

→ The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Nov. 24, 1917.

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 THE ORGANISATION OF THE PATNA
 UNIVERSITY.

Now that the Patna University is a *fait accompli*, and the Act which ushered it into existence has come into force, those entrusted with the work of organising it are faced with an extremely difficult task. Much as the creation of a separate university was welcomed by the leaders of this Province as the final step towards making it perfectly self-contained, there is no denying the fact that the dramatic suddenness with which the Patna University Act came into force, only a few days after it was passed, has plunged the higher educational affairs of this province into deep confusion. Another glaring instance of "expert" guidance in questions relating to practical politics!

It is quite possible that these "experts" in their natural anxiety to shake the dust of Calcutta off their feet did not stop to consider the possible effects of the Patna University Act coming into force. They did not probably grasp the meaning of the provision that as soon as the act came into force, the Calcutta University would cease to have any jurisdiction over institutions in this province. That probably explains why a large number of Calcutta University students have been in the middle of their academic session suddenly declared to be beyond the pale of its regulations. No other regulations seem to have been provided as yet for them; so that they are in the beautiful position of University students without any university regulations. The Calcutta University regulations do not bind them; they can not lawfully be compelled to attend lectures or to adopt the courses of studies prescribed by the Calcutta regulations. The Calcutta rules of admission to colleges being no longer applicable, there is nothing to prevent the admission of a boy, say to the first year class of a college, without his having qualified for admission under the university test, as for instance, a boy who appeared at the Matriculation examination and passed in all the subjects, but was not declared to have matriculated on account of his being under age. The colleges are not now strictly affiliated, for there is no knowing whether a college which was or was not affiliated to teach certain subjects will or will not remain so in the new University. All these and a thousand other perplexing questions are unsettling the minds of our students and, along with them, of their guardians.

We can well conceive that those responsible for all this peremptory procedure have had the foresight to keep in readiness a cut and dried set of regulations which they hope to introduce, discuss (?) and pass at a single meeting of the Senate. This would be certainly cutting the Gordian knot, and would be an effective way of silencing criticisms which might be raised if the orthodox method were to be followed of publishing the regulations, inviting public opinion and then putting them up for adoption or rejection. We do not know whether such a course is going to be adopted, but if it is, we must enter a strong protest against it. Already in the matter of appointments to the first Senate and the first Syndicate, the public have had a fair cause of complaint against the non-publication of the schedules containing the names, though it was expressly resolved in the Legislative Council

that the Bill (of which the schedules were an integral part) should be published in the Gazette of India. Whether this omission was intentional and how far it affects the validity of the Act, we do not know. But this we know that there will be intense popular dissatisfaction if public criticism is burked on a matter which so vitally concerns the rising generation.

We are at the same time alive to the necessity of removing the distressing uncertainty which now prevails among students. This can be easily done by passing a transitory regulation to the effect that the Calcutta regulations will remain in force for the next two years. This should be done at once, and publicly announced. In the meantime the draft regulations may be published for general information and sufficient time should be given for expressions of public opinion before they are taken up for final consideration. If an entirely new system is to be foisted upon us, it is but fair that we should be given sufficient opportunity of comparing it with the old as well as the option of choosing between the two. We understand that there has already been a meeting of the Syndicate and that a second meeting has been convened on the 1st December, while the first meeting of the Senate probably takes place on the 8th December, when the Chancellor will hold a formal convocation. It is a pity that the press had no access to the meeting of the Syndicate. Neither has any one thought fit to acquaint the public with what transpired. Even in the matter of the University meetings, we have been waiting in vain for the usual notices. If the new University means to begin well, it should start by taking the public in its confidence. Speculation is rife as to whether the next examinations are going to be taken over by the new University. For our part, we do not exactly understand what this means; what are the next examinations? Let that point be first settled before considering who is to conduct the examinations.

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 THE PROPOSED INCOME TAX BILL.

Amid the excitement and bustle caused by the Secretary of State's arrival in India there is a serious danger of our political leaders losing sight of the many important legislations that the various provincial Governments as well as the Government of India have on the tapis. We are strongly in favour of all this legislative business being dropped for the present, at any rate, till the departure of Mr. Montagu from the shores of India. It is hardly fair to Indian publicists, whose sole absorption is now the great question of India's future, to be called upon to consider such important subjects as the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill or the Usury Bill or the Bihar and Orissa Municipal Bill. What adds to the weight of our objection is the perfunctory manner in which in many cases the proposed Bills have been sent to public bodies and opinions invited on them within 24 or 48 hours. This would appear to be an exaggeration but is nevertheless a true description of the opportunity afforded by the Bihar Government to public bodies to consider certain recent legislative measures.

