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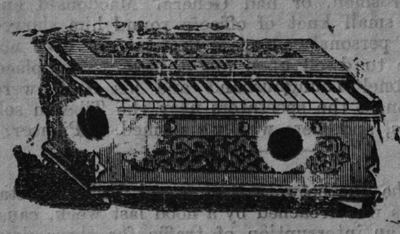

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FIGHTING IN TIBET.

—:o:—

Thuna, Mar. 30.

In the autumn the Lamas refused to negotiate believing that the Mission escort and Indian troops would never cross the Himalayan passes in winter. The fact that the highest passes have been so crossed in the face of blinding snowstorms and blizzards, and that the Mission establishment is beyond the Tungla Pass, has deeply impressed the Tibetans, but the feat has not been accomplished without extreme suffering and hardships, the stolid endurance of which has reflected greater credit on Indian arms than the most brilliant campaign. I have already wired the facts regarding the conditions of misery and exposure under which road-making and convoy operations have been carried on on the Indian side of the Himalayas. The sufferings of the headquarters of the Mission at Thuna, with a small escort of the 23rd Pioneers and a maxim detachment and mounted Infantry have been even greater. A gigantic semi-circle of snowclad mountains towers over Thuna plain, which is exposed to fierce blasts in every direction at night. The cold descends like a heavy blanket, and combined with the rarified atmosphere and chill breezes renders breathing difficult. Of eleven cases of pneumonia ten have proved fatal amongst the Pioneers. An indication of the degree of cold to which the Thuna Garrison has been exposed during the past few months is found in the fact that last night 23 degrees of frost were registered, and the winter is now said to be over. Added to ther troubles been the difficulty of procuring fuel, and also the task of watching the Tibetan army day and night. However, both Thuna Garrison and the newly-arrived uying column are in excellent spirits, and are anxiously awaiting orders to advance. The Tibetan camp at Guru is plainly visible from the hill above Thuna. Last evening the Tibetans were seen busily engaged in building a long wall across a portion of the plain. A Mounted Infantry picket which approached the wall was warned off, and retired in order to avoid the appearance of provoking hostilities. The country we are now in is totally unexplored. To the west of the semi-circle of ice-clad peaks lies a bare sandstone ridge, resembling the Baluchistan hills. An interesting fact is that the snows extend from here as far as the eye can see in unbroken succession. The peaks do not trend away eastward, as was previously believed. The plain is live with wild asses, which scampered in front of the column during yesterday's march.

March, 31.

The Tibetans have finally resolved upon the foolish course of opposing the Mission, with the reshlt that to-day we have fought two engagements in which the enemy suffered most severely.

The Mission with a flying column moved out from Thuna at eight o'clock. Snow had fallen during the night, and all the plain and surrounding mountains were covered with a dazzling mantle. After half an hour's march a messenger came in from the Tibetan camp asking the column to withdraw. We were then near the Hot Springs, and the Depon, the Lhassa General, himself came out with a quaint retinue and had an interview with Colonel Younghusband. He asked the Mission to retire to Yatung, whene negotiations could be carried on. Colonel Younghusband replied that retirement was now impossible. We had been negotiating with Tibet for fifteen years. Colonel Younghusband himself had spent eight fruitless months in attempting to meet responsible persons from Lhassa. The Mission was now going to Gyantse, but we had no wish to fight. The Depon would therefore be acting for the best if he ordered his soldiers now blocking our path to retire.

The Depon was visibly disconcerted at this reply, and protested that he too did not wish to fight, and would order his soldiers not to fire on us. But if we went on there might be trouble. The Depon then rode off with his retinue.

Colonel Younghusband next asked General Macdonald to move the Tibetan soldiers who were lining the sangurs and blockhouse in front out of the way, if possible without firing. Our troops then deployed altogether outflanking th Tibetan position, which was partly on a bare ridge overhanging the road, and partly on the rood, across which they had built a wall. The Tibetans on the top of the ridge retired to the cover of the wall below, but the remainder held their ground till the two forces were actually face to face on the opposite sides of the wall. In the meanwhile the right and left flanks of our deployment had closed round the wall, with the result that the Tibetans, numbering about nineen hundred were within a circle of Indian troops. The whole affair had been so qutetly and effectively managed that it might have been compared to the herding of sheep. The Members of the Mission, Press correspondents, and the General Staff rode up to inspect the capture, and were laughing and talking, all unaware of the terrible tragedy impending. Most observers remarked on the fact that the Tibetans, although they had allowed themselves to be so easily surrounded were in a sullen and dangerous mood. Presently they began to hustle some Sikhs. The latter replied with the butt-ends of their rifles. A gigantic Tibetan then threw a stone and another fired a pistol blowing away a Sikh boys jaw. At the sound of the report all the Tibetans drew their swords and rushed in. Meanwhile the Sikhs opened fire on the surging mob, and the officers emptied their revolvers. The Tibetans found themselves unable to climb the wall they themselves had built, and finally about half were able to break away to the rear, when they came under the fire of the Gurkhas and Mountain guns. Of fifteen hundred only half escaped death or wounds. It was evident from the away they fought that their defeat was chiefly due to inferiority of weapons and not to want of courage. Some came on with eight and nine bullet wounds in their bodies. The scene after the action resembled a shambles, the dead being heaped up on top of each other near the wall, while a long trail of wounded and dead extended to the rear.

After a short halt the troops moved on to Guru. When nearing the Tibetan camp the force was fired on and another action took place, in which the artillery played the largest share. The Tibetans finally fled over the hills in long black strings, though fifty or sixty obstinately held on to the village, which was finally very gallantly taken by the Mounted Infantry and the 8th Gurkhas. The latter made a splendid rush with the bayonet.

The majority of the troops returned to Thuna in the evening after a very long day. Depon is among the Tibetans killed.

1st April.

The whole history of war shows no parallel to the extraordinary action fought at the Hot Springs yesterday. The tragical romance of it was heightened by the fact that it took place in the Throne of the Winds of World, in the secret place of earth, under the shadow of mighty snow-capped mountains. The Tibetan's position extended for about a mile from the road from under which the springs issue, up a steep ridge. The road was blocked by a wall ending in a blockhouse, and walls were built on every fairly level spot on the ridge. When Colonel Younghusband asked General Macdonald to get the Tibetans out of the position, if possible without firing, our force was deployed and moved up the ridge. The Tibetans manning the topmost wall, numbering about 200, surrendered without resistance, and allowed themselves to be disarmed, but the remainder obstinately held their places till our troops were within a few feet, and then retired sullenly towards the blockhouse, where the Lhassa General and other high Tibetan officials were collected. Presently there were gathered between the block-house and the ridge a great mob of Tibetan soldiery. Estimates differ but the place occupied would have held a battalion in quarter column, and the Tibetans were shoulder to shoulder. The driving operation was carried out with the most admirable exactitude, the troops showing great self-restraint in not firing, although not knowing when the Tibetans would attack them. When the Tibetans were all gathered together, General Macdonald with his Staff, Colonel Younghusband and his Staff, the Press correspondents, and others, rode up to look at them. At this time the Tibetan rear was perfectly open, and they could have marched away had they liked, but the mob stood tented and angry, and muttering threats. together round the Lhassa General, discon- Their attitude was sufficiently hostile to induce General Macdonald to order up two more companies of Pioneers, with fixed bayonets.

Presently there was a thin ring of Sikhs round the Tibetans, but no one dreamed of the terrible event impending. Officers got off their horses, some sat down to eat sandwiches, and others brought out cameras. Suddenly a scuffle began in the north-eastern corner of the ring. Some Tibetans shook their fists in the faces of the Sikhs and began throwing stones. The Lhassa General himelf fired the first shot, blowing away a Sikh's jaw. Instantly there was a great tumult, the Tibetans uttered a wild shout, drw their swords, fired their match locks, and surged forward in all directions. About a dozen swordsmen made a desperate rush in the direction of General Macdonald and the small knot of officers. Major Dunlop had two fingers slashed off, but his assailant was shot down by Lieutenant Bignell. Four Tibetans made for Mr. Candler, a Press correspondent, who was unarmed. He received no less than twelve wounds, but General Macdonald, with a rifle, himself shot one down at a few wards' distance. Lieutenan Davys, I. M. S., promptly killed two others, and Mr. Candler was saved from death. Other Tibetans rushing forward were met by revolver fire.

In the meanwhile the Sikhs in front had drawn back a few yards and met the Tibetans trying to climb over the wall with a terrible magazine fire; four or five of the enemy actually climbed the wall and died like heroes. One old man armed only with a matchlock, sprang over heaps of dead, and deliberately kneeling down well in advance of the others fired into the Sikhs. He was riddled with bullets, but the Tibetans were so huddled together that the majority were unable either to use their swords or to fire. Many probably killed each other in their mad excitement.

Finally the mob surged to the rear breaking through the fing of Sikhs, and ten followed a scene even more impressive and awful than the fight in the cockpit. The Tibetans, though their retreat was now open, disdained to scatter and run. They tramped away slowly, steadily, sullenly, solemnly, followed by a perfect hail of bullets. The Mountain Battery came into action and tore their line with shrapnel; a terrible trail of dead and dying marked their line of march. Finally the last wounded and limping man turned the corner about four hundred yards away, and the grim tragedy was over. The whole affair did not occupy ten minutes, but in that srort time the flower of the Tibetan army perished.

The Tibetan General with the whole of his personal escort, and five high Lhassa officials were killed. Our small losses are accounted for by the fact that the Tibetan swordsmen in the front rank could not reach the Sikhs with their fixed bayonets, while the men in the middle of the mob were unable to use any weapons, but they all died gamely. All who saw the scene will carry for ever the impression of grim determined faces lighted with devildom and savagery.

The fight was undoubtedly provoked by the Lhassa General himself. In his interview with Colonel Younghusband his whole attitude was that of a man determined either to die or turn the Mission back. Part of the fearlessness shown by the Tibetans was undoubtedly due to want of knowledge of the effects of modern firearms, and also contempt for the smallness of our force. The Tibetan soldiers outnumbered the wing of the Sikhs by six or seven to one.

The impassive stolidity of the Sikhs of the 23rd and 32nd Pioneers deserves a word of admiration. Had they given before the rush of swordsmen, or had General Macdonald and the small knot of officers round him showed less personal courage a disaster one does not care to dwell upon might have taken place. Colonel Younghusband and his Staff were amongst the spectators near the Tibetan soldiers, and were wholly unarmed.—"Pioneer."

The line between Raison and Chikarkot stations was breached by a flood last week, causing an interruption of traffic for three days before the block could be cleared.

A very interesting case was tried on last Friday by the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Goa in which a Goanese musician was charged with criminal trespass on the premises of another. The musician in his defence said he went to the complainant's house to see his aweetheart. Indeed "the course of true love did never run smooth" and thus the poor man, was punished with an alternative sentence viz. fine of Rs. 20 or imprisonment of 8 days.

A SENSATION IN THE DERA ISMAIL KHAN DISTRICT.

Captain Stewart, the young Sub-Divisional Officer of Tank, Dera Ismail Khan District, has suddenly made himself famous all over the country. And this by his extraordinary treatment of Mr. Abdul Hakim Khan, Barrister-at-Law and Jagirdar. The following notice served upon Mr. Stewart by Mr. A. H. Khan's pleader will explain the situation:

I am instructed by Mr. Abdul Hakim Khan, Barrister-at-law, to give you this notice under Section 424 Civil Procedure Code.

I. The cause of action is as follows—

(a). That you at Tank on 14th March 1904 at the time when you called case Nasirulla Khan complainant versus Tar Skirder and others harge Section 498 and 4f8-109 Indian Penal Code and when Mr. A. H. Khan (who had been summoned as an accused in the above case under Section 498-19o9 Indian Penal Code entered the court room, you addressed him words to the following effect "who the devil you are."

(b). That subsequently in the same day you ordered Mr. A. H. Khan to be put into the lock-up in spite of the fact, that you knew his position and statue, and that the offence wa bailable and you were legally bound to release him on bail, and that you were repeatedly told by him that the ocence was bailable and that he was prepared to give bail.

(c) That in porsuance of your order Mr. A. H. Khan was put to tht indignity of connfinement in a smalll lock-up containing over a dozen other prisoners from 8 p. m. to 10 a.m. the next day, when he was brought out handcuded to the court and kept so outside on the ground in the presence of the general public up to about 1 p.m.

(d) That subsequently when the case was called by you Mr. A. H. Khan presented you a medical certificate showing that he was suffering from a concussion of the brain, and you instead of placing it on record tore it up and thereby destroyer a piece of evidence.

(e) That you otherwise also used insulting language and threats against Mr. A. H. Khan.

(f) That you have done all these acts, wrongs, injuries maliciously, illegally and without any lawful justification, with the intention of disgracing and lowering him in the eyes of public and harming his reputation and good name, besides causing him mental and physical torture.

(g). That Mr. A. H. Khan is a Barrister at-Law (Middle Temple, London) Advocate of the High Court, Allahabad, Chief Court, Punjab, and Judicial Commissioner's Court Peshawar, and also son of Muhammad Azim Khan, Khan Bahadur, Reis Jagirdar and proprietor of about ½ of whole Tahsil Tank, well reputed for loyal and meritorious services to the Government, is otherwise also highly connected and belongs to one of the most respectable families of the province.

(h). That he has in consequence of your illegal and unlawful acts materially suffered in body, mind reputation and income.

(i). That you and the Secretary of State for India in Council under whom you serve are jointly, or severally in the alternative, liable for the above wrongs done to Mr. A. H. Khan.

II. That the name of plaintiff is Mr. A. H. Khan and his place of abode is Dera Ismail Khan.

III. That Mr. A H. Khan claims twenty thousand rupees as damages from you and the Secretary of State for India in Council jointly, severally or in the alternative.

N.B.—This notice does not affect the criminal action which Mr. A. H. Khan intends to bring against you separately. A separate notice has also been given to the Collector of the district.

Here are the particulars as to how Mr. A. Hakim Khan came to be impolicated as an accuesd in a criminal case: It appears that there was a dispute about marriage between a widow and her deceased husband's brother, with whom she declared having contracted vaild marriage. Both of the parties belonged to Mr. A. H. Khan's village (founded by and named after his grandfather), and hebeing the son of its Jagirdar and headman, the woman reported the mtter tt him. Mr. A. H. Khan directed her to report to the Police. The report was made only a few days after the alleged marriage. The original complaint did not put Mr. A. H. Khan as an accused. In his oral statement however the complainant stated that Mr. A.H. Khan had directed the woman to report to the police and so encouraged her. This was all the abetment alleged by him, the principal accused being the woman's own relations. The episode mentioned in the notice took place when Mr. A. H. Khan appeared before Captain Stewart. It may be added that the case has been practically settled by the parties referring the whole matter to arbitrators.

PLAGUE AT ALLAHABAD.

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Allahabad, April 3.

The virulence of plague in the city of Allahabad having been considerable and poor men suffering from it being unable to cope with it, some public-spirited and philanthropic gentlemen of this city have formed a committee called the Plague Relief Committee. At a special meeting of the Committee held on the 21st March last it was resolved to adopt means to afford them relief. The public are hereby informed that the following medical practitioners have volunteered their services to attend poor patients free of charge:—Drs. D. R. Ranjit Singh, Abinash Chander Banerji, Suresh Chander Banerji, Madho Lal Mallick, Prasanno Kumar Banerji, Baroda Pashad Dutt, Hara Parshad Mukerji, Abinash Chander Gupta, Pandit Shew Ram Vaidya, Pandit Bhagwati Pershad Vaidya, Pandit Baij Nath Vaidya, Hakim Ahmad Husain, and Miss Norris, M. D.

The poor patients will have to pay the above medical attendants no fee for their visit. They will also receive medicine and, if necessary diet free of cost.

The Committee has appointed 13 persons as Honorary Inspectors and some paid assistants, whose duty it will be to make every day house to house enquiry and to promtly report to the office or to one of the abovenamed medical men cases of poor plague patients who apply to them for help.

Poor plague patients need not of course wait for the arrival of the Inspector, but their relatives should at once apply for relief to the office or direct to any one of the abovementioned medical attendants.

If a patient wants to be removed to the Plague Hospital, near Sohbatia Bagh, under the charge of Dr. Ganpat Rai, where every care is taken of such patients, intimation should be given either direct to the officer or through the Inspectors, and arrangements for his conveyance to that place will immediately be made.

Applications for the removal of the dead bodies may also be made either direct to the office or through the Inspectors. On receipt of information arrangements will be made to have them removed and cremated or buried as might be necessary.

Applications for houses being disinfected may also be sent to the office of the Committee.

The public are earnestly requested to help the committee by affording information of plague sufferers in their locality and raising subscriptions. Subscriptions, howsoever small, will be thankfully received by the treasurer of the Committee.

MR. JUSTICE RAMPINI'S VISIT TO FARIDPUR.

—:o:—

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Faridpur, Mar. 27.

Mr. Justice Pratt of the Calcutta High Court was expected for some time to visit Faridpur in the course of his inspection tour in the muffasil; but in his stead, came on the evening of the 16th instant, Mr. Justice Rampini who inspected the Civil Courts and offices on the following day and the day after. The report of Mr. Justice Pratt's inspection elsewhere was rather encouraging both to the bench and the bar and his Lordship's courteous treatment and readiness to accept suggestions for reforms on the administration of justice were simply praiseworthy.

Inspection by a High Court Judge is indeed wholesome practice which, if properly carried on, is calculated to check the vagaries of, and to exercise a salutary influence upon those who are entrusted with the dispensation of justice as also to inspire in the hearts of the suitors a confidence in the administration of justice!

But alas Mr. Justice Rampini's visit, it seems, will fail to produce any such desired effect. It is rather calculated to emphaise the idea of executive interference with the administration of justice in the muffasil. For in connection wits an original suit, which was being heard by the Additional Subordinate Judge of Faridpur, his Lordship's instruction to the Court was to cut down lengthy cross-examination, to cut down the number of witnesses to be examined by the parties, not to allow adjournment when witnesses were not ready and to disallow cross-examination directed to impugn both the genuineness and bonafides of registered documents, even when the party cross-examining was no party to such documents.

Are not these instructions calculated to fetter and to seriously interfere with the judicial independence of the muffasil Courts presided over by Judges whose preferments mostly rest with the good opinion of the High Court Judges? Has his Lordship forgotten the case of Naraynasami vs. Ramasami reported in I.L.R. 14 Mad. 172 which distinguished the Privy Council case of Mahomed Buksh Khan vs. Hosseini Bibi (I.L.R. 15 cal. 984) and enunciated the principle that strangers to the document or transaction can impugn both the genuineness and bonafides of the transaction? Are the muffasil Courts to bid good-bye to Civil Procedure Code or the Law of Evidence?

Referring to a case decided as long as 1896 by a Subordinate Judge, who has retired on well-merited pension, and conducted by Vakeels among whom three are dead, his Lordship observed, to the utter surprise of all present in Court, that he would never forget the case which took up 6 months; that it was a shameful case, the deposition of a single witness covering 100 pages of the printed paper-book and the arguments alone taking 36 days.

The case was of an extraordinary valuation of Rs. 8,00,000 and was tried by the Subordinate Judge. If it had taken six months it was because the Subordinate Judge, with a view to show satisfactory returns, had to devote his time to other business also. If the record was heavy, it was because thousands of Exhibits contributed to its voluminousness. If the cross-examination was lengthy, it was because the examination-in-chief itself was lengthy and because there were materials to be elicited by both parties. The signal witness referred to whose deposition covered 100 pages of the printed paper-book was probably the defendant himself who was cross-examined by a High Court Vakil of long standing and of reputed honesty. If the argument referred to meant the argument in the Subordinate Judge's Court it never took 36 days.

While pending on appeal before the High Court the case was compromised by the parties and thus was never judicially placed before the High Court bench, nor his Lordship had the occasion to hear both sides of the case. When one of the pleaders of the local bar asked for permission to justify the conduct of the pleaders and to explain the delay his Lordship would not wait to listen to him but instantly said that whatever might be said in its justification he would not be convinced. We are tempted to ask whether His Lordship evinced on this occasion Executive propensity or a calm, sober and judicial temperament? Does His Lordship fully realise that if his instructions were followed by the Subordinate Judiciary disastrous consequences will result in the administration of justice in Bengal.

