

# The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Jan. 26, 1918.

## THE MANNING OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The ravages and horrors of plague and other epidemic diseases made some real impression on the educated Indian community about the importance of sanitation and a demand gradually arose for sanitary surroundings and preventive measures. The Government rose to the occasion and made an earnest attempt to meet the demands. As a result of this, the Sanitary Department was reorganised, several posts were created, the cost of the officers was fully or partially met by the Government and grants were given to local bodies for sanitary improvements. The efforts on the part of Government in this connection were good no doubt, but unfortunately little success has attended these efforts and the progress of growth of the department is so slow that the department is apprehended to die in its infancy. The department has been opened with its various necessary branches but men are not forthcoming to take charge of them. The pay, prospects and position of the newly-created posts are not at all attractive to qualified men. As a consequence of this, several posts are still vacant or filled up with lay men as a temporary measure and those who are working in the posts are working half-heartedly and are on the look out for other posts, as they are not satisfied with those they hold at present.

The Government provided for a large increase in the number of Deputy Sanitary Commissioners and for the appointment of Health Officers (of the first class for larger municipalities and of the second class for the smaller towns). The posts of Deputy Sanitary Commissioners and Health Officers of the first class are opened to Indians having a registrable medical qualification and a British diploma in public health and the scale of pay has been fixed in the case of Deputy Sanitary Commissioners at Rs. 500 to 1000 whereas in case of Health Officers the scale of pay is Rs. 300 to 500. Both will be required to possess the same qualifications without any difference, but in the case of Deputy Sanitary Commissioners the post is provincial and draws a higher pay, the duties are lighter, and there is a chance of saving Rs. 200 a month on the average from T. A. But in the case of Health Officers of first class the post is a pure and simple municipal post and the scale of pay is fixed at Rs. 300 to 500. Though there is such difference in prospects the qualifications required are the same. It is a matter of chance only to get either of the posts. However, first class Health Officers are often provided with the posts of Deputy Sanitary Commissioners and so there is not much clamour in that direction.

But look to the second class Health Officers. They are required to possess registrable medical qualifications and to undergo a course of training in public health in a medical college approved by the local Government. Second class Health Officers are recruited from people of Assistant Surgeon class. When the post of a second class Health Officer is vacant, there will be hundreds of applications. One man will be selected out of the number, the name will be sent up to the Sanitary Commissioner with his qualifications, and the Sanitary Commissioner will recommend his appointment to the local Government who may or may not approve of the selection. So there is a

greater fuss and keener competition in filling these posts than in those of Assistant Surgeons. After this, the selected man will have to undergo a course of training for a period of six months and to pass the examination held after the course of training. Then he will work in the municipalities for some time after which his work will be inspected by the Sanitary Commissioner and the Divisional Commissioners will then consider about his confirmation on receipt of that report. So generally even after a period of 2 to 3 years, the poor Health Officer of the second class may not be confirmed. Nevertheless, before he is sent up for training, he will have to execute a bond to the effect that he will stick to the service for at least two years after training is over. After such a long time he may be confirmed but he is not safe. Even after his confirmation, he may be discharged or compelled to resign. Even after his confirmation his appointment requires the approval of the local Government and his confirmation requires a good deal of trouble, time and recommendation but his discharge or compulsory resignation requires practically nothing. If he happens to incur the displeasure of any of the municipal commissioners it will be quite sufficient for the loss of his job. It is not known to the outside world except the poor municipal servants what tactics, what forbearance and what humiliation are necessary for propitiating Municipal Commissioners. Life in the municipality is a life of misery and insult.—There is no suggestion from the Municipal Commissioners as to any sanitary improvements—no direction from any one and Health Officers will also not be allowed to act in their own way. But there will be rebuff and remark that there is no improvement. The Sanitary Commissioner may suggest some improvement but this cannot be effected as he will get neither funds nor co-operation. On the next inspection he will remark that the Health Officer has disregarded his order and the position of the Health Officer will require him to be dumb. As some of the Municipal Commissioners think that Health Officers have been thrust upon the municipality these officers are regarded as a foreign element and a source of irritation to Municipal Commissioners. There is no end of their masters or critics. Any one can fall upon them when he will choose. But there is no one to whom they can look to for protection.

## MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION IN GAYA.

The ratepayers of Wards V and VII of the Gaya Municipality are much exercised over a proposal to reconstitute the number of Municipal Commissioners in those and other wards of the Municipality. The proposal which seems to have emanated from the Chairman of the Municipality is to reduce the number of Municipal Commissioners in each of those two wards from two to one and increase that in wards I and II from one to two. The proposal has naturally created strong resentment and alarm in the minds of the ratepayers of the first-named wards who have submitted a representation on the subject to Government.

We have seen a copy of the memorial which has been sent to Government and we must say, from the very strong case which has been made out therein against the proposal, that we are extremely surprised that such a proposal should have been made at all. To make our point clear, it is necessary for us to go into a few facts and figures.

