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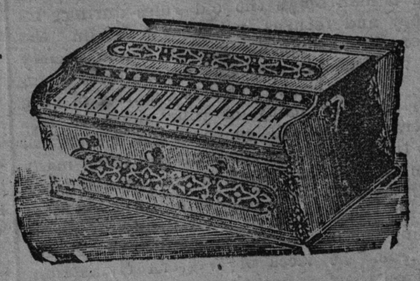

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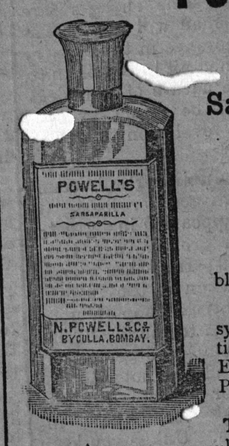

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THE MADRAS HINDU ASSOCIATION.

MRS. BEASANT'S ADDRESS.

An inaugural meeting of the Madras Hindu Association, which was recently started in the city was held on Friday morning at the Victoria Hall.

Mr. Beasant, who rose amidst defeaning cheers, said:—

Brothers,—Why is it that we have met here this morning in numbers so vast, so throughing? What is the object that has gathered us together? What is it that we hope that we intend to do? We are here to take another step on the path along which India is treading to her rightful place among the nations of the world. We are here to lay other stone in the great building of the Indian edifice, so that working for the future, we are met to make that future the present and bring it right home to our door ways to make it a reality and not only a dream. Some words have already been said why another Association should be founded with equal views in some respects similar to the one that has been working among us for many years? The answer comes in the first words laid down in the printed paper of the objects of the Hindu Association, that it intends to promote Hindu social and religious advancement on national lines in harmony with the spirit of Hindu civilisation. There is the distinguishing mark. While we have quarrelled with none, while we have harsh words for none, while we have condemnation for none, we yet claim our duty to choose the path which, we believe, leads best to our goal; and that path is a national path and not a foreign one, is one of Hindu civilisation and not of Western civilisation—(hear, hear)—is one in which while we will take from the West everything that is useful that can enrich our knowledge and enlarge our hearts, we will take nothing that despiritualises India, nothing that denationalises India, nothing that makes her simply a copy instead of a divine original. We do not want a plant of exotic growth that will wither before the Indian sun and will be torn up by the Indian storm; we want a plant of Hindu growth and of Hindu root, that grows stronger when the Hindu sun blazes upon it and is able to resist the tornado as well as the tropical heat. (Cheers.) No reform is lasting, no change is permanent which is not based on the traditions of the nation and in accordance with the genius of the people. I am not condemning Western ways, Western traditions, Western customs. Were I in England I should tell them to base their institutions on English history, English genius, English thought; but in India I claim the same right of originality for the Indian nation to base her growth on Indian traditions and to build in accordance with Indian architecture. A house is not well built which is a mixture of every style of building; here a bit from the architecture of England, and there a scrap that comes from China; here a doorway that has a Mussalman stamp on it, and there a turret that recalls an English Cathedral spire. Build your temple as a Hindu temple, and then it will stand; but if you build into it scraps of the architecture of every other religion you will have a grotesque anachronism and not a national building. (Applause).

What are the main points to which the efforts of this Association are to be turned? I pick out those which are most important, and on which the evolution depends. The education of Hindu girls and women in accordance with the ancient ideals, and in keeping with modern requirements—there is the point on which the future of India depends (hear, hear.) From the mothers of India, the future generations of India must necessarily rise. Indian women in all the splendid of their religious devotion, in all the radiance of their purity, unless you can carry them with you there is no India for the future; for Indian womanhood is part of the Indian nation, and Indian motherhood is the object of worship of the Hindu heart. (Hear, hear). Now you will never carry Indian womanhood with you, unless your lives are Hindu. You will never tear out of the heart of the Hindu women her love for her ancestral faith; you will never make her turn her back on Savithri and Sita and on all the noble women of India of the past who are bound up with her most sacred memories. Hindu Dharma has its temple in the heart of Indian women; and if you desecrate that temple, Indian womanhood will not march forward with you. But unless she goes forth with you, you have no true civilisation. Children suck their ideas from mothers' milk and their first impressions are gathered round their knees. What must you do to raise India? You must raise her women; you must make their religion as wide as it devoted; you must make their minds as thoughtful as they are pure; and in order to do that you must educate them. Without education either men or women miss their full stature. Educated men need wives who are educated, but how? In a way that will make them lose the ideal of Hindu women of the past, to be made simple B. A.'s and M.A's, second-rate copies of their husbands? That is not what you want. You want a woman who is spiritual, you want a woman who at the same time that she is spiritual, is also enlightened, who could be your counsellor as well as your religious ideal, who will add to her faith knowledge, and so influence husband and sons religiously as well as otherwise; and for that you must give them an education founded on their faith, you must teach them along religious and along national lines, an education which will make them better wives and better mothers and not an education useless to them in their part in Indian civilisation. (Cheers) English education modelled on different economic conditions where the woman is the companion of man—that is not what you want for Indian women. You want one which will make them know the past of their land which will live in their own Sanskrit and vernacular literature which will make them proud of the past which will make them realise the future grandeds which we are going. You do not want to revolutionise Indians womanhood. You only want her to grow along the ancient lines to the ancient stature. The education then of the Indian woman is the fundamental object of the Association.

Then after the education of Hindu girls and women you come to the education and enlightenment of Hindu pundits and priests. There is another great class, utterly apart at the present time from the ideas which are moving the minds of English educated Indians. The pundits and the priests are not in sympathy with national aspirations, with the hope of national progress. They are cut off from it by an utter ignorance of the present however learned they may be with regard to the past. Therefore they exercise no real influence over the minds of the English educated men. Their legitimate influence, their useful, their wholesome influence in restraining the over-eager, in checking the overhasty, is utterly lost to the country. How can it be given back? By leading them to realise and understand something of the other side of Indian life, the life which is moving in the hearts of the young English educated classes. Therefore, the Association proposes that in dealing with the pundits of the future they shall not only know the religious and moral literature which belongs to Hinduism, but shall be familiarised with modern European thought and culture and their sympathies and active co-operation gained in the necessary changes that must come upon the land. You want to give them a touch of the civilisation which is largely dominating the minds of the English educated men and in order to do it you must no longer have the exclusive Sanskrit education, but you must also teach the pundits of the future that English language which is the common language of India from North to South, from East to West and so enable them to learn to add to their treasures of learning and scholarship that last touch of modern thought which will make their ancient thought more influential at the present day and enable them to play their indispensable part in the growth of the Indian nation. (Hear, hear.) That is another of the great planks of the platform that we advocate before you to-day.

Then we come to the religious education of Hindu boys and girls in all Hindu schools and colleges. How vital that is you can see if you look round you. Why, only yesterday I stood face to face with a Brahmana, of high social position of high intellectual equipment, who trained in a Jesuit College by the carelessness of those responsible for his training, is on the verge of renouncing his ancestral faith and leaving his ancestral religion and embracing Christian faith. (Cries of "shame.") Shame! but shame to whom? To that young man (cheers) to that young man who, placed as a boy plastic and helpless in the hands of the Jesuit teachers has been moulded like plastic clay by their fingers and taken every sophism that they present to him as a truth direct from the mouth of God or shame to those who place plastic minds in the hands of the Jesuit and the foreigner? And shame, most of all, not to the one man, who sent his son to that fatal influence out to the whole community which has been indifferent (cheers) to its ancestral faith and cared not whether its boys lost or kept their religion, provided they gained the Western veneer which was sufficient for the gaining of livelihood. I do not blame Western veneer; I do not want you not to educate your sons on Western lines. That is necessary in the present condition of India. But why, at the same time, not give them Hindu religious and moral education? Why, not place within their reach the priceless treasures that the past has bequeathed? By all means give them the jewels of Western learning; why should they not be enriched by them? But do not deprive them of the diadem, the diamond of the Eastern faith in which all colours are found, blended into one pure ray of light, that diadem of Hinduism which is your priceless heirloom, and which India cannot afford to lose, (Cheers).

Then we come to the question of marriage reform, and one of the most vital questions with which a nation has to deal; for, on the home, the nation is builded, and on the ideal of marriage depends the future of the race. Now the proposals that are made in order that undoubted evils may be met and eradicated are not revoluntionary in their character. It is proposed to gradually raise the age of betrothals and marriages in the case of girls as well as boys, thereby diminishing the chances of early widowhood. That point of raising the marriage age is one of vital importance to the nation. Look at it for a moment from the ordinary standpoint. The Indian health is going down. Indian boys when they come out of the College are not the vigorous, strong and healthy youths that they ought to be; they are too often worn out by their studies and on the verge of nervous weakness or nervous collapse. Look through your middle-aged men, you will find they have touched old age rather than middle age. You will find with the competition of modern life coming on them at the same time as the comparatively modern Indian ways of living that this is de-vitalising the body and is making them old before their time. The question touches of course, on certain religious precepts, and I am not going to discuss with you here the details of interpretation of isolated texts. But this I say, there is no possibility that the revelation of Iswara himself in nature shall be in contradiction to any revelation of Him that comes from the mouths of the Rishis. If you find that God in nature has stamped certain laws ineradicably as to marriageable age, if you find that disregard of these laws is leading your nation rapidly to physical decay, then you may be sure, that if an isolated text commands early marriage, there is some blunder in the interpretation of tha text, and that Iswara in nature and God Himself in nature cannot have possibly ever made conditions necessary for national health and laid down other conditions in the written record of the Shastras. It is absolutely necessary to restore in India the ancient rule, the rule of Manu, the Law-giver, as well as that repeated by many lesser men; and that law is that the student shall be a Brahmachari and that he shall not enter the married state until the student's state is over. (Hear, hear.) What would Manu say if he came into your schools and found, as I have found, boys in the Entrance Class with a child at home? (Cheers and laughter.) What would he say of the people who claimed his name but neglected his law when he finds the Grahastha stage and the Brahmachari stage so intermingled that none can say where the one begins and the other ends? Restore the ancient Asramas; give back to them their ancient sanctity; tell the student that until a Brahmachari finishes his duty and until the study is over, he has no right to enter the Grahastha estate. Then by obeying the old law you will give back to India the physical vigour which is decaying, and out of a strong and vigorous nation you will build your national prosperity.

Then the education of widows is specially spoken of in order that way may be open to them which will make the useful to the community and happy in their own lives, treading that noble path of human service which is marked out for those who are truly widows to tread for the sake of men; and you will have done away with that blot on Hindu civilisation, the child virgin widow—a wife truly in name but not in fact—on, which the whole edifice of the complaint is built up. Going thus to the root of the evil you will find that the superficial evil will gradually disappear and you will realise that in following these lines of reform you will help India forward and in doing away with the undoubted ills.

There are other minor points which you find in this programme of reform on national lines. Such questions as the treatment on their return of England-travelled men find their place here, and the principle laid down this that when a man obeys the old rules during his journey and returns to live as a Hindu and not on Western lines, then the Hindu Society shall welcome him and put no obstacles in his path. (Hear, hear.) That is a matter of vital importance for many of your cleverest lads will travel they will go to England and will go to the European Continent and learn many a thing of priceless value to you; and if when they return they are Hindus and not aliens, if they have not polluted their bodies by wine drinking and beef eating, and if they have kept back from the vices of Western civilisation, and if on their return they are willing to live as moral and religious Hindus, why shut them out of your community and make them enemies instead of helpers and friends? This Society will work for the reception of such travelled Hindus for their restoration is most needed for Hindu Society. Such roughly are the objects of the Association. The question now for you to decide is whether these objects are well drafted and whether you will help in carrying them out. That some changes are needed every thoughtful man will admit that there is an amount of ignorance in the country that needs to be enlightened all leaders of India must declare; but on the nature of your decision as to whether it shall be as put by our first speaker evolution or revolution the future of India depends.

India is not a little unimportant country that can be merged in another losing its national character and disappearing in a greater land. There is no nation greater than India on the surface of the world; India has a right and a duty in the civilisation of the future; she is not simply to repeat the modern notes of younger nations; she has to sound out her own mighty note which belongs to her among the nations of the world and this not only for your interests but for the interests of the Empire and for the interests of the world at large. Unless you keep your own national characteristics, unless you pressive your religion, unless you walk along the road that suits the national genius, India has no national future in the building of the coming civilisation. You have something to bring to it that other nations have not yet conceived. You have to spiritualise the world and not only your own people and you cannot do that if you lose your spirituality under the flood of foreign and modern thought. This Association then stands on the old lines but walks forward along them; this Association marks itself out distinctively Hindu to walk along the lines of Hinduism, to carry with it those classes of the population that are still a vast majority, the learned and the orthodox classes. They have to be gradually induced to enter the path of reasonable reform. Against them there will always be conflict; lead them to walk with you and India will go swiftly forward along her path.

But let me conclude by saying to you what I have said to other audiences in India, that if in seeking the treasures of the West you lose the treasures of the East, you thereby lose your national life. Without Hinduism there is no future for India. I do not mean Hinduism narrow, unenlightened, dogmatic; I mean Ancient Hinduism enlightened, intellectual, full of vigour and strength, and adaptable to every new condition, and with a word to say to every event that appears. In Hinduism India was born, and if Hinduism be disregarded, India will perish. You will find in Indian Scriptures all that you really need for the building up of your national edifice; and if you build with this as your foundation then your building will stand the storms of time. The West is beginning to look to you for many things. She will not look if she finds only a fifth-rate copy of her own crude imaginings in intellectual and religious matters. If she finds that while you hold your own religion, you reform all abuses, if she sees that while the old remains, the accretions on that old are cleared off and cleared away wih gentle hands, if she sees that to be a Hindu does not mean to stagnate or to retrogress, if she finds that those who are loyal to their faith are also willing to change all that which by process of time has become harmful, and put in its place new grafts that suit the original stock, ah! then the world will be glad of India's help and listen to the words that she speaks. Take up the programme, nationally and wisely planned, and thoughtfully moderate; throw your heart into it and work for it day by day. (Cheers.) Do not come here to cheer a few speakers; go out into your own city, into your own districts, work for that cause of social and moral betterment to which here you are pledging your hands. For listening to you are those who love India, mightier than men, yet human in their love—they inspire the movement which will raise the country without destroying its distinctive features. And if you cheer a speaker, remember that these cheers are your pledge registered before the high gods, that you give your life to the cause of India's helping, (cheers), and that you will not simply for the moment cheer the mere flash of speech of a speaker, but give your heart, your life, your money, your best thoughts to that regeneration of India for which the whole world is waiting, and for which the world will bless you if only you carry it out aright. (Cheers.)

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

H. E. the Governor of Ceylon has remitted the sentences of eleven of the accused who were convicted in connection with the riot at Neervale a village of the Potter division of the Jaffna district, on the 9th of August last year. The riot consisted of the assembly of about five hundred people armed with knives, swords, clubs, etc., and destroying the Catholic church, and school, both of which were razed to the ground. The terms of imprisonment varied from one year to four years, and the sentences came to effect in April last, having been delayed in appeal.

ANGLO-INDIAN KINDNESS.

Our friend the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" is very indignant with Mr. Pennington over a letter of his which appeared in our columns on September 12 referring to the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 and the failure, or otherwise, of India's rulers to carry it into effect. The 'Patrika' says:—

Alas! all her pledges remain unredeemed, though they were given half a century ago. Not only this. Her servants like Mr. Pennington have been coming forward every now and then to declare that their sovereign was not at all sincere, and that her Majesty only played a trick with the Indians with a view to deceive them!

Now Mr. Pennington said nothing of the kind. He intervened to defend his fellow officials from the charge of "dishonesty and duplicity," by maintaining that the majority of Indian officials who opposed the policy of Lord Ripon (with which majority he, Mr. Pennington, does not agree), honestly thought that his policy was dangerous to British dominion in India, and he pointed out that there were conditions in the Queen's Proclamation itself. The "Midland Herald" is asked to "please take note of this article." Well, I do so, but with regret that our esteemed contemporary should have been, as it seems to me, rather unfair, and, indeed, have made an unnecessary attack on an individual. There is no necessity for such an attack. The main case of the "Patrika" is clear, and, to my mind, incontrovertible. The Queen no doubt meant what she wrote, but "her pledges remain unredeemed."

I turn with more interest to the article before the one from which I have quoted. After quoting from Lord Curzon's speech at Patiala in which he related the Queeen's concluding words to him, "Be kind to the Indian people," our contemporary makes the following remarks:—

We are grateful to the late Queen for her kind wishes, and to the Viceroy for not only making them known to the world, but expressing them in a sympathetic manner. But yet we must say, we do not need any kindness from any one, no, not even from our English rulers. Our highest ambition does not rise higher than that they should not send the people to jail under the ægis of draconian laws; that they should protect the people from the violence of low-class Europeans; and leave to India sufficient food for the people to live in health. That is all the kindness that the people want, and if such kindness were shewn they would be exceedingly grateful.

If it is contended that the people has already got that kindness from their rulers we are bound to deny it. Just see: there is trial by jury in every civilized country in the world but we have not it here. Then the privilege of retrying a man once tried and acquitted by a competent court of law and the enhancement of sentences by the High Court are innovations which are to be found nowhere in the world.

If trial by jury, as it obtains in England, were given to the people, at least half of those who rot in Indian jails would not be there.

Then as regards protection of the people from the violence of low-class Europeans, if Lord Curzon had not been a strong Viceroy, the so-called punishment that he inflicted upon the 9th Lancers would have ended his career here in India.

There is then the complaint of insufficiency of food. People die of famines here; millions and millions have so died from starvation, which means that they had no food to sustain life, though they were industrious and sober. But why had they no food? Was it because grain was scarce? No, it was money that was scarce, and this was admitted by even such a trustworthy official witness as Lord George Hamilton. That is to say, the Indians have to maintain a costly rule, and this leaves them not money enough to enable them to live in health. . . .

In that Proclamation the Queen conferred all the privileges which an Englishman enjoys upon the natives of India. . .

What was then the necessity of her making that request once again to the Vceroy?

There is one explanation. It is this that the people of India are not treated kindly and that she was aware of it. As a matter of fact, the Proclamation of the Queen has been rendered a dead letter. It is there laid down that the Indian Princes are all independent to manage their States in the way they think best, but, as a matter of fact, almost all of them have been reduced to the condition of Political pensioners.

As regards neutrality, the so-called heathens are made to keep Christian priests in opulence and ease.

The Queen further promised equality of treatment in all matters. But we have one law for Europeans and another for Indians. Then again, the natives of the soil have been ostracized from almost every office worth having, and deprived of every political privilege enjoyed by other British subjects.

The Indians had at first a career in the Indian States, but they have been gradually expelled from there. See the condition of Hyderabad. It is white almost from to to bottom. The Viceroy is pleased to say that it is all a temporary arrangement; that the Europeans now employed in Indian States would vacate their posts as soon as competent Indians were available. We can assure His Excellency that competent Indians would not be forthcoming within ten or hundred or thousand years.

Nay, the Indians have been expelled from the services of their own zemindars through official efforts.

Now, without pledging myself to every detail, I fear that this is in a general sense true. And, to my mind, the moral of it—a moral which I hope the Indians are gradually learning—is that their welfare does not depend on proclamations, or on the "kindness" of Anglo-Indians, or on their being allowed a share in British rule, but in the growth and virility of their own manhood

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EXERCISES OF THE RALSTON CLUB.

HOW ITS 6,000,000 MEMBERS OBTAIN LIFE, HEALTH, AND BEAUTY.

The Ralston Health Club, which has been in existence in America some twenty-five years, was started as the result of a curious train of thought set up by a series of untoward occurrences. Its founder was a man of education, a biologist whose knowledge of the human body was great. One day a friend of his, apparently at the moment in perfect health, dropped down dead of heart failure, and the next week two acquintances, whose health also was to all appearances everything it should be, were seized with pneumonia and died.

These melancholy losses and those of other friends from consumption and diphtheria raised in the biologist's mind an important question—namely, whether in the vast majority of cases illness was not preventable, and whether even death, except from old age, was not unnecessary.

Time went on, and from small beginnings the great club was formulated which in the year 1889 became a gigantic organisation, and now numbers six million members. Its founders had set an excellent example of longevity to the members by carrying out in every detail the tenets of the club.

The name Ralston has a curious origin. According to the researches of the pioneers of the club the seven great principles of life are nature, oxygen, temperance, strength, light, activity, and regime. These principles are given in the rotation of their value, and it will be noticed that their transposed initials form the word Ralston.

In America the Ralston doctrines of commonsense are well-known. One of the most prominent tenets is this, that the four points of health are vitality, cheerfulness, food, and exercise. Many strange opinions are held by the members, especially with regard to such details as food and drink. In the book of Star Ralstonism, which has run into many editions, it is set forth that to eat bananas out of their native climate is to court sickness and possible death. It is, moreover, stated that headache and neuralgia are certain to ensue if strawberries are eaten before they are really in season. Furthermore, eggs are taboo on the menu of the true Ralstonite, unless it can be guaranteed that the hens that laid them have never eaten worms, insects, or meat.

The Star Ralstonite is warned that fatal cases of cancer have been found linked to an overdue foundness of eggs, while tomatoes are declared to be injurious to the liver and stomach, and an overindulgence in onions withdraws the red corpuscles from the blood and leaves the skin sallow.

Ralstonites are very particular as to the times at which they take their meals and as to the qualities of those meals. It is maintained by the members of the club that the heaviest meal of the day should be eaten in the morning, just after dressing.

Many of the Ralston beliefs, however, are so full of good common-sense that they are the accepted opinions of every one. One tenet is that fruit, when it is green or unripe, is unwholesome, whereas when it is in first-rate condition it is one of the best possible foods humanity can devour. Again, the Ralstonite holds that oxygen taken in the form of fresh air, and iron in the form of grapes, and whole wheat bread, are nutritious and

HEALTH-GIVING PRODUCTS.

Among its other publications the club issues free to every member who brings five recruits to the society a volume containing general treatments for curable maladies. This book helps to promulgate the idea now so prevalent in America that health is the desirable and fashionable state of being, and that disease should be eliminated from society. It makes such exereises as deep breathing become an interesting pursuit, and arouses enthusiasm for foods that are simple and nutritious, and water that is absolutely pure—that is to say, boiled first to kill the microbes, and filtered to get their rid of their dead bodies.

No Ralstonite sanctions the indiscriminate use of drugs, but takes only such medicines as may be prescribed to him by a physician. Hygiene and physical culture are the great watchwords of this remarkable body, which in America is a real factor for good in all grades of society.

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

A Resolution of the Government of India, dated September last, but just circulated, on the return of accidents on Indian Railways for the year ended December, 1902, says: With an increase of 539 miles, or 2.14 per cent in the mean mileage worked, and of 4,902,609 miles, or 5.45 per cent in the train-mileage run, the number of train accidents increase by 150 and the total number of persons killed and injured thereby rose from 30 and 144 to 177 and 292, respectively. While the increase in the number of accidents is unsatisfactory, it is noticed that the increase in the numbers killed and injured was due mainly to the accidents at Mangapatnam, Khatauli, and Rampur Haut. The total number of casualties to both passengers and servants from all causes (train accidents and accidents from causes other than accidents to trains) increased under killed from 1,114 to 1,231, or by 10.50 per cent., and under injured from 970 to 1,141, or by 17.63 per cent.

