

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Dec. 15, 1917.

THE PROPOSED MUNICIPAL LEGISLATION IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

At a time like the present when the whole energy of the Government should be concentrated on the due prosecution of the War, which has reached its most difficult stage, the introduction in the provincial Legislative Council of the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Bill, seems to us to be singularly inopportune. The Act now in force in this province is the Bengal Municipal Act of 1884. The Bengal Government has not apparently felt the need of modifying or repealing that enactment; nor does the statement of the object and reasons, appended to the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Bill, show that there is urgent necessity of changing the law governing Municipal institutions in this province. If Bengal can do without a change in the Municipal law, one would have thought that a backward province like Bihar and Orissa can, at any rate during the war, well afford to be guided by the existing law the proposed changes in which are sure to provoke controversy. It is the settled policy of the Government, as we understand it, to postpone during the continuance of the War all controversial measures, except in cases of emergency. The public has, in its turn, avoided all discussions of controversial subjects, so as not to embarrass the Government, but has loyally abided by its decisions in matters, which at other times would have aroused a good deal of protest and criticism. The Bill as framed, will meet with strong criticism and unless it is substantially modified, cannot be accepted by the public. We hope that when the Government is in a position to appreciate the strength of public feeling it will, of its own accord, postpone the passing of the Bill, or modify it in accordance with the wishes of the people.

There is however a more important consideration which should induce the Government to think twice before passing a bill affecting matters relating to Local Self-Government. It may be safely predicted that important constitutional changes are likely to be made in the near future. The Secretary of State for India has come out to India with the express object of studying local conditions with a view to ascertain what reforms should be introduced in the administration of this country. It is of course impossible to say what proposals will ultimately be made by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Government of India. But the momentous pronouncement of Mr. Montagu of the 20th of August, coupled with Lord Chelmsford's speech in the Imperial Council, leaves little room for doubt that fundamental changes in the character of the constitution will be made. If that is so, can any one suppose for a moment that the Municipal administrations will not be affected by the change? Lord Chelmsford in his speech in the Imperial Council said:—"The domain of urban and rural self-government is the great training ground from which political progress and a sense of responsibility have taken their start and we felt that the time had come to quicken the advance, to accelerate the rate of progress and thus to stimulate the sense of responsibility in the average citizen and to enlarge his experience." This shows that whatever reforms may be ultimately introduced "to increase the association of Indians in every department of the administration," the first

and the most important steps must be taken in the domain of Local Self-government. It would be quite anomalous to delegate large powers to Legislative Councils, without a corresponding increase of the powers of Local bodies and of their freedom from official interference. It is practically admitted on all hands, that no scheme of reform can be complete which does not provide for the development of Local Self-Government.

The "sense of responsibility" which Lord Chelmsford rightly emphasises, cannot be acquired unless the representatives of the people on the Local Boards have larger powers placed in their hands. The Bihar and Orissa Municipal Bill cannot be styled a progressive measure. It is not our intention to go into a detailed criticism of the provisions of the Bill. But we wish to point out that no municipality in this province has been freed from the control of District officers and Divisional Commissioners in financial matters. In some respects the existing control of the Local Government over municipal affairs has been extended. The Local Government has been empowered by clause 14 of the new Bill to include at its option any municipality in the first schedule (which contains a list of those municipalities in which all the commissioners are to be appointed by the Local Government). The Bill was drafted before Mr. Montagu's pronouncement of the 20th August. It will, we think, be admitted, however, that the declaration of policy by the Secretary of State for India, taken with the speech of the Viceroy, has created an entirely new situation—a situation that we hope the Local Government will not ignore by proceeding with the Bill now any further. If important changes in Local Self-Government are bound to come, as we think they are, it would be mere waste of time to discuss and enact a measure which may have to be modified in a drastic manner, in accordance with the scheme of reforms which the Secretary of State is expected to frame in the near future. The signs of the times unless we have gravely misinterpreted them, call for a more progressive piece of legislation. Under the circumstances, we hope, the Government will postpone the consideration of the Bill, for the passing of which there is apparently no urgent necessity.

THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

The progress of the co-operative movement in Bihar and Orissa as it appears from the Annual Report just published, is still far behind that in most other Provinces both in the number of societies and the amount of their aggregate working capital but, as Khan Bahadur Mohiuddin Ahmad who so worthily held charge of the Department during the year under report says, this smallness in the number of new societies is due to a "deliberate aim to consolidate the position rather than to advance" and we are glad to note that the year has been one of solid progress though perhaps less of show. The Report very rightly says, "progress must not always be judged by figures." Even by this test our Province does not lag far behind. Any hasty advance in a measure which, so far as India is concerned, is yet on its trial, may set back the progress and perhaps mean the collapse of the edifice. Mistakes should be avoided as far as possible. During the year ending 31st May 1917, one new Central Bank and 221 agricultural societies were registered but of the latter as many as 105 societies did not start work before May. Agriculture being the chief and almost the only industry of the Province, the development of agricultural societies was