MARRIED FOR 72 YEARS.

After seventy-two years of married life, an old couple named Farion are still living active lives at Verjux, in the French Department of Saone-et-Loire. The husband, who is a small farmer, is in his ninety-ninth years, but his wife is only eighty-eight, their eldest child being seventy-one.

Farion cannot read or write, and looked with surprise on a photographer who took his portrait. He is an excellent husband, says the "Patit Journal," and the couple have never quarrelled. His memory is good, and his hand is so steady that he can still shave himself.

FORCING PLANTS BY FIRE.

—:o:—

A curious phenomenon, connected with the forcing of flowers under somewhat exceptional circumstances was observed not long ago by M. J. Jolly.

On the 2nd of Septemer last, a large fire broke out in the village of Chausseesur-Marne, between Chalons and Vitry-le-Francois, and destroyed a large part of the village. The fire, urged by the wind, spread as far as it was possible, and consumed the last houses on the side toward the country. It also attacked the neighbouring trees forming part of a large pear and apple orchard, and reduced the two first rows entirely to ashes. The three following rows, protected by the first, and the distance, remained standing although consiterably damaged and badly scorched. The injury done to the sixth row was naturally not so great. A goodly number of branches, nevertheless, were scorched and unable to resist the heat, while the remainder subsequently exhibited a peculiar phonomencu, viz., a second flowering. This began at the end of September, and in October all the branches of the trees except those that had been scorched were covered with blossoms, as in the month of May, the ones most heavily laden with flowers being those that had been most exposed to the action of heat. That is not all. In another direction the fire had ceased in the vicinity of some lilac bushes, and these as well as some plum trees flowered anew, the lilacs in particular being covered with blossoms.

It is to be remarked that the conflagration lasted but four hours at the most, and there is therefore nothing here that resembles an ordinary forcing. All the species that blossomed are those whose buds for the following year are formed in the month of August. Now the facts gathered by M. Jolly, an eye-witness, seem to show that it is possible for a momentary but strong action of heat to produce a second flowering. Does this exert a local influence, a certain desiccation of the organs of the trees? It is possible; and we have seen that a previous desiccation is necessary for forcing, just as it is, according to Geard, for the parthenogenetic development of certain eggs. At all events the fact might and ought to serve as a starting point for experiments from which might be derived practical hints for the forcing of fruits and flowers. With early varieties, it might be possible to obtain two crops, the regular one in the spring and a supplementary one in the fall, provided strong heat were employed, although for a short time, as soon as the buds are formed. This would be more economical than the present methods, since the heat necessary for the development of the flowers and fruit would be furnished, not by coal, but by Dame Nature. Some horticulturist or amateur would do well to make the experiment.

WAR NEWS.

Major-General Prince Louis Napoleon has arrived at Harbin, and is to command a Russian brigade against the Japanese

A rumour is current at St. Petersburg of an attempt on the part of Admiral Stark, who was recently relieved of his command of tht Russian fleet in the Far East, to commit suicide.

The Japanese lawyers have combined from patriotic motives to decline to represent the appellants in any appeal wherein Russians are concerned against the judgments of the prize courts.

Notwithstanding the strict watch that is kept, a Japanese dockyard labourer who had remained in the town almost succeeded in blowing up the docks at Vladivostok. Every preparation had been made, but the authorities in consequence of the receipt of an anonymous letter, were enabled to frustrate the attempt.—Novoe Vremya.

The suddenness of the death of the aged General Vannovsky a former Russian Minister of War, has completely stunned the people of St. Petersburg, and is commented upon as a severe national loss. He expired suddenly towards midnight after rising from his work table literated with maps showing the topography of the locality of the Russo-Japanese War.

General Sakharoff, Chief Russian General of Staff, in an interview with a correspondent of the "Paris Figaro," asserted that Russia could if necessary send at least 400,000 men to the Far East. He did not think the Japanese could land more than 200,000. In his opinion nothing serious will occur in Manchuria for six weeks or two months, but Russia was certain to crush the Japanese eventually.

Three of the Japanese captured near the bridge which crosses the Volga River at Syzran, in European Russia, were disguised as nuns. They had mined the bridge, but the current carried the mines down stream, where they exploded. Sentence has been deferred pending inquiry as to whether the railway men were accomplices. The incident has led to the Russian Government placing the Samara-Zlatmost railway, in Eastern European Russia, and the Siberian Railway under martial law, with a sentry posted at every third telegraph pole.—"T. of C."

Many interesting and touching stories continue to reach this country concerning the subscribers to the Japanese war fund. A ten-year-old boy at Tokio handed over 10s. 6d. the accumulated rewards given him by his father for school successes. At Kobe, a feeble old widow of sixty-five tottered to the town hall and filled up a form of subscription to the war fund for £1,000. The officials, judging by her appearance that she was in poverty, thought she was mad. But she explained that it was her husband's dying wish that in the event of a great war breaking out she was to give up her whole fortune to the country.

French financiers take a gloomy view of Japan's monetary resources. It is stated that during the last eight years taxation in Japan has advanced 175 per cent., and that now people are taxed over the maximum. The average savings of the Japanse are calculated at 25l per head, while in France it is £2. The tremendous naval prgramme entered into by Japan at the conclusion of the war with China is credited with eating up her resources. After the war £40,000,000 was estimated for increasing the army and navy for the following five years but during that period the navy alone shwallowed up £60,000,000. Frenchmen have little faith in the practical fhiendship of Great Britain and the United States with Japan, and are inclined to believe that any attempt at a foreign loan will be met with a sympathetic negative.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 7, 1904.

PROFIT AND LOSS OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS UNDER THE NEW SETTLEMENT.

Let us begin with our own Province. What was the financial condition of the Bengal Government under the old Provincial system? And what it is under the new? That is the point we intend examining to-day. We have already seen how mercilessly have the Local Governments been fleeced under the old five-year contract, since the inauguration of the Decentralization Scheme. The arrangement was worse than even the much condemned "ticcadari" system obtaining in some Behar estates, inasmuch as the "ticcadar" or the lessee generally pays to the Zemindar less than the gross assets he derives from the land, and is allowed to enjoy all prospective profits during his incumbency, whereas the Local Governments, under the Decentralization Scheme, were required, after every five, nay, sometimes two, years, not only to make good to the Imperial Government the full amounts of the receipts from the different sources of revenue assigned, but also to hand over a moiety of any increase in the revenue secured by their own improved administration during the period of the contract. The Imperial Government also resumed all the grants it had made to the Local Governments from time to time. But though the Provincial Exchequers were drained in this ceaseless manner almost to the last drop, yet we find that the Bengal Government was allowed to retain the larger shares in the following heads of revenue in 1903—4 when the old system was yet in force:—

(1) Stamps—Provincial share three-fourths, and Imperial one-fourth;
Provincial income Rs. 1,49,25,000.
(2) Excise—Provincial one-half, Imperial one-half;
Provincial income Rs. 80,50,000.
(3) Customs—Provincial share entire;
Provincial Income Rs. 2,50,000.
(4) Assessed Taxes—Provincial one-half, Imperial one-half;
Provincial Income Rs. 24,75,000.
(5) Forests—Provincial one-half, Imperial one-half;
Provincial Income Rs. 5,25,000.
(6) Registration—Provincial one-half, Imperial one-half;
Provincial Income Rs. 8,35,000.

So, under the old Settlement, the Government of Bengal was allowed one-half share in the revenues derived from Excise, Assessed Taxes Forests and Registration; three-fourths in Stamps, and a full share in Customs, revenue;—the entire receipts from these sources amounting to Rs. 2,70,60,000.

Let us now see what shares have been allowed to the Government of Bengal under the new Settlement:—

The share in Stamps revenue is reduced from three-fourths to one-half. The Provincial share for 1904-5 therefore is put down to Rs. 1,01,00,000, or less than Rs. 48,25,000 under the old system.

The Excise share is reduced from one-half to seven-sixteenths. The Provincial share for the next year accordingly is estimated at Rs. 72,19,000; or Rs. 8,31,000 less than before.

The entire Customs revenue is imperialised under the new Settlement, which means a loss of Rs. 2,50,000 to the Bengal Government.

Under Assessed Taxes, we find that Provincial share is reduced from one-half to one-fourth, and amounts to Rs. 12,87,000 for the next year, or Rs. 11,88,000 less than it was in 1903-4.

As regards Forests, the Provincial share is reduced from one-half to one-fourth, and amounts to Rs. 2,88,000 for 1904-05 or Rs. 2,37,000 less than before.

Registration charges, which were previously divided equally between the Provincial and the Imperial Governments, have been made wholly Provincial and amounts to Rs. 17,00,000, or Rs. 8,65,000 more than before.

So, under the new Settlement, the total share of the Bengal Government from the various sources of revenue is estimated at Rs. 2,05,94,000, or Rs. 64,66,000 less than it amounted under the old.

Let us now examine the expenditure side Under the terms of the new Settlement, the Imperial Government has been pleased to reduce the Provincial share for the corresponding departments in the following manner:—

(1) Stamps—1/4.
(2) Excise—1/16.
(3) Assessed Taxes—1/4.
(4) Forests—1/4.

Under the old Settlement, the Provincial expenditure for the Stamps Department was Rs. 1,26,000; of the Excise Department, Rs. 7,000; of Assessed Taxes Rs. 11,000; of Forests Rs. 1,000; of Registration Rs. 2,000; the total being Rs. 1,47,000.

Under the new Settlement, the figures for the reduced expenditure stands thus:—

Stamps, Rs. 80,000; Excise, Rs. 5,000; Assessed Taxes, Rs. 6,000; Forests Rs. 1,000; Registration, Rs. 4,000,—total Rs. 96,000. That is to say, the Imperial Government has relieved the Provincial Government of the burden of expenditure to the amount of Rs. 51,000.

The position then is this;—

Under the old Settlement, the receipts from the various surrendered heads of revenue were Rs. 2,70,60,000

Under the present, the receipts from the same heads of revenue amount to Rs. 2,05,94,000.

Under the old system, the expenditure relating to the above departments was Rs.1,47,000.

Under the new, the expenditure is Rs. 96,000.

That is to say, on the side of receipts, the Local Government has lost Rs. 64,66,000 while on the side of expenditure, it has gained Rs. 51,000, which means that the nett loss under the present Settlement is Rs. 64,15,000.

Of course the Government of Bengal has got a grant of fifty lakhs per annum from the Imperial Government, but if this amount is deducted from the above, there is yet a decided loss of fourteen lakhs and fifteen thousand under the new arrangement.

We are at a loss to understand how Sir Andrew Fraser has found his way to express his gratitude to the Government of India when Bengal has suffered a loss to the extent of fourteen lakhs and odd by the new system. It is quite possible that there is some mistake in our calculation. If so, we shall be extremely obliged to His Honour if he will be pleased to correct us. Nothing will give us greater pleasure than to learn that we are mistaken, and that the Government of India have really conferred a boon upon the Local Governments by introducing the new system.

We have not yet told all. The real situation is this. By offering an annual grant of fifty lakhs of Rupees, the Government of India have not only snatched away Rs. 64,15,000 from the Local Government, but deprived the latter of several progressive sources of revenue. Thus, while the Government of Bengal will have to remain content with a lump sum of fifty lakhs per annum, the Government of India will continue to enjoy the three-fourth and half shares of the increasing revenues from Stamps, the Assessed Taxes, Forest and so forth. In other words, while, year after year, the Imperial Exchequer from the improved administration of the Local Government will go on swelling, the latter will have to keep its body and soul together with its fifty lakhs per annum.

The chief merit claimed for the new Settlement is that, the Imperial Government will not come down upon the Local Governments, as before, after the end of every fifth year, to fleece them over again. This is, however, far from correct. For, the Finance Minister distinctly declares that, "the Government of India reserves to itself the power to revise the settlement of any or all Provinces at any time whenever necessity may demand it". Where is then the difference between the old and the new system? If the Imperial Government demanded more and more money, under the old system, at the end of fixed periods, they also did it on the score of Imperial necessity.

The only difference between the old and the new arrangements seems to be this. Under the former, the Government of India had to make one thousand apologies if they had to pump out the Local Governments before the five-year term of the contract had expired, as Sir James Westland did. Under the new, that is to say, indefinite form of settlement, the Imperial Government will have the privilege of adopting this course whenever it chooses to do, without making any such apology. The new system has, however, practically sucked the Local Governments dry; so, the Imperial Governments will get very little by squeezing them in future.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR BENGAL, 1904-5.

When Sir Alexander Mackenzie resigned the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, he left almost a bankrupt treasury to his successor, Sir John Woodburn. The Government of Bengal should have a cash balance of at least 20 lakhs of Rupees at the close of every year. That is the prescribed rule; but, at the beginning of the year 1899, when Sir John took the management of the Government in his hands, he found, to his consternation, that the balances had gone down to less than 10 lakhs.

The shears of retrenchment had thus to be vigorously applied to all necessary branches, and the local bodies were mercilessly pumped. Hence, education, justice, and subordinate services suffered; the District Board Funds were appropriated to illegitimate purposes more recklessly than before; and the Local Government had not the means to afford medical and sanitary aid to the people who died of cholera and malaria by lakhs and lakhs.

But if Sir John Woodburn began his rule with a cash balance of scarcely ten lakhs, he was fortunate enough to secure, at the end of three years, a sum of 42 lakhs more than his Government was required by the rules to maintain. And his Government, for the first time, acknowledged the wrong done to the District Boards. Mr. Baker was at that time the Financial Secretary to the Bengal Government and he thus pleaded the cause of these Boards:—

"It has long been felt that the resources of the Boards are not elastic enough to enable them to discharge their duties efficiently. And though it is not permitted to us, under the existing system of Provincial Finance, to permanently alienate any part of the Provincial Revenue, we shall do what we can, now that the funds are available."

And Mr. Baker, in his Financial Statement, set apart a sum of about five lakhs for improving the financial position of District Boards. This grant was continued in 1902, and repeated in the next two years. Besides, further help was given for the construction of feeder roads to railways. This was, however, only a very small restitution of the Boards' money which the Local Government has been appropriating for its own use since the imposition of the Road Cess in Bengal. Indeed, if the Road Cess Fund were not unjustly taken possession of by the Government but allowed to be applied to the purposes for which it was created, half the sufferings of the people of Bengal would have disappeared by this time.

Our first appeal, therefore, to our good Lieutenant-Governor,—in whose strong sense of justice we have every faith,—is that His Honour will be pleased to remove, as far as that is possible, the great wrong done to the District Boards and which, as stated above, was acknowledged by Mr. Baker. If the previous Government sanctioned five lakhs of Rupees for the assistance of the District Boards, we trust, His Honour will treat them with greater liberality as he begins his administration with a larger cash-balance than any of his predecessors did.

We are assured by no less an authority than the Viceroy himself, and it has been repeated by the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres, that the new Provincial Settlement constitutes a step towards greater financial autonomy. If so, His Honour, we submit, is in a better position than any previous Lieutenant-Governor to dispose of the Provincial Funds in his own way, and ought therefore to be able to restore a considerable amount of the money to the District Boards which the Local Government has systematically extracted from the Road Cess Fund for its own use.

Our next appeal to His Honour is to protect the District Boards from the unjust and illegal encroachments of the Local Government. If His Honour will take the trouble of studying the literature on the Road Cess, he will find how its proceeds, instead of being applied to purposes for which it was created, has been diverted to objects for which the Road Cess was not intended. In short, the Road Cess was imposed simply for the "palpable, direct, and immediate benefits" of the villagers by making local paths and digging tanks, wells, and water reservoirs for them; but, the Cess Fund is being very largely swallowed up by the maintenance of dispensaries, educational institutions, veterinary schools, provincial roads and other works which ought to be executed and maintained by the Provincial Exchequer.

We hope to show in subsequent issues how crores of Rupees has in this manner been appropriated by the Government of Bengal, and how the cess-payers have benefited very little by this taxation. Bengal would have been completely free from water difficulty and His Honour would have not been confronted with this problem if the Cess Fund was set apart to do its legitimate duty.

We are deeply grateful to Sir Andrew Fraser for the interest he has shown in the well-being of the Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors as well as for the ministerial establishments. He will carry the good wishes of the whole country with him by improving their status and prospects. We must say, however, that the sum of four lakhs when divided among tht hundreds of ministerial officers and apprentices, will afford very little relief to these ill-paid and hard-worked officers. The same remark applies to the case of the Deputy Collectors and Sub-Deputy Collectors for whom 2½ lakhs has been promised by the Government of India. We are sorry, another class of deserving officers has been altogether ignored, we mean, the members of the Subordinate Medical Service. Then again, something was no doubt done for the Munsiffs and Sub-Judges by the previous Government, yet, as each Munsiff fetches something like, Rs. 50,000 a year to the Provincial Exchequer, the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service have a special claim on the consideration of the Government. And then, will justice be done to the Indian Judges belonging to the Statutory Civil Service? We trust provisions for other hard-worked classes of subordinate officers will be made in due course.

EUROPEANS AND EURASIANS IN PRIVATE ESTATES.

Big Zemindars should never die, if for nothing else but to frustrate the efforts of the authorities to thrust European and Eurasian managers upon their estates. But since they can not help dying, the next best thing for them to do is to so provide that, on their death, the resources of their property may not be squandered away for the benefit of foreigners. A statement recently appeared in the "Sanjibanee," showing how the Court of Wards has succeeded in ostracising the natives of the soil almost wholesale from the management of estates under its control. One who looks into the statement is forced to cry shame. But let us proceed to see how matters actually stand.

There are at present 32 managers employed under the Court of Wards. Of these, except only one, all the posts carrying a salary of Rs. 5,000 per month and upwards are held by Europeans. Appointments with a salary of Rs. 400 or Rs. 500, and even Sub-Managerships of Rs. 200, are in the possession of Europeans or Eurasians. So it is clear that an attempt is being made to fill up all vacancies of some value under the Court of Wards by either Europeans or Eurasians. There are 9 appointments with a salary of Rs. 500 and upwards, only one of which has been given to a Bengalee, Babu Chandi Charan Chatterjee, the Manager of the estate of Raja S. M. Tagore; and that too, under certain disadvantageous conditions which have rendered the post less profitable to him than it should be.

Of all the Managers, that of the Bettiah estate gets the highest salary, namely, Rs. 1,800 per month. Of course he is a European, named Mr. J. R. Louis. He is, we believe, a relation of the late Officiating Lieutenant-Governor, Sir J. Bourdillon. The manager of the Hutwa estate is Mr. Ogilvi, who was formerly the Manager of Tikari. His pay is Rs. 1,250 rising to fifteen hundred, the increment being at the rate of Rs. 50 annually. Though his pay is a little less than that of the Manager of Bettiah, in one respect he earns more money than the latter. In addition to his pay he gets a monthly allowance of Rs. 250, or Rs. 3,000 per year.

Now, when the owners of these estates were living they managed their affairs very well through Indian managers at a far lower pay. Why should then Europeans be introduced now? And where are the natives of the soil to go if they are supplanted in this way by foreigners?

Mr. M. M. Halliday is the present manager of the Tikari estate with a pay of Rs. 700 rising to Rs. 1,000. Mr. A. C. Holt is in charge of the Kagra estate in the District of Purneah and his salary is Rs. 600 per mensem. While a young man, he was converted from an Assistant Indigo Manager into a Manager of the Narhan estate, Durbhanga. From there, he was transferred to Kagra; his post at Narhan being occupied by a Mr. T. W. Twide, formerly Manager of the Dhanwar estate, in the District of Hazaribagh. Mr. Twide used to get Rs. 300 at Dhanwar, but at Narhan he is drawing a pay of Rs. 500 per mensem. Though Mr. Twide got a promotion, no Bengalee was appointed to his former post of Rs. 300, but a European of the name of Mr. C. B. Clair-Smith was allowed to occupy it. This Mr. Clair Smith was formerly the owner of a cooly-depot, but is now the Manager of Panchkut drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 500.