TIBET MISSION.

We learn from Darjeeling that Colonel Younghusband will shortly resume his forward movement, and it is expected that he will reach Gyantse with the headquarters of the Mission by the 1st proximo.

Visitors to Darjeeling who have just returned to Calcutta report that no snow has yet fallen there, or in Sikkim, where the clear winter weather still holds. The troops with the Tibet Mission have consequently not had to endure the discomfort of heavy snowfall.

The most extraordinary good luck in the matter of weather has attended the Tibet Mission so far. As a general rule the Jelap La is closed by Christmas, but the winter rains having held off in Bengal there has been no bad weather in Sikhim, in spite of the heavy snowfalls that have taken place in the Himalayas further west. The general belief is that there is no snow in Sikhim till a week or ten days after it rains in Calcutta. There was a there is no snow in Sikhim till a week or ten days after it rains in Otlcutta. There was a slight fall of rain here in the early hours of Friday morning, but the depression seems to have been purely local and apparently did not move further north.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 10, 1904.

THE VICEROY'S SPEECH ON THE OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

THE Viceroy's speech on the Official Secrets Bill, we regret, was not generally appreciated, especially by the Anglo-Indian press. In our humble opinion, it is not only pleasant reading, but His Excellency was in his best form when he delivered it. He took the public entirely into his confidence, and frankly stated the real situation. Of course he tried to have a little fling at those, specially Mr. Gokhale, who had "accused" the Government of which he had the honour to be the head, of "wishing to inaugurate a reign of terror, of ringing the death-knell of the freedom of the Press, and so on;" but, we think, the tables might as well be turned upon His Excellency himself. For, the newspapers would have never compared the Indian Government with the Russian, neither would Mr. Gokhale have drawn "the harrowing picture of Indian editors being marched off to the prison; of the publication of the most trivial information being treated as illegal; of innocent petition-writers being dragged out of Government offices by the Police; and of arrested persons rotting in jail," if the Viceroy had given the real reasons of the introduction of the revolutionary measure, and the Bill had not been drafted in its present form.

Now the public impression was that the Bill in question owed its origin to the exposure to which the Government had been subjected by the discovery that the object of the Delhi Railway Conference was to snatch away all the important, and even many unimportant posts under the Railway Department from the children of the soil and make them over to the Eurasians and "Poor Whites." There were very good grounds for this belief in the public mind. It may be remembered that, when the Hon'ble Babu Sri Ram interpellated the Government last year whether the proceedings published in connection with the above Conference in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" were correct or not, they found themselves in a most embarassing position. It is quite true that the reply of the Government was that they knew nothing about the matter, but yet the public were incredulous and they explained the matter in this way. In their opinion the Viceroy had certainly no knowledge of the affair, but what happened was that the head of the Public Works Department had brought this about without the permission of His Excellency; for, both his Secretary and Asst. Secretary had taken prominent part in the proceedings. Then again, it was the Public Works Member, the Hon'ble Mr. Arundel, who was entrusted with the Official Secrets Bill, and it was naturally sought to be connected with the Delhi Railway Conference. His Excellency the Viceroy, however, says that the interpellation on the Delhi Railway Conference had nothing to do with this matter and then gives the following history of the measure.

In 1894, says His Excellency, there was a difference of opinion among the highest legal authorities in Bengal as to whether the existing Act was intended to prevent or did prevent the disclosure of confidential civil documents and information. A little later the inadequacy of the present Act in another direction was discovered in the case of some persons who had been found taking photographs of certain military defences and who could not be dealt with by the Act as it then stood. These difficulties arose in the main, says His Excellency, from the ambiguous wording of Sections 3 and 4 of the present Act of 1889. Accordingly it was decided to refer the matter to the Secretary of State, and Lord Curzon found a Bill already drawn up when he came out to India five years ago, and the Draft Despatch to the Secretary of State only waiting for his signature.

His Excellency, however, did not sign it. A prolonged discussion followed upon the suggested amendment of the law. Then occurred some further cases of illicit photographing of defences, and the matter was again referred to the Secretary of State, who gave his consent to the amending legislation as far back as the autumn of 1902. "All these events," continues His Excellency, "took place long before the Delhi Railway Conference, or any of the other incidents that are alleged to have so greatly disturbed our equanimity."

Then came the introduction of the Bill in the Legislative Session of the Supreme Council in Simla last summer. A fear was at once expressed that it was intended to force through an unpopular and insidious piece of legislation while Government was in the hills. "I suppose," observes His Excellency, "if we had been guilty of all the motives since attributed to us, that this would have been the most natural course to adopt; but so little design had we of springing a surprise upon the public or of hurrying through the Bill without full discussion, that the idea never occurred to us of taking the Bill anywhere else than at Calcutta, and I at once authorised a public declaration to that effect."

Referring to the aims and intentions of the Bill, the Viceroy facetiously remarked that, Mr. Gokhale's dismal vision of marching off editors and others to prison had never been before the eyes of the Government. His Excellency admitted that such things were possible under the Bill, in the opinion of others, though he himself did not think that they were. "But if I am wrong," the Viceroy goes on to observe, "then I say at once, that we shall be prepared, if convinced of the unsuitability of our language, to alter it; if we have been guilty of obscurity, to correct it; if shown to have gone too far, to modify our plans. In fact, I am not without hope, that even the critics of the Bill may be converted into its supporters."

Now these utterances show clearly that the present Viceroy is not likely to do anything which is repugnant to public opinion. We wish, however, His Excellency were little more explicit. The situation is this. The existing Official Secrets Act is only a copy of the English Act. The English Act apparently has served its purposes very well. At least there has been no talk of its amendment since 1889. Where is then the necessity of amending it in India?

"I want Hon'ble Members to remember this," said the Viceroy,—"the existing Act is unquestionably faulty. It is, indeed, so loosely drawn that it has been found to be inoperative wherever occasion has imperatively arisen to have recourse to it." But how they manage in England? If some cases have arisen in India, surely, similar cases must have cropped up in other parts of the Empire within the last 12 or 13 years. But no Government, except the Indian, complains of its inoperativeness. The Viceroy, we wish, had explained what special circumstances had led the authorities here to change the principle of the law in a quite different direction, which circumstances were wanting in British Isles and other parts of the Empire.

Then again, if His Excellency were to go through the Parliamentary debates on the Bill in 1889, he would find that it was only to protect military and not civil secrets that the measure was needed. Why then introduce a provision relating to civil matters? His Excellency refers to some cases which, he says, could not be dealt with under the present Act. But they related to illicit photographing of defences, which means, they were military matters. We submit, therefore, the disclosure of so-called confidential civil documents and information should never be within the purview of the Act. Indeed, the real sting of the present Bill lies in bringing civil information within its provisions. So long as this sting is not taken away, the public will regard the measure as a terrible engine of oppression.

The Viceroy, if he had so minded, might have silenced Mr. Gokhale more effectively by directing his attention to one fact. What Mr. Gokhale apprehended was that the entire body of newspaper men might be consigned to jail under the provisions of the proposed Act. In reply His Excellency might have said that the English journalists were excluded when the English Act was forged, their brethren in India would also receive the same treatment at his hands if the Bill were passed.

THE ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

WE bear no malice towards the Christian ecclesiastics; on the other hand, we entertain the highest respect for many of them, and consider them a very useful body. They exercise a softening influence upon the despotic rulers of the country. Placed as the rulers are here in this country, they are very much tempted to forget some of the truths preached by Jesus Christ. It is these ecclesiastics who remind them of God, of an after-world, of the necessity of treating all men as brethren. Even from the low stand-point of interest, they are useful.

Of course, they cause a good deal of expense to the Indians who, according to them, are only heathens. The Indians naturally very much object to the way their monies are spent by the Government for the maintenance of those who look down upon them with contempt. The objection is not based upon the fact that a poor country can not afford to spend any money for their benefit, but, because, it is believed to be not proper, that Christian chaplains should be nourished by people whom they consider as destined to go to hell.

Indeed, it is believed that it is morally wrong and offensive to God to compel heathens to maintain a Christian Church. If the Indians can bear to see with equanimity of mind their monies spent upon costly military establishment, which is unnecessary in a poor and unaggressive country like India, why should they object to spend some money upon an object which, if served, is likely to benefit them?

We can, therefore, spend monies, and cheerfully too, for the maintenance of churchmen, who teach the despotic rulers of the land the great truth that all men are the children of God, and that therefore they ought to be treated as brethren, and not as helpless dependants.

Hence we were surprised, nay, pained to see the following note in the October number of the "Calcutta Review" by its missionary Editor, while noticing the last issue of the "Indian Review," which, it seems, had reproduced in its columns, our article headed "Wanton Waste of Forty-five Lakhs a Year":—

"We are sorry to see a curiously ignorant article from the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" quoted in its columns. The name of the article is "Wanton Waste of Forty-five Lakhs a Year"—the 'Wanton Waste' is the ecclesiastical establishment in India. It is so ignorant that no educated man will be led away by its statistics. What do these entries mean, under the heading of yearly payments: "Forty junior chaplains in field service Rs. 20,000." "Fifty senior chaplains for hospitals, sanctuaries and cemeteries, Rs. 40,000," and many others. The whole question of an Indian ecclesiastical establishment has been thoroughly gone into by Sir Theodore Hope; and it is a known fact, that the European tax-payer in India pays five times as much to the support of Hindu temples and Mahommedan mosques as the Hindu or Mahommedan does to the Christian ecclesiastical establishment. The proportion, as to this payment, is made with some reservation, as the writer of this notice is away from books; but, this much is quite certain, whatever proportion it is, it is all in favour of the native of India."

But does the Revd. Mr. Dyer approve of this arrangement of paying the churchmen from "heathens'" money? If he does, we humbly think he is mistaken. We shall explain it by an example, an unsavory one, for which we beg to be excused. If the example is unsavory, it has the merit of explaining the situation clearly. In this country, the patron goddess of the dacoits is Kalee. Before they march on their expedition, they offer a pooja to the goddess for success. When they succeed in securing a booty, they give another pooja to her out of its proceeds. Now, do you think this pooja is regular and acceptable? You get money from somebody by force, and give a share of it to the deity. What you do is that you, the children of the deity, take something by force from other children of the same deity, and offer a share to the goddess. Now as the goddess is the mother of all, why should she approve of the conduct of those who use violence towards her other children?

Take another instance. When Columbus set sail for his voyage of discovery, he promised to God that if he found gold, he would prepare a golden temple in Jerusalem. He found gold by desolating tracts and reducing American Indians to slavery. We don't think God would have ever touched the gift which Columbus had promised to Him, because, it was tainted with human blood.

The British Government is a beneficent one, but yet there is no doubt that the money spent for its bishops, chaplains and other ecclesiastics in this country is taken from an unwilling people. The Hindus and Mussalmans do not like that any portion of the revenues, raised from them, should be devoted to the maintenance of Christian churchmen. We do not think that Christ approves of such an arrangement.

In the note, we find, however, a curious statement and argument. The writer says in his note: "It is a known fact that the European tax-payer in India pays five times as much to the support of Hindu temples and Mahomedan mosques as the Hindu or Mahommedan does to the ecclesiastical establishment." Well, if the Christian tax-payers does it, does the missionary writer approve of it? If he does, we do not. We also know that many Christians do not, indeed, when the Government, in early days, tried to possess the Puri Temple with its resources, the Christian ecclesiastics objected, and the Government had to give up the idea.

As to the so-called known fact that Christians pay five or six times more for Hindu and Mussalman religion than the latter for the religion of the former, we only have to plead total ignorance. We never knew it before. But is it a fact at all? It will be seen, the writer after having made the statement confesses that he was "far away from books," when he made it, which means that he does not vouch for the absolute accuracy of his statement, but that does not matter. Is he sure that he is substantially correct, namely, that the Christian pays five or six times more &c. &c. ? Well, he need not prove that the Christians pay five times more—let him prove that they pay four times, or three times,—nay, let him prove that the Christians pay as much as the Hindus and Mussalmans do, and we shall be satisfied. Let him prove that the Christians pay anything at all, and we shall yet try to excuse him for the outrageous statement.

DISMEMBERMENT QUESTION CRITICIZED BY PARALLEL CASES.

ONE great reason urged for the dismemberment of Bengal is that it will secure administrative convenience. What is meant by administrative convenience is not made clear. It must mean convenience to civilian rulers of India, if it means anything at all. But if the partition secures some convenience to the rulers, the Bengalees themselves are not willing to be divided. What then? Use force—the irresistible force of the Government—to carry out this administrative convenience, which is repugnant to the people?

When Alsace and Lorraine were cut off from France and added to Germany, the people of those districts did not agree. It was only brute force that led them to acquiesce in the arrangement. It is quite true, in this case, the rule was transferred from France to Germany; but yet the German element in both places was very strong.

Administrative convenience forsooth! This reminds us of the story of the two friends. They did business in two different cities, which let us call, London and New York. The man who resided in London had his wife in New York, and the New York man's wife resided in London. The New York man approached the wife of his friend, and intimated to her that he and her husband had made the following arrangement between them, namely, that as he and his friend's wife were in New York, and his wife and his friend were in London, so he would live with her and his friend would live with his wife. The wife of the London man was of course surprised. "Is it possible," and she, "that my husband has agreed to such an arrangement?" "What is the wonder?" replied the friend of her husband. "It is only a matter of convenience". This story is to be found in an English novel. Whether or not the lady agreed to the proposal of her husband's friend is not the point. The point is that wives do not change their husbands for the convenience of the latter; nor does a nation desire to sacrifice its sentiments and associations for the convenience of administration.

The English are divided into Tories and Liberals. The Tories will have a Tory administration; the Liberals will have an administration of their own. They never give up their sentiments for administrative convenience. The Tories will have a Tory rule, even if bad; and the Liberals, in the same manner, will have a Liberal rule, at all hazards. They do not yield to the convenience of their rulers.

Mr. Risley, in his letter to the Bengal Government, says that "the true criterion of territorial re-distribution should be sought not in race but in language." Hence, he urges, that the Oorya-speaking people of Ganjam and Sambulpur, which are respectively in Madras and the Central Provinces, should live under the same Government with the inhabitants of Orissa. He sympathises with the people of Ganjam who, in a petition to the Government of India, speak of themselves as disassociated from their Oorya brethren and of Orissa as a "limb separated from the body", and suggests that all who speak Oorya be brought under one Government. He also alludes to the prayer of Rajah Boikantha Nath of Balasore to the same effect that, "all the districts and States speaking the Oorya language be united together and placed under one common administration." And Mr. Risley ends by saying that "it is for unity on the basis of language, not for re-distribution on the basis of administrative advantage, that all these memorialists plead."

The Province of Bengal is inhabited by Ooryas, Bengalees, and Beharees. It is only language that divides and unites the people of this Province. If the man of Midnapur is a Bengali, so is the man of Chittagong, though they are hundreds of miles away and divided by many big rivers. The man of Sambulpur is, however, an Oorya, though he is so close to Midnapur, because he speaks the Oorya, and not the Bengali. If the Government has any desire to divide Bengal into two or three parts on the basis of administrative convenience, even then the best thing for it would be to give the Ooryas, the Bengalees, and the Beharees each a separate administration.

But the Government is going to seek administrative convenience by a queer method. It will keep the Bengalees, the Ooryas and the Beharees together, though they speak different languages. But it will take eleven millions of Bengalee-speaking people from Bengal and thrust them upon the Assamese in Assam who do not speak Bengalee, but a different tongue. To make up for this fantastic arrangement, the Government will give two Oorya districts of Madras and the Central Provinces to Bengal! This is re-distribution running mad.

Is it not very strange that Mr. Risley, after his admission alluded to above, should thus force a portion of the Bengalees to unite with the Ooryas and Beharees, and the other portion with the Assamese?

Assam is lean and Dacca is fat; so they must be joined together to maintain equilibrium. But if Dacca, Mymensingh and other Eastern districts enrich Assam, being added to it, they will also impoverish Bengal, if detached from it. Why will the Bengalees as a nation agree to it? Why will the Bengalees of the East agree to help Assam at the cost of their own kith and kin? Why will the people of Western Bengal agree to this suicidal arrangement?

Lycurgus made a certain law and made the whole Spartan nation follow it. Is the British willing to destroy the inequality of wealth that prevails in the Empire? If that is the wish of the glorious Empire under which we live, we welcome the proposal. Let then England, which is the richest country in the world, help India—the poorest in the world. Let then Mr. Risley, who is supposed to be wealthy, help Sir A. Fraser, who is supposed to be poor.

HAS THE INDIAN A SOUL?

MR. RISLEY, we understand, attributes the agitation against the project of the partition of Bengal, to "sentiment." That being so, it, according to him, deserves no notice. In short, the sentiment of the people of India is not to be respected, and that is what Mr. Risley believes to be good policy. But why? Are the Indians human cattle? Are they "human sheep" as an American paper, "Evening Post," called them? But as a matter of fact, though the Indians have some of the characteristics of the sheep, they are yet human beings and have souls. Why should not the sentiment of the Indian be respected as that of any other people?

Has not the Englishman his sentiment? Why does Mr. Risley love his countrymen more than he does the Indians who maintain him by the sweat of their brow? Proof? Here is the proof conclusive. Why did he take a prominent part in transferring the control of an Indian city from the hands of the Indians to those of his own countrymen? So there is no doubt Mr. Risley loves his country. But does he love it much? We cannot say he does; for, if it had been so, he would have never left his dear land to serve another,—he would have then utilized his high talents for the growth of his motherland, and not sold himself to a foreign country for pay—a country which is the abode of cholera, dysentry, plague, and enteric fever.

Yet he has some love for his country as we said before, otherwise, he would have never helped in the vandalism of destroying the tree of local self-government planted in India, by a noble-minded Britisher, like Sir Richard Temple. But is not patriotism itself a sentiment,—a mere sentiment for which men sacrifice their best interests? And is not religion also a sentiment? Why are the Christians and Mussalmans querrelling these more than one thousand years? Many hundreds of millions of men have shed their best blood over difference of opinion in religious matters. What is it that leads them? It is nothing else but sentiment.

But it is not the first that the question, how far the sentiment of the Indian is to be respected, has been brought to the front for discussion. The matter was decided when the late Queen issued her famous Proclamation in 1858. Her Majesty only respected the sentiment of the Indian when she said that the British Government would never interfere with the religious practices of the people of India. What was it that brought about the mutiny? It was mainly sentiment, and nothing else. In short, in every part of the world, sentiment plays a very important part, and is therefore respected. It is respected even in India. How is it that Mr. Risley, one of the advisers of the Government, is now of opinion that, because the agitation owed its origin to sentiment, it must not therefore be heeded?

We think Mr. Risley is very much mistaken in this view. If anything ought to be respected in India, it is sentiment. The Indians will bear much with equanimity,—will bear injury to their material interests,—but not any outrage to their cherised sentiments. Of this we can assure Mr. Risley most emphatically. As a shrewd and experienced statesman, Mr. Risley ought to know that sentiment has more potent influence upon the human mind than interest, or even the love of life. He ought to know that men sometimes sacrifice their lives for a sentiment.

To come now to the point. Mr. Risley attributes all the protest meetings in East Bengal to sentiments, and proposes to treat them with indifference. One reason, why he is so inclined, is that besides the telegraphic accounts of the meetings, he has no accurate knowledge of them, as to how they are got up and what they say when they meet. It is time now for the West,—for the people of Calcutta and suburbs—to shew Mr. Risley that it is not merely the East but also the West that is vitally interested in the question; and that it is both sentiment and material interest that are moving the whole of Bengal.

THE letter of Mr. Risley to the Government of Bengal on the proposed dismemberment of this Presidency is dated the 3rd December. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor visited Dacca on the 8th of that month. We may therefore take it that Sir Andrew Fraser was fully aware of the project before he had started for Eastern Bengal. How is it then that His Honour did not communicate this fact to any gentleman of Dacca or Mymensing when he was pleased to grant him an interview. Our correspondent at Dacca writes us to say that His Honour talked with Babu Ananda Chandra Roy, the leader of the Dacca bar and the educated middle classes of that district, for upwards of a quarter of an hour about various subjects. Well, some of those subjects were of such a nature that the proposed transfer question would have formed quite a relevant topic to have been discussed in that connection, strangely enough, the Lieutenant-Governor did not show the least indication from which they could guess that such a revolutionary measure was before the Government. We very much regret this omission on His Honour's part; for, here was an opportunity for him to know the real sentiments of the leading men of Dacca and Mymensingh on this question. As they would have been taken unawares, Sir Andrew might have been able to ascertain at once whether the agitation that has been started in this connection since then is real or artificial. However, His Honour may know the real truth, if he has yet any doubt about the genuineness of the movement, by conferring with such foremost men of Eastern Bengal as Mr. Justice Ghose, Maharaja Bahadoor Suryakanta Acharjya, Babu Ananda Chander Roy, Babu Dwarka Nath Chuckerbutty, Babu Anath Nath and a few others. Surely they are incapable of concealing the actual situation from the ruler of the Province. We wish we could publish all the private letters we are receiving in this connection from all parts of Eastern Bengal. They would have shown at once the agonising state of the mind in which tens of thousands of people have been thrown by this proposal of separating them from their brethren in the West and casting them at the mercy of an inferior Administration.

BY the way is Saul among the prophets? Whether he is or he is not, there is no doubt that Mr. Beatson Bell, the famous Magistrate of Backergunj, has suddenly turned into a full-fledged statesman. His opinion about the dismemberment question having been asked, he is reported to have suggested that, instead of Dacca and Mymensingh, the whole of the Dacca Division, that is to say, the districts of Dacca, Mymensing, Faridpur, Backergunj, together with the Rajshaye and Chittagong Divisions and Jessore and Khulna should be transferred from Bengal to Assam, and Dacca made the winter head-quarters of the Government, and a Governor or a Lieutenant-Governor be appointed to take charge of this new Province. The proposal, it is said, is under the consideration of the Government. The adage is, very "Rishi" (wise man) has his own opinion. Indeed, like Mr. Beatson-Bell other wise men may advance other suggestions equally fantastic. Here is one of our own, though we are no "Rishis," and though it is only a development of Mr. Beatson-Bell's scheme. It is not only to add Dacca, Chittagong, and Rajshaye Divisions but also a few other Divisions, viz., Presidency, Burdwan and Nadia to Assam. This shows that the best policy of the Government is to let things alone. Indeed, there are so many important and urgent works before the Government that we wonder this question of the dismemberment of Bengal should enter into its head and make it waste its energies upon a purposeless object. As regards the people, thousands in Eastern Bengal have left their legitimate occupation and are engaged, day and night, in concerting measures to avert the impending danger. One leading man of Dacca writes us to say: "You have no idea in what a sad plight we all are. Most of us have lost our sleep and appetite. We have to work from morning to midnight, sometimes up to 2 a.m., in connection with the movement. Although I am an old man and my health is giving way, I had, in my last trip to a certain centre, to remain exposed to bitter cold for three hours at times at night." Now, is the partition question so very important that for its sake this misery and dislocation of business should be brought about in the land where quiet and order reigned only two or three week ago?