naturally the most important side of co-operation to claim attention. Non-agricultural societies also showed an increase of nearly 20 per cent in number and of 40 per cent in working capital. The number of members of agricultural societies rose during the year from 51,459 to 56,200 and there was but a very slight increase in the working capital, from 20'37 lakhs to 21'61 lakhs. In spite of the general increase in rates of interest, the Central Banks turned out good work owing mainly to the assistance of the Provincial Bank, which was able to supply all their wants at the same fixed rates as before. The Government resolution points out that, with some notable exceptions, the inexperience or apathy of many of the Directors of Central Societies constitutes the greatest danger to the movement. This is indeed a matter of great regret, and we would therefore appeal to our readers to take a keen interest in this philanthropic movement, fraught with the greatest possibilities for the economic welfare of the masses. Of all movements this is one in which people should realise Self-Government. However, it is hopeful to find the Registrar acknowledging that the attitude of the public has been increasingly sympathetic. With the wider dissemination of co-operative knowledge and the extension of education alone can the progress of the movement be appreciable but some indirect means of instruction, namely the holding of general meetings and the formation of Guarantee Unions have been tried in several places with varying degrees of success. The Lieutenant Governor appeals to persons possessing a good knowledge of the working of societies to devote some time in the spring of each year to preside at their general meetings. With regard to the second method, although only five Guarantee Unions were registered during the last two years and half, it is stated that they are an unqualified success. Seeing that these unions will provide a means of decentralised control, the Local Government consider that these should be given a more extended trial and suggest that experimental unions should be opened in every sub-division. Another important matter to which attention is drawn by the Government is that in nearly half the subdivisions of Bihar and Orissa proper, practically no societies have been registered at all. In order to extend the movement to these areas, the Government point out that the active co-operation of the district and sub-divisional officers is essential, and they suggest to the latter that among other things they should familiarise themselves with the nature of the problems to be solved and endeavour to see that the societies are controlled on sound lines by constant encouragement of non-officials to take interest in the movement. They further state that the degree of interest shown by the officers in this most important subject will be taken into account when selecting officers for the charge of subdivisions or considering their claims to higher appointments.

While in this connection, we should however like to add a word of suggestion. Enthusiastic advocates of co-operation claim that among the numerous blessings which the extension and progress of the movement in India can confer upon the people, the relief of the heavy indebtedness of the agricultural population will be the most important. Some even claim that the Co-operative Societies will be able to take over, if the movement progresses at the present rate, within a measurable period of time, the entire financing of agriculture in India. So far as the mere possibilities of the movement are concerned there is nothing inherently extravagant in this claim, but if we can judge anything from a few investigations that have so far been made in some parts of India, the prospect of freedom for the ryots

from their burden of debt is not very encouraging, unless the present rate of progress is very much accelerated and the benefits of co-operation are supplemented by some forms of protective legislation as a sort of a "second line of defence." The results of the enquiries made by Mr. Ascoli in Bengal on the economic conditions of the agricultural population in the Dacca District, are that 'the loans issued by the present societies benefit only 1 in every 150 agricultural workers in the district, while for every rupee advanced by the societies, Rs. 238 are advanced by money-lenders and that at the present rate of working there is little doubt that the remedy will be too late to stop the effects of the disease.' More recently, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in Mysore had certain investigations carried out, to get an idea as to how far rural indebtedness is being relieved through Co-operative Societies. The investigation involved the case of less than 10 per cent of the heads of families in the selected areas. The total indebtedness of the members when the Societies were started was Rs. 5,54,719, which works out to an average of Rs 260 per head. The total indebtedness at present is Rs. 5,55,296. These figures indicate that the indebtedness has remained practically stationary. What is more, the indebtedness of the members of the societies to sowcars is greater than that to the societies; the amount due to the former was found roughly to be 3½ lakhs as against only 2½ lakhs to the societies.

We have suggested before that such periodical debt surveys should be conducted in all Provinces in British India as well. For one thing, the results of such investigations would reveal the real extent of the evil to be overcome, as well as the success achieved so far by the co-operative societies. Competent observers feel that some means have to be devised to bring the facilities of co-operation within easy reach of the people who are comparatively more helpless. The existing number of co-operative societies and their capital are totally inadequate even to arrest the evil of the money-lender absorbing the cultivators' savings and ultimately their holdings as well. A propagandist movement should be set on foot and in this the leaders and educated men should take the lead.

EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCE.

The absurdity, let alone the injustice, of continuing the grant at pre-war rates of what is known as the exchange compensation allowance to European officers in Government employ is sought to be mitigated by the Government of India in their Resolution published in a recent issue of the *Gazette of India*. Since 1893, when the rupee began to fall in value in relation to the English sovereign, the European officers of Government are given an allowance to remit to England for the maintenance of their families half their salary, not exceeding £ 1,000 a year, at the privileged rate of 1s. 6d. per rupee. The allowance took the form of a percentage on salary calculated on the difference between the sterling value of exchange and its value at the privileged rate of 1s. 6d. per rupee and was subject to the condition that it should in no case exceed in any quarter of the year the amount of rupees by which £250 converted at the privileged rate fell short of the equivalent of £250 converted at the market rate. Until 1901, the procedure adopted was this: the percentage on salary was calculated by the Comptroller-General each quarter and notified by him about the 15th day of the final month in the preceding quarter; and, subject to the prescribed limit, it was based on