The new Income Tax Bill, the text of which was published in the Gazette of India of the 27th October last is another serious piece of legislation which has been quietly introduced in this moment of political ferment. In the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, we have the following preface:—

The present Bill which practically recasts the whole of the Indian Income Tax Act of 1886 (II of 1886) has a threefold purpose. In the first place it

remedies certain inequalities in the assessment of individual taxpayers under the existing laws which have become especially apparent since a graduated scale of the tax was introduced by Act V of 1916.

Secondly it defines more precisely than the existing Act the methods whereby income and profits of various description are to be calculated for income tax purposes so removing a defect which has led to some lack of uniformity on the assessing standard of different provinces.

Lastly, it effects a number of improvements in the machinery of assessment which experience has shown to be essential for the efficient and equitable working of the tax.

If this were all, we should have no objection to the Bill, and should consider it to be more or less a formal measure. But what follows speaks for itself:—

The recent introduction of graduated rates of income tax makes it necessary to abandon the system of assessing the tax separately on the different sources of income falling under the four parts of the second schedule to Act II of 1886 since with this system an assessee deriving his income from more than one source may be called on to pay appreciably less than a person of equal taxable capacity who possesses one source of income alone. One of the main objects of the present Bill is accordingly to bring together all sources of an assessee's income for the purpose of determining the rate at which he be assessed on each part of it. This object is effected by Clause 14 and Schedule 1 of the present Bill, which provide that the rate at which the tax shall be assessed on all income which under the provisions of the Act is chargeable to the tax (called "taxable income") shall be determined by the total income enjoyed by the assessee to which the Act applies.

A distinction is drawn by the provisions in Chapter 1 and Schedule 1 of the Bill between total income which determines the rate at which the tax is levied and taxable income which is determined by his total income accruing, arising or received in British India (or deemed to do so under the Bill) after omitting therefrom the receipts specified in Clause 3 (2) and deducting the allowances mentioned in clauses 8, 9 (2), 10 (2) and 11 (2) of the Bill and also omitting under Clause 4 of the Bill the expense incurred in earning agricultural income including any land revenue payment and the first thousand rupees of net agricultural income.

We must congratulate the framer of the Bill on the remarkable ingenuity with which he introduces the thin end of the wedge. On a first reading, the Bill not only appears to be reasonable but quite in consonance with natural justice as well in keeping with obligations of good faith. Thus "agricultural income" remains (theoretically) untaxable as before. The only change introduced is that under the new Bill, a zemindar, who has an income of say Rs. 5000 from agriculture and Rs 1000 from taxable sources will now have to pay income tax on the latter income, but at the rate prescribed for his total income less Rs. 1000, that is to say, he will have to pay, not at the rate of six pies per rupee which others with incomes of Rs. 1000 have to pay, but at one anna in the rupee, that being the rate for incomes above Rs. 5000. What a clever ideal! There is no breach of faith, agricultural income is not taxed, only if you have other income, you have to pay tax (on that income) at the rate fixed for your total income. Faith with the zemindars is thus preserved while something is wrung out of them, thus unsuspectingly driving the thin end

of the edge at the Permanent Settlement.

A little reflection will show that in spite of the ingenious and subtle device, the proposal constitutes a violation of the sacred obligations of the Permanent Settlement and of the exemption of agricultural income from taxation, for the fact remains that under the proposed law, zemindars would have to pay income tax on their taxable income at the old rate plus something because they are zemindars. This extra something is not to be paid by others than those having agricultural income. It is therefore a direct tax on agricultural and revenue paying land. As such it, would be a direct violation of British faith pledged by the solemn promise of 1793. As regards places not affected by the Permanent Settlement, it is an unjust imposition, for it takes no account of the fact that for all agricultural income, a heavy revenue or rent has to be paid, and if after paying the same an agriculturist is called upon to pay something more, besides the ordinary tax on his income from other sources, then he is penalised for the offence of being an agriculturist and not a capitalist.

