Amrita Bazar Patrika

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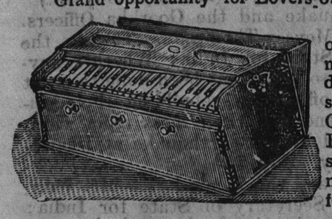

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Notable Utterances at the National Gatherings of December, 1904

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Indian National Congress.
Sir Mehta's Welcome Address.
Sir Henry Cotton's Presidential Address.
The Social Conference.
H. H. The Gaekwar's Inaugural Address.
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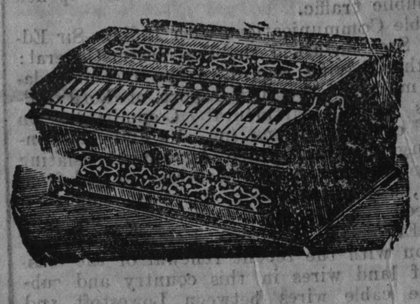

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Its value is beyond all price and praise

Its Effects:—Powell's No. 1 Asthma Cure is a great favourite remedy with man to be relieved of the Asthmatic fits and it is undoubtedly a valuable remedy in the worst forms of cases. It relieves the chest of corgealed Phlegm by expectoration without straining thereby removing all difficulty in Breathing. It this wonder bellef the most pistressing cases.

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I just received to-day all the silver utensils in sets from your mohorir. The polish and the making of the article is excellent and well approved. As you made for me in the past various golden ornaments of value, I can honestly recommend you to other gentlemen. In fact your dealings with me for the last 16 years have won my full confidence in your business, I shall send you some more orders very soon.

Ranaghat
21 May 1904.

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Supdt. Of Post Office, Nadia Division.

Babu Bepin Behari Dhar of Rampur Boalia, Rajshah is a jeweller of high reputation. His designs are excellent and he executes orders with precision, promptitude, and integrity. I had some Rs 500 to Rs. 600 worth of ornaments prepared by him and had the gold tested by an expert at Calcuttta and was glad to find that he was honest as regards the price of gold and rate of labours.

(Sd.) Dina Nath Mukherjee,
Dy. Magistrate, Rajshahi,

Rajshahi, the 28th Oct. 1901.

Babu Bepin Behari Dhar, jeweller of Boalia, made several ornaments for me. He also receved several orders through me from my friends. In all cases his dealings were honest and straigh for ward. He is a reliable goldsmith and his executions are neat. I can safely recommend him to the public.

Sd.) ANNADA CH. GUPTA
Dy. Magte,

BOALIA,
5-02.

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DEAR SIR,—The ornaments which you have supplied to me on order on the occasion of my daughter's marriage, have all been of approved design and of neat workmanship. I cannot but too highly recommend the promptitude with which my order was complied with. Thanking you for the same and wishing you success, I remain (Sd.) Kedar Nath Sanyal, Ex. Asst. Commr. Habiganj, Sylhet. Dated 3rd January 1890.

Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Boaliah has executed my orders with great promptness, and the workmanship he has exhibited is highly creditable He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and fully deserves encouragement and patronage. He is trustworthy in his dealings with his customers.

Dated 4-2-90. (Sd). Nil Kant Majumder,
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ACIDITY PILL.

That well-known an infallible remedy cures ACIDITY, RADICALLY and MAGICALLY all kinds of DYSPEPSIA and INDIGESTION. Its effect is *promot* and *permane* It is prepared from harmless herbs and indigenous ingredients, so it can be safely administered to any patient, even to a pregnant woman. The invariable success of the Pill emboldens me to declare that in case of failure the price should be refunded. Many respectable and leading gentlemen bear testimony to its marvellous effects; from them I mention only the following:—Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis, Hon'ble Guru Prosad Sen, Bankipur, Rai P. N. Banerjee, Bahadur, Executive Engineer, Rai Jatindra Mohan Banerjee of Altapole (Jessore), Babus Lalit Mohun Banerjee, Secretary to the Cossimbazar Raj, Tarit Kanti Baksi, Professor, Jubbulpore College, Nilmony De, Deputy Magistrate, Kumar Hemendra Kumar Deb, Sovabazar Raj, and Bhabatosh Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate, Dacca.

Those who have tried all kinds of Allopathic, Homœopathic, Ayurvedic and patent medicines and have received no benefit should give a trial to DR. BISWAS'S ACIDITY PILLS. Price RE. ONE per box. Postage and packing extra.

Dr. H. Biswas.

Amrita Bazar Medical Hall,

AMRITA BAZAR P. O., JESSORE.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE RANCHI MODEL COLLEGE SCHEME.

(From Our Special Reporter.)

Bankipur, June 10.

A SO-CALLED PUBLIC MEETING.

A grand public meeting took place in the hall of the Patna College on Thursday, the 8th instant, at 5-30 p.m., Grand really it was, not so much on account of the grandees present as for the imposing sight of big officials making the place-hunters dance at their bidding. Never in the history of Patna was the chair in a public meeting ever occupied by a Indian in the presence of such officials as the Commissioner, the Dist. Judge and the Dist. Magistrate. Even at this late day, Behar has nobly sustained its reputation of being the Boeotia of India, for anything really popular in character never flourishes in her sail. Not to speak of any other movement even an institution like the National Congress has scarcely anything like a show of a local committee here and within the last decade not even a single delegate from Patna ever attended any of its annual Sessions. From the official standpoint of view no doubt the people of Patna will be reckoned as intensely "loyal", but what they really are one can form his own opinion of them. Hence, when it was proclaimed that of all places in the world a public meeting was going to be held here to consider the Ranchi Model College scheme many were heard to exclaim, "what are things coming to." There were indeed good reasons for such a surprise, for the occasion had none of the solemnity or importance that ordinarily attaches to a farewell meeting of a parting official and how could people who are only versed in the phraseology of "yes sir", "no sir" and "very well, sir" all on a sudden be roused to take interest in a matter so foreign to their nature. Impelled by an ardent curiosity I went to have a peep at the deliberations of the august assembly and whom should I meet at the college gate but the very gentleman who is the last person to attend any public meeting. I could not resist the temptation of asking him what had brought him there and I was curtly told "As in duty bound". Unable to understand what he meant I remained steadfastly gazing on the face of the speaker, when, perhaps to be little more explicit he added: "The Commissioner, the Dist. Judge and the Dist. Magistrate will be all coming this evening". So much then for the public character of the meeting.

The Real Public Men.

As for the public men who graced the meeting with their presence, the word "public" requires some explanation. The operations of the Land Acquisition Act, in Patna show that sometimes the word "public" means the officials and the officials alone. Thus for instance the "Chujjabag" house and the house of the late Babu Trailokya Nath Mitter were acquired for a "public purpose" i.e. for the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor and some of the big officials of the Police Department respectively, and from this standpoint of view the Indian National Congress is not the congress of the entire Indian public but some dissatisfied microscopic minority. Hence no meeting can be called really "public" unless the official element preponderates in it. From this standpoint of view the late Patna College meeting was quite unique of its kind, for here not only the first and foremost of our public men, viz., the Divisional Commissioner took part in the proceedings but there were present other big public men as well viz., Mr. Richardson the Dist. Judge, Mr. Woodman, the Dist Magistrate, Mr. Moulvi Sherfudeen, the newly Government nominated senator of the reformed University of Calcutta, and many others too numerous to detail. It had fallen to the lot of Mr. Moulvi Sherfudeen, the veteran educationist of Behar to make arrangements for the holding of the meeting and his solicitude for its success reminded one of the supplicating attitude of a Hindu on the eve of the "sradh" of his parents. What sacrifice has he not made in the cause of high education in Behar! In fact, he might be well called the Sir Syed Ahmed of Neora, but unlike the latter he is a strong believer in the maxim: "Charity begins at home" and so he has remained contended with employing the services of a European tutor for the benefit of a single individual of his community. Such and many other acts (too numerous to detail) of personal sacrifice intimately brought recognition in the hands of the Government in the shape of a seat in the reformed University of Calcutta and thus none else in the Patna District could have been better entrusted with the sacred task of getting up the meeting to consider the Ranchi Model College scheme than Mr. Moulvi Sherfudeen.

The Proceedings.

The Nawab Bahadoor of Badsha Manzil was voted to the chair and on taking his seat he read out several letters and telegrams of sympathy from individuals unavoidably absent. The chairman then called upon Mr. Moulvi Sherfudeen to explain the aims and objects of the scheme. Thereupon the learned Moulvi Saheb read a long essay which might well entitle the writer to compete for the Griffiths' prize. Whether the essay was too learned for the audience or the audience too learned for the essay, we don't exactly know, but the aims and objects of the meeting had to be explained in Hindi by Babu Gajadhar Persad. The gentleman is "loyal" to the backbone. In fact, once he gave out in a public meeting which was presided over by the Commissioner that the sight of a king is a sacred act to the Hindus and if a Hindu in Patna were to do this virtuous act where can he go but to the place of the Commissioner Saheb. Ever since Babu Gajadhar Persad is simply idolised by the kinsmen of the king for his ideal "loyalty". It is indeed superfluous to say that Babu Gajadhar Persad left no stone unturned to show the manifold goods that are likely to accrue from the proposed college at Ranchi. But a traitor in the camp in the person of Babu Govinda Chandra Mitter, the president of the Bankipur Bar, raised a somewhat discordant note. We don't know exactly whether Babu Govinda Charan was invited or went of his own accord simply to raise a dissentient voice. Whatever that might be we cannot but make a passing remark here that the absence of the worthy son of a worthy father was diversely commented upon. This young Behari who is very much advanced of any of his race had the boldness to differ from the views of his father and true to his principle absented himself from the congregation of the dummies. We are told that had it not been for his father, he would have come to the meeting and shown that even in the race of dummies there may exist a real man. After Babu Gajadhar Persad had taken his seat, the first resolution was moved and it ran as follows:

"That this meeting representing the Patna Division records its strong sympathy with and hearty approval of the Ranchi Model College scheme which when given effect to, will, in the opinion of this meeting, be productive of much good to the country". This resolution was supported by Babu Mathura Nath Singh B. L. Hitherto ue believed him to be a being of "astral plane," but his feat (the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner was so delighted with his speech that he several times put him on the back and cried "sabash") of Thursday last has convinced us that he is capable of being moulded alike in "curry and rice." After the adoption of the first resolution Mr. P. C. Lyon, the firsa and foremost of the local public men, rose up and spoke at some length on the desirability of having a college like the one proposed by Sir Andrew Fraser. He concluded his speech by a reference to the late naval victory of Japan which according to him was the result of adoption by Japan of the best institutions of the West. This mention of the latest victory of Japan raised the martial spirit of the Nawab of Sikunder Munzil and he burst forth into an expression of opinions which created amazement in all present. Then the second resolution was moved and it ran thus:

"That this meeting begs respectfully to convey its grateful thanks to Sir Andrew Fraser for his having taken the trouble to propound the Ranchi Model College scheme and for the assurance which His Honour has publicly given to retain the Calcutta Presidency College in its present state of efficiency."

The third resolution was to form a committee to raise subscription and the fourth resolution ran to this effect: "That the chairman of this meeting be authorised to send copy of the above resolutions to the Private Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for submission to His Honor and to the Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Ranchi Model College scheme.

Subscriptions Announced in the Meeting.

	Rs.
H. H. the Maharani of Dumraon	10,000
Bettiah Raj	2,000
Babu Chandreswar Prosad Sing of Chainpur	1,000
Babus Chaturbhuj Sahay and Jagadanand Sahay	700
Syed Khursed Nawab Syed Ismail and Syed Ismail	650
Rai Radha Kissan	500
Chowdhury Karamat Hossein	200
Mast. Sagra	200
Babu Kishun Sahay	200
Sarfaraz Hossein Khan, Khan Bahadoor	100
Hafiz Ahmed Reza	100
Shah M. Kamal	100
Babu Nand Bahadur Singh	100
Babu Purnendu Narain Singh	50
Rs.	16,050

With a vote of thanks to the chair, proposed by Mr. T. W. Richardson, Dist. Judge, Patna, the meeting dispersed.

The Morals.

When the Government of a country wills to do a thing, it is sheer folly on the part of the people to oppose it, specially in a country like India where the people have scarcely any voice. It has been represented in the public press that a movement like the Ranchi Model College scheme can never be popular so long the Government identifies itself so closely with it and to give a slap as it were to such a sentiment the late meeting in the Patna College was convened. None but those who are conversant with the workings of a "wheel under wheel" in this country can ever dispute the representative character of the meeting. But may we be permitted to ask how could the "Bettiah Raj" came to subscribe Rs. 2,000 to the Model College fund. Is not the Raj already overhead and ears in debt, and for its better management has not the Court of wards taken it under its protection in spite of there being a rightful owner to the gudee, the Maharani Saheba? To make the Raj contribute is in a manner to betray one's own sacred trust. We believe there are 40 or 50 estates under the Court of Wards and if the same policy is followed towards all of them, the funds for at least 10 Model Colleges can be raised at a moment's notice.

The Madras Municipal Corporation is prosecuting Mr. Buckley, a European gentleman, for having neglected to vaccinate his child.

A District and Sessions Judge will be appointed in the newly created district of Guntur in the Madras Presidency on a salary of Rs. 1,800 per mensem.

As is well known there are private breweries which manufacture malt liquors after the English fashion at Dehra Dun, Lucknow, Naini Tal and Almora. From an interesting official report issued recently in regard to them, it appears that there was a very considerable decrease in the sale of beer last year, due chiefly, it is said, to the spread of temperance principles in the Army.

The Madura correspondent of the "Hindu" writes:—The outlook of the "Kodai" season also may not be cheerful, and we suffer from a dearth of food for animals also. The season is indeed far from encouraging. It is tantalishing to have a few drops of rain followed by a brisk sunshine. Last week we had smart showers; but these do not appear to have extended to the suburbs. Famine prices are prevailing; but our authorities will think otherwise. People have begun to find it hard to feed themselves or find work. And yet the Madras Government wants to lavish a few lakhs of rupees on what are called 'Public offices' in Madura.

CONTRACTED NEUGRALIA DURING THE WAR.

"I had a bad case of neuralgia which I contracted during the war. I tried several kinds of medicine but they did me no good until a friend of mine recommended Chamberlain's Pain Balm which gave me immediate relief. I have had no trouble since and must say that I find Chamberlain's Pain Balm a fine liniment. I have since used it for other troubles and always with good results."—J. Viljoen, Jacobsdal. Transvaal. For sale by*
All Chemists and Storekeepers Price 1 Re. Re. 2.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, May 22.

Deaths from Plague.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state the number of deaths from plague in India from Jan. 1, 1905, to the week ending April 1 last; whether he will give the latest information in his possession as to the mortality from plague during the month of April; and whether he will arrange for the publication of the weekly tabular returns of plague in the English newspapers.

Mr. Brodrick: From Jan. 1 to the week ending April 1 inclusive the number of plague deaths in India was 471,744. In April, for the four weeks ending April 29, the mortality was 215,961. Under arrangements lately made, the plague mortality in each calendar month would be reported by telegram, and communicated regularly to the Press.

Tuesday, May 23.

Earthquake Compensation to Goorkhas.—Capt. Norton asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, in view of the special terms under which Goorkhas are enlisted in the Indian Army, he can state what steps, if any, the Government of India propose to take in order to compensate them for the losses sustained in the recent earthquake.

Mr. Brodrick: It it not correct to say that Goorkhas are enlisted on special terms so far as any claim to compensation is concerned, but recommendations for special consideration to those who have suffered have been submitted by the Commander-in-Chief in India, and the decision of the Government of India will shortly be notified.

Yellow Fever and Malarial Diseases.—Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree asked the Secretary of State for India: If he is aware that the efforts of the Mexican Government and the Superior Board of Health at Mexico to stamp out yellow fever and all malarial diseases by exterminating the mosquito by the adoption of certain scientific methods have met with considerable success; and whether, having regard to the fact that malarial fevers are constantly prevailing in parts of India, he will cause inquiries to be made in connection with the Mexico experiment with the object of giving it a trial in India.

Mr. Brodrick: I have seen a pamphlet on the subject by the Superior Board of Health at Mexico, and propose to send a copy of it to the Government of India. Experiments of a somewhat similar kind have for some time past been in progress in India, and the experts conducting them are doubtless aware of what is being done in the same direction in other parts of the world.

Wednesday, May 24.

Afghanistan Treaty.—Mr. J. F. Hope asked the Secretary of State for India whether the text of the treaty with Afghanistan, published in the "Times" was accurate, and when the official copy would be distributed to members.

Mr. Brodrick: The text of the treaty, as published in the "Times," is, as far as I know, substantially accurate. The distribution of copies will take place in the course of the next few hours. The paper was laid on the table last night, and was, therefore, accessible to members in the Vote Office. But no copy was sent to any newspaper.

The Aden Frontier Force.—Sir Carne Rasch asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether it is proposed to grant a medal to the Aden Frontier Force.

Mr. Bridrick: As I informed my hon. and gallant friend on Feb. 22 last, it is not proposed to grant a medal to the Aden "Hinterland" Delimitation Commission escort, as the military authorities who have again been consulted do not recommend it.

Proposed College at Srinagar.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the Maharaja of Cashmere has made representations to the Government of India with reference to the establishment of a college at Srinagar; whether the British Resident has refused to sanction this proposal; and, if so, whether he will state the grounds upon which the objections of the Resident are based.

Mr. Brodrick: The answer to the first two questions is in the negative.

Indian Subjects in Cape Colony.—Mr. Runciman asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether any protest has been received from or sent by the Government of India against the Bill now before the Cape Parliament which renders his Majesty's Indian subjects, resident in Cape Colony, liable to a trading disability which will not be inflicted upon Yiddish-speaking aliens; and whether the Government of India has protested against similar legislation in the colony of Natal.

Mr. Brodrick: The answer to the first paragraph of the question is in the negative. The legislation of 1897 in Natal, which requires traders to keep their account books in the English language, formed the subject of protest by my predecessor when the measure was under consideration. It does not appear, however, to have interfered with the expansion of trade by Indians in that colony. The law does not require the books to be written up by the trader himself.

Thursday, May 25.

The Indian Budget.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the First Lord of the Treasury: Whether, in view of the fact that no opportunity has been given this session for the discussion of Indian affairs, he will arrange for the Indian Budget to be taken at an early date after the Whitsuntide Recess.

Mr. Balfour said that he was anxious, if possible, to bring on the Indian Budget early this year, and he had been considering the matter with his right hon. friend the Secretary for India. He could not give a pledge, but he still hoped to be able to carry out some plan by which an early discussion would be secured. (Hear, hear.)

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Indian and the Colonial Conference.—Mr. Herbert Samuel asked the First Lord of the Treasury: Whether it is proposed that the Indian Government should be represented at the Colonial Conference of 1906; if it is, whether such repesentation was contemplated by the resolution of the Colonial Conference of 1902, which suggested the summoning of another Conference in 1906; and, if the Indian Government is to be represented without such suggestion having been made, whether he will state the reason for this change from the ordinary composition of colonial conferences.

Sir C. Dilke asked whether, in addition to the representation of India, steps would be taken to give due weight to the interests of the Crown Colonies and other dominions of his Majesty.