At the outset, we concede that there seems to be an urgent necessity for the increase of Municipal franchise in the town of Gaya. The population

of the town according to the last census was only 49,921, while according to the last report on the working of Municipalities in the Province, it was 70,423 during the year 1916-17. Very few towns in this Province have had such a varying course of population as Gaya. In the census of 1872, the population recorded was 66,843, in 1881 it had increased to 76,415 and in 1891 to 80,383 after which there was a set back with the result that in 1901, the recorded population was 71,288, and in 1911, the figure came down to 49,921. If the figures of 1916-17 as given in the administration report of the Municipality be accepted as correct, the town which lost more than 30,000 men in 20 years has in the last five years recovered nearly two thirds of its lost population. With such a growing city, which shows an increase of over 20,000 or 40 per cent in the population in the short space of five years, the sufficiency of the representation afforded to the ratepayers must always be an open question, and we should always welcome any proposal which contemplates a genuine increase in the number of Commissioners returnable by each ward.

That there is room for improvement in this direction can be easily seen on an examination of the present constitution of the Municipality. The maximum number of Commissioners allowed by the law to any Municipality is 30. The total number of Commissioners in the Gaya Municipality as fixed by notification is only 24, out of whom five are appointed *ex-officio*, three are nominated and 16 are elected from the ten wards, six of which are allowed two seats each, and the remaining four only one each. It will be found that no other municipal town of the second class in this province has such a large proportion of *ex-officio* Commissioners. If any improvement is really intended, the most obvious solution of the problem would be to raise the number of Municipal Commissioners in the Municipality to 30, the maximum number allowed by the law. The number of elected Commissioners would then be 20, which would give two seats to each of the ten wards. The present number of *ex-officio* members would then be quite proportionate and in accordance with the spirit of section 14 of the Municipal Act, while an increase of two in the number of nominated members would maintain the balance between election and nomination.

Had such a proposal been forthcoming, we should have given our emphatic support to it. But instead of that, what is the scheme before us? It is actually a plan to *lessen* the franchise of certain wards of the town, and this too, in the face of the declaration of a policy of progressive realisation of responsible self-government. Where is the progress, pray, in thus taking away from an electorate the right which it has been enjoying since the inception of the Municipality? Where is the evidence to show that in thirty years, the population, the number of voters and ratepayers and the amount of rates paid by them have so diminished that the wards threatened with the loss of their franchise have become "rotten boroughs"? The evidence available seems to disclose, on the contrary, a remarkable progress. If other wards which had lesser representation have similarly progressed and grown out of recognition, that surely is no ground why those formerly better represented should now suffer. And after all, it is the electorate, that is to say, the number of voters that matters. We have been told that the number of voters in the wards concerned are as follows:—

Ward.	Voters.	Ward.	Voters.
I	418	V	297
II	477	VII	374
IX	394	VIII	463

The figures certainly make a case for the increase of representation of wards I, II, and IX from one to two, but militate strongly against the proposal to reduce that of wards V, VII, and VIII from two to one. We have heard that Wards V and VII are those where the educated section of the community is predominant, and that is why they are a *beté noir* to certain officials whose paths the electorates of these wards have not certainly strewn with roses. We should be the last people to believe however that party considerations of this sort should be in any way allowed to influence decisions concerning such a vital matter as the right of representation, a right which has been exercised and enjoyed by the ratepayers of these wards for over thirty-three years.

It may be urged that it is not an easy matter to alter the number of Commissioners as fixed in the notification under section 13 of the Municipal Act, the only provision which the law makes for such alteration being section 9 of the Act under which, the Local Government can by notification alter the number of Commissioners of a Municipality on the recommendation of the Commissioners at a meeting. This is a very sensible provision, for if there is any necessity for an increase in the representation of any of the wards, the Commissioners are the persons best fitted to move in the matter, as any step taken either by the Chairman or the Vice-Chairman on their own initiative may be liable to serious misinterpretation. If it is not very easy to increase the number of Commissioners, the legality of an alteration in the representation of the wards is quite as doubtful. For the constitution of wards and the number of Commissioners to be elected for each ward are governed by section 15 of the Municipal Act which empowers the Local Government to lay down such rules, not inconsistent with the provisions of the Act, as it shall think fit in these respects. That section also empowers the Local Government to *cancel* at any time any rule made by it thereunder, but, it is to be noted, there is nothing which authorises the Government to *alter the rules or to frame new rules*. Even if the Local Government has such power, the rules made must be consistent with the provisions of the Act, the spirit of which is clear from section 9 which lays down that alteration in the number of Commissioners may be made on the recommendation of the Commissioners at a meeting.