May we inquire again where are the natives of the soil to go?

Quite recently the estate of Maharaja Govinda Lal Roy in Tajhat (Rangpur) came under the jurisdiction of the Court of Wards; and Babu Kalinarayan Roy and Mr. S. N. Dutt, both of whom are managers of distinction, applied for its managership. But their claims were set at naught and an old indigo-planter of Purnea, one Mr. Pope, was appointed to the post with a salary of Rs. 500 per mensem. It is not explicable how this Mr. Pope was considered to be abler than the Bengalee claimants whose merits and qualifications as managers are unquestionable. The only qualification of Mr. Pope seems to be that he acted as the manager of Kagra for a period of only six months during the absence of Mr. Rolt, and in this post too Mr. Pope was appointed superseding the claims of qualified Indians whose number is legion.

Let us ask for the third time—where are the natives of the soil to go?

Besides managers, there are two European Sub-managers in Bettiah of the name of Mr. R. P. Davis and Mr. N. F. C. Lawrie drawing a salary of Rs. 550 and Rs. 300 respectively. There is a European Sub-manager in Hutwa too, named Mr. C. C. Clair. Babu Srinath Chatterjee, Manager of Satkhiri (Khulna), is undoubtedly an accomplished man and is a graduate of the University. He gets a pay of Rs. 200 only, but inspite of his qualification he is not deemed fit to fill up even a Sub-managership with a higher pay!

The Government has declared its intention of not appointing any body to a managership under the Court of Wards unless he has some knowledge of agriculture. Mr. S. N. Dutt made a special study of agriculture while in England; the experimental farm at Burdwan was also in his charge for a long time, and on his return from England he acted for some years as the manager of a tea-plantation. Yet he, and others equally competent, are nowhere when competing with Europeans possessing qualifications of doubtful nature. It is a pity that such distinctions are made on the score of colour when giving away posts under the Court of Wards which have nothing to do with the Government of the country.

In Gaya a European named Mr. A. C. Wright is the Manager of Deo, drawing a salary of Rs. 350. So the names can be multiplied as much as we like.

Posts of managership under the Court of Wards, between the pay of Rs. 100 and Rs. 200 per month, are mostly filled up by the natives of the soil as no "White," poor or rich, or even no Eurasian, will accept them. As regards the posts with higher pay, there are only two carrying Rs. 400 per mensem and only four carrying Rs. 300 per mensem that are held by the Indians. The manner in which even other appointments than those belonging to the Government, are being made over to Europeans, leaves little doubt as regards the settled policy of the Government in this respect. In spite of these stubborn facts, Lord Curzon had the assurance to declare that the Indians are better off in the matter of employment under British rule than Europeans and Eurasians!

For the sake of ready reference, we publish again the following question put by the Hon'ble Rai Sriram at the last meeting of the Supreme Council:—

"Has the attention of Government been drawn to the following advertisement which has appeared in the newspapers of the United Provinces:—'Government Telegraph Department. An examination, open to Europeans and Eurasians only for admission into the Telegraph Training Class at Lucknow will shortly be held. Candidates, who must be between the ages of 18 and 20, should apply for all further particulars to the Assistant Superintendent of Telegraphs, Lucknow Subdivision, Telegraph Office, Lucknow.' (2) Will the Government be pleased to state the reason for confining this examination to the two classes of His Majesty's subjects named in the advertisement to the exclusion of others?"

In reply the Hon. A. Arundel said:—

"The Government have seen the advertisement in question and have ascertained that it was inserted by the local Telegraph Superintendent because recruits of the classes in question are specially required. The service for which they are wanted is that known as the General Service List of the Telegraph Department, which involves the liability of transfer to any part of the country. For this purpose Europeans and Eurasians are generally found to be more suitable than Natives. On the other hand, the latter hold the majority of posts in the Local Service, which does not involve liability of transfer. Candidates are procured from both classes, i. e., Europeans and Natives, according as they are required in either case."

When the proceedings of the Railway Conference at Delhi oozed out through the Indian press, it created such a scandal as to compel the Government of India to say something in vindication of its conduct. Lord Curzon, from his seat in the Supreme Council, pleaded total ignorance, though strange to say, some of the biggest officials had taken part in the proceedings. And though the Hon'ble Babu Sriram brought to the notice of the Government a concrete instance to show how they have lost all sense of decency in the distribution of even petty appointments, yet Lord Curzon had the assurance to proclaim to the world that the Indians are better off in the matter of Government appointments than the Europeans and Eurasians! The Hon'ble Sir A. Arundel sought to justify the action of the Telegraph Department by the assertion that the Indians are a very home-loving people! But do we not see Indians going to such distant places as Somaliland and South Africa to serve the Government? The fact is, the Hon'ble member gave this sort of reply because he had none to give in justification of the authorities.

It was in Fort St. David, which was at some distance in the south of India: the year was 1746. Commodore Watson and Captain Fireball were playing at cards; Clive sat watching. The luck appeared to settle steadily against Watson, who was seen lose once, twice, thrice, four times running. He was just about to put down his fifth stake when Clive sprang up and stayed his hand: he cried out "Foul play." There was commotion and of course a duel. Clive fired and missed. Flinging down his pistol he folded his arms on his breast and stood facing his adversary, motionless as a rock. Every one thought it was all over with Clive, for Fireball could hit a button at twenty paces.

Captain Fireball eyed the doomed man with grim satisfaction and raised his pistol to shoot. But he had not the heart and he gave Clive another chance. Said he: "Now, young man, idiot, take back that lie you told about me or I will shoot you."

"Shoot," said Clive unnerved. "I said you cheated and I say so still."

But Captain Fireball did not shoot and Clive lived. The question, therefore, is, if the Captain had shot Clive dead, where would British India be now, with its Official Secrets Act, the Universities Act, the partition of Bengal measure, and so forth? It was God's will that the English should be masters of India, and so Clive was not shot. It was, never, however, God's wish that India should be treated in any other way than with justice and generousity. For, God is the Father of all men, and is absolutely good and just.

Another moral is to be drawn from the above historical fact. Well, Clive was an honourable man; he could not bear to see one man cheating another at cards, and offered his life for his principle. Yet this Clive, the man of such chivalric honour, cheated Omichand when Imperialism demanded it! And hence Imperialism should be discarded by all honourable men.

How the Supreme Government will gain and the Bengal Government lose under the new Provincial Settlement will be quite evident from the following facts. Under the old arrangement the Bengal Government had three-fourths share in Stamps revenue, but it is reduced to one-half under the new. Let us see what it means. In 1902-03 the three-fourth Provincial share from this source of revenue was Rs. 1,46,25,000, and in 1903-04 it was Rs. 1,49,25,000, that is to say, there was a clear gain of three lakhs on the part of the Bengal Government. If the old system had continued, the three-fourth Provincial share would be Rs. 1,51,50,000, and the one-fourth Imperial share, Rs. 5,050,000, in 1904-05; for the gross Stamps revenue for the next year is estimated at Rs. 2,02,00,000. That is to say, the Bengal Government would have gained another two lakhs and twenty-five thousand rupees. But under the present arrangement, the shares being half and half, the Bengal Government gets only Rs. 1,01,00,000, and the Government of India the same amount in 1904-05. Which means that the former, instead of gaining anything, receives Rs. 50,50,000 less than what it got last year, while the latter gets Rs. 50,50,000 more than it did in 1903-04. So, the "reasonable liberality" of the Government of India, namely, the grant of fifty lakhs, which has extorted the gratitude of the Lieutenant-Governor, consists in this: The Imperial Government has deprived the Subordinate Government of a progressive source of revenue which would have given the latter not only more than fifty lakhs next year, but would have added annually to its income at the rate of two or three lakhs. And in return the Supreme Government has allotted only fifty lakhs to the Local Government, appropriating, at the same time, one-half share in the increase of the revenue. In other words, if the Supreme Government has shown "reasonable liberality," by granting a lump sum of fifty lakhs with one hand, it has taken away a larger amount with the others as well as a source of progressive revenue. The Supreme Government has in the same manner swelled its coffer by sacrificing the interests of the Provincial Government, in the matter of the Excise, the Assessed Taxes, and the Forest departments. So the Bengal Government has lost all along the line under the new Provincial Settlement; and it is inexplicable to us how Sir Andrew Fraser has been able to support it.

We certainly did not please Mr. Garrett by exposing the absurd scheme by which he wanted to rid Rajshahye of pigs. On the other hand, though we did him an undoubted service by giving publicity to his circular, we dare say, we thereby only offended him. That is the way Indian papers are treated. Without their help the alien rulers are in the position of men in a vast country, immersed in Cimerian darkness. Of course they have the constables and chowkidars, and also some title-hunting gentlemen, to supply them with information; but, as a matter of fact, it is the newspapers which keep them informed of all that goes on in the country. Yet, if the authorities, generally speaking, hate anything Indian, it is the press. We might have of course written to Mr. Garrett privately asking him to withdraw his circular; but, would he have paid any attention to our request? We do not know what he would have done; for, after the publication of the circular, we have been assured that, he is really sympathetic and mixes freely with the people, for which we are sincerely glad. But from our similar dealings with some other officials, not only did we expect no thanks from Mr. Garrett but only a curt reply. "It is no business of yours"—he might have written to us, as one District Officer actually did, if he had at all cared to reply to us. Now this policy of criticising public men and measures in private has been tried by us on many occasions. Sometimes it succeeds very well when the official addressed to is reasonable, and sometimes does not. Sometimes we have been sincerely thanked for having warned an official privately without exposing him in any way; and sometimes it has happened that we got a reply, as we did from a Magistrate of Burdwan, to the effect that he "did not care for our paper—it did not frighten him." It is very much in the hands of the Private Secretaries of the Governors to make their chiefs popular or unpopular. Lord Curzon has been very fortunate in his Private Secretaries.

This bloody affair beyond Tuna must have shocked humanity irrespective of creed and color. This is what the "Pioneer" observes about the incident:—

"Unkind foreign critics will probably be terming this a massacre; and though in the circumstances it will probably prove to have been inevitable, it must be admitted that, considering the character of the enemy, it does not seem to sort with Britain's usual humanity in warfare. At any rate more blood has been shed in this remote combat than has been lost on both sides by the two Great Powers in the East after nearly two months of war."

But supposing that some chastisement became necessary to teach the Thibetans a lesson, the question is, could not the result have been achieved without shedding so much blood. The "I. D. News" says, that was quite possible. We quote the following from that paper:—

"We are fully appreciative of the fact that the effect of modern rifle machine gunfire must always be extremely deadly at short range against bodies in close formation, and the heavy casualties necessary to stop a charge are unavoidable. The rush one stopped, however, and the enemy in retreat, the 'cease fire' might well have been sounded, and fur-

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ther slaughter stayed until such time as they stood again. Tuna was in no wise a similar situation to Omdurman when it would have been dangerous to allow the brave and determined enemy to for one moment imagine that the hitting power of the British force was weakening, but against a mob of such "troops" as met our small force in Tibet, the measures were, in our opinion, too severe."

It is not for us to make any remark upon these delicate matters. We are glad, the Anglo-Indian papers are commenting on them in the way they should.

It is said, the guarantee of peace is war. Says Captain Younghusband addressing the wounded Tibetans whom he saw on Sunday last: "You owe your present position to your own folly. We were always peaceful and wanted only to treat." That only a peaceful mission was sent to Tibet was proved conclusively by the fact that it was accompanied by a large military force, armed tiptoe with modern weapons. Every one in the world knows the peaceful character of the mission; only those who are most vitally interested, namely, the Tibetans, could never be persuaded to acknowledge it, and that is undoubtedly because they are perverse. As the British mission advanced into the heart of Tibet it proclaimed this all-important fact without however, being able to shake the unreasonable belief of the Tibetans in the sinister motives of their invaders. The latter did not fire a single shot; they were willing to embrace the Tibetans, in the excess of their neighbourly love, if necessary; but they, instead of appreciating the peaceful intentions of the mission and welcoming its members, actually opposed them. The mission had thus no option left to it but to convince the wrong-headed Tibetans of its peaceful character by a fight. The Tibetans being undisciplined hordes and armed mainly with swords, suffered severely. As the "Pioneer" says, more blood has been shed in this combat than has been lost on both sides by the two great Powers in the East after two months' war.

There was no help for it; for, the most effective way of convincing the Tibetans of the peaceful nature of the mission was to try upon them the effect of modern rifle machine gunnie. The "Morning Post' declares that, "we must proceed with fixed bayonets till we have convinced the Tibetans that we do not mean war but peace." Yes, that is the way, and also we must mow down all Tibetans who oppose the advance of the mission. The English papers are naturally indignant, that the Tibetans should throw obstacles in the way of the mission when it means only peace. It was indeed very bad of the Tibetans to tire the patience of the mission and then to compel it to resort to arms to show them what it is to oppose a peaceful British mission. By the bye, the cost of this undertaking was fastened upon India on the ground that it was only a peaceful mission. But now that it has been converted into an invading expedition, will the cost yet be charged to India? British ministers know very well that it is the easiest thing in the world to inveigle their country into a war. When this expedition was organized, many Englishmen objected to it; but now that blood has been shed, they have to view the situation from a different standpoint. Those who said in the beginning that the British mission to Tibet was unjust would now have to say that the war must be carried with vigour till British arms have triumphed. The only concern of the Indians in this matter is the cost. We hope, India will be relieved of the cost of this business, for, there is now no room for doubt about its military character, and no body will have the hardihood to deny that Tibet is not in India but beyond its frontiers.

We are extremely grieved to find that Sir Andrew Fraser should begin his administration by introducing a Bill like the Local Self-Government Ammendment Bill. It is not only a measure for new taxation, but some of its provisions are revolutionary in their character. Indeed like the Partition question this Bill is sure to create intense excitement in the Province. Not only are District Boards proposed to be entrusted with the power of levying rates and tolls, but under sections 46 A. and 46 B. of the Bill, they will be empowered "to impose a rate on the annual value of lands as defined in section 4 of the Cess Act, 1880." This is a tax on land and a clear breach of the terms of the Permanent Settlement. A proposal to the same effect was brought before the Police Commission in order to increase the pay of the Chowkidars, but it was dropped. It is a wonder that a Bill containing such monstrous proposals was thrust upon the public without giving them the least intimation of it. Nay, even the non-official members of the Council came to know of its existence, not "before" but "after" its introduction into the Council. Hence none of them had an opportunity of entering protested against its principle when it was brought forward. We trust, some of them will do it now that they have come to realize the character of the measure. Another object of the Bill is to throw further duties upon the District Boards and then to empower them by a simple notification in the "Gazette" to tax the people and meet their cost. We sincerely trust, a good ruler like Sir Andrew Fraser will refuse to associate his name with such a measure.

In December last Mr. M. Young, Acting Collector of Madura, in a letter to the Commissioner of Revenue Settlement and Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, submitted a statement showing the extent and Survey numbers of the saline lands proposed to be experimented upon and the names of some intelligent ryots who were willing to conduct the experiments proposed for their reclamation, and asked the Board to accord sanction for remitting the full assessment on these lands for three years subject to report at the end of each "fasli" as to the continuance of the experiments. The Collector's recommendation has been sanctioned. Before commencing any experiment the soils are to be examind chemically and the best method of reclamation to be applied in each case determined by the Deputy Director of Agriculture. The remission of the assessment will commence from the year in which the experiments begin.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

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[From Our Own Correspondent

London, Mar. 18.

LORD CURZON AS THE ARCH-DESTROYER OF INDIAN CHARACTER AND INDIAN PROGRESS.

I do not, of course, know how India is taking the latest Curzonian ukase. Telepathic communication is as yet unknown, while the news from India which concerns the Indian people and their view is just the news which is hardly ever telegraphed by newspaper Correspondents. To the time of this writing no expression of Indian opinion has reached this country with regard to the most momentous act of any Governor-General since the spacious days of Warren Hastings. It cannot be possible that the significance of Lord Curzon's cruel edict concerning Indian aspirations has not been observed in India, although in this country no journal has yet appreciated that significance in all its fulness, or, indeed, moderately. There are however people who immediately saw what was implied in the revolutionary resolution which Lord Curzon has issued. I will mention one example. In the literary salon of a Paris hotel last Saturday evening, an hour after the London morning papers had been delivered, two Englishmen, who were personal friends and associated in a business enterprise, were looking through their country's journals. Both had lived in the East for a considerable period. One of them was a fervid Anglo-Indian whose main idea concerning the people of India is that they were created by Almighty God to do just what they were told by their English rulers, and on no account to be treated as though they possessed inherent ability or qualities of statesmanship. The other was your London Correspondent: his views on this subject require no setting forth here. This colloquy took place:

Tory Anglo-Indian: I say,—, have you seen this telegram from Lord Curzon about the natives?

Liberal pro-Indian: You refer, I suppose, to Reuter's telegram from Calcutta about education?

Tory: Yes. That will put a stopper on the ambitions of your friends and will also put the Babu, the Mahratta, and the Tamil in their proper places.

Liberal: And that "proper place" is—?

Tory: To do just what we tell them. We must employ those natives who will best serve England's purpose.

Liberal: You seem to rejoice at the result?

Tory: Certainly, I do. If successful native examinees are to continue to have it all their own way, the time will come when it will be all over with England in India.

Liberal: That may or may not be. I do not think that the result of a fair and honest dealing with the Indian people would have the effect you imagine. But, consider what this revolution of Lord Curzon's means. It will prove to be the most horrible curse that could fall upon a country and its people anywhere. Entrance into the public service of his own country is, for the native of India, to be at the caprice of an omnipotent foreigner. The worst qualities of human nature will, necessarily, come to the front. The man who cringes most to the Anglo-Indian civilian, the man whose daily chorus in regard to everything will be

"AS MASTER PLEASES,"

will be the kind of man who will fill the offices, while the honest, straightforward individual, who wants to do right for right's sake, who desires to make his own people all-important in their own lands so far as that is compatible with maintaining friendship with England—that kind of man will be crushed out of existence.

Tory: No doubt you are right as to the sycophancy and cringing that will be engendered by this policy. But, remember how much of that sort of thing we see now everywhere. Besides, I do not believe in the existence of such natives as you talk of who would be loyal to England.

Liberal: Then you take the view of the average American citizen who, of the Red Men of his country, says: "The only good Indian is a dead Indian"?

Tory: No, I do not go as far as that. But I do not believe that natives can be entrusted with power and yet remain loyal to England. They'd want to drive us out of India.

Liberal: As administrative matters in India stand at present there is nothing, or next to nothing, to make an educated Indian gentleman profusely loyal to their continuance. It is, however, conceivable that British interests in India might be rightly conserved while, at the same time, India might become, as the United States ex-Secretary of State for War recently stated the Philippines would shortly become, "practically independent."

Tory: I do not know anything about that, but I am quite sure that Lord Curzon knows what he is doing, and what he does we may accept. Besides, all my military friends tell me that examinations are the ruin of the British army, and they would do away with them in England if they could.

Liberal: Yes, I daresay they would; but they can't. Examinations are not wholly ideal for the production of candidates, but they are better than selection by favouritism. In England the examination idea will be more fully adopted, not less. If examinations are to be abolished, why don't you, who so dislike the system, begin in England where the advocates of the system could defend it, and not make your start in India where you can put a black mark in ineffaceable ink against every Indian who presumes to question the absolute omniscience of any and every English official simply because that official is English?

No answer was vouchsafed to the question, and the conversation drifted into wholly English channels, and need not be recorded here.