A FEW years ago the Director of Public Instruction published a list of ungraded officers in the Subordinate Educational Service. Since the reorganisation of the Educational Service, the prospects of the officers in the lower grade have been blighted, but nothing was done in the case of the ungraded officers. The publication of the list inspired some hope in the breasts of the ill-paid school masters. But, it seems, they were doomed to disappointment—they only saw a mirage in the desert. For, whenever a vacancy occurs in any zilla school, instead of promoting a man from the next lower grade, an outsider is invariably brought in to fill it up. In the case of the graded officers promotions are given when vacancies occur, but quite a contrary procedure is adopted in cases of ungraded officers. We are told that in the Bhagalpur Division very few persons were promoted while a great number of outsiders were taken in during the last year. This is a fit subject for a member of the local Council to take up and interpellate the Government to furnish a comparative list showing the number of outsiders appointed and promotions made in the service during the year 1902-1903.

THE following telegram will speak for itself:—

On the return journey of Mr. Lall Mohan Ghose to Calcutta an altercation took place at Kavali Station on the North-East line, Madras Railway, in which a Railway Engineer considering himself insulted by Dr. Sarat Kumar Mullick, directed the Station Master to detach the reserved carriage of Mr. Ghose, thereby putting Mr. Ghose to much inconvenience. The dispute was subsequently settled and the carriage was re-attached and the journey resumed. Telegrams, however, were sent to the Private Secretary to the Governor, the Traffic Manager, Madras Railway, and Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose himself telegraphed to the Secretaries of the local Congress Committee. The telegram is published in the local Indian Press and commented on.

Here are the further details of the case. Babu Lall Mohan and Dr. Mullick with ladies were coming to Calcutta from the National Congress at Madras in a first class reserved carriage. One Mr. Duncan, a Railway District Engineer, according to their version, insisted on putting in others in the same carriage, though it was reserved, and accomodation was available elsewhere. Of course Babu Lal Mohan and Dr. Mullick protested, and some high words passed. Upon this the reserved carriage No. 1 of the mail train from Madras was cut off at Cabuli station by the station master. The occupants of the compartment remonstrated with the guard, one Mr. Thomas, the station master and Mr. Duncan to no purpose. The party, which included some invalid ladies, had got drenched at Bitragantas bridge and was again obliged in the rains to get into an overcrowded second class compartment. When about to wire to the Traffic Manager

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about these doings of the Railway authorities, the detached carriage was again attached, of course after a delay of about three quarters of an hour, which meant that all the passengers of the mail train were delayed for that time. We do not add any comments to the above, as they are unnecessary, and as the facts speak for themselves. The matter is now in the hands of the railway authorities. We can however console Babu Lall Mohan and Dr. Mullick with the assurrance that there are few Englishmen in India who will approve of these strange proceedings on the part of the railway officials concerned.

THE "Midland Herald" continues to be as good a friend for the Indians, as he has ever proved to be. There is not one issue of that paper where something is not said about the Indians, and said in a spirit of ardent sympathy. One of its correspondents, Mr. Penington, who poses himself as a friend, but who, we fear, has the jaundiced eye of an Indian official which he was in Madras, was pleased to say that the Queen never promised that the Indians and Europeans would be treated equally, in regard to the enjoyment of public offices. This was a statement which we were bound to contradict, and, when doing it, requested the "Midland Herald" to take notice of our article. He has been pleased to do it, and his article will be found elsewhere. Our contemporary says that Mr. Penington said nothing of the kind. If that be so, we misunderstood him. But he said that the Queen's promise was qualified by the expression "so far as it may." We showed that the Queen's words did not admit of that interpretation. Whoever said it, we never charged any official with "dishonesty." The advice of the "Herald" is good, but alas! a nation—demoralized and emasculated—finds it difficult to follow it. The "Midland Herald" advises the Indians to grow "virility and manhood." But this is just what a great many Englishmen in India, who are all of them masters here, do not approve. Dr. Sarat Mullick was in England and mixed with distinguished society in that country. He certainly imbibed virility in that free land. So did Babu Lal Mohun Ghose, who at one time, was selected by a Liberal constituency in England to represent it. They had gone to Madras to attend the National Congress, the former as a delegate, the latter as its president. On their way back they had an altercation with a Railway Engineer. Being all powerful in this country, even a Railway Engineer,—who, we presume, is an Englishman—ventured to direct the station master to detach the reserved carriage in which Mr. Ghose and Dr. Mullick were. This was done, and thus they found themselves prisoners at the Kavali station, on the East Coast Railway line. Who can deny that the Engineer who is full of coal and iron, is not also highly imaginative? The majority of Englishmen here do not like to see the Indians nourishing virility, and being irresistable, they do not permit it.

TALKING of manliness and virility of the people of this country, recommended by the Midland Herald," reminds us of the fate of Tilak. Just see how one of the foremost Indian gentlemen like him is being treated. In his younger days, it is said, he showed some spirit of independence. Five years ago he was sent to jail for 18 months on a charge of sedition, though, even Mr. Justice Strachey, who tried him this great wrong and who is now rendering an account of this "Karma" before his Maker, had to admit, in his cooler moments, that he had no justification in dealing with the Maharatta gentleman in the way he was forced to do. Many English papers condemned the action of the Bombay Government and the judgment of Mr. Strachey; and the late Professor Max Muller was so deeply impressed with the innocence of Mr. Tilak, that he and many other influential Englishmen of England caused a portion of his sentence remitted by their interference. The authorities soon came to realize their folly; for, they saw, the persecution of Mr. Tilak only made him a hero in the eyes of the world. As a matter of fact, when the news of his incarceration spread in this country, there was scarcely a man who did not feel deeply hurt. This national sympathy for the persecuted Mahaaratta, however, it seems, only exasperated the authorities. And, at last, he has been put to jail again for six months with hard labour! But even this did not satisfy the authorities. Mr. Tilak was handcuffed and then dragged to prison! We think, this unnecessary piece of outrage might have been avoided; for, there is no heroism or generosity in trampling down a fallen man. However, this object-lesson will serve a great purpose—it will not encourage manliness and virility in this country.

IN the present case, the Government of Bombay had not the slightest interest. It was a private dispute between Mr. Tilak, and the misguided wife of a friend of his who, on his death-bed, made him and a few others the trustees of his vast estate. The widowed lady could, however, have the property in her own hands; Mr. Tilak objected to it on the ground that such a step would ruin her and the estate. Thereupon she instituted proceedings in the Court against Mr. Tilak; the Government intervened; took the side of the lady; appointed a special Magistrate and a special Judge to try Mr. Tilak; spent public money like water to conduct the prosecution; and all this, as expected, has ended in his second imprisonment! The Government has no idea of the impression which these acts of the authorities create upon the people of this country. The inevitable effect of these outrages is universal terror, which certainly does not develop the spirit of manliness and virility in the people, nor does it enhance the reputation of the Government for justice and generosity. And why was Mr. Tilak hand-cuffed? Was it apprehended that he would stab the policeman who took him in custody, or fly from justice? The Government here, powerful as it is, can afford such—but certainly not meanness.

The founder of the Ralston Club is no doubt a great friend of humanity. On one occasion he was shocked to find a friend of his suddenly dropping down dead of heart failure, subsequently he came across some more deaths which were equally sudden. These sad events led him on to try to solve the most important question, namely, "whether in the vast majority of cases illness was not preventible, nay, death, except from old age. So his researches in this matter as also those of others ended in the foundation of the "Ralston Health Club," an account of which will be found in another column. When we read the details of the exercises and the instructions set forth for adoption by the followers of the club, we naturally treated the matter lightly, for their apparently impracticable character. But we cannot do it on the face of the fact that the club is as old as 25 years and has the proud privilege of having six millions of men as its present members, who are supposed to perform the daily exercises. It will, however, be not out of place to mention here some of the performances. One Ralston exercise is to stand erect with both the hands resting on the waist and then sway sideways, that is, to the right and to the left. This exercise, it is said, if practised regularly for several minutes every night and morning, is of great benefit to general health. Another is to stand in the same posture and then to bend the upper part of the body down to the waist backwards and forwards. This strengthens the spine. It is one of the exercises which, we are given to understnd, the six million members of the Ralston Club practise every day. A Ralston method of introducing a full supply of air into the lungs is to take a long deep breath through a straw or narrow tube which is held in the mouth. Allow all the breath to escape and then fill the lungs with pure air by this method till they are extended to their utmost. This must be repeated many times, and by introducing oxygen to the bottom of the lungs, where it does not usually reach, it keeps them in a thoroughly active and healthy condition. There are several others of the same nature.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

London, Dec. 18.

COMMERCE VERSUS MILITARISM.

"In abandoning the idea of entering Afghanistan with hostile intent, we should make it possible for a friendly Afghanistan to become the principal factor in the development of a progressive commercial policy for our Oriental Empire."

"The military policy which controls the action of the Indian army should be based upon Sea Power instead of, as at present, being governed by the fear of Russia moving by way of Afghanistan."

"By the extension of our Indian railway system to adjoining States and the development of commerce, we may oppose a Russian advance by means other than those of war, and ensure a recognition for our Asiatic Empire, as aiming at the well-being and civilisation of all the countries coming under its influence."

"The development of India, as the manufacturing base of our trade commodities, would shorten the lines of advance by which we might recover markets that have been lost."

These are a few of the remarkable statements made in the course of a lecture at a special meeting of the Central Asian Society this week, by General Chapman, formerly Director of Military Intelligence to the Government of India, and who served under Sir Donald Stewart in the Kabul campaign of 1878-80, afterwards becoming Quartermaster General in India. That a soldier whose life has been embued with militarism, should advance a rearrangement of India's military policy and advocate a peaceful extension of influence in adjacent countries by means of commerce, is, to say the least, surprising; but it is, as a rule, the unexpected that happens. In putting forward his ideas on this vast subject, General Chapman relied on two great factors to support his views: railways and commerce, which, he declared should go hand in hand. He dealt principally with India's two great neighbours on the West, Afghanistan and Persia. Referring to Russia's loan to the Government of the Shah and control over railway construction in Persia, General Chapman suggested that it might be possible for Great Britain to put Persia in such a position as to be able to repay Russia's loan, which action would give Britain the freedom of building commercial railways in Persia. This suggestion, it must be remarked, met with considerable opposition in the discussion which followed the lecture. It was pointed out that Russia would not be ready to forego willingly the advantage she has gained by controlling Persia's action with regard to railways. If the good of the people of India and of Afghanistan were considered General Chapman remarked, the substitution of a commercial for a purely military policy and the encouragement of commercial intercourse, with a right of free entry into Afghanistan, would be an excellent policy. With friendliness the dominating principle in India's relations with Afghanistan instead of hostility, it would be probable, maintained the lecturer, that capital would accumulate in India, which would give an opportunity for the employment of the Indian people in the development of their own and adjacent countries. The fear of Russia, he said, had been the motive power of our political action for thirty years; it should be got rid of. Afghanistan, commercially developed and traversed by railways, would be the best possible "Buffer State." On no account, he urged, ought the commercial value of Britain's Oriental Empire to be lost sight of; to do so would be to neglect one of the most important features of the great British Empire.

A number of experts on Indian questions were present and took part in a vigorous debate. Most of them agreed in the main with the policy proposed by General Chapman, though they considered it too ideal for accomplishment. Sir Thomas Holdich once more stated his frequently expressed opinion that more friendliness and commercial intercourse with Russia would lead to a better feeling between the two Powers that now come into opposition. Sir Lepel Griffin strongly opposed connecting Russian fortified camps with India by means of railways in Persia and Afghanistan, as being sources of great danger to the Indian Empire. Mr. Wingham declared that if England did not build railways in Persia, Russia would be sure to do so, and it would then be impossible to recover influence in that country for Britain. Sir Edwin Collen remarked that the Government of India would be glad of closer trade relations with Afghanistan, but the policy of the Amir in excluding traders from India and in upholding an extraordinarily narrow and antiquated tariff system of his own proved a serious obstacle in the way of expansion of commerce. I do not know whether the meeting will lead to a discussion of the subject on a wider platform; it may do so; but it is, at least, significant that questions of such importance to the Indian Empire should have been discussed in London, and by, experts, and that the general opinion should favour a development of commerce as the best means of the extension of British and Indian influence in the East.

WHAT THE HUMAN VOICE CAN ACHIEVE.

Many marvels stand on record in ancient Indian history, but I think there is none of a verifiable character which can compare with the ordinary feat achieved on Saturday afternoon here in London. So ordinary was it that the newspapers took no notice of the achievement. Monday morning's "Leader" contained a telegram from Rome stating that particulars were published in the Sunday issue of the "Tribuna" concerning the Electric Post invented by Count Piscicelli. Nothing but the bare news was stated; no particulars were given as to how the news reached Rome. Yet, even among those who are constantly in touch with modern marvels, it would have given occasion for pause, had the fact been stated that the news was conveyed from London to Rome by four men, one after the other, in quiet, conversational tones. A man in London told the particulars to another in Paris; he, in his turn, repeated them to a man at Milan; the Milanese confided them to a man in Rome, who instantly put down in writing what he had heard. The whole incident occupied but a very few minutes. Is there, I ask, anything in ancient Indian records so wonderful as this achievement of the human voice, helped, it is true, by electrical and mechanical means, whereby four ordinary men, not four great Gods, not Krishna or Hanuman, but merely average men, conveyed, in twenty minutes, a message from Madras to Lahore—three stages and four men, and South and North India linked by human speech! All this is stupendously wonderful, but does familiar acquaintance with all these marvels make men to-day fair-minded one towards another, ready to deal justly, and live humbly? Unhappily, No. Knowledge comes but wisdom lingers.

What, it may be asked, was the stupendous matter which was thus passed from lip to lip until what was spoken in London was heard in Rome? It was simply another of the great inventions, intended, in the intercourse of human beings, to annihilate time. It had relation to a proposal for expediting the transmission of letters, postcards, and newspapers, at the rate of two hundred and fifty miles an hour, with, if necessary, despatches every few minutes. Before six months have passed, I hope to give your readers a description of the system at work, if it happens that, in a business way, your Correspondent has something to do with the electric post. Although the company for the exploitation of Count Piscicelli's new electric post has been formed in London, the first actual experiments will be made in Italy. This, according to the "Tribuna's" London Correspondent, who received private information on the subject, and who performed the wonderful feat of telephoning that I have mentioned, would be in deference to the inventor's own wishes, being desirous to secure for his native country the honour of the first trial of his invention. Application has already been made to the Italian Government to allow experiments to be made in the open country near Rome and to suspend the customs duties for steel and other necessary materials, which the company would then send to Italy at its own expense. The Piscicelli idea is to erect a circular course of about fourteen miles in circumference, which would give an opportunity for every kind of test. For such a course, a thousand tons of steel and other material would be necessary. The late Postmaster-General, Signor Galimberti, promised to allow Count Piscicelli's experiment along some line of communication a year ago, and as the Italians are anxious to share as fully as possible the honour of the new invention, the company's proposals will probably be favourably considered. The present Minister of Posts and Telegraphs is even more cordially in sympathy with the invention than was his predecessor. Consequently, matters may be expected to progress fairly rapidly.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the U. P. and Lady LaTouche has returned to Allahabad from Calcutta.

The case in which eight men have been arrested at Delhi, Kapurthala and Khurja and are charged with coining and uttering counterfeit rupees has been postponed from the 6th to the 12th instant.

The result of the working of the Bank of Bombay for the past year shows a nett profit of Rs. 8,27,186, including Rs. 231,149 brought forward. Out of the profits, a dividend of 10 per cent. has been declared, the balance of Rs. 8,27,186 being carried forward.

The Imperator Nicolai I, the latest Russian ship ordered to the Far East is a heavily armed battleship, but of only a moderate speed and of a design now considered obsolete. She will presumably join the small squadron now halted at Bizerta.

After long consideration the Maharaja of Mysore has sanctioned, from the 1st instant, an increase of fees in almost all classes of schools in his State. Normal school charges haves been transferred from the village school fund to State funds, and the percentage of contributions from local funds has been raised from twenty-four to thirty-three. It is hoped that the additional funds thus raised will enable Government to improve the position of the hard-worked and ill-paid vernacular school masters.

Kamal Khan, the ringleader in the attack upon the Quetta brewery of 1899, who recently surrendered himself to the British Consul-General at Meshed, has since escaped. It seems that he got away and took sanctuary at the holy shrine at Meshed when about to be sent to Quetta to stand his trial. His companions were not concerned in the crime and have been allowed to return to their homes in Baluchistan. They are much disgusted with the emptiness of the promises made to them in Persian and Russian territory. One of the stories they tell is to the effect that at Askabad they heard from an officer on the staff of the Governor-General that when Russia had finished her annexations in China she meant to lease Seistan from Persia and build a railway through it.

THE TILAK JUDGMENT.

SCENE IN COURT.

THE RE-ARREST.

Poona, Jan. 5.

There was a considerable amount of excitement in the precincts of the Court when judgment was pronounced in the Tilak appeal yesterday, and the sentence became known. Apparently the result had not been anticipated, for no preparations, as on the previous occasion, had been arranged for the removal of the prisoner. Mr. Tilak remained at the back of the Court, surrounded by his friends, and conversing with them, while some hundreds of Brahmin students filled the space outside. At about 1-30 the "Black Maria" arrived, in charge of a few district police and one mounted sowar. A warrant having been obtained, the police fetched Mr. Tilak from the Court. He was handcuffed and placed in the prison van, which drove off to Yeravada. Meanwhile the judgment, which consists of some ninety pages, was being read by the accused's counsel, who will move the High Court at Bombay in a few days for a revision of the same.

Poona, Jan. 4.

This case reached a further stage to-day, when Mr. Lucas, the Sessions Judge, gave judgment on the appeal presented him, and sentenced Mr. B. G. Tilak to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of one thousand rupees. The judgment is a long one, but sums up all the salient points o fthe case. It is the intention of Mr. Daji Abaji Khare to move the High Court in the matter. The text of the judgment is as follows:—

JUDGMENT.

Bal Gangadar Tilak has been charged and committed under section 193 I. P. C. for having intentionally made two statements on oath before the Poona Sessions Judge in the hearing of application 112 of 1901, which he knew, or had reason to believe, to be false and did not believe to be true. These two statements are as follows: (1) The boy was formally placed by his father on the lap of Tai Maharaj who gave him sweetmeats, and then the father said to Tai Maharaj, "now you should protect the boy—the boy has now be come your son; whether fool or wise he is yours." (2) We never kept Tai Maharaj in confinement or attempted to do so.

Before dealing with the evidence regarding these two statements in detail I will make some preliminary remarks. After very careful consideration of all the evidence I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that it is quite unsafe to believe any of the oral evidence in the case except in the following cases:—(1,) When it is borne out by documentary evidence (2) When the statements and admissions are against the interests of the side in which the witness is examined. When witnesses on either side agree as to any fact I have used the word "reluctantly" advisedly. Many of the witnesses on both sides are men who one would have "prima facie" expected to tell the truth because they hold respectable positions as school-masters, pleaders, etc. One of the witnesses for the defence was a guest of the Viceroy at the Coronation Durbar, Delhi, and yet I am constrained to agree with the learned Magistrate who tried this case, when he calls him a perjurer. A perusal of his statement can leave no doubt on this point. It is a monument of quibbling and evasion. One of the prosecution witnesses is an honorary magistrate in Poona City, and yet I cannot be convinced that he has spoken the truth. The question thus arises why should all these persons of apparent respectability perjure themselves? There can be no doubt that the witnesses in this case are all, with a few exceptions, partisans on one side or the other.

Tilak is a celebrated man on this side of India. He is regarded by a large section of the Native community as a hero and martyr. On the other hand, such a man is bound to have enemies. Then, again, men like Nagpurkar are actuated solely by cupidity, and will give evidence on whichever side they can see prospects of profit for themselves. Mr. Clements has very pertinently observed that the ideas as to truthfulness which prevail in this country are very different from those entertained by educated Europeans. As an example of this I may quote from the evidence of Prabhune, a witness for the defence. "I was served with a summons on Monday. I did not show it to Nagpurkar or tell him I had received it. He asked me on Monday if I had been summoned—I don't remember what I said. I said I had not been served. "I told a lie because I had no reason to tell the truth." In this case I must conclude that many of the witnesses of whom better things might reasonably have been expected did the same. I consider that the prosecution erred in not calling some witnessesea, such as Anant Behele, whose evidence was no doubt essential to their case. Mr. Clements has explained why they were not called. Among a variety of reasons for this was that they would not speak the truth. Now, before framing the charge the learned Magistrate was, I think, not justified in assuming that these witnesses would not speak the truth. All he could assume was that perhaps they would not speak in favour of the prosecution, but this was no reason for the prosecution not calling Anant Behele, who was with Tai Maharaj at Aurangabad and who is alleged to have written part of Exhibit 14. The failure of the prosecution to call these witnesses has been made much of by the defence in my Court.

Then, again, I think that it would have been wiser if Mr. Clements had issued a commission for the examinaton of Kumbhojkar at Kaolapur. This man had no doubt good reasons for not wishing to come to Poona, and he certainly was a very important witness. After wading through the voluminous evidence in the case I have come to the conclusion that much of it is quite irrelevant to the very simple issues to be decided. What people wrote and did in 1898, 1899 and 1900 can surely have but a very remote bearing on the question whether or not on the 18th June, 1901, Tai Maharaj took Juggonath on her lap or whether between the 16th and 20th July, 1901, she was confined by the accused in her wada in Poona. I can have but little doubt that an expert on the law of evidence would be able to reduce the bulky volume which I have before me to very modest dimensions—this mostly irrelevant evidence has obscured the simple issues for decision, and unduly protracted the hearing of this case. In my opinion, and I do not claim to be an expert on the law of evidence, very little of the evidence as to the events which took place before June 18th, 1901, can have any bearing on the case. Much of this evidence was led by the prosecution to show that the late Baba Maharaj on his death-bed expressed a wish that if an adoption was to be made it should be made out of the Kholapur branch of the family, and that Tai Maharaj was throughout influenced by her deceased's husband's wishes. I differ from the conclusion arrived at by the Magistrate that the prosecution have altogether failed to prove this. The documentary evidence goes altogether against this view, and as already stated I am not prepared to accept anything as proved by oral evidence except under the special circumstances which I have stated above. Nagpurkar, who was one of the witnesses who spoke to the alleged wishes of Baba Maharaj, has in several letters to Kumbhojkar and others, written in such a manner as to make it evident that he could not have heard Baba Maharaj express any such wish and that Tai Maharaj was certainly not throughout acting by or of such a wish.

When questioned as to the discrepancy between his oral statement and his letters, he explains that certain of the letters were written "deceitfully." Tai Maharaj also admits to have written deceitfully on more than one occasion.