Mr. Balfour: If the conference of 1906 meets before a dissolution it will be, of course the conference contemplated by the resolution of the conference which met in 1902. This resolution did not suggest either Indian or Crown Colony representation.

Mr. Herbert Samuel: Will the right hon. gentleman say whether, if India is not represented any proposals for colonial preference will be debated at that conference. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Balfour: I do not know what ground the hon. gentleman has for thinking that the Government mean to make proposals to that conference on the subject.

Sir C. Dilke: Is the right hon. gentleman not aware that at the last conference we were informed—of course the full report was never published, but we were informed—that someone was present on behalf of India?

Mr. Balfour: Well, I have refreshed my memory this morning of the resolution acually passed at the conference—

Sir C. Dilke: I do not mean the resolution.

Mr. Balfour: It is that on which the question was based, and that resolution will be strictly followed as far as we are concerned, supposing the conference meets before a dissolution.

Mr. Herbert Samuel: Are we to understand that, as India is not to be represented at that conference, no resolutions arrived at by the conference propounding a scheme of imperial preference will form the basis of a scheme to be submitted to the electorate at the next election? (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Balfour: I really think that the hon. gentleman is travelling far beyond the question originally put, and I would suggest to him that these are questions which will probably be debated on another occasion.

The Telegraph Line between Teheran and the Indian Frontier.—Sir Edward Sassoon asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the construction of the telegraph land line between Teheran and the frontier of India via Kerman and Robat is yet completed, or when such completion may be expected; and whether this line when completed, will be opened for public traffic.

Mr. Brodrick: Telegrams can be exchanged between Teheran and Quetta via Kerman and Robat, but the system is not sufficiently complete for transmission of public traffic. Action has been taken to carry the Indian extension of the Central Persia line through Beloochistan to Kurrachee; and on this line being completed it will be at once opened for public traffic.

Cable Communications with India.—Sir Edward Sassoon asked the Postmaster-General: Whether having regard to the recommendation made in the first report of Lord Balfour's Inter-Departmental Committee on cable communications (pp. 10 and 11) concerning the Joint-Purse Agreement relating to the transmission of telegrams to and from India, any arrangement has been concluded between his Majesty's Government and the Indo-European Telegraph Company in connection with the recent renewal of the leasing of land wires in this country and submarine cable wires between Lowestoft and the German coast; whether the terms of such agreement, if any would be furnished to this House; and what effect such arrangement will have in the direction of terminating or modifying the period of duration of the Joint-Purse Agreement as recommended in the report of the above-mentioned Committee.

Lord Stanley:—The negotiations recommended by Lord Balfour's Committee proved to be complicated and difficult, and it was not found practicable to effect the termination of the Joint-Purse Agreement in the manner proposed; but, in connection with the renewal of the lease of wires to the Indo-European Telegraph Company to which the hon. member refers, steps were taken to provide as far as possible, that obstacles should not be placed in the way of reasonable reductions of tariff in the future. This was the main ground on which Lord Balfour's Committee desired to terminate the Joint-Purse Agreement.

The Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions.—Mr. Eugene Wason asked the Secretary of State for India with regard to the memorial urging the separation of judicial and executive functions in Indian administration, presented in August 1899 can some statement be placed before Parliament showing what course has been followed since that memorial was forwarded to the Indian Government, and what is the general view taken of this subject by that authority; and can any of the more recent correspondence on this question between the Government of India and the Secretary of State be presented to Parliament at an early date.

Mr. Brodrick: As I promised in my reply to the hon. member for West Denbighshire on Feb. 22 last, I wrote to the Government of India on March 10 asking for a report of the results up to the present time of their consideration of the subject. I have not yet received a reply. There has been no other recent correspondence on this question between the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

NOTICES OF MOTION, ETC.

Title of the Ruler of Afghanistan.—Col. Legge to ask the Secretary of State for India: When the title of the Ruler of Afghanistan was altered from Ameer to King, and his style from Highness to Majesty; what is the reason for the alteration; whether it has been notified by proclamation in Durbar; whether it makes any difference in regard to the relations of Afghanistan with foreign Powers; whether the letter from the Viceroy of India of Feb. 22, 1883, referred to in paragraph 3 of No. 4 on page 6, and the Agreement of 1873 between Russia and England, referred to in No. 5 on page 7 of Cd. 2534 of 1905, can be printed and delivered to members; and whether he will cause a map of Afghanistan, showing the boundaries agreed upon between the Government of India and the Ameer, to be placed in the tea room. (To-day, May 26.)

The Mecca Pilgrimage.—Mr. Stevenson.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether he can announce the steps which have been taken, or will be taken, for the safe escort of British Mahomedan natives of India travelling between Jeddah and Mecca, and Medina, during the present pilgrim season. (Monday, May 29.)

The Assassination by Mahsuds.—Sir Edward Grey.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether, having regard to the assassination of Capt. Bowring in September, and of Lieut.-Col. Harman in February last, by Mahsuds enlisted for frontier defence, the Government of India is taking precautions to prevent other valuable lives from being sacrificed in the same way. (Monday, May 29.)

The Earthquake and the Goorkha Officers.—Sir Henry Meysey-Thompson.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether anything, and, if so, what has been done to assist the Goorkha officers in rebuilding their private houses, and also their mess room which were destroyed by the earthquake at Dharmsala. (Tuesday, May 30.)

Mr. Craven and the Zemindars.—Mr. Weir.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: If he will cause inquiry to be made into the proceedings of Mr. Craven, the sub-divisional officer of Habigunj, Sylhet, Assam, in connection with a recent dispute between two zemindars, and to the strictures passed on his proceedings by the High Court. (Thursday, June 1.)

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ADY. MAGISTRATE AS AN ACCUSED.

THE BACKERGUNGE SETTLEMENT CASE.

Our readers are now well aware of the circumstances of the case in which the Assistant Settlement Officer of Backergunge was the accused and one Dina Nath Karmakar of Goila the complainant. The case was dismissed by Babu Bhowani Charan Neogy, Deputy Magistrate, on the mere strength of the report submitted by the very officer against whom the complaint was made. But Dina Nath preferred a motion against this order to the District and Sessions Judge of Barisal who, we have already let our readers know, has set aside the order of dismissal and remanded the case to the District Magistrate for further enquiry either by himself or a competent subordinate Magistrate. Here is the full text of the judgment which will speak for itself:—

Judgment.

This case has arisen because an Assistant Settlement Officer constituted himself a court of extraordinary Jurisdiction and arrogated to himself the powers of a civil court for the summary and forcible execution of a civil court Decree exparte at the instance of the Judgment Debtors. As far as I can gather from the evidence the facts are as follows. The Karmakars got a decree against the Dases entitling them to certain land. In execution of that decree the Karmakars got duty installed in possession of the land according to certain boundary lines laid down by a specially appointed commissioner. The Dases appealed against this order in execution and the District Judge in accordance with a petition filed by the two parties jointly, directed that the boundary should be re-laid according to certain land marks. The Dases should have deposited fees and had the boundary re-laid.

They did not do this, and so the execution proceedings were struck off the file for default and the original order of the munsiff remained in force. The Karmakars have remained in possession as originally determined. The Asst. settlement officer then arrived upon the scene and at the instance of the Dases began to lay down the boundary "as directed by the District Judge". The Karmakars objected that he had no authority for doing so. This offended the almighty Hakim, and they were made to suffer. They had elected an embankment within the boundaries fixed by the civil court commissioner, and the Dases backed up by the Asst. settlement officer destroyed it and committed mischief. The Deputy Magistrate who entertained the applicant's complaint loyally backed up his brother Deputy, and dismissed the complaint, because he had acted according to the orders of the District Judge. There was no order on the Assistant settlement officer passed by the District Judge to relay the boundary. The Dases acted in deliberate contempt of the civil court decree and in doing so they were shielded by the Asst. Settlement Officer. I set aside the order of dismissal, and I remand the case to the District Magistrate for further enquiry either by himself or a competent subordinate Magistrate.

Barisal, June 5. (Sd.) J. A. Ezechiel,
Sessions Judge.

Mr. S. A. T. Bennett, who was at Karachi some years ago, returns this month as Deputy Postmaster-General, Sind and Baluchistan Circle, relieving Mr. Hamilton, who proceeds to Dacca as Deputy Postmaster-General of Eastern Bengal. Mr. Hamilton's transfer will be greatly regretted, as he has succeeded in infusing considerable spirit and energy into the administration of this circle, and has introduced several useful reforms. He will be much missed socially throughout Sind and Baluchistan.

One of the most cogent proofs that we are moving with the times, says the "Advocate of India," is seen in the proposition to be put forward by Mr. Jaffer Rahimtula at the next meeting of the Bombay Corporation, "for moving Government to abolish the disqualification attached to the female sex for being a member of the Bombay Corporation." The suggestion that ladies should join the Corporation would at least add a tone to the proceedinbs of that august body, says our contemporary, and it would also tend towards the gaiety of the Corporation generally.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE

Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, JUNE 15, 1905.

HOW JUDICIAL OFFICERS ARE DEARED AND INFLUENCED.

THAT sense of justice and pride which prevented Englishmen, doing judicial work in this country, from favouring a countryman against a native of India, is day by day getting weak. This feeling was previously so strong amongst them that, if any of their members was ever led to deviate from his path of duty, and do injustice to an Indian for the sake of a countryman, he was sought to be humiliated for his weakness, not only by the entire Indian nation but also by the best section of his own community. But those good old days are gone; and, now most Englishmen look on with indifference if their countrymen in the judicial service do not show that strength of character which their predecessors did.

When, some twelve years ago, it was brought to light by this journal that English Magistrates allowed themselves to be "My deared" by their friends and interfered in their judicial work the country was so shocked that the phrase, "My dear Konstam," was adopted by the Press here to express this sort of scandal. It happened in this wise. Mr. Konstam was the Magistrate of a Behar Sub-Division and engaged in trying a criminal case in which a European indigo planter was very much interested. This planter was a friend of the Magistrate, and he felt no scruple to address a letter to the latter to the following effect: "My dear Konstam,---My man, who is implicated in the case, is innocent. His opponent, the other man, is guilty. Decide the case accordingly." The letter was discovered in the record of the case, and "My dear Konstam" became a bye-word in the country.

But would a case of this sort create the same amount of indignation that it did fifteen years ago? In the Rolt case we see Mr. Rolt, though accused of a very serious offence, "My dearing Lea" in the most approved fashion. Of course Mr. Lea cannot be blamed for this; for he did not encourage Mr. Rolt to address him thus; neither had the "My dearing" any effect upon his strong sense of justice. But the fun is that the familiar way, in which the Magistrate was addressed by the accused. Mr. Rolt, did not cause any surprise, nor elicit any remark from any body, for we all are getting used to these sorts of things.

On the other hand, Mr. Lea was blamed by the organs of the European community for having treated Mr. Rolt harshly. Nay, Mr. Rolt not only "My deared Lea," but took him to task in some of his letters for treating him in the way he did! Remember also the fact, brought to light by our Purnea correspondent, that Mr. Rolt and the members of the Committee appointed to enquire into the six additional charges brought against him, lived in the same house, though the former was in the position of an accused, and the latter were his Judges!

A "My dear Kostam" case, in an aggravated form, hails from Agra. It seems, in the United Provinces, neither some judicial officers themselves nor their friends are aware of the gross impropriety of addressing and trying to influence courts of justice. First, as to the case which in itself is of a sensational character. Lieutenant Ford of Royal Welsh Fusiliers complained before Mr. D. L. Drake-Brockman, first-class Magistrate of Agra, on the 15th of March last, that Badri Persad, a respectable picture-seller of that town, had insulted him intentionally and given him provocation, knowing it to be likely that such provocation would cause him to break the public peace.

Lieutenant Ford's version is that he had gone to the accused's shop to get a painting of the Taj as a curio; that he was told by the accused that its price was Rs. 6; that thereupon he asked for a bit of paper, and he wrote Rs. 6, signing his name and address, telling the accused to send it to his bungtow, where it would be paid. He then turned to leave the shop taking the miniature picture, when Badri Persad, without the least provocation, rushed at him and said, "What for you cheat me---you "b.....f....." What these words "b.....f....." mean do not appear in the petition of complaint. The complainant further said that Badri Persad next pushed his face close to his own and blurted out fury. He, however, admitted that he called the accused some names after he had insulted him. He also said that the accused not only rushed at him but caught his arm and threw the miniature on the ground.

Now to the version of Badri Persad. He said, he was in a dark room inside, when Lieut Ford entered his shop. The officer got his boy Manna Lal to take a frame out of his shew case. When the boy asked for the money Lieut. Ford refused to pay it. Thereupon the boy called Badri Persad who came out and said, he did not sell on credit. This led Lieut. Ford to take out the frame from his pocket and throw it on the case and break it. Thereupon Badri Persad asked Lieut. Ford to pay for the broken miniature, but the Lieutenant came in, slapped the boy across the cheek, struck the glass case with his fist and broke it, and threatened him with expulsion from his shop. Badri Persad denied that, either Mr. Ford gave his name or any paper.

Lieut. Ford had no witness to corroborate his statement. In his cross-examination, again, he hopelessly contradicted himself on a most material point. In his petition of complaint he said, it was the accused whom he had seen in the shop when he entered it. When cross-examined he said, "When I enterep the shop I think it was a boy who was in the shop and I think the man, Badri Persad, was in the shop behind. The boy opened the glass case in which the miniature was. I think the boy brought the pencil and paper." Thus he utterly forgot what he had stated previously. The accused, on the other hand, produced three witnesses, who all supported his version of the case.

All the same, the Magistrate believed Lieut. Ford and totally disbelieved the accused. In this, however, the Agra Magistrate is not singular. That is the rule. Did not the Alipur Magistrate the other day behave in the same way in the Tramways conductor's case? The defence Counsel had pointed out the contradictions in Lieut. Ford's statements, and the Magistrate thus sought to get out of the difficulty in his judgment. "Every statement made by Lieut. Ford," says the Magistrate in his judgment, "was ingeniously twisted round by Counsel to mean or imply something else. For instance, his hesitancy in swearing whether the boy or the accused was in the shop is to my mind a sign of Lieut. Ford's honesty in refusing to state explicitly a fact of which he was not sure." That is to say, according to this Magistrate, the more a European witness contradicts himself the more truthful he is!

But the spirit in which the Magistrate tried the case will be evident from some of his sentiments which he has unblushingly recorded in his judgment. He says: "I have no hesitation myself and I think any reasonable man could have any hesitancy in accepting Lieut. Ford's version as at any rate substantially the correct one. It is also par I think why the accused, who is a resepectable man, acted in the manner he did. He obviously regards himself as somewhat of a "Bahadur", and he mistook his man". It is, however, not clear from where did the Magistrate get this information that the accused regarded himself as a "Bahadur"; at least, this is not to be had in the record. And the Magistrate concludes his judgment with these significant words:—

"The accused is a man who pays over Rs. 200 income-tax and is a well-to-do-man. A small fine will obviously not affect him. I convict Badri Persad.....and sentence him to a rigorous imprisonment for ten days and a fine of Rs. 100."

So the accused was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment simply on the ground that he was a respectable substantial man! And what was the nature of the evidence upon which he was convicted? It was upon the mere statement of the complainant, which was not corroborated by independent testimony,—a statement which was again contradicted by the complainant himself—that the conviction of the accused was based! It is this sort of justice that is being administered here, there, and almost everywhere in the country whenever there is a case between an Indian and a European, and nobody now expresses any surprise at these spectacles!

But we have not yet come to the end of the case. The "dearing" was done in a most outrageous fashion in this case. It was Mr. Magistrate Charles who was to have taken up the case first, and Mr. H. F. Lyle, the superior officer of Lieutenant Ford, wrote him this most extraordinary letter:—

"Dear Charles,—Ford reports to me a case when he was grossly insulted by a native shop-keeper, publicly in his shop. I would be very glad if you could see your way to making an example of this man. His name is "Badri Persad" Photographer. I wish strongly to represent to you the fact that this shop-keeper evidently thought Lieut. Ford was a private soldier, and that he could insult him with impunity. These cases are constantly occurring and it is generally by low caste shop-keepers and money-lenders, men who would be kept in their proper places under native rule. At present my officers and soldiers never know when they will be insulted by those low caste moneyed men, who can produce at any time as many witnesses as they want in the bazar."

The case was next transferred to the file of Mr. Drake-Brockman, and him also Mr. Lyle addressed the following letter:—

"Dear Drake-Brockman,—With references to this case of Ford's I want to bring to your notice that there were at that time several instances of natives assaulting and insulting British soldiers. These cases could not be brought home as in most cases the soldiers were alone. Ford was in uniform at the time and no doubt the native thought he was a private soldier."

Both these letters were filed in the record and the trying Magistrate no doubt read them. Need now any body wonder why Badri Persad was considered a "Bahadur" and why was he treated with such extreme severity?

THE SO-CALLED VILLAGE GOVT.

OR

THE TIGHTENING OF THE GRIP.

THE octopus holds its prey with its eight tentacles. The British Government in India has many more to keep India under its firm grip. Its hold of India has not, however, been secured by brute force, no, not by that, but by a very simple process. When the early English rulers found themselves in the possession of the Indian Empire, they realized that they were aliens in a vast country. In the few towns, surrounded by their own troops armed with cannon and guns, they could barely hold their own, but they had absolutely no sway in the interior.

So, their first work was to create Indian Sepoys and Indian "dobhashees" (interpreters.) The Sepoys enabled them to fight, but they had to create Indian officers along with the interpreters to be able to rule the country and develop its resources. And thus English was taught to the Indians with great zeal, while the latter found it to their advantage to fall in with the views of the new masters of the country.

In this way, the Police Darogas, the Munsiffs, the Dy. Magistrate and so forth were created. These arrangements enabled the rulers to penetrate into the interior, and establish British authority in district and sub-divisional towns. Yet the authorities found themselves not in absolute touch with the inhabitants of the rural tracts. They found they had been able to penetrate into the villages but they realized that they had failed to penetrate into the hearts of the residents of the villages. In order to remove this difficulty the Chowkidars or the village watch, who were the servants of the villagers, were taken possession of, and practically converted into a regular police.

But this did not quite serve the purpose; and, hence possibly is the idea of the proposed "village government" or the punchayet union, which, it is expected, will bring about the desired state of things, so that if a sparrow were to fall in the remotest corner of a Bengal hamlet, the incident would be carried to the Government at Simla or the India Office in England in no time.

Here then is the secret how the British obtained such an octopus-like hold of the country. Lord Curzon is mistaken to suppose that the English education, given to the Indians, was a liberal gift on the part of the Government. It was not exactly that. It was a gift no doubt, but, then, it was a gift which the educated Indians more than repaid by delivering their country to the rulers. Every Moonsiff pumps his countrymen to the extent of thirty to thirty thousand rupees per annum and fetches the amount to the coffer of the Government. Every Police Inspector keeps half a million of his countrymen quiet in his iron grip, for the good of the British Empire. Every Deputy Magistrate, in the same manner, helps to maintain the authority of the same Empire by sending a large number of his own people to jail annually.