A possible objection to our reading of the law as it stands would be that in view of the possibility of inequalities in the operation of the elective system, the law, as we interpret it, would leave a wrong without a remedy. This is not correct, for the Government can always make up any such defects by nomination. That this was the intention which led Government to reserve the right of appointing one-third of the number of Commissioners has been clearly laid down in Bengal Government Circular 2—T/M, dated 2nd August 1912. We do not know if the Bihar and Orissa Government has issued any such circular, but in the absence of anything to the contrary, the Bengal circular may be safely accepted as a reliable guide to the object of the legislature.

THE SALT PROBLEM

In view of the present high prices of salt, due it is believed in great measure to illegitimate speculation, the Government of India have announced their readiness to give priority of supply to the indents of local authorities in order that they may open depots for the sale of salt at a fairer rate. The Government of Bihar and Orissa

invited Municipalities and District Boards to give their immediate attention to this problem wherever they find that salt is being sold within their jurisdiction at a price higher than six pice per seer. Since the price at which salt from the Punjab is available free on railway varies from Rs. 1-8-3 to Rs. 1-5-9 per maund, it is apparent that after allowance for the addition of charges for bags and freight a retail price of six pice per seer is sufficiently high to leave the dealer a reasonable profit.

The Local Government leave to the discretion of the Boards the method of arranging for distribution but have suggested that they might find it convenient to work through one or more contractors on commission subject to a definite retail price beyond which contractors may not go. It is hoped that Municipalities and District Boards will take action where necessary without any delay in order that the hardship caused by the present inflation of prices may be at once reduced.

The Government of India have taken further powers to deal with the salt problem. An amendment of the Defence of India Rules which has been gazetted provides that the Governor-General in-Council or any officer authorised by him may from time to time regulate, restrict or prohibit the issue of salt on behalf of Government and where an order has been issued under this rule no salt shall be issued or delivered on behalf of Government in accordance with its terms. The powers thus conferred are obviously comprehensive and would, for instance, enable the authorities to defeat the manœuvres of any person who by indenting for very large quantities hoped to secure enough salt to influence the course of the market. For our own part we should be glad to see the most drastic steps taken against the speculators whose operations are largely responsible for the present excessive price of salt, and surely these persons must realise themselves that there is a limit to the forbearance of Government.

There appears to be no improvement in the salt situation, which is continuing to receive the serious attention of Government. So far as foreign salt is concerned the trade returns show that while a large decline in aggregate imports took place during the first eight months of the current official year there was a substantial increase in November, the receipts for that month being nearly 8,000 tons in excess of the total for the corresponding period of 1916. The real cause of the present high prices seems to be not shortage of supplies but the holding up of stocks, and the time is ripe for the Government of India to take effective steps to put an end to this discreditable state of affairs.

**NOTES.**

**An acknowledgment.**

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a copy of "Silver-Town" Calendar for 1918 from the India Rubber Gutta Percha and Telegraph Works of 7, Old Court House Street, Calcutta. Much credit is due to the enterprising firm for bringing it out in spite of the high price of paper.

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**The Late Sir Beauchamp Duff.**

The tragic end of the late Commander-in-Chief of India will recall the painful circumstances in which the late General left India, and the severe censure passed upon him by the Mesopotamia Commission. How far that censure was really merited, time alone can show, but those who knew him must mourn for a brave and gallant officer.

**Bengal Light Horse Scheme Sanctioned.**

Colonel Pugh to whom credit is due for the inception of the idea of forming a Bengali Light Horse is to be congratulated on the success of his efforts. The scheme has at last been finally sanctioned by the authorities. The Brigade office is arranging all the necessary details and it is believed that the scheme will be in full working order at an early date.

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**The Late Sir Chander Madhub Ghosh.**

It is with the deepest regret that we have heard the news of the death of Sir Chunder Madhub Ghosh, the eminent judge and lawyer of Bengal. He passed away quietly on last Saturday night in his Calcutta residence at the ripe old age of eighty years surrounded by his sons, grand-children and great-grand-children. He was one of the most distinguished Vakils of the High Court of his time and as a judge he made his mark by his thorough independence and forensic knowledge. The sympathy of the whole of India will go to the bereaved family and we offer our sincere condolence to the worthy sons of the deceased and the rest of his family.

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**The Viceroy's Reply.**

The Viceroy's reply, on behalf of India, to the Premier's message of "good will and confidence," strikes the right note. "It is the firm belief, confidently held by the people of India in spite of all passing difficulties," says the Viceroy, "that the triumph of British ideals is vital to India's future." And it was that belief which, his Excellency truly adds, won for the British people India's prompt and eager support in the dark days of 1914, which has ever since bound her to them, and which will carry her with them to end. And that end, we all believe, will be a peace that will set up, in Mr. Asquith's words, "a partnership, of which all the civilised communities will be members on a level footing, with equal rights and reciprocal duties."

