired though we have been assured that the plots opposite these houses are *purti* or contain dilapidated huts. These gentlemen naturally object to the threatened annexation of their residential houses, when the process of widening could be carried out much more cheaply by taking the lands opposite to their houses. They also say that the main road in Patna which undergoes the heaviest traffic is only 25 or 30 feet broad. What is the use of widening an unfrequented bye lane to double the breadth of the main road? Then again they urge that even

the narrow streets are never properly repaired and looked after on the ground of want of funds. Where will the funds come from to keep the widened lanes in good order? Lastly, they urge that the experience of wide streets in Patna is that there is a narrow strip of metalled way along the middle of the road, while the sides of the streets are left for the accumulation of filth and the accommodation of stray cattle, pariah dogs, hackney horses, and countless stall-keepers. What is the necessity of extending the nuisance to hitherto peaceful regions?

While we heartily welcome the prospect of improvements in the city, we must on principle object to the inception of any scheme without the public being fully consulted. As it is, the impression prevails that the authorities regard the rate-payers as having no right to be heard or consulted in connection with any scheme involving such a trifling matter as the possible acquisition of their homes. It is feared that the schemes which are being hatched in the dark will come out full-fledged and go on merrily notwithstanding public yea or nay, unless perchance these lines happen to meet the eyes of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor. If, however, such a contingency happens, we may be prepared to take odds that the public may yet have an opportunity to "know the reason why."

#### TEACHING OF ENGLISH IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

In the agenda of the Conference held at Simla in the last week of July on the question of the teaching of English in Secondary Schools, it was stated that the object in view was to see how far modifications in the present system may be effected so that pupils may obtain a better grasp of the subject which they are taught and complete their secondary course with a more competent knowledge of the English language than at present. Those actively engaged with the work and administration of teaching will be asked to explain the working of the system in their respective provinces and to express an opinion on a number of specific points. One of the questions put was: "To what extent does instruction through the medium of a foreign language (1) hamper the pupils in the acquisition of knowledge, crushing their independence and originality of thought and instilling in them the necessity of cram as the only means of learning, (2) impose a burden on the teachers and (3) tend to the impoverishment of the vernacular?" Another question ran as follows:—"Do the pupils in a vernacular middle school as a rule acquire a better knowledge and grasp of the ordinary school subjects than those of a similar age who have been instructed through the medium of English?" The members of the Conference were also invited to state whether in their opinion the comparative paucity of suitable text-books in the vernacular, the deficiencies of the vernaculars in technical nomenclature and the multiplicity of the vernaculars, are insuperable objections to extending the employment of the vernaculars as the medium of instruction.

As might have been expected there was sharp difference of opinion among the members of the Conference and the following is a summary of the conclusions arrived at:—

With regard to the teaching of English, the majority of the members were of opinion that from the point of view of proficiency in English, pupils should begin their

study of the language as early in the school course as possible. It was also agreed to by a majority that in the existing conditions pupils should ordinarily begin their studies in English between the age of 9 and 11 after three years study through their own vernaculars. Several members accepted this proposal with the substitution of four for three years. It was generally agreed that pupils who come to English schools after some years of study in the vernaculars do better in subjects other than English than boys who have studied English earlier, but the former were generally weaker in English and some members thought that they even continue to be so. Only four members out of twenty-one voted for the proposal that the vernacular should be the medium of instruction in all classes in the High Schools and three others accepted this proposal with the qualification "as far as possible in subjects other than English." The majority were of opinion that English should be the principal medium of instruction in the two higher classes in the High Schools. As for the examination being held in the vernacular, the majority were for giving option to the candidates to answer subjects other than English in the vernaculars. To judge from the brief report of the discussions and the voting on the Resolutions, it would appear that the present state of affairs will continue to be more or less the same except that greater resort might be made to the direct method of teaching English and that the candidates if they choose, might answer their examination papers in the vernaculars.

**NOTES.**

**The Congress imbroglio.**

At the meeting of the Reception Committee of the forthcoming Congress at Calcutta Mrs. Besant was elected President with one dissentient by over two hundred members. The meeting which began with Rai Baikunthanath Sen Bahadur in the chair split up in the middle owing to some misunderstanding and high words passed. As a consequence, the chairman with Mr. S. N. Banerjea and a host of other members left the meeting. Babu Motilal Ghose succeeding him passed the resolution recommending Mrs. Besant. The matter unfortunately does not appear to be settled, to judge from the vituperating and unsavoury recriminations that are being exchanged in the Bengal Congress camp. The Anglo-Indian papers are of course in great glee over the misunderstanding that occurred at the meeting. Memory on this side of Suez is proverbially short, especially among those who have come across. Otherwise, we should have thought that a recollection of what occurred a little over three years ago in the House of Commons in connection with the Irish question would have surely sealed the lips of any Englishman against criticising the disorderliness of Indian political meetings as being an evidence of India's unfitness for self-government.