Thus, the British Government is the octopus, but its tentacles are the Indian troops, the Indian police, the Indian subordinate Magistrates, the Indian judicial officers, the Indian administrators and so forth. It is the Indians who are not only made to acquire territories for the British, but also to pacify and keep them in order. Even Indian journals are only beacons in the hands of the rulers of the land, as, without their help, they as aliens would have found themselves immersed in Cimmerian darkness. It is the Indian papers which betray the innermost thoughts and wishes of the people, and enable the alien rulers to feel the pulse of the Indian nation.

But for the Indian police the rulers would have found it impossible to keep India under their control. Through the Choukidars or the village watch they sought to ascertain everything that occurred in the villages; but, as they were illiterate, and, generally dregs of society, it became necessary to replace them by a more intelligent class of men. The proposed punchait unions if organised on the lines laid down in the Government scheme would most likely fulfil this object exceedingly well.

If vacuum is abhorred by Nature, light, in the same manner, is apparently abhorred by the Government of Sir Andrew Fraser. His Honour will do everything in the dark: the public should know nothing what he is about till the work in which he is engaged is cut, dried, and finished. The result is that, scarcely has a single measure of his Government met with the approval of the people. On the other hand, never was Ben punished with so many obnoxious measures, in so short a time as one year and a half, as during the administration of Sir Andrew Fraser. The only measure of his which created some hope in the minds of the people was the reform of the village punchaits or what His Honour was pleased to call "village government."

But, as usual, everything was done to keep the matter a secret from the general public. Though we urged upon the Government repeatedly to furnish the public with all available information regarding it, nothing was done in that way. By an accident, however, we happened to get hold of an official scheme on the subject of "village government," and some of its provisions showed the real character of the measure.

The president of the Punchait Union, it is provided, is to be elected by the villagers. This sounds very well, but then they must elect their chairman in the presence of an executive officer. What this means every one can understand. As a matter of fact, judging from the reports of some of these elections, it is quite clear that the simple villagers, in almost all cases, were influenced by the executive officer deputed to help them in forming the Union, and led to elect presidents who are "loyal" men, that is to say, proteges of the executive.

Nor is this all. Each punchait in the Union is open to the inspection of a Magistrate or a superior police officer. Of course it is laid down that the inspecting officer should conduct the examination of the work of the Union in all its branches in a friendly way, but this means nothing, as the work of an examiner is to find faults and not to condone them. Then, as the president is proposed to be entrusted with third-class Magisterial powers, he will be officially subordinate to the District Magistrate, and, in order to retain these powers, he will necessarily never venture to do anything which is disagreeable to the head of the district.

Here are some other provisions. The punchait will have Choukidars, Dafadars and paid Secretaries as their subordinates to carry out their orders, but they will be appointed by the District Magistrate or the officer to whom he delegates his power in this respect. But why will these chowkidars pay that respect to the punchait which is due to a superior when they are to be appointed by the Magistrate? As regards the Dafadars the confirmation of their appointments will rest with the Police Superintendent. So here is a way created for the Police to meddle with the affairs of the punchait.

It will appear from some other provisions that no really respectable men are likely to agree to serve as members, or even as the presidents of the punchaits. Here is a cutting from para 18 of the scheme:—

"The members of Punchait should be treated with courtesy, in particular the president, to whom a chair should be offered when he attends during the inspection".

So, to offer a chair, is in the opinion of the authorities, to do a great honour! But, even to this "honour," the president of the "village government" alone is entitled, not his colleagues, the members of the panchait. The latter, we fancy, will have to squat on mats when the inspecting officer comes to give them "friendly" advice, and not to criticise their work! A more ludicrous situation than this cannot be conceived. What respectable man will agree to serve in the punchait and humiliate himself in this way?

The chapter on the realization of the arrear pay of Choukidars and Dafadars reveals the utterly helpless character of the punchait, the so-called self-governing body When the pay of these men is not regularly paid, the Magistrate may realize it by issuing a warrant against the President or the members of the defaulting punchyet, and supplanting the latter by a new punchait. So there is very little in the new scheme to attract really self-respecting men to the newly-constituted punchayets.

As we have said above, the great mischief that we apprehend from the new scheme is this. Previously the illiterate and much-despised Chowkidar was the spy of the executive in the rural tracts. His place will now be occupied by a more intelligent, and therefore more dangerous, man with some education, in the person of the president of the punchayet. He will be the representative of the executive in the rural tracts, and through him the Government will feel the pulse of the inhabitants of every village.

Of course here and there some really good presidents will be elected, but, as soon as they come to realize the nature of their work, they will give up their connection with the punchait. This is likely to be the outcome of the "village government" scheme of the Lieutenant-Governor. The people will see very little of "village-government," but, they will realize still more fully the power of the executive through these institutions. The president and the members of the punchait are likely to serve the purposes of bigger Choukidars, that is all.

We do not blame Sir Andrew Fraser; his intention was good; it is the result of our own Karma. Now, if the Lieutenant-Governor, instead of making these punchaits subordinate to the Magistrate and the Police, had placed them under the District Board, or the District and Subordinate Judges, not only would the villagers have remained free from the withering influence of the executive, but they might have really learned something of local self-government. Perhaps that was the desire of our good Governor; but, he was made to act in a different way, because of our "nasib", which, as we said, is always bad.

COMPENSATION TO ACCUSED AFTER ACQUITTAL.

WE have noticed the various issues involved in the Rolt case; but, perhaps, the most important of them is the precedent created by the Government of Bengal in giving compensation to an European accused when he is acquitted. This is not the first time that a claim for compensation was preferred; but, it this was done in the case of Mr. Bain with great determination by the European community the Government of India did not entertain the proposal; nay, they rejected it in a curt manner. What we now find is that the Government of Sir Andrew Fraser has at last conceded the point; and here we are confronted with a serious problem.

The custom of giving compensation to an accused, when acquitted, does not, we believe, prevail anywhere in the world. At least it does not obtain in this country. Indeed, the authorities would be placed in an extremely difficult position if the custom were introduced in this country. For, every acquitted accused might then come forward and demand compensation, and the Government would practically cease to exist. It was, we believe, on this ground that the Government of India refused compensation to Mr. Bain.

The point now is,—can a subordinate Government over-ride the decision of the Supreme Government? In other words, can the Government of Bengal allow compensation to an European accused after his acquittal, when its superior, the Government of India, had laid it down that no such compensation should be given? If it is contended that Mr. Rolt had claims which Mr. Bain had not, what, we see, on the contrary is that, the latter had to suffer imprisonment for many months, while the latter had to do nothing of the sort.

It should also be borne in mind that the decision of the Government of India on the subject of compensation in the Bain case was arrived at, not hastily, but after much thought and deliberation. Here are the facts. Mr. Bain was convicted of simple hurt by five of his countrymen as jury, though he was found guilty of flogging a coolie resulting in his death, and was sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment by the Sessions Judge of Silchar. The Government of India moved the Criminal Bench of the High Court for enhancing his punishment. The Bench, "after a careful consideration", came to find that the verdict of the jury as regards simple hurt was wrong, and there was clear evidence to show that the Sessions Judge had misdirected the jurors, and that the prisoner should be tried again on the charge of grievous hurt.

Mr. Justice Sale was charged by the Chief Justice to hold this second trial. But the former held no trial at all. Ignoring the judicial finding of the Criminal Bench, Justice Sale declared, before a single prosecution witness had been examined—nay, even the jury empannelled, that Mr. Bain, in his opinion, was not guilty. The effect of this declaration on the part of Justice Sale, which, in the opinion of competent lawyers, was illegal, was the acquittal of the prisoner, or rather something more; for, Mr. Bain came out of jail 28 days before he had served out his term of six months' imprisonment.

The non-official Anglo-Indian community now made a great clamour over the Bain case. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce took lead in the matter, and other Anglo-Indian Associations joined it. A joint Anglo-Indian protest was made against the treatment accorded to Mr. Bain, and compensation was demanded for him. The British Indian Association, on the other hand, submitted an ably-written counter-representation in which it controverted all the points raised in the memorial of the Chamber. The Government of India in a long and elaborate Resolution discussed the question from every important point, and made it clear that the position taken up by the Chamber of Commerce was quite untenable.

In the meantime the solicitors of Mr. Bain submitted a formal application to the Government of India for compensation, and they thus stated the reason why their client was entitled to damages:—

"Our client, therefore, by virtue of the authority of the highest Criminal Court of this country stands before the world as innocent of all the charges which have been brought against him and in respect of which he has been so harshly treated."

It would be an excellent thing, indeed, if the Government could be rendered liable to its victim; for, that would act as a wholesome check upon its arbitrary and high-handed proceedings. But then the victim must prove his innocence upon unimpeachable evidence and also show *mala fides* on the part of the prosecuting officers. The acquittal of an European offender in India does not necessarily establish his innocence, as has been very clearly and rationally shown by an Anglo-Indian authority like Mr. Theodore Morrison in his work, "Imperial Rule in India". Mr. Morrison thus begins with the statement that the European jury in India, which decides European cases, is a dead failure.

"It has been left to the English to bring discredit on the most venerable of free institutions and to prove how unsuitable trial by jury is to a country of mixed nationalities. The people of India commonly say that no European has yet been hanged for the murder of a native. It is an ugly fact which it is no use to disguise that the murder of natives by Englishmen is no unfrequent occurrence. In one issue of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" (Aug. 11th, 1898), three contemporary cases are dealt with, in none of which the prisoners have paid the full penalty for murder. I cannot pretend to an opinion whether in these or previous cases, there has been an actual miscarriage of justice, but I do unhesitatingly assert that very few Englishmen in India believe that an English jury, as juries are at present constituted, would ever, on the clearest evidence, convict one of their countrymen of the murder of a native."

He next thus accounts for this failure:—

"The pick of Anglo-Indian Society is either not qualified or exempted from serving on a jury; juries in European cases are therefore now empannelled from among English shop-keepers or railway employes in the big towns; [and he might have added indigo and tea planters;] this is the very class in which the arrogance of a conquering race is most offensively strong, and their moral sense does not endure the legal theory that an Englishman should atone with his life for killing a 'nigger.'"

Is any further explanation needed as to why an European offender, even when guilty, is almost sure to get off? Acquittal in his case thus means very little. A large section of the European community was not yet satisfied. Though almost sure of acquittal, a European might yet be accused of an offence hauled up, and put on his trial. Nay, he might be required to stand on a second trial also like an Indian. All this meant, if not punishment necessarily, but certainly trouble, expense, and humiliation. And hence the demand for compensation was put forward in the Bain case; for, if the Anglo-Indians could secure that, they would be practically immune from all criminal prosecution.

The following paragraph from the letter of the solicitors of Mr. Bain to the Government of India will show the nature of the wrongs for which they demanded compensation:—

"We have touched but lightly upon the facts and have endeavoured to refrain from entering upon any controversial matter or from preferring any indictment against Government in this matter our present purpose being merely to place the facts before you and to ask whether in view of those facts Government is prepared.

"(a) to pay such a sum to Mr. Bain as will cover all the expenses which have been incurred in and about his defence on the four occasions upon which he has been on his trial, namely:—

"(1). The proceedings in the Court of the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar.

"(2). Trial in the Court of the Sessions Judge of Cachar.

"(3). The Appeal by Government to the Divisional Court of the High Court,

and

"(4). The retrial in the Sessions Court,

and

"(b). to give sufficient and adequate compensation to Mr. Bain for the pain of body and mind and the actual monetary loss which he has sustained by reason of his having been wrongfully imprisoned upon a charge of which he has now before the highest tribunal in the land been declared to be innocent."

The solicitors, though they enumerated in minute detail the items of wrongs done to Mr. Bain, did not put down the amount of compensation they demanded. The Government of India, however, disposed of the whole matter with the following "curt" reply:—

"EMPEROR *versus* BAIN.

"Sirs,—In continuation of my No. 1282 of the 17th. instant, I am directed to inform you that the Governor-General in Council is unable to entertain your application for compensation to Mr. Bain.—I have etc.

"(Sd) Earnest H. Cowie.

"Offg. Solr. to the Government of India."

In the case of Mr. Rolt, so far as we are aware, his solicitors did not make any demand for compensation. We may, therefore, take it that the Government of Bengal, granted it of its own motion. What we have got to enquire now, are

(1) Is the Government of Bengal justified in granting compensation to Mr. Rolt when it was refused to Mr. Bain by the Government of India?

(2) Regard being had to the fact that European offenders have special privileges which Indians do not possess, is it the intention of the Bengal Government to limit compensation to the case of a European, or extend it to the case of the Indian also?

(3) As we can never believe that, the Government of Bengal is capable of making any such racial distinction, is it prepared to pay to the victim of the latest executive oppression, namely, Babu Tara Nath Choudhuri, whose case, according to such an authority as the "Calcutta Weekly Notes", "discloses a much greater perversion of judicial proceedings and the processes of law than perhaps any other case of recent memory?" This gentleman, we are told, without any tangible proof, was charged with the gravest crime known to law, was handcuffed at a railway station, marched through the bazar in police custody, thrown into hajat, committed to the Court of Sessions, although, unlike in the Rolt case, the District Magistrate was of opinion that there was no case against him, and eventually after a most painful and prolonged trial and almost at the point of his expiring out of fatigue in the dock, he was unanimously found to be not guilty by the Judge and jury.

WE have received some further confirmation of the story regarding the doings of the 9th Lancers, though, we must say, we still consider it to be a myth, in spite of this confirmation. In short, the alleged atrocities of the 9th Lancers, namely, their raiding in the bazar resulting in loss of life, are published, not only in the "Morning Leader," but also in the "Star" and some other papers. Now there cannot be any manner of doubt that these two papers the "Leader" and the "Star" are very respectable; indeed, they are leading organs of the Liberals. All the same, we cannot believe the story; first, because, it seems to be incredible on the face of it; and, for another reason which we shall presently state. The account published in the "Star" gives some definite details which apparently can not be the product of imagination. Thus, for instance, the following quotation from it shows who the murdered Sergeant was, and some other particulars regarding the incident:

"The sergeant who was killed was Sergeant McCrea, who served under Sir John French in the South African war, taking part in seven engagements, for which he received the medal with seven clasps. On the day of his death he had gained the highest award in the competition for best horsemanship open to the Punjab. Subsequently he was at a bazaar at Rawal Pindi,

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when he was murderously attacked by a native dying shortly afterwards from his wounds. The deceased who was 29 years of age, was engaged to be married to a young lady at Canterbury where he was quartered on his return from the war, and was expected home shortly for his wedding."

The above details are likely to carry conviction in some minds. But there are certain incredible circumstances which cannot be got over. First, we are told, Sergeant McCrea was killed by an Indian. Now in India a European, however insignificant, cannot be murdered by an Indian without the whole country being thrown topsy turvy. But, no one here apparently knows anything about the affair. Secondly, an Indian, accused of such a crime, is never released on bail, and certainly not on a bail of only Rs. 200. Thirdly, a "Native," accused of the murder of a European, is never allowed to escape by negligence as, it is alleged, was the case in the incident under notice. The suggestion itself is preposterous. Yet we cannot help thinking that a story like the one before us, is not likely to be a pure invention, and must have some substratum of truth. The mystery can be unravelled if the Government would, of its own accord, furnish an explanation; or if the Indian Press, in a body, would demand one. One fact is curious: though the paragraph is going the round of the English Press, it has not, as yet, to our knowledge, been contradicted.

After the above was in type, we find from the mail papers to hand that the following question on the above subject was to have been asked by Sir M. Bhownaggree on May 29:—

"To ask the Secretary of State for India: If he has received any official information as to the conduct of troops in Rawul Pindi after it was found that a native, charged with having killed a sergeant of the 5th Lancers and admitted to bail, had absconded; and will he state what steps the Government of India have taken in the matter."

Mr. Ellis Griffith presented a petition (on the 11th May) in favour of the Dogs' Protection Bill. He stated that it contained 180,000 signatures, and was 2¼ miles long, and as it weighed over 1 cwt., he had obtained assistance to bring it to the table. Mr. Swift Macneill and Mr. Griffith thereupon shouldered the petition—two monster brown-paper parcels—and, to the amusement of members, walked up the floor of the House and deposited their burden behind the Chair. This is the way they agitate in England. The dogs there obtained 180,000 signatures and a petition 2¼ miles long. But the 280 millions of India could never secure a petition one cubit long.

Mr. Balfour felt that he was getting unpopular, so, one night, he stood on his legs in the House to inform the world that if Russia invaded India, the British were prepared to fight. This declaration was enough to raise him to the height of his glory. What a delightful work it is to move the English public! Many English papers next morning began with this comment upon the declaration of Mr. Balfour:—"It is hardly possible to overrate the importance of the statement made by Mr. Balfour yesterday on the subject of imperial defence."

We had objections to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal taking any part in the loyal movement of giving a suitable reception to their Royal Highnesses now coming to India. For we feared that the presence of Sir A. Fraser in a movement like that would destroy its popular and spontaneous character. But we had to change our views subsequently, when we found the Europeans and Indians acting in concert in this matter; for, when such was the case, there ought to be one to whose leadership no one, European or Indian, would object. It was thus the co-operation of His Honor was solicited. Now that the Lieutenant-Governor has agreed to preside over the forthcoming public meeting at the Town Hall, no objection should be raised to the arrangement, either by the Europeans or the Indians.

"East is East, West is West"—that is the imperialistic idea that now pervails in imperial England. But Sir M. Bhownagree has succeeded in aiming a fatal blow at it. He asked some questions regarding the mails between Australia and England from which we gather the following facts. Australia would have no "black" lascar, and no deprivation of the white sailor of his bread. The result was it got no steam-ship company to agree to its terms. And thus the service was oftentimes interrupted. Australia, however, at last triumphed. The Orient line agreed to expel the "black" lascar rigorously, and make the service white from top to bottom. But the very first experiment proved disastrous. The first Orient liner arriving at Sydney found itself unable to proceed. For two or the ship's officers had to spend several hours at Adelaide Police Court in connection with the prosecution of drunken firemen. It further transpired that the engine room was often left in a disgraceful condition, and during the voyage the men came on board from a port of call in such a state that great difficulty was experienced in getting up steam. The stoking was badly done. Referring to this unsatisfactory report, an official of the Orient Line in London declared that the replacing of lascars by white seamen was due solely to the terms of the mail contract with the Australian Government. He added that the Company had always found the lascars sober, hardworking and obedient. Before replacing the lascars by white seamen the latter ought to have been converted into teetotalers, is it not? The ship companies in England had apparently to follow the policy of "so far as may be," to take in the lascars; willingly they would have never given preference to an Indian. They have then orders that they must always employ Europeans, but they were obliged to modify it by the consideration of "so far as may be." That is what the late Queen meant when she used this phrase, "so far as may be," in her Proclamation of 1858. By the bye, can this be justice? Lord Curzon would take a crore of rupees from poor India to memorialize the Queen-Empress' rule; yet he would neutralize the effect of the only measure, the Royal Proclamation of 1858, which rendered her memory so dear to the Indians.