6. I may now simply summarise what in my opinion, (and it is an opinion formed after a careful study of the record) was the state of affairs before the 18th June, 1901—the posthumous son of Baba Maharaj died on 9th March, 1898—more than three years had elapsed since his death. Plague was visiting Poona every year and there was no certainty that Tai Maharaj might not sooner or later fall a victim to it. It was, therefore, decidedly necessary in the interests of the estate that a son should be adopted. The trustees realised this. The accused and Khaparde, who were the principal trustees, did not wish to adopt Bala Maharaj, who was 18 years of age. They were near relations, especially Pandit Maharaj, they did not approve. They were willing to adopt a boy of the same family as Baba Maharaj, and they knew that there was a branch of the family settled at Babre, near Aurangabad, in the Nizam's Dominions. They did not know what boys belonging to the Babre branch were suitable for adoption, and had entertained no predilection in favour of any particular boy. Baba Maharaj's will contemplates the adoption of a minor, and that the trustees should approve of the boy, and manage the estate during the minority. This will be seen from the following extract: "A son should be given in adoption with the advice of the above-mentioned gentlemen (the trustees) in the lap of my wife, and the above-named panchas should manage the immovable and the movable estate, on behalf of that son, until he attains his majority." The estate was heavily in debt, and a long minority under judicious management was obviously of the greatest advantage. I do not think that the accused and Khaparde had any interested motives in wishing for a long minority—such as love of power or desire for pecuniary benefits. There is nothing on record which points unmistakably to any such conclusion, and in the absence of any proof to the contrary I think it only fair to presume that at all events, up to 18th June, 1901, the accused and Khaparde were both actuated by pure motives. On the other hand it appears certain that Nagpurkar, even before that time, had espoused the cause of Bala Maharaj, and that Tai Maharaj was very probably listening to his advice, but that she had definitely made up her mind to adopt Bala Maharaj and no one else I do not for one moment believe. In support of this view I may refer to a letter written by Tai Maharaj to Khaparde. This letter bears no date but it must have been written about 25th May 1901, when the question of adoption was being discussed at Sanghur. I quote from this letter as follows: "I have been confused by the thought as to what should be done regarding adoption. "Nothing suggests itself to me". . . There are boys at the village of Babre. I think the matter should be settled after seeing some first boys ("sic") and then after seeing all the boys." Had she been bent on adopting Bala Maharaj on 25th May, 1901, what was there to prevent her from saying so, especially when writing to Khaparde who was admittedly at that time her friend and adviser? There was no apparent necessity then for her to write deceitfully to him. What Nagpurkar's design was in espousing the choice of Bala Maharaj subsequent events clearly show. I will now proceed to the consideration of the evidence relating to the first of the two alleged false statements. On 18th June, 1901, the four trustees held a meeting at the Maharaj wada in Poona. Exhibit 13 is a minute of the proceedings of that meeting. Mr. Clements thinks these minutes are tainted with deceit. I am myself unable to come to this conclusion. After rejecting all the boys of the Kholapur and Serapur branches of the family as unsuitable for adoption, the trustees in para 5 proceed to consider the Babre branch of the family; "Now there remains the descent by the brother of Shri Bisdeshwar Manaraj at Babre. It is not yet known whether there is any boy in that family; but it is the opinion of all that a boy suitable for adoption, according to age, etc., in that family should be adopted, and not from other families. That is also the opinion of the widow, Shri Tai Maharaj B. G. Tilak and G. S. Khaparde should both go to Babre, and should select boys, and should dispose of the matter relating to this branch of the family on that side."

This is the opinion of Shrimant Shri Tai Maharaj.

7. "Shri Mant Shri Tai Maharaj should go to see the boys and should approve of them."

These resolutions are written by Nagpurkar and signed by Tilak, Kharparde and Kumbhojkar.

Nagpurkar, the fourth trustee, has not signed them. It appears that after signing, Khaparde and Tilak went away leaving the minutes with Nagpurkar. Below the signatures of the other trustees is a minute of dissent written by Nagpurkar.

I do not believe that Tilak and Khaparde had the least idea when they went away, leaving the minutes with Nagpurkar, that the latter intended straightway to write a minute of dissent. I am satisfied that Tilak had no idea of this minute till 29th June after his return from Aurangabad—Nagpurkar must have written it some time between 18th and 29th June, but it is not certain [illegible] On

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the same day Nagpurkar wrote two letters, 011 and 012, to Tilak and Khaparde, respectively. From this letters I gather that though he had not sufficient pluck to oppose the other trustees at the meeting, he was somewhat disturbed by the decision arrived at, and wished to put in a word for his protege, Bala Maharaj, before Tilak and Khaparde started for Aurangabad. I may quote the following passage from him: "You are aware that the sole object of the late Shri Baba Maharaj was to take a boy in adoption from the family of Shri Bua Maharaj; not only this, but it was clearly told at the time in the will that a boy from the Maharaj family should be taken in adoption. If he (Bala Maharaj) enters into an agreement with Tai Maharaj not to enjoy the income, but to subsist on the allowance given him, what objection will there be to the debt being paid off?" To Khaparde Nagpurkar writes in very similar terms. It is to be noted in no other of these letters, did Nagpurkar affirm that he raised these objections at the time of the meeting, nor that he had written a dissentient minute.

Furthermore on the very same day he wrote a letter to Tilak Ex. 76. I cannot do better than quote this letter in extenso. "The history of Shri Bua Maharaj and a tubular statement of boys are sent. Rupees for the expenses of the trip have been brought from Mr. Keshevrao Ranade. On learning to whom they should be given I shall do so. And yesterday's letter may kindly be returned. Please have kindness, I have communicated what I thought. However I am not against your will. Please be not angry. This is the request." There is nothing on the record to show why Nagpurkar wanted his letters back. The only explanation that suggests itself to my mind is that he thought he had gone too far in pushing the claims of Bala Maharaj. When Mr. Clements says that the minutes of the meeting of 18th June are tainted with deceit he means that, although Tilak and Khaparde really intended, if possible, to adopt a boy at Aurangabad before returning to Poona, the minutes show that the object of the journey was to select boys. That the object of the trustees was to adopt a boy before returning to Poona is evident from Tilak's statement to the Police, vide 172, where he says:—"Yes, I do admit that my object when I left Poona on this journey was that an adoption should take place from the Aurangabad branch before we returned to Poona; and that we should so arrange as to make it beyond the power of Tai Maharaj or the father to retract."—"Advocate of India."

MR. LALMOHON GHOSE'S CLOSING SPEECH AT THE MADRAS CONGRESS.

A STIRRING APPEAL.

Gentlemen,—I have been able heartily to approve of every resolution that has been moved during this session of the Congress. But if you will permit me I would venture to say that this last resolution—the vote of thanks to me—is a mistake (Laughter). For I feel that no thanks whatever are due to me from you, but that the obligation is entirely the otherway (No, No,). But be that as it may, you gentlemen, have had a surfeit of speeches and I have lost my voice, so that it would be best for all of us if we do not detain each other for one or two minutes. It has been sometimes said that the popular interest in the Congress movement is on the wane. I have never seen any evidence leading to support that allegation. On the contrary I was glad to find—and I am sure, my brother delegates from Bengal, who travelled in the same train with me, will bear me out when I say—that throughout our journey from Calcutta to this city, we found strong indications exactly to the contrary effect. At almost every important station I had the honour of receiving deputations from various classes of our community expressing their hearty sympathy with the national movement. There is one incident in particular which made a great impression upon my mind. At the station of Chicakole an old man belonging to the humbler classes accompanied by his young son came to me and asked me to accept a present of a single orange and a few flowers as a token and proof that all the poor people of his district heartily sympathised with the Indian National Congress (Cheers). He also assured me that he had actually walked nine miles from his village for that purpose (Renewed Cheers). Gentlemen, I was more deeply touched with that humble present than if the costliest of gifts had been presented to me by a prince or a potentate (Loud Cheers). I have, therefore, thought it my duty loyally to bring this matter to the notice of the Congress (Renewed Cheers). Then again when I came to Madras what a wonderful spectacle met my eyes. As I told you at the opening of this session of the Congress while tendering my thanks to the citizens of Madras, a feeling of humiliation came upon me at the splendid welcome with which they were pleased to greet me; because I could not fail to be conscious of the fact that my humble endeavour to serve our common country were wholly inadequate and utterly insufficient to evoke such an extraordinary enthusiasm (No, No). But gentlemen, on second thoughts I felt consoled. I felt convinced that that splendid ovation was not meant for me as Lalmohun Ghose but as representing and embodying for the time being a great national cause. I felt that it was a demonstration in favour of the great national movement with which you and I have met together to support and to advance and with which I have on this occasion the high honour of being so prominently associated. Gentlemen, one word more and I have done. My friend here Mr. Sesagiri Iyer in moving the vote of thanks has referred to an observation which occurred in my inaugural address—an observation to which one or two of my friends have taken exception—and in which I referred to some past controversies in our camp. As you are aware, I have nothing whatever to do with those controversies; nor am I inclined to take sides with the contending parties. Least of all am I disposed to dig up the buried bones of a dead controversy. I only desire to appeal to you, my fellow countrymen, to resolve and to [illegible] may have taken place [illegible] controversies [illegible] content [illegible] rich

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bank of Bengal.—The Bank of Bengal rate of interest for demand loans remains at 6 per cent.

Bengal Council.—The meetiig of the Bengal Legislative Council which was fixed for to-day is postponed.

The English Mail.—The Foreign Mail is expected to arrive in the Calcutta G. P. O. by special train on Sunday next at about 6-30 a. m.

C-in-C.—Lord Kitchener now taking regular carriage exercise daily. On Wednesday he was present for a short time at the annual sports of the Royal Fusiliers, held in their camp on the Maidan just outside Fort William.

Dy. Magistrates.—Babu Anath Bandhu De, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to Champaran. Babu Ashutosh Bhuttacharjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to Dinajpur.

Medical Department.—Military Assistant Surgeon J. E. L. Chinal is re-appointed to the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, Military Assistant Surgeon F. K. Holmes is appointed to the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta.

Legislative Session.—Rumours have been current here that the Legislative Session this year will be extended into April. It is understood that the normal procedure will be followed, the debate on the Budget in the last week of March closing the Session.

Extension of the Police Act.—The Lieutenant-Governor, in pursuance of the power conferred on him by section 34 of Act V of 1861 (an Act for the Regulation of Police), authorizes the extexnsion of the said section to the town of Gumla in the district of Ranchi.

Bengal Public Parks Bill.—All reports or criticisms which any person or Association may desire to submit with reference to the Bengal Public Parks Bill, 1903, should be sent betre the 16th instant, on which date the Select Committee will proceed to deal with the Bill.

Judicial Department.—The Lieutenant-Governor appoints Mr. B. G. Geidt, District and Sessions Judge, under section 3 (d) of the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 to perform the functions of the Court under that Act within the limits of Calcutta and the 24-Parganas. Mr. S. G. L. Platts, Assistant Commissioner of Salt Revenue, is reappointed to be an Honorary Magistrate in the districts of the 24-Parganas and Midnapore.

Plague Figures.—The statement showing the plague mortality in India for the week ending 2nd January, 1904, showed that the total rose from 15,606 to 16,503 against 15,086 for the corresponding period last year. The details were: Bombay City recorded 98 fatal cases; Bombay Presidency, 6,630; Karachi City, 8; Madras Presidency 709; Calcutta, 18; Bengal, 1,277; United Provinces, 2,613; The Punjab, 1,459; Central Provinces, 1,446; Rajputana, 133; Central India, 828; Kashmir, 11; and Coorg, 2.

Public Works Department.—Mr. J. C. Hewitt, Executive Engineer, is, on return from leave, appointed to be Under-Secretary to this Government until further orders. Mr. W. A. Inglis, Chief Engineer, will remain attached to the office of the Chief Engineer, Bengal. Mr. G. J. St. C. Sedgley, Executive Engineer, Circular and Eastern Canals Division, is granted privilege leave for three months combined with furlough for six months. Mr. C. Addams—Williams, Assistant Engineer, first grade, is transferred from the Cossye to the Circular and Eastern Canals Division.

Wild Elephants in Assam.—Wild elephants apparently are still dangerous to life and property in Assam. The last Gazette contains notifications with regard to no less than five animals. Of these one is a large male elephant without tusks and it has been damaging crops near the Jagun Pathar, Jaipur, in the Lakhimpur District. The other four have been damaging crops and houses in Muramjhar and adjoining villages in the Goalpara District. A reward of fifty rupees is offered for the destruction of each of these animals. It is quaintly added that "the tusks will also be the property of whoever shoots him." It appears that only one of the five elephants has tusks.

P. W. Postings.—The following Public Works postings are notified:—Captains S. G. Rivett-Carnac and C. W. Wilkinson, Royal Engineers, Executive Engineers, 2nd grade, Public Works Department, are permitted to proceed to England for the purpose of going through a course of instructions at Chatham. Mr. C. P. Warde, Executive Engineer, 2nd grade, Bengal, is appointed to officiate as a Superintending Engineer from the 17th October, 1903, till further orders. Captain A.T. Chamier, R. E., Assistant Engineer, is, on return from leave, posted to the Murshidabad Branch of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. Mr. J. Harkness, Executive Engineer, 3rd grade (Supernumerary), is permitted to retire from the service of Government from the 10th February, 1904. Mr. R. N. Hodges, Superintending Engineer, is permitted to retire from the service of Government from the 6th January, 1904.

Alleged Assault by a European Lady.—On Friday, before Mr. Abdur Rahim, the Northern Division Presidency Magistrate, the case in which Mrs. Bachmann, stood charged b ythe Durwan of Messrs. Jules Karpeles and Co. with having assaulted him with clenched fist, was called on for hearing. Babu Surendra Nath Dutt appeared for the prosecution and submitted that the firm of Messrs. Jules Karpeles and Co. had sold a bike to the lady, which she afterwards wanted to return. The firm refused to take it back and told the Durwan not to admit any one without permission. The lady, it is said came with her coolie and struck a blow on the temple of the Durwan. The lady in her defence urged that she had merely [illegible] her hand, that it somehow struck the man [illegible] assault him. The pleader for [illegible] that it was written in [illegible] arks and that [illegible] such

Bengal Excise Bill.—It is notified that reports or criticisms on the Bengal Excise Bill, 1903, should be sent before the 1st February next, on or after which date the Select Committee will proceed to deal with the Bill.

"Heroine" or "Calender" Rings.—These fashionable rings have peculiar features of their own which are sure to attract every one's attention. It looks like an ordinary highly polished ring, but its novelty is that it indigate dates and the names of the days of the week. Inside the ring is artistically placed a charming almanac with days and dates and by sliding this the dates can be adjusted. The device is novel and the workmanship is as splendid as beautiful. There are four sorts of rings—gold, silver, silver (electro-plated) and chemical—priced at Rs. 13, Rs. 4-8, Rs. 6 and Rs. 2-8 respectively. They are to be had of the Durbar Agency, 26/2 Brindaban Pal's Lane, Shambazar, Calcutta.

Irrigation Department.—It has been notified that lands are required for the following purposes:—(1) for a King bund at Hanupur at end of No. 8C Distributary, Kendrapara Canal, in the village of Hanupur, pargana Asureswar, zilla Cuttack, (2) for Malasasan Village Channel, in the village of Malasasan, pargana Sungrah, zilla Cuttack, (3) for a Minor Distributary from 19B Distributary, Machgong Canal, in the village of Subamul, pargana Saibir, zilla Cuttack, (4) for a Branch Distributary from Minor Distributary from 19B1 Distributary, Machgong Canal, in the village of Subamul, pargana Saibir, zilla Cuttack.

Engravings to the Victoria Hall.—The following particulars in regard to the engravings presented by the Raja of Tippera to the Victoria Memorial Hall are of interest: Most of them are about a century old. In six of them incidents of the siege and capture of Serringapatam are presented. In one the young Princes are being sent out as hostages and received with gracious courtesy by Lord Cornwallis; in another we find Tippoo's gallant attack upon the soldiers, who had seized his jewelled girdles; in a third, a very fine mezzotint by Burnett, Sir David Baird is examining by torch-light the body of the dead sovereign, who is still regarded as a martyr by Moslems at Mysore, while a beautiful Hindu girl whom Tippoo had loved had been called in to recognise him, as Harold was discovered after Hastings by his light-o'-love. There are eight coloured views of Calcutta, and several portraits of the Governor-General of the eighteenth century. In a fine mezzotint we find the Countess of Mornington sitting reading the despatch relating to some great victory; before her are the busts of her three great sons, all of whom were closely connected with India. It is premissible, perhaps, to observe that there are other public spirited noblemen and princes in India who have in their galleries pictures, arms, armour, ancient hangings, panoplies, and state garments illustrating the usages of former days which might fittingly find a permanent home in the Victoria Memorial Hall.

The Calcutta Post Office.—"Max" writes in "Capital":—There is something radically wrong with the internal administration of the Calcutta Post Office at present, at least in some of its departments. There appears to be utter confusion there when the English mail arrives. This week, the home letters and papers, which ought to have been all delivered on Monday afternoon, came dribbling in over two days. The assorting arrangements seem to be of a scandalous order. One firm writes: "We think you might draw attention to the disgraceful way to-day's (Monday, 4th January) English mail was sorted and delivered. We have just received letters for the following addresses: 5, Fairlie Place; 16, New China Bazar Street; 2, Hare Street; The Danish Consulate. We suppose our letters are being scattered over Calcutta in a similar manner." Now, this is not the first time within the last few weeks that similar complainants have been made. It might well be the last. Surely there is some boss amongst all the crowd of Director-Generals and Postmaster-Generals and Deputy Generals, and Deputy Assistant-Generals and all the other Generals, who, whatever else they do, draw pay for managing Post Office work, who can put the Calcutta Establishment in thoroughly good working order. The time is apparently at hand when a Post Office Kitchener is needed who will give peremptory orders to a Postmaster, adding—"if these orders are not loyally carried out at once, I will consider whether you ought to remain in your present position."

Partition of Bengal.—Anent the above Babu Dakshinaprasad Bose writes to the "Englishman.":—We are surprised to see that, while whole Bengal has been agitated in an unprecedented manner by the provincial dissection scheme, such influential and important public bodies as the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association, the Calcutta Port Trust, etc., are silent and apparently inactive. In our humble opinion, the interests of the mercantile community are equally at stake in the present case. For, every one knows that the raw-produce of Eastern Bengal is the fountain-spring of the wealth and opulence of some of the big folks of Clive Street, Strand, Hatkhola and Barabazar. But Mr. Risley has already hinted at the possible fate of their trade with the eastern districts, when, after assuming that "the connection between them (Dacca and Mymensingh) and Calcutta is both arbitrary and unnatural," he described Chittagong to be their 'natural commercial outlet,' and a "rival" of Calcutta. The mercantile public ought to be thankful to the Hon. Mr. Risley, as he has made no secret of the Government view on this particular point, but has fully expounded it in section (1) of para. 21 and section (111) of para. 25, and we earnestly ask those who are nearly interested in the trade with East Bengal to carefully read at least the above portions of the first communication. Now, the annexation of the doomed districts to Assam will inevitably be followed by the reverting of the bulk of trade in jute, rice, oilseeds and various other raw materials from its present channel to the "natural outlet." And this means a loss of some crores of rupees to our Calcutta merchant princes. So, it is high time that they should shake off their lethargy, and join hands with the unfortunate inhabitants of East Bengal."

Says a Rangoon wire:—A serious accident to a ballast train occurred on the line near Letpadan Station resulting in the death of Guard Durand, who was in charge of the train. [illegible] two miles outside Letpadan the train [illegible] a buffalo. Seven trucks and a brake [illegible] the guard was riding, were

TELEGRAMS.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS

London Jan. 5.

Telegrams from St. Petersburg mention the holding of the Grand Council presided over by the Tsar. Several Grand Dukes with the leading MFinisters were present. It is supposed that the reply to Japan was drafted at this meeting.

150 Japanese officers and sailors leave London to-morrow for Genoa.

Secretary Shaw has recommended to the House of Representatives at Washington the establishment of a Consulate General at Mukden and a Consulate at Antung.

A terrific explosion of the nitro-glycerine section of the National Explosive Works at Hayle smashed windows at Penzance eight miles distant and did much other damage. Four people were killed and four injured.

England won the second test match at Melbourne by 185 runs.

England made 103 in the second innings, Tyldesley scoring 62. Australia made 111 in the second innings, Trumper 35 and Noble unfinished 24.

According to information from an official source at St. Petersburg, the Russian reply is most conciliatory. Some of the Japanese proposals are accepted; others are made the subject of extended observations and met by counter proposals. It is hoped in official circles that the considerable concessions made to Japan will prove acceptable, and that the Emperor will be able to announce that peace is assured on Thursday which is the Russian Christmast day.

Reuter's Correspondent at Tokio says the Russian reply is still unreceived.

Special army and navy orders have been gazetted prohibiting the publication of reports of the movements of Japanese troops and warships.

It is reported that the Russian squadron at Vladivastock is preparing for action. A Russian cruiser has left Port Arthur it is believed for Chemulpho.

London, Jan. 6.

A pointed speech by Mr. Olney, who has himself been regarded as a Democratic candidate for the Presidency of the United States, indicates the probability of the Democrats nominating Mr. Grover Cleveland, who has already been twice President of the Republic. The Republicans declare themselves pleased.—"Pioneer."

Bulgaria has presented a note to the Porte complaining in strong terms of the non-fulfilment of the promises as regards the treatment of Bulgarians, and urging the Porte to take steps to end such a condition of affairs, as the task is now unhindered by revolutionary movement.

The draft of an ordinance is published in Pretoria regulating the introduction of Asiatic labour. It makes most careful provision for the inspection and repatriation of the importees and their employment solely in mines. Finally it expressly declares that there is nothing therein which prevents the introduction of British Indians for employment on railways.

One hundred American Marines have arrived at Seoul to protect the Legation the Korean Government declining to be answerable for the discipline of the troops.

Two British and two Russian cruisers, one American and a Japanese cruiser are at Chemulpho.

It is uncertain whether the Vladivostock news is official, but coinciding with reports from Tokio, it is credited and regarded as highly significant and indicative of the desire of Russia to precipitate a conflict.

One hundred and twenty British Reservists, recruited by the Shipping Federation, with ten officers have left London for Genoa to assist in navigating the two vessels purchased by Japan. There was much enthusiasm and cheering for Japan as the men left Victoria Stations to-day.

The new Japanese cruisers at Genoa are feverishly loading stores and ammunition, and are expected to sail in two days and will complete their fitting up at sea.

Reuter's correspondent at Peking says that a telegram from Neuchwang states that the Japanese commercial houses have instructed their agents to remove their families from Manchuria.

The Acting British Consul is starting to Peking to consult with Sir E. Satow regarding the situation.

Reuter's Tokio correspondent wires that all Russian warships at Vladivostock are reported to have weighed anchor probably for Port Arthur.

London, Jan. 7.

The Russian reply has not yet been received by Japan and there is a widespread tendency to doubt the reports of its alleged conciliatory character.

A Standard telegram from Tokio says that there is reason to believe that the Russian reply reached the Legation on Tuesday, but hitherto has not been delivered.

The Russian warships recently in Korean waters are returning as speedily as possible to Port Arthur.

The United States telegraphing instructions to Admiral Evans for his guidance in the event of hostilities, says that the policy is to observe the strictest neutrality unless American treaty rights are miranged.

It is declared at St. Petersburg that although the earnest desire for peace is still expressed, the Russian Government will make no further concession, and if Japan is uncompromising there is danger of the situation becoming so aggravated as to render war inevitable.

An explosion of boilers has taken place on board His Majesty's cruiser Wallaroo at Sydney. Forty-three have been killed.