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**A Curious Incident.**

Presiding at a lecture given by Mrs. Sen on Dr. Tagore in London, Lord Carmichael indicated the sort of interest which some people in India are taking in that poet. The school of thought to which the lady referred to belongs, can be easily guessed:

When it was my duty to hand to Sir Rabindra Nath Tagore the papers connected with the Nobel Prize—which I am sure we are all glad to know that he received—I did it at an evening

party at Government House, to which I invited a good many people. I remember saying to one lady who was present that I hoped she was pleased that Sir Rabindranath Tagore was receiving this prize. She rather surprised me by telling me that she was not at all pleased, for she thought the Bengalis took far too much interest in bombs and explosives and things of that sort, and therefore she and many other people deeply regretted that the Nobel Prize should go to him. I do not think that there is anybody here who takes that sort of view, which seemed to me a little far-fetched.

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**Is Kitchener Alive?**

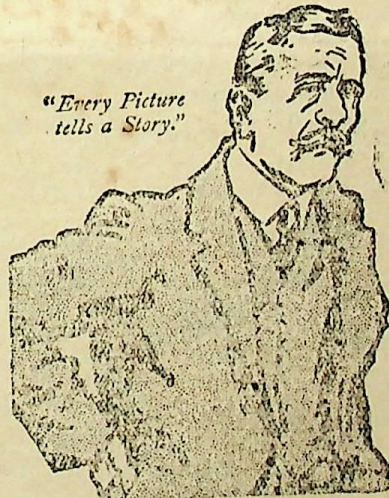
Mrs. Parker, the late Lord Kitchener's sister, at the opening of a bazar at Hastings, said that she did not share the general belief that her brother went down with the *Hampshire*. It was her firm belief that he was still alive, and would return. This was the first time that she had publicly announced this opinion, but ever since the loss of the *Hampshire*, she had been trying to find out what had happened to her brother.

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**Mr. Basu's Departure Postponed.**

His Excellency Lord Willingdon, under instructions from the Secretary of State for India, has requested the Hon. Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu to postpone his departure for England until Mr. Montagu's visit to India. Mr. Basu has accordingly cancelled his passage and is returning to Calcutta shortly.

"Every Picture tells a Story."



**How to Disperse URIC ACID DEPOSITS.**

THE ill-effect of excess uric acid may not end with lumbago, sciatica and rheumatism, for uric acid is the general basis of stone deposits in kidneys and bladder. Little jagged uric acid crystals, very much like splintered glass, cluster round the delicate kidney cells, and form gravel stones, which break through to the bladder, and often grow so large that an operation would seem almost unavoidable. But a kidney medicine should succeed in preventing and dispersing uric acid deposits.

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

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

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are Rs. 2 per bottle; 6 for Rs. 10.8; obtainable from all dealers.

### An Essay in Sociology.

According to an Associated Press message from Srinagar, at a public meeting held there the Maharaja of Kashmir (who was accompanied by his new Chief Minister, Raja Daljit Singh), "delivered a speech of one and a half hour in length," from which the correspondent quotes the following passage:

Touching upon the subject of Mrs. Besant's interment the Maharaja said, "it is a shame for people to follow a woman as their political leader. Women are made by God for the production of the race and not to be our political leaders. We should consider the British Government as our parents. What belongs to the parents is the property of the children. Government will give everything to her children when she deems it fit."

All we can say is that his Highness's filial protestations must be a shade embarrassing to the British Government. The latter are entitled to every sympathy for being saddled with the responsibility of parentage of this self-proclaimed "child"! One wonders if his Highness would have given expression to his exquisite notions if Queen Victoria had happened to be still on the throne. In any case we trust his Chief Minister will advise the Maharaja in future to stick to other relaxations than public speaking.

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### Premium Bonds in India.