the amount by which the average demand rate of exchange during the quarter ending on the day named fell short of the privileged rate. About the year 1911, however the exchange value of the rupee had become practically stable at 1s. 4d. and the Government of India in order to avoid the quarterly calculations, decided in that year that instead of the average quarterly rate, the market rate of exchange should, until further orders, be taken at 1s. 4d. per rupee. Under this decision, which has been in force up to the present time, the percentage on salary admissible as Exchange Compensation Allowance has been Rs. 6-4-0. Now, however, as the result of special conditions due to the war, the exchange value of the rupee has in recent months risen above 1s. 4d., the rate fixed by the Secretary of State for the sale of Council Bills at the present time being 1s. 4 29-32d. All these months, therefore, the European services have been enjoying not merely the usual unjustifiable Exchange Compensation Allowance, but also what we may call a super-allowance of, we may say, 2d. per rupee on half the amount of the salary. The Resolution now issued does not seek to deprive the officers of the super-allowance till now received, although it has been stated that an account of the rise in the value of the rupee, the maintenance of Exchange Compensation Allowance (which is given solely for remittance purposes) at a rate calculated on an exchange value of 1s. 4d. cannot be justified, and that, therefore the method of calculating the allowance which obtained prior to 1901 should be restored; the percentage to be given as Exchange Compensation Allowance on all salaries drawn being calculated by the Controller of Currency each quarter with reference to the market rate of exchange, and notified by him about the 15th day of the final month in the preceding quarter. We notice that the officers have been allowed not only to retain the super-allowance which they have so far received without justification, but also to draw it till 1st December, 1917. Surely this consideration to them at the expense of the tax-payer need not have been shown, especially as the Exchange Compensation Allowance itself is now being given on an unjust as well as fictitious grounds. When this was begun to be given it was stated that a Civil Servant came to India under covenant which entitled him to get so many pounds sterling a year or its equivalent in rupees and that if the rupee depreciated in value, account must be taken of such depreciation in making payment to him in rupees. That the grant of such allowances is objectionable has been urged on the Government more than once. "The grant of this compensation", says the report, "was much resented in India (1).....because sufficient consideration was not shown for the taxpayer who, himself a sufferer from the fall in exchange, had to compensate his richer fellow-sufferer.....(3) because it was indiscriminate, not regarding the rate of exchange when the employee entered the service, nor the fact whether or not any remittance was being made to England....". These objections still hold. For one thing, exchange has since 1900 settled down at about 1s. 4d. per rupee. More than half the higher branches of the civil services must consist of men recruited after that year; but the exchange compensation still continues to be paid separately or has been merged in the salary in the case of services in which scale of the salaries has been revised recently. And yet, the Public Services Commission has recommended the perpetuation of the grant of these allowances by merging them in the salary. Whether the Government of India will, in justice to the poor tax-payer of this country, boldly disregard the recommendation of this country, boldly disregard the recommendation of the Commission or whether they will weakly yield to silent clamour and placate vested interests by adopting them is yet to be seen.

STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BENCH AND THE BAR AT RANCHI

We are extremely grieved to learn that relations between the Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division and the members of the local Bar are not what they should be. It would appear that Mr. B. Foley, the present Commissioner, while hearing an appeal used language to the arguing pleader which the Ranchi Bar Library resent. The matter, it seems, came up for consideration on the 13th at a special meeting of the Bar Library in which it was resolved that under the circumstances the members of the bar consider it inconsistent with their sense of self-respect to continue to appear in his court any longer.

We have seen a copy of the letter addressed to the Bar Library by the pleader concerned, who is a senior member of the local Bar and was for some time the Vice-Chairman of the Ranchi Municipality. If the facts alleged be true, it is certainly a pity that an officer of the standing of Mr. Foley should so far forget himself and his position. This is not the first time that we have heard such complaints about him; we remember an incident which occurred at the Bankipur Maidan in which a Patna pleader was the aggrieved party. The affair was amicably settled by Mr. Foley expressing his regret. We wish in the interest of all concerned that the same course were adopted at Ranchi.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the facts and opinions stated by our correspondents.]

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PATNA UNIVERSITY SENATE.

To The Editor, "Behar Herald," Bankipur.

Sir,—The proceedings of the first meeting of the Patna University Senate confirm our fears as to how far that body would be guided by popular wishes. In his opening convocation address, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor as Chancellor is reported to have said that the higher education of the people of the province is now definitely in their own hands. If the results of last Saturday's meeting are to be taken as an index of what is to come, we are not very much mistaken in thinking that the time is not far distant when the people of the province would curse the day when the charge of higher education was thrown "definitely in their own hands."

His Honour the Chancellor could not have used a more suggestive expression. Truly the affairs of the University have been thrown definitely in the hands of the poor students of Bihar and Orissa. They have a University and will have it with a vengeance; the only thing that is demanded of them is that they should open their hands and bring out all their savings. They wanted a University, so they must pay for it. If they had any idea that Government was going to bear all the cost, they were in error. It was never the duty of Government to make a province full-fledged; those who cried hoarse for it must now pay the piper as a return for the privilege of calling the tune. And though Government was never bound to advance a single farthing for the maintenance of a sentimental luxury, would it be believed, it has lent the services of two of its officers to the Patna University and what is more, is going to help the University with an amount equal to their salary?