The cruiser "Wallaroo" was returning to Sydney when the accident happened and arrives to-morrow. No details have yet been received except that one boiler burst.

The Admiralty reports 43 killed and injured on the "Wallaroo."

The average price of Assam Tea sold on Garden Account this week is 8¼d.

The average price of Indian Tea sold on Garden Account this week is 7⅞d.—"I. D. N."

The "Times" to-day adopts a stronger tone than hitherto regarding the crisis. After declaring that our first duty in the event of an outbreak of war would be to prevent the other Powers joining in the hostilities against [illegible]

TELEGRAMS.

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REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

Japan, it declares that England under no circumstances can afford to see the dominion in the Far East pass to a single unfriendly Power nor to look on and see Japan obliterated or reduced to the rank of a second rate Power. If war comes we must watch vigilantly, and be prepared to protect our interests.

The Russian Legation guard of thirty men landed at Chemulpho, but the Japanese railway refused to transport them to Seoul.

The Russian Legation guard has reached Seoul having marched overland.

It is reported that preparations have been made for an asylum for the Emperor at the French Legation in the event of serious trouble.

A steamer has left Newport for Yokohama with 11,500 tons of steam coal.

A few hundred Japanese railway men and miners in America are preparing to return to Japan to fight.

Everything bearing on the prospects of war excites the keenest interest in England.

Official news from St. Petersburg states that Baron Rosen presented the Russian reply yesterday to the Japanese Cabinet.

Imports for December increased by £4,148,990 and exports by £750,029. The year's increase in imports is £14,515,051 and exports £7,466,315. The total trade of the year is 834 millions, the highest on record.

London, Jan. 8.

The followng is the result of the Mid Devon election:—

Mr. Eve, Liberal Free Trader, 5,034 votes.

Sir Richard Harrison, Conservative Chamberlainite, 3,558.

Reuter wires from Tokio that Baron Komura and Baron Rosen had a conference at the Russian degation on Wednesday afternoon, Baron Rosen being still indisposed. The Russian reply is kept secret.

An important council was held yesterday the Premier, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, War and Marine being present besides the chiefs of the military and naval staffs. There will probably be a conference of elder statesmen to-day.

Stocks which recovered somewhat on Wednesday were again down yesterday. The public feeling is uneasy regarding the situation.

The Standard correspondent at Tokio says it is believed that the Russian concessions are illusory. Public opinion in Japan is strongly opposed to further delay and the Government is urged to insist upon the immediate acceptance of Japan's irreducible minimum.

Reuter wires from Port Arthur yesterday that several warships sailed the night before to reinforce the cruisers at sea. The combined fleet will then proceed to meet the Japanese squadron which is approaching Korea.

Two hundred and fifty Sherwood Foresters at Hongkong have been ordered to held themselves in readiness. Their transport has been arranged for; their supposed destination is Pekin or Seoul.

The Wallaroo has arrived at Sydney. It appears that only four were killed and three injured. The mistake was made owing to the signals being misread.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

Lahore, Jan. 7.

The Lahore Chief Court, on a charge against a Mukhtear for unprofessional conduct, held that a Mukhtear is bound to the same side at the fresh trial of a case, even though no communications or instructions have been made by his client. The original and fresh trial were one case, and the accused was wrong in taking the other side.

THE TILAK CASE.

APPLICATION FOR REVISION.

Bombay, Jan. 7.

In the Bombay High Court on Thursday morning, before the Hon. Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Batty, Mr. Branson applied, on behalf of Mr. Tilak, who was convicted of perjury and sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000 by Mr. Lucas, the Sessions Judge of Poona, to grant a rule "nisi," calling upon the prosecution and the Government of Bombay to show cause why a revision should not be granted. Mr. Branson read portions of the judgment, and observed that the learned Judge, though he disbelieved the oral evidence adduced by the prosecution, convicted Tilak on the construction placed on some of the statements made by Tilak before Mr. Aston, then District Judge of Poona, after his (Tilak's) return from Aurungabad. The learned Judge, who heard the appeal, had misconstrued Tilak's statements, which were neither inconsistent nor contradictory. There was absolutely no other evidence to convict the accused. The District Judge had rejected the evidence of Taj Maharaj and Nagpurkar, who, he believed, had combined together to give false evidence against Tilak. The learned Judge convicted Tilak on the supposed contradictory statements he had made in his affidavit of August and in the evidence he had given in respect of the same matter. The Judge seemed to have misconstrued some of the documentary statements made by Tilak; and, though he did not attribute any corrupt motives to Tilak and held that the trustees had, in the matter of adoption, acted with the best of motives, he had convicted Tilak of perjury. Their Lordships granted a rule calling upon the prosecution to show cause why a revision should not be granted. On a further application made by Mr. Branson, their Lordships ordered the release of Tilak from jail on the same bail as was allowed in the lower Court.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT KALKA.

Simla, Jan. 8.

Number 5 up goods train on the 6th instant, with an engine and six wagons, left Kalka and proceeded one mile across the camping ground. The engine failed and the entire train for reasons yet unexplained ran violently back into Kalka staton and dashed into Kalka station and dashed into three wagons standing on the level at the station. The engine and one truck were overturned there, and five wagons were injured. Four men were killed and four injured, not very seriously. They are all native railway employes. The matter is under magisterial enquiry.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council was held yesterday at 11 o'clock at the Council Chamber, Government House. His Excellency the Viceroy presided, and there were present: His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, The Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, The Hon. Sir E. F. G. Law, the Hon. Major-General Sir E. R. Elles, the Hon. Sir A. T. Arundel, The Hon. Sir D. Ibbetson, the Hon. Rai Sri Ram Bahadur, the Hon. Mr. Cruickshank, His Highness the Raja Bahadur of Sirmur, His Highness the Agha Khan, the Hon. Mr. Gokhale, the Hon. Mr. Cable, the Hon. Nawab Saiyid Muhammad Sahib Bahadur, The Hon. Mr. Lely, The Hon. Mr. Adamson, The Hon. Mr. Pedler, The Hon. Mr. Morison, The Hon. Dr. Bhandarkar, The Hon. Mr. Bilderbeck, The Hon. Mr. Hamilton, The Hon. Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose, and the Hon. Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya.

THE POISONS BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the regulation of the possession and sale of all poisons in certain local areas, and the importation, possession and sale of white arsenic generally.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY ACT.

The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson moved that the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh, the Hon'ble Rai Sri Ram Bahadur, the Hon'ble Mr. Adamson, the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya and the mover.

The Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhayaya said:

My Lord,

I trust I may be permitted to offer a few observations upon the Bill which is now before the Council. There can be no reasonable doubt as to its importance as far reaching consequences, though it has not attracted much public attention, possibly because it has not been regarded as legislation of a sensational character.

The principle which lies at the foundation of the Bill involves a recognition of the doctrine that transfers of interests in land should be affected, as far as possible, by means of written and registered instruments. If we examine the history of legislation in this country we shall find that the doctrine in question had always been steadily recognised even before the transfer of Property Act was passed. I am entirely in favour of the principle which underlies the Bill, but I cannot conceal my regret that the Bill does not go far enough in two directions, at any rate so far as mortgages are concerned. Under the Transfer of Property Act, as it now stands, a mortgage can be effected only by a registered instrument, if the principal secured is one hundred rupees or upwards; if the principal amount is less than one hundred rupees, registration is entirely optional, and if the mortgage is other than a simple mortgage, the law goes further and provides, that no document of any kind is necessary and the mortgage may be effected by delivery of the property. In the Bill which is now before us, it is proposed, that where the principal money is less than one hundred rupees, a mortgage may be effected by a registered instrument or, except in the case of a simple mortgage by delivery of the property. To put the matter in another way, the only change which it is proposed to introduce into law, is that whenever a mortgage is created by a written instrument, it must also be registered, but it is left open to people to create a mortgage, other than a simple mortgage, by mere delivery of the property and without any written instrument. To my mind, this does not appear to be either satisfactory or defensible in principle. I venture to think, that if we determine, whether a particular mortgage transaction can be effected only by a registered instrument, with reference solely to the amount of the principal money secured, we may be rightly charged with taking a narrow and restricted view of things. The position will be made absolutely clear by means of a concrete illustration. A borrows Rs. 50 from B whom he places in possession of the property and agrees to pay compound interest at 3 per cent per month with quarterly receipts; if he seeks to redeem the security say at the end of ten years, he has to pay B Rs. 1,570 less the profits received by B during his occupation; such a mortgage as this, may, if the Bill is passed as it stands, be effected without any document embodying the terms of the contract; if however, A borrowed Rs. 340 from B. and agreed to pay simple interest at 3 per cent per month the law says, that the terms of the transaction must be embodied in a registered instrument, although the amount upon payment of which the security can be redeemed at the end of ten years is precisely the same as in the case of the previous illustration. In other words, the amount of the principal money secured by a mortgtge which is taken as the sole determining facts, may and often does prove to be ,the least important element in calculating the extent of the liability created by the instrument.

I therefore, venture to submit that the distinction drawn is not well-founded in principle, nor do I think, is it satisfactory in its working. I take it, the object of all legislation is to minimise the possibility of speculative and mischievous legislation, there can hardly be room for any reasonable doubt, that if registration is made compulsory in the case of all mortgages whatever be the amount secured and whether accompanied by delivery of possession or not, a great deal of unnecessary litigation would be rendered impossible; as soon as the document is proved and the payment of the consideration established, the terms of the contract would be ascertained beyond the possibility of a doubt, and there would be left little scope for the manufacture and application of perjured evidence. Moreover an exact description of the terms of agreement between the parties, when they are embodied in a registered instrument, is not only beneficial to the mortgagor and mortgagee but is of the utmost importance to strangers, who may have occassion to deal with the property or may acquire any interest therein. The only objection which may, with any possibility, be urged against the compulsory registration of all mortgages, is that such a provision mway, in practice, cause hardship to poor and ignorant borrowers; but I venture to point out, that these are precisely the people who stand most in need of protection. They may find it cheap in the begining to be relieved from the payment of the stamp duty and the registration fee, but in the end, they may discover, when too late, that the advantage, they have gained, is of an unsubstantial character and that the uncertainties of oral evidence and the costs of speculative legislation have proved ruinous to them.

I would therefore submit, that registration may, with advantage be made compulsory in the case of all mortgages.

The second point to which I desire to invite attention, relates to, what I may describe as legislation by notification. The Bill authorises the Local Government by previous notification in the Official Gazette to direct, that all or any mortgages, made within the territories under its administration or any part thereof, shall be effected only by registered instruments. This principle of legislation by notification is alreardy, to some extent recognised in the Transfer of Property Act, but I am unable to advocate its further extension. I am fortified in my views by the opinion of Mr. Justice Benson of the High Court of Madras, who has pointed out, that the provisions of this branch of the law should be simple widely known, easily ascertainable and little liable to alteration—conditions which can hardly be realised, if we have recourse to legislation by notification. Indeed, I may say so without impropriety, recourse to this process is an admission of ignorance on our part; it is in reality an attempt to throw upon the Local Government the responsibility which rightly attaches to us. If at the present moment we are not in possession of the necessary information, by all means let the materials requisite for our guidance be collected. If at any future time, upon further enquiry and fuller materials, the law has to be changed as to the local extent of its application, let it be done after the fullest public discussion of the proposed changes in this Council.

I am therefore unable to accept further extension of the doctrine of legislation by notification.

The Hon'ble Sir Denzil Ibbetson said that the Hon'ble Member was not justified in making any such remark at this stage of the Bill. He was a member of the Special Committee and that he could make any remark, he would like to make, there.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE UNIVERSITITES BILL.

The Hon'ble Mr. Raleigh moved that the Hon'ble Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya be added to the Select Committee on the Bill to amend the law relating to the Universities of British India.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES CIVIL COURTS BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir Arundel presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Civil Courts in the Central Provinces.

In doing so he said:—

"My Lord, in presenting the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate the law relating to Civil Courts in the Central Provinces I may say that we have had the advantage of consulting the Chief Commissioner on the principal modifications made in the Bill, and of obtaining his approval thereto. As explained in paragraph 2 of the Report the Bill now makes it clear that the Additional Judicial Commissioner will possess jurisdiction in criminal cases, and the court of the judicial commissioner will be the highest Court of criminal appeal and revision as well as the highest Civil Court of appeal. The other alterations are of a minor character but add to the efficiency of the legal provisions.

"I trehttahttsu

"I trust that the Council may be able to consent to pass the Bill at an early date."

The Council was then adjourned to Friday the 22nd January.

A SHOE FLUNG AT A MAGISTRATE.

On Friday greatest sensation prevailed in the Calcutta Police Court, in consequence of a shoe being flung at the third Presidency Magistrate, Moulvi Baz Lal Karim. It happened in this wise. Inspector Satish Chander Roy, of the Jorasanko thana, charged two men named Kalyan Bunia and Sookhu Kahar, with the theft of a silver watch and placed on their trial on the 7th instant. The facts of the theft case are briefly these. One Chamroo was coming along Chitpore Road, with a silver watch in his hand which his master named Khedu ordered him to bring from his house. As he neared Mochoa Bazar, the two accused came up from behind and the first accused, whose audacity knew no bounds, snatched away the watch from his hand and passed it off to the second accused. The second accused was arrested but the first cleared out. Subsequently he too was arrested by the police and both of them were placed on their trial. Babus Jotindra Mohun Ghose, Vakil and Suresh Chunder Mitter appeared for the prosecution and Babu Debendra Nath Das for the first accused. On that day the case was postponed to the 8th instant as the first accused wanted to examine witnesses and gave names of his three witnesses.

On the 8th instant, the case was resumed and the names of the first accused's witnesses were called out, but they did not answer to their names. After this, whilst the Magistrate Moulvi Baz Lall Kurim, was engaged in writing out the judgment, the second accused Sookhu, who had his person completely wrapped up in an "alwan" very quietly and unperceived to any one present in Court, pulled out a shoe which was hidden under his clothes and up he jumped and flung the shoe at the Magistrate, but fortunately it did not reach the Magistrate. The shoe fell on the desk in front of the Magistrate. Sookhu was immediately hand-cuffed. The court then passed the sentence on the accused in the theft case. First accused was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and thrity stripes and he was to be kept under police surveillance for five years. The second accused to undergo one year's rigorous imprisonment.

Later on, Sookhu was placed before Mr. D. Weston, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, on a charge of having flung a shoe at the third Presidency Magistrate.

Court:—(to the prisoner) Why did you do it?

Prisoner:— Khadu Panwalla (master of Chamroo the complainant in the theft case) told me to do it while I was in "hajut" and also in the morning when the prinsoners' van arrived in Police Compound, Khadu beckoned me to do it. I have done wrong, "huzoor" would be pleased to pardon me.

The prisoner then cried and with folded hands begged mercy of the court.

Court:—(to the Inspector) What is the sentence passed on him in the theft case.

Inspector Satish Chander:—Your honor, one year's rigorous imprisonment.

The Court then sentenced the accused to undergo eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment.

Varieties.

LATEST PATTERN OF THE AIRSHIP.

"The Inventor" informs us that successful experiments were made recenty in Messrs. Spencer's balloon yard at Highbury with the model of a new form of airship buoyed up by twin balloons. It is the invention of Mr. L. J. Anderson, a Dane, who demonstrated its utility by steering his mode in circular and straight courses. The two elongated balloons are placed side by side with the motors and propellers between them. The airship has three propellers, made after the manner of birds' wings, and a firm grip of the air is secured. The cost of the new airship, which Mr. Anderson intends to construct, is estimated at £2,000.

RATS AT THE LONDON DOCKS.

The work of exterminating rats at the London docks is still continued and the war is making satisfactory progress. Upwards of 5,000, according to the London correspondent of the "Scotsman," have been destroyed every month this year. The campaign began at a time when there was a scare about an outbreak of bubonic plague in this country. Since then upwards of a quarter of a million rats have been destroyed. Apart altogether from questions of disease, a reduction in the number of these pests at the docks must have effected a considerable saving, as they caused great destruction in the warehouses.

IMPERVIOUS TO POISON.

The "poison king," as a man named Harry Beno was called, has just died in Kansas. His system was impervious to all poisons, a fact he discovered six years ago when by mistake he ate a piece of bread which had been thoroughly saturated with strychnine for the purpose of poisoning rats. Bene remained unharmed, and from that time he gave public exhibitions of his powers by swallowing doses of the most deadly poisons, such as strycnnine, belladonna, henbane, and ratsbane. To these he added in later years another equally astounding feat. He had nails driven into his skull without appearing any the worse for the operation. His last performance, however, led to a fatal result. A shoemaker's awl was driven into his head and brought about paralysis of the brain, from which he died.

THE EARTH'S INTERNAL HEAT.

In the report of the last Coal Commission, says the "Engineering Magazine," the conclusion is arrived at that at a depth of 3,000 feet the temperature of the earth would amount to 88 degrees F., but it was considered that a depth of at least 4,000 feet might ultimately be reached in coal-mining. The rate of increase, the commissioners thought, might for ordinary cases be assumed to be one degree Fahr for every 60ft, but it is in reality impossible to give any fixed rate of increase. The report of the British Association Committee on Under ground Temperatures during the last thirty years tends to show, not only that the temperature gradient varies considerably in different localities, but that it is not easy to deduce a fixed law of increase applicable while at the Calumet and Hecla Copper Mine in North Michigan, U. S. A., there is a rise of only four degrees Fahr in a depth of 5,400 feet, although no artificial ventilation is resorted to.

THE PISTON ROD OF MOUNT PELEE.

A little more than a year ago scientists who were studying Mount Pelee discovered a peculiar toothlike formation growing out of the old crater. Owing to the quantity of vapour and smoke which covered the mountain, this formation was not observed until it had grown to a height of 295 feet above the rim of the crater. The formation could not be mistaken for a cone, such as is commonly formed in craters by the heaping up of matter ejected from the volcano, since the sides were quite smooth and approximately vertical. It had rather the appearance of a solid shaft of stone, and was hence called the "obolick of Pelee." It was, in fact, the piston rod of the largest gas engine in the world, the explosion chamber of which is far down in the depths of the earth. From the time it was first discovered it steadily increased in height, and when measured in March, 1903, it was estimated to be 5,143 feet above the level of the sea. During the spring and summer it constantly altered in height and general appearance, sometimes rising a number of yards and then, following a period of explosions, being reduced again. It has now disappeared within the cone of lava which had been formed round it.

A MIDNAPORE SENSATION.

A Midnapore correspondent writes:—"About 12 miles to the west of Midnapur in the jungle Mehlas at Chandrah there was a "Hat" (market) belonging to Messrs. R. Watson and Co. and which used to be held on Wednesdays only. The lessee of the "Hat" paid Rs. 20 a year to the said company.

On account of the exactions of the lessee, the people of the locality having requested Babu Ram Prasanna Mitter, a pleader of the Judge's Court, he opened, about the latter end of the year 1899, a "Hat" in the village of Bhooyahata, one mile from Chandrah to be held on Sundays only without any imposition whatsoever. Consequently it flourished and the relations between Babu Ram Prasanna and the company, who have now changed their name to "The Midnapur Zemindary Company"; became strained.

Babu Ram Prasanna owns some tenures in the village of Bhooyahata and have got a farm-house there, which was formerly a thatched one. About the beginning of the year 1903, having heard a rumour that some of the company's underlings would prevent people by force from frequenting the "Hat," he gave information to the District Superintendent of Police. The Police went there, and the peace was kept. Three months after, this thatched house caught fire at night. In December last, he was informed that the underlings of the Company had proclaimed by beat of drum that whoever would attend his "Hat" would suffer the penalty of having their cattle impounded and they themselves fined.

On receiving this information, Babu Ram Prasanna made a petition to Mr. Luson, our District Magistrate, who very promptly took action in the matter and sent down an Inspector of Police to enquire and report. The result is that some underlings of the company who, it is alleged, had taken away cattle from some tenants, have been hauled up. Great credit is due to our Magistrate, Mr. Luson, for thus taking up the matter with promptitude.

SETTLEMENT OF ROADSIDE LANDS IN ASSAM.

The following resolution is published in the "Assam Gazette":—

The existing rules in force relating to the settement of roadside lands, which were laid down in resolution No. 4632R., dated the 21st November 1895, provide that in no case must a periodic lease be issued for lands within 75 feet of the edge or base of the embankment of any provincial road, or within 50 feet of the edge or base of the embankment of any local road. Such leases as were granted for land within these limits were to be annual leases only, the conditions of which virtually prohibited the use of the land for building purposes. It is natural effect of roads that serve the main purpose for which they are intended, to raise, in favourable localities the value for building purposes of land in their vicinity and to encourage the construction of roadside shops and houses which ultimately develop into bazars and towns. The effect of the present rule is to maintain between roadside houses and the roadway a broad space of untidy and unsightly ground, often honeycombed with borrow pits, which contain stagnant water and impurities of all kinds, and afford facilities for the breeding of mosquitos. It appears desirable that some special concession should be made to encourage the development of urban building and the construction of bazars. Where a road passes through a bazar or through the midst of a village, it is unnecessary to reserve roadside land for excavations, as, on sanitary grounds, borrow pits should on no account be made between the road and adjacent houses. If the village or bazar is to grow into a town the road will eventually be metalled, and it is always most desirable to metal short lengths of roadway which run through bazars or past connected habitations; but, whether this is done or not, where there is a bazar or a collection of roadside houses or shops, the inconvenience of not being able to take earth from immediately alongside the road must be faced. In such cases, then, it will only be necessary to reserve so much land as may be required to admit of the widening of the road, should this be found necessary, and to provide for the construction and proper maintenance of side drains. The Chief Commissioner has accordingly decided to modify the present rules so far as to provide for the grant of special building leases up to within 20 feet of the centre line of any road, the lessess being required, where the adjacent land is lower than the crest of the road, to buildon sites raised to the height of the roadway, and to raise to the same level the whole of the ground intervening between the site leased and the road. Deputy Commissioners will be empowered to grant such leases with the approval of the Executive Engineer; in the event of a difference of opinion between these officers, the case will be referred in the Surma Valley to the Chief Commissioner and to the Commissioner in the Assam Valley Districts. The lessee will be required to cut all bamboos or trees overhanging the road and growing on the land leased by him, and to comply with any regulations which may be laid down by the Executive Engineer to provide for the drainage of the road. On sanitary grounds a condition will be inserted in the lease to provide for the regulation of excavations for the purpose of raising sites where a considerable quantity of earth is required for this purpose, it will often be best to obtain it by digging tanks in suitable localities. The lease will be granted for the general term of settlement of the district, and will be in the form appended to this Resolution. The rates of assessment will ordinarily be those paid by settlement holders occupying "basti" land in the village; but in special cases, where a considerable outlay on earth work is incurred in raising-building sites and connecting them with the roadway, the Deputy Commissioner will be authorised to grant leases with a revenue free term not exceeding three years.

The annual leases that may, under existing orders, be issued by Deputy Commissioners for the cultivation of land lying within the 75 feet or 50 feet limits stipulate for the removal of earth should it be required for the repairs of the road. The Chief Commissioner does not propose to modify these orders so far as they relate to agricultural land. But it appears that the authority to grant annual leases on these lines has not in all cases been acted upon, with the result that the roadway is screened from the fields on either sdie of it by a belt of tall grass or jungle. Mr. Fuller wishes it to be understood that annual leases on the existing terms may be granted liberally for the cultivation of land up to the foot of the road bank.