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**Mortality From Wild Animals.**

No one, we imagine, with any knowledge of this country takes very seriously the "wild animals and snakes" casualty returns which are solemnly compiled and published by the Government of India. But no doubt the official conscience would be pricked if the Indian public were permitted entirely to go without them. The returns just published relate to the five years ending in 1916, and indicate an upward tendency in the number of deaths caused both by wild animals and snakes. The total in the former case for 1916, namely 2,278, is certainly only two more than in the previous year, but it compares with 1,702 in 1914, 1,603 in 1913 and 2,066 in 1912. The deaths from snake bite last year are reported to have totalled 23,640 as compared with 26,406 in the previous year, 22,900 in 1914, 21,770 in 1913 and 21,461 in 1912. The highest mortality from wild animals was again experienced in Bihar and Orissa where 847 deaths occurred, 630 of which were caused by tigers. No fewer than 488 persons fell victims to tigers in the Angul, Singbhum, Manbhum, Hazaribagh, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Ranchi and Palamau districts, and it is intimated that the local authorities are taking or have in contemplation vigorous measures to reduce the loss of life in these areas. The total number of deaths attributed to tigers in British India during 1916 was 1,118 while leopards killed 307 persons, bears 99, wolves 124, hyenas 38, elephants 83 and "other animals" 509. The number of wild animals destroyed was smaller than in any of the four

previous years, the total of 20,574 comparing with 25,112 in the previous year. There was also a very large reduction in the number of snakes killed, the aggregate being returned at 65,765 which compares with 184,660 in 1915.

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#### The Social Service Conference.

The organisation of the All-India Social Service Conference, the first session of which was held in Calcutta in the Congress week, is to be welcomed. No more suitable person could have been called upon to preside over the deliberations of this Conference than Mr. M. K. Gandhi. The address which he delivered before the Conference, though it was not comprehensive enough in its scope, was marked by his characteristic anxiety to see things as they are and to help to make them what they ought to be. As such, it deserves the careful attention of those who are sensitive to social wrongs and injustices, to some of which Mr. Gandhi specially referred, and are resolved to set them right.

The determination, in the first instance, of those social evils which should be tackled first, and thereafter, of the means by which the task may be attempted is, of course, the main practical problem of the social service movement. In this connection a remark with which Mr. Gandhi prefaced his address may be usefully examined. "I have not much faith in conferences," he said. "Social service to be effective has to be rendered without noise. It is best performed when the left hand knoweth not what the right is doing." That no doubt is the spirit which should inspire all service, if it is to be real and permanent. But that is not all. While in no country, perhaps, has the gospel of the service to humanity as being essential to the development of the individual soul, been preached and practised to a greater extent than it has been in India, it is equally true that the modern version of this gospel of service which goes further has not yet sufficiently permeated the Indian consciousness. Its chief conception is that of an organised body devoted to the attainment of a common progressive ideal. It, therefore, lays marked emphasis on the subordination of the individual personality to the demands of the organised body. And this change in the conception of service has been brought about by the growing conviction that the wrongs from which human beings suffer are due not so much to individual as to collective social injustice. The time-honoured method has been unavailing in redressing such injustice. Therefore, to secure its removal, the method must be appropriate to the task. The greatest problem is the awakening of the social conscience to the fundamental drawbacks on which the structure of Society is based. Therefore, while they are to be welcomed "who help to make one poor man more earnest of purpose, and one rich man more thoughtfully unselfish," we need also those "who help to alter laws and customs which put stumbling blocks in the way of the simple." It is not enough that individual workers should toil, to bring light where darkness is, to create hope and self-respect, to encourage individual men and women to work out their own salvation. This noble work has been done, in all ages, by good men and true. But it has necessarily not touched the whole problem of social wrong. Conditions and laws have still continued to exist which press with cruel severity upon the lives of the poor and the helpless. Unostentatious and thoughtful sympathy for individuals, much that it can do, cannot remove the basic injustice. Fearless advocacy of reform of the conditions and laws themselves is, therefore, an indispensable necessity.

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#### Back to First Principles.

No dispassionate and keen observer of the

Indian political situation, as it has developed through these momentous days, can have failed to be struck by a significant sign of the times. He will have observed a gradual but sure thinning of the ranks of the apostles of obscurantism and reaction, as an inevitable result of the emancipating processes set in motion by the war. One by one the staunchest champions of the "dug-out" philosophy, as applied to Indian administration, have been forced to make a retreat before the incoming rush of the current of a new world-order—on the whole an honourable retreat. And it will have been noted, further, that the recantation has come from those who, being nearer the scenes of the war, have been able to realise something of its solemn import as well as its awful tragedy. *Per contra*, those

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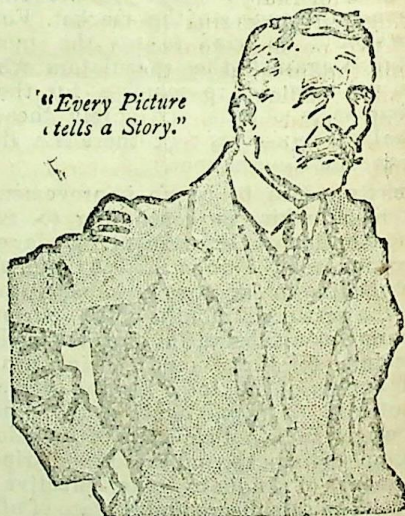
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How to Disperse

#### URIC ACID DEPOSITS.

THE ill-effect of excess uric acid may not end with lumbago, sciatica and rheumatism, for uric acid is the general basis of stone deposits in kidneys and bladder.