Mr. Balfour is now the Prime Minister in England. His utterances therefore are of special value. An important matter was recently debated in the House of Commons. The Borough Council in London has made the alarming discovery that the rate-payers cannot any longer afford to pay the rapidly rising education rate, which now stands at the figure of 3 shillings in the pound—an appalling total for a working class constituency. The Council accordingly has unanimously resolved to discontinue administering the Education Act in East Ham and has given its 700 teachers notice to quit. The shutting up of the schools in East Ham will interfere with the education of 22,000 children. Now to the point. The East Ham authorities demand that a grant shall be made from the Government Exchequer in aid of their small local resources, but, when a debate was held on the subject in Parliament, Mr. Balfour pointed out that "this would set a dangerous precedent." That the principle laid down by Mr. Balfour is correct goes without saying. But how is it that Indian authorities break it though the principle is sound, specially when it is held by the Prime Minister of the Empire? Mr. Balfour pointed out that, if the people of East Ham wanted to educate their children, it is they, and not the general tax-payers, who should bear the cost. But Sir Andrew Fraser lays down that, though his Ranchi College would benefit only a few scores of boys, it is not the parents and guardians of these students but the vast body of tax-payers, who have not the slightest interest in the institution, should be made to contribute lakhs of rupees for the maintenance of the institution! If the amount, which an educational institution like that of Ranchi would swallow annually, were utilized for the sanitary improvement of rural areas, it would have not only saved tens of thousands of agricultural population from the dreadful havoc of malaria and cholera, but the bulk of the taxes would have been returned to those who had paid them. But there is no money in the Exchequer when the Government is asked to improve sanitation in villages, whereas there is ample fund in the coffer of the Government when a costly pet measure of the ruler of the Province is to be carried out! Up to this time, neither Sir Andrew Fraser nor any of his followers has explained this phase of the Ranchi College project. It is a pity that there is not a single member of the Legislative Council to interpellate the Government on the following points:—

"(1) Is it just and fair to spend the money of the general tax-payers upon the Ranchi College when its object is to impart education to a handful of students,—sons of Zemindars, Dy. Collectors and Sub-Judges?

"(2) Is it not scandalous that, some six lakhs of Rupees should be raised, for the same purpose, by practically official pressure, from Maharajahs, Rajahs and other well-to-do persons who have not the slightest interest in the matter?

"(3) Has not the Prime Minister declared that it is a dangerous precedent to grant money from the public Exchequer for meeting the educational cost of a particular class? If so, what has led the Government of Bengal to deviate from this sound principle?"

Particulars of a most remarkable case, already noticed in these columns, have just reached us, in some detailed form, from Giridih. Our correspondent says that on the application of the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh, the Judicial Commissioner has issued a commission to the Munsiff of Giridih, under the provisions of Act XXXV of 1858 (The Lunacy Act) to enquire into and report upon the alleged incapacity to manage his affairs, due to unsoundness of mind, of Raja Sarada Narayan Singh of Gadi Sirampur, admittedly the "most enlightened Zemindar" in the Subdivision of Giridih. The avowed object of the application is to take away the control of the Raja's estates out of his hands and put them in charge of the Court of Wards. The Raja stoutly maintains that he is as sane and sound as his accusers, and has engaged Babu Indro Nath Bannerjee, the well-known pleader of Burdwan, to defend himself. The Civil Surgeon, who was deputed to examine the Raja, has, we are informed, submitted a report against the latter. The case is of such a unique character that it has naturally created the greatest possible sensation in the locality, specially as the Raja is held in great esteem and affection by the general public for his enlightened views.

The May number of the "Indian World" contains a thoughtful paper over the heading of "Protection to Raiyat." It is evidently from the pen of a writer who is thoroughly conversant with his subject, and who can give points. It is a criticism of the Bill drafted by the Government of Sir Andrew Fraser for amending the Bengal Tenancy Act VIII of 1855. The reader is aware that the Bill is one of those measures which, though small, is fraught with dire results. No wonder, therefore, it should cause such alarm both among the Zemindars and Raiyats of Bengal. Its object is to give protection to the Raiyats from the alleged oppressions of the Zemindars, but, its effect will be the further widening of the bad relation that has already been created between these two limbs of the Bengal community by various Acts of Government. The writer has illustrated this point very clearly. Indeed, the matter is so simple that it is a wonder it did not strike the authors of the measure, the "ma baps" who take such paternal interest in the welfare of the people. In order to understand the situation properly, one must go through the paper carefully.

What is most amusing is that the Government should introduce the Bill apparently on the assumption that the Zemindars oppress their tenants, when a more heartless and rack-renting land-lord than the Government itself does not exist in the whole world. Only compare the condition of the raiyats who live in Government estates, and that of those who hold land under private Zemindars. The difference will be at once seen. The Government by its Certificate Act can render the lives of its raiyats simply miserable. The private Zemindars have, however, no such engines of oppression in their hands. If the raiyat refuses to pay rent the Zemindar must seek the help of the court to recover it. With the help of the Certificate Act, however, the Government can realize its rent from the raiyat simply by issuing a ukase. When the ukase is issued the raiyat is bound to pay the rent without any protest whatsoever. So what often happens is that not only is cent per cent collection of rent the rule in the Government estates, but the raiyat is rather made to pay more than what is due from him. When the Government has repealed its Certificate Act and some other equally cruel measures which it possesses to recover rent most arbitrarily, it will be then time for it to talk like a saint and accuse the Zemindars of oppressive conduct to their raiyats. "Brother needle," says sieve, "why have you that ugly hole in you?" That is the position of the Government when it adopts a sanctimonious tone and talks of the oppression of Zemindars to their tenants.

SCRAPS.

Babu Jadu Nath, an accused in the Krishnaghur defamation case, surrendered himself on the 9th instant and was released on a bail of Rs. 100, two Muktears standing security for him. It is now rumoured that the defence will try to get the case transferred to some other district.

A very young—rather a boy—civilian has been posted to Krishnaghur as Assistant Magistrate. He has been there only for a short time, and within this period, he hasmade his presence felt there. He suffers from a peculiar malady. He can not bear sound of any kind, which disturbs the equilibrium of his judicial temperament. So he has passed a strict order that no carriages, either of the Muktears or other persons, shall pass through the road in the rear of his room. As one can well imagine, this order has put those who travel by carriages to great inconvenience, for they are now obliged to get down their carriages at a place, which is at some distance from the Muktear's sitting room. But this is not all. The young official will not allow anybody to pass through the verandah of his compartment.

If our Chupra correspondent is to be credited, the Commissioners of the local Municipality have a grievance which they do not find anyhow to remedy. Mr. Bonham-Carter, the District Magistrate and Collector, is the Chairman of the Municipality. He proposes all the resolutions himself, but he reads them so inaudibly that many Commissioners fail to catch his words and thus do not often understand what is going to be proposed or what is going to be done. As Mr. Bonham-Carter is "ma bap" of the district, the Commissioners can not make bold to say so openly to the official Chairman; for who knows it may not offend him? They thus follow the golden rule of silence. The Chairman on his part construes this silence into approval of his resolution and records them as passed. In this way, the working of the Chupra Municipality is going on apparently very smoothly.

Babu Jatindra Mohan Sing Deb, Zemindar of Harakristopur, thana Barjora, shot dead a tiger on 10th May last, at a place 7 miles west of Sonamukhi. The brute had attacked one Kunjo Ghose of Barakura. The man ha managed, somehow or other, to escape and run to Babu Jatindra Mohan to give him the "Khubber." Without a moment's delay Jatindra Babu, armed with a gun, accompanied Kunjo to the place where the brute had been seen. The brute was still there and the unerring shot of the Shikari put an end to its life. An impression prevails that this tiger is no other than the one known as the Manikbazar tiger. The fact of the sudden disappearance of this well-known tiger from the scene of his depredation goes a great way to strengthen the popular belief.

A notice dated 28th October last was served on the 16th of November on the owner of holding No. 79 Shambazar Street for removing two service privies. The owner wanted to know the grounds on which the notice was served and the Corporation replied that the privies were "ill-lighted, ill-ventilated and beneath a bed room". The owner agreed to make the necessary improvements as far as practicable. The owner of the holding was then informed that a prosecution had already been started against him. The case instituted by the Corporation came up for hearing on the 28th of April last, when the owner of the house got one month's time from the Magistrate for getting permission from the Municipality and making necessary improvements to his holding. On the next day a plan for the alterations was sent to the District Engineer of the District No. 1. It was however returned under some technical grounds. The plan was again submitted on the 1st of May. No reply was received till 10th idem, when a reminder was sent by the owner to the District Engineer reminding him that the case was an urgent one as the necessary repairs would have to be made before the 30th idem up to which date the Magistrate had allowed time. But nobody cared for it. A second reminder was again sent on the 23rd, but this too, could not move the District Engineer. In the meantime, the one month's time granted by the Magistrate expired and the case duly came up for hearing on the 1st June. The accused explained the circumstances under which the repairs could not be completed within the allowal time. But all the same the poor man was fined Rs. 20 for the so-called offence.

The question of the enlargement and reconstitution of the Canning College has been under consideration for some time and to have it in accordance with the most modern plans it is deemed necessary to erect buildings at a place where more space be available than at Kaiser Bagh. It was therefore proposed to remove the College to Badshah Bagh and to utilize the present college building for a public library, which is a chief want of Lucknow. The estimated cost for the purpose was three lakhs, and Maharaja Bhagabati Prosad Singh Bahadur of Balarampur has written to the Lieuttnant-Governor of the United Provinces offering the said amount in three instalments. The Maharaja deserves the thanks of the public.

The Madura correspondent of the "Hindu" writes:—The outlook of the "Kodai" season also may not be cheerful, and we suffer from a dearth of food for animals also. The season is indeed far from encouraging. It is tantalishing to have a few drops of rain followed by a brisk sunshine. Last week we had smart showers; but these do not appear to have extended to the suburbs. Famine prices are prevailing; but our authorities will think otherwise. People have begun to find it hard to feed themselves or find work. And yet the Madras Government wants to lavish a few lakhs of rupees on what are called "Public offices" in Madura.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, May 26

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK.

"Be calm in arguing; for fierceness makes
Error and fault, and truth discourtesy".
—"Herbert."

"There are clouds in front, you say?
Never mind!
There are rocks upon the way?
Look behind.
Just remember all the sun
Since life's journey was begun;
All have paths that upward wind,
Never mind-"
—"Mabel Greenwood."

"Only when the political edifice is erected on the rock of principle, and not upon the sands of opportunism, can it withstand the waves of national prejudice, and the tempest of natural passions."
—"J. G. Goddard, in "Racial Supremacy."

THE NEW MUNICIPAL SCHEMES FOR CALCUTTA.

Those who are asking many questions in Calcutta about the new schemes that are under consideration for the decentralisation of the administration of the city, will be interested to hear that the matter was the subject of a question in the House of Commons yesterday. Mr. Galloway Weir was the enquirer, and his question ran as follows: "To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that the Municipal Government of Calcutta, established by Lord Northbrook in 1876 and developed by Lord Dufferin so that out of 75 members of the Corporation 50 were elected by the ratepayers, has during the last few years been reorganised in such a manner as to reduce the number of elected members to 25 and thus place them in a perpetual minority; and, in view of the fact that a committee has been appointed to prepare a scheme whereby the administration of Calcutta will be broken up into boroughs, will explain why no member of the Corporation of Calcutta has been appointed to a seat on that committee?"

In his answer Mr. Brodrick completely ignores the first part of the question; he cannot be expected to be familiar with the events of about five years ago which roused such indignation in Calcutta, though that excuse does not apply to the permanent officials who were not busy, as was the present Indian Secretary, with designing new caps for soldiers and other military matters. But an answer is given with regard to the constitution of the decentralising committee. Says Mr. Brodrick: "The committee of six (three being Europeans and three Natives) appointed by the Government of Bengal to work out a scheme for decentralising the work of the Calcutta Corporation, includes two members of the Corporation. A third member of the committee was recently a member of the Corporation. I am unable to say," he continues, "why no elected member of the Corporation is on the committee, but having regard to the fact that of the three Native gentlemen on the committee one is a Judge of the High Court and two are members of the Bengal Legislative Council, I have no reason to suppose that any better selection could have been made." This is no answer to the insolent folly of gagging the ratepayers of Calcutta, and they do well to be angry. The idea of instituting in Calcutta the system of London's Borough Councils is extraordinary, for here the Councils are entirely elected by the rate-payers; the Government of the country has no authority in the matter. So if this scheme is introduced into Calcutta, the reactionary legislation of the past few years will be swept out of existence, and the city will have complete self government. But if this is not the case, the new decentralisation scheme will not be that of London's Borough Councils. Who can suppose that the Government of Bengal intends to revolutionise the municipal affairs of the capital by allowing all elected, and no nominated members of the proposed Borough Councils?

Mr. C. J. O'Donnell is moved to protest against the insult to the Indian rate-payers of Calcutta by a letter which appeared in the "Daily News." He quotes the condemnation of the "Englishman" that not a single elected commissioner of the Calcutta Municipality has been appointed to a seat on the decentralisation committee, and remarks, "It is apparent that the intention is to insult, to tell the Indian rate-payers of the capital of India that the British Government does not care a Jackstraw for them, their elected representatives, or their 'mere native' opinion."

AN INTERESTING INDIAN GATHERING AT CAMBRIDGE.

During the Easter Term at Cambridge the Majlis always hold their annual dinner, and it takes the form of a social function from which, by a self-denying ordinance, political questions of a controversial nature are excluded. Last Friday was the date fixed for this year's gathering, and the evening proved to be special interest. The work of the Majlis is becoming more and more recognised in Cambridge, as an English guest at the dinner remarked, as worthy of the highest praise. "It is, I consider, the most laudable Society of its kind, producing, as it does, healthy and liberalising interaction between Eastern and Western minds."

Syed Ali Bilgrami, who now resides in Cambridge, was the chairman at the dinner, and a number of distinguished members of the University showed their sympathy with the Majlis—and with India—by their presence. Among them were Mr. J. K. Mozley, President of the Union Society, Mr. D. H. MacGregor, Fellow of Trinity, Mr. C. R. Redd- Secretary of the Union Society, and Mr. Griffiths, President of the Welsh Society. Major Hassan attended the dinner, and among those who were unable through previous engagements or press of work to be present were Sir William Wedderburn and Pundit Shyamaji Krishnavarma. It had been hoped that His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda would have been able to accept the invitation of the Majlis, but though this was impossible, he sent a letter expressing his real sympathy with the movement and wishing it a career of great prosperity. Another disappointment was the absence of His Excellency Viscount Hayashi; it was hoped that he would represent Japan on the occasion, but he was unable to do so, though his sympathy with the Society was not wanting. In honouring the royal toasts, Syed Ali Bilgrami referred to the loyalty of the Indian people and of their deep attachment to the late Queen. Major Hassan, proposed the toast of "India," and spoke of social and educational questions. In response Mr. V. N. Mehta, Vice-President of the Society, spoke of the advantage it is for the Indian youth to come into touch with western life and ideals, for if he sees nothing but his own country, there is the possibility of the deepening of that "Weltschmerz" that outlook on the world in which pain, rather than joy, is predominant, to which, Mr. Mehta affirmed, the Indian mind is unfortunately but too prone. Mr. J. K. Mozley, in his speech proposing the toast of the Majlis, emphasised two special characteristics of the Indians—their hospitality and their readiness to render service—as worthy of the highest praise. Among the other speakers were Mr. Macgregor, whose humour gave gaiety to the proceedings, Mr. M. N. Basu, ex-President of the Society, whose departure from Cambridge is a matter of regret to his many friends, Mr. S. N. Bannerjea, President of the Sister Society in London, Mr. R. C. De, Mr. N. C. Sen, Mr. S. K. Sen, Mr. V. S. Sukhtkanker. All who know the Majlis will wish them more and more success in the excellent work for India which they carry on at Cambridge.

THE AFGHAN TREATY

The publication of the text of the treaty between the British Government and the Amir of Afghanistan took the form of a White Paper, and has, of course, given rise to much comment. The treaty itself is so short, and the agreement decided on merely a confirmation of that with the late Amir that no absolutely new policy has had to be discussed. The chief point of comment is that the frontier between India and Afghanistan is not the real frontier which the Indian Government pledges itself to guard, but Afghanistan's frontier which meets with Russian territory. This fact, you may be sure, has called forth a number of articles showing the folly of any policy of reducing military forces—an outcry, in fact, of the forwardest of Forwards. The question of railways in Afghanistan is held to be of vital importance when, as is expected, the Russians precipitate themselves across the northern border of the Amir's country. He must oppose them; it is doubtful whether he will be successful, and, if the "Mighty Government of India and Representative of the Exalted British Government" does not come to his help, he will consider that they are not keeping their promise. And, how to get a force of British and Indian troops into Afghanistan without railways? Mr. Balfour's statement recently in the House of Commons on the question of the defence of India and of railway building in Afghanistan is regarded in many quarters as likely to lull nation into a false sense of security, so the military drum is being beaten with energy and persistence. It may be interesting to Indian readers, in this connection, to know the exact figures of the military expenditure of the principal European Powers for 19094. Great Britain, including India, heads the list with the enormous sum of £53,000,000; Russia comes next with £40,000,000; Germany, £32,000,000; France £27,000,000. One of the staunchest Conservative morning papers declares that the British taxpayer gets a bad return for his money. There is too much drawing-room influence, and want of sound general education among officers. This pushing forward of India's frontiers is a matter of gravest concern, and comes back to the old injustice that India is made to pay for Imperial interests. Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji sends a timely letter to the "Daily News" on this point; it is to be feared that even he is only a voice crying in the wilderness, even though supported by the great Liberal dailies, the "Daily News" and the "Daily Chronicle," as well as the "Morning Leader." In the course of his letter, Mr. Dadabhai quotes from a Dispatch of the Government of India, March 25, 1890, the real import of India's vast military expenditure. Here are the exact words: "Millions of money have been spent on increasing the army in India, on armaments and on fortifications to provide for the security of India, not against domestic enemies, or to prevent the invasions of the warlike peoples of adjoining countries but to maintain the supremacy of British power in the East." The veteran puts into strong and forceful languages the fear that is at the heart of every Englishman who looks on Indian affairs through other than official spectacles. He says: "Now, may I ask whether it is just and worthy of the British name, conscience, and wealth to burden India with this expenditure? India, impoverished, bleeding, and perishing by England's draining of its wealth of over thirty millions every year, and thereby afflicted with famine and plague!" It is not just; no one can assert that it is, and the only way to meet the alarmist policy is for the British Treasury to supply the needful money. But there is no Mr. Gladstone in the House of Commons now, and there seems little chance that the small return to India made by the great Liberal statesman towards the cost of a past incursion into Afghanistan will be repeated to-day. India does well to protest, and her voice must be insistent and urgent.

In this connection, too, mention must be made of the brief, but pointed, letter of Colonel Hanna to "The Times" a few days ago. Referring to the fact that it was believed "Napoleon certainly thought an invasion of India could be accomplished," Col. Hanna emphatically declares this to be a fallacy. He says, "When in 1801 the Emperor Paul laid before Napoleon a plan for the invasion of India, the latter, seeing clearly the insuperable difficulties of such a gigantic operation, asked him the following pertinent question: 'Supposing the combined army be united at Astrabad on the Caspian Sea, how do you propose it should get to India, through countries almost barbarous and without resources, having to march a distance of 1,800 miles from Astrabad to the frontiers of Hindustan?'"