Sir Frederick Traves will, it is understood, furnish a report to the Home authorities regarding the position and work of the Royal Army Medical Corps Officers in India. Further, it may be anticipated that he will incidentally have something to say regarding the Indian Medical Service.

On Monday at the Esplanade Police Court at Bombay Syed Isak Syed Ahmed, a Manomedan, was charged with theft of jewellery, valued at Rs. 552, belonging to one Ibrahim Mahomed Kizwan, a Medical Practitioner. Complainant on the 17th ultimo accommodated the accused at his residence as the latter was. At night the accused disappeared with the box in which the property was kept. The following day he was arrested on suspicion while attempting to dispose of some of the jewellery to a Marwari. The Magistrate sentenced him to an aggregate term of six year's rigorous imprisonment, three months of which was to be in solitary confinement, twenty-five stripes. Accused [illegible] his place of residence [illegible] after [illegible]

THE UTKAL UNION OR THE ORISSA CONFERENCE.

(From Our Special Representative.)

THE Utkal Union or the Orissa Conference which commenced its sittings at Cuttuck on the 30th December and terminated its proceedings on the New Year's day, and brief telegraphic reports of which have already appeared in these columns, had some peculiar features. The most striking of these is that this is the first time, we believe, that a large number of Indian Chiefs, Rajahs, Zemindars, and the gentry of an Indian Province were found assembled together for the purpose of improving their material condition by mutual help. If this example were followed all over India, the country would benefit immensely. What is wanted in India is unity. In Orissa the Princes were brought together with the aristocracy, the gentry and the poor. Orissa is perhaps the most suitable place for an experiment of this kind. For, not only do the Princes and the people in that Province speak the same language, but they are all bound up together by the same ties of religion, customs, usages, and associations. Then again, the feeling of nationality is not dead in Orissa. It remains almost intact in the principalities of the Chiefs, while it yet exercises considerable influence upon those who are more directly under British rule. The whole movement was thus actuated by one feeling of nationality, its main object being to unite all the Oorya-speaking peoples into one race, to prevent them from imbibing the vices of the West, and to help their material growth by utilizing the benefits of British rule, and Western civilization.

The promoters acted wisely by excluding all political, social and religious subjects from their programme of work. They confined their attention to only such questions as can be discussed freely by all from the highest to the towest and which, at the same time, were useful and practical. They could not have selected a better president of the Conference than His Highness the Maharajah of Mourbhanj, or a better president of the Reception Committee than the Rajah of Kanika. Such important Orissa Chiefs as His Highness the Maharajah of Keonjar, the Rajah of Dhekanal and some others had also an active hand in the movement. Ganjam, which has recently been added to Orissa because its people speak Oorya, and for which the Government was warmly thanked by the Conference, had also sent an enlightened Prince in the person of the Rajah of Kallikota, who took a prominent part in the proceedings. As regards the ordinary delegates, many of them came from long distances and almost inaccesible parts of the Province, thereby testifying to the genuine interest created in the organization throughout the Province. The well-known Rajah Boikantha Nath of Balasore was a principal organizer of the Conference.

The conception of the Conference is due to the fertile genius of Mr. M. S. Das, who is known as Madhu Babu in Orissa, who, though a Christian, is as much Hindu at heart as his good father was, and whose advice, in spite of his religious faith, is sought by every class of people—Hindus, Mussalmans, and Christians, the Prince and the peasant. By conferring on him the title of C.I.E., the Government has shown its appreciation of real merit. In a beautiful speech in his mother tongue, he described, in most eloquent terms and with tears almost starting in his eyes, how he, as the first graduate of the Calcutta University keenly felt that he owed a duty to his people, who were a fine race but who, for want of a proper organization, were in a backward state; how, years ago, he conceived the idea of this Conference; how it was a dream to him all this time, and how his long-dreamt dream had at last been found to be a reality. He gave reasons why politics had been eschewed from the deliberations of the Conference and emphatically contradicted the statements of some uncharitable people that, it was started to oppose the Congress and create a division between the Ooryas and Bengalees. As an instance of his special predilection for the Bengalee nation, he said, his adopted daughter—an English educated lady who, by the way, did yeoman's service in this connection,—indeed, without whose active help Mr. Das would not have been able to make the Conference the grand success which it undoubtedly was—was a Bengalee, pure and simple. He further said, he was sure that the Conference had among its well-wishers many distinguished Bengalee gentlemen as was evident from their sympathetic telegrams, to two of which he specially referred, namely, those of the Maharaj-Kumar P. K. Tagore to H. H. the Maharajah of Mourbhunj and the Hon'ble Dr. Ashu Tosh Mukherjee to himself. He also alluded to the presence of another Bengalee gentleman who was in their midst and who had given evidence of his sympathy with the object of their movement, not only by his personal presence, but also by saying in his paper that, it was by such movements that solid good could be done to the country."

Before the commencement of the proceedings the Rajah of Atgar invoked the blessings of God in a beautiful Sanskrit Sloka upon their work. The Rajah of Kanika, as president of the Reception committee, welcomed, in a nice speech, the many hundred delegates and guests who had journeyed from the remotest parts of the province to evince their interest in the movement. On the motion of the Maharajah of Keonjar, seconded by the Rajah of Dhekanal, the Maharajah of Mourbhunj was voted to the chair. As soon as His Highness began his speech, Mr. K. G. Gupta, the Commissioner of the Orissa Division, entered the Conference pandal, and was received with loud cheers. He stayed till the close of the day's proceedings and listened with deep attention to the speeches delivered on the occasion. A report of the proceedings will be published in due course.

The Vaccination Act has been declared applicable to the Kohat Municipality.

The last part of Boer prisones, 491 men and even boys, left Bombay on Tuesday in the Clive for Durban.

The first general memorandum on the winter oilseeds crop in India states that last year an unusually large area was sown in Upper India, and this year's preliminary reports indicate equally large sowings in the United Provinces and the North West Frontier, and an [illegible] Punjab. The [illegible] is 12 per cent [illegible] last year [illegible] So[illegible]

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

SNAKES IN BURMA.

Dr. F. L. Friedlander sends to a Rangoon paper the following interesting communication on a subject which is of perennial interest to all in Burma and India He says:—"A Mandalay correspondent of the "Rangoon Gazette" is astonished to find in a dead "Daboia" seven living young snakes, and from the questions he asks, he apparently does not know, that the "Daboia" belongs to the group of "vipers," all of which are viviparous I myself had once in my collection of all the snakes of this province, a "Daboia," out of which I took 11 young living snakes, adorned with the same beautiful pattern as the mother's. Of the two large groups of snakes, namely the "Colubrinae" and "Viparinae," the first are oviparous, the latter viviparous, and the "Daboia" belongs to the Vipers. Further, all vipers without exception are venomous, which is not the case with the "Colubrinae," though just in this group are found the most deadly venomus snakes of Burma and India. In this province we have 37 different kinds of snakes and amongst this number are eight venomous snakes. Four venomous snakes belong to the "Colubrinae" group, and they are the most deadly of all. These are the "Cobra," the "Hamadryas," the "Bungarus faseratus" (Krait) and the "Bungarus caeruleus. Amongst the Viperine group there are also four, and they are:—the "Daboia" (Russelii) and three different snakes of the "Trimesurus family, and which latter are all tree snakes. The "Daboia" is most frequently met with after the rains, on the little embankments in the paddy fields. If we include the sea snakes of the Bay of Bengal, because they are sometimes met with in the Gulf of Martaban, the so-called "Hydrophis," of which there are four different kinds. and which are all "venomous," we would come 12 in number for this Province."

THE BUDHA GYA TEMPLE.

Regarding the Budh Gya Temple affairs, the following communication from a well-informed correspondent will be read with interest:—Immediately after Lord Curzon had visited the Budh Gaya Temple in January last, the local authorities of Gaya asked the Mahanth to make a gift of the temple to Government and to declare that the Hindus had no right to offer the Pindas there. The Mahanta avowed that he had no right to make such a gift and such a declaration as he was a mere representative of the Hindus in general. Thereupon the Honorable Justice Sarada Charan Mitra proceeded on deputation to the temple of Bodh Gaya in March last with Mahamadopadhaya Hara Prasad Sastri and saw a large number of Hindu Pilgrims offering Pindas at the foot of the Mahabodhi tree in the temple compound. The next morning he offered certain terms on which he wanted the Mahanta to make over charge of the management of the Temple and its surroundings to a Board of Trustees so as to prevent any future friction between the Hindu and Budhist Pilgrims, as if there has been some friction between the pilgrims of the two different religions. Subsequently our new Lieutenant-Governor Sir Andrew Fraser graced the place in question with a visit, nearly a month ago and made certain enquiries regarding the Temple. Now if the Government is bent upon taking possession of the Temple, we do not see why it should be adopting such a round-about course. It is the Paramunt Power in the land and it won't matter much if Government were to take over the Temple without any ado whatever. But if it has any regard for the Hindu Public opinion, it will be simply wise to drop the question altogether, since the Sradh and the Pinda ceremonies are of more vital importance to the Hindus in general than any other ceremony and any interference with the management of the temple of Bodh Gya is calculated to shock their feelings in the same way as the removal of the cremation place from Nimtola Ghat, in Calcutta to Dhapa would do.—"Behar Herald."

KING OF THE FORGERS.

New York, Dec. 7.

Detective Flynn, of the Secret Service, the name by which the secret police of the Federal Government are known, states that he went to London a year ago and gave evidence, at the Barmash trial against Davis, alias Schmidt, the head of the band of forgers arrested here and in Boston on Saturday. Schmidt turned King's evidence, and was given his freedom and a reward. Ten other persons were convicted.

Detective Flynn, who regards the arrest of Schmidt as the most important in the line of bank forgery made in the last twenty years, says:—

"Schmidt's work as an engraver is the finest that can be done. He copied Bank of England notes so successfully that even the most expert officials were deceived. However, he left out one mark about the size of a pin's head, and this caused the discovery of forged English bank-notes in New York in 1902 to the amount of £150.

"A man named Stern came to this country and presented English bank-notes for payment at a State bank. He almost got the money, and it was only after three days of expert work that the officials decided that the notes were spurious. When they did Stern declared that he found them, and he left the country. From the similarity of the notes to the work in the ten-dollar bills made by Schmidt in 1895 it was apparent that the bank-notes were of his manufacture, and the English authorities were informed accordingly.

"After Schmidt left London, at the conclusion of the Barmash trial, and went to Belgium, he met in that country several of the men just arrested. They informed him that they had formed a syndicate for the manufacture of bogus currency, and offered him inducements to come here. He came. ...ust. money was supplied by the ...nd soon a fine plant ... Jersey. No ...wever, the ...f the

"The conspirators bought a quantity of the bind paper made by Mr. Crane as the nearest thing possible to the Government article, and shipment of the paper to Revere, near Boston, showed where it was intended to make the counterfeit notes."

The paraphernalia captured at Revere included an enlarging camera of the finest pattern, with lenses, plates, and photographic outfit complete in the smallest detail; a small lithographic press of the best and latest pattern, together with stones for colouring work on the surface and rollers used for the testing and laying on of the colours.

ASSAULTED WITH A SWORD.

The Sessions Judge at Broach has disposed of the appeal of the three Rajputs of Janore village, in the Broach District, who were tried and convicted by the Second Class Magistrate of Broach of causing grievous hurt with a sword to one Damji Harsang, and were sentenced, the first appellant to two years' and the rest to one year's rigorous imprisonment. It appeared that on the 19th August last, the complainant went to his master's field to graze his bullocks, when the first and third appellants abused him and turned him out of the field. Complainant informed his master of what had happened, and in the evening, while he was having his meals, he heard a dispute between his master and the appellants. Thereupon he rushed out of the house, and on seeing him one of the appellants brought a sword and dealt him two blows with it, causing serious wounds. It was also alleged that while the complainant was running away, the third appellant seized him from behind, while the second appellant dealt him a severe blow with a stick, wounding him on the left temple. Complainant then became unconscious, and was removed to the hospital. The assailants were later on put on their trial and convicted as stated above. After hearing the arguments of counsel the Sessions Judge set aside the convictions and sentences and acquitted all the appellants.

MR. JUSTICE TYABJI ON THE CONGRESS.

At the seventeenth sitting of the Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental Educational Conference held at Bombay on Monday last, the day on which the Congress began its sitting in Madras, the President of the Conference, the Hon. Mr. Justice Badrudin Tyabji, made a very important speech in the course of which he referred to his connection with the Congress movement. He did this in the presence of a distinguished gathering of officials and non-officials including His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, Lord Lamington and the members of his Council. It will be remembered that two or three years ago, in the course of a judgment he delivered from the Bench, Mr. Justice Tyabji availed himself of the opportunity, which the facts of the case gave him, to make a reference to his connection with the Congress movement. On that occasion as well as on the present, with characteristic courage and independence he made those who heard him understand that he regarded his connection with the Congress with pride and satisfaction. In the course of the address to which we are alluding, Mr. Justice Tyabji stated his reason for not accepting the honour of the presidentship of the Mahomedan Educational Conference, and it is in this connection that he recalled his association with the Congress. A rumour was afloat that Mr. Tyabji who was some time ago said to have lost all sympathy for the Congress movement. Of course the report was promptly contradicted by those who knew Mr. Tyabji, and it is nothing but fitting that when he himself got an opportunity he should avail himself of it to give the lie direct to it. No. Mr. Tyabji has always been a Congressman an will ever remain so. He is one of those few Indians, the trusted leaders of the people, who have early recognised the advantages to be derived from a movement like the Congress comprehending the interests of all classes of the Indian people and based upon the broadest lines. We cannot but regret that Mr. Tyabji's elevation to the Bench has long deprived the Congress of his open support and co-operation. But the Indian National Congress still regards him, as it regarded the late Mr. Justice Ranade, as one of its most prominent leaders, one of the few who inspired its policy and lent it the weight of their name and prestige. May we hope that the words of Mr. Tyabji addressed to his co-religionists will induce them to join the Congress movement and make common cause with their educated fellow countrymen who are carrying it on. We doubt not that our Mahomedan fellow-countrymen are slowly rousing themselves to a sense of their own responsibility in matter and that in response to the appeals made to them by men like Mr. Justice Tyabji and our own representative in the Imperial Legislative Council the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Mahomed Bahadur, they will soon join the Congress movement in larger numbers than heretofore.—"Madras Standard."

PASSPORTS TO FOREIGN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

We take the following interesting Resolution from the last issue of the "Gazette of India": The Secretary of State for India has brought to the notice of the Government of India that it not infrequently happens that natives of India, students or others, who have proceeded to England, desire to obtain passports to enable them to travel to foreign countries in which the possession of the passport is necessary or desirable, and that difficulty often arises from want of evidence to show that the applicant is a British subject and therefore entitled to a passport. Appeals for assistance are also frequently addresssed to His Lordship by destitute Indians who desire to return to their country and by students who, owing to embarrassed circumstances, are unable to complete their course of educattion. In order to enable the Secretary of State to deal with such cases satisfactorily, the Governor-General in Council has decided that it is necessary to press upon Indian students and others visiting England the desirability of pro... themselves, before their departure from ... authoritative certifiacte of ...nded to this Resolu... district (in a ... Police) should be signed by the head of his last school or college and countersigned by the District Officer (in a Presidency town the Commissioner of Police) or Political Officer, as the case may be.

INDIA'S DANGERS AND HER SAFEGUARDS.

London, Dec. 18.

At the Norwood Congregational Church, West Derby, Liverpool, on Wednesday last, Sir W. Wedderburn delivered an address upon "India's Dangers—and her Safeguards." The Rev. T. Yates, Pastor of the Church, presided.

Sir William Wedderburn, who was cordially received, said that doubtless there were serious dangers connected with our rule in India. This was inevitable, looking to the vast area and population of India; and to the fact that it was governed by a handful of foreigners, belonging to a country thousands of miles distant, and differing from the inhabitants in race, language, and religion. But while there were elements of danger there were also elements of safety. For nine-tenths of the population of India were peaceful peasants—law-abiding, industrious, and trained to self-government in organised village communities. (Hear, hear.) Taken therefore as a whole, India was probably the easiest country to govern in the world.

TWO FOLD DANGERS.

The most evident dangers which threatened our Indian Empire were two-fold—(1) the political danger, connected with the name of Russia; and (2) the financial danger, arising from the destitution of the masses and the prospect of a general economic collapse. In his opinion, both these dangers were mainly of our own creation. (Hear, hear.) For himself, he did not believe in the Russian bogey. No doubt Russia was a formidable rival in Asia, but there was no reason why the rivalry should be an unfriendly one; and our position in India was impregnable if we retained the affections of the people. It was a mistaken policy to irritate Russia with insults and "pinpricks," while the foolish scares engineered by a hysterical Press only brought us into contempt. The true and enduring safeguards for India were a contented people within our own borders; friendly neighbours beyond the frontier; and a full Treasury. (Hear, hear.) These safeguards could be secured if we abandoned unworthy fears, stopped all military aggression, and reverted to the policy of Lord Lawrence and the Marquis of Ripon. (Hear, hear.) To obtain the friendship of the frontier tribes we must convince them that we do not threaten their independence or covet their territory. They would then be our volunteer defenders of the mountains, which from the rampart of India against outside attack. Nothing had cost India so dear as the invasions of Afghanistan; and now, untaught by experience, we were about to commit a similar folly by an attack upon the Tibetans, an unoffending and defenceless race, whose only crime was that they dreaded our insatiable earth-hunger, and wished to have nothing to do with us. (Hear, hear.)

ILL-ADVISED REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES.

As danger to the Empire had been created by military aggression and wasteful expenditure beyond our frontiers, so also had danger been created within our borders by ill-advised revolutionary changes, which had ruined the peasantry; and by a repressive and unsympathetic policy, which had alienated the affections of large and important classes. Great masses of the agricultural population existed on the verge of starvation. They had no store of food, money, or credit, and, consequently, die in thousands, and even millions, on one failure of harvest unless fed by he Government. They not only possess nothing, but much less than nothing, being hopelessly in debt to the money-lenders. This hopeless indebtedness was, to use the words of Sir George Wingate, "the work of our laws and our rule." It had been mainly brought about by the harshness with which the Government exacted the land revenue in cash, and it was by means of the Civil Courts, established on European models, that the money-lender was enabled to enslave his debtor. (Hear, hear.) The remedy lay in reverting to the ancient and humane native methods, under which the revenue was taken in kind, and all disputes between debtor and creditor were decided by arbitration. (Hear, hear.) Ill-considered revolutionary changes had thus caused the ruin of the agricultural population, and brought about the danger of a general economic collapse. There was also little hope of improvement, because, when called to account in this matter, the Government take refuge in obscurantism, denying the poverty of the cultivators, and refusing to make the economic village enquiry so strongly urged upon them by the Indian Famine Union. (Hear, hear.) Again, there was the influential class of educated Indians, who had thrown in their lot with us, and accepted British rule as the National rule. With curious perversity the Government regard this class with jealousy and suspicion, and had needlessly alienated their affection by reversing the established British policy of freedom and progress, and by striking blows at all the institutions they most prized—freedom of the Press and of public meeting, higher education, municipal franchise, and trial by jury. All such cowardly and retrograde proceedings only created unnecessary danger to our rule. Our safety lay not in a feeble imitation of Russian obscurantism and repression, but in a wise and courageous adherence to those broad and humane principles set forth in the Acts of Parliament and in Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858. (Applause.) The more we emphasised the difference between British rule and Russian rule the firmer would be the hold we should gain upon all that was strongest and most progressive among the Indian people. (Hear, hear.)

THE INDIAN PRINCES.

Again, the Princes of India constituted an important political factor; but the bureaucratic element in our government was apt to offend and alarm them by humiliating interference in all matters, great and small. An example of this was to be found in the pedagogic restraint sought to be put upon them as regards visits to England, and in the irritating surveillance exercised over them while there. As regards their administration, instead of coercing them into adoption of our centralised departmentalism, we had much better take example from their more elastic methods, and remodel our districts in imitation of well-ordered and pros... Native States like Mysore and Gondal.

CONCLUSION.

To sum up, there were dangers ahead in our Indian Empire, but these dangers were mainly created by bureaucratic aberrations. "The safeguards," Sir William Wedderburn added, "are to be found in sound British principles, and trust in the Indian people. Our official hierarchy suffers from want of knowledge, want of sympathy, and want of control. Knowledge and sympathy might be secured if our rulers were wise enough to appoint experienced and representative Indians to the Viceroy's Executive Council and to the Council of the Secretary of State, and if they would give ear to the friendly counsels of the Indian National Congress. Proper control can only be exercised over the Indian Government by the House of Commons—(hear, hear)—and that control will not be exercised until the British public wake up, and compel attention to the affairs of their inheritance in the East." (Loud cheers.)

MR. BESANT'S CONVENTION LECTURES THE INTELLECTUAL EVOLUTION OF MAN.

The third of the course of Lectures was delivered by Mrs. Besant on Wednesday morning. As usual there was a large audience.

Mrs. Besant began by observing that the gulf between the spiritual and the material evolution was connected by the intellectual, and that only when mind was transcended it was possible to rise. Eighteen millions of years have passed away in this endeavour. There were three classes of beings on earth—the barbarians of Borneo who knew not the days of the week, men like Plato, Vayasa and Descartes, and thirdly the sons of mind like Manasa Putras. And continuing she pointed out the several descendants of sons of mind who did the work of the shaping of the earth. She traced the evolution of life from the Atlantean period, when knowledge was given to men who were not morally prepared, through the Hermaphrodite, to the period when the sex first appeared on earth. These beings, she said, settled in the central Gobi Desert, which, like the human heart, sent our streams of spiritual life. They appeared in the golden age of earth and were the first subjects of divine kings. Then she went on to the next stage where bodies were densifying and man was beginning to yield to temptations of the senses, and which led to the evolution of a lower class of human beings. They characterised themselves by building mighty temples of rocks and huge Pyramids that were the relics of the Lmurian period. She asserted that those buildings conveyed messages to those below from those above; and that no modern scientists could fathom the occult means by which those rocks were put there. They were followed by a race which was the real link between humanity of the present and the humanity of the past. Modern science, she said, could not find its way into the occult world. The Anthropoid apes were not our ancestors, as modern science would have it. They were the mindless. The human race evolved Kama, the lower mind which was strong and which slowly gave burth to the higher mind. The Anthropoid apes were the descendants of the Limurians and the Atlanteans who had sinned, and they were the animal descendants of them. They were to receive human intelligence a stage after. When Limuria was breaking down, there existed only the Bushmen and the Hottentots. She concluded the address by saying that they were succeeded by the Dravidians who came from Ceylon and settled in India, to lead on to a further evolution.

At 2 o'clock in the evening she delivered the last lecture of the course, which was listened by a large concourse of delegates and visitors.

THE RAILWAY SMASH ON THE B. N. R.

Bombay, Jan. 2.