While in this connection, we may quote here what the late Sir Frederick Halliday, said when objecting to the imposition of the Road Cess in 1871 as member of the Secretary of State's Council:—

When the Income tax was first imposed in 1860, the Zemindars of Bengal were disposed, not without very plausible reasons, to object to it as an infringement of their settlement, but they soon gave up the point, and accepted the advice and example of the greatest of their body, the Raja of Burdwan who, in a remarkable letter to the Legislative Council, announced that he would set an example to his fellows of submission to the Income-tax, because it was levied after the great Mutiny of 1857 to supply deficiencies created by "crushing the late Mutinies, and thus preserving the property, lives, and honour of the Zemindars," and because it was "levied equally on all classes." That this well-timed and patriotic declaration should now be turned against its author and his brother-Zemindars as a reason for setting aside the plain terms of the Permanent Settlement, and imposing upon them a special tax, of which other classes not connected with the land are to bear no share, cannot prove otherwise than severely and undeservedly grating and painful to their feelings.

Truly, history does repeat itself and the noble and patriotic self-denial of the Zemindars, which was taken advantage of to perpetuate an injustice, is again to be made the "stalking horse" for financial exploitation.!!!

WATER AND DISEASE.

Few objects are more difficult of attainment in this country than wholesome water though it is unquestionably one of the greatest necessities of human life. Few objects are carriers of more infection than impure water though little has been done towards the provision of an ample supply of pure water. With growing facilities for scientific investigation, it has become possible to ascertain the origin of many diseases: the cause being once found, the difficulty of removing it and thus preventing betimes the disease it is likely to beget, becomes less felt.

There are diseases, the extermination of which we have the best authorities for saying so, is a very simple problem: in some diseases it is necessary to prevent the infection or gain

access to food and drinking water. For this purpose general systems of water supply are almost entirely confined to large towns—our metropolis excepted. But rural populations are largely dependent upon streams and shallow wells which are always open to pollution. It would seem incredible to most people who had not made rural life more or less of a study, that there should be any difficulty in procuring potable water in the Mofassil but the fact looks us in the face as stern as ever.

When the prevention of the disease is so simple, why is it so prevalent? A short while ago, two medical men, one an Indian and another a European, engaged in Bacteriological work found the source of infection of a certain disease prevalent in a village: here they found that every third person in the village had at one time or another suffered from the disease. The source of infection was ascertained to be a dilapidated well owned by the villagers; infected cyclops were discovered and shown to the villagers. They could be easily removed from the water by straining through a piece of cloth. They were advised at the same time to put their well in repair and prevent persons bathing in it: the villagers remaining indifferent to these suggestions, an educated and influential resident near the village offered to assist them by obtaining a grant from the local Board to help them to repair the well. The villagers were afraid lest they might lose their rights over the well nor would they assist this gentleman in acquiring land to sink a new well on. Thus it will appear the prevalence of many diseases is due largely to the suspicion, the ignorance and the indifference of these people and to their lack of co-operation with one another. In a large number of diseases there are no scientific, physical and financial difficulties to be overcome: the problem is entirely a social one. The landholders therefore have only to approach such problems for solution.

In other countries where we have the plant of Home Rule, the landowners are liberal-minded enough to introduce into their estates small pumping schemes for the supply of water. Here the tenantry is mute; and the Zamindar has to depend upon the Government. But it needs efforts to move the Zamindar to ask the Government for assistance in sinking wells, keeping them covered and supplying them with pumps and the like. Let there be a combination of the Government and the leaders in this direction at least in one village: and the example will stimulate the inhabitants of other villages in the neighbourhood to take similar action.

A SCHEME OF REFORM.

By a Student of Indian Politics.

THE UNIT OF ELECTION.

The lowest unit may be provisionally taken as the Mouzas (villages) as they exist at present.

1. Each village will send members to unions made up of groups of villages situate within the jurisdiction of a Police Station—The number of members that will be sent by each Mouza or village will be determined by the Tahsil (land revenue) of the village—fixing a minimum amount per one member—There would be manhood franchise (an instance—A village has got two members to return to the Union Committee. Candidates would stand and offer themselves for such election and every male adult—of whatever position and vocation of life having any means, living in the village and having at least a house of his own to live in will be

entitled to vote and shall have as many votes as there will be number of members to be returned.) The present village Panchayet would be entitled to record votes with the help of three or four assistants.