The appointment of a Select Committee of the House of Commons to consider the question of issuing premium bonds is of direct interest to India. For some time past the Government of India have been urged to undertake the issue of bonds of this description and the Finance Member has intimated that he has an open mind on the subject. But, as the appointment of a Select Committee at Home indicates, the matter is not such a simple one as certain advocates of premium bonds seem to imagine. As a matter of fact a number of practical financial considerations are involved and some authorities who have no objection in principle to the raising of money by this method are not in favour of resorting to it. However the whole subject will no doubt be thoroughly threshed out by the Parliamentary Committee and their report and the evidence given before them ought to offer guidance to India. Certain of the objections raised to the premium bonds apply in greater degree here than they do in European countries. For instance unless the bonds were of small denomination, they would not be available to the masses of the people, while if they were of low amount they would be very much akin to lottery tickets.

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### Adulteration of Ghee.

A deputation consisting of 100 members, representing the British Indian Association, Bengal Landholders' Association, Bengal Mahajan Sabha, the Marwari Association, the Rajput Association and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce waited upon His Excellency Lord Ronaldshay in connection with the public feeling in the bazar against the adulteration of ghee.

The Hon. Maharajadhiraj of Burdwan, as spokesman of the deputation, requested His Excellency to move the Government of India to pass an ordinance pending legislation penalising both the adulteration of ghee and the selling or stocking of adulterated ghee.

The Governor, in reply, said that he thought that the object of the deputation would be best served by an emergency legislation, which his Government introduced on Tuesday at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council.

The Bill was referred to a Select Committee on the same day with a request to submit their report with all speed and was passed the same day. The legislation takes the form of an amendment to the Calcutta Municipal Act and would confine itself only to the ghee question. As the penal clauses in the legislation would require the sanction of the Government of India the local Government have telegraphed to the Government of India for the necessary sanction.

### LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

THE students of the B. N. College gave a farewell entertainment to Professor Haran Chandra Chakladar on Tuesday. The Professor was presented with a gold mounted stick as a keepsake by the students.

THE Governing Body of the Patna College have decided the case of Fazlur Rahman, the student who was rusticated for a year on account of his complicity in the last strike of the students of the college. The boy has been expelled from the college.

GREAT sensation have been caused at Purulia by the daring escape from jail of two undertrial prisoners who are alleged to be the ringleaders of a gang of dacoits who had for some time past been a terror to the district.

THE authorities of the Bihar and Orissa Sanskrit Association are bent upon earning an unenviable reputation. In a recent issue of the "Bihar and Orissa Gazette" it is announced that the Sanskrit First and Second Examinations will commence on the 15th of February 1918—the Sri Panchami Day! What next?

THE *Express* publishes the draft of a Bill for compulsory Primary Education in Bihar and Orissa which will be brought forward by the Hon'ble Mr. S. K. Sahay at the next session of the Provincial Legislative Council. While reserving our comments on Mr. Sahay's maiden venture at legislation, we may point out what seems to be a defect in two of the most important provisions. The first is the penal provision contained in clause 12 (1) where it is laid down that whoever intentionally employs either on his own behalf or for any other person, any child etc. shall be liable to fine. This is vague. The nature of employment sought to be prohibited ought to be clear. Secondly, the clause allowing remission of fees in certain cases in which the "burden of proof" is on the person applying for remission is not wide enough to justify the Bill being called a Bill for free primary education.

THE town of Purulia has been for some time past enjoying the sweet *kirtans* of the celebrated *bhakta* Haridas Babaji who has been invited to the house of Babu Sachindra Mohan Ghosh, Vakil. Babu Sachindra Mohan Ghosh, we are glad to note, is worthily maintaining the traditions of his father. It was only the other day that he made a free gift of land worth about Rs. 30,000 for the use of the local hospital.

IN the sensational kidnapping case at Balasore the accused Shyamsundar Nayak has been convicted by Mr. Allanson, the Sessions Judge under Sec. 363 I. P. C. and sentenced to undergo

Five years' rigorous imprisonment. The accused, it is reported, had decoyed two girls from their houses but they were recovered on their way to Calcutta.

A TYPICAL instance of how not to do things may be seen in the way in which the extension of the Dak Bungalow Road to the Exhibition Road and the allied project of a cross road through the middle are being carried out. It is nearly three years since land was acquired for the building of the two roads and about two years since work was started. Considering that the aggregate length of the two proposed roads is something like quarter of a mile, the Executive Engineer of the Patna Division who is in charge will surely excuse us when we say that the progress has not been rapid. Meanwhile, those who have houses or are building houses on the proposed roads are being put to extreme hardship in as much all wheeled communication with the outside world is stopped. May we expect the roads to be ready by this time next year?