Dropping the "role" of reporter, let me, in my more regular aspect of Correspondent, remark further upon the abominable and retrograde proposals of Lord Curzon. The telegram evoked little comment in the London press; so far as I have seen, only three papers had any allusion to it on Saturday. This is a measure of real Imperialism and statesmanship which characterises London journalists. At times it seems as if no one, professing to be acquainted with the trend of events and the outcome of political action, could be quite so blind as nearly all our metropolitan newspaper Editors and writers prove themselves to be. Here is a policy announced for India, announced in the ukase of an Autocrat-Viceroy—a policy which, in a phrase, overthrows a system of education advocated in Calcutta by Macaulay nearly seventy years ago, afterwards most carefully considered, and which, in 1852, was moulded into shape in the famous despatch of Sir Charles Wood, which is the Magna Charta of Indian education—and little notice is taken of it. The scope of the newly-announced policy is far-reaching. It completely destroys, for India, the practice which prevails in every other part of the British Empire, and in nearly all civilised countries, namely, that capacity and merit shall be determining factors in appointment to public service. Once more India is treated as a "corpus vile" in the dissecting room of a hospital. Vivisection of the living integuments of the Indian body politic, without the use of anaesthetics and with complete contempt for the suffering of the victim:—that is British Rule in India in the Twentieth Century writ large by the Persistent Person whose period of office has been extended, as though five years of retrograde and mischievous administration were not punishment enough for the unhappy people of India for having had Lord Curzon as their supreme ruler. Well, trouble must come out of this ukase if it be really persisted in. And, the sooner this trouble begins, the better for everyone. At present the aggravation can be but small compared with the rising waters of disaffection which, eventually, must cause grave inconvenience to a stable administration. I, for one, hope that so strong an expression of public opinion in India will be immediately forthcoming will, indeed, have taken place before these lines are printed in Calcutta—that even Lord Curzon will be compelled to bow before the storm and alter [illegible] course.

The acceptance by the I[illegible] people of the Curzonian principles will be with their acquiescence if not concurrence, the rivetting upon themselves and upon their descendants chains which may never be broken by peaceful and constitutional means, but only burst assunder by revolutionary methods. Merit henceforth is to give place to favouritism. ". . . . competitive examinations for the public services," says the Reuter draft of the Government Resolution which is published here, "will be replaced by the selection of candidates on probation." That is to say, in Bombay, so strange a product of British officialism as Mr. Clements, late special Additional Magistrate at Poona, will become the supreme arbiter as to whom among the Mahrattas desirous of entering the public service shall be selected. Thus sated, is it possible to conceive of any policy towards the people of India more disagreeable and unfair to them or more disastrous in its consequences? No effort can be too strenuous in striving to prevent the adoption of this policy. The Indian who can utter a word of protest against, and can hinder, in any way however humble, the practical adoption of this retrograde policy, and refrains from protesting and working to this end, will be an enemy to his contemporaries and a traitor to the future generations of his race whose misfortune it will be to come into the world as British subjects in India.

I am writing away from London, some days before the mail closes, and can only refer to such newspaper comments on the akase as have reached me. If there be any further remarks on the subject or other developments, they will on Friday be included in this Letter. On Saturday, the "Daily Telegraph" among morning journals, and the "Westminister Gazette" and "Pall Mall Gazette" among evening papers alone paid any attention to this momentous and widely important telegram. No one, I think, but Sir Edwin Arnold, K.C.S.I., who, in dim and distant ages of the past, was Professor for a few years at a College at Poona, could have writen the "Telegraph" article. It is the very quintessence of that Anglo-Indianism which he displays more fully and picturesquely than any other writer on Indian topics. Sir Edwin Arnold, if he be the writer, quite takes for granted that what has been done has been rightly done. The voice of Authority has spoken, and has spoken with certitude and mind-compelling force. Nothing remains but implicit and unquestioning obedience. That Lord Curzon may have been mistaken in his decision is not conceivable. Indeed, the astounding statement is made that by what he has done he has promoted "one of the most searching moral reforms that British rule in India has attempted." Words were never used to a more mistaken purpose since Sanskrit was a spoken language—if it ever were. "Moral reform" indeed! Exactly the opposite to moral gain, as I have shown above, must be the consequences of what has been done. Lord Curzon, by his action, makes a high standard of character in Indian office-seekers impossible. Even among race-equals, as in the case of English boys in English offices on probation, sycophancy and its kindred vices would necessarily follow from the adoption of such a policy in this country. What, then, must be the case in India where the English civilian regards himself as a Deity whose every word must be accepted unquestioningly, whose every act is inspired by wisdom, and who regards an independent expression of India's opinion as little short of blasphemy? Of all the cruel things which Lord Curzon has done to the Indian people, and, in many respects he has (unwittingly, perhaps) acted very cruelly towards them, this is the most cruel. It touches them in the vital features of their inner and outer lives. Lord Curzon believes the machine of administration will work more easily if his ideas are carried out. Assume that he is right, and that this object will be achieved. The machine works more easily. But how about the manhood, the character, of those who drive the machine? The white men will become more and more arrogant; the majority of the people of the country who desire office will sink into sycophancy, and their example will spread; while those whose honesty of purpose and whose patriotism compel them to resist what they consider wrong, will become marked men, will be persecuted even as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahratta Brahmin, man of learning and patriot, and India will be an impossible country for sincere, earnest, honest, high-charactered Indian officials. To have brought about this is indeed an achievement. But can Lord Curzon be proud of such an achievement?

A VAIN HOPE CONCERNING LORD CURZON.

At last the "Daily Chronicle" has made some comments upon the Official Secrets Bill, in a short article entitled "Gagging the Press." Your contemporary thinks so badly of the measure as to express the hope that "Lord Curzon will repeal this piece of reactionary legislation before his term of office ends." Mr. Robert Donald, the new Editor of the "Daily Chronicle," cannot know much concerning Lord Curzon's character if he really indulges in so futile a hope. Lord Curzon undoing in his last days in India what he accomplished in the heyday of his power! The fact is inconceivable. The "Chronicle's" remarks are but raw. They are, however, in the right vein, and will be welcomed by readers of the "Patrika" as the view of a powerful organ of public opinion in England. "The Official Secrets Bill," it says, "which has just been passed in India, is one of the few attempts made by a British Administration in recent years to introduce protection in news, and to curb the freedom of the Press; and for that reason it deserves more attention in this country than it has yet received. The purpose of the Bill is to prevent the publication of military secrets that might be of use to our enemies, or of civil secrets that might do harm to the Government, or be used for financial purposes. The Indian Press claims that the ordinary law is already strong enough to deal with any criminal cases of this kind, and that it is invidious to make journalists the object of special legislation." Your contemporary proceeds to remark: "Secrets leak out even in the House of Commons, and no one proposes to imprison the Editors who publish them. We must confess that in this instance Lord Curzon seems to have acted with less than his usual wisdom. Public opinion is already a frail and sickly plant in India, and the special vice of the country is stagnation. When Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener leave India, the performance of their work will rest on that public opinion which the Viceroy himself is weakening. We hope that wiser counsels will prevail and that Lord Curzon will repeal this reactionary piece of legislation before his term of office ends." Vain hope!

I may mention here that the current "Saturday Review" comments on the Bill with some force, and characterises it as an "unhappy measure" to which the non-official members of the Council still dissent. Stating that the Bill when launched excited so strong an outburst of feeling that the European and vernacular press were united in protest, the "Saturday Review" remarks that Lord Curzon, on his return from the Persian Gulf, found it necessary to disavow the authorship of the Bill, "and, with a meekness which can hardly be called characteristic," promised amendment. This promise, says your contemporary, has not been fulfilled, and adds: "The Act has been an unfortunate piece of drafting and we may expect to hear more about it."

SCRAP.

Rumour in East Africa has it that Sir Arthur Hardinge will probably succeed Lord Curzon as Viceroy. Sir Arthur and Lady Hardinge's many friends could wish them nothing better. After all there is a strong tie between East Africa and India, for did not India help them to build their railway, and for them to know that a personal friend was at the head of affairs in India would give them greater assurance of help and friendship in the future.

It is a great and glorious thing to be thoroughly up-to-date. This is proved by one of the most Americanised of the dozen or so London papers with the largest circulation in the world, in an article on the increase of the cocaine habit in India. In that instructive article it says that the drug is taken with "pan supari, which is a kind of Native chewing gum."! This information is nearly as valuable as that concerning "the wild tribe of the Hughs" given last year by another London journal.

Much has been said and written, in Parliament and blue-books, about the non-military character of the Tibet mission. The "Times" published the following wire from its correspondent with the Mission:—"Much of the inconvenience and many of the difficulties, vacilations, and delays suffered by the Expedition are due to its anomalous, semi-political, semi-military character, and to the fact that a multiplicity of authorities expect to be consulted before a consistent policy, or even a single step, is adopted." Unfortunately the Tibetans could not appreciate the "friendly and non-military" character of the Mission and offered opposition to its progress. But after the bloody affair of Thursday last, the Tibetans must have been convinced of the true character of the Mission, and that the so-called difficulty complained of by the "Times" correspondent, is a mere myth.

From the Madras Financial statement for 1904-05, introduced the other day in the local Legislative Council, we learn that the year 1903-04 opened with a balance of Rs. 42.71 lakhs, that the receipts, which were originally placed at Rs. 352.80 lakhs, are expected to be better by Rs. 71.35 lakhs, while it is anticipated that the expenditure, which stood in the Budget at Rs. 374.30 lakhs, will show a saving of Rs. 4.31 lakhs. The increase in the receipts is due to a contribution of Rs. 10.25 lakhs from Imperial funds at the beginning of the year for expenditure on minor irrigation works, of Rs. 30 lakhs with the object of starting the local Government in the new Settlement with a substantial balance, and of Rs. 3 lakhs granted with the object of enabling the Government to carry out certain useful minor works. The difference in expenditure is actually Rs. 14.56 lakhs, owing to the inclusion of the grant of Rs. 10.25 lakhs for minor irrigation works, and is accounted for by lapses under Land Revenue, Salt, Medical, Scientific and other Minor Departments, Civil Works, Minor Works and Navigation. The Budget Estimate for 1904-05 shows an opening balance of Rs. 96.87 lakhs, while receipts are estimaetd at Rs. 363-65 lakhs and charges at Rs. 380,17 lakhs.

Calcutta Gazette, April 6.

Mr. E. F. Growse, Officiating Additional Commissioner, Patna Division, is appointed to act as Commissioner of the Orissa Division, and Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, Orissa, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. Krishna Govinda Gupta.

Moulvi Mohamad Aghar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tippera, is transferred temporariliy to Balasore.

Babu Bhupendra Nath Mookerji, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Barasat, 24-Parganas, under orders of transfer to Balasore, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Ranaghat subdivision of the Nadia district.,

Mr. A. W. Barnicott, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Monghyr, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Palamau district.

The services of Mr. A. E. Staley, District and Sessions Judge, Muzaffarpur, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Babu Ganendra Chandra Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the Brahmanbaria subdivision of the Tippera district.

Mr. P. A. Sandilands, District Superintendent of Police, Manbhum, is deputed temporarily, on special duty, to Burdwan in connection with His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General's visit to that district.

Mr. A. W. Cook, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Rajmahal, Southal Parganas, is appointed to act temporarily as Deputy Commissioner of that District.

Maulvi Subhan Ali Khan, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gaya, is transferred to Dinajpur.

Mr. W. Egerton, Magistrate and Collector, Balasore, is allowed an extension of leave for one day.

Babu Manmatho Nath Mukherjea, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Brahmanbaria, Tippera, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. J. A. L. Swan, Subdivisional Magistrate, Gopalganj, is appointed, to act as a Justice of the Peace within the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor's control.

Babu Sarado Prasad Dutta, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Bankura, to be ordinarily sationed at Vishnupur, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Upendra Chandra Mukerjee.

Babu Durga Das Chuckerbutty, Munsif, Serampore, Hooghly, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Birbhum, to be ordinarily stationed at Rampur Hat.

Babu Onil Chandra Dutt, Munsif, Rampur Hat, Birbhum, is appointed to be a Munsil in the district of Hooghly to be ordinarily stationed at Serampore.

Mr. Iradutullah, Munsif of Tangail, in the district of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for nine days.

Babu Bepin Behari Das Gupta, Munsif of Dacca under orders of transfer to Kishoreganj, in the district of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Debendra Nath Banerjee, Munsif of Motihari, in the district of Saran, is allowed an extension of leave for one month, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. A. S. Ziaur Rahman additional munsiff in the District of Tirhoot on deputation to Darbhanga, is allowed leave for three months, under article 336 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Banamali Sen, Munsif of Bhola, in the district of Backergunge, is allowed leave for seventy-one days, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Mr. Abdul Jubbar, Munsif of Kishanganj, in the district of Purnea, is allowed an extension of leave for two days under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Upendra Chandra Mukerjee, Munsif of Vishnupur, in the district of Bankura, is allowed leave for two months, under article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations.

The following officers are vested with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure:—Mr. Samuel Chandra, Deputy Magistrate, Shahabad, Babu Atal Behari Bose, Deputy Magistrate of Vishnupur, Bankura, and Mr. J. A. L. Swan, Subdivisional Magistrate of Gopalganj.

Babu Ganendra Chandra Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate, who has, been posted posted to the Brahmanbaria subdivision of the Tippera district, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Babu Satis Chandra Mitra, Munsif, Vishnupur, Bankura, is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 100, and with the functions of a District Court, within the local limits of the Vishnupur Munsiff.

Military Assistant Surgeon W. D. Neal, Apothecary, Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, is appointed, to be Resident Medical Officer, Eden Sanitarium and Hospital, Darjeeling.

Military Assistant Surgeon T. H. Bonnar, Officiating Assistant Apothecary, Medical College Hospital, is appointed, to act as Apothecary of that institution.

Military Assistant Surgeon F. K. Holmes, attached to the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, is appointed, to act as Assistant Apothecary, Medical College Hospital.

Military Assistant Surgeon W. J. P. Martin is appointed, to act as Apothecary, Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta.

Captain J. W. F. Rait, I.M.S., is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Saran.

Captain W. V. Coppinger, I.M.S., is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Jessore.

Major B. C. Oldham, I.M.S., is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Chittagong.

Captain J. W. F. Rait, I.M.S., acted as Civil Surgeon of Darbhanga from the afternoon of the 12th to the forenoon of the 18th March 1904.

Captain T. H. Delany, I.M.S., Officiating Civil Surgeon of Jessore, is appointed, to act as Civil Surgeon of Darbhanga.,

Babu Sarat Chunder Chatterjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is appointed temporarily to be Khas Tahsildar, Sadar Khas Mahal, Chittagong, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Ramesh Chandra Sinha,

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Calcutta and Mofussil.

The New Dacca College.—Government has gran Rs. 220,000 for the new Dacca Colle

Ch. Judge of Mysore.—Mr. A Stally, C. S., nofficiating in the Calcutta High Court, has b selected for the post of Chief Judge of Mye.

Corpation of Calcutta.—The appointment Mr. C. G. H. Allen as officiating Chairm of the Corporation of Calcutta during absence on leave of the Hon'ble Mr. R. Greer, is gazetted.

Mr. Gr.—The Chairman of the Calcutta Corporati has announced his intention of making astudy of London administration during his sit to England with a view to the improveme of municipal management in this city.

Calcutta ustoms.—Mr. B. Foley, Magistrate and Duty Collector, on leave, is appointed to a as Collector of Customs durin the absence f Mr. D. J. Macpherson. Mr. L. F. Morshd, Officiating Collector of Customs, Calcua, is allowed leave for eight months.

Subordinat Civil Service.—Babu Sarat Chatterjee, Sb-Deputy Collector, Chittagong, is appointed emporarily to be Khas Tahsildar, Sadar, has Mahal, Chittagong. Babu Uma CharanRoy Chowdhury, Sub-Deputy Collector, on lve, is posted to the Presidency Division.

A Freak of Nature.—A correspondent says that on Sund last a chicken with three legs and two eads dropped out from one of the eggs that were being hatched by a fowl of one of the oolies of the Rowmari garden. The coolie thixing it to be a bad omen killed the chicken which the garden Dr., Babu Janokinath Sal took away and preserved in spirits.—"Tims of Assam."

Opium Deprtment.—Mr. James E. Hand, Sub-Deputy Oium Agent, Fatehgurh, is granted privilege lave for three months. Mr. P P. Donlea, Asistant Opium Agent, attached to the Bihar Agency, is granted privilege leave for two months and twenty-six days. Babu Jagadis Chandra Ray, Assistant Opium Agent, attached to the Bihar Agency, is granted privilege leave for two months and a half.

Weather and Crops in Bengal.—Light showers are reported from parts of Darjeeling and Angul Rain is needed in Rajshahi, Pubna, and Mymensingh. Prospects generally good. Harvesting of rabi crops nearly finished and threshing has commenced. Planting of sugarcane going one. Ploughing and sowing in progress. Cattle-disease reported from seven districts. Fodder and water generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in five districts, has fallen in four, and is stationary in the remainder.

Plague Figures.—The plague returns for the week ending the 26th March show 39,975 deaths as compared with 40,527 in the week preceding. The principal figures are:—The Punjab, 12,594 against 1,174; the United Provinces, 8,786 against 9,427; Bombay districts, 7,176 against 7,687; Bengal, 4,109 against 4,797; Central Provinces 2,230 against 2,804; Central India, 1,605 against 1,640; Kashmir, 540 against 526; Bombay City, 931 against 849; and Calcutta, 471 against 295. Baluchistan reports eight deaths.

Plague in Behar.—Plague is raging as furiously as ever. The localities that were first affected continue to report high mortality, while new quarters which were hitherto safe are showing signs of activity in this direction. What we wonder is that though heat of the season is growing and population of the town is thinning day by day plague figures instead of going down are steadily mounting up. We regret to observe that amongst the latest victims to the epidemic is the late Babu Hari Charan Ray, a clerk in the local Commissioner's office and an old Bengali resident of Subjibagh. It will be remembered that during last year's epidemic, he lost his wife and two sons.—"Behar Herald."

Sub-Overseership Examination.—The following are the Results of the Final Examination of the third year Sub-Overseer Class of the Dacca Survey School for the year 1904:—Bhupendra Nath Roy, Sarat Kumar Sen Gupta, Satish Chandra Banerjee, Herambo Mohan Ganguli, Annada Charan Roy, Gopal Chandra Banerjee, Sitangshu Prokash Roy, Ramoni Mohan Chatterjee, Ramoni Kanta Chakravarty, Promoda Kumar Bose, Nirode Chandra Bardhan, Kali Mohan Sen Gupta, Suresh Chandra Chakravarty, Labanya Maya Singha, Protul Chandra Sarker Jitendra Nath Neogi, Satish Chandra Chatterjee, Jotindra Nath Das Gupta, Hafezar Rahman, Madhu Sudan Sen Gupta.

Weather and Crops in Assam.—The following report on the state of the season and prospects of the crops for the week ending the 29th March, 1904, is published in the "Assam Gazette" General Remarks:—Slight rain in Surma Balley, Upper Assam, and Naga Hills. Rain wanted in Kamrup and Manipur. Ploughing for rice and jute, sowing of early rice, and plucking of tea iini progress Sugarcane pressing and gathering of mustard nearly finished. Outturn of Sugarcane fair. Cattle disease prevalent in two districts. Fodder insufficient in parts of Sylhet and in hills, Water insufficient in hills Prices of commonrice—Silchar and Sylhet 18, Tezpur 17, Dhubri and Nowgong 16, Gauhati 15, Sibsagar 14 and Dibrugarh 12 seers per rupee.

Hon. Sir E. Law's Mistake.—With reference to the passage in Mr. Gokhale's Budget speech dealing with the exchange value of the rupee and the price of commodities, Sir Edward Law on March 31st sent the following note to Mr. Gokhale:—"I have to thank you for calling my attention to a mistake in my yesterday's speech which I very greatly regret. I clearly misquoted you in giving as expressing your opinion, the words you repeated from a speech of Lord George Hamilton's namely—In fact the prices of commodities of general consumption have risen rather than fallen. The criticism which I ventured to pass on your general argument in connection with the quotation falls to the ground and I will strike it out in revising my speech. You can send this letter to the Press if you think it advisable."

A Promising Nimrod.—A vernacular contemporary extolls the merits of Raja Ashutosh Nath Roy of Cossimbazar very highly and adds that his knack as a good Shikar is as keen as it should be. The other day "Khubber" was brought to him by some people that a tiger had been prowling near about a village close by. The Raja Bahadur at once started with his retinue and did not return home until he bagged the beast. It measured seven feet and a half in length including its tal. Raja Ashutosh Nath deserves the thanks of the local public.