2. These members will sit in Union Committees. These members of the Union Committees will send members to the Sub-Divisional Committees—The number of members that an Union Committee will be entitled to return to the Sub-Divisional Committees will be determined by the Amount of Tahsil (Collection of Land Revenue) as in the case of villages mentioned before—The members only will be entitled to stand as candidates.

3. These Sub-Divisional Committees shall send members to District Committees from among their own members as many as may be determined by the total amount of collection of land revenue from the Sub-Divisions. Even in villages, Village Union Committees and Sub-Divisions and Districts, the special interests if there be any should be represented by special members and those special interests shall have nothing to do with the General Election and they will not be entitled to vote in the General Election. (Majority of Mahomedan population in a village shall have special interest).

4. These District Committees shall send to the Provincial Committees of the Province—And the Provincial Committees shall consist of members returned by the General Election together with village, Union, Sub-Division and District Special interest members, and the members elected by the special interests of the Province, such as universities, Chambers of Commerce, Port trust, mining, Planters, Zamindars, Municipalities, etc.

5. The leader—i. e., the member of such Provincial Committee which will be called Provincial Council, who will secure the greatest number of votes in his favour in the council—will form an Executive Council with the members of that Council according to his choice and each such Executive member shall have his own portfolio. The number of the Executive Councillors would be according to the possible division of several departments of administration almost in the same manner as at present. This Executive Council will govern the province and will be responsible for the same to the Provincial Council. The Governor (Provincial) would be president of the Provincial Council. Such president should, which a European is appointed, come out from England.

6. The Provincial Council will be autonomous as regards internal administration of the Province subject of course to the general supervising control of the Viceroy in Council and subject always to the sole control of the Viceroy in Council in Imperial and foreign matters.

7. The Viceroy's Council will be composed of members returned by Provincial Councils and representatives of Native States and administrations—The Viceroy would be the president of the said Council.

8. The Viceroy's Council will return members to the "Commonwealth of Nations"—to be formed by the representatives of the British Isles and dominions and Crown Colonies—to represent India in the "Commonwealth of Nations."

9. The Viceroy and Provincial Governors should always be appointed by his Majesty.

10. The Control of Purse should be entirely in the hands of the people—The Provincial taxes will be imposed and collected by Provincial administrations. But Imperial taxes will be imposed by Viceroy in Council which will be named India Government but collected by the Provincial Governments for the India Government for Imperial purposes such as Army etc.

11. The Commander in Chief of the Indian Army shall be Ex-officio member of the Viceroy's Council.

12. The Village Committees, Union Committees, Sub-Divisional Committees and District Committees shall exercise within their villages, unions, Sub-Divisions, and Districts functions similar to those of municipalities, such as in matters of Sanitation, Public Works, Education, Roads, Police, etc., and each lower committee should be responsible and subordinate to the next higher committee and officially controlled by the Executive Council of the Province— In Sub-Divisions and Districts they would be like advisory Boards to the Sub-Divisional and District officers. These committees would have no control over municipalities. The District Boards may be useless when District Committees would be formed or the District Boards may be reformed on the basis and franchise as indicated above. In the case of District Committees what revenue would be controlled by these should be determined by the Executive Council.

13. The functions of the village and union committees and so on will should be exercised by passing resolutions on matters of Sanitation, Education etc. as mentioned before and sending these resolutions to the offices concerned who would be bound by the said resolutions, after obtaining sanctions of the Provincial Executive Council regarding the said resolutions. But in no case the advisory Boards should interfere with the Executive authority of the District and Sub-Divisional officers.

This scheme is provisional and subject to corrections from better thinkers. The further details of the scheme I shall work out in my next.

NOTES.

The late General Maude.

The news of the death of General Sir Stanley Maude comes as a bolt from the blue. The whole empire will mourn the loss of a distinguished hero who had contributed so much to retrieve the prestige of British arms in the east.

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Bose Research Institute.

It is not necessary to say that by his munificent gift of rupees two lakhs and a quarter to the Bose Research Institute Fund, Mr. Mulraj Khatau has set an example that many wealthy citizens of Bombay may well follow. Considering that the appeal for funds was made by Dr. Bose many weeks ago, it is to be regretted that other wealthy patriots besides Messrs. Bomanji and Mulraj Khatau, whose generous support of all proposals of public utility is known to be prompt, have not come forward ere this and set an example in this matter to the rich in other parts of the country. This is a great patriotic endeavour that needs support from rich and humble alike. From the latter standpoint the efforts which the students of the Deccan College have made, we hope, will inspire the desire for emulation in students of other colleges and among those generally who can contribute small sums.