There is however an ungrateful and uncharitable section of the community,—happily the number of such croakers among the Senators is few—who would point out that in the case of one of these officers, namely the Vice-Chancellor, the post could have been as well honorary, that being the case with all the other Indian Universities. Similarly in the case of the other officer, the Registrar, it was pointed out even at the meeting that the Registrar of the biggest examining University in India was for more than 40 years content with a salary of Rs. 500 as against Rs. 1000 per month provided for the Registrar of the Patna University. They point out that for more than fifty years, the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University with its 48 Colleges and 500 schools, was held by high officials such as Judges of the High Court and members of the Executive Council as a purely honorary office in addition to their own heavy duties. If money is so scarce with the Patna University that they have had to raise the matriculation fee to Rs. 15 from Rs. 12 (originally it was Rs. 10), one would have thought that the best and most reasonable way of practising economy was to have an honorary Vice-Chancellor and thus save Rs. 30,000 a year. Similarly a sum of Rs. 6000 could be saved by appointing a Registrar on Rs. 500. This would have saved Rs. 36,000 instead of only Rs. 9000 gained by increasing the Matriculation fee by three rupees. It is a pity that such a level-headed person as Sir Ali Imam should have deluded himself into the belief that that was the only means by which the University could keep its head out of water. It is a great pity, as we have said, because when the matter comes to be calmly reviewed, Sir Ali's backing is probably the only thing that could be urged in support of the increment of Matriculation fees. No one takes serious notice of the facile gentleman who seconded the resolution. The Vice-Chancellor was rather rough on him probably in pulling him up in the midst of a dissertation on Nalanda, though that could hardly be helped for none of the Senators with the exception of Mr. Oldham and Mr. Walsh, and the speaker (as modestly admitted by himself), knew who or what was Nalanda. There were also a few *sub-junctas* of the heaven-born service who knew everything about students in this province and were of opinion that the boys could well afford to pay a few extra rupees. But none of the supporters of the resolution could adduce any convincing fact or argument beyond Sir Ali's *ipse dixit* that pay the boys must or the Patna University Act should be repealed. "Your purse or your life" is an argument which admits of no answer. Otherwise one might be tempted to ask the reason for getting stock in hand of Stationery and other things at the present market rate. The ordinary rule, buy cheap and sell dear, apparently does not apply in the case of the University. Again, Rs. 10,000 has been budgeted for the printing of calendar minutes and reports. Considering that only 3 meetings of the Senate and 10 of the Syndicate have been provided for and that in the first years the size of the minutes and the calendars cannot be very big, it may very well be asked why the Patna University should spend a sum equivalent to if not greater than that spent by the Calcutta University for the purpose. It should be remembered that the Calcutta University Syndicate used to meet about 50 times a year, not to mention the meeting of the faculties. Similarly the number and the quantity of examination papers printed by the Calcutta University must have been ten and five times as much as those that the Patna University will have to print. Yet the printing charge allowed in our budget for examination papers is Rs. 5500, as against Rs. 6374-7-2, the average sum provided by the Calcutta University for the four years ending 1912-13. During these four years the average printing charges of the

Calcutta University for all purposes was Rs. 24,234-4-10, as against Rs. 22,000 budgeted by the Patna University. This average for four years includes a sum of Rs. 6127-3-2 which is the cost of printing grammar, selection, and other publications. The average amount spent by Calcutta on answer books during these four years was Rs. 8466-10-2 against Rs. 10000 provided here. The annual examinations conducted by the Calcutta University during these four years numbered 23 as against Patna's 9. These figures will speak for themselves. The figures for the four years ending 1912-13 have been selected because they were normal years besides being the first four years during which the new regulations were fully worked and as such are calculated to afford a reliable basis for comparison with the case of a new University.

As regards the difficulties of our students on account of poverty, we may, as against the heartless critics offered on Saturday, present the following from an article in the *Baptist Mission Review* by Prof. L. E. Martin:—"In the high classes the tuition fee alone for the year is about one hundred and thirty per cent. of the total annual income of the average person in India. It takes about a third of the total income of a village school teacher, for instance, to pay the tuition fee only of one son, not in college, please note, but in the higher classes of a Secondary School. An exceptionally good carpenter, with steady work, may keep one son in a High School, if the school happens to be in the place where he lives, and he is very thrifty. Such is the scheme we now have. It is not designed to make easy the path of a poor man's son to higher education."

The argument that the Calcutta University had also raised the Matriculation fee to Rs. 15 is equally fallacious. The fact that such reasonings have been brought forward to defend the course adopted by the Patna University affords its strongest condemnation. For years past, students both in Bihar and Bengal have been groaning under the heavy exactions of the Calcutta University. The burden of these imposts was felt here more keenly than in Bengal and it was this that was urged as the strongest reason for the establishment of a separate University in this province. We wanted to have more accessible University education. To defend a measure at Patna because Calcutta had it, when the measure is distasteful to the public is to give away the whole show altogether. If we are to have the Calcutta scale of fees, why should we not have the Calcutta privileges, the variety of subjects, examinations, courses and institutions, the large number of scholarships and prizes which the Calcutta University awarded, the University Professors, the Hardinge and Minto Chairs, the Ghosh-Palit College of Science, the Roychand Premchand Studentships, the Guruprasanna Ghosh and the Sri Gopal Basu Mallik endowments and so on and so forth?