Survey Examination.—The following is the list of candidates who passed the Survey Examination for pleaders held in February 1904. 2. Sisir Kumar Ghosal, 4. Trailokyanath Mukhopadhyaya, 5. Sures Chandra Sen, 8. Brojendra Kumar Chattapadhyaya, 12. Mukunda Sundar Sarkar, 16. Bhupendra Nath Mukerjee, 17. Hiranya Mohan Dass, 24. Mohendra Nath Mukhoti, 26. Kisori Mohan Basu, 47. Jadu Nath Majumdar, 51. Jogendra Nath Mitra, 52. Sarat Chandra Mukhopadhyaya 1, 53. Charu Chandra Majumdar, 55. Chuni Lal Mukerjee, 62. Jogendra Nath Chatterjee, 72. Hem Chandra Basu, 98. Akshoya Kumar Chatterjee, 134. Khagendra Nath Dutta, 139. Satis Chandra Ghose (Senior), 144. Amar Nath Chatterjee, 145. Satis Chandra Ghose (Junior), 147. Dwijendra Mohan Mukherjee, 149. Hemanta Kumar Chatterjee, 150. Rajendra Prosad Ray, 151. Profulla Krishna Ghose, 153. Narendra Nath Mitra, 156. Sati Nath Ray, 160. Promotha Nath Bhattacharjee, 166. Behari Lal Bhattacharjee, 14. Amulya Gopal Roy, 15 Dhanushdhari Prosad Singha, 22. Madhava Sinha, 147. Brojendra Nath Baksi, 11. Jevon Krishna Chakravarty, 29. Ramesh Chandra Bose, 30. Dinabandhu Saha, 34. Ashutosh Bandhopadhayaya, 35. Sachindra Kumar Roy, 36. Birendra Kumar Datta, 37. Bhupesh Chandra Datta, 38. Dinesh Ch. Chatterjee, 39. Kamini Kumar Datta, 45. Nisi Kanta Guha, 49. Madhu Sudan Roy, 63. Priya Nath Gupta, 80. Profulla Chandra Guha, 82. Promotho Nath Basu, 83. Upendra Nath Banerjee, 85. Sri Nath Das, 86. Jnanendra Nath Das Gupta, 87. Nagendra Nath Sen, 88. Surendra Nath Sen, 89. Bankim Behari Guha, 93. Abani Nath Sen Gupta, 104. Mohesh Chandra Chakravarty, 106. Siris Chandra Chakravarty, 108. Sarat Chandra Bhattacharjee, 109. Bidhu Charan Batabayal, 110. Gagan Chandra Chakravarty, 114. Rebati Mohan Goswami, 115. Debendra Chandra Biswas, 118. Sukumar Chandra Guha, 119. Ananda Chandra Nandy, 125. Nagendra Kumar Bose, 126. Monindra Kumar Ghose, 129. Srish Chandra Roy, 130. Jatindra Kumar Basu, 131. Kunja Behari Roy, 167. Nisi Kanta Chakravarty, 168. Bagala Prosanna Chakravarty, 170. Promotha Nath Sen Gupta, 9. Mukunda Lal Goswami, 18. Sarat Chandra Chakravarty, 19. Sachindra Kumar Sen 20. Akhiram Bhanj, 21. Bibhuti-Bhusan Mukhopadhaya, 32. Promotha Nath Bhattacharjee, 70. Upendra Nath Ghose, 75. Jatindra Nath Ghose, 148. Surendra Nath Basu, 154. Atul Krishna Roy, 161. Surendra Mohan Guha, 173. Jnanendra Nath Ghose, 135. Nibaran Chandra Bhattacharjee.

News of the Day.

From November next the Government Gardens at Saharunpur are to be placed under the charge of an Economic Botanist.

A proposal is under consideration to abolish the Licentiate in Law Examination of the Punjab University and toreduce the L.L.B. course to two years.

The deportation of Mr. Cowen, the editor of "The China Times," from Tientsin, has caused much excitement in the settlement. Mr. Cowen is well known throughout the Far East, and his summar yexpulsion has been indignantly received in many quarters.

It is notified that plague is prevalent at Jawalapur, one of the towns comprising the Hardwar Union Municipality in the Saharanpur district, and intending visitors to the Dikhauti Fair this month are warned of the danger which they will incur by attending the fair.

It is understood that the following officers of Lord Curzon's personal staff will remain on the staff of Lord Ampthill during the latter's Viceroyalty:—Mr. J. O. Miller, Private Secretary; Major Poynter and Captain Mortimer, A.-D. C.'s. On Lord Curzon leaving for England, Major Bird, I.M.S., Surgeon to the Viceroy, will revert to Bengal, and will probably join the Medical College as Officiating Professor of Surgery.

While the baggage of the passengers who arrived at Karachi by the steamer Katoria from the Persian Gulf on Wednesday was being examined by Mr. T. O'Reilly, Customs Preventive Officer, he discovered a revolver concealed in a bag of fresh dates and also a box of ammunition wrapped up in cloth and sewn on at the bottom of a bag containing prayer beads. The trick was, no doubt, clever, but it did not escape the keen eye of the Customs Officer who had the man ,a passenger from Kerbela, taken into custody, and the case has been sent up to the City Magistrate for trial.

A box containing Rs. 70 in stamps and money has been reported to be missing from the Government Sub-Post Office, Sowcarpet, Madras. It would appear that the box was left in the main hall of the building, and as all but the signaller went home he was in charge of the premises. At midnight the signaller locked up the rooms as usual and giving the key to one of the postal messengers on duty, went home. The theft had evidently been committed between the time the signaller went away and the early hours of the morning, and we understand that the Police of the C-2 Division are enquiring into the matter.

With regard to the Nursing Institute in Madras, we are requested to state that as Lady Ampthill had already received from numerous subscribers sums which aggregated more than Her Excellency had asked for, she did not feel justified in accepting the whole of the Zemindar of Kappillawarapuram's munificent donation, and accordingly returned Rs. 6,000 keeping only Rs. 1,000, a sum equal to the largest individual subscription received. The Maharani Kumarika of Vizianagram had previously offered to contribute the whole amount, but Her Excellency would not accept the generous offer as, although the nurses will be available for Indian ladies, their services are likely to be availed of principally by Europeans, and Her Excellency thought therefore that the bulk of the subscriptions should come from the latter.—"Hindu."

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, April 1.

The Chinese Legation at St. Petersburg declares that China is sicerely and firmly resolved to observe neutrality, from which she will only depart in the event of a violation of Chinese territory by the Russians or Japanese.

The Paris papers state that the Japanese captured the Russian ballooning apparatus at Chongju.

Reuter's Tokio correspondent say. that the first batch of correspondents have left on board a Japanese transport for a secret distination.

Reuter's Tokio cohrespondent says that the Japanese, after dislodging the enemy at Chongju on the 28th March, rested one day and advanced to Yonghen, where a brief engagement took place, and they drove the Russians further north, the latter hetreating to Uusan.

The crews of the "Variag" and "Korietz" have arrived at Odessa and had a triumphal reception.

London, April 2.

The "morning Post" publishes a telegram from Tokio stating that another Japanese attack on Port Arthur was made on the 30th and 31st ultimo, the object being, it is said, to ascertain the result of the previous blocking operations which, it appears, were fairly successful.

A telegram from Seoul states that the Russian Cavalry is returning to Wiju in a distressed con[illegible] and that their horses are dying from lack of proper food GeneralAllen, the American Attache, declares that throughout the country the Russians are losing splendid opportunities in not taking advantage of natural obstacles in order to oppose the Japanese, and that they evidently intend to make their stand at the Yalu river.

Nothing is known officially at St. Petersburg or Tokio of the attack on Port Arthur on the 30th and 31st.

Admiral Alexeieff is making a brief visit to Port Arthur, where he inspected the warships, and presented the Captains of the "Bayan, Novik," and Askold with gold mounted swords of honour inscribed for gallantry.

The Russian warships are gradually leaving the Mediterranean and slowly coasting to the Baltic.

The Russian Minister of Finance has decided on acquiring five million roubles of preference shaers in the Fnzeli-Teharan Railway Company and 11,875,000 roubles of shares in the Discount and Loan Bank of Persia, both amounts nominal.

London, April 3.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says that it is now considered improbable that the Russians will oppose the Japanese advance before the Yalu.

Reuter wires from St. Petersbrug that the cruiser "Zhemtchug," completing her equipment in the Baltic yards, began to sink. It was found that the pipes leading from the furnaces to the sea had been left open and water was pouring into the vessel. Foul play is suspected.

London, April 4.

Syonshkon, forty miles south of Wiju has been occupied by the Japanese vanguard unopposed.

Reuter wiring from Seoul says five Japanese transports with artillery cavalry and infantry have arrived at Chemulpho, where the troops are entraining fod Seoul.

A "Times" telegram from Wei-hai-wei states that the Japanese General Kuroki's with his army is now in a position to attempt to force the Yalu whenever and wherever he may select to strike, but having secured the necessary strategic position is awaiting the development of the second Japanese mobilisation before making a decisive move, and this development is already under way.

The main Russian concentration is in a line from Laoyang to Haichang south of Mukden.

News from St. Petersburg says that General Artamanoff with 500 Cossacks has occupied Unsan forestalling the Japanese who were advancing from Chengju.

Reuter's correspondent at Shanghai says that the Japanese scouts enered Wiju at eleven this morning. The Russians are apparently retreating beyond the Yalu.

London, April 5.

According to advices from St. Petersburg the recent statement regarding the anti-Government plot in Korea has been confirmed. An influential Pedlers' Guild was involved. The main objects of the plot were to expel the Japanese, over-throw the pro-Japanese Government ,and depose the Emperor.

It is stated that a Japanese torpedoer, while engaged in scouting off Port Arthur, discovered a channel available for the passage of ships. The width of the channel is one hundred and thirty yards.

Reuter's correspondent at Seoul says that the first Japanese army of 45,000 men is advancing from Anju to Wiju by three routes. Junks are landing large supplies at Anju, and 5,000 horses are being landed for each division, but they are in a bad condition, and it is expected that they will be exhausted in six months. The troops are suffering from frost-bitten feet.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says that the fragments of the remains of the late Commander Hirose, who was blown to pieces at Port Arthur on the 26th March, have been brought to Tokio and received with every honour, and will be publicly interred.

M. Khilkoff, Inspector-General of the Lines of Communication, who has returned to St. Petersburg to confer with the authorities, says that the scarcity of cars and locomotives on the eastern section of the railway has betn remedied west of Irkutsh. Ten trains beyond Baikal, nine goods besides passenger and military trains are running daily in either direction. M. Khilkoff returns in a fortnight to supervise the construction of a line around Lake Baikal.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, April 1.

The three Antarctic vessels "Discovery, Morning, and "Terra Nova" have arrived at Lyttelton. The "Morning and Terra Nova reached the "Discovery" on the 14th February, all well on board. The Discovery explorers continued their scientific work throughout the winter of 1903. The spring found all in excellent health and spirits. It was ascertained that the interior of Victoria Land continues at a height of 1000ft. and is evidently a vast continental plateau.

It is reported in Paris that both the Porte and the Khedive, have demanded information regarding the Anglo-French agreement about Egypt.

The British Mission left Tuna yesterday and when four miles out was met by a Lhassan General with a large body of Thibetans who demanded an immediate retirement. Colonel Younghusband refused and the Thibetans galloped back and took cover behind sangars and walls. Our troops endeavoured to remove the Thibetans without violence but decided it was necessary to disarm them. The Thibetans kept on firing and using swords and for a few minutes the situation became critical, General MacDonald and Colonel Younghusband being within a few yards of the advancing Thibetans. Revolvers and bayonets were used then under rifle fire the Thibetans failed and ran and made a further ineffectual resistance at Guru.

Our casualties are twelve men while the Thibetan losses are estimated at 400 or 500.

The "Times" correspondent praises the restraint of the troops in moving the Thibetans from the sangars. Colonel Younghusband and General MacDonald exercised the greatest forbearance and patience.

The trouble was entirely caused by the leading Thibetan Officials encouraging their men to resist the disarming. Lieut. Dunlop has been wounded in the rand and Mr. Edmund Chandler of the "Daily Mail" has been severely wounded both in his hands and hear. —"I. D. News."

A "Times' telegram from Tuna says it is significant that three of athe Tibetan General's escort were armed with rifles bearing the Russian Imperial stamp.

London, April 2.

It is officially stated that the Tibetans lost three hundred killed, many wounded, and two hundred prisoners. The British had nine wounded. The newspapers hope that the sharp lesson given to the Tibetans will render further bloodshed unnecessary. The "Standard" says that the obligation not to turn back before Lhassa is reached and a British Agent established has become almost peremptory. The "Daily Telegraph" says that if the Tibetans refuse to negotiate at Gyangtse, we shall undoubtedly have to go futher. The "Morning Post" says that the advance of the British Mission must be continued until the object is accomplished.

The "Discovery's voyage has led to important geographical and other scientific results. They found "Wilkes and non-existent, the "Discovery" sailing over the region where "Wilkesland" was charted.

The work of extricating the "Discovery" was a gigantic task, as the relief party had to cut eighteen miles of ice for the ship to reach open water.

London, April 3.

The Indian Marine steamer "Dalhousie" has seized a dhow at Makalla, carrying a number of rifles hidden in rice.

London, April 4.

Reuter wires from Tuna that the Chinese Amban has written to Colonel Younghusband saying that he wished to meet him but that the Delai Lama refused him transport. He is now coming to Gyangtse. A reconnaissance found strong abandoned camp six miles from the recent fight.

The "Novoe Vremya" regards the British advance in Tibet as a highly important move. By dominating Tibet and the Delai Lama's Government, Britain will inevitably dominate the whole Mongol world, including territories bordering on the Russian dominions, and is certain to use the position to create a thousand difficulties for Russia. The Svet takes a similar view.

Heavy fighting has taken place at Bassa in the province of Nigeria with the punitive expenditure mentioned on the 25th January. The enemy got right into our square killing and wounding many, but no European was killed.

The following is a summary of the weather and crop report of the United Provinces:—There was rainfall during the past week in Shahpur, Rawalpindi, Mianwali, Amritsar, and Lahore, and some very light showers were also received in Umballa Jullundur, Ferozepore, Simkote, and Multan. Thus the very favourable meteorological conditions of the present cold weather have been maintained throughout, and the promise of the standing crops generally is all that could be desired. An exception has to be made in the case of Hissar, where the prospect is only fair, and Delhi, where all crops except extra spring crops are below the average, but elsewhere the prosperity is unqualified. With the cattle in good condition and with a sufficiency of fodder, the Punjab starts the new financial year comfortably and hopefully.

A Burmese vernacular newspaper publishes a letter from a correspondent telling of the birth of "Siamese twins" a few days ago at the village of Linyangin near the Zayawadi railway station in the Toungoo district of Burma. The father is Ko Shwe Hlain and the mother Mah U Pyu. It is a boy or boys. All the members are perfectly formed. There is one body, but above the shoulders are two heads, attached each to a separate neck; there are only two arms, but there are two pairs of legs, not in the least deformed and seemingly belonging to two distinct persons. The child or children lived only for one hour after birth. Ko Shwe Hlain took immediate steps to have his offspring preserved in spirits, as he intends to keep it, very probably with an eye to business, the Burmese, it appears, being very curious in regard to such freaks of nature.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council, was held at the Council Chamber, Writers' Buildings, yesterday at 11 a.m.

The Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya asked:—

"Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the fact, that although Circular No. 58 (30th March, 1897) of the Director of Public Instruction lays down that the Middle Schools Sessions should commence on the 1st October, the list of books for these schools is not notified in the Gazette till November?

"Is the Government aware that this arrangement not only interferes with the courses of study in these schools, but also entails hardship and inconvenience to authors whose books are prescribed?

"Will the Government be pleased to issue orders so that the list of books for middle and primary schools may be published about June, or, in any event, some reasonable time before the session commences?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Earle replied:—

"The Circular referred to by the Hon'ble Member does not lay down that the Middle School Session should commence on the 1st October, but that it should be held to commence from that date for the purpose of deciding on the eligibility of candidates to appear at the Middle Scholarship Examination. As a matter of fact, the scholastic year in Middle Schools does not usually begin till towards the end of October or the beginning of November; while in High Schools, in which the Middle School course are taught, it does not commence till January or February. However that may be, it is very desirable that the list of books for the Middle School courses, which has hitherto been published at the end of October or the beginning of November, should be published at an earlier date. Arrangements will accordingly be made by the Director of Public Instruction to issue it in future early in August. It is understood that orders to this effect will give satisfaction."

THE HON'BLE DR. ASHUTOSH MUKHOPADHYAYA.

THE OLD AND THE NEW SETTLEMENT.

So far as I can judge upon careful examination of the history of Provincial Finance the system hitherto in force has been defective, in, at least, two directions: in the first place, a periodical revision necessarily interferese with the continuity of provincial finance, and in the second place, it distinctly tends to encourage extravagance rather than economy. Under the new system, provincial finance acquires, relatively speaking, a larger amount of stability, and so far as I can make out, the Provincial Government is likely to be benefited ultimately inasmuch as it will not be open to the Imperial Government to appropriate and absorb any possible balance at the end of every five-year term. Of course, the character of permanency which is thus impressed upon the Provincial Settlement is merely relative inasmuch as the Imperial Government reserves to itself the power of revision as occasion may require; in other words, the difference between the old and the new system is that under the old system the settlement must necessarily be terminated and re-constructed once in five years; under the new system the settlement is to continue unaltered until changes are rendered necessary by reason of variations in the surrounding circumstances. It has been apprehended by some that as the settlement is described to be permanent, if there is any growth of Provincial expenditure not covered by corresponding growth of the Provincial revenues the deficit must necessarily be met by the imposition of additional taxes is less. So far as I can make out this apprehension does not seem to me to be well founded. The Government of India reserves to itself the power to revise the settlement whenever necessity may demand it, not merely in the interest of the Imperial Government itself but also in the interest of the Provincial Government. It is expressly stated that the intention of the Government of India is to excise this power, when the variations from the initial relative stands of provincial revenue and expenditure have, over a substantial term of years, been so great as to result in unfairness, either to the Provincial Government concerned or to the Government of India or to other Provincial Governments. The Government of India may also revise the Provincial settlements when confronted with the alternatives of either imposing additional taxation or of seeking assistance from the Provinces. It seems to me, therefore, that the new system possesses stability as well as elasticity and I have little doubt that if it is worked fairly and reasonably, it will be found, as years pass on to be beneficial to the Provincial Government and a distinct impressment upon the system which has just come to an end. I do no desire to offer any criticism upon the details of revenue and expenditure assigned under the new settlement, because it would be somewhat premature to discuss whether the distribution will be found ultimately to the advantage of Provincial Government.

As to the details of the financial statement they indicate, on the part of the Government, a desire and an endeavour to carry out reforms where they are urgently needed. It would be idle to assert that the distribution will please everybody. But I venture to think that it may rightly be pointed out that the claims of different sections of the community have been liberally considered, so far as the subject of education is concerned, the distribution appears to be, on the whole, satisfactory, subject to one reservation which I will presently explain. For the last two years I have contended before the Council, that if the Provincial Educational Service and the Subordinate Educational Service are to be efficiently moved and organised, the prospect of the Department may be considerably improved. It is a distinct disappointment to me that no effective action has yet been taken in this direction. As I have repeatedly pointed out, the initial pay is too low, and the number of appointments in the higher grades too few. It is idle to expect that a distinguished graduate of the local University will prefer an appointment in the education service when the Government offers him appointment in the judicial or executive service upon terms which are distinctly advantageous. If the education service be placed substantially the same footing as the judicial or the executive, I have no doubt the more scholarly among our graduates will naturally seek employment under the Education Department. The matter is one of great urgency

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and importance; and I earnestly trust that it will receive at your Honor's hands, the consideration which it deserves.