In this connection we are glad to learn that the researches that are being carried out under Sir J. C. Bose have been regarded by the Government as of imperial importance, and at the recommendation of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India, the Secretary of State has sanctioned six State scholarships for the workers already trained by Sir J. C. Bose, ensuring per-

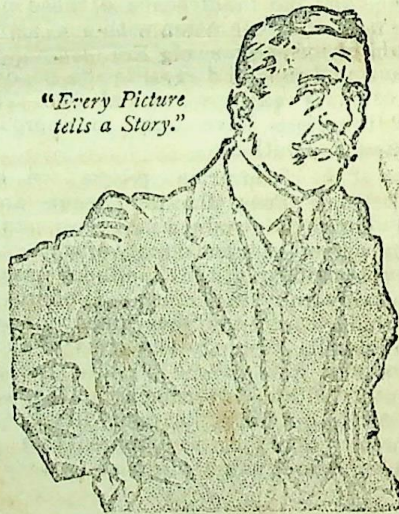
manence of the Bose Institute. The Government have expressed a desire to make further grants which will be commensurate with public donations. The Bose Institute will be formally opened on the 30th November at 6 p.m. Proceedings will be entirely in Bengalee. Admission by cards only, which may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Bose Institute, 93, Upper Circular Road.

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Responsible Government and Education.

The annual Convocation of the Allahabad University was chiefly remarkable for a noteworthy speech by the Chancellor, Sir James Meston, in which he laid stress on some aspects of the political question which are in some danger of being overlooked. After quoting Lord Cromer's estimate of the attitude of the average Englishman towards India—"He is in truth always striving to attain two ideas, which are apt to be mutually destructive—the ideal of good government, which connotes the continuance of his own supremacy, and the ideal of self-government, which connotes the whole or partial abdication of his supreme position"—Sir James declared that the British Government's decision in favour of responsible government for India committed the Indian Administration to a complete overhauling of educational policy. Responsible Government, "he observed, "is a pyramid which can only grow with its base as an intelligent electorate. Our task is thus to introduce into the apathetic masses in our rural areas and into the ignorant proletariat of our towns a degree of education which will fit them, in ever increasing

"Every Picture tells a Story."



How to Disperse URIC ACID DEPOSITS.

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

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

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

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are Rs. 2 per bottle; 6 for Rs. 10.00; obtainable from all dealers.

numbers, to be the basis of our future political structure." Another aspect of India's future to which Sir James Meston invited attention was the responsibility now resting on the educated classes for helping to decide the type of political society which India is to evolve for herself; and in this connection he reminded his audience that "the essential qualities of civic freedom are still what Plato defined them: wisdom, courage, temperance and justice." The first duty of an educated man, he said, is to help in establishing a habit of patient endurance in all common effort. His second duty is discipline.

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The Indian Silver Problem.

Mr. Osmond Beeby, of Worthing, writes as follows to the "Daily Telegraph":—

That no one should have thought fit to express their views on the admirable article on this subject in your issue of the 8th inst., is truly surprising and the only reason conceivable for their not having done so is that London is a hotbed of gold bugs.

What a pity, when some nine months before the outbreak of hostilities I drew attention anonymously to the smallness of our "reserve" in comparison with that of Germany, that patriotism did not insist on the Bank rate being raised.

On my return to England in September, 1914 I warned the manager of one of our Eastern exchange banks that one of the certain consequences of the war would be to rehabilitate silver which was then, I think, something like 22d. the ounce. One of the results predicted in 1893, when exchange was fixed at 15 rupees for the pound sterling, was that all calculations based on this ratio would be upset by a big European war. The idea of surmounting the present silver trouble by the issue of paper money appears to me very shortsighted policy.

Will you permit me to relate my personal experience of the effect of the flooding of a country with the issue of paper money? I was touring in Japan in the early eighties and when drawing against my letter of credit I received something like 175 yen in paper for my 100 yen draft. Furthermore, the scarcity of bullion was so great that notes were in circulation, I think, for so small a sum of money as 10 sen. (The par value of the yen, silver, was approximately 2s. and there are 100 sen in the yen). Young and inexperienced amateur financiers are contemplating trying a similar experiment in Indian finance instead of endeavouring to unearth the millions of buried silver.