INDIGENT PARENT.

NOTES.

Mr. Norton's Advice to Non-Brahmans.

Mr. Eardley Norton gave wholesome advice to the non-Brahmans at their conference at Tinnevely. He told them that they should not merely complain of lack of education among themselves but should set about spreading education among their communities in right earnest. Also that this was no time for disunion in the ranks. A 'united front' must be presented to the government of India; all racial differences must be got rid of and a broad and generous 'view of the situation' should be taken.

Bengal Congress Committee.

To Bengal must go the credit of making a cleaner sweep of the old members of the All India Congress Committee than Bombay has done. To be sure, Babu Motilal Ghose have been re-elected and so have been his friends and followers—Babu Basanta Kumar Bose, Rai Yatindranath Chaudhuri, and Babu Bijoy Krishna Bose. But Rai Boikunth Sen Bahadur has been kept out and Mr. Chakravarti has been elected. Similarly, Principal Heramba Chandra Maitra, the hon. Dr. Nilratan Sircar, Babu Krishna Kumar Mitra, Mr. J. Chaudhuri, the hon. Babu Provas Chandra Mitra, Dr. Pramathanath Banerjea, Babu Satyananda Bose, Babu Prithvis Chandra Roy, Mr. Surendranath Mullick and others have been cast out in favour of Mr. C. R. Das, the hon. Mr. Fazlul Haq, the hon. Babu Kamini Kumar Chanda, Mr. K. B. Sen, the hon. Maulvi Abul Kasim, Mr. A. C. Banerji, Babu Bipin Chandra Pal, Babu Hirendra Nath Datta and others. As in Bombay, so in Bengal, the ex-presidents remain because they could not be ejected.

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The Bose Research Institute.

Sir Jagadis Chunder Bose's address at the opening ceremony, on Saturday before last, of the Research Institute founded by him at Calcutta, must appeal to all seekers after truth as one pointing out the possibilities of what a careful combination of the special faculties of the East as well as of the West can achieve in the world of science. Dr. Bose's triumph in the field of plant physiology must be set down as much to the 'burning imagination' of the 'Indian which can extort new order out of a mass of apparently contradictory facts' as to the practical genius of the Westerner whose scepticism is never overcome except when the thing is analysed, dissected and otherwise experimented upon until the proposition in question is and can be 'demonstrated.' Dr. Bose has now established beyond doubt the value and the possibilities of synthetic genius and it is gratifying to note that the scientific world, in Europe as well as in America, has accepted Dr. Bose's theory and with it the merits of the synthetic genius of the East. We do hope that the public will not fail to extend its support to Dr. Bose's Institute now and whenever it might be in need of it.

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The hunger-strikes.

The hunger-strike is not a novelty in India. It is an ancient form of protest against political injustice or social wrong in its acutest form, and is reputed to have been resorted to in several cases. Only recently, the orthodox section of Calcutta's community resorted to it as a protest against the adulteration of ghee with impure ingredients, such as animal fat. They went to the ghats of the Ganges, there offered sacrifice to the gods and refused to touch food until they were assured that the dealers would not be countenanced in their "impious" practice. The Mahajan of the community levied fines from the offenders, and instead of the matter ending there as usual, the Bengal Government seriously took up the question of amending the Municipal Act to prevent the adulteration of ghee.

As a political weapon, the hunger-strike has been practised with great success in Great Britain and Ireland. The suffragettes used it with great effect, and the Irish Sinn Feiners have lately resorted to it to obtain preferential treatment for themselves at the Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. It is themselves at the Calcutta that a number of now reported from Calcutta that a number of Bengal prisoners confined at the Alipore jail under Bengal Regulation III of 1818, have started a hunger-strike "by way of protest against their detention."

According to the Associated Press telegram the detenus have no ground for complaint regarding their treatment by the prison authorities or in respect of food and clothing. The telegram does not state how the authorities themselves have received the news. In modern times, this is the first occasion on which it has been resorted to by political prisoners as protest against their incarceration in the prisons. Whether the detenus were inspired by the example of their Marwari brethren or by the success of the Sinn Fein protestants, it is difficult to say. In the case of the Sinn Feiners, however, when the matter had assumed a serious turn, it led to the betterment of their condition. They were segregated from the common prisoners and allowed certain privileges.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

THE Bihar Government have under consideration a Bill for the prevention of adulteration of food.

THE number of students admitted to the 1st year class of the Cuttack Survey School in 1917 is seven and the total number of students in the school is ten. The school is going to be abolished.

WE have much pleasure in learning from a reliable source that there is no truth in the rumours with which the air was thick of the probable resignation of Sir Edward Gait.

HIS HONOUR the Lieutenant Governor left Bankipur yesterday for Durbhanga, where his arrival will be public. His Honour leaves Rujnagar on the 18th for a private visit to Hatwa as the Maharaja Bahadur's guest, making on the way a public entry in Chapra. His Honour returns to Bankipur on the 21st.

POST graduate scholarships of the value of Rs. 30/- each tenable for two years have been awarded to the following students:—1. Loknath Misra, 2. Harendra Nath Mitra, 3. Ahmad Abdul Wahab, 4. Sayid Khurshaid Ahsan, 5. Kali Prasad Sinha, 6. Sudhansu Mohan Karmkar. The scholarship is tenable in the case of 4, at Patna College, in the cases of 1 and 3 in the Calcutta University class and for the rest at the Presidency College, Calcutta.