Before I leave the subject of education I desire to make a pointed reference to the subject of the reduction of Government scholarships both in number and amount. The figures in relation to this matter are fully set out in the answer which was given to my question put in this Council, on the 14th of Aug. last, and I do not propose to repeat them here. I state without any hesitation that the reduction which has been effected is a matter of the deepest regret; and there does not in my judgment, seem to be any justification for the course adopted. The reason which has been assigned is certainly an extraordinary one; it is pointed out that the amount which has been hitherto spent on junior and senior scholarships in Bengal has exceeded the 2 per cent., limit fixed by the Education Commission of 1881. I will not pause to enquire by whom this brilliant but some what belated discovery has been made. But are we quite sure that we have made no progress in education since 1881 and are we equally sure that all the other recommendations of the famous Commission of 1881 have been religiously observed and followed? It seems to me that if the recommendation of the Commission has been ignored for twenty years, it might have been allowed to lie buried and forgotten for a larger period; in any event if it was obligatory upon this Government to act up to this particular recommendation, the educational expenditure ought to have been so increased and regulated as to allow the number and value of scholarships to continue according to the scale which has hitherto prevailed. The Hon. Mr. Earle pointed out that the amount set free by this reduction was only Rs. 14,376 per annum and had been allotted for the creation of additional primary scholarships. It is obvious that the amount so let free is from the Government point of view an insignificant sum; but the hardship caused by the reduction is very substantial upon poor students. I will illustrate it by one concrete example: Under the old system an indigent student and there are many such in this country—who obtained a first grade junior scholarship of Rs. 20 a month might easily be educated at the Prestdency College, where the College fees for junior scholarship holders is Rs. 10 leaving a sum of Rs. 10 for the maintenance of the student. Under the present system, the scholarship is reduced to Rs. 16 which would leave Rs. 6 for the maintenance of the student. Then, again, under the old system, the value of th 3rd grade junior scholarship being Rs. 10, a month, the college fee was fixed for all junior scholarship holders at Rs. 10. The value of the scholarship is now reduced Rs. 8, but the college fee is maintained at Rs. 10. I asked the Government to consider whether the college fee should not be reduced for thos who receive stipends, and I was told in reply that no change can be made. When the Government refuses to make the reduction, one must assume that there are grounds for the decision, but I will add this without hesitation, that this declaration is inconsistent with the avowed policy of the Government to encourage education, specially among students of ability and distinction but of limited means. I earnestly appeal to your Honour on behalf of the poor students of this Province to examine the whole question of junior and senior scholarships and to afford then such relief as may be found possible under the circumstances.

THE HON'BLE BHUPENDRA NATH BOSE.

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose said:—

The first thing that strikes one in the Budget is the settlement with the Imperial Government. I wish I could share the satisfaction of your Honour's Government on the result of this settlement. It is no doubt a great gain that the limits of the period of settlement have been removed and instead of the 5 years to which we had become accustomed, we have now a settlement of indefinite duration: To Your Honour's Government, Sir, it is a great relief that the old state of things, of starved parsimony during the first years and of inconsiderate extravagance during the last years of the settlement is gone and that your Honour's Government will be able to pursue its course uncrossed by the phantom of the hand that would spirit away the fruits of all care andeconomy. But if the period is indefinite, are we altogether free from the fear of intervention? This is what Sir Edward Law says "It is evident that the Imperial Government can not undertake any absolute obligation to maintain at all times a definite porportion between the share of increase of revenues assigned to provincial administration, and that which it is necessary to retain to meet the growth of Imperial expenditure, and it must always reserve the right to make either special temporary or more permanent reductions from Provincial revenues, if the exigencies of the State should require such measures." This is an important reservation. No one will grudge the Imperial Government a liberal contribution in the case of an emergency, but we have some experience of what at times these emergencies mean and a costly transfrontier war or a political mission may sweep away the labours of many years. There ought to be a distinct line of division between provincial and Imperial revenue and a system should be adopted under which the Provincial Governments should be allowed to nurse and increase the revenues specially allocated to their needs absolutely free from any inroads by the Supreme Government. It would have been a great relief if the system advocated by Sir Charles Elliot as president of Lord Dufferin's Finance Committee could be adopted or if that were not found practicable, the occasions when the Imperial Government might come down upon the local administrations for enhanced contribution were clearly defined on the lines laid down by the Government of Lord Ripon namely, "That the Imperial Government will make no demand on them (i.e the local Governments) except in the case of disaster so abnormal as to exhaust the Imperial reserves and resources and necessitate a suspension of the entire machinery of public improvement throughout the Empire." In the present state of things we may be called upon to surrender our revenues any time at the bidding of the Imperial Government. It has been said on very high authority that we are too apt to make imputations against the Government and it may be said that the Imperial Government will not exercise their power except on the grounds of clear and absolute necessity. We do not for a moment assert that they would; but it is sometimes difficult for us to find out the grounds for such necessity and our experience in the past does not inspire us with much confidence. It is unfortunate that this should be so: but who can say that what has been done in the past may not form a precedent for the future?

Apart from the question of periodicity what do we gain by the new settlement? The contribution under the heading of stamps has been increased from ¼ to ½; under the heading of Excise, the contribution has been increased from ½ to 9/16; under the heading of assessed taxes the contribution has been raised from ½ to ¾; under the heading of Forest from ½ to ¾. The customs have been wholly imperialized and the Registration wholly provincialized. This gives us a nett loss of about Rs. 60,70,000 against which we have the Government grant of Rs. 49,06,000. The Imperial Government has raised its contributions on all heads of progressive income and has thus weakened rather than strengthened our financial position. The settlement has forced your Honour's Government to withdraw the special grant of Rs. 5 lacs which 3 years ago Sir John Woodburn had decided to make to District Boards for improvement of communications. There is an interesting history of this grant to which I shall refer hereafter. It is the history of vanished millions, of funds raised for one purpose and diverted to another; it is a history of broken pledges and broken assurances, of tardy reparation for a grievous wrong and of reparation again arrested for want of funds.

Coming to the subject of education we find the total Government grant is only Rs. 35,19,000 against a population of 74,744,966 and if we include the contribution of Rs. 18,57,000 by the District Fund it would bring up the total amount to Rs. 53,76,000, giving a ratio of Rs. .7 per head of population for money actually spent on education. No one can say that the expenditure on education is sufficient for the needs of the country. The number of boys last year in the primary and secondary schools was 1,427,109 against a population of school-going age of nearly 36 millions. Sir, the Government is directing special attention to the question of education. It has taken the control of higher education entirely into its own hands but what is wanted is not so much Government control as Government encouragement. Sir, it would be easy to show from figures, it has been shown before in this Council as elsewhere, that of all civilized Government ours spends the least on education, and when we consider the ignorance of the masses, it seems strange that it should be so. The improvement of agricultural methods, the diversion of the people from agriculture to industrial pursuits, all depend upon the question of the education of the masses and though some progress has been made in the matter of primary education, much remains yet to be done. We have at present 1 primary school to every 4 villages, whereas we ought not to have less than one school in every village. The Gurus in charge of these institutions are human beings after all and with the present prices of foodstuff and other necessaries it would not be possible to expect good work on a salary varying from Rs. 5 to 9 a month, a salary which an ordinary peon in Government service would reject with scorn. It would be truism to state that you cannot expect good work unless you pay them well: of all departments of the State, the Subordinate Educational Service is probably the worst paid: I do not know why it should be thought that any pay would be good enough for teachers of youth. The members of the service are quite as well educated and drawn from the same class as those of the Subordinate Education Service. In the education service the grade begins at Rs. 50 a month, and ends with Rs. 200 a month: We find many M.A.'s and B.A.'s in the grade of Rs 50, from which they cannot rise to the grade of Rs. 100 in less than 10 years. In the Subordinate Education Service the initial pay is Rs. 100 a month, there is a comparatively large number of appointments in the higher grade and promotion though slow is rapid compared to the subordinate Education Service.

As regards educational qualifications, they stand the foremost, but their pay and prospects are less than those of the Provincial Executive Service. A Deputy Magistrate begins on a pay of Rs. 200 a month but these men, not infrequently distinguished graduates of English Universities begin on a salary of Rs. 150 a month. They can rise only to Rs. 700 a month whereas a Deputy Magistrate in the usual course rises to Rs. 800 a month and has besides these posts in the Provincial Educational Service and various special appointments. Promotion again in the Education Service is much slower. If, Sir, you want the quality of education to be improved, you must attract good men to the service. We want men and money and not statutes and declamations. It is true our B.A.'s and M.A.'s. are poor men and that you can get them to serve on Rs. 50 a month, but they find their contemporaries who were more favourably circumstanced than themselves and probably very much less distinguished in their academic career, earning a better livelihood in other walks of life and it is but human that though untoward circumstances may have forced them into the Subordinate Education Service their heart is not in the work. It is well known that no Graduate of any parts will accept service in the Education Department unless absolutely forced to do so by pressure of circumstances. It is not fair to them that advantage should be taken of their poverty and not fair to the country and conducive to the cause of sound education that we should have a disheartened and discontented body of men employed in tha work of education.

Sir, the consideration of the prospects of the Subordinate Education Service leads me to the question of another service which also is very much underpaid, I mean the Subordinate Indian Medical Service. The pay of an Assistant Surgeon was fixed at Rs. 100 at a time when they pay of the Musiff was also fixed at Rs. 100 a month: The Moonsiff's initial pay has increased to Rs. 200 a month and the pay of his final grade is Rs. 1,000 a month. The Assistant Surgeon, except for a few appointments on Rs. 300 a month must end into Rs. 200. Sir William Grey satisfied as to the injustice done to this class of officers recommended that their pay should be raised to Rs. 200 rising to Rs. 400, but the Government of India vetoed it on the ground that a Second Medical College had been established at Lahore and the supply would be much more than the demand: Sir, our Assistant Surgeons have to pass the F. A. examination of our University and then have to pass through a special course of training for 5 years and undergo two examinations, the stiffest known in India and probably stiffer than any other Medical examination in the world: It used to be said that these men had the advantage of a private practice: it was true in former times but it holds no longer true under the present state of things. The unattractiveness of Government Medical Service with two septenial examinations have thrown our best medical graduates on their own resources and nearly every Mofussil town has now got its complement of fully qualified medical practitioners. The opportunities of the Government servant for private practice have thus become very much restricted and he was practially to live on his pay. Having regard to the facts that these officers represent the highest training than our University can impart, that men who have come out of the University with much less trouble are in receipt of much higher pay, that their duties are the highest and noblest known to humanity, that only lately the pay of members of the Indian Medical Service have been enhanced, I think it is but fair that their pay should in some measure be commensurate with their knowledge, skill and attainments.

There is another class of officers whose horizon the Government ought to enlarge. I refer to the Sub-Deputy Collectors. The present body of Sub-Deputy Collectors are as well educated as the Deputy Magistrates: they perform duties which are responsible and onerous but they cannot rise beyond Rs. 200. They are greatly overworked as has been admitted on all hands: there is a grant now to increase the number of these officers, but that will not enhance their prospects. I am quite confident that your Honours Government will treat this question with sympathy.

We regret that your Honour's Government has been obliged to withdraw the grant of 5 lacs to the District Boards for contribution towards roads. Mr. Baker as Financial Secretary of the Government while announcing the grant of 5 lacs thus described the helpless condition of the Boards.

"It has long been felt that the resources of the Boards are not elastic enough to enable them to discharge their duties efficiently. And though it is not permitted to us under the existing system or provincial finance, to permanently alienate any part of the Provincial Revenue, we shall to what we can, now that the funds are available."

Considering that funds are available, it does seem inexplicable why this grant is withdrawn. There is a well founned complaint all over the province that the Road-cess is diverted to purposes for which it was not intended. Such a charge ought not to be allowed to continue. I shall with the leave of this Council, briefly recapitulate the history of the Road-cess. The Zaminders who opposed the imposition on the ground that it would be a breach of the terms of the permanent settlement, yielded only when an assurance was given by the late Duke of Argyle, then Secretary of State for India, that not only would the cess be levied by the cess-payers themselves but it would also be spent by their representatives. The following extracts from his Lordship's despatch would show the object and scope of the cess.

Para 22. "It is above all things requisite that the benefits to be derived from the rate should be brought home to the donors; that the benefit should be palpable, direct insuedate."

Para 23. "That besides local roads, the proceeds of the cess should be devoted to the making and improving of wells, tanks and other works of irrigation, affecting comparatively small areas of land."

Para. 25. "That as far as possible the assent and concurrence of the rate-payers should be secured both in the levy and in the management of the rates."

The above quotations not only establish the purely rural character of the rate but the fact that the cess should be spent for roads, tanks, irrigation and similar works affecting comparatively small areas, which means small tracts. Sir George Campbell made this clear in his proclamation. "Every pice," he said, "levied under the Cess Act, will be spent to improve the local roads, canals and rivers in the District for the benefit of the inhabitants." Again "The tax shall be fairly applied to the village roads and local paths, or water channels in which the tax-payer is interested."

What the authorities have been doing however is to make the cess fund maintain Provincial or District and feeder Roads and throw other burdens upon the cess-payers which ought to be borne by the Government. This operation began in 1880. In that year an Act was passed in a Council not then constituted as now under which the Road-cess Fund was charged with certain liabilities not originally intended. The Local Self-Government Act of 1885 converted the cess fund practically into Government property to be dealt with in such way as the government pleased.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie though in his usual manner warmly repudiating the charge made by the "Patrika" about the diversion of the Road-cess from its original purpose was yet pleased to issue a Circular by which he relieved the fund of a portion of its unjustifiable burdens. I shall quote from paragraph 7 of the Circular.

"Some relief might perhaps be given to the Boards from Provincial Revenue by revising the conditions under which certain provincial roads were transferred to local management under the Bengal Acts of 1871-1880. It has been alleged in the course of debates in the Legislative Council, that such transfers have been unfairly made so as to throw on local funds the burden of maintaining roads which should form a provincial charge and the subject is now under enquiry."

It is a matter of regret to us that the grant of Rs. 500,000 a year to the District Boards whose claim was so clear has been withdrawn.

THE HON'BLE RAI TARINI PRASAD.

The Hon'ble Rai Tarini Prasad said:—

I must thank the Government and the Honourable the Financial Secretary for giving a very clear exposition of the financial relations established by the new Provincial Contract between the Imperial Government and the Government of Bengal. If the magnificent Imperial grant of Rs. 1,05,00,000 be left out of consideration for a moment, the opening balance amounts to Rs. 32,99,000, which is certainly a fair sum upon which the Government and the Hon'ble the Financial Secretary may well be congratulated. The present Budget gives us a forecast of many wise and benevolent measures some of which are new, and some old, awaiting orders from higher quarters, but we hope and trust that they will all be "fait accompli" in the course of the year and add to the happiness and prosperity of the people over wose destinies your Honour has been placed to rule.

I will now draw the attention of the council to the subject of the water-supply in the district. This is a subject of paramount importance; and although discussed threads-bare almost at every year's Budget meeting, it does not lose its novelty, but presses every year upon our attention with fresh impetus and prompts us to enquire as to how far the sufferings of millions of people from all inadequate and impure supply of water in the district have been alleviated during the year.

Before I leave the subject of water, I would make a passing reference to the water-works of Bhagalpur. In reply to a question put by me recently about the water-works of Bhagalpur, the Hon'ble Mr. Shirres was pleased to inform me by a letter that Mr. Silk would visit Bhagalpur at a very early date and he would then advise the Municipality and the Government as to what should be done.

Mr. Silk came to Bhagalpur recently, and having soon the water-works, he has advised the introduction of centrifugal pumps for bringing water to the water-works reservoirs. In reply to my remarks upon the water works of Bhagulpur at the debate on the Budget of last year, the Hon'ble Mr. Collin the then Financiol Secretary, was pleased to say that if there was any necessity for assistance from Government it would be ready to consider the matter. A case of necessity having been made out Government has just been pleased to make the Municipality a grant of Rs. 10,000, a small portion of which will be paid on cash and the rest will be utilized in securing necessary materials for furthering out the scheme suggested by Mr. Silk and approvd by Government. The suggestion of Mr. Silk, coupled with the Government grant, will, we hop improve the works to some extent and I, on behalf of the Municipal Commissioner and rate-payers of Bhagulpur, offer my cordial thanks to Government for the interest it has shown in having deputed Mr. Silk and for the grant it has been pleased to make.

I next come to the subject of education. Now that the Universities Bill has passed into law, the whole system of education in all its branches will in no time undergo a thorough remodelling; and on the present occasion I shall confine my remarks chiefly to primary education. Last year I placed a table before the Council which showed that in point of education the Bhagulpur Division was the most backward in the whole Province, the percentage of boys at school to the population of a school-going age being only 13.8 But matters have now decidedly taken a better turn. A sum of Rs. 48,000 out of the Government grant of four lakhs for primary education was allotted to the Bhagulpur Division in 1902. An additional grant of Rs. 15,000 was subsequently made by Government in January 1903. The cause of primary education has been much furthered by these handsome contributions, for we find that during the year 1902-03 the Division grained 31 or 11.5 per cent, in the number of upper primary schools with 1,437 or 12 per cent in the number of their pupils, and 180 or 5.7 per cent in the number of lower primary schools with 74.5 or 9.9 per cent., in the number of their pupils. I thank the Government for giving this impetus to the cause of primary education in this Division. It has been declared by the Government of India that the new Provincial Settlement does not take into account any contributions which the Government of India may find it desirable to make towards the expenditure rendered necessary by reform which are in "contemplation in the administration of Police and Education." We hope your Honour will be pleased to duly consider the claims of this Division when the distribution of a general grant in the cause of education is made.

Now I beg to draw your Honour's attention to the grievance of the Bhagulpur Divition, to which I adverted at the debate on the last year's Budget, namely, the absence of any technical school or any technical side to any Zilla schools in the Bhagulpur Division. It is an undoubted fact and a fact well understood by Government that technical schools are a great desideratum in this Province, and Government with the best of motives has introduced a system of bifurcation of studies in Zilla Schools. But how far this system has been introduced in the Bhagulpur Division will appear from the following extract from the report of the Inspector of Schools of the Bhagulpur Division for the year 190-03:—"Under the bifurcation scheme boys on promotion to the second class of a Zillah School have the option of either continuing to study for the Calcutta University Entrance Examination or of joining a technical class with a view to learn some handicrafts. This scheme has not as yet been put into operation in the Division on account of the want of technical or industrial schools. In accordance with the wishes of the Director of Public Instruction recently communicated to me, I have requested already the Chairman of the District Boards and the district committee to open industrial or technical classes at thir head quarters. But pressure from the Department is likely to produce better effecs." It will appear from the above that without a technical school, the scheme of bifurcation cannot be introduced, i.e., no technical side can be added to any Zilla Schol. In reply to my remarks on the necessity for technical schools at the debate in the last year's Budget, I was told that "the statistics available do not show that there is much demand for technical education in that Division. In 1891-92, there were five industrial schools in it attended by six pupils. There is nothing to prevent a fresh application being made at any time: If made, it will receive the careful attention of Government. Now, Sir, time has changed and the Division is advancing year after year and so failure in the past is certainly not a clear indication that the scheme will be a failure also in the present. Further more a technical school may now lead to the opening of technical sides to Zilla Schools and therefore, unlike the past, technical schools may now be fed by the students of the technical sides of the Zilla Schols. I submit when Government has shown great solicitude in other branches of education, it should also do the same in this branch. It may very well take that initiative and after ascertaining the state of funds from the District Boards may, if necessary, with contributions from Provincial Funds, see its way to strat some technical schools in the Division which will be looked upon as a great boon by the people of this Division.

HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTANT-GOVERNOR.