Little jagged uric acid crystals, very much like splintered glass, cluster round the delicate kidney cells, and form gravel stones, which break through to the bladder, and often grow so large that an operation would seem almost unavoidable. But a kidney medicine should succeed in preventing and dispersing uric acid deposits.

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

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

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

Europeans in India who, like the members of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, for instance, "are strong supporters of the present system of administration," believing it to be "the only system suited to the present conditions and needs of India," have learnt nothing from the war, immersed as they have been in the pleasant task of making capital, however legitimately, out of the war. Neither its meaning nor its tragedy has been brought home to them. The map of the whole world may be repainted, in defence and in vindication of the immortal principles of liberty and international righteousness, but they apparently cannot bring themselves to admit, or agree, that the process should involve any modification of the position of unconscionable privilege in which they themselves happen to be entrenched. Let that pass, however. It is a mood of suicidal infatuation, but, let us hope, a passing mood. What is more important to take note of is the unconscious testimony to the strength and the justice of the claim of India, which is afforded by the "conversion" of its erstwhile opponents. Sir J. D. Rees was one of the first to accept the inevitable. Sir Valentine Chirol lost no time, after returning from India, to impress upon his countrymen the unalterable fact that the Indian Home Rule movement, which derived an added momentum from the Russian Revolution, "has become a factor in Indian politics which can no longer be ignored." Not less insignificant was Lord Curzon's declaration that the war has unchained forces which cannot be ignored.

The latest to surrender to these forces is Sir Bamfylde Fuller. In a letter to the "Times" of November 14, received by last mail, he puts the whole case for Indian Home Rule in a nutshell by declaring, with engaging frankness, that there are only "two possible courses open" in India: to maintain the prestige of the Indian Government, or to allow India to govern herself—that is, "a policy of 'hands off' or of 'Home Rule'." The former alternative, he has the sense to admit, is "beyond expectation." Therefore, the question resolves itself into this: "whether we should allow Home Rule to be wrested in morsels, with heart-burnings and hatred, as in Ireland," or have the statesmanship to bestow it "frankly and with as good a grace as we can muster."

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

WE hear that the Patna City Municipality intend to raise the latrine rates from 6¼ per cent to 7½ per cent.

THERE has been a violent outbreak of plague at Gaya. People are leaving and the schools are being closed.

THE marriage will be celebrated to-day at Christ Church, Bankipur of Dorothy Muriel, daughter of Mr. P. E. Lall, Barrister-at-Law, with Mr. C. M. Agarwalla, Barrister-at-law.

THE Monghyr public are organising a grand and fitting farewell entertainment in honour of their retiring District Judge, Mr. Paresh Nath Banerji. The programme includes theatricals and a steamer party.

MR. Roy, the Sectional Officer, P. W. D. Buxar, who was convicted of assaulting Babu Bhola Nath Shee, S. D. O., P. W. D., Buxar and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment has been acquitted on appeal.

THE Bengalee community of Bhagalpur has sustained a deep loss by the death at the ripe old age of 86 of Babu Behari Lal Majumdar. The deceased gentleman was a retired Inspector of Police and was one of the oldest and most respected residents of Bhagalpur. We offer our sincere condolences to his bereaved family.

THE Bihar Provincial Brahman Conference held sitting on Saturday and Sunday last. On the first day the Maharaja Bahadur of Hathwa, Chairman of the reception committee, welcomed the delegates. The Rajah of Tahirpore, President, delivered his address on the second day. Resolutions were adopted urging the establishment of a Brahman hostel for students and starting a poor boy's fund to help poor students, the removal of social abuses, deputing preachers to preach the Brahmanic ideal etc. were passed. About three thousand rupees was promised on the spot for a boarding house and hostel.

THE full bench consisting of Sir T. Dawson Miller, Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Chapman, Mr. Justice Mullick, Mr. Justice Roe and Mr. Justice Atkinson heard the application made on behalf of Parmeshwar Ahir convicted of dacoity at Peru in Shahabad district by the Special Tribunal at Arrah for a writ of habeas corpus on the ground that Government of India had no power to constitute the court which convicted him. Mr. P. R. Dass and Mr. A. Sen with a number of vakeels appeared for the petitioner. Mr. T. C. Gibbons, Advocate General, Bengal and Mr. Sultan Ahmed, Government Advocate, Bihar and Orissa represented the Crown. The Court was overcrowded by members of the bar and the public. The arguments on both sides and Mr. Dass's reply took nearly four days. Judgment was reserved.