THE popular official and Anglo-Indian stick to beat Home Rule with is the alleged neglect by the educated oligarchy of the interests of the masses and particularly their contempt of the untouchables. It would appear however that Government itself

NO MORE HEADACHES

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is not averse to perpetuating this line of division between the classes and the masses, touchables and untouchable. The Government of Bihar and Orissa has now stated definitely that it is unable to subscribe to the view that it would be better if the sons of the Orissa chiefs were educated at the ordinary schools and not at the Raj Kumar College, Raipur.

THE Sub-Divisional Officer of Buxar has disposed of the case in which a Sectional Officer of the P. W. D. and two mates were charged with assaulting Babu Bhola Nath Shee, Sub-Divisional Officer, P. W. D., Sikroul. All the accused have been convicted and sentenced to 18 months rigorous imprisonment.

THERE was a grand Red Cross Fair at Dinapur on the 8th December. His Honour the Lieutenant Governor opened the fair. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Mr. Madan introduced Messrs. P. C. Bose, A. C. Sinha, Aziz, Sayeed, and a few Indian officials to His Honour. There were different amusements, such as dancing, theatrical performances, Bioscope Lotteries etc. More than Rs. 1500 was collected. The success of the show was due to Captain Morris and Mr. F. F. Madan.

THE ways of answers to interpellations in our Councils are mysterious indeed. In answer to the Hon'ble Mr. Gopabandhu Das on an article in the *Utkal Dipika* recommending a revision of public holidays in Orissa, the Chief Secretary said:—"The article appears to refer mainly to civil court holidays, the prescription of which is within the competence of the High Court of Judicature of Patna. The attention of the Hon'ble Judges has been drawn to the article with a view to such action as they may consider necessary." In answer however to a question on the inconvenience caused by the present arrangement of civil court holidays it was said that the Local Government had no information regarding the inconvenience complained of. The defences of Verdun are apparently nothing compared with the impenetrable barrier through which information has to pass before reaching Government.

THE status of the Government of Bihar and Orissa, if it is already higher than that of other Lieutenant-Governorships, still lacks one important element to make it high enough. Is not Ranchi a rather poor substitute for a hill station *a la mode*? The deficiency is soon to be made good. Witness the following from the *Englishman*:—

'A new hill station, situate about seven miles from Sakchi, is well under way. The plans have been passed and the survey completed. The site is on Dalma and the elevation will be higher than that of the popular Ranchi. It is believed that a prominent Calcutta hotel proprietor is to put up a handsome edifice there and when the township is in being, it will be a very convenient resting-place for holiday makers from Calcutta.'

THE festivities of the "Our Day" celebration at Gaya are said to have been marred by a deplorable incident. It is reported that there was a tug-of-war between an Indian and a military team, in which the Indians had an easy victory. Naturally, the young spectators of this trial of strength cheered the winning team vociferously. A European present on the occasion, it is alleged, could not, however, take the defeat of the military team in a really sportsmanlike spirit, and is reported to have rushed forward and dealt a severe blow with the butt end of a pistol at the eye of a Mahomedan student causing a deep cut on his eye-brow, and profuse

bleeding. We note, however, with satisfaction that the large number of students who were present, behaved admirably on the occasion and had it not been for their good sense and disciplined behaviour and the tact of their elders, a serious affray would have ensued with regrettable results. The incident, if true, is deeply to be deplored. We hear that a complaint has since been filed and summonses under S. 323 I. P. C. has been issued.

THE question of the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sharat Chandra Sen in the Legislative Council regarding the appointment of Mr. Fawcus as Director of Public Instruction raises important issues affecting the Indian Educational Service. There are officers in that service in this province senior to Mr. Fawcus, as for example Messrs. Jackson and Lambert, Principals of the two Government colleges in the province. For obvious reasons, it is not desirable to discuss the relative merits of these officers. Both Messrs. Jackson and Lambert have grown grey in the service and have, we take it, also some good record behind them. Mr. Fawcus, on the other hand, though possessing little college experience, is known as a specially able and efficient administrator. To the outside world, there being nothing to choose, this supersession of senior officers affords a crushing reply to the arguments in support of European administrative efficiency with which Indian claims to higher appointments are usually met. If two out of the three seniormost European officers in the Indian Educational Service are unfit for the highest post in that service, what becomes of the persistent demands for a British character of the administration?



"Every Picture tells a Story."

POISONING the BLOOD STREAM

There's No Good Excuse for Doing It Yourself.

AN OVERLOAD of uric acid in the blood is a bad thing. It comes in two ways—partly from meat and other strong foods, partly from using up body tissues during exertion. Uric acid victims are rheumatic, nervous, headachy, dizzy at times, or racked with sudden pains. They grow old too fast, and in time develop heart trouble, gravel, hardened arteries, dropsy, or fatal kidney diseases.

Take warning at the first sign of uric acid trouble, for uric acid is the most mischievous poison known to science. Eat little meat and not too much of any food. Drink milk and water. Exercise, rest, and sleep more. Use Doan's Backache Kidney Pills to repair the weakened kidneys and help them filter the uric poisons from the blood.