His Honour the President said that he should not make any remarks which he had to make in regard to the Budget. The criticisms which had been made in respect of the Financial Statement by certain Honourable Members had been in most cases answered by other Hon'ble Members immediately following them. He thought that all explanations necessary had been given by the Hon'ble Mr. Earle and the Hon'ble Mr. Shres, on behalf of the Government. His Honour did not consider it necessary to make any remarks in regard to the criticism which had been made on the policy of the Government of India. Regarding the improvement scheme of Calcutta, His Honour said, remarks had been made by the Hon'ble Dr. Mukhapadhyoya and the Hon'ble Mr. Basu. The first of those Hon'ble members spoke in favour of the scheme which had been fored for the consideration of the Governme of India. His Honour expressed regret to say that he was unable to speak of that in such terms. They had submitted this recommdation, but they were not going to speak of it now unless they had heard what the Government of India had to-say. The Hon'ble Mr. Basu had tried to obtain information as far as what applied to his criticism. But they shild keep all those as official secrets. They hi already received very substantial approbation of the Government of India of the proposal they had made, for the improvement of Calutta, in what was well-known to all, a grant of Rs. 50,00,000. The letter which announced that grant stated that the matter was subject to the condition that a satisfactory scheme as proposed and that if it was not satisfactcily proposed the grant would be withdrawn so that as far as their decision was concered they were in the mystery and unknown future. His Honour was rather surprised, even though it came from the residents of Calcutt, as the Hon'ble members had described themelves, that they had made no grant of revenus to the Corporation. He should like that the Hon'ble members should refer to the Bidget. Another remark he should like to refer to was with reference to the house accommodation for their officers. The Hon'ble Mr. Shirres had replied that point by simply saying that it was in the interest of the Government to decide that point. His Honour should like to go further. Was the Hon'ble member serious at all for providing houses for their officers? Was it not quite common thing for large firms to provide houses for their officers? They were entitled to do something of the same kind. His Honour's experience to that matter was that he found his previous land-lord to put upon him fifty per cent. rent simply because he had an opportunity of choosing his place of residence.

Regarding the Permanent Settlement some remarks were made by the Hon'ble Dr. Mukhopadhyaya which were answered by the Hon'ble Rai Tarini Pershad and the Hon'ble Babu Saligram Sing. His Honour was sure that the answers of these non-official members would be conclusive in regard to the favourable nature of the settlement. What he was prepared to say had been said by the Hon'ble Finance Minister, that they had no grounds for complaint. He should like to say one word more, that is, the general satisfaction with the Budget and the general accord with the policy of the Government and the general willingness to help it. No smallest information had escaped to draw due attention. As regards the small favour asked for by the Hon'ble Mr. Apcar: His Honour said, that it would certainly be carried out. His Honour did not think it necessary to say anything in the Council in regard to the matters of the improvement of the number and status of the Deputy Collectors, Sub-Deputy Collectors and the Ministerial Officers. A great deal had been done and the scheme had been submitted to the Government of India. There was nothing that had fallen from the Hon'ble members of the Council in regard to the improvement and status of these officers, in which he had not his cordial sympathy. That matter would receive the closest attention of the Government of Bengal. It was not necessary to say anything to the improvement of police, to which reference had been made, and in regard to irrigation. The Government of India had promised them their assistance on those two things. There had been little failure to acknowledge the progress which had been made in regard to education and also the position, which it now occupied with reference to their future education. As regards agriculture he was not sure whether the Hon. Mr. Basu was quite serious. The Hon'ble Mr. Basu had informed the Council about the establishment of the Pusa College as the only one. If the Hon'ble member took the trouble to consider he would admit that they could not possibly establish any more schools of that kind until they had teachers. The first thing which they would aim at was to obtain competent teachers from the Pusa Agricultural Institution. His Honour had gone to Pusa and he had full confidence of the work there. His Honour promised that as soon as they would get men they would push forward on the line the Hon'ble member had indicated. As regards the subject of water supply referred to by the Hon'ble Rai Tarini Pershad His Honour welcomed the answer given by the Hon. Mr. Shirres. They would extend their Bill as far as possible and they had their sympathy with the Hon'ble member in regard to that matter. It would be found that the Local Government and the local public would all work together in regard to a measure of that kind. He hadfound instances of liberality in regard to matters like that and he had no hesitation in saying that in the future when the people would understand their policy they should have little or no difficulty in securing their cordial co-operation. As regards the reduced revenue, His Honour said, that that matter was receiving and would receive the closest attention. In conclusion His Honour thanked the Hon'ble members for the assistance they had given them by their suggestion and for the very kind manner in which they had been received in that Council.

The Council then adjourned "Sine die"

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

JAPAN IN WAR TIME.

A correspondent writes to the "Pioneer" from Yokohama:—

Nagaski was the first Japanese port at which the ship touched after leaving China. In this harbour the embarkation of troops furnished the earliest indication of a state of war that we saw. The operation was carried out in an efficient and orderly way. There was no hurry or confusion; a large crowd attended the scene, but confined its enthusiasm to shouting, and did not get in the way; there appeared to be no work for the police. Nobody knew the destination of the transports, so well was the secret of their movements kept. Away from the harbour there were no signs of war in the town, except the pictures of torpedoes sinking ships and of other incidents of naval engagements exhibited in the shop windows. The people were civil to Europeans, and were going about their ordinary business without disturbance or excitement. In the harbour, there was quite enough to remind us of the state of affairs. A Russian merchant vessel, which had put in for repairs before the outbreak of war, and had been unable to get them finished, was apparently lying empty without a crew. A launch belonging to a Russian firm had been siezed by the Japanese authorities presumably because it could be used for carrying information to the enemy, though the local agent of the firm was an Englishman. At 5-30 p.m., when we were leisurely finishing coaling, a Japanese officer came on board and told our captain to leave the harbour before six o'clock He did not understand the reason of this order, but supposed that it related in some-way to the mines with which the entrance of the harbour was guarded. When approaching or leaving some of the other ports ships have now to go very slowly, accompanied by small steamers to show the way. Nervous passengers may comfort themselves with the reflection that this precaution is taken not to ensure the safety of the ship, but to avoid the disturbance of the mines.

At Kobe, and indeed at every other place which I visited, the attitude of the people was the same as at Nagasaki. The only signs of excitement were the cheering of troop-trains by the bystanders, and the collection of crowds rounds the pictures in hip windows. I heard indeed that at or near Kobe there had been more excitement, but the local authorities had discouraged processions and other displays of enthusiasm-Perhaps they feared if the people were not accustomed to control their feelings a dangerous reaction might follow the tidings of a Japanese reverse. An excited populace may vent its anger without being particular as to the object of its rage. The strict censorship of the Press in Japa may be due in part to some such consideration. The public has to wait for its news, and does not except a victory for breakfast every morning; on some occasions the first intelligence of an important event has reached the Press from Europe. Newspapers are not allowed to publish information concerning military movements: braech of this rule is punished with suspension. Editors complain, but probably the Government knows best what is good for the people. Some Englishmen in the country say that in spite of recent progress in civilisation the people are not to be trusted; a disaster in the field might lead to the revival of the consequent insecurity of all the white men in Japan. It is not for a passing stranger to express an opinion on the soundness of such views.

On the railway one may realise unpleasantly that there is a war. The line connecting Tokio with Kobe and Nagasaki is reserved very largely for transport of troops; the ordinary service is suspended, only a few trains are allowed daily to the public, a long journey takes double the proper time, and the sleeping cars are off. On one occasion I could find only standing room in a first class compartment. There seems, however, to be no confusion in the service, time is kept, there is no block the trains containing troops pass down without disorganising what is left of the public traffic. The luggage of passengers is sent with the usual ease and safety. The way in which the troops are moved is creditable to the management of this railway; one would not be surprised to see in a European country a greater disturbance of the public convenience in similar circumstances. I believe that on all the other Japanese lines the normal service continues.

The police are very suspicious of foreigners, they see a possible spy or dynamitard in every unknown European outside the big cities. I have twice been questioned, and was once followed for several miles when walking with another Englishman in a small town. We were stopped by a man in plain clothes, who stated that he represented a local paper and therefore wished to know our names nationality, professions etc. The ercuse was so poor that we thought he must be a policeman. He left us hurriedly, then we found that we were being followed by another person who was evidently new to the work, for whenever we stopped he found great difficulty in making a pretence of having business unconnected with us. Finally he admitted that he was a policeman who had been instructed to watch us. There was nothing in the place which a spy would have found it worth his while to exmine, or the destruction of which would have had any beariny on the war. It is conceivable that the average policeman of a small country station in England would in similar circumstances act with no more discretion or sense of proportion.

One of the Tokio hotels is at present full of war correspondents waiting impatiently for permission to proceed to the front. The Government is very considerate in providing entertainment for them, and gives them a little encouragement from time to time, but will not let them start. They have to content themselves with telegraphing to their papers such scaraps of news as are allowed to transpire and with buying horses and kit to take with them. The position of a correspondent with reference to naval warfare is not clear. The "Times" is repored to have ahartered a steamer atted out with the Marconi apparatus to keep in touch with the fleet. Some people think that the same liberty will be allowed correspondents as was granted in the American-Spanish war. Others say that no Admiral will allow rorrespondents to follow his fleet and report its movements by wireless telegraphy; he will either drive them away, or put his own officers on board their ships to act as Press censors. Between the necessity of observing secrecy and the danger of giving a grievance to a neutral Power the position must present some difficulty.

The war appears to be very popular in Japan. The man in the street is very pleased with the result of the naval engagements and thinks that his country has a good chanee of ultimate success, though he recognises that victory will not be so easy on land as it has been at sea. It is thought that Russia will have difficulty in maintaining a large army in the field, and great importance is attached to the injury said to have been aused to the Siberian railway by Japanese emissaries. There seems to be no anxiety about the cost of the war; the people do not realise how mush they will have to pay, and are very pleased with the Government's success in raising the small loan of ten million pounds. Sanguine minds look forward to the reovery of a large indemnity from Russia with more confidence in the financial condition of that country than appears to be felt by the holders of Russian paper. Among the Europeans here it is generally thought that Japan will win, and will come out of the conoict much stronger than ocfore, because she will immensely increase her inuuence in China, a result which all Englishmen do not regard with unmixed satisfaction.

DETECTIVE TACTICS.

DIVOCED HUSBAND'S STORY.

Mr. Thomas Pollard as Faust upon the Brocken; And Mr. Davies, private detective and representative of Slater's Private Inquiry Officers, as Mephistopheles to Mr. Pollard's Faust

Thus might be crystallised the strange story which the King's Proctor is now telling the Divorce Court in order to persuade that tribunal to rescind the decree nisigranted to Mrs. Kate Pollard in November 1902.

There was ping-pong on Mr. Pollard's Brocken, antd claret, fetched from round the corner, while money flowed like water. The scene of this particular Brocken was at St. Heliers, Jersey.

The main features of the case for the King's Proctor are that Slater's Private Inquiry Offices, of 1, Basinghall-street, and Messrs. Osborn and Osborn, a firm of City solicitors, conspired together to obtain a divorce for Mrs. Kate Pollard from her husband, who was living separately at Plymouth. To achieve this Slater's booded Plymouth with private detectives in order, it is alleged, to entrap Pollard into a compromising position, and spent money like water (£2,29o) to bring about their purpose.

A stir of excitement passed round the court yesterday when Mr. Thomas Pollard was called to support these statements. He is a tall, slim man, with dark sleek hair and a slight black moustache. He gave his age as fifty; he looks nearer thirty-five. It was in a low, pleasantly modulated voice that he spoke, nor did he suffer Sir Edward Clarke's cross-examination to drive the agreeable smile from his face.

STRANGE CLAIMS ACQUAINTANCE.

He told the court that he had been in insurane agent and his wife a barmaide. They were married six weeks after their first meeting.

With an appearance of glee he related how he suddenly found himself much in request among absolute strangers in the-mouth, where he was recuperating at his mother's house. "Everyone was awfully good to me" might have eeen taken as the burden of this part of his evidence, though he had not the least idea why.

Davies, he said, accused him in the Golden Fleece public-house in February 19o2. "I did not know that he was a private detective employed by Slater's. He introduced himself to me and called out, 'How are you? I haven't seen you for you years.'"

When Mr. Pollard replied that he had no recollection of ever having met the other, Davies retorted: It's easily accounted for. I hadn't got this then.'

"Is Davies in court?" the Colicitor-Beneral interposed. "Let him stand up."

"That's the man." cried Mr. Pollard; and the public were then able to see that "this' referred to a flowing pair of moustachs, which gave Mr. Davies a strikingly military appearance.

"He told me he was a traveller" Mr. Pillard went on, "and was combining a little business with a good deal of pleasure. He showed such a complete knowledge of my previous life that I was bound to believe that I have known him in earflier days.

GENEROUS AND PRESSING.

"He had plenty of money, and as I had none I rather avoided him. But that was impossible. When I stayed at home he would cail at my house. When I went into the town I always run into him. He was very generous nnd very pressing. One day he said he was thought he would take a trip to Jersey. I said also was sick of Plymouth. He asked me to go with him to Jersey for a real good holiday.

"I said I couldn't agord it; besides, my costume was not sufficiently good. At last he badgered me into going with him, and letting him pay all the expenses.

Mr. Pollard then recounted how the travelling companions "went to have a look round Jersey at night. We called at several places first and played ping-pong." Eventually they found themselves at the house of a Mrs. Macnamara in Hillary-street, where they met two young French women, and all had claret. Davies forced his way into the room where Mr. Pollard and one of the girls were. The King's Proctor declares that Davies engineered this compromising situation simply and solely for Divorce Court purposes.

SOLICITOR'S ALLEGED PLOT.

That ended the Jersey story. The Solicitor-General, Sir E dward Sarson, who appeared for the King's Proctor, then asked Mr. Pollard questions bearing on that part of the case which more intimately concerns Mr. Albert Osborn, of Messrs. Osborn and Osborn, the solicitors who (according to the King's Proctor) are intimately connected with Slater's Private Inquiry Offices.

Sir Edward's case is that after the ruses of Slater's private detectives had failed, Mr. Albert Osborn himself went down in July 1ro2 to Plymouth ,a rmed with a photograph of Mr. Pollard, and went to a house in Summerland-place.

There he sent for a woman named Maud Goodman, and after many unsuccessful attempts prevailed upon her to sign a statement that she had met Mr. Pollard in a house in Summerland-place.

In outlining this part of the case on Wednesday Sir Edward did an unintentional wrong to an adjacent terrace—Summerland-terrace, which appears to be of unimpeachable reputation. He spoke of Summerlnd-terrace when he ought to have said Summerland-place, and vice versa.

A MEETING AND A SURPRISE.

But to return to Mr. Pollard. He stated emphatically that before this trial he had never known anyone of the name of Maud Goodman, nor had he been to a Mrs. Congdon's house. No 3, Summerland-place, nor to any house in Summerland-place. A very great friend of his had lived at No. 1, Summeralnd-terrace, and he was often there.

The witness then wnt on to say how he was summoned to the Grand Hotel in July to meet Mr. Albrt Osborn, of whom he had never heard before. That gentleman gave him a cigar and a whisky-and-soda, and then proceeded to inform him that he had come down on behalf of Mrs. Pollard, adding. "Weve found out all about you. You'll soon hear."

That was the first, Mr. Pollard declared, he had heard of any intention on his wife's part to divorce him. Indeed, when he had left her at Paddington to come down to Plymouth, their parting had been of a most affectionate character.

In conclusion he said that he knew of Mr. Knowles (the client mentioned in Slater's instructions.) That gentleman was always at the Orient Cafe, Moorgate-street, when his wife was manageress there.

Sir Edward Clarne, in cross-examining Mr. Pollard, questioned him as to excursion that the he took from Plymouth to see his wife and boy at Forest Gate. He had some rum and milk early in the morning when he reached Paddington. It was not true that he had spent the day in public-houses, nor had he been in the ompany of a woman in the Marylebone-road.

THE GIRL AND THE PHOTOGRAPH.

Maud Go[illegible] was under examination when the co[illegible]rose. She related how she was sent for by Mr. Osborn, who showed her a photograph of Pollard. He also asked her to sign a paper.

At first she refused. "I told him that th photograph had been s own here (at No. 3 Summerland-place) last week and it had something to do with a divorce case, and I would have nothing more to say. Late on, I said I thought I know the gentleman, but it was not my business to give him away."

The witness declared that she saw Mr. Osborn again at nine that night at an hotel, and in the private bar he induced her to sign this document:—

I, Maund Goodman, say that I know the gentleman whose photograph is now shown me, to which I have put my initials.

The paper ended with a confession of misconduct. Mr. Osborn, added the witness gave her thirty shillings.

The case was adjourned.

NURSING A CO-RESPONDENT.

One day Dr. Archibald Houghton Brown, of Woking, found his friend Mr. Harry Keep lying in the road. He had been injured in an accident, and the doctor took him to his house.

It was this act of a Samaritan that led to a divorce suit in which Mr. Keep figured as co-respondent, and was cast in £1,250 damages. The suit, was undefended.

The parties were married in 1890. Dr. Brown had known Mr. Keep for many years. and in 1901 the friendship was renewed Mr. Keep was also living at Woking, and he was a frequent visitor to the doctor's house.

Then Dr. Brown joined a whist society, which met at various houses on Wednesday evenings. During his absence, it was stated Mr. Keep was alone with Mrs. Brown for hours.

It was not, however, until Keep met with his accident and was nursed at Dr. Brown's house that the husband grew suspicious. His wife took the affair much to heart, and when Mr. Keep left she was very depressed.

One day she said that she was going to Streatham to attend a wedding. Inquiries were made, and it was found that she did not do so, but went to Folkestone, where she stayed with the co-respondent.

A decree nisi with costs was granted to Dr. Brown. By agreement the damages against the co-respondent were assessed at £1,250.

£5,000,000 DIAMOND.

SOME MEMORIES OF A VETERAN JEWELLER.

Five operations on his eyes within the last three years have rendered the retirement of Mr. Streeter, the veteran jeweller and expert in precious stones, imperative.

In amouncing this fact to a "Daily Mail" representative last night. Mr. Streeter talked interestingly of his remarkable experience. His establishment in Bond-street is as well-known as the Bank, and sometimes uearly as valuable.

Beneath the shop is a capacious safe which often contains as much as a million pounds worth of valuables. It stands on a base of concrete to prevent tunnelling, and is fitted with four steel doors, to disturb which means the ringing of alarm bells in all parts of the building. A guard of men sleep near it every night, and a powerful dog prowls round its iron walls.

Mr. Streeter has in his possession what he considers to be the finest diamond in the world. It was once the property of the Emperor of Delhi, and is valued at £14,000. The largest diamond he has ever seen weighed about one thousand carats, and is owned by a syndicate of dealers. Its value complete would be about £5,000,000, but it is now being cut up.

FULL OF DIAMONDS.

The son of Henry Russell, who was originally Mr. Streeter's partner, once owned the whole of the site of the present Kimberley Diamond Mines. After working it at considerable profit Russell and his partner sold the ground for £500. It is now worth probably £300,000,000. A small shanty which the miners had erected was sold separately for a few pounds. It was subsequently discovered that the mud with which its walls were plastered was literally full of diamonds in the rough.

"I have probably," said Mr. Streeter, of the finest collection of opals in the world. It is in the form of a necklace and pendant, the latter being a single stone 1¼ in. by 1 in. The most remarkable point with reference to unique collection is that it was cut from one block of solid opal. It is worth £1,790."

In this connection Mr. Streeter tells an anecdote illustrating how opals were discovered in iron-stone. "My son had been staying with some friends in Australia. As he was riding from the house after saying good-bye a lad threw a large pebble at him. It struck the iron of his saddle and broke in halves. Inside was the finest opal I have ever seen in my life."

It was Mr. Streeter who was instrumental in exposing the notorious Pinta, who claimed to have discovered the Philosophers' Stone. His method consisted in having a bag of gold dust concealed up his sleeve, from which by an ingenious contrivance he was able to squeeze the powdered metal unnoticed into eth crucible. By this means he was able to melt a sovereign and produce three or four times its weight in metal.

THE "CHINA TIMES" CASE.

We extract the following from the "China Times" of the 5th instant:—

The following subpoena was served on Thursday, 25th February, upon Mr. John Cowen, editor of the "China Times," at the office of this journal:—

In His Britannic Majesty's Court at Tientsin, Thursday the 25th day of February, 1904.