AN INDIAN'S PICTURE OF THE AMIR.

Among the many articles that have been published with regard to the treaty the one that carries most weight because of the writer's special qualification of knowledge, is that written by Shaikh Abdul Qadir, and which appeared in the "Westminster Gazette" last Monday. The Indian Muslim expresses surprise that the unusually long stay of Mr. Dane's Mission in the Amir's capital only resulted in a confirmation of the old treaty. He hints at further questions which were no doubt under consideration, and, in thus doing, finds himself

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

in agreement with "The Times" which, two days after the appearance of the Shaikh's article, remarked in a leading article: "It is no secret that for some time past there have been various questions connected with the discharge of our potential obligations towards Afghanistan and with the fulfilment of the Amir's obligations towards us, which the Indian Government was anxious to see satisfactorily and definitely settled. There is nothing in the treaty signed by Mr. Dane to show that any such result has been achieved, though we must hope that he brought away with him in some other shape a practical solution of those questions....." Another remark of "The Times" on the subject is interesting; it says: "One is somewhat at a loss to understand why it should have been necessary for a special mission to spend four months in the Afghan capital negotiating so simple a matter." However, to return to the Shaikh. He shows that the rough and ready justice of the late Amir, which worked upon the fear of the people, had effectually put down disloyalty, and that even after his death there was a prevailing belief that Abdur Rahman Khan was not really dead, but that he was hiding somewhere to see how the people behaved. Any effort at disturbing the peace or interfering with his son's accession, would, it was believed, bring him from his place of concealment to mete out punishment with still greater severity. Yet the despot and, of course, his successor, would receive even the poorest peasant who presented himself at a durbar. No distinction of rank or position hinders the humblest of the Amir's subjects from coming to lay his personal grievances before the ruler of the land, and immediate redress is frequently afforded. The Amir has wisely decided to influence and moderate the fanatical spirit of his subjects against "unbelievers" by means of education. The Shaikh goes on to declare that to treat Afghanistan as an independent kingdom and a friendly Power of great promise is the clear line of action for the Government of India. The publication in the treaty of a new title for the Amir, "His Majesty Siraj ul-millat-wa-ud-din Amir Habibulla Khan," will do something to disperse the unfavourable impression which the designation "His Highness" always caused, but the Shaikh goes further and states that the Amir "is as keen on keeping the right of Kabul to administer its internal affairs without outside counsel or guidance as was his distinguished father, and does not like the idea of being led by the Government of India, while the latter is not seldom anxious to adopt that role if possible." The private life of the Amir and his deep regard for his religion well supports his claim to be the spiritual as well as temporal head of his people as signified by the name he has chosen, just quoted, "Lamp of the Faith and the Religion." This fact gives him increased influence and stronger power, and, says the Shaikh, "the British Government could, with advantage, do more than stretch a point of official courtesy to win his hearty co-operation and friendship." In a friendly Afghanistan will be an impenetrable barrier against Russian invasion.

THE AWFUL DEATH ROLL FROM PLAGUE.

Whether it was Dr. Creighton's lecture last week on plague in India, or the recent case of plague which invaded the British Isles by being brought into the Scotch port of Leith, quite near to Edinburgh, or the strictures of the "Lancet's" Correspondent in India, it is certain that more attention is now being paid in this country to the terrible death roll of plague victims in India. "Our fellow subjects in India are dying actually by the million yearly of this awful scourge. How many Englishmen who hear a great deal of talk about Empire know this hard fact?" This is the comment of the "Daily News" on the latest published figures. Mr. H. W Massingham, writing on Parliamentary affairs, gives public voice to the feeling that is growing in the House of Commons as to the ravages of the disease, and to the need for making the true meaning of the "ghastly figures" realised by the nation. Sir Walter Foster and Mr. Herbert Roberts are doing good service by extracting official information by means of questions to the Secretary of State for India, but it is felt that "this horrifying state of things must be subject to discussion in the House, and the Government is bound to remove all hindrances to such a debate." Possibly, these appalling figures may have some influence, if backed by a strong opinion among Members, in inducing the fulfilment of Mr. Balfour's half promise yesterday to Mr. Herbert Roberts that he would if possible give time for a discussion of Indian affairs before the end of the session as is usually the case. Mr. Roberts asked for an early day after the Whitsuntide recess, but the Prime Minister would give no pledge as to date, he merely stated that, in consultation with the Secretary for India, he would do his best to ensure Indian affairs coming on earlier than usual. Mr. Massingham compares the number of deaths in London at the time of the Great Plague in 1665 with those in India to-day. London lost one hundred thousand people, but in the first three months of this year 471, 744 people in India have fallen victims to the scourge. And during these three months more people have died from plague in India than succumbed in three years between 1896 and 1899 when the plague was considered to be at its worst. And all this goes on in a country which is loudly acclaimed to be "prosperous." The "Patrika" has truly remarked that there is little chance of the Prince and Princess of Wales seeing the real India during their forthcoming visit. The sight would be horrifying and disillusioning, but it would convince their Royal Highnesses that the abject poverty of the people makes the better houses and better food, recommended by Dr. Creighton, an absolute impossibility. It would be well if this painful lesson were driven home not only to the Royal Family but to the British nation at large.

THE VICEROY AND THE PEOPLE.

Mr. O'Donnell's letter begins and ends with a denunciation of Lord Curzon's policy with regard to the princes and people of India, and with his accustomed directness of expression, he maintains that the Viceroy has been allowed "to sow the seeds of bitterest hatred in India." He insists that the Indian people are thoroughly loyal, but intimates that such a feeling may change, and the apathy of the Liberal Party is as blameworthy as the "crude, vicious race in solence of the Jingo." "There is a large element of sadness in it," he observes, "and it is heartrending to men who know the kindliness of the Indian nature to see hatreds taking the place of good will and 'Imperialism' setting up its Moloch of racial supremacy and racial degradation in Hindustan." True as this is, it is well that the British public should see how Lord Curzon's policy is breaking down minor barriers and welding into a whole the diverse peoples of India. This is clearly set forth this morning by the Calcutta Correspondent of the "Daily News"—a Correspondent and a journal to whom Indians owe much. He declares that good is coming out of evil in this respect: "he has united in one common opposition Hindoos and Mahomedans, ladlords and cultivators, traders and professional men." He instances the successful Conference at Mymensingh as proof that Hindoos and Mahomedans are not united in their grievances against the Government. Few British readers, probably, knew anything of the excellent and most useful conference at Mymensingh, but from the Calcutta communication a large section of the people here will come to understand that it was not merely an opportunity for disappointed Indian graduates to protest against a Government which will not employ them, but men of middle age and ripe experience, cultivators in rustic garb, and tradesmen all joined in the proceedings and made speeches, either in English or Bengalee, which proved that they understood the conditions and needs of their district. Besides which there were more Mahomedan than Hindu speakers. Thus has Lord Curzon impelled the community to sink all differences of creed and class, and helped the promotion of true union in India.

MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Chupra, June 7.

Here is a Bungalow attached to a "sarai" founded by one Babu Bannari Lal. This "sarai" and the Bungalow are now under the control of the Municipality. The Bungalow is capable of fetching a monthly rent of Rs. 30. It was however let to Mr. Agesi a Municipal overseer, on Rs. 20 per month Subsequently Mr. Agesi made an application to the effect that he has a number of children and dependents and he can not afford to pay Rs. 20 as rent per mensem and our gracious Chairman was kind enough to reduce the rent to Rs. 10 per mensem. Some pucca sheds are going to be erected in the Municipal market. About Rs. 19,000 has been estimated as the cost. Several contractors were willing to undertake the job. But for some inexplicable reason the work has been entrusted to Messrs. Butler & Co. And Babu Syama Charan Ghosh B.L., a Municipal Commissioner, and Mr. Bull, the District Engineer, were appointed to examine the materials furnished by Messrs. Butler & Co., before they were used, but there is no knowing whether they ever inspected the aforesaid materials, and, if so, when and what their report was nobody knows. In fact, there is nothing tangible for the Municipal Commissioners to act upon. There is a so-called bridge over a Municipal drain near Dhannu Singh's house. This so-called bridge consists of a few planks having loose earth spread over them. It is in such a condition that the other day a loaded bullock cart was going to be upset while passing over it. Besides, the filthy water that accumulates beneath this apology for a bridge is a veritable public nuisance.

BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY.

In our issue of the 30th ultimo, there appeared a correspondence regarding the working of the Shalimar Terminus by the railway staff and also an editorial note regarding the removal of at least the Goods Superintendent's office of the Railway to Calcutta. A copy of the "Patrika" embodying them was sent to the Consulting Engineer for Railways and here is the reply he has vouchsafed to the same:—

No. 403.

From Mr. H. Savory, Offg. Consulting Engineer to the Govt. of India for Railways, Calcutta.

To The Manager, Amrita Bazar Patrika.

Calcutta, the 9th June 1905.

SHALIMAR TERMINUS, B.N. RAILWAY

"Sir,—In acknowledging, with thanks, a copy of your paper of the 30th May 1905, with a marked paragraph containing correspondence regarding the working of the Shalimar terminus of the Bengal Nagpur Railway and an editorial note, I have the honour to state that the matter has already had my attention."

"I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
"(Sd.) H. R. Walton.
"for Offg: Consulting Engineer for Rys.
"Calcutta."

There is no doubt of it, the matters alluded to above deserve serious attention of the higher authorities and we are glad to find that the remarks made in these columns on the subject did not escape the notice of the Consulting Engineer. We need hardly say that the recent block and the consequent disorganisation of the goods works at Shalimar is far from creditable to the management of the Bengal Nagpur Railway. Indeed, information reached us long before the occurrence of the block, that such a thing would unevitably happen some day or other and we really wonder that the Railway authorities who reside so near the terminus were taken by surprise when the goods workings actually came to a standstill. We are sorry Mr Marsh instead of showing any consideration to the merchants who have sugered heavy loss on account of the mismanagement of his Department, sought to absolve his subordinates from all their responsibiilties by throwing all the blame on the merchants themselves! This is certainly an injustice done to the latter. We again urge the authorities to make a sifting enquiry into the matter and publish the report thereof for the information of the trading community.

As for the removal of the Traffic Headquarters to Calcutta, we need hardly say that it is of utmost importance to the railway authorities and the public alike. We know that with Head-quarters at an out-of-the-way place as Garden Reach, the railway is very particular in acknowledging letters and issuing reminders, but it is not in this alone that the efficiency of a Traffic Department is constituted.

The season in the Central Provinces has been adverse to tht linseed crop. The outturn, according to the final forecast, is 79 per cent of the normal, giving an estimated yield of 66,700 tons, which is 14 per cent below the outturn of the previous year. In Berar the outturn amounts to 11,000 tons, which is 41 per cent below the yield for the preceding year.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

The Rolt Case.—We have reason to believe that the Rolt case is engaging the attention of the Government of India.—"I. D. News."

The High Court.—The appeals from the Original Side will be taken on and from Monday viz., the 3rd day of July next.

Plague.—There were 13 cases and 9 deaths from plague in the city on Monday, the 12th instant, when the total mortality from all causes was 72 i.e. 14 more than the average of the previous five years.

Municipal Chairman.—Mr. C. G. H. Allen, Magistrate and Collector, on leave, is appointed to act as Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, during the absence, on leave, of the Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer C.S.I.

Mr. Greer.—The Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer, C.S.I., Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, is allowed combined leave for six months and two days, viz., privilege leave for fourteen days and furlough on medical certificate for the remaining period.

A Gazette Notification.—The current "Gazette of India" contains a notification by the Government of India in the Foreign Department the effect of which is to announce that in making selections of candidates for the Political Department, much weight will be given in future to a thorough kowledge of the French language.

Weather and Crop in Bengal.—The following is the general summary of the weather and crop report in Bengal for the week ending the 12th June:—Rain is reported from every district except Gaya, Shahabad, Balasore, Puri, Hazaribagh and Singhbhoom. The fall was generally light except in parts of East and North Bengal where is was heavy. Prospects of standing crops are generally good, but rain is needed in Bankura and the Sonthal Parghanas. Cattle-diease is reported from ten districts. Fodder and water are generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in eight districts and fallen in three.

Application Against a Shaheb.—On Tuesday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, Chief Presidency Magistrate, a peon, Mahomed Hossein, in the employ of Mr. J. Owen living in the upper flat of No. 2 London Street, made an application against one Mr. Walker, living in the same house, under the following circumstances. On the 11 instant at 6 p.m. while the applicant was seated with other servants opposite the cookroom of their master, Mr. Walker happenced to pass them by on his way to the table. On seeing Mr. Walker coming, the three other servants stood up at once but the applicant, in trying to put his shoes on, was delayed a little. This evidently offended the Shaheb, an altercation ensued and Mr. Walker, as alleged, gave the applicant such a slap that the latter fell down on the ground. The applicant made the appeication under sections 504 and 352 I. P. Code. The Court after hearing the facts, ordered the police to warn the defendant not to interfere with the applicant.

Murder at Barrackpore.—An atrocious and cold-blooded murder was committed at Nowabgunge near Barrackpore on the afternoon of Sunday last. One Shyma Charan Neogy fell in bad company and contracted evil habits from his boyhood. His elder brother finding all remonstrations useless ulitmately turned his younger brother out of the house and gave preremptory orders to all the inmates of the house that Shyma Charan should not be given food or shelter in that house on any occasion. One day Shyma Charan came to the house and demanded his meals from his elder brother's wife who refused on accounts of her husband's strict orders. Just at this time the elder brothers appeared on the scene and Shyma Charan ran away. On the day of occurrence Shyma Charan again returned to the house and demanded food from his sister-in-law who, as before, refused to comply with his request. At this the young man lost his patience and rushed upon his brother's wife with a sharp "dao" which he picked up from the room. The woman was out to pieces. Shyma Charan then himself went to the local Police Station with the fatal weapon in hand and his clothes besmeared with blood. At that time he also showed some signs of insanity. He told the officer in charge of the thanna that he had committed murder. On Tuesday the accused was placed on his trial before Mr. Birley, the Sub-divisional Officer of Barrackpore. The trial is proceeding.

Fearful Importation of Foreign Articles.—Despite the outcry against cigarette-smoking raised by "experts," there is no sign of abatement in its popularity. On the contrary, statistics and common observation alike show that the use of the delicate paper-covered little tube of tobacco is daily assuming larger dimensions. In this respect India follows the rest of the world. The figures quoted in the report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1904-1905 bear eloquent testimony to the increase of cigarette-smokers in this province. The cigarette in Bengal has come to be the centre of the tobacco trade. In the year under discussion the value of cigarettes rose from Rs. 16,94,344 to Rs. 21,07,217, or by 24.3 per cent, the total quantity of cigarettes imported being five hundred and eighty-four millions. This enormous expansion, the Collector of Customs shrewdly remarks, "is due to the fact that the habit of cigarette-smoking has caught the fancy of the Indian." So far the Indian has been progressing along the same road as the European—one whiff of tobacco makes the whole world kin. The same, however, cannot be said of another article of importation which shows analogous increase. Of the total value of spices Rs. 39,75,669, we read, no less than Rs. 34,21,070 is accounted for by betel-nuts, imports of which rose by 41.7 per cent. These were chiefly from the Straits Settlements; and, in spite of higher prices, there can be no doubt that the sole reason for the large trade was the cheapness of the foreign compared with the Bengal article. The report contains a surprise in the statement that the importation of condensed milk from the continent of Europe is also on the increase. No one would have suspected it who has watched the herds of sacred cows grazing on the plains of Bengal. Yet such is the fact. This trade has only been recorded separately for three years, but during that period the expansion has been great, the figures for the respective years being 379,134, 890,875, and 1,102,275lb., while the total imports into British India during 1904-1905 exceeded 4½ million lbs. It is believed that the two largest producers of this milk on the Continent have amalgamated; if this leads to economy in working and consequently to lower prices, the imports into India may be expected to increase still further. Surely, the time has come for the "goalas" to set their dairies in order.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

London, June 11.

Reuter at St. Petersburg learns officially that there is no question of nominating plenipotentiaries at this juncture. Whatever meeting is now arranged is merely for the purpose of communicating the Japanese terms which will be referred to St. Petersburg, and if the latter finds that they constitute an admissible basis of negotiations then plenipotentiaries will be appointed.

London, June 11.

Japan and Russia's replies accepting President Roosevelt's proposal reached Washington last night; both express gratification at the offer and goodwill. It is known that France from the outset supported Roosevelt's efforts, and brought powerful influence to bear on her ally to accept the proposal.

London, June 12.

Reuter's Tokio correspondent wires that the Japanese on the 9th inst, expelled the Russians from a series of positions north and north-east of Changtufu.

Reuter's Tokio correspondent says that in reply to President Roosevelt's note Baron Komura has handed a note to Mr. Griscom, the United States Minister at Tokio, saying that in desiring the re-establishment of peace on terms which would fully guarantee its stability Japan will appoint plenipotentiaries at a time and place mutually convenient for the purpose of negotiating and concluding the terms of peace.

The above shows that Japan's conception of the object of the proposed meeting in nowise coincides with the view of Russian Foreign office, the limitation of which causes some misgiving in Diplomatic circles in St. Petersburg. It is felt that, if the Russian attitude is maintained the present movement will lead to nothing. Others regard the attitude as a natural endeavour to avoid the impression that Russia is determined before hand to accept Japans terms. The publication of the text of the Russian reply is awaited with anxiety.

London, June 12.

Russia has consented to appoint delegates to discuss peace and will possibly appoint plenipotentiaries later. Six days' armistice is likely to be arranged. Russia's decision to appoint delegates whereas Japan is prepared to appoint plenipotentiaries immediately is regarded ominously.—"Englishman."

London, June 12.

Russia has agreed to appoint Plenipotentiaries as suggested by Japan.—"Englishman."

London, June 12.

A telegram from Washington says that after a conference between President Roosevelt and the Acting Secretary of State, Mr. Taft, it was announced that in view of the situation disclosed in the official advices received the publication of the replies was withheld, as President Roosevelt wishes first to transmit them formally to St. Petersburg and Tokio respectively. This will finish the preliminary negotiations and practically conclude America's work. Russia and Japan are then expected to arrange an armistice followed by a meeting of representatives at a place suggested by Japan, at which Japan's terms will be stated and transmitted directly to the Tsar, and if acceptable to him there will be a meeting of Plenipotentiaries probably at Washington to arrange a treaty.

A telegram from Washington says that Count Cassini has notified to President Roosevelt Russia's acceptance of the proposition and added that Plenipotentiaries would be appointed to discuss the question of peace. Mr. Meyer's telegram on Saturday was merely a forecast of the reply. A subsequent exchange of communications with St. Petersburg modified the Russian attitude.

This has produced a great impression at St. Petersburg.

London, June 12.

Russia's reply was handed to Mr. Meyer this afternoon.

GENERAL.

London, June 12.

Lord Roberts earnestly appeals for hundred thousand pounds for a new scheme, promoting rifle-shooting and physical training on a large scale; the fund has already been opened.