Doan's Pills take out uric acid and other kidney poisons, the common cause of stone, inflamed bladder and rheumatism, and help to drain away the accumulated water in dropsy.

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

AT the meeting of the Patna University Senate in the hall of the Patna Collegiate School on December 8th, it was resolved that the rules for the conduct of discussion in the Senate appearing in Chapter I, Regulations 8-70 of the Calcutta University Regulations be adopted, so far as applicable, as a temporary measure until the Regulations of the Patna University are passed. The Draft Regulations were referred to a Committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Hon'ble Justice Sir Ali Imam, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Chapman, the Hon'ble Mr. G. B. Das, Mr. Hasan Imam, Mr. G. E. Fawcus, Mr. Sachchidananda Sinha, Khan Bahadur Fakruddin, Mr. D. N. Sen, Dr. K. S. Caldwell, Mr. E. A. Horne, Mr. J. H. Thickett, Mr. Rajendra Prasad, the Registrar and the mover. It was also resolved that Chapter XXIII, XXIV, XXVI and XXVII of the Calcutta University Regulations including circulars regarding Admission, Transfer and Withdrawal of students, Residence of students, Conditions of study in affiliated Colleges, and Conditions to be fulfilled by Colleges affiliated in Science, be enforced until April 1st, 1918, so far as they are applicable and consistent with the Patna University Act. The Budget for the period from October 1st, 1917, to June 30th, 1918, was then passed. Finally, the fees for examinations were fixed at the rates now in force in the Calcutta University.

THE following is from an account of shopping in the days of the Company, contributed to the *Pioneer* by a correspondent:—

Residents at riverside stations were tolerably well off as regards supplies of European stores. The manghis of country boats used to bring up from Calcutta small investments of groceries to increase the profits of the voyage. Sometimes a European shopkeeper would engage a budgerow to carry up the river commodities for which there was a demand. As soon as the vessel arrived at the landing-ghat of a station a price list would be circulated among the European residents. Those who were stationed at places not on the banks of a large river were not afforded such opportunities of making purchases. European merchants were unwilling to incur the expense of conveying by road on the chance of selling them. Thus residents at such stations had to purchase European stores from itinerant merchants who charged exorbitant prices or order them from Havell or some other purveyor. For many years Havell was a veritable up-country Whiteley. He opened what he called a farm at Digah, on the Ganges, near Patna. Bishop Heber describes this farm as "a tavern; a large ground-floor house with excellent rooms, very handsomely fitted up, surrounded with some of the most extensive ranges of cow houses, pig-styes, places for fattening sheep and cattle, dairies, etc., that I ever saw, all beautifully clean, with a large grass plot full of poultry, and in the middle a very pretty flower garden, to the back is a large kitchen garden, and, beyond this, stacks of oats and other grain, not unworthy of an English farmer. The keeper is named Havell, a very respectable man. He is butcher, corn dealer, poulterer, wine merchant, confectioner and wax-chandler of all this part of India."

Havell continued to develop his business and was so successful that a number of imitators arose. Writing some ten years later than the bishop, Miss Emma Roberts says: "There is a class of Europeans settled at the principal stations who style themselves purveyors. Mr. Havell is at the head, he has a farm near Patna and warehouses in which are sold jewellery, millinery, china, glass, hardwares, European bird cages and bird-seed, saddlery, ornamental furniture, foreign fruits, jams,

jellies, preserves and other things for the table. He also deals in carriages, horses, wine, beer and spirits. Mr. Havell's boats go to the Sandheads at the mouth of the Hughli to catch the mango and hilsafish, which, after being properly cured, are despatched to every part of India. His chutnies and sauces are exported to London. The prices of the articles sold by Mr. Havell are necessarily extremely high, it being impossible to maintain so large an establishment on moderate profits." This last bit of information Miss Roberts doubtless obtained from Havell himself. She adds: "Firms of a similar but more moderate plan are common all over the country one at Cawnpore, in particular, conducted by Mr. Dickson, is deservedly celebrated."

After Havell's death his widow carried on the "farm." She had not her husband's aptitude for business, and in consequence, the farm rapidly degenerated and lost its reputation.

"OUR DAY" AT BANKIPUR.

During the last ten days great efforts have been made to raise as large a sum of money as possible for the benefit of "Our Day" fund. Cinema entertainments were given by Messrs. J. F. Madan of Calcutta while the local Dramatic Societies—Biharee, Bengalee and Europeans—have been busy giving performances. On the 9th December Mr. Justice Imam arranged a wrestling competition which came off successfully. On the 12th the grounds of the Patna college were on fete. There were various stalls where brisk business was done. The ladies in charge of the stalls were Mrs. Walsh, Mrs. Gruning, Mrs. Atkinson, and Mrs. Blaber. There were also European and Indian places for refreshments, the former being under the direct supervision of Mrs. Chapman and the latter under that of Mr. S. Sinha. Sports were also held. Mr. Ryland and Mr. Sealy were responsible for all

Only a mother knows the worry

and trouble when baby does not get on as might be expected. Often during the teething period baby becomes feverish, restless and suffers unnecessary pain from swollen gums, sleeplessness, constipation, diarrhoea, coughs, colds or even bronchitis. Still more often, appetite fails and the poor child becomes thin, miserable and weak. A course of SCOTT'S Emulsion saves all this. It gives the child strength to carry over this trying period, whilst its valuable liver salts aid the easy formation of strong white teeth. Sucky children especially grow healthy, robust and strong on account of the magnificent quality of cod liver oil contained only in