It is very commendable that the collections of the "Our-Day" Fund in Monghyr aggregate to Rs. 37,500—exclusive of about Rs. 5000—raised in Jamalpur, thus raising the district total to Rs. 425,00—a figure not attained in any other district in the Province. This speaks volumes of the splendid organization made in this district for giving effect to His Excellency the Viceroy's appeal and the notable feature is that this excellent result has been attained through the sheer co-operation of non-official workers without any official influence. The inhabitants of the Monghyr district have always shown themselves most ready to respond to the call made upon their generosity and public spirit and have every reason to be proud of its achievement on this very special occasion though it is not the Metropolis of the Province. Monghyr has also in the past in other matters taken the lead and there is abundance of proof that Monghyr has qualified itself for managing its own affairs without official aid.

NOW that the time for the annual settlement of toddy and liquor shops is drawing nigh, we invite the immediate attention of the Collector of Patna to the extremely objectionable site of a toddy shop situated at Jufra on the Patna-Dinapur Road. The shop in question is located in a house on both sides of which are two Hindu temples of widely reputed sanctity. There are, we understand, clear rules against the establishment of liquor shops in the proximity of places of worship. How the one in question came into existence and has been allowed to remain in its present site, we do not know. But what we strongly feel is the urgent necessity of removing it from a place where its presence will be felt by all pious Hindus as a sacrilege. We have

been told that there is no local necessity for a shop at Jujra, the one referred to being patronised by the cartmen, the loafers, and the pedestrians who frequent the Patna-Dinapur Road. Necessity or no necessity, a liquor shop sandwiched between two Hindu temples is an arrangement that is repugnant to all feelings and will meet with ready condemnation from every body. We sincerely trust that our worthy Collector will move in the matter and take immediate action to wipe out this standing disgrace to Jujra.

THE Purnea correspondent of *The Bengalee* wires:—"A manuscript leaflet containing a satirical poem reached the Secretary of the local Bar Association, Babu Sashi Bhusan Konar, by post from Calcutta. The Secretary, as usual, under the rules of the Association, placed the correspondence on the table for the inspection of the members of the Bar. The poem is said to contain defamatory references to some public officers and in general was a parody on the local affairs. The contents of the alleged offensive leaflet having leaked out, the District Judge referred the matter to the District Magistrate for an enquiry. The District Magistrate has issued notices under Section 108 Cr. P. Code upon Babu Sashi Bhusan Konar, pleader, E. L. Chapman, Bar-at-Law and A. H. Forbes, Bar-at-Law, for alleged dissemination of defamatory matters, falling within the purview of Section 108 Cr. P. Code. The people are keenly watching farther developments of this case which is fixed for the 21st instant for hearing,

THE grievances of the parents and guardians of the girls reading in the Bankipur Female School in the matter of the timing of the omnibus have not yet been removed. Under the present arrangements, the girls are expected to leave for school at 8-30 A.M. in the morning and return home at 4-30 P.M. in the afternoon. As very few parents can afford to send servants to the school with the girls' tiffin, and as many of the girls have not even attained their teens, the hardships of these little children who have to snatch a scant breakfast at eight in the morning and remain on it for a stretch of eight hours, can be better imagined than described. The actual teaching in the school takes only 5 hours, so that the girls simply waste three hours every day. And the fun of the whole thing is that while one girl from a house has to leave at 8-30, another girl from the same house may have to take the 9-30 omnibus. Surely something ought to be done in the matter without delay.

THE *Bengalee* in its leading article of January 22, has the following:—

"Although one is apt to think that the question of the redistribution of territories has no direct bearing on Mr. Montagu's mission to India, it is all the same pretty certain that it is bound to arise in the final solution of the constitutional changes under contemplation. Already Dame Rumour has it that a discussion of the question of territorial redistributions will bulk largely at the Conference of the Provincial Rulers that is to be held at Delhi and speculations are rife, with what substratum of truth we cannot tell, as to the shape they may take at the coming re-adjustment. Behar is said to be a Province which is unable to pay its way and has proved a veritable white elephant, and hence it is not unlikely that the feasibility of making one Province of Behar and the United Provinces with a Governor-in-Council and the claims of the Bengalee-speaking fringe districts such as Sylhet, Cachar, Goalpara, Manbhum, Sonthal Perganahs, etc., to be incorporated in Bengal, may come up for consideration."

OUR Bhagalpur correspondent writes:—

The Patna University which was supposed to be a blessing, has frustrated the hopes of the people. The raising of the scale of fees amongst others, is keenly felt by the poorer classes. I myself came across several matric students who had to beg from door to door to collect money. If Government had no funds at present, why did it launch such an expensive scheme at present? It might have as well been deferred till after the war.