To John Cowen.—

You have this day been charged (on oath) before this Court, for that you the General Manager and Publisher of the "China Times" by the publication in an article in the issue of the 24th February 1904 of the paragraph beginning with the words "the sole point down to the word "beasts," have committed an act likely to produce or excite to a breach of the public peace, especially in view of the presence of troops of various nationalities in Tientsin.

Therefore you are commanded, in His Majesty's name, to appear before this Court on Monday the 29th day of February at 10-30 o'clock in the forenoon to answer to the said charge, and to be further dealt with according to the law, in accordance with Section 106 of the China and Japan Order-in-Council of 1865.

L. C. Hopkins,
Consul-General and Judge.

The passage in question in your issue of the 24th ult. was as follows:—

"The sole point to which it seems necessary to direct attention is the suggestion that the men and women on board the s. s. Wencow were deservedly ill-treated because the men were spies and the women something worse. No explanation has been given by the Russian authorities of brutal behaviour extended toward these refugees, and the present apology seems scarcely less scandalous than the ill-usage itself. If the men were accused of being spies they should have been tried before a properly-constituted court, not knocked about by brutes in the uniform, and even if found guilty and imprisoned, a civilised gaoler would have provided that they received food and drink. The barbarism and brutality for which Siberia is notorious throughout the civilised world is illustrated at the first outbreak of war. It stands in grim contrast, as we have pointed out, to the humane treatmest accorded by the Japanese to the Russian survivors at Chemulpo. The unwarranted aspersions on the character of the Japanese women are scarcely worthy of notice. Port Arthur, it is true stinks with infamy: so much to the credit of the Russian officers who rule it. It is not the Japanese who have made it so. There is not a town or colony in Japan or in the Far East that can compare with the fortified ports of Eastern Russia for vice and filth of the worst description. Well may "the Times" speak of this war as a war of civilisation, if only because it promises to end in the down-fall of the Russian Sodom and Gomorrah, Port Arthur and Vladivostock. Among all this garbage of humanity, the Japanese are the race which have kept themselves clean. Yet even the lowest of women may net be denied food and drink by captors who have any instincts above those of beasts."

The section of the Orders-in-Council under which these proceedings were taken reads as follows:—

Order of her Majesty the Queen in Council for the Government of her Majesty's subjects in China and Japan. At the Court at Windsor, the 9th March, 1865.)

Section XIII.—Deportation.

106 (i) When it is shown on oath, to he satisfaction of any of her Majesty's Courts in China or in Japan, that there is reasonable ground to apprehend that any British subject in China or in Japan is about to commit a breach of the public peace,—of that the acts or conduct of asy British subject in China or in Japan are or is likely to produce or excite to a breach of the public peace,—the Court within the jurisdiction whereof he happens to be may cause him to be brought before it, and require him to give security, to the satisfaction of the Court, to keep the peace, or for his future good behaviour, as the case may require.

(ii) Where any British subject is convicted, under this Order, of any crime or offence, the Court within the jurisdiction whereof he happens to be may require him to give security to the satisfaction of the Court for his future good behaviour.

In either of the cases. if the person required to give security fails to do so, the Court may order that he be deported from China or Japan to such place as the Court directs.

The defendant appeared as commanded at the Consulate-General on Monday last. The proceedings were held in Chambers. The defendant was ordered to give recognisances. He declined and decilnes to do so.

A deportation order was accordingly made on Wednesday.

BURNS AND SUTS.—Silght injuries of thi terare of frequent occurrence in almost every house hold. While they are not dangerous, except when blood poisoning results from the injury. they are often quite painful and annoying. They can be quickly healed by applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It allay's the pain almost instantly and heals the injured parts without matter being formed, which insures a cure in one-third the time that the usual treatment would require. It is the most perfect preparation in use for burns, scalds, uts bruises and lik injuries. It should be apcied with a feathed before the parts beeome wollen if possible. For sale by
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ELEPHANT TRAINER'S FORTUNE.

The estate of the late Mr. George Lockhart, the famous elephant trainer, of Elephanta Lodge, Harrington-road, Preston, Brighton, has been valued at £17,265.

Mr. Lockhart, it will be remembered, was killed by one of his favourite elephants at Walthamstow on January 24.

A CURIOUS STORY.

Notwithstanding the strict watch that is kept, a Japanese dockyard labourer who had remained in the town almost succeeded in blowing up the docks at Vladivostock. Every preparation had been made, but the authorities, in consequence of the receipt of an anonymous letter, were enabled to frustrate the attempt.—"Novoe Vremya" (St Petersburg.)

APPLES WITHOUT PIPS.

New York, March 16.

After many years of experimenting, Mr. John Spencer, a well-known nurseryman, has succeeded in producing a seedless apple, without a crore and strongly resembling the seedless orange. The trees hav no blossoms.

Mr. Spencer expects to produce seedless apples of all varieties. He assents that with a seedless apple many diseases due to moths laying their eggs in apple blassoms will be avoided.

VESTED IN THE DOG.

A justice of the peace and town councillor of Newbury, in Berkshire, vouches for the truth of a story which hangs upon the fact that he gives sixpence for every rat killed on his premises.

Recently there was a rat hunt in his stable, in which two men and a dog took part. One rat was killed by the dog, and both men claimed the head money. To settle the ownership the councillor placed the sixpence on a stone, and said to the dog, "You killed the rat, you take the sixpence."

The intelligent animal swallowed the coin—and there the question stands at present.

THE MINISTER'S JOKE.

The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Graham Murray) was in his most genial humour on March 15 at a dinner of the London Galloway Association, notwithstanding the "defeat" of the Government in the afternoon.

His best anecdote related to an encounter which a Scottish minister had one night with a parishioner who had been walking in devious paths and was for the moment reclining in a ditch.

"Where have you been John?" asked the minister.

"Weel, I dinna rightly ken," answered the recumbent one, "whether it was a wedding or a funeral. But whichever it was it was a most extraordinary success."

ANXIOUS TO BE EXECUTED.

New York, March 16.

Mr. Odell, Governor of New York, has received a remarkable letter from Frank Burness, a condemned murderer, now con a sailor, was convicted of murdering a shipmate and sentenced to be executed on February 8, but his counsel secured a respite to enable him to take the case before the Court of Appeals.

In the letter Burness says he was justly convicted and is deserving of death. His counsel had no authority to file an appeal in the case, and he declares that unless the governor orders his immediate execution he will take legal proceedings to compel him to do so.

The prison officials say that Burness is quite sane, but very emphatic in his determination to be executed without further delay.

MYSTERY OF A TRAP-DOOR.

Upper Baker-street, Lodon, has got a mystery. A discovery has been made in the ruins of the house of the famous Sarah Siddons, which, it is thought, may lead to the disclosure of a subterranean passage from a remote cellar of the great actress's house to a destination unknown.

In the course of the demolition of the building, in connection with the Baker-street and Waterloo Railway operations, an iron trap-door was found in the basement. A few blows of a sledge-hammer smashed it, revealing a pit about 3ft. by 2ft., resembling the manhole to a sewer.

The pit is brick-lined, and iron hand-holds are fixed in the walls. The depth is probably twelve to fourteen feet, but no one has as yet ventured down. Investigations are to be resumed in about a week.

The startling part of the discovery is that Baker-street has always sedulously nursed a tradition that there exists a subterranean passage from Mrs. Siddons's house to one of the houses opposite. The story runs that George IV., while Prince Regent, used to pay surreptitious visits to the mysterious "house opposite" by means of an under-ground tunnel.

It must be borne in mind, however, that when Mrs. Siddons took the lease of the house in Upper Baker-street she was sixty-two, and the Prince Regent was fifty-five.

Incidentally, it is curious to recall that allusions to a supposed subterranean pasage in Baker-street were made in the celebrated Druce case.

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INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, March 11.

India Council Bills and Transfers.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for India: What is the excess amount, up to date, drawn for home charges from India by Council Bills and Transfers, above the 17,619,300l. as entered under that head in the Indian Government's Budget last March, and in what way is that excess being utilised or applied here, and will these excess drawings be treated in the Indian Budget, now nearly due, by way of deductions from the home charges remittances in the ensuing year.

Mr. Brodrick: The sales of Council Bills and Transfers in 1903-1904 have so far realised 22,600,000l. Owing to the excess of this amount over the Budget Estimate it has been found possible (1) to invest in this country on behalf of the Gold Reserve Fund 2,200,000l. more than the amount remitted from India in gold for that purpose; (2) to avoid a considerable portion of the borrowing in England by the Secretary of State in Council and on his guarantee which was contemplated when the Budget was prepared; (3) to increase the cash balances of the India Office. The amount of the drawings in each year is regulated mainly by the requirements of trade; and there is no intention of hampering trade by restricting the drawings in 1904-1905 to any particular figure on account of the large remittances of 1903-1904, but the possibility of a reduced trade demand in 1904-1905 is being borne in mind in connection with the preparation of the coming Budget.

Indian Primary Schools.—Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will state what is the total number of male children of a school-going age in the Presidency of Madras, and how many of such children are now receiving education; also whether he is aware that, notwithstanding the fact that grants in aid were paid in full, there were 21,561 fewer boys receiving instruction in lower primary schools in the Madras Presidency in the year 1902-1903 than was the case in the year 1892-1893; and whether he will urge the Government of Madras to take the necessary steps with a view to largely increase the number of primary vernacular schools with duly qualified teachers; whether he is aware that 56.4 per cent. of the teachers are persons not qualified under existing rules: and, if so, will he cause such teachers to be replaced by others possessing the necessary qualifications.

Mr. Brodrick: According to the latest report received, the total number of male children of a school-going age in the Madras Presidency is 2,826,295, of whom 565,217, or 20 per cent., were under instruction in public primary schools, 112,046 boys are returned as attending indigenous and private primary schools, making a total of 677,263 in the primary stage of instruction, or 24 per cent. of the number of boys of school-going age. I find that in 1892-93 526,980 boys were receiving instruction in public primary schools (upper and lower), or in primary classes of secondary schools, which is not 21,561 more, but 38,237 less than the number under similar instruction in 1902-3. My honourable friend has apparently taken the figures for "lower primary" schools exclusively, but I am not aware of any reason why "upper primary schools" should be excluded. The Government of India have frequently urged the extension of primary education, and are about to issue a general review of the state of education in India in which the point will again be strongly insisted on. In these circumstances I do not think it necessary to take any action in the matter. I am aware that the last education report for Madras shows 56.4 per cent. of the teachers, other than head masters, pandits, and special teachers, in primary schools as not fully qualified under the rules. This, however, does not mean that all of them were without qualifications. The substitution of fully certificated for less qualified teachers must be a gradual process, and the report shows that the proportion of teachers not fully complying with the requirements of the rules has fallen from 58-8 per cent. in 1901-1902 to 56.4 per cent. in 1902-1903.

The Professorship of Biology at the Madras Presidency College.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is aware that on the professorship of biology at the Madras Presidency College becoming vacant, Mr. K. R. Menon, Assistant Professor of Biology, was appointed to act in the place of Dr. Bourne, a specialist in zoology, and has filled the position for two years; and whether, seeing that the Madras Government now proposes to supersede Mr. Menon by a specialist in botany from England, he will take steps to secure that Mr. Menon's qualifications and claims to the appointment shall be considered.

Mr. Brodrick: I will take care that Mr. Menon's claims to the post are fully considered, but I cannot promise that he will be appointed to it.

Indentured East Indian Immigrants in the Colonies.—Mr. Grenfell asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies: Whether he can give approximately the number of indentured East Indian immigrants in the Colonies, and where such labourer is chiefly employed.

Mr. Lyttelton: The numbers according to the latest information available are:—Natal, 25,636; British Guiana, 14,609; Mauritius, 10,083; Fiji, 8,225; Trinidad, 7,678; Jamaica, 1,163. They are employed chiefly on sugar plantations, but also on cocoa plantations (in Trinidad), on fruit farms (Jamaica,) and in coal mines (in Natal).

Wednesday, March 16.

The Transvaal and Indian Coolies.—Sir Henry Fowler asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been called to an enclosure contained in Lord Milner's despatch of Jan. 25, 1904, page 15 [Cd. 1941], in which, in a quotation from the "Times of Natal," it is stated that it was at first hoped that the labour would be forthcoming from India, but the foolish and obstinate attitude of the Indian Government has made that hope a vain one, and we have been forced back, as a last resort, upon the Chinaman; whether he can inform the House as to what was the attitude of the Indian Government which is described as foolish and obstinate; whether there has been any correspondence between the Secretary of State or the Indian Government with reference to the immigration of Indian coolies into the Transvaal Colony; and, if so, whether he will lay the same upon the table of the House.

Mr. Brodrick: The extract from the Natal newspaper referred to in the question is entirely unjustified by the facts. The Government of India have never been invited to allow coolies to be recruited for labour in the mines of the Transvaal. Correspondence is proceeding with reference to the position of Indian subjects in the Transvaal, and the possibility of recruiting Indian coolies for work in that colony on Government railways, but it has not reached a point at which it could be laid before Parliament.

Sir H. Fowler: Am I to understand that no communication has passed between the two Governments with regard to the immigration of Indian coolies into the Transvaal for the purpose of working in the mines?

Mr. Brodrick: My answer was distinct on that point. No correspondence whatever, that I am aware of, has taken place between the two Governments with regard to the recruitment of Indian coolies for employment in the mines of the Transvaal.

Competition in India.—Col. Nolan asked the Secretary of State for India: If the late order issued by the Governor-General of India, which curtails competition, applies solely to natives of India; and whether by this order competition is in any way reduced for those offices usually held by Europeans; also if he can state in what departments the new order applies.

Mr. Brodrick: I understand that the orders issued by the Government of India refer only to appointments made in India, which are, generally speaking, reserved for natives of that country. They do not apply to offices to which appointments are made after examination in England. In the case of the Indian Civil Service, as the hon. member is doubtless aware, the procedure of appointment is regulated by statute (21 and 22 Vict., Cap. 106, section 32).

Allowances to Officers on the Thibetan Mission.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether allowances for the necessary equipment could be given to the military officers on the Thibetan Mission similar to those paid to the civilian members of the staff.

Mr. Brodrick: I am informed by the Government of India that the officers of the escort have received and will receive all the advantages allowed under the regulations. A special outfit allowance was granted, as an exceptional measure, to the small body of officers both civil and military, who were originally attached to the Mission, but there is thought to be no sufficient reason for extending this concession to the much larger number of officers of the escort which was subsequently added.

The New Field Guns for the Indian Army.—Mr. James Hope asked the Secretary of State for War: Whether he can state what proportion of the new field guns for the Army in India included in the Estimates of the present year will be manufactured in the Royal Arsenal, and what proportion will be contracted for by private firms.

Mr. Arnold-Forster: This matter is under consideration.

Thursday, March 17.

The Thibet Expedition.—Mr. Gibson Bowles asked the Secretary of State for India: Has an order been sent to the Government of India directing hostilities to be undertaken in Thibet; and, if so, was the order absolute or contingent on events; what was the date of such order, if any, and when will a copy thereof be laid upon the table of the House; has the consent of the Thibetan Government now been asked for to the entry of a mission, with an armed escort and guns, into Thibetan territory.

Mr. Brodrick: No order directing hostilities to be undertaken in Thibet has been sent to the Government of India, but Col. Younghusband has been instructed to defend the mission should it be attacked. Having regard to the persistent failure of the Thibetan Government to negotiate, his Majesty's Government did not make the advance of the mission dependent on their consent.

Mr. Gibson Bowles: Then does my right hon. friend say that to send an armed expedition into that country is not a hostile act?

The Speaker: Order, order. That is a debateable matter of opinion.

Sir Ian Hamilton.—Capt. Norton asked why Sir Ian Hamilton, late quartermaster-general in England, had been appointed representative of the Indian Army with the Japanese Army, seeing that he is not an Indian officer, and was the Indian Council, by whom he is paid, consulted with reference to his appointment.

Mr. Brodrick: Sir Ian Hamilton, besides being an officer of great ability and distinction, has long experience in India, where he satisfactorily held several Staff appointments. As he is already in Japan his services were immediately available, and the Indian Government and the Council of India, who were consulted, agreed to the selection. Two officers of the Indian Army will join him.

British Indians at Johannesburg.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Secretary for the Colonies whether the Commissioner of Police in Johannesburg had issued a notice prohibiting coloured persons from using the sidewalks; whether that prohibition applied to British Indians in the Transvaal; and whether the regulation had been sanctioned by Lord Milner.

Mr. Lyttelton: I have no information as to any such recent notice. By the law of the Transvaal, no coloured persons are allowed to walk on the side paths in the towns—(Opposition laughter and ironical cheers)—but I understand from Lord Milner that the Transvaal Police are under instructions not to interfere with respectably dressed and properly conducted Asiatics making use of the side paths. (Opposition laughter, and an hon. member: "Sons of the Empire.")

Mr. Buchanan: Does that apply to British Indian subjects?

Mr. Lyttelton: Yes.

Mr. MacNeill: This is taking up the white man's burden. (Nationalist cheers.)

Mr. MacVeagh: Equal rights for all races. (Nationalist cheers and laughter.)

British Indians in South Africa.—Mr. Runciman asked the Secretary of State for India: If his attention has been drawn to the fact that the Bombay Chamber of Commerce has protested against the Cape Colony Immigration Act of last year, on the ground that British Indians should have the same rights enjoyed by all other subjects of his Majesty of going to and residing in any part of the King's dominions entirely unrestricted by legislation; and, if so, will he state what action in response to this protest has been taken by the Government of India or by his Majesty's Ministers.

Mr. Brodrick: I am aware of the protest from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce referred to in the question. The Cape Colony Immigration Act was passed by the legislature of a self-governing colony, and closely resembles legislation which is in force in other British colonies. In these circumstances his Majesty's Government did not consider it possible to take any action of the kind suggested in the question.

Plague at Allahabad.—Mr. Weir, asked the Secretary of State for India, in view of the outbreak of plague at Allahabad, will arrangements be made for the approaching University Examinations to be held elsewhere.

Mr. Brodrick.—I have no doubt that the Government of the United Provinces will take all possible measures to secure the safety of the candidates appearing at the examinations of the Allahabad University.

Plague in Central India.—Mr. Weir asked the Secretary of State for India, in view of the fact that there were 3,721 deaths from plague in Central India last January as compared with 92 in January 1903, will he state what steps are being taken to check the spread of the disease.

Mr. Brodrick.—All possible care is taken to prevent the spread of plague throughout India. Speaking generally the State Medical Officers of the Native States forming the Central India Agency apply in the territories of their respective States the preventive and remedial measures which are employed in British India. These comprise (1) the provision of hospitals and medical aid for the suffereres; (2) disinfection of infected houses; (3) evacuation of infected quarters in towns and villages; (4) refuge camps for the uninfected; (5) inspection posts and observation huts at railway stations and on main routes; (6) inoculation where desired.

The Epidemic Diseases Act of 1897 is in force in the Indore Residency Bazaars, and in the Cantonments of Mhow, Neemuch, and Nowgong, and sanitary rules made under it are enforced in those localities.

The "West Coast Spectator" says that the Dewan of Cochin has announced that he intends introducing an Income Tax in the State.

The singnal-book missed from H. M. S. "Prince George" has been found, and has been handed to the British Minister at Lisbon by Lieutenant Mendes Almeida, of the Portuguese cruiser "Don Carlos." It was found, by a boatswain of that vessel, floating in a case in the River Tagus. The book appears to be an unimportant one of boat exercise signals. The Court-martial arising out of the disappearance of the book has resulted in the acquittal of the accused—a Lieuenant and a signal-boatswain.

An accident of a most shocking nature has occurred at the Buckingham Mills, Madras, which resulted in the death of a man, Appadoray, aged 23 years, a jobber employed in the Spinning Department of the Buckingham Mills, while engaged in putting a strap on to a swiftly revolving pulley, had his left hand and arm drawn in and wrenched clean off his body. The man was medically attended to, and was being sent on to the General Hospital for treatment, when he expired on his way. His remains were sent on to his residence at Sembium.

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