SCOTT'S Emulsion

arrangements regarding sports. The Lucky bag was, however, the chief attraction. Very good prizes were won, the first prize being a cheque for Rs 1,500. The success of the Lucky bag was due to the untiring energy of Mr. Reid, the District Magistrate. On the 13 and 14th, the Bankipore Dramatic Society staged "Twelfth Night." The way Mr. Justice Roe has interested himself in its production ensured its complete success. His Honour the Lieut.-Governor has assisted at as many functions as the cares of State would permit and has shown his practical sympathy with this laudable object by contributing Rs. 2,200 to the fund and Rs. 300 worth of prizes. It is anticipated that the proceeds will form a handsome contribution to the fund.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VISIT TO NEPAL.

By
H. C. M.

In the year 1874 A. D., a year before the visit to India of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales (afterwards King-Emperor Edward VII), Sir Jang Bahadur resolved once more to go to England, and this time with his family consisting of ladies. Every arrangement was made for the voyage in a special vessel. He had a fall, however, from his horse at the Bombay quay which forced him to abandon the project. The members of his family persuaded him not to proceed any further, and he returned back. There is a report of doubtful significance that he made the accident a pretext for not leaving the shores of India, as the ship chartered for him was uncanny and untidy. On his way to Bombay he had stopped for a short time at Bankipur where a Bengali youth of a respectable Brahmin family (Babu Aghore Nath Banerji) uncle of Mr. N. K. Banerji obtained leave to interview the Prime Minister. This young man became a supplicant to be allowed the privilege of accompanying the Nepalese party to England. This was declined. Among the small community of the Bengali Settlers of the time at Bankipore, it created a little sensation, as the young man ran the risk considerably of being put out of caste, his father being a staunch Hindu of the orthodox type.

The cold season of 1875-76 was a glorious one for India. The much expected and longed for advent of the Prince of Wales came to be a *fait accompli* after much discussion of the keenest import, both at home and abroad, whether the Heir-Apparent to the British Crown should visit the dependency of India or not. This was the first venture of its kind for the august Prince to take a long journey over land and water and there were pessimistic views about his safe return. Some visionaries depicted that there were dangers to his life, as recent events had disclosed, especially the murder of the popular Viceroy, the Earl of Mayo on the 8th February 1872 at the Andamans. A few months previously, on September 20, 1871, the Honourable John Paxton Norman, the officiating Chief Justice of Bengal, a man universally loved and respected, had fallen prey to the knife of a ruffian. These assassinations produced a hatred and horror all over India and were generally regarded as the result of the notorious Wahabi trial which was concluded by H. T. Prinsep Esqr. Sessions Judge of Patna in 1871. It actually brought on a change of policy in the administration of the British Indian Government in their relations to the Muhammadan subjects. In Bengal especially it found an expression in a tangible recognition of the rights of the Muhammadans: and the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Campbell demurely

asserted as follows:—"That act (referring to the murder of Lord Mayo) very materially changed the course of our policy in India" (Vide Bengal under the Lieutenant-Governors by C. E. Buckland Esqr. Vol. I p. 513). As a result of this change of policy since 1872, the accumulated funds of the Endowment of the Hughli Imambara created by Mohammad Mohsin, known as Mohsin Trust Fund was thrown open for the better education, on an extensive scale, of the Mahommedan youths all over the country, especially in (old) Bengal. Larger and wider facility was afforded to the Mahommedans by enlisting their sympathy by offer of public service, and advancing their claims in every direction of public utility and emoluments. Favours began to be showered on them by the British Indian Government unstintedly, especially under the Viceroyalty of Lord Dufferin who came from Turkey where he was Consul from December 1884 to December 1888).

(To be concluded.)

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED.

Temporarily for a period of at least two months from the 3rd of January, 1918 a lady to teach English, History, Logic and Bengali in the I. A. Classes attached to the Ravenshaw Girls' High School at Cuttack. The salary offered is Rs. 150/- a month. Applications will be received by the undersigned up to the 18th of December, 1917.

RANCHI, } NALINI MOHAN DAS GUPTA,
The 10th of } Offg. Asstt. Director of Public
December 1917. } Instruction, Bihar & Orissa.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela at Allahabad 1918.

Pilgrims intending to travel by rail to attend the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad are advised in their own interests to refrain from doing so. During the period the Mela is held, *viz*, from 13th January to 25th February 1918, the East Indian Railway will be required to carry large quantities of urgent Coal, Military and Government traffic, and it will not therefore be possible to run Special Mela trains for the convenience of pilgrims.

As the regular Passenger Train services have had to be curtailed to make room for Goods trains carrying urgent Coal and Goods traffic the Passenger trains now running will not have accommodation for pilgrims travelling in large numbers, and Pilgrims are warned that if they journey by rail to this Mela they are liable to suffer serious detention waiting for trains.

GENL. TRAF. MNGR'S. }
OFFICE, }
Calcutta, 11th Oct. }

9-6 1917.

By order,
C. M. PEARCE,
General Traffic Manager.