I pose as nothing more than an interested tyro, and hesitatingly put forward a way by the adoption of which the difficulty might be overcome. Let us make the rupee by an Act of the Imperial Legislature one-tenth part of the sovereign and interchangeable and current throughout the British Empire. It would be a token as the florin is and it has the same amount of silver in it. The eight, the four, and two anna pieces as also the 50, 25 and 10 cent pieces of Ceylon should by the same enactment be made current coin and represent and be of the same value as the shilling, six pence, and three penny piece. If silver goes up to 60d. the ounce the profit derived from seigniorage will cease and the objection to my idea will end, and the difficulty which the soundness of Gresham Law creates will be overcome. It will also have the effect of drawing from "wells," where hoards of rupees are buried, and flooding the market with the much-needed bullion.

I venture to predict that if measures are not taken and promptly every rupee will realise 2s. 6d. before many months have passed.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

A PROVINCIAL investiture Durbar will be held at the Government House, Patna on the 30th instant at 3-30 P. M.

WE have been informed that there is no Cholera now at at Sonepur. Intending visitors to the fair will no doubt be greatly relieved to hear this.

SIR James Meston, Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces, and Sir Edward Gait, Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa, arrived at Viceroyal Lodge, Delhi, on Monday as the guests of Their Excellencies. Sir Edward returned to Patna yesterday.

WE are glad to learn that Mr. A. N. Banerjee, the worthy son of Mr. G. N. Banerjee, District Judge of Purneah, who went to Cambridge with a state scholarship has distinguished himself at the final, that is, the Mathematical Tripos Examination.

THERE has been a remarkable archæological find at Didargunj on the east of Patna city. A highly polished life size stone image of a female has been unearthed near the bank of the Ganges. As the sculpture is of a type that has been found only in one or two places in India, the discovery suggests immense possibilities.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—Has the attention of the Chairman of the Patna Municipality been drawn to the fact that one of the stone slabs bearing the inscription Govinda Mitra Road has been broken to pieces? If so, what steps have been taken by the municipal authorities to replace it? When can the public expect it? May I suggest that it would be far better to replace the ugly stone slab by a tin placard as has been done in many cases e.g., in the "Exhibition Road"?

WE are extremely sorry to hear of the death at Deoghar of Babu Bejoy Madhav Chatterjee, late of the Provincial Executive Service, Bengal. The deceased gentleman after his retirement from service settled at Deoghar where he had built several houses. He was a popular and respected figure at Deoghar and inspite of his age,—he was about 80 years old,—used to take an active part in the public life of the town. He was commissioner of the Municipality besides holding other honorary offices in connection with many local institutions.

A STUBBORN FOE

To conquer an obstinate enemy requires persistence and perseverance. It is the same with Rheumatism, the dread foe of mankind, which ranks foremost in stubbornness. To eradicate it from the system, you must use the right weapon. Little's Oriental Balm is the only remedy that can overpower it. It has cured helpless, crippled sufferers who have been discharged from the hospital as incurable.

Mr. W. Williams, Totterdown, Bristol, writes:—"For 3 years I have been rendered unfit for work by Rheumatism. At night terrible shooting pains kept me in agony. I could not sleep or use my arms. Two bottles of that wonderful remedy Little's Oriental Balm cured me completely. I can recommend it with utmost confidence." Sold at Re. 1 per bottle. Of all chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout India.

THE annual steamer trip of the Bihar Young Men's Institute was held on Tuesday last. It is a pity that the senior members do not care to join in these social gatherings of the students. The Rev. G. J. Dann, the energetic and popular Secretary was there, and the Coorjee boys very kindly came with their band. There were songs and refreshments.

It is authoritatively announced by the "Utkal Dipika" that the Oriya Union Committee has decided to appoint the Hon. Mr. M. S. Das C. I. E. as the editor of the new weekly in English which it is proposed to start soon to advocate the union of all Oriya speaking tracts under one and the same Administration. The scheme has advanced also another step. The name of the new organ of Orissa has been decided upon. It is to be known as "The Oriya." Though the committee has shewn no originality in the selection of the name as the late Maharaja Baikunthanath De's paper—"the Oriya" is still in existence at Balasore—yet it is a great improvement upon the original selection—the "Utkal Conference." We look forward to the appearance of the "Oriya No. 2."