A passenger arriving in Bombay yesterday by the Bengal-Nagpur mail from Calcutta writes in reference to the railway smash of Saturday, a few miles beyond Sini Station on the Bengal-Nagpur line. The scene, three days after the accident was eloquent of a very serious smash. Just before reaching the spot the mail train pulled up dead slow and on looking ahead for the cause of this stoppage between the stages we saw bright flares burning as if the station was on fire. On approaching nearer they turned out to be illuminants from blow lamps by the light of which work is carried on at night. The right side of the line was comparatively clear but on the left and on the spot where the metals formerly lay there was a most hopeless confusion of wreckage. The detached roof of a carriage here and odd wheels of vehicles there were further abundant proof of the debacle but thirty yards further along was the worst part of the wreckage. There the two locomotives had come to grief. The bigger of the two had lost its front which had been thrown to the left and the rear, and it was tilted up between the engine and the tender. The cab was torn and twisted into all shapes. The other engine was completely wrecked and rested on its side. Beyond was more debris of rolling stock. In order to allow of regular traffic being proceeded with, a diversion had been made in the line from the track proper and around this the mail train crawled at the rate of one mile an hour, the axles creaking and the officials wearing a most enxious look.

SERIOUS FLOODS IN MADRAS.

The floods inMadras are serious and widesprad. The flood in the Cooum and Adyar rivers have risen to the crest of the bridges which cross them, and the water thus banked up has overflowed into the adjoining districts flooding many places and doing an enormous amount of damage to property, huts and "percherries" collapsing wholesale. Mount Road, Madras, for a great distance is completely under water, which has invaded the business premises on it, Messrs. Higgenbotham and Company's printing works being waist deep in parts. Poonamalee Road, the Friend-in-Need Society's Home, the People's Park, and most of the districts in Madras are partially or altogether flooded. The Park Fair has been irretrievably ruined, but it is proposed to hold it again in the middle of the month. The country in the neighbourhood of St. Thomas's Mount and Adyar has been flooded for miles, and the sight from the top of St. Thomas's Mount is an extraordinary one. The Adyar river is, if possible, in higher flood than the Cooum, and is flowing over the bridge on the Poonamalee Road. The Marmalong bridge connecting Madras with Saidapet, the head-quarters town of the Chingleput district, was declared unsafe, and it was apprehended that if the Chembram Ballam tank, a feeder of the Cooum and Adyar, burst its banks, the havoc caused would have been dreadful. On Friday morning a panic seized Saidapet, because it was said that the tank had burst, and the whole population including a large number at Goshas, fled towards Madras. Police guards have been placed on the Marmalong bridge to prevent traffic and foot passengers crossing the bridge.

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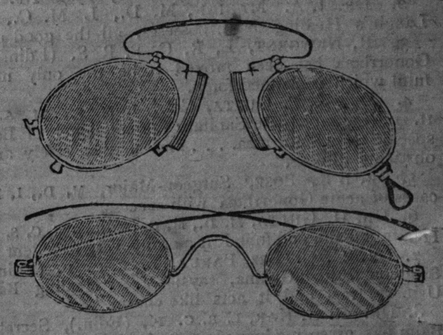

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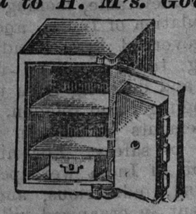

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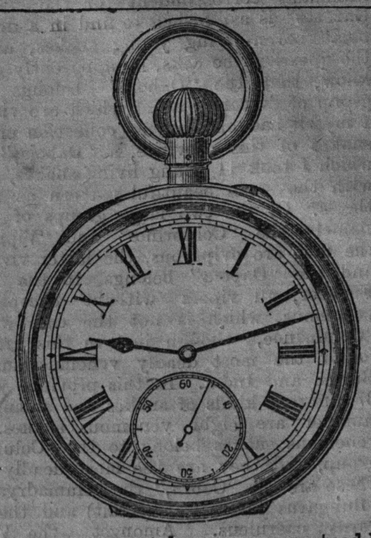

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9. DR. T. U. AHMED, M. B. C. M, L. S. A. (London), His Majesty's Vice-Consul," says:— . . . I can recommend this Healing Balm strongly to the suffering public . . ."

10. DR. R. MONIER, M. B. C. M. (Edin.), Resident Surgeon, Park Street, Government Charitable Dispensary, says:—". . Healing Balm was used by me in several cases of Gonorrhœa and was found successful."

11. DR. R. A. FERMIE, L. R. C. P. & S. etc., says:—". . I used Healing Balm for Gonorrhœa in a number of my patients and found it very efficacious."

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which is composed of purely and perfectly harmless vegetable ingredients and charged with electricity in a new scientific principle, from which it acts like a miracle in the human system, and has given great satisfaction by safely and permanently curing the following diseases:—

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

MIDNAPUR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Midnapur, Jan. 3.

MR. LUSON AND THE ZEMINDAR COMPANY.

Mr. Luson is again in our midst, and Midnapur is glad to give him a hearty welcome. So strong-minded and yet popular a Magistrate rarely falls to the lot of a district. No one has been more anxious to do justice to the people than Mr. Luson. His noble exertions on behalf of the "paiks" dispossessed by the Zemindar Company are commendable in the highest degree. The Zemindar Company, is nothing but an offshoot of Messrs. Waston and Co.; and we are told that there is little difference between the doings of the one and those of the other. The establishment continues the same, and the machinery employed remains unchanged either for better or worse. Reports of the forcible seizure and impounding of the ryots' cattle still reach our ears. In such a case we can only look up to Mr. Luson whose timely coming in our midst has inspired the weak and the oppressed with hope and courage. He has already done much to smooth the friction between the ryots and the Company, and we trust he will ere long be able to complete the work so nobly begun.

A CRICKET MATCH.

The other day there was a cricket match between the Midnapur Town Club and the Calcutta B. N. R. Club. A large number of people including many respectable gentlemen of the town assembled at the play-ground to witness the keen contest. The game was played hard and long till it resulted in victory on the side of the Town Club. This Club had scored many a brilliant success on previous occasions—a matter on which Babu Jnanendra NathNag, the captain and founder, is to be specially congratulated. It is also gratifying to note in this connection that our young and high-minded Zemindar Babu Abinash Chandra Mitra has presented the Town Club with a valuable cricket bat.

THE MANIKYA RAM CHATUSPATHI.

Since the resignation of Pundit Brojo Nath Goswami the above "Chatuspathi" has fallen upon evil times and people have lost all confidence in it. We are now glad to notice that the trustees are doing their best to recover the lost ground and their appointment of Pandit Abinash Chandra Kaviratna as Principal of the institution is the first step towards the consummation of the desired result.

THE JHERRIAH LINE.

The Midnapur-Jherriah Railway line was inspected the other day by Government Engineers before being finally opened for passenger traffic. It was authoritatively stated that passenger trains would run from the 1st of January. But the news has proved tantalising to the anxious public as it had done so often before. We are now told that the line would positively open on the 1st of February. We trust that this time "hope deferred will not make the heart sick."

PUBLIC HEALTH.

The new Municipal regime seems to have begun well. But as the adage goes, "all's well that ends well," so we must wait and watch the course of events. The town is now happily free from cholera. Even malarious fever, the scourge of the season, seems to have spared the city for the time being. The Municipality deserves congratulations on the happy signs that have ushered it into existence.

THE NEW FOUR-ANNA WIRE.

The new four anna telegram so far does not seem to have struck the public of Bombay City as a boon. The first day's operations at the Bombay Telegraph Office resulted in only 100 messages being presented. The difficulty of getting the address within six words is felt, and, to make this class of message of any value to the public, it seems there will have to be some amendment of the rules, and at least eight words allowed free for the address, which of necessity has to be somewhat lengthy in a place like India, where names are long and complicated. For instance every Parsee rejoices in not less than three names, and to deprive him of any one of them is ti lose his identity. The advantage of this kind of service to the merchantile community whose addresses are registered at Telegraph offices are clear, but it is very doubtful whether it will be popular with the general public, and especially the natives of all communities. In looking into the new system from their point of view it would seem that the innovation was somewhat hastily introduced and but that the Director General of Telegraphs did not consult the important branches of the service as to how the new rate would work with the public. Instances could be multiplied to show that in the majority of deferred teleggraphic messages which will be sent in future the charges will be greater than those obtaining formerly for this class of telegrams when the address was not charged for, and this will be particularly so in the case of the poorer classes of natives, to reach whom the address on a telegram must be given in full. It may be safely anticipated that in the near future there will be a general outcry against the rules relating to the new deferred telegraphic rates by the native communities in the country, who will in the majority of cases have to pay more for their telegrams than formerly, and in the case of repetition much more. The new rules moreover, must necessarily entail considerable more labour on the working staff in each telegraph office, and from the details that will have to be attended to there must necessarily be more delay in the despatch of business.—"Advocate of India."

Baby Cough Must Never Linger.

NOTHING is more distressing than to see a helpless little infant suffering with a cough and to be fearful of using a remedy which may contain some harmful ingredient. The makers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy positivealy guaiantee the this preparation does not contain opium in any form, or any of her harmful substance. Mothers may confidently give this remedy to their little ones. It gives prompt relief and is perfectly safe. It always cures, and cures quickly.

Price Re. 1. and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Veudors.

If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be rwarded by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Calcutta, or receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B. K Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman an Abdool Kareem Calcutta.

PROPOSED PARTITOIN OF BENGAL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Dacca, Jan. 4.

A MASS MEETING.

A mass meeting was held at the Sadarghat, Dacca, to-day at about 4 p.m. to protest against the proposed partition of Bengal. It was an open air meeting. All sections of the community—Hindus, Mahomedans, Armenians, Brammos, etc.—high and low, old and young were present. Shops all over Dacca were closed to enable the shop-keepers to attend the meeting. The authorities on being moved also suspended the works of all the Civil and Revenue Courts. The private schools and collages were also closed. Inspite of the attempt of a certain Mahomedan gentleman to impress upon his community that the Nawab Bahadur of Dacca requested them not to join the meeting, our Mahomedan brethren mustered strong. They did not believe that the premier Zemindar of Dacca could keep himself aloof from a movement which proposes to lay axe at the very root of their future progress and prosperity, both social and political. At the lowest calculation the gathering was not less than 20,000. From Sadarghat to the Northbrook Hall the whole ground was literally packed. It was an orderly meeting all through. Every one heard the speakers with rapt attention. Every resolution, after it was proposed and seconded, was fully explained to the audience, and it was carried unanimously with acclamation. Never before was such a gathering of people witnessed at Dacca. The audience were addressed by various speakers from five different platforms in Bengali, Urdu and English. The meeting was admittedly an unprecedented success.

Hafaz Khailul Rahaman Abu Zaigham Sabir was voted to the Chair. He called upon Babu Ananda Chandra Roy, the leader of the Dacca Bar, Ray Kaliprasanna Ghose Bahadur, the great Bengali writer, and Mr. E. C. Kemp, Editor of the "Bengal Times," to explain the object of the meeting.

Babu Ananda Chandra Roy spoke in Bengali. He began by saying that as regards the India Government's proposal about the partition of Bengal to relieve its Lieutenant-Governor of his burden, he could not understand how the Governors of Madras and Bombay could govern tracts of land bigger in dimensions and larger in population than the province of Bengal. He said that each of the Governors were assisted by an Executive Council which Bengal had not; but the inconvenience could be removed by creating Bengal into a Governorship with an Executive Council of its own. Assam was a part and parcel of Bengal before 1874 and the speaker said it could be conveniently added to it again for the purpose. After Assam was created into a Chief Commissionership, Sylhet and the Lushai Hills were added to it. But the bankruptcy of the province continued and hence, he hoped, the proposal to add the Dacca and Mymensing districts and the Chittagong division to its area was only to make it solvent. If a railway be constructed at the expense of a few lakhs of rupees the distance of Calcutta from Dacca may be shortened to, say, eight hours, which will enable the Lieutenant-Governor to be in more frequent and close touch with Dacca. He expressed his surprise that Hooghly so close to the capital was not visited by His Honour even for once within the last 8 years. The speaker did not believe that the Government could possibly make either Dacca or Chittagong the capital of the proposed new province, both these towns being situated, not in the centre of the would-be province, but at one of its extremity. Shillong, which is 4 or 5 days' journey from Dacca, will continue to remain the capital for six months. He was not a believer in the theory of peripatetic capitals. He further said, that Mr. Risley was right when he said that a partition should be made if it be for the good of the country and its people, but so far as the present proposal goes no good could accrue out of it. He said that Government wanted to know the opinion of the people, the Lieutenant-Governor had invited it, and it was for them now to express their opinion without any reserve or hesitation.

Ray Kaliprasanna Ghose Bahadur spoke in Bengali. He had addressel many meetings at Dacca, but he never saw such a large gathering. He never joined in any political movement within the last 25 years. He joined it now as he believed that it was not a political movement but a movement that concerns the civic life of the people. The arguments against the partition scheme were innumerable, which other speakers would speak in detail; but if the Uriya speaking people be brought under one Government, the Bengali-speaking people ought to be allowed to continue under the same administration. Let Behar be separated. He learnt from the authorities that "vox populi" was "vox dei", and so he believed that Lord Curzon, whose illustrious consort was born and brought up in America, was a great respecter of public opinion and would surely listen to the spontaneous expression of opinion of the people of Eastern Bengal.

Then Mr. Kemp spoke in English. He spoke fluently and feelingly and of course to the point. In all, four resolutions were passed. They were to the effect, that the Government of India's proposal caused great alarm to the people of the district; the proposal, if carried out, would hamper legislation, administration of justice, education, religion, social usage and custom, and the progress of the language and national literature; and it is opposed to sound administrative policy. The meeting therefore resolved that the said Government proposal was absolutely prejudicial to the interests of these distrcts. Delegates were elected for the district delegates meeting to be convened hereafter, and a thoroughly representative sub-committee was appointed to carry out the object of the meeting.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

LOOSENS the cough, relieves the lungs, and and opens the secretions. It counteracts any tendency of a bad cold to result in pneumonia. It is unequalled for bad colds.

The time to cure it is when it is merely a "bad cold." Chamberlain's Cougn Remedy is highly ecommended by the leading physictars for this malady. It always cures, and cures quickly.

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INDIA AND THE FISCAL QUESTION.

We take the following report from the "Nottingham Daily Express" of Saturday last (December 12):—

A meeting of Liberals in the Eastern Division of Nottingham was held last night at the Woodborough Road Chapel for the purpose of hearing addresses by the Liberal candidate for the Division, Sir Henry Cotton, Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Liberal candidate for the Walthamstow Division, and Mr. A. W. Black, who is contesting the North Bedfordshire Division. The meeting was presided over by Ald. A. Browsword, president of the Eastern Division Liberal Association, and there was a very large and responsive audience.

Sir Henry Cotton received a great ovation on rising to address the meeting. He said: Ladies and Gentlemen,—I have come amongst you this evening to speak a few words about India and I propose to limit my remarks to the fiscal question in relation to India. I shall leave wder questions to be dealt with by my old and esteemed friend, Mr. Bonnerjee, who has been kind enough to come up from London to support me on this occasion. I have known Mr. Bonnerjee for more than thirty years, and we have always been fast friends. I know no more distinguished representative of the people of India. He has distinguished himself greatly in his own profession as a barrister at the Calcutta Bar, where he was recognised as a leader; and he is now practising before His Majesty's Privy Council. He is also a candidate for the British Parliament—(applause)—and my most ardent wishes go to him in his campaign. (Hear, hear.) There is no one, I say, who can more thoroughly represent the feelings of the educated classes in India than my old friend Mr. Bonnerjee. (Applause.) I am also grateful to Mr. Black— (applause)—your esteemed fellow-townsman, for his support this evening. Mr. Black has kindly taken a great interest in my candidature, and will, I am sure, do all he can to further it. (Hear, hear.) I will in return take the deepest interest in his candidature for North Bedfordshire, and I have good reason for hoping and expecting that it will result in his being returned at the head of the poll. (Applause.) Well, India has been neglected in the recent discussions on the fiscal policy. Mr. Chamberlain has deliberately set it on one side, although the question has occasionally cropped up, as it did in the House of Lords when a discussion was initiated by Lord Northbrook, and continued by noble lords who had been Viceroys of India. The discussion on that occasion was, I am bound to say, of a somewhat academic character.

Lord Ripon, who has so kindly written on my behalf, was one of the noblemen who then spoke. I will tell you that the name of Ripon is idolised among the people of India. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Bonnerjee cries "Hear, hear;" he knows well the truth of what I speak. No one could have devoted himself more completely to the interests of the people of India than did Lord Ripon, and when he left the country there was such a demonstration of feeling, of enthusiasm, such as India had never witnessed, and as I believe will never witness again. (Applause.) Englishmen should be proud of the grand service Lord Ripon has given to India. Oh that all Viceroys were more like him! (Applause.) He spoke well in the House of Lords on the occasion to which I have referred. I wish to explain that India was in former times a manufacturing country, where there were many and various industries, and that it was the manufacturing wealth of India which first attracted European traders to its shores. It was the cotton goods of India, the muslins of Dacca—those were the great subjects of trade between India and Great Britain. Now all is changed. I need not trouble you with any details as to the causes which have led to this change. They are due mainly to the discoveries of Watts and Arkwright, the application of steam and the like, which enabled these manufactures to be produced more cheaply in this country than they could be by hand looms in India; but those natural causes were accelerated by artificial methods. In order to encourage the manufactures of England heavy import duties were placed in this country on the manufactured goods received from India, amounting even to an ad valorem duty of 70 per cent. In a very short time all these exports from India were crushed out, and the country's industries received their death-blow. India is now far from being a manufacturing country. There are no manufactures of any importance now in that vast land; it is an agricultural country, and its exports are almost exclusively derived from the land. India is indeed poor, and this extermination of its manufactures has gravely tended to increase its poverty. The economic problem of India is the poverty of the people. (Hear, hear.) Well, there is Free Trade now between India and all the world. Certain Customs duties are imposed. There is a 5 per cent. ad valorem duty on all imports into India, imposed for revenue purposes solely. There is no protective element in the case. But in the case of cotton piece goods—Manchester goods, as they are called—this 5 per cent. has been reduced to 3½ per cent. At the same time—and this is a very noteworthy feature—an excise duty of 3½ per cent. is imposed on all the cotton produced in the cotton mills of India. This is done in order to assist the Lancashire industry. The people of India have protested again and again against the imposition of such an excise duty, but it has always been justified on the ground that it is necessary to give fair play to Manchester. There is Free Trade in India, and now Mr. Chamberlain proposes the adoption of Protection in England. Well, what do you suppose would follow if his scheme were adopted by the nation? England, we will suppose, is no longer a Free Trade country. We allow our self-governing colonies the widest discretion in the matter of their Customs, and they, as you are aware, impose protective duties in their own interests. Now, what would you do in the case of India? There is a demand—a very strong, pressing, and growing demand—among the educated classes of India in favour of the protection of their own industries. They point out—and justly so—that they were extinguished largely in consequence of the tariffs imposed against them in this country, and they want to recover their position in the world as a manufacturing nation. Now, assuming that England abandons Free Trade, could we prevent India from following our example? You will naturally say we could not, and that India would be entitled to take the same action for the protection of its industries as we allow our self-governing colonies. But no. You may depend upon it that nothing of the sort will be done. (Hear, hear.) If Protection were allowed in India, how would it affect Lancashire—("and Birmingham")—I wonder? It is conceivable that the powerful interests affected—perhaps the most powerful manufacturing interests in the United Kingdom—would allow Protective duties to be imposed on cotton goods sent from England to India? It would be suicidal to allow it. And then what is our dilemma?—England no longer a Free Trade country, and India not allowed any of the privileges which we claimed, and which we conceded to our Colonies. This would follow: There would be a seething and growing discontent arising throughout India, which would prove a danger to England and to our rule. (Hear, hear.) We might be sure of this, that they would never tolerate it; they would agitate, and agitate, and agitate. And where this would end God only knows. I conceive that we are embarking on a campaign of which the effect in India will recoil with terrible best customers. Our present trade with India is as large as that with Canada and Australia combined. (Applause.) The population of India is very poor at present—miserably poor—but imagine what our trade with India would be if the country were populated by a wealthy people. There would be no limit to the expansion of our trade. How is the wealth of India to increase? It is by giving encouragement to the educated classes in that country, and by recognising legitimate ambition: (Applause.) It is to India, after all, that England must look for the great expansion of its trade. I heard the speech of Lord Brassey, a speech with which I entirely agreed except on this one point when he said, "England must look for its growth to its trade with our Crown Colonies," and he pointed out the vast territories which remain unexplored. But no, gentlemen, it is not in Somaliland, Kano, Sokoto, Nigeria, Uganda, or in the Soudan, or in the East African Protectorates, it is not in places of that kind that you will develop any trade which will protect the wealth and prosperity of this country. Whatever may be the future of any of these lands, it will be generations and generations before they can receive any of your goods to any appreciable extent. No, it is to India, civilised and wealthy in those days when we were uncivilised and poor, that we must look. It has not increased in material prosperity under our rule. It is to improve methods of administration in India, a greater sympathy with the people of that country, and, I say, a greater encouragement of all their wishes and aspirations, that we may look for the growing wealth and amelioration of the condition of the people. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Bonnerjee perfaced his address by asserting that while thousands and thousands of people in India shared his views, he must not take upon himself the responsibility of saying that he represented the views of India, because he knew there was a certain class of politician in this country who cried down everything a representative of India said, saying, "He poses as a representative of India, whereas he only represents himself." There was a great fallacy in this country in regard to India that he wished to dispel. The man in the street thought that India was a financial burden on this country. She was no such thing. It was a fact that the entire cost of the administration was paid out of the revenues of India, whereas they dared not take one penny out of the Colonies for the upkeep of the Colonial Office. They bled India for every purpose. The Government of India was responsible to no one; it was an irresponsible Government, and, like all irresponsible Governments was bad. (Applause.) At the present moment they were about to perpetrate an act of criminal folly—they were going to invade Tibet, and he had no doubt they would ultimately annex it, and make it a part of the British Empire. The expedition was to negotiate a treaty of commerce, and get rid of a difficulty in connexion with the treaty made by Lord Landsdowne in 1890. The Tibetans never interfered with other people, and they objected to other people interfering with them; and particularly did they object to Europeans, whether belonging to England, Russia, or France, going there. It happened curiously, and perhaps naturally, that when a European managed to put one foot into any country he was soon able to put his other foot there. He gradually introduced his whole body, and then came other Europeans, some with Bibles and some with brandy bottles, and by and by the country ceased to belong to its original owners, and was annexed by some European country. The Tibetans had had some experience of this sort of thing. Such an expedition as was being undertaken would be an act of criminal folly, because England would never be able to hold Tibet even if they annexed it. They had Afghanistan as a warning. He was perfectly satisfied that if there were war between India and Tibet the same result would follow as followed the two invasions of Afghanistan. As a native of India, he would have no objection to our going wild-goose chasing wherever we liked, provided we always paid for these excursions out of our own pockets. (Applause.) If we were called upon to do that, all this sort of thing would be put a stop to very summarily. Referring to the poverty of India, the speaker said that in towns labouring men worked for 4d. a day, and he knew case after case in which during the cold weather one blanket served to cover the family and the cow as well. And it was these people whom we made to pay for our invasions. India contributed a very large proportion towards the expenses of our Army and Navy, and had never asked for a single sixpence from this country. Let them contrast that with what our self-governing Colonies did. We defended them practically entirely at our expense, while the Indian Army was paid for out of the Indian revenue. Then, again, every penny required for the war against Abyssinia in 1866 was originally drawn from the Indian Treasury. ("Shame!") And in 1885 Burma was annexed at the expense of India. It was heartrending, Mr. Bonnerjee continued, to think of the way in which the Government of this country had treated India. India had been a dependency of this country for over 150 years. They were supposed to have been a civilised people, but England said that the Indian people required to be educated. Well, such was the potency of the education which England had given to India that in the 150 years not one single native had been found competent to sit in any of the Executive Councils of the country. ("Shame!") England and India were now one, and let us not make any distinction of colour or creed. (Applause.) Let the post that was vacant be given to the most deserving—(applause)—be he an Englishman, a Welshman, a Scotchman, or an Indian. If they were to be fellow-subjects of a common Sovereign, if they were to have any of the privileges that we enjoyed, and that our late Queen so graciously promised them, let them have them not by way of favour, but as a matter of right. (Applause.) If the treatment India was receiving at the present day was not changed, if we did not pay more regard to the interests of India, and admit more of her sons into our Councils, the day was not far distant when we should be made to feel the effect of our injustice. They were looking, and had been looking for years, not to the Government of this country, but to the democracy—(applause)—and they asked the democracy to take Indian interests more into their consideration, and exert themselves to do justice to that poor country. (Loud applause.)