London, June 12.

As the result of Lord Kitchener's recommendations to the Government of India, the regiments of Indian Army will henceforth be included in the War Office monthly and quarterly lists.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN RAILWAY RECEIPTS.

Simla, June 10.—The earnings of the Indian Railways since the beginning of the current official year have been keeping slightly ahead of those of the corresponding period of 1904, which was itself a record season. The returns published for April and May show an advance of ten lakhs of rupees upon the earnings in the same months last year, the improvement being chiefly due to better traffic upon (a) the Bengal-Nagpur, (b) G. I. P., (c) North-Western, and (d) Rajputana-Malwa lines. The traffic on a) the East Indian, (b) Oudh and Rohilkhand, (c) Bombay-Baroda, and (d) Indian Midland on the other hand is behind.

ENCOUNTER WITH CRIMINALS.

Allahabad, June 11.

The Agra Police have just had a sanguinary encounter at village Syian in which firearms were freely used on both sides. Two notorious criminals named Damar Singh and Karna were killed. The leader of the Police, an Indian Sub-Inspector had his horse shot under him and was himself shot through his leg. Many villagers who helped the Police were wounded by the ruffian Dambar Singh, who, when surrounded and unable to use his rifle, stood at bay with a sword and faught with the ferocity of a wild beast until he got coup de grace. Two others consisting of 13 and nine men with firearms were also captured. Yet another, named William Seymour, with many aliases, it is alleged, posed as a wealthy Harsey man and obtained cheap rides at the expense of some officers of the station. A firm of local chemists and other shop-keepers were also done in various ways. The man is now under trial in the court of the Cantonment Magistrate.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE DIR AFFAIRS.

MOVEMENT OF THE COLUMNS.

Simla, June 12.

As there are no further troubles in Dir, orders have been issued for the demobilisation of the Malakand moveable column which will return to stations in accordance with the following programme:—

24th Hazara Mountain Battery, 35th Sikhs 45th Sikhs, No 30 Native Field Hospital left Chakdarrah on the 11th June, Dargai on the 12th, Jallola 12th, Mardan 13th, Nowshera 14th.

Guides Cavalry accompanied by a squadron of the 21st cavalry leave Chakdarrah on the 13th, Dargai 13th, Mardan 14th. Squadron 21st cavalry leave Mardan on the 15th, Charsada 15th, Peshawar 16th.

Guides Infantry accompanied by Double company 54th Sikhs and half No. 34 Native Field Hospital leave Chakdarrah on the 13th Dargai 13th, Jallola 14th, Mardan 15th. Double company 54th Sikhs and half No. 34 Native Field Hospital leave Mardan on the 15th, Nowshera 16th.

Half No. 4 Co. Sappers and Miners leave Chakdarrah on the 13th, Jallola 14th, Charsoda 15th and Peshawar 16th.

THE MONSOON.

Simla, June 12.

The following information has been received by the Meteorological Department from Southern Indian Ocean:—

Mauritius.—Pressure during past week has been .03 below normal, and the average wind velocity 7 miles an hour. Rain fell on three days and amounted to one inch.

Zanzibar.—Pressure has been .08 in defect and average wind velocity 5 miles an hour. Rain fell on two days and amounted to one inch.

Seychelles.—Pressure has been .02 in defect and average wind velocity 10 miles an hour. The rainfall of the week was less than four-tenths of an inch.

PUNJAB JAILS.

Lahore, June 10.—Sir Denzil Ibbetson, who has been inquiring into the conditions of Jail life in the Punjab has communicated to the Inspector-General of Prisons the following interesting observations on the administration of the past year:—The year 1904 exhibits a further satisfactory decline in the number of prisoners of all classes admitted to Jails and lock-ups in the Punjab. The fact that the decline in admissions has been specially marked amongst persons engaged in agriculture points significantly to the general accuracy of the explanation put forward by the Inspector-General of Prisons, that the decrease is mainly due to better harvests and consequently easier conditions of life, rather than to any special regeneration or reform on the part of the criminal classes. There are, however, sufficiently clear indications that agricultural conditions do not form the only factor at work in stemming the inflow of the criminal population into our Jails, and the Officiating Lieutenant-Governor has read with interest the testimony of the Inspector-General of Prisons to the deterrent effect which has already been produced on the criminal classes by the firmness displayed by the Courts in dealing with the professional criminal, a type whose adequate treatment, both in and out of jail, forms one of the most difficult problems confronting three main elements of criminal administration. A striking increase in the number of prisoners sentenced to transportation combined with the rise in percentage of habitual offenders to total admissions, indicates that greater attention has been paid by the judiciary to the importance of dealing adequately with this type of criminal. The importance, and at the same time, difficulty, of effective segregation of the hardened criminal during the period spent in a Jail is emphasized in the report, and a suggestion put forward by the Inspector-General of Prisons, for the segregation of the most confirmed criminals in a separate jail, merits serious consideration. It may, His Honour thinks, be possible to effect some material advance in this direction by a careful re-distribution of the prison population, when the proposed Southern Central Jail has become an accomplished fact. But meanwhile, it must be recognised that an Indian Jail affords but a limited scope for the careful classification which forms an essential element in the English system, and that it is only possible under the present conditions to palliate the evil referred to. The tendency, upon which the Inspector-General remarks, to relax penal discipline, in the case of habitual offenders, in order to utilise their skill as handicraftsmen is one which should be repressed. The Officiating Lieutenant-Governor has noticed with satisfaction that an attempt that is being made to introduce some of the features of the Borstal System into the Punjab, by means of special treatment accorded to juvenile and adult prisoners in the Lahore and Montgomery Central Jails, and he wishes that it were possible to extend further the scope of a system which has already passed the experimental stage in England. The English experience of this system has shown however, that time is an essential element of success in dealing with this class of offender, and that it is useless to expect any marked reform in the case of short-term prisoners who are only subjected to the special regime for comparatively brief periods. The suggested introduction of a system of conditional condemnation on Continental lines into India has much to commend to but while fully appreciating the value of a reform which takes the casual prisoner from actual contact with jail life, and at the same time furnishes him with the strongest inducement to refrain from further crime, Sir Denzil Ibbetson believes that much may be hoped for from the existing law, if the opening which it already affords for judicious treatment of first offenders, is appreciated and intelligently utilized by the Courts. The strikingly low death-rate, which formed a special feature of last year's report, has been maintained during the year under review. The abnormally low death-rate of 19-88 per thousand forms a valuable testimonial to the sanitation of the Punjab Jails. Only one death from plague occurred, although the disease was raging in the province for three parts of the year.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

INDIAN NOTES

TRAVEL IN TIBET.

Lahore, June 12.—The Government of India have decided not to grant permits to military officers to travel in Tibet this year.

THE PLAGUE IN BURMA.

Rangoon, June 12.—There were 10 deaths last week from plague at Hlaigu, in the Pegu district. The houses have all been thoroughly disinfected and the usual precautions taken.

A RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER VESSEL.

Colombo, June 12.—An official announcement made at Colombo to-day states that information has been received that a supposed Russian Volunteer vessel was observed at Pulo Pisang, Malacca Straits, going north, on June 10th. The source of the information is undisclosed.

THE YEU CANAL.

Rangoon, June 11.—A despatch has been sent to the Secretary of State containing estimates for the construction of the Yeu Canal in Upper Burma at a cost of Rs. 40,-00,000. The Canal will take off at the point of the Mu river opposite the Shwebo Canal, and it is intended to irrigate the land lying west of the river.

OBITUARY.

Agra, June 12.—The well-known vakil, Mirza Hamid Hussain, B.A., L.L.B., is dead. He was a very popular and public spirited citizen. As Vice-Chairman of the Local Municipal Board he took an intelligent interest in the welfare of this city. The funeral was largely attended. The chief mourner was Mirza Habib Hussain, B.A., of Lucknow, the deceased's son-in-law.

A SUIT IN DAMAGES.

Rangoon, June 12.—Mr. J. V. Thales, late a clerk in the Public Works Department Secretariat, is suing in the Rangoon Chief Court the Secretary of State in Council for Rs. 15.000, being damages for wrongful dismissal from Government service. The dismissal took place so far back as December, 1899, but plaintiff states that a considerable time was occupied in the correspondence which passed between the Government and himself on the subject.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCKS IN SIMLA.

Simla, June 10.—Two small earthquake shocks took place here last night and this morning after several days' quiescence.

Simla, June 11.—Two more earthquake shocks—one of them somewhat prolonged—occurred here last night, and attracted more attention than most of their recent predecessors, this week's storms having driven nervous people who have been sleeping in tents in the open back into their houses. No damage however was done.

SYSTEMATIC BURGLARY IN MERGUI.

Rangoon, June 12.—Within the last week the houses of three Government officials were visited by burglars in Mergui. The first was that of the Deputy-Commissioner, Mr. Grant Brown, from which a sum of Rs. 900 in cash and notes was stolen. The following night the Gymkhana Club was visited and cases of wines removed. The next was an unsuccessful attempt on the house of the Headquarters Magistrate, Mr. Crawford. All these houses are in the centre of the town and within a hundred yards of the main police station the town lock-up and the Treasury guard, yet no clue to the thieves has been obtained.

PUNJAB COPYRIGHT CASE.

Lahore, June 12.—A suit by the "Civil and Military Gazette" against a pleader at Amritsar and another for infringement of copyright has been heard by the District Judge. Mr. Lala Kesho Das, who decided for the plaintiffs on all the issues and made severe remarks against the first defendant, who used the second defendant, a relative and a man of straw, as cover. The objections that there can be no copyright by a journal, that official patronage destroys copyright, that a publisher should warn of copyright on the title page, and that long continuance of the offence condones it, were decided against the defendants.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO DELHI.

Lahore, June 12.—The Municipal Committee at Delhi has for the present allotted Rs. 10,000 in connection with the Royal visit; Rs. 500 for an address of welcome, while a silver casket, enamelled with gold, will cost Rs. 1,000; and Rs. 2,000 will be spent on repairing and ornamenting the road between the railway station and the circuit house, where the Royal guests will be accommodated. Government has ordered an addition of two rooms to the house at a cost of over Rs. 3,000. Fireworks on the occasion will cost Rs. 3,000, and Rs. 1,000 will be spent on illuminating the city, and another Rs. 1,000 on sweets for the students of the various local schools and colleges. The members of the Municipal Committee are also collecting money among themselves to feed the poor two days consecutively in honour of the visit.

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* The Dalhousie Square.—It is apparent that the citizens of Calcutta are not disposed to look on without protest at the work now going forward in Dalhousie Square. The note of alarm which we sounded a week ago has been taken up in the columns of a contemporary, and we see that more than one indignant correspondent suggests the calling of a public meeting to protest against further interference with the Square. We cannot think that this outcry will surprise the Bengal Government, which was evidently aware when the proposals for the alterations were submitted, without details, to the Corporation that the scheme of reconstruction would arouse a great deal of opposition. It is now stated that the remodelling of the Square is part of a large scheme which includes the removal of the Dalhousie Institute. This building, it is said, obscures the view of the Square from the windows of Government House, and the official opinion is that no unsightly object should be allowed to stand between the occupants of Government House and what one correspondent calls, no doubt ironically, the architectural beauties of Writers' Buildings.—"Statesman."

ANOTHER WAZIR RAID.

Simla, June 12.—The post at Gurguri in the Kohat District was raided by Wazirs on the 9th instant. One sepoy was killed and two wounded, and two rifles were carried off.

MR. PENNELL'S SUIT FOR DAMAGES.

Rangoon, June 11.—In the suit, in the Chief Court, of Mr. A. P. Pennell against Mr. D. Wilson, Divisional and Sessions Judge of Hanthawaddy, for Rs. 15,000 damages for libel, the defendant in his written statement alleges that the letters upon which this action is based were written in the discharge of judicial duty, and the defendant in good faith believed himself to have jurisdiction to send them, and consequently this suit is barred by Act XVIII of 1850. The letters to the plaintiff upon which the suit is based were preceded and followed by correspondence regarding the same case between the defendant and the Judges of the Chief Court. The letters now sued upon were written because plaintiff was reported in the Press to have stated that the defendant was suffering from painful eye disease. The plaintiff was further reported to have said that the defendant had not read even the depositions of the witnesses and had failed to record two-thirds of the answers given by them. Every one of these statements was false. Defendant claims that the letters are not libellous and contain correct statements of fact which were made in self-defence and were therefore privileged. He denies any diminution in plaintiff's practice. The present suit is frivolous and vexatious and should be dismissed.

THE DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS IN INDIA.

A batch of leaflitts from the Entomologist to the Government of India contains a deal of information which ought to be of extreme interest to those concerned in growing crops. The majority of the leaflets deal with destructive insects and sprinklers and sprayers and other ingenious methods mostly American, of doing them to death. But some insects are quite beneficent, and Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy has a particularly valuable Note regarding the six-spotted lady-bird beetle, if chilomenes sexmaculatus is to be translated into the vernacular. This insect, we are informed, is really quite common in India. In appearance it is a small beetle, like half a pea, of yellow colour with black marks. It is to be found on many crops, in gardens, on vegetable plants, at all times of the year." Unfortunately many people think it is a destructive insect and take measures accordingly. A glance at a sick plant may show the beetle, but the smaller and really destructive insects may be passed over and not seen. As a matter of fact the life of the six-spotted one is spent in devouring the little insects that attack crops and garden plants. The greenflies which cluster in millions on the leaves of the cotton-plant on the pulses, pumpkins, and the like form the special food of the chilomenes sexmaculatus, to the ceaseless hunger of which must be credited the fact that many crops come to maturity which otherwise would be destroyed. In these circumstances it is not surprising that Mr. Maxwell-Lefroy should write: "It is important to be able to recognise this insect at a glance in all its stages, and to teach others the value of this insect so that it may get every possible opportunity of doing its valuable work." The Government Entomologist then goes on to describe the life-history of the insect. Its general appearance is illustrated by a cut and the methods by which it can be more easily recognised are elaborated. The eggs are yellow, almost cigar-shaped, and are laid in little clusters of from ten to twenty, each being about one-twentieth of an inch long. The grub is nearly black in colour. It has three pairs of legs, a body set with spires and tapering to the hind end, and is nearly black. There is much more information of this kind, and altogether a good many people should have much reason to be grateful to Mr. Maxwell Lefroy.

THE FIBRE INDUSTRY.

A correspondent, in the course of a communication dealing with the merits of the rhea fibre, enlarges on the fact that speculation in cotton has had such an adverse effect on the spinning trade that spinners would welcome a rival fibre. He suggests that the Cotton Association, which has already done such good work within the Empire, should also devote its attention to rhea, which grows where cotton grows and in some places where cotton will not grow. The correspondent adds some interesting facts with regard to flax, the spinners of which have also been suffering recently but for other reasons. The largest proportion of flax used in Scotland comes from Russia, and of recent years the complaint has been made that the flax imported from the latter country has been very poor in quality. "Year after year the crop gets poorer in quality. The old-fashioned method of retting the flax from the straw gets less attention in the hurry of the peasants to get their crops into the market and realised, or the crop is so late that a great part of it, either in the process of drying or retting, is caught by the snow and does not come into the market until the following Spring, or a backward season makes the flax late in being pulled and the water in which the flax is retted is too cold to do so properly, or the seed is too poor in quality to produce good clean flax." It has also to be remembered that the Russian peasantry, like the Indian, have not the education necessary for the scientific cultivation of the crop. Their chronic state of poverty also prevents them from properly manuring the ground to produce better crops. Year by year the ground has been becoming more unfruitful for lack of manure. Now, to make matters worse, has come the war. It was stated that the 1905 crop would in any case be bad because the seed sown was poor, but in addition there are now the facts that the peasants have been called into the reserves, and those who have not been so called are mixed up in agrarian disorders of all kinds. The state of Russia is one which must react unfavourably on all Russian exports. Hence the necessity for finding a substitute for flax. Our correspondent states that rhea is a very good substitute.

The Indian Meteorological Department is anxious to find out in connection with the monsoon how much electricity there is in the air of Ceylon. Mr. G. A. Cunningham arrived a day or two ago at Colombo on a three weeks' tour of investigation, and will proceed almost at once to Adam's Peak, and from there he will go to Nuwara Eliya.

BRUTAL MURDER AND A MUNSIFF'S VALOUR.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Jamalpur (Mymensingh) June 9.

Here are the particulars of a cold-blooded murder perpetrated here, on the 6th instant at about 6 p.m., the alleged murderer being one Doma Bin. Doma and one Rameswar Kurmi used to live together in the house of a local pleader since sometime past. On the day of occurrence, the accused asked Ramsewar's wife to fetch water for him from the river. The woman accordingly went to the river-ghat but was followed by the accused, who had a Khurpi in his hand. While returning with water, she was, it is alleged, murderously assaulted by the accused with the Khurpi. The poor woman was pressed down under water till she life was wrung out of her. The motive for this brutal murder is not yet known.

The scene of occurrence was very close to our local Munsiff's house. The Munsiff Babu's wife hearing somebody screaming at the river-ghat, sent her cook to enquire what the matter was. The cook went to the spot; and the accused threatened him to take his life also by a blow of his Khurpi. He got frightened and went away to bring some more men for arresting the offender. In the meantime, the man went to his house and taking an axe in one hand and a dao in the other he issued forth into the main road of the town, As he went on he aimed blows at those who happened to make any attempt to arrest him. The man was then in a state of frenzy and was brandishing his axe and dao with a view to kill those who would attempt to arrest him. Nobody therefore ventured to arrest him.

Our local Munsiff, Babu Jnanendra Ch. Banerjee, however, reached the spot at this time. He brought a revolver immediately and followed the murderer as he proceeded along the road. He fired twice, taking care that the shots do not hurt the man, to thwart and outwit the man but to no effect. The man turned round and attempted to deal a death blow at the Munsiff. The latter cocked his gun and the man through fear entered a narrow pathway having on its either side rows of huts occupied by "Todiwallas". The situation was now very dangerous. Nevertheless our great hero (Munsiff Babu)) fired for the third time and the bullet this time whizzed past one of his legs. Thus brought to bay, the murderer left his axe and dao, and one Fela Banua caught hold of him. With the help of a Choukidar Fela took him to the local thana and made him over to the Police. The deadbody of the deceased woman was found out the next morning by the Police with the help of nets.

When the man was caught, it was quite dark. That being a "haut" day, the road was very crowded, and had not our Munsiff Babu interfered then and there, there would have been some more murders and many more would have been seriously wounded.

This is not the solitary instance of Jnanedra Babu's heroic acts. A few months ago, he saved the life of a drowning man at a great risk of his own life. Our best thanks are due to Jnanedra Babu for his noble acts and heroism.

MR. ADDIE, OUR DIST. JUDGE.

(From an occasional correspondent.)

Pubna, June 10.

Mr. W. S. Addie is still our District and Sessions Judge. He has gone to Bogra to hold there the criminal sessions for this quarter. He will be back in our midst very soon. How we wish Mr. Addie, both for his own sake and that of the people, were in the Finance Department, where as a great mathematician, he would have done exceedingly well. This is all the more to be deplored, as he has failed to give satisfaction to the public as a Judge. His knowledge of both civil and criminal business is not at all profound.