WE must dissociate ourselves from the movement which has lately been set on foot to extend the Puja holidays till after the Sonepur Fair. We are certainly strongly in favour of its being extended up to Chhath but it must be remembered that the Sonepur Fair is more or less a local affair while the exigencies of administration require uniformity in the matter of the long vacation. Frequent holidays are certainly an evil in original courts, but an unduly long vacation is a much greater evil. Ordinarily the courts can put in clear eight days' work between the Chhath and the Sonepur Fair holidays. Besides, we strongly deprecate the proposal to begin the Puja recess from the Dasmidi day. It is incorrect to say that the Puja is not observed in Bihar and Orissa. It is observed even from the Shashthi and the Calcutta practice hitherto adhered to seems to us to be the best arrangement, and we strongly request our new Chief Justice to see that it is restored.

"OUR DAY"

Programme for celebrations at Patna.

- 1st Dec. 1917. Cinema entertainment, Bankipur Maidan, given by Messrs J. F. Madan, Calcutta. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor has kindly consented to attend at the opening entertainment.
- 2nd and 3rd December Cinema entertainment, two performances each evening by Messrs Madan, Bankipur Maidan.
- 8th Decemer Bihari Theatre Society will perform selected plays at the Ripon Theatre, Patna.
- 9th December Wrestling competitions at Patna Collegiate School grounds arranged by the Hon'ble Sir Ali Imam. 1 to 5 P.M.
- 10th December Magic Lantern at the Ripon Theatre. Bengali Theatre Society Theatrical performance, "Chand Bibi," Ripon Theatre. 8 P. M. 9-30 P. M.
- 11th December Bengali Theatre Society at the Ripon Theatre. Theatrical performance. (1) Buddha Dev: (2) Baji Rao. 9-30/P.M.

12th December.
1 to 5 P.M.

"Our Day" Fete at Patna College grounds, under the distinguished patronage of His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and Lady Gait.

- (1) Giant "Lucky Bag". Numerous prizes will be drawn for. Tickets Re 1/-each.
 - (2) Sports—Mr. Sealy.
 - (3) Flower Stall...Mrs. Walsh.
 - (4) Kashmir Stall...Mrs. Cumming.
 - (5) Cake Stall...Mrs. Atkinson and Mrs. Blaber.
 - (6) Refreshments for Europeans Mrs. Chapman.
 - (7) Refreshments for Indians Mr. S. Sinha.
- Entrance fee to the grounds, Re 1/-.

13 and 14th
December
9-30 P.M.

The Bankipur Dramatic Society will perform "Twelfth Night" at the Patna College Hall, each night.

5-30 P. M.

Do Do Do

Flags will be sold in aid of the Patna "Our Day" fund, on the morning of the 12th in Patna and Bankipur.

REVIEW.

Pictorial Kashmir, by Gaya Prasad Singh, B. L. Pleader, Mozufferpur, with 10 illustrations. Price Re. 1. The Beharee Press, Bankipur.

The contents of this little volume first appeared as newspaper articles. The author who is a public-spirited and thoughtful leader of the Khattriyas

Chills and Influenza

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in Bihar went to Kashmir on the occasion of the marriage of Raj. Kumar Sir Hari Singhji, nephew of H. H. the Maharaja Bahadur. The book is a record of his journeys in Kashmir.

The present production is not the ordinary globe-trotter's "Twenty-one days in India" sort of thing. In fact the book has given us a pleasant surprise, for when we began to read it, we took it up with a yawn but it was not long before we were greedily pouring over it and we did not leave it till we had finished it from cover to cover. The author has the true poetic inspiration to realise the sublime and the beautiful and has fortunately a rare command over the English language so that depth of thought and richness of description are combined with a rare felicity of expression and wealth of illustration. It is a charming little book, not the least part of the charm being the fine photographic views with which it is adorned.

Rambles in Bihar by Ramgopal Singh Chowdhari, B. L., Vakil, High Court, Patna with several photographic illustrations, published by the Express Press, Bankipur. Price Rs. 2.