The following is a copy of Circular no. 35 dated Ranchi, the 27th July 1917 issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Bihar and Orissa to Principals of colleges (Government and aided), Principals of Training and Law Colleges and the Principal of the Bihar School of Engineering:—

Sir,

- (1) I have the honor to draw your attention to my circular No. 40 and 42 dated 23rd of October 1914 and to request you to see that the instructions contained therein are enforced.
- (2) I have further to inform you that the Government disapproves of the Home Rule League Movement and that the Principals of Government-aided Colleges should bear this in mind when exercising their discretion allowed to them under these circulars.

I have the honor to be etc.

N. M. Das Gupta.

for Director of Public Instruction.

On July 2, that is exactly 25 days previous to this circular, Commander Wedgwood in the House of Commons, asked whether there was any prospect of an order in the Madras Presidency or elsewhere declaring all home rule leagues seditious. And the following answer was given by Mr. Chamberlain: "I have no reason to think that local government in India are at all likely to take repressive measures against associations that confine their programmes to political reforms within constitutional limits, and pursue them by reasonable methods, but the authorities in India are responsible for the maintenance of peace and protection of life and order, and they are bound to take such steps as are necessary." Compare also the announcements on the subject made at the Imperial Council on Tuesday last.

SAYS THE *Patrika*:—Our Bankipur correspondent sends some further information regarding the Rani of Ramnuggar. The Court of Wards, after having snatched away the management of the estate from her hands, employed her manager Mr. Mason, to trace out her whereabouts. He made every search for her at Benares and elsewhere but failed in his mission. Thereupon Mr. Whitty, who is now the manager of both Bettiah and Ramnuggar estates dismissed him and has appointed another person in his place as Assistant Manager. And who is this man? One Mr. Granville

who was on very bad terms with the Rani. Mr. Granville had been in the service of the Rani for 3 or 4 years. She was, however, so disgusted with his overbearing conduct that she had to dispense with his services, in spite of the threat of the Commissioner of Muzafferpur Division that her properties would be put under the Court of Wards, if she did not retain Mr. Granville's services. And this worthy, who has got an ardent patron in the Commissioner, has again been fastened on the Rumnuggar estate.

LOUD wails of complaint are reaching us from Giridih regarding the manner in which the present Sub-Divisional officer is carrying on. No purpose being served by a publication of these complaints, we withhold them at the same time requesting Mr. Johnston, the officer concerned, to remember that want of courtesy on the part of European officials is a crime in India. In this connection, we notice that the *Patrika* has dealt with the matter in its editorial columns with the following remarks:—

"From communications received from several gentlemen at Giridih, it appears that Mr. Johnston the Sub-divisional officer there, has made himself too hot to pleaders, suitors and witnesses, indeed to all who have occasion to come across him. Indeed, we are told matters have come to this pass that even pleaders are afraid of approaching him for fear of being roughly treated. Nor is this all. One who has a drop of humanity cannot but be shocked at the heartless way in which he rejected the application of one Bulan Saw for his release from jail on bail, a report of which has been published. The man was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment by Mr. Johnston. Against this, finding, he appealed to the Judicial Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division, praying at the same time that he might be released on bail pending the hearing of the appeal and this was granted. The Judicial Commissioner was also moved that the order of release might be given to the prisoner's nephew who would carry the order personally to the S. D. O. to facilitate his release. Be it said to the credit of the heart of the Judicial Commissioner, he agreed to this proposal. But what of that? The kindness shown by the appellate Court availed little to the prisoner, for Mr. Johnston refused to act on the bail order of the Judicial Commissioner, when it was handed over to him in a sealed cover. The result was that Bulan Saw was unnecessarily detained in jail for one or two days."

ARE YOU A SLAVE TO PAIN?

*Do You Ever Rest?*

Or is your life a perpetual burden—a wakeful, restless, fevered tortured existence?

Do you start and cry out from twitching nerve or darting pains?

Are you robbed of your nights of just repose and tranquil sleep?

Then there is hope for you—

LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM

is more than hope. It is promise of complete recovery. It has worked miracle in thousands of cases of neuralgia, of rheumatism, backache, headache, sciatica, toothache, earache, and other external aches and pains which were pronounced incurable.