Plague is here on the increase. Rats have died in two blocks of the local College Hostels and the boarders are occupying the First and Third year class rooms. These two classes have been dissolved sine-die i.e. till 31st. In the meantime the Second and Fourth year classes are being taken. Our city fathers too have now shaken off their sleepy langour and a meeting of the Plague Prevention Committee was held yesterday morning in which the present situation was discussed. It is hoped that vigorous measures will be adopted to check the fell disease now that only a small portion of the town has been affected.

Some eighty delegates attended the Congress from this town—a number unknown before. The Home Rule-League has been doing very useful work here.

SO the Patna University Senate has set its seal on the proposal to place the recognition of secondary schools in the hands of the Director of Public Instruction, at the last meeting of the Senate. One thing however appears to be certain. Those secondary schools that existed at the time of the passing of the University Act can snap their fingers, so to say, at the Director of Public Instruction, in spite of the tremendous authority with which he has been armed. Among the other important items passed at the last meeting of the Senate were the regulation enforcing practical examinations for the I. Sc., the nomination of Messrs. Sen, Caldwell and Horne as University members on the School-Leaving Examination Administrative Board, and the recognition of that examination as equivalent to the Matriculation Examination. We are glad that the proposal to have the examinations under the new Regulations from 1921 and not from 1920 was carried. We are pleased at the success of the amendment to remove the bar which was sought to be placed on graduates who take their degree without Honours or distinction against their being permitted to go up for the M. A. degree. The age limit of Matriculation candidates has been extended, so that candidates completing the age of 16 in July would be qualified to sit for the examination held that year. The result of the voting on the election of members of the School-Leaving Examination Administration Board is an unpleasant but emphatic reminder of the thoroughly unrepresentative and unpopular character of the constitution of the Senate. The names of Messrs. Fakhruddin, Dwarika Nath and Gopebandhu Das were proposed by the Hon'ble Mr. Fawcus, but, Principal Jackson proposed Principal Sen, and Professors Horne and Caldwell who were declared elected by a large majority. There was just the suspicion of a breeze between D. P. I. LOST and D. P. I. GAINED on the question of the recognition of the School-Leaving Examination which was averted by the tact of the Hon'ble Mr. LeMesurier who clinched the matter by calling for a vote which turned the tables completely, Mr. Fawcus getting an overwhelming majority.

IN connection with our remarks on the methods of the Jehu in Patna, the *Hindu Patriot* facetiously remarks:—

So the Jehu is the same good boy here, everywhere. Despite the Municipal by-laws, cribbing, cabining and confining his demands within prescribed limits, he must, have his fat fares. Though he has not taken his B. Sc. in Economics, he instinctively follows the laws of supply and demand. We would ask our contemporary of the *Behar Herald* not to be too hard upon him, for the Patna species of the animal, like Patna cabbages, is by no means the biggest type of scoundrel available in the market.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

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

**AWAKENING OF THE PATNA MUNICIPALITY.**

To The Editor "Behar Herald," Bankipur.

Sir,—The Municipal authorities deserve the thanks of the ratepayers for the commendable attention they have, of late, been paying to the sanitation of the town. Langertolly the proverbially dirty quarter of the town through which the huge municipal drain runs with its precious burden of accumulated nuisance, now presents a tolerably neat and somewhat clean appearance. And what is more—the drain is now not full of knee-deep filth. Thanks to the energy of our Peerbahore Ward Inspector, Langertolly looks now quite a healthy and changed-for-the better mahalla. The other day I was told by a Municipal Commissioner, who takes a good deal of interest in the sanitation question of our municipality that the municipal authorities are at present busy considering the benevolent scheme of a thorough cleaning and flushing of the drain by a special grant. This is a scheme of the right sort and has the support of every right-thinking person. Let us hope the Patna Municipality, now that it has awakened from its deep slumber, will rise to the height of the occasion and do the needful.

I cannot close without referring to another unique incident that occurred only a few days ago in my life time in Bankipore. It was Sunday morning I think, and I had just come out of my house when I saw some 3 or 4 able-bodied desperate-looking doms headed by a municipal Jemadar standing in front of my door. I confess their sight was not encouraging especially at that early hour and my first thought was that they must have come with no pious motive, probably to raid my house. I however gathered my courage and as if undaunted demanded their business with me. They said "We have come on behalf of the Municipality to cleanse and disinfect your privy". I was thunder-struck! Yes, I was. For who ever heard of cleansing of privies by the *Municipal servants* at their own cost. I rubbed my eyes just to satisfy myself as to whether I was dreaming or actually listening to the municipal servants. They probably realised my position and assured me "We won't charge you anything." This was surprise indeed! I however allowed them to have their own way for they were five in number and eye armed too with broomsticks. They applied themselves with terrible energy and earnestness to my privies which were in a neglected condition for a long time past and after a hard fight of 15 minutes came out leaving behind them excellent well-cleansed places.