The versatile author of this interesting itinerary needs no introduction. He is a scion of a well-known Bhumi-har Brahman family and is Secretary of the Pradhan Bhumi-har Brahmans' Association, besides holding other honorary offices. He has done a great service by collecting in the compass of a small treatise, a mass of information regarding the numerous places of historical and antiquarian interest with which our province abounds. It is true that most of the matter contained in the book can be found in the District Gazetteers, but the price of those interesting publications makes them inaccessible to the average reader. Mr. Chowdhari's book therefore supplies a want.

"The history of Bihar," as has been aptly remarked by the Hon'ble Mr. E. C. Walsh in the foreword with which he has prefaced the book, "is the history of Aryan civilisation from its infancy." To quote his words, "a province which is the birthplace and the holy land of both the Buddhist and the Jain religions, which contains in Pataliputra the capital of the Mauryan Empire and of the great Emperors Chandra Gupta and Asoka, which was for nearly a thousand years the metropolis of India and goes still further back to the earliest ages of Indian history, going back to the Ramayana in the kingdom of Raja Janak and the birth place of Sita at Sitamarhi, and the Mahabharata in the kingdoms of Magadha and Mithila and in the capital of Jarasandha at Girivraja, the old Rajgir, and in Gaya, possesses a place of Hindu pilgrimage from the earliest times, such a country need not fear comparison in historical interest with any other part of India."

In his foreword Mr. Walsh has referred to the mythological and prehistoric remains at Mandar and in Chota Nagpur. He has also dealt seriatim with the place of Bihar in mediaeval and Muhammadan history. It may be stated that the antiquities of Orissa and Chota Nagpur are outside the objects of the author in the present book. This is a pity, because the history of the *Dwadash Bhumis* of Chota Nagpur has yet to be written, and it needs the great incentive of a book of this sort which by making known in a popular form the antiquities or historical remains of the country, "creates or stimulates in its readers an interest in the history and remains of their own locality and leads to further enquiry and record on the same lines of matters of local interest."

The author has introduced only two matters of contention in his book. The first is the famous Indo-Persian theory of Dr. Spooner. The matter

has now been threshed out *ad nauseam* and we pass on to the next question namely that of the site of the monastery of Vikramasila. The author would identify it with modern Silao near Rajgir. The evidence certainly is opposed to the author's theory. Space forbids us to discuss the probability of the other sites suggested. For a clue, however, we would invite the author's attention to the likelihood of finding it near Luckeeserai in the district of Monghyr. There, innumerable mounds are scattered over a large area and remains of old lakes which bear traces of a vast Buddhistic or other ancient civilisation are still to be seen. The place lies on the old road from Gaur to the west. Any number of stone images and relics may even now be seen there in all kinds of preservation. We know that Babu Sarat Chandra Roy, the curator of the Patna Museum, lately visited the site and brought away a cartload of archæological treasures. While congratulating Mr. Chowdhari on his interesting book, we would request him to follow up his investigations of the Vikramasila site.

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SMALL CAUSE COURT, MADRAS.
SUIT NO.5951 OF 1917.

Agarchand Dammani Firm of Madras ... Plaintiffs.
Vs.

- 1. Sitaram Das } ... Defendants.
- 2. Bunsidar }
residing at Arrah in the district of Sahabad in Behar province.

The above suit has been filed for the recovery of the sum of Rs 1685-13-9 due by defendants on account of the dealings in money had with the plaintiff firm at Madras, and the same is posted for hearing before His Honour the Chief Judge on 30th November 1917, when the defendants are required to appear at 11 A. M. if they wish to contest the same.

Dated } S. GURUSWAMY CHETTY,
14-11-1917. } Vakil for plaintiff.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.
NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela at Allahabad—1918.

The public are hereby informed that during the period the Kumbh Mela will be held at Allahabad the booking of all Goods (including Coal) and Live-stock to and from stations situated between Jeonathpur and Chakeri (excepting Allahabad) and to and from stations between Naini and Tikoree will be stopped between the dates mentioned below:—

The public are therefore requested to arrange their despatches accordingly.

- January 1918 from 11th to 16th
- February 1918 from 9th to 19th
- " " 23rd to 28th.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
Dated 17th Nov. 1917. } General Traffic Manager.
4-1

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. } By order,
OFFICE, } C. M. PEARCE,
Calcutta, 11th Oct. } General Traffic Manager.
9-3 1917.

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