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

WE are extremely sorry to hear of the death of Master Chinmaya Bannerjee, third son of Mr. G. N. Banerjee, District and Sessions Judge, Purnea. The deceased who was only 12 was an exceedingly intelligent boy of great promise. We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved parents.

A DISGRACEFUL incident occurred last Thursday at the Bankipur Maidan during the course of a football match when the supporters of one of the teams mobbed the linesman of their adversaries with the result that a free fight ensued resulting in several broken heads. The most regrettable feature was that the players instead of helping to preserve order vigorously joined in the melee.

HOW well-meaning zeal sometimes leads to injustice is shown by what took place recently at a conference of Collectors convened by the Commissioner of a Division for the purpose of making selections among the candidates for appointment to the Executive Service. It would appear that one of the candidates, a son of a retired Government official whose services had been testified to by no less a person than His Honour Sir Edward Gait, was in the running for a Sub-Deputy Collectorship, backed as he was by strong recommendations including that of Sir Edward Gait. When he was called by the Commissioner, he was after the usual enquiries asked how much his father had subscribed to the war loan. The poor man was nonplussed at the question but he told the truth which was that his father had lately to furnish a heavy sum as security for another son who had been appointed treasurer in a district treasury. After this the only answer that our aspirant for office and his hopes received was a curt "good bye."

OUR readers may remember the case of Major Kirkwood against the E. I. Railway Company in connection with the derailment of a down passenger train on the 5th April, 1911, between Sadisapur and Neora stations which created a sensation in Bankipur at the time. The Calcutta High Court Appeal Bench presided over by the Chief Justice and Justices Woodroffe and Mukerjee disposed of the appeal preferred by Major Kirkwood. In this case the plaintiff sued the Company for damages amounting to Rs. 15,000 for personal injuries alleged to have been sustained by him in consequence of the alleged negligence of the company. The case was tried by Mr. Roe, then District Judge of Patna, who held that the railway company was not liable. The plaintiff appealed to the High Court and the appeal was heard by a Divisional Bench composed of Justices Chatterji and Beachcroft. The judges differed in their opinion, the former holding that the appeal should be allowed and the latter thinking that it should be dismissed. The result was that the appeal was dismissed with costs. Against that decision the plaintiff preferred the present appeal. The Chief Justice held that the Railway was not liable but Justices Woodroffe and Mukerjee gave a decree in favour of the plaintiff for the full amount claimed.

THE *Statesman* is at its old game of slinging stones at the Calcutta University. Mr. Arden Wood's letter urging the postponement of the Patna University Bill has conveniently furnished our contemporary with quite a quiverful of them. "That incomparable machine for the production of half-educated graduates"—is its characterisation no 1 of the Calcutta Senate. Here is No. 2. It is said to be "educationally suspect," for has not the Government of India deemed it necessary to hold

a solemn inquest on it? And is not Sir Asutosh Mukerjee, "the Hercules of College Square" understood to be working night and day at the task of cleaning the Augean Stable in preparation for the enquiry? What more convincing proof there can be of its rottenness? "An easy-going Senate," "pandering to the craze for quantity in place of quality" are some of the other complimentary phrases indirectly flung at it.

As for the Patna University scheme, well, it was welcomed by the *Statesman* and others of its ilk, for was it not meant to be the antithesis of the Calcutta University? But strange as it appeared to our contemporary, the Government of Borissa yielded in some measure to the clamour against the new scheme! And stranger still, Sir Sankaran Nair, the Education Member, was equally accommodating and "amiably weak." Alas! the "iron age is gone and has been replaced by pliancy and concession," cries the *Statesman* in the fullness of his grief. If the tears, however, flow down his cheeks copiously one moment at the thought of how beautiful the original Patna scheme was, and how fearfully it has been allowed to be mutilated, well, he wipes them off the next moment, and finds consolation in the expectation that the new Commission "may report in favour of drastic changes in the University of Calcutta. They may even advise its reconstitution on the lines of the original Patna University scheme." Well, there is nothing like hope and we do not grudge our contemporary his living on hope till the day of disillusionment comes.—*The Hindu Patriot*.

## HEALTH IN INDIA

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## SCOTT'S Emulsion

REVIEW.

TOWARDS HOME RULE, Part I, Second edition. By Ramananda Chatterjee, Modern Review office, Calcutta.

Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee, the talented editor of the "Modern Review" has just brought out a second and revised edition of the booklet which he published for the first time in February last. The present second edition of "Towards Home Rule" consists of 2000 copies and the selections in the main body of the book consist of reprints from various papers and paragraphs that appeared from time to time in the "Modern Review." The price of the book is not at all high, for twelve annas is a sum which a man of even very small means would never grudge.

SELECTION.

THE MESOPOTAMIA DEBATE.

Mr. Montagu's Epoch-Making Speech.

(Concluded from our last issue.)

INDIAN DEBATES IN PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Montagu:—The tone of those Debates was unreal, unsubstantial and ineffective. If estimates for India, like Estimates for the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and the Colonial Secretary were to be discussed on the floor of the House of Commons, the Debates on India would be as good as the Debates on foreign affairs. After all, what is the difference? Has it ever been suggested to the people of Australia that they should pay the salary of the Secretary of State for the Colony. Why should the whole cost of that building in Charles Street, including the building itself, be an item of the Indian taxpayer's burden rather than of this House of Commons and the people of the country?

HELPLESSNESS OF AN ADVANCED INDIAN SECRETARY.

If I may give one example of the inconvenience of the existing system, I would refer to the Indian Cotton Duties debate which occurred in this House this year. The Cotton Duties had been imposed and there was no possible way of undoing that. That is the attitude in which we always debate Indian affairs. You have got no opportunity of settling the policy. It has been sometimes questioned whether a democracy can rule an Empire. I say that in this instance the democracy has never had the opportunity of trying. But even if the House of Commons were to give orders to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State is not his own master. In matters vitally affecting India, he can be overruled by a majority of his Council. I may be told that the cases are very rare in which the Council has differed from the Secretary of State for India. I know one case anyhow, where it was a very near thing, and where the action of the Council might without remedy have involved the Government of India in a policy out of harmony with the declared policy of the House of Commons and the Cabinet. And these gentlemen are appointed for seven years and can only be controlled from the Houses of Parliament by a resolution carried in both Houses calling on them for their resignations.

The whole system of the India Office is designed to prevent control by the House of Commons for

fear that there might be too advanced a Secretary of State. I do not say that it is possible to govern India through the intervention of the Secretary of State with no expert advice but what I do say is that in this epoch now after the Mesopotamia Report he must get his expert advice in some other way than by this Council of men, great men though, no doubt, they are always, who come home after lengthy service in India to spend the first year of their retirement as members of the Council of India. No wonder that the practice of telegrams backward and forward and of private telegrams, commented upon by the Mesopotamia Report, has come into existence.

RED TAPE BEYOND DREAMS.

Does any Member of this House know much about procedure in the India Office, how the Council sits in Committees, how there is interposed between the Civil service and the political chiefs the Committees of the India Council and how the draft on some simple question comes up through the Civil servant to the Under-Secretary of State and may be referred back to the Committee which sends it back to him, and it then goes to the Secretary of State who then sends it to the India Council which may refer it back to the Committee and two or three times in its history may go backwards and forwards. I say that that is a system so cumbersome, so designed to prevent efficiency and change that in the light of these revelations it cannot continue to exist. I speak very bitterly and I speak with some feelings on this subject, for in the year 1912 a very small modification in this machinery was attempted by Lord Crewe, and a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons. On the motion of Lord Curzon it was thrown out on Second Reading in another place. Its authorship was attributed to me, and I was supposed to have forced it on my noble chief because I found that the machinery of the India Office was not good for my own purposes. My only desire then as it is now, was to try and find something which had some semblance of speedy action. Government officers are often accused of circumlocution and red tape. I have been to the India office and to other offices. I tell this House that the statutory organisation of the India Office produces an apotheosis of circumlocution and red tape beyond the dreams of any ordinary citizen.

AN INSTANCE OF INDIA OFFICE ADMINISTRATION.

Now I will come to one particular detail of the India Office administration before I pass from this subject. I think the Mesopotamia Report criticises the conduct of the Stores Department as in one respect unbusinesslike. The Stores Department of the India Office is a department whose sole function—a most important function certainly—is the purchase of millions of pounds worth of equipment for the Indian Army, clothing and such like. It is presided over by a Civil servant. In the year 1912 or 1913 a vacancy occurred in that office and it was suggested then that the proper man to superintend mere purchasing operations of that kind was a business man, an institution of the policy always associated with the Prime Minister. Great difficulties appeared in the way of the appointment of a business man, and a Civil servant was appointed. But it was agreed then that the next occupant of the Office should be a business man. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State told me yesterday that a Civil servant had again been appointed.