Mr. Editor,—people say, nay the new paper, *The Bihar News* also says, that you carry on a campaign against the Municipality and that every issue of your paper must contain some criticism of Municipal affairs. Now after perusing my letter will you please change your mind and the tone of your paper in the matter of crusade against the municipi-

ality. For believe me, it seems and it is a pious hope that the municipality has now turned over a new leaf and promises henceforward to be a blessing instead of a curse to the ratepayers. So please give unto Cæsar what is Cæsar's and rejoice, for the Municipality has now "woken up."

JUSTICE.

**MANAGEMENT OF WARDS ESTATES.**

To The Editor.

Sir,—It is a fact that almost all big estates under the Court of Wards both in this and other Provinces are placed under European management; and why this is so one fails to understand, when there are good many competent Indians by whom the work could be done as efficiently, if not more, and at much less cost. Generally speaking, the Europeans who had been unsuccessful in other walks of life are taken in as managers by reasons of their being well-connected or otherwise known to the officials with whom this patronage of appointment lies, and not on the ground of their being specially qualified for the work. Most of them have little or no experience of zemindari business, and this with their poor knowledge of the vernacular stands in the way of their usefulness. They have to depend almost wholly in the management of the estate upon their Indian subordinates whose work they are not in a position to supervise properly. No security is taken from them as a rule when they are appointed. Large and costly establishments are maintained by them, and they spend money rather freely quite out of proportion to the requirements of the case. Nominally they are subordinate to the higher officials, but practically they are independent of them since the latter hardly find time to scrutinize their work of management. Few complaints, however reasonable and well-founded, against the doings of the managers are listened to

**Your love for your children**

naturally makes you anxious to obtain for them the best strengthmaker that money can buy.

This, SCOTT'S Emulsion can safely claim to be. The cod liver oil used in its preparation is the purest and most nourishing in the world; whilst the SCOTT process makes it so digestible that every drop is available for the nourishment of every part of the body. A course of SCOTT'S Emulsion strengthens the lungs, aids the easy formation of the teeth, promotes growth and an increase in weight and lays the foundation of vigorous health and a sound constitution.



**SCOTT'S Emulsion**

authorities, by whom the statements of the managers very often are accepted without proper enquiry. The result is that the administration by managers of this stamp often proves unsuccessful. That there are honourable exceptions goes without saying. Instances are not rare where wards estates have been greatly benefited under the able management of really capable European managers. But there can be no question that qualified Indians have better claims to these appointments than foreigners, and these should not be lightly ignored.

Then it is not perhaps generally known that many of the big zemindars of this Province have, often against their will, to entertain Europeans as managers, not because their services are really wanted but simply in order to keep themselves in the good graces of the officials who generally insist on such appointments being under the impression that the estates would be better looked after if Europeans were appointed. But the result is very often the other way. These so-called managers have little to do in the actual act of management which is done by the Indian staff. They serve as mere figureheads, and act as intermediaries between the zemindars and the officials whose behests are conveyed through them to the former for compliance. In course of time the managers rule over their masters who are obliged to launch into heavy expenditure quite out of proportion to the income of their estates for the sake of some imaginary improvement or other insisted on by the managers. Again, when there is any difference between zemindars and the manager touching any affair of the estate and even any social matter and the relations between them are strained, the officials as a matter of course would side with the managers and the zemindars have to give in. Again, however displeased the latter might be with the conduct and doings of their managers, they cannot easily dispense with their services, though there might be good grounds for taking this step. For instance we all know to what hard straits an exalted personage in the position of the Maharani of Bettiah was put to in order to get rid of her European manager, Mr. Fox and appoint a capable Indian in his stead and she had to approach Government for this purpose. All this is a matter of record. Surely this disagreeable state of things should be discouraged and put a stop to where it exists. European managers as such should not be thrust upon zemindars whether they want them or not.

NESTOR.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### WANTED.

1. Office ... Office of the Inspector-General of Registration Bihar and Orissa.
2. Post vacant and pay An Assistant on Rs. 50 to 75 sub. *pro tem.* with prospects of being made permanent in the grade.
3. Qualifications required The candidate must have passed the I.A. Examination. Preference will be given to those who possess office experience and who must either be a native of the Province or domiciled therein.

4. Officer to whom application to be made. Inspector-General of Registration, Bihar and Orissa.

5. Date by which applications will be received. 31st January 1918.

A. AHMAD,

The 6th January 1918. Inspector-General of Registration, Bihar and Orissa.

## EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

### NOTICE.

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

Piece-goods	Chillies
Gunny	Ghee
Hides	Potatoes,

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

By order,

CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,  
Dated 14th Jan. 1918. } General Traffic Manager.  
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## EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

### NOTICE.

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

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

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

GENL. TRAF. MANAGER'S  
OFFICE,

Calcutta, dated 4th Jan. 1918, }