Imaginary Ailments

THERE are many who have pains in the back and imagine that their kidneys are affected, while the only trouble is a rheumatism of the muscles, or, at worst, lumbago, that can be cured by a few applications of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, or by damping a piece of flannel with Pain Balm and binding it on over the affected parts.

Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Calcutta on receipt of an order. Wholesale agent.—B. K. Paul and Co, Abdool Raoman and Abdool Kareem Caulcutta

The Government of Madras is considering the possibility of starting Kheddah operations in the Presidency for the capture of wild elephants, and Mr. S. Cox, Deputy Conservator of Forests, has been appointed on special duty for that purpose. The Mysore Government, until a few years ago, had a regular Kheddah Department organised originally by the late Mr. Sanderson, but beyond providing amusement for touring Viceroys and Royalties it never paid, and the Department was abolished. The present system of catching elephants in Mysore is by the Bengal system of surrounding them.

PROPHETS OF EVIL.

In every age there has been an abundance of prophets, and the things they have foretold have generally been of a disastrous character. Yet still this old world of ours wags on more or less merrily, and supports a larger number of people in a greater degree of comfort than at any former period.

Now here is a prophet of evil who discourses of that sleeping sickness which first appeared on the west coast of this continent, and is spreading in all directions—a dreadful malady, truly, one which to the present has defeated the world's science—speculating as to the probability of it being the appointed means for the extinction of mankind.

Seeing that this new and mysterious disease has so far attacked only Negroes, and has killed only a few hundreds of that race, whereas smallpox has killed hundreds of thousands of every race, it is difficult to appreciate this gloomy prophet's opinion. Perhaps the prophet suffers from indigestion; in which case he would do better to cure himself, by taking a few doses of Mother Seigel's Syrup, than disseminating his gloomy ideas. Indigestion not only prevents food from nourishing us; it converts it into poison which contaminates the whole system, depressing the mind, constipating the bowels, impoverishing the blood, and punishing the unfortunate patient with severe pain at the chest after eating, headache, drowsiness, and other symptoms which complete his misery.

Among the many people who know these facts from experience is Mr. H. Henegan, of Crawford Street, Port Elizabeth, who, in writing to Messrs. A. J. White (Colonial), Ltd., corner of Princes and Diesel Streets, Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony (proprietors in South Africa of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup), says: "It is now two years since I first used Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and I rejoice to tell you (as I have told my friends ever since) of the good it has done for me. I can never forget the pain and distress I suffered and my wretched condition when a friend persuaded me to try your Syrup. I had consulted several doctors and taken their medicines without obtaining any relief from the pains in my chest and back. Often I was compelled to neglect my work, being weak and quite without energy. To my friend's earnestness in recommending Seigel's Syrup I owe my present good health. I am now a strong, healthy man; but I always keep a supply of the Syrup at hand, and whenever I need any medicine never fail to resort to it."

These favourable opinions, based upon actual benefits received, expressed by Mr. Henegan on 8th July, 1903, closely resembles numerous other testimonials which constantly reach Messrs. A. J. White from various parts of the country. Mr. Henegan's complaint was chronic indigestion, a very prevalent malady, in itself sufficient to destroy all joy in life, but which when neglected leads to all sorts of dangerous complications. Mother Seigel's Syrup is its only sure cure. It is a perfectly natural remedy, made from fruits, roots, and herbs, containing no noxious drugs whatever. The essential qualities of the plants are extracted by a scientific process known only to the proprietors, and the result is a specific which for thirty-five years has been acknowledge as an unrivalled remedy for indigestion and all bilious diseases by the people of the sixteen principal countries of the world.

Mr. W. Sly, of 12, Darlow Buildings, Parliament Street, Port Elizabeth, in a letter dated 8th August, 1903, expresses himself in terms similar to those of Mr. Henegan. "I had a severe attack of indigestion while staying at Port Said, in Egypt," writes Mr. Sly, "and tried numerous so-called remedies without deriving the least benefit from any of them. But when I came to Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup it was different. The very first dose did me good, and shortly after the indigestion left me."

Prophets of evil are never welcome. Prophets of gladness are sometimes mistaken. Proved facts, such as we have been reading of, are independent of all prophecy.

Dysentery.

OR inflammation of the bowel or large intestine is of more frequent occurrencc during the summer months. It can be checked and cured if Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhœa Remedy is taken according to the printed directions with each bottle. Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhœa Remedy is invaluable to all medicine chests. Get a bottle to-day, it may save a life-

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

"JEM THE PENMAN."

No clever criminal ever lived than Jam Townshead Saward, better known as "Je the Penman."

For something over thirty years he wag war against Society, plundering it, chiefly means of forged notes, cheques, and bills exchange, of over a quarter of a millio sterling.

During all that long period he lived a li of ease and pleasure, consorting with t highest in the land; and when he was a length laid by the heels, a play was writte round his adventures by our then leadin dramatist, and produced with much 'eclat' a one of the principal West-end theatres.

Saward was one of those men whose ten dencies are naturally downwards. Of gentl birth and good education, a member of th Bar, an artist of no mean ability, and remarkably skilful analytical chemist to boot he deliberately chose for himself a forger career, and set about perfecting himself in i details, much as other men study the intrica cies of, say, medicine or law.

He first became notorious among the crim nal fraternity through having invented a pr cess for removing the ink from the face o a cheque without in any way injuring

THE DELICATELY-TINTED PAPER UNDERNEATH.

Saward was then a young man, and com paratively unknown, and a syndicate of inte national "crooks" approached him with th offer of £2,500 in ready cash as the price o his secret.

The "Penman," however, curtly refused saying that he was willing to "help" them but he must have a substantial share in th profits of every "job" brought off by hi assistance.

After some demur his terms were agreed to. His fame spread abroad. Other profes sional criminals brought him various cheque to "clean." And he was soon in receipt o an income of some thousands a year, "earned" with very little labour, and at a comparatively small risk to himself.

But to a man of his superlative talents an boundless energies, there was something galling in working for other people no matte how well he was paid, or how easy the task "Jem" stuck to "cleaning paper" until h had accumulated the nice little sum o £5,000. Then he temporarily shook the dus of London off his feet. Before doing so however, he purchased,

FROM A WELL-KNOWN FIRM OF LOMBARD STREET

bankers, a letter of credit for £2,000, giving the name of "Captain Bevan," and a reference to another bank with which he had in the meanwhile—under another name, of course—opened an account.

Two or three months later the letter o credit came back cancelled to the bank tha had issued it, but altered from £2,000 to £20,000. Every penny of the money had, o course, been drawn, and the shareholders a their next meeting were called upon to sanc tion the "writing off" of no less than £18,00 as a dead loss.

At that time letters of credit were very different looking documents from what, thank mainly to the misdirected ingenuity of the redoubtable "Jem," they have since become. The one, for instance, which had been manipulated in this case, was printed with ordinary ink on plain white paper, the amount being filled in with a pen in a space left blank for that purpose.

But now all this was to be altered.

A special meeting of the Bankers' Association was called, at which it was decided that in future all letters of credit and circular notes should be printed on a specially prepared paper, and water-marked "under" the amount of the face value. Thus a letter for £900 would be

WATER-MARKED "UNDER £1,000," AND SO ON.

Scarcely were these arrangements complete, when a tall, gentlemanly-looking man applied at a Cornhill bank for a letter of credit for £430, payable in £10 circular notes, these latter being, of course, attached to the original document.

Both the letter of credit and the circular notes were water-marked by the new process, the former "under £500," the latter "not over £10."

Three months passed by, and then, among a bundle of circular notes collected in Madrid and returned to London for clearance, there came to hand one of those issued with the £430 letter of credit. It was, to all appearances, in perfect order, the number was correct, but it now read as for £100, and, marvellous to relate, the water-marking had been altered to correspond.

That afternoon the bank cabled at a cost of over £200 to everyone of its many hundreds of agents scattered all over the world, requesting them to forward at once and direct to them all cancelled letters of credit and circular notes they had in hand. This the agents, of course, did, and as quickly as possible. Nevertheless, it took some time to get in all the tampered-with documents, for the redoubtable "Jem" had never cashed two notes in the same place, and had travelled as far afield as Yokohama in the one direction and Rio de Janeiro in the other. But when they did at last get them together they totalled up to £43,000.

Financial London was aghast. But the banks made one more effort, adopting the time, in addition to the water-marks, the perforation system now very generally in vogue. That is to say, each letter of credit issued, and each of the attached circular notes, was first water-marked "under" so and-so, and then, on being issued, was stamped with the actual amounts cut bodily out of the substance of the paper itself.

This, it was hoped, would prove an absolute protection. Vain hope! Within the year "Jem" had obtained a letter of credit for £500, altered it to £50,000, and netted £49,500 clear. Inquiry revealed the fact that he must have cut out the perforated portions of the letter and the notes, analysed the substance of the paper, and made a pulp to correspond. This he had then rolled into and incorporated with the original documents, in such a manner as to defy detection; after which he had re-perforated them

TO SUIT HIS OWN CONVENIENCE.

Yet once again, although almost despairing of success, the banks set to work to circumvent the seemingly omnipotent unknown, who had now defrauded them in three separate coups ut of no less than £109.00.

And this time success rewarded their orts.

It would take too long to tell exactly how he feat was accomplished. May be, in fact, was not really and trully accomplished at l.

Saward, after his arrest, declared that it as not, but that the immunity the banks njoyed was due to his having made enough it of them for the time being. Anyhow, be at as it may, there were no more gigantic rgeries of circular notes to be chronicled.

Instead the "Penman" came to London, ttled down in a nice villa in a most respectable suburb, and started engineering burglary on a colossal scale. He also put p as a high-class receiver of stolen goods, lealing more especially in jewels, gold, bonds nd securities of all kinds.

Among other famous "jobs" financed by him was the great

GOLD ROBBERY ON THE SOUTH-EASTERN RAILWAY

He it was who was at the back of Agar, the ctual thief, and through him, and his agents n the Continent, the bulk of the stolen ullion was disposed of. He also advanced 1,000 to this same Agar for the purpose of obbing the First National Bank of New York, eceiving £3,000 as his share after the "job" ame off.

Huge as were his "profits," however, Saward managed to squander them all, for, as he ncreased in years, so did his profligacy and his extravagance. He loved to pose as the ing and patron of the criminal world. No old "lag" (convict) ever appealed to him in vain. His advent at a night club or other riminal rendezvous, invariably meant unlimited champagne and cigars of the best—of course, at his expense. He kept his own rivate hansom, his own steam launch and even t one time owned a beautifully-appointed yacht of some fourteen hundred tons burthen.

His capture at last came about through an ccident. One of his agents, a man name Hardwicke, opened an account at a Yarmouth ank with £250 in furtherance of

ONE OF THE MANY SWINDLING SCHEMES

with which he was connected. Hardwicke gave the name of Ralph to the bank, being omewhat under the influence of liquor at the ime, he afterwards forgot his alias, and start d drawing cheques on the account in his own proper name.

rom Saward was found upon him; and h lso was arrested. He resisted stoutly, and or long denied his identity. But in the end finding further prevarication useless, he confessed that he was none other than the redoubtable Jem Saward, "alias" "Jem th Penman," for whom half the police of Europe held warrants of arrest.

He was found guilty on most of the counts in an indictment of portentous length, and sentenced to imprisonment for life, the judg expressing deep regret that "the ingenuity skill, and talent which had taken so perverted and mistaken a course, had not been guided by a sense of virtue, and directed to more honourable and useful pursuits."

Saward commenced his criminal career a the age of twenty-three, and was fifty-eigh at the time of his conviction. He had had, therefore, a far longer innings than falls to the lot of most of those who thus declare war against Society.

CORPORATION OF CALCUTTA.

The tenth ordinary monthly meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta was held at the Town Hall on Wednesday last at 4 p. m. The Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer presided and there were abut forty Commissioners present.

INTERPELLATIONS.

Before the business began Babu Nalin Behari Sircar said that he was entitled under the rules of business to explain the question that stood in his name. In his statements there were several hints of the illegalities. He pointed out that it was with regard to one matter i.e., the appointment of Sub-Committees. The Chairman anticipated at that time that there should be some more explanations of other matter. He wanted to know something with regard to matters not relating to Sub-Committees.

The Chairman said that his answer referred solely to the question relating to Sub-Committees. He had not yet considered the remainder of the Note and consequently was not prepared to answer them.

Babu Nalin Bihari Sircar drew attention to the following observations made by the Chairman at the 8th Ordinary Monthly Meeting of the Corporation, held on the 4th November, 1903:—

The Chairman said that it might be reasonable to expect that the Corporation should have some explanation to furnish on the subject of the statement made by Babu Nalin Bihari Sircar. Although that printed statement had been received on Sunday last, he (the Chairman) had prepared a Note which he had intended to place before the Corporation that evening. On consideration, however, it seemed to him to be unfair to the General Committee, who were as much interested in the matter as the Chairman, to submit it to the Corporation without consulting the General Committee:

And asked—

When will the Chairman be pleased to lay the "Note" of explanation referred to before the Corporation?

The Chairman replied as follows:—

The Special Committee of the Corporation having dealt with the subject of the Sub-Committees and the General Committee having accepted their suggestions, the Chairman did not consider it necessary to issue any note on Babu Nalin Bihary Sircar's statement. The Chairman did not complete his draft note and he is unable to publish it.

Is it the Chairman's intention to give any explanation to the Corporation relating to the objections taken by the Government Auditors to the matters appertaining to his (Chairman's) co-ordinate authority, and when may the Corporation expect them?

Throughout the Auditors' Report there appears to be absolutely no suggestion of fraud having been committed by any one. Any such false accusation seems to be most unjust to the Corporation and its Officers.

The Audit Note for the first time has dealt with the Accounts somewhat in the manner which the General Committee desired. The Finance Sub-Committee several months ago, expressed themselves dissatisfied with the audit work of the Accountant General's Department in past years and placed on record their opinion that a judicial audit is necessary. The General Committee accordingly adopted the recommendation that the Government should be asked to appoint a firm of Chartered Accountants as Auditors in place of the Accountant-General of Bengal and the Government, in October last, appointed Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes, Chartered Accountants, to be the Auditors in future of the Accounts of the Corporation.

It is unfortunate that the Government Auditors in previous years passed without objection, in several instances, items exactly similar in character to many which are now declared to be illegal or irregular. It is to be regretted that they have omitted to explain the cause of their change of view, why they now regard as illegal what they have passed year by year as being in order.

Several of the Departments in their explanations state that in 1902-03 they have acted exactly as they had done for many years previously without any objection being taken to their accounts or procedure by the Auditors. They argue, and with some shew of reason, that having done the same thing for years past in a manner to which the Auditors passed as correct, they do not understand why objection should now be taken to their procedure. Had any of the irregularities referred to in the present report been noticed in previous years they, certainly would not have recurred, on the other hand the Auditors having passed them without notice the Corporation accepted them as correct and treated them as precedents. To illustrate my meaning I may refer to a few of the instances. Under the heading "Pensions illegally sanctioned" there appear a number of cases of men who have received gratuities or compassionate allowances from the Corporation. Among the first of these are mentioned the late Collector and Joint Collector. The compassionate allowances to these two men were given in August 1901 and the Auditors passed these without objection in their last year's Audit. They now consider them illegal.

Under the heading "Bonuses illegally sanctioned" appear the cases of Mr. Deverell, Mr. Dear and Mr. Price. The Auditors passed without objection in the previous year a similar bonus granted to Mr. Macdonald and in three cases gratuities or bonuses to subordinates, i.e. to a Drainage Inspector, and Mistry and a Manghi. I need not add to the illustration by referring to the case of Dr. Simpson in 1897 when the Corporation, acting under the same Pension Rules, granted a pension of Rs. 4,000 a year, and no objection was ever been taken to the procedure by the Auditors.

The point is that the Corporation, rightly or wrongly, have exercised for many years the power of granting bonuses and compassionate allowances in cases which some may consider to be outside the scope of Rule 27 of the Pension Rules, and the Auditors have (except in one case I believe) raised no objection. They have declared such cases in 1902-03 to be illegal, including in them two cases which they passed in 1901-02 as being in order.

Comments have been made on the payments made to various newspapers on account of advertising charges especially a payment on account of Indian Engineering. In the Departmental report it is stated that nearly 95 per cent. of the advertisements relate to Engineering work and that the Corporation have not paid any higher rate for these advertisements than do the Government, Public Works Department, Port Trust Railway, etc. The question as to whether the rates will be acceptable in future, whether the mediums for advertisement are suitable, or whether any unreasonable number of advertisements have been given to any individual paper will be duly brought before the General Committee.

Four items appear under the head of "Contracts illegally given without calling for tenders." Two of these relate to the erection of railings in Squares in which cases the General Committee, having already called for and accepted tenders for railings of a particular form, employed the same contractors to carry out similar but new work at the previously accepted tendered rate.

In the third case certain contractors were carrying on work in connection with machinery at Mullick's Ghat Pumping Station and the General Committee considered it advisable to employ the same contractors for additional alterations so as not to have two sets of contractors interfering at the same time with the machinery.

In the fourth case the Engineer reports that the work was not done departmentally but by the tenderer whose tender had been accepted by the Commissioners.

As regards gas lighting charges so far as I have ascertained there is no suggestion on the part of any one that the Corporation have not received full value for their money according to the contract or that the Company have failed to provide a sufficient number of lights.

The Departmental report states as follows:

"As the Company had erected 300 lamps in excess of the number billed for the Corporation does not appear to have paid more for its lighting than it would have to equitably, even allowing for individual lamps not lighted on particular nights."

The hours for lighting were fixed some years ago by the Chairman in consultation with the Commissioner of Police and I have seen no reason to alter them. The table is printed and a copy is in the hands of the Gas Company for their guidance. The question of the establishment necessary to carry out the suggestion of the Auditors in certifying that each lamp is kept burning for the full number of hours each night is considered by the Department to be impracticable but it will be duly noticed in the General Committee report. The Auditors apparently have never raised an objection on any previous occasion to the procedure in force.

The Auditors are manifestly wrong in their opinion as to the alleged illegality of the payment of remuneration to Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes for auditing Plague Expenditure and their right as Auditors of the accounts of the Corporation to audit the Plague Department accounts. It will be observed that they have cancelled the entire clause (22). I would invite the attention of the Corporation to the Auditors cancellation also of the original allegation in clause (C) 44 in Appendix A which also, was incorrect.

As regards the heading "Gokhana" the Departmental report states that "very detailed daily and monthly accounts of the fodder are kept. The daily accounts comprise the number of each kond of cattle in hand, the daily receipts, daily consumption under each head and balance in hand. The Superintendent fills in the form daily, it is signed by the District Engineer and forwarded to the Chief Accountant each day. Monthly accounts are also submitted for each District and one for the total amount of fodder for that month. Each Contractor's bill must be supported by a copy of the above without which the bill would not be passed."

I do not propose to comment on each item of the audit note. My remarks are not intended to be exhaustive but merely to give some information to the Corporation, which, I hope will not be considered as out of place. I have merely referred to some of the items which most prominently came to my mind in my perusal of the Departmental reports. Mistakes which have occurred in our work and system of accounts can be corrected.

It will be found, I think, that the bulk of the so called illegalities have been passed in previous years as legal and in order by the Government Auditors.

I may repeat my remarks at a former meeting of this Corporation: "All of us who are interested in seeing the accounts and statements brought into perfect order must welcome any criticism which tends to point to defects, or to suggest improvements. It might be remarked, of course, that had such attention been directed to the accounts during past years the confusion which we have been struggling with would never have arisen. It might also be argutd that irregularities which are now referred to, have been existing from year to year, and that amidst so many reforms which have been carried out in the accounts, it is inevitable that some must escape notice."

It is gratifying to note that the Government Auditors are in complete agreement with the views of Messrs. Lane Anderson and Bertram that the new system of accounts introduced by Mr. Barrow is "a sound and workable one"; and that the general statements published as Appendix B to the Auditors Report is a condensed reproduction of the Loan and Fund Accounts as actually kept by the Accounts Department under the new system. The Auditors apparently go so far as to recommend that these five pages of statements (Appendix B) might be substituted for the whole of the information contained in the first 31 pages of the Annual Accounts for 1902-03.

Certain defects must inevitably exist in every theoretical scheme, and it is only after the system has been brought into actual use that the faults come to light and are remedied from time to time. It is not contended that our method of accounts is perfect but it is claimed that the newly introduced system is a substantial improvement upon that which previously existed.

The Audit which will be carried out in future, daily weekly or monthly, by Messrs. Lovelock and Lewes should prove effectual in bringing mstakes at once to light, in making useful suggestions for improvement, and in keeping up strictly accurate accounts.

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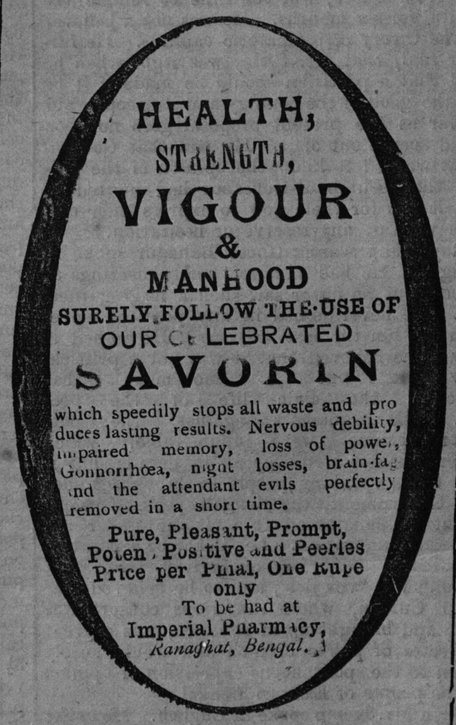

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