The Secretary of State for India: Mr. Chamberlain: I never heard of any such agreement.

Mr. Montagu: My right hon. Friend is not responsible for any agreements come to by his predecessor. I say it was then agreed as a policy

that a business man should be appointed to succeed the Civil servant. I am only giving this history to point out that now, after the Report of the Mesopotamia Commission, I would suggest to him that the time has come to abolish the Stores Department of the India Office, when the work that it is doing of clothing the Indian Army is comparable entirely to the work which is now being done by the Ministry of Munitions and the War Office for equipping our own Armies and the Armies of our Allies, and that the sooner all these multifarious supply Departments are abolished and the whole business concentrated under one roof and under one office, the more efficient will the supplies be.

#### MAKE INDIA GOVERNMENT MORE RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE.

I come now to the question of the Government of India from India. I think that the control of this House over the Secretary of State ought to be more real and I would say further that the independence of the Viceroy from the Secretary of State ought to be much greater. You cannot govern a great country by the despatch of telegrams. This Viceroy ought to have far greater powers devolved to him than is at present the case. When I say that I do submit that you cannot leave the Viceroy as it is. Are there four much more busy men in this country than His Majesty the King, the Prime Minister, who sits opposite, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and the Speaker of the House of Commons? Yet the analogous positions of these four posts are held by one man in India, and he is expected to be responsible and closely to investigate the conduct of a great expedition like this! You cannot find an individual who can undertake the work. Your executive system in India has broken down, because it is not constituted for the complicated duties of modern Government. But you cannot recognise that executive Government of India, remodel the Viceroyalty, and give the Executive Government more freedom from the House of Commons and the Secretary of State unless you make it more responsible to the people of India.

#### NOT ONE HOME RULE COUNTRY BUT A SERIES OF SELF-GOVERNMENT PROVINCES.

Really the whole system has got to be explored in the light of the Mesopotamian Commission. It has proved to be of too much rigidity. My hon. and gallant Friend opposite in his Minority Report I think—certainly in the questions he has asked in the House—seems to advocate a complete Home Rule for India. I do not believe there is any demand for that in India on a large scale. I do not believe it will be possible or certainly be a cure for these evils.

Commander Wedgwood: I want that to be goal towards which we are driving.

Mr. Montagu: As a goal I see a different picture! I see the great Self-Governing Dominions and Provinces of India organised and co-ordinated with the great Principalities, existing Principalities and perhaps new ones, not one great Home Rule country but a series of Self-Governing Provinces and principalities and federated by one Central Government. But whatever be the object of your rule in India, the universal demand of those Indians whom I have met and corresponded with is that you should state it. Having stated it you should give some instalment to show that you are in real earnest, some beginning of the new plan which you intend to pursue that gives you the opportunity of giving greater representative institutions in some form or other to the people of India, of giving them greater control of their Executive, of remodelling the Executive—that

affords you the opportunity of giving the Executive more liberty from interference from home, because you cannot leave your harrassed officials responsible to two sets of people. Responsibility here at home was intended to replace or to be a substitute for responsibility in India. As you increase responsibility in India you can lessen that responsibility at home.

#### BUREAUCRATIC SYSTEM INEFFICIENT.

But I am positive of this that your great claim to continue the illogical system of Government by which we have governed India in the past is that it was efficient. "It has been proved to be not efficient." It has been proved to be not sufficiently elastic to express the will of the Indian people to make them into a warlike Nation as they wanted to be. The history of this War shows that you can rely upon the loyalty of the Indian people to the British Empire—if you ever before doubted it! If you want to use that loyalty you must take advantage of that love of country which is a religion in India, and you must give them that bigger opportunity of controlling their own destinies, not merely by Councils which cannot act, but by control, by growing control, of the Executive itself. Then in your next War—if we ever have War—in your next crisis, through times of peace you will have a contented India, an India equipped to help. Believe me, Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of desirability. Unless you are prepared to remodel in the light of modern experience, this century old and cumbrous machine, then, I believe, I verily believe, that you will lose your right to control the destinies of the Indian Empire.

## ADVERTISEMENTS

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Consignment—6 bundles old empty tins Ex Bhagalpur to Sahebgunge Invoice No. 3.

R/R No. 4406 dated 11-4-17.

Sender Sova Ram.

Consignee Ram Deb.

By order,

CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE  
Dated 3-9-1917. } General Traffic Manager.