No doubt cases are gone through by him, but they are rather disposed of and not "decided." His training befits him to fill a professional chair in some Government College, say the Ranchi College of Sir A. Fraser. As an administrator of justice, he seems to be out of his element. Life being short and litigation long, one having to appear before him to conduct cases finds himself at a great disadvantage, as his method is that the pleader should begin from the very beginning, i.e., from the very elementary principles of law and remain prepared to be constantly interrupted by such expressions from his honour as "wait a bit," "achcha" "bus" although the hearing of these expressions is not oftentimes intelligible at all. Mr. Addie has been found on several occasions to use language to pleaders which is hardly complimentary to them. All things considered, Mr. Addie, as I have said, should be relegated to the Finance Department, which seems to be his forte. It is a pity he should be allowed to vegetable and waste his mathematical genius in court of justice in a benighted District.

The Administration Report of the Mysore Police Department for 1903-4 states that the Kolar Gold Fields Police, was particularly unlucky in detection in the matter of dacoity, though it is hoped that several of the cases will be detected during the current year, a notorious gang having been run down, and property recovered from them in the North Arcot District. The Gold Fields is very unfortunately situated being, within a few miles of British Territory on two sides and having within its borders a large floating population. Dacoity also is by far the most difficult crime to deal with, as it is generally resorted to by the most daring of professional criminals who have all the tricks of the trade at their finger ends. It is seldom if ever that dacoits can be caught flagrante delicto and in consequence there is generally only circumstantial evidence to go upon, on which most Courts are very loath to convict. The real remedy is prevention rather than cure. The number of house-breakings still continues large. This is partly attributable to the general prevalence of plague everywhere in the Province, with the consequent evacuation of villages and towns. This added greatly to the difficulty of watch and word, as the Police were unable to keep an eye on the Health Camps, as well as on the evacuated houses. On the Gold Fields alone 44 Officers and 89 men received Rs. 1,067 in rewards. Of this amount Rs. 915 was paid out of the special Gold Fields grant under "Detective Police" principally for services rendered in the recovery of stolen gold.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The report of the Survey Committee is now being finally passed by the Hon'ble Mr Miller, and should reach the Government of India towards the close of this month.

Mr. Tong, the Chinese Envoy, will now proceed to Simla to close finally the negotiations regarding the Tibet Treaty. The version recently published in the China papers is not quite a correct one of the revised treaty.

The use of sulphur against the red spider blight in the Assam and Dooars tea districts has been more or less general recently, and it is gratifying to learn that the results have been exceedingly good. In the Dooars it is the exception to find a garden in which this means of getting rid of this blight is not in use. We are informed that Mr. H. H. Mann, the Scientific Officer of the Indian Tea Association, has another report in preparation on the mosquito blight and his recent investigations amply justify his former conclusions.

Rooting up the foundation of an old building in the hamlet of Gourgom, near Meude, has brought to light the buried ruins of a great city of Roman Gaul, of which all vestiges had perished. This was the city of Veyrune, known to have been in existence in the third century of a, and believed to have been overwhelmed by some great catastrophe. The very site was unknown. There has been found among the ruins a fine silver urn containing a large number of Roman coins, almost fresh from the Mint, and beautifully preserved. They bear the effigies of the Empress Julia, Maximilian Alexander, Severus, and other Emperors.

The "Indian Daily Telegraph" says: "But for the ready generosity of the Maharaja of Bulrampur we are afraid the scheme for providing Canning College with premises on a scale commensurate with its present requirements would have remained in abeyance for an indefinite period, and we must congratulate the Maharaja on the public-spiritedness shown by him in providing a solution of the difficulty confronting the Committee in the matter of funds, and thus enabling them to carry out a much needed project. The example afforded by the Maharaja might well be taken to heart by the Government, and the present would appear to be a fitting opportunity for reconsidering their obligations to the College. The amount now due in respect of arrears of grant and interest is about seven lakhs. We commend the matter afresh to the attention of the Government."

His many friends in Southern India says the "Madras Mail" will sympathise deeply with the Hon. Mr. Murray Hammick in the circumstances which have led to his relinquishing the officiating appointment of Home Secretary to the Government of India, namely, the serious illness of Mrs. Hammick which compelled him to hurry back to Octacamund from Simla. It is satisfactory, however, to learn that Mrs. Hammick is now progressing favourably, though she is still very ill. Mr. H. H. Risley, the permanent Home Secretary, has taken only three months' leave; and we learn that Mr. Harold Stuart, Director of the Criminal Intelligence Department, who, like Mr. Hammick, comes from Madras and is an expert in Police Administration, will officiate as Home Secretary in addition to his own duties until Mr. Risley's return. Mr. McCracken remains on meanwhile as Deputy Director of the Criminal Intelligence Department. Mr. Hammick returns to his local appointment as officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, and Mr. H. Bradley reverts to the Board of Revenue.

The announcement in "Bombay Government Gazette" that the necessary licence has been granted by the Government of India to the Brush Electrical Engineering Company to supply electricity to the town and island of Bombay is a welcome indication that the luxury for which Bombay has been waiting for years is at last approaching attainment says the "Times of India." The Brush Company are now authorised to supply current for lighting and power purposes. Two years are allowed them for the laying down of cables in the principal business and residential portions of the city, but it is a matter for congratulation that the public will not have to wait so long for electric light or electric punkahs. The Brush Company have proceeded with the installation of their plant, while Government has been considering the question, and during the past year several miles of cable have been laid down, and a generating station erected. Arrangements are now being rapidly pushed forward and we understand that the company expect to inaugurate their service some time next month.

A Correspondent reports the following sensational incident from Moga (Ferozepore): The whole public of Moga is horror struck at the alleged dastardly attack made by one Azim Ullah Khan, Reader in the local Munsiff's Court, on the Munsiff himself at his house on the 4th instant. Lala Ghasi Ram, the Munsiff, has served the Government for about 30 years and is well-known for his integrity, impartiality and hard work. It is alleged that the Reader was fined Rs. 5 that very morning for disobedience of some orders, and came at about half past two to the Munsiff's house. After sending away for some message the Pankah coolie who was with him at that time, the Reader shut the door behind him and caught him (the Munsiff) while he was lying on his couch by the throat and on his crying out for help shut his mouth with his hand and began to throttle him. Thereupon a struggle ensued between them and the Munsiff while grappling with the Reader was thrown on the ground and received some injuries on the knees and the back, but as fortunately the Pankha coolie had returned bp this time and hearing the Munsiff's cries had rushed to his help, he got release from the man's hold and ran out of the room in a semi-unconscious state and called out for help. The Tahsildor, a Vakil and the Doctor were at once called in and the last gentleman examined his injuries. The matter was telegraphed to the District Judge for his necessary action. It is said that the Reader was openly at loggerheads with the Munsif, the reason being that the latter is highly scrupulous and does not entrust the Reader even with such mechanical work as dating the summonses, etc. The public is anxiously and with beating heart awaiting the decision of the District Judge.—"Tribune."

Calcutta Gazette.—June 14.

GENERAL DEPARTMTNT.

Babu Probodh Chandra Chatterji, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to the head-quarters station of the Bhagalpur district.

Mr. G. Milne, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is appointed to have charge of the Sadar subdivision of the Howrah district, on being relieved of his present appointment as Officiating Magistrate and Collector of Shahabad.

Mr. W. A. Marr, substantive pro tempore Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to act, as Magistrate and Collector of the Shahabad district.

Miss Ethel Naomi Sarah Bruce is appointed to be Assistant Head Mistress, Dow Hill Girl's School, Kurseong.

Dr. W. Booth of the Indian Educational Service, is appointed to act as Inspector of Schools, Rajshahi Division during the absence on leave of Mr. C. W. Peake.

Mr. Frank William Arnold is appointed with the sanction of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to be Head Master of the Dacca School of Engineering, with effect from the 16th May 1905.

Mr. W. D. R. Prentice, Officiating Joint Magistrate and Deputy Collctor, Howrah, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Avinas Chandra Mukherjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed medical leave for six months.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

Babu Mohendro Nath Mukerji, Subordinate Judge, Jessore, is appointed temporarily to act, as an Additional Subordinate Judge of Khulna, in the same district.

Babu Khogendra Nath Datta, M.A. B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of the 24-Parganas, to be ordinarily stationed at Barasat, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Jugul Kisor De.

Babu Ram Chandra Ghose, M.A., B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Bagerhat, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Bepin Behari Ghose.

Babu Prafulla Chandra Dutta, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Backergunge, to be ordinarily stationed at Patuakhali, during the absence, on leave of Babu Behari Lal Sarkar.

Babu Lalit Mohan Basu, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Cuttack to be ordinarily stationed at Bhadrak, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Debendra Nath Sarkar.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Maulvi Syed Ahmed, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, under orders of transfer to Kishoreganj, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Radha Krishna Goswami, Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to the head-quarters

The Lieutenant-Governor empowers Babu Abani Kumar Sen, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Narayanganj, Dacca, to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

The Lieutenant-Governor empowers Babu Radhika Lal De, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Mymensingh, to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

The Lieutenant-Governor empowers Maulvi Abul Khair Kabeeruddin Ahmed, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Magistrate, Faridpur to take down evidence in criminal cases in the English language.

The gentlemen named below are appointed substantively pro tempore to the fifth grade of Sub-Deputy Collectors and are posted to the Presidency Division:—Maulvi Abdul Ghaffar, B.A.,; Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea, B.A. They are also vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

Lieutenant-Colonel H. C. Banerji, I.M.S. Civil Surgeon, stationed at Nadia, is allowed privilege leave for three months.

Captain A. G. McKendrick, I.M.S., is appointed temporarily to act as a Civil Surgeon and is posted to Nadia.

The following is the judgment delivered by Mr. F. Hannyngton, I.C.S., Divisional Magistrate, Ootacamund in a case of deflamation which occupied his attention on Monday. Mr. L. W. Schmidt, appeared for the prosecution, and Mr. S. A. Walker for the defence. The judgment gives an idea of the case:—"Accused is charged with an offence under Section 500 I. P. C. at the instance of Mrs. Theobald, boarding house-keeper of Ootacamund, under the following circumstances. He came over from Rangoon where he is an Engineer on the Port Trust and stayed with his wife in Mrs. Theobald's boarding house, and left in the middle of April last. He appears to have been greatly dissatisfied with the board and lodging and left without paying after having a dispute with Mrs. Theobald as to the charge. He ultimately sent the money through Mr. Maddox, School Master at the Lawrence Asylum, accompanying the remittance with the letter which is the cause of the present case:—The defamatory statements in the letter alluding to Mrs. Theobald are as follows:—"I should have preferred her going into Court, when I would have had an opportunity of showing to the public the vile character of this woman who treated us most cruelly." (2) "Had it not been for this dreadful headache of mine I would have made an example of this wretched woman at any cost. The moral tone of her house must degrade any person who may have misfortune to reside there." (3) We have been most unfortunate to go into Mrs. Theobald's filthy (yes, in every way) boarding house." The accused admits having written the letter to Mr. Maddox, and having asked Mr. Maddox to send a copy of it to Mrs. Theobald, he merely says that when he called Mrs. Theobald a "vile woman," he meant that she had a bitter tongue and that when he alluded to the "degrading moral tone of her house" he alluded to one of the boarders having complained twice of being assaulted. The language used is, however, altogether, too strong for such trivial matters. There can be no doubt that such language used about a boarding house-keeper would be detrimental to her character and business. Unless strictly true such allegations are libelous and fall under no exception provided for in the code. Accused appears to have been in bad health at the time and to have written with more heat than the occasion warranted. Finding him guilty under Section 500 I.P.C., I sentence him to pay a fine of Rs. 50. Rs. 25 of this will be paid to Mrs. Theobald as compensation for any loss she may have sustained.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

VIOLENT SCENE IN PARLIAMENT.

SPEAKER SUSPENDS THE SITTING.

London, May 23.

One of the stormiest scenes witnessed in Parliament for many years occurred at the House of Commons last night.

For a whole hour the Opposition by incessant noise rendered business impossible; and in the end the Deputy Speaker put into force for the first time a new rule empowering him to adjourn the House in the event of "grave disorder."

The trouble arose out of a reply to a question put by Mr. Soares, who asked whether it was the intention of the Government to authorise the British representatives to discuss preferential trading at the Colonial Conference in 1906. Mr. Balfour said that it would be impossible to restrict the discussions at the Conference.

This was held by the Opposition to be a departure from an alleged pledge by Mr. Balfour at Edinburgh that the matter would not be brought before a Colonial Conference until the country had been consulted.

"Am I to understand," inquired Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, "that the right hon gentleman is not bound by anything he said in his speech at Edinburgh?"

"How could anybody be so bound?" returned Mr. Balfour. "The right hon. gentleman is discussing it every day on the public platform, and I suppose I may be allowed to answer him."

He assured the House that he did not intend to depart from the policy announced in his Edinburgh speech—that no system of fiscal reform would be adopted before being submitted to the country. At the time he had not in his mind the Colonial Conference of 1906.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman asked leave to move the adjournment of the House "to draw attention to the statement made by the Prime Minister that the question of Colonial preference will be submitted to a Colonial Conference in 1906." (Mr. Balfour—I never said that.) Well, "may be submitted before the country has had an opportunity of expressing its opinion thereof."

The whole of the Opposition rose in support of leave, and the motion was consequently put down for nine o'clock.

SCENE OF UPROAR.

In the ensuing debate Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman stated his case against Mr. Balfour in regard to the Premier's alleged contradictory statements as to whether preference is or is not to be discussed by the forthcoming Colonial Conference.

"If it is true," concluded Sir Henry, as a crowded House listened intently, "that the country has been misled, we have to judge what effect that will have upon the dignity and character of a British Prime Minister and upon the honourable traditions of this House."

Before the echo of the rousing cheer provoked from the Opposition by this sentiment had died away Mr. Lyttelton, the Colonial Secretary, was observed standing at the Treasury table, prepared to reply.

"The Prime Minister——" he began.

A roar of surprise, of indignation, rose from the Opposition benches.

"Balfour! Balfour! The Prime Minister must reply!" shouted two hundred voices.

"The Prime Minister——" recommenced Mr. Lyttelton, resting one arm on the brass-bound box, and surveying with the immutability of a sphinx the surging, excited members before him.

"Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister——" Seizing the opportunity that seemed to present itself in a temporary lull. Mr. Lyttelton tried once more to make himself heard. He tried for five minutes.

"Balfour! Balfour! Balfour!" reiterated the Opposition; and above the hubbub came the strident cry of an Irishman, presumably addressed to the Premier, "You are running away."

MR. LYTTELTON'S ORDEAL.

Another five minutes elapsed and still the Colonial Secretary, the personification of self-possession, with only a slight flush on his immobile features to indicate that anything unusual was happening, stood mutely at the Treasury table, shifting his position now and again whenever the crash of voices fell to a drone and promised a chance of being heard. Just as promptly the uproar increased a hundredfold.

"No! no! no! We will not hear you," bellowed and hissed the Opposition, the members rocking in their seats under the stress of excitement, some standing up with threatening menaces.

"You have no authority to speak," cried Mr. Ellis, quivering under the stress of his emotions.

"Balfour! Balfour!"

"Let him defend his own honour."

"Let him fight his own battles!"

Above the maelstorm of voices only these intelligible words could be distinguished.

And in the midst of it all, in his characteristic semi-horizontal position, a smile curving the corners of his mouth, his glance rivetted upon nothing in particular, sat the Prime Minister—the only composed and one of the very few dignified figures in the Chamber.

Another five minutes—ten minutes—a quarter of an hour elapsed. Mr. Lyttelton still on his feet.

"The Prime Minister——" he commenced a score of times. And as often his words were drowned in the tumult of noise.

"Police! Police! Call in the police!" finally cried a dozen Irishmen.

Mr. Winston Churchill rose. Unionists relished by refusing to hear him. Thereupon the junior member for Oldham placidly walked to the Speaker's chair and at the steps attempted to utter what he had to say. A perfect hurricane of noise swept across the Chamber.

"Send for the Horse Guards!" someone advised. And the words were taken up—"The Horse Guards! The Horse Guards!"

"And don't forget the Irish Constabulary!" interjected a Nationalist, raising a laugh when the outlook was beginning to look very serious.

"This is the first Assembly in the world!"

"This is the mother of Parliaments!"

Above the discordant shrieks came these satirical remarks.

Then Lord Hugh Cecil rose, and he was greeted with a shrill whistle—an unaccustomed sound in the House of Commons.

Mr. John Dillon appealed to Mr. Lowther, the Deputy-Speaker, to suspend the sitting.

Afterwards Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman rose, but Ministerialists declined to hear him. He besought Mr. Balfour to reply to the criticisms passed upon him.

"He is the sole cause of this disorder," declared Sir Henry, whereat the din rose higher than ever.

Finally Mr. Balfour said a few words, but apparently the Opposition were not satisfied.

Mr. Lyttelton once more resumed his position at the Treasury table.

"Go to the Old Bailey!" advised an Irishman, and again the monotonous cry. 'Bal—four!" came in a stertorous chorus.

"Is this a Punch-and-Juddy show?" a Nationalist wished to know.

At half-past ten Mr. Lyttelton had been on his feet for exactly an hour without having proceeded any further than "The Prime Minister."

As there was no prospect of preserving order, the Deputy Speaker adjourned the House under a rule put into operation for the first time empowering him to take such action in case of "grave disorder" within the Chamber.

Still bubbling with excitement the members thereupon trooped out.

Among the spectators in the Distinguished Strangers' Gallery were Lord Cadogan, Lord Spencer, Lord Goschen, and Lord James of Hereford.

London, May 24.

The Prime Minister in the House of Commons yesterday consented to give an opportunity for the discussion of a vote of censure on the Government, provided that it took place "under ordinary conditions of decency and fair play."

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman based his request for a day on the confusion created by recent declarations of Ministers with regard to fiscal policy and, in particular, to the proposed Colonial Conference.

Mr. Balfour administered a severe rebuke to the Liberal Leader, who, he said, had taken no steps to prevent the disgraceful scene of the previous night.

"A DISGRACEFUL SCENE."

Echoes of the previous night's storm stole into the House of Commons yesterday. Electricity still lingered in the air when members assembled.

An unusual crush for seats forced members, even Mr. Brodrick, Secretary of State for India, to squat in primitive fashion on the steps of the gangways. Mr. Chamberlain, nimble and smiling hurried into the House, interested no doubt to see if developments would occur of the scene in which his policy figured though he himself was absent.

A chastened, shamefaced aspect was presented by the crowded Opposition benches Radicals looked crushed and remorseful—humbled by "the morning's reflection" upon their conduct of the night before. They raised a weakened, timorous cheer as Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, smilelessly unresponsive, walked into the House. A different and whole-hearted roar of welcome greeted Mr. Balfour.

"Rule Britannia!" came the strident cry of an Irishman.

"See the conquering hero comes" quoted Mr. Jeremiah McVeagh.

But the Opposition seemed dispirited and guilty, and these Hibernian witticisms missed their mark.

Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, with the air of a man bent upon brazening the thing out, rose and asked the Prime Minister to appoint a day for the moving of a vote of censure on the Government "in view of the confusion created by recent declarations of Ministers with regard to fiscal policy and in particular to the proposed Colonial Conference."

Mr. Balfour and Sir William Hart Dyke rose simultaneously. The latter was accorded precedence.

OPPOSITION DISSENT.

"I pray leave," he said, "to ask the Prime Minister in the possible event of his giving facilities for another discussion, if he will make an appeal to the Leader of the Opposition to offer some expression of regret—(fierce cries of dissent from the Opposition)—for the obstruction—(a ripple of Radical "Oh's")—and insulting language—("Police! police!" "Order, order!" "Sit down!")—levelled against a Minister of the Crown."

Sir William laboured patiently and determinedly against the obstruction, his concluding words being scarcely distinguishable above the riot of voices.

Mr. Lough appealed to the Deputy-Speaker to say that the words "insulting language" were unjustifiable, and Mr. Lowther agreed that although "some expressions used on the previous night were of a somewhat offensive character he would not call them insulting."

This inspired the Opposition to demand a withdrawal of the words, and Sir William complied, "out of respect for the Chair."

Then Mr. Balfour rose to the accompaniment of a rousing cheer from his followers. His face bore an unwonted look of sternness; a note of reproach sounded in his voice, as in a few admirably chosen, trenchant words he administered a severe castigation to the Radicals. Alluding to the Opposition Leader's words, "The confusion created by recent declarations of Ministers," Mr. Balfour pointed out that on the previous night "there were two Ministers present to clear up that confusion."

"They were prevented from doing so by the disgraceful scene which took place. I did not notice," added Mr. Balfour, while a hurricane of delighted cheers broke from the Ministerial benches, "that the right hon. gentleman took any steps to prevent it. I have no objection to giving time for the further discussion of the matter provided we have some undertaking that the debate shall take place under ordinary conditions of decency and fair play."

The House drifted into a humdrum discussion of the Finance Bill.

Not until evening was anything like a human interest imported into the debate. Income tax was discussed. Mr. Lewis moved an amendment reducing a tax to tenpence on incomes up to £5,000, and imposing an additional penny on incomes up to £10,000, and twopence beyond that sum.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, after exposing the pitfalls of graduation, mentioned that he was desirous of reducing the income tax.

This and other amendments were defeated by substantial majorities, and the House adjourned at 12.15.

BOWEL COMPLAINT IN CHILDREN.

During the summer months children are subject to disorders of the bowels, and should receive the most careful attention. As soon as any unnatural looseness of the bowels is noticed, Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy should be given. For sale by

All Chemists and Storekeepers Price 1 Re. ? Re.

PLANTAIN CULTIVATION.--V

(Special for the Patrika.)

Harvesting.

Now you can cut them and store them in your godown. Within five to ten days, after they are cut, they become fit for use. Sometimes it happens that they take about two weeks to become fit for use. There are some varieties which should be cut before they are over-ripe as in that state they become hard and lose their delicious taste. In cold weather they take a long time to become fit for use. In this season, if you like to eat them earlier, you should wrap them round with dry straw and put them in a box or receptacle so as to make them fit for use by artificial warmth. Plantains should not be eaten immediately after they are cut, as at that time they are destitute of their good flavor. Sometimes we see people putting lime marks on the fruits to make them ripe earlier. But I have not yet tried this means. If the fruits are eaten immediately after they are cut the flavor would be rather astringent. When they have taken deep yellowish color and become soft, they are then fit for eating.

Price and Cost.

There is a great demand of this fruit in the market. **There is no place in the world where** it is not sold at high price. According to the quality and flavor of the different varieties of this fruit, the price ranges from one fruit per pice to six, in our country. There are some places abroad, where each Saffari Kala (the best variety of plantains) is sold at two to six annas. Each "Kandi" contains five to thirty bunches of fruits. Each bunch again contains five to twenty fruits. If we fix the average produce at 10 x 10, it will give you at least 100 fruits at the lowest rate. If you sell them at five per pice, your income will be five annas per plant, per year. You will get three crops in succession from the same clump of three plants yearly. That brings you about fifteen annas or a Rupee per clump yearly. If you have 360 clumps of three shoots you get Rs. 360 yearly or one rupee daily. If you have 1½ bighas of land you can plant 384 plants at 8 cubits or 12 feet apart. This will bring about Rs. 384 a year. Deduct from this the cost of cultivation, as shewn below:—

Cost and outturn of 1½ Bighas.

		Rs.	
	Total sale proceeds as shown before	384	0
1.	Ground rent	3	0
2.	Cost of digging	7	8
3.	,, ploughing	5	0
4.	,, Laddering and breaking clods etc.	1	8
5.	Weeding jungles and after treatment	6	0
6.	Price of 384 shoots at half anna each	12	0
7.	Planting including digging pits	10	0
8.	Watering	2	0
9.	Supplying new earth to the plants	27	0
10.	Contingencies:—Such as carting plants to the site and other expenses such as driving and killing injurious animals and worms etc.	10	0
	Total Cost	84	0
	Total profit per year	300	0

Now your profit for 1½ Bigha is Rs. 300 after deducting the cost of cultivation as shewn above. No other crops will give you such a big profit. According to the above scale, the profit per bigha is Rs. 200 and the cost of cultivation Rs. 56 only. The produce per clump of three shoots as estimated above has been fixed at the lowest rates and the cost of cultivation at the highest rates. Generally we get no less than Re. 1-8 per clump every year. In that case your annual income would be about (300 plus 192) Rs 492 for a bigha and a half or Rs. 328 per bigha. One will no doubt wonder to hear that such a handsome profit may be derived from such a minor industry. But we will say from our experimental knowledge that it is really so.

How to Prepare Land.

Set apart three plots of lands of equal area. As soon as you begin harvesting your crops from the first plot, begin preparing the second plot for the second year so that when the harvesting of the first plot is finished, planting of the second plot is also finished simultaneously. When you are working in the second plot, prepare the third plot for the third year's crops. Now clear your first plot of all old roots and stumps and dig and plough it up and let it remain fallow for a year. Then again prepare it for the fourth year and so on. By doing this you will never be deprived of your earnings for the whole term of your life. When you have finished harvesting of a plot, uproot the old roots and stumps of that plot immediately. Never allow them to remain in your field as they will become the abode of earthworms etc., which **are great enemies of plantain trees, as I have told you before.**

But if you have but one plot of land plaint shoots in the intermediate space between two **clumps at equal distance for the second** year's crops. This you must do when you are harvesting the first year's crops. As soon as you have harvested the first year's crops, uproot the old roots and stumps and fill up the vacuum with new earth as stated before. Then prepare them for the third year's crops and so on. This will give you crops in succession for three years, after which the land will become unfit for future cultivation.

Old Proverbs.

Now I shall tell you some old proverbs which are even now regarded by plantain growers of this country as "Veda-Bakeyas" (sayings of the Vedas) with respect to plantain cultivation. These proverbs are really the best guides to plantain growers. In some of these proverbs we find the name of "Ravan" (the King of Ceylon) being mentioned. This seems to be very mysterious. We cannot find out what Ravan had to do with plantain cultivation. It seems to me however that in ancient days Ravan might have been one of the expert growers of plantains. But no history can tell us this. It is a patent fact that up to date Ceylon is one of the best plantain producing tracts in Asia. Cocoanut also grows well in Ceylon. Mango is said to have been brought to India by Hanooman from Ceylon. The best fruits in the world appear to have been cultivated in Ceylon in ancient times. The Ceylon mangoes of the present day are inferior to those of India. Therefore it seems that mango is not the native of Ceylon as it is said to have been. The soil of Ceylon also is not suited for mango cultivation. It might be that Ravan being the most powerful King of his time, had brought the best fruits under cultivation, in his own country. Up-country is the best mango producing parts of India. Rama was the King of Oudh. It might be that Hanooman (Ram's Vakta) had brought mangoes to Ceylon from the up-country and not to the up-country from Ceylon, as is said to be in certain fables. There are numerous fables in this respect told by people of different parts of India, But they have no foundations. This is one of the proverbs about plantain cultivation:—

"Plant three hundred and sixty clumps of plantains. Then go home and sleep all time. Never cut the leaves of your plants. They will provide you with food and clothing."

Isvar Chandra Guha.

Jamalpore Maimensingh).

THE BARISAL SENSATION.

THE CONTEMPT OF COURT CASE.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Barisal, June 10.

The following is the full text of the judgment delivered by the Sessions Judge of Barisal in the appeal preferred by Babu Ram Kanai Karmokar, Muktear, against the order of conviction and sentence passed on him by Babu Bhujendra Nath Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Barisal, under Sec: 228 I. P. C.

Judgment.

The appellant who is Muktear of the local Bar has been convicted under Sec: 228 I P. C. and been fined Rs. 5 under the following circumstances.

Babu Bhujendra Nath Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate, was trying a case under sec: 498 I.P.C. in which the appellant was defending the accused Basiruddi, an old man of about 60 years, who was examined as a witness for the defence. The Muktear for the complainant Babu Ram Charan Chatterjee in cross-examining him asked him if he was related to the accused; he said he was not. Then the witness was asked by what appellation the accused addressed him. He replied that he was addressed as "Bhai." The Magistrate * * * * The Dy. Magistrate * * raised his voice and angrily said to the appellant in English that he would draw up proceedings against him. Neither of the Muktears knows English, but the words "proceedings" and the Magistrate's tone of voice suggested mischief. So the appellant said that the Magistrate had full power to proceed against him, and Ram Charan Babu tried to pacify the Magistrate by saying that it was a petty matter and hoping that it would be overlooked. A proceeding under Sec: 480 I. P. C. was accordingly drawn up, and it was ordered that the appellant should be detained till the rising of the court, when he would show cause against his being punished under Sec: 228 I. P .C. for having interrupted the prosecution Muktear and having persisted in the interruption, in spite of the order of the Court and for having said to the court that it was at liberty to draw up proceedings if it thought fit. This proceeding was explained in Bengali to the appellant, and his statement was recorded. He was then asked to show cause. Later in the day a written statement was filed by the appellant explaining what had occurred. The Magistrate then thought it desirable to take evidence before passing final order as certain allegation has been made against the court. The court asked the appellant why he did not stop when he was told not to interrupt. The reply that he did not understand English has been construed into an admission that he disobeyed the order of the court. In his written statement it is said that the Magistrate used harsh language towards the appellant. The Magistrate remarks that as the appellant does not know English this allegation must be false. The tone of voice is as a rule sufficient to convey to another person the idea whether he is being addressed in terms of endearment or abuse. In the present instance it is evident that the Magistrate lost his temper, he spoke angrily and I can quite understand that his features betrayed his wrath. It was perhaps an exaggeration to put down in the writer's statement that the Magistrate's eyes became red and he puckered up his eye brows. After the proceedings had been drawn up it was ordered that the appellant should be detained in custody till the rising of the court. The Magistrate then humorously asked the appellant whether he would prefer to remain in hajat till the end of the day, or would remain in court. The Magistrate says that he did this as a favour although he was empowered to send the man to hajat. These gratuitous satire was quite out of place and only calculated to demean the appellant in the eyes of those present. However the appellant was not detained in custody for he was allowed to make argument and finish the case. A written statement was filed apparently about 7 p.m. and the Magistrate after commenting on the allegation in it orderd; "Under the circumstances I think it undesirable to pass any order myself. It is passed 7-20 p.m. now. Put up to-morrow, when I shall consider whether or not this case should be sent to the District Magistrate under Sec: 482 C. P. C." On the next day the Magistrate examined Ram Charan Chatterjee, Muktear, and convicted the appellant under Sec. 228 I. P. C. His reason for not proceeding under Sec: 482 C. P. C. is that the evidence of Ram Charan Babu proved that the allegations against the court in the written statement were not correct. The conviction has been challenged in appeal on the merits as well as on the point of law. The procedure contemplated in Sec: 480 C. P. C. is summary and it cannot imply anything in the nature of trial with the recording of evidence. The Dy. Magistrate has quoted a ruling of the Allahabad High Court (I. L. R. 11 A.M. 361) in support of his procedure. I do not think the Dy. Magistrate could have read the judgment of Mr. Justice Strate in that case. Had he done so, he would have seen that the procedure was considered irregular, but under the peculiar circumstances of that case it was held that the irregularity **was cured by Sec: 537 I. P. C.**

Since then it has been led down by the **presiding Council that disobedience** of an express provision of law as to mode of trial is not an irregularity curable by Sec: 537 C. **P. C. (I. L. R. 25 Mad. 6). This sec: was** never meant to cure irregularities in the nature of deliberate disregard of the provisions of the law under Sec: 487 C. P. C. The Dy. Magistrate was clearly debarred from trying the appellant for the defence as the Deputy Magistrate did not pass sentence on the day he took cognizance of the offence. His proceedings on the next day were illegal. Coming to the merits of the case I fail to see where the contempt of court comes in if a Magistrate so far forgets himself as to abuse the power given to him by Secs: 151 and 152 Indian Evidence Act and suggest improper questions to the cross-examining Muktear, I think the Muktear on the other side was not wrong in mildly protesting and pointing that the witness had already given an answer, and asking that the answer might be recorded. It appears that neither of the Muktears knew sufficient English and it was certainly improper of the Deputy Magistrate to speak to them in English and ask the appellant to stop interrupting the court. I am sure the Deputy Magistrate would have avoided all this trouble had he spoken in the language of the court, his own mother tongue. The interruption, if any, was pardonable under the circumstances. The appellant did not know what the Dy. Magistrate said to him in English and so there was no wilful disobedience of the court. I feel sure that if the Dy. Magistrate had spoken in Bengali the Muktear would have apologised for his conduct and explained everything. It is unfortunate that this incident has occurred to strain the relations between the Bench and the Bar and I hope that the matter will be allowed to drop here.

The conviction and sentence are set aside and the appellant is acquitted. The fine, if paid, must be refunded.

(Sd.) J. A. Ezechiel,
Sessions Judge.

Barisal, June 9.

THE RAILWAY BOARD IN MADRAS.

The visit, next month, of the Railway Board to the Madras Presidency is likely to have very important results, for the linking-up of the metre-gauge systems of Northern, Central and Southern India is a project that has been too long allowed to rest untouched. Even a passing study of the railway map will show how desirable it is that the metre-gauge lines of the Deccan and Madras should no longer be isolated. The railways of similar gauge in Bengal, the United Provinces, the Punjab, Rajputana, Central India and Gujarat are all connected up. A train could, if necessary, be run from Porbandar on the Kathiawar Coast to Sara Ghat north of Calcutta; and when the Brahmaputra is bridged at Gauhati, it will be possible to take a similar train to the north-east confines of Assam or even to Chittagong. But when it comes to metre-gauge running from north to south in India there is a sudden check. The branch of the Rajputana-Malwa Railway which passes through Indore has its terminus at Khandwa, where if forms a junction with the broad-gauge of the Great Indian Peninsula system. From Khandwa to Manmad is 191 miles and here the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley Railway gives mere-gauge connection with Secunderabad. But this line is in itself isolated, for each of its termini is at a broad-gauge station. Further to the south lies the Southern Mahratta system, starting from Poona (with no access to (Bombay) and eventually joining up with another metre-gauge system, the South Indian. These two lines have various junctions with the broad-gauge, but they are cut off both from the Hyderabad-Godavari Valley and the Rajputana-Malwa systems. The first thing to be done is to link up the two last-named railways, and it is practically settled that this will be done by a line from Khandwa to Nanded. The point that the Railway Board will have to decide is whether the connection southwards should be from Secunderabad to Guntakal Junction or from Nanded to Hotgi Junction near Sholapur. The former seems the more promising route, but the Board will carefully consider all the local conditions. In any case there seems a reasonable prospect of uninterrupted metre-gauge communication between the Madras Railway and Northern India being secured within the next few years.

COMMERCIAL NOTES.

The Cawnpore Sugar Company, according to the Excise Report of the United Provinecs for the year ending September 1904, has been granted a license for a private distillery for the production of "European" liquor by the latest methods.

The royalty derived by the United Provinces Government from the now well-known Mirzapore stone quarries has more than doubled during the past seven years. To further increase the value of the property the communications to it are being improved by the authorities.

The Botanical Survey of India Department promises a valuable report shortly in connection with its investigations into the species of agaves found in India, the result of experiments in cultivation carried out at the Botanic Garden at Sibpur. A complete collection of the varieties grown at Shibpur has been forwarded to the Director of the Missouri Botanic Garden who is an authority on agaves.

The total exports of cotton from Burma in April amounted to 6,981 cwts. of the value of Rs. 1,35,782, of which 5'276 cwts. of the value of Rs. 99,132 went to foreign ports out of India and the balance to ports in India Proper. Other important exports from Burma in April with their values were:—Cutch (Rs. 1,18,090); rice b'ran (Rs. 3,31,503); rice Rs. 1,89,3L7,066); hides (Rs. 4,80,982); paraffin wax (1,55,130); mineral oils (Rs. 1,14,525); and teak (Rs. 9,18,936).

Among other experiments being carried out at Shibpur is that of the cultivation of "sunn" hemp, the trials there having proved that the time of sowing is not the same in all parts of the country. Sowing, it has been found, takes place considerably earlier in the year at such places as Cawnpore and Coconada and this accounts for the facts that whereas the fibre from Cawnpore, Coconada and some other localities comes into the market in October-November, the best kind of "sunn" hemp—the Bengal or Belgachia brand—does not come into the market until about February.

People who are "going in" for sisal hemp cultivation in India may be interested to learn that the Shibpur Botanic Garden has become another important distributing centre, and during the year 1904-05 sent out several thousands of sisal hemp plants to various parts of the country. Large distributions are also being made from the Government Gardens at Bangalore, Lucknow and Saharanpur as well as from Poona, which is all proof that sisal has "caught on" in the country, and that it is now believed that there is a future for the fibre if its cultivation is pursued in.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

BANKIPUR NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondant.)

Bankipur, June 11.

A GARDEN PARTY.

Who is this Babu Chandeswari Narain Prosad Singh, who feted the entire European community at a garden party on Friday last at an estimated cost of nearly Rs. 10,000? Is he the same gentleman who has subscribed Rs. 1,000 towards the Ranchi Model College fund and is fighting with the widowed Rani of Mukhsudpur for the Gudes for the disposal of which a suit is just lying before the District Judge of Patna? Is it a fact that several European gentlemen of this place refused to accept the invitation? Will any body enlighten us as to the cause of this recent jubilation on the part of the host?

A CARELESS ACCIDENT.

For sometime past there has grown up a practice to kill stray dogs within the cantonment limit. Formerly this was done by Domes but now-a-days it is done by a soldier who is known as the Assistant Conservancy Inspector. On the 3rd June, which was a marketing day, the Conservancy Inspector aimed at a dog strolling ner the meat stall and in so doing he hit 4 milk women who had come for the marketing purpose. The market contractor took the wounded to the hospi al where the doctor in charge pronounced the wounds of a superficial character. We hear the Cantonment authorities have since ordered the dogs to be taken to the river side and shot there.

A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT.

On the 3rd June another regrettable incident took place at Nawadah station (S. B. R.) in which a Counsel of the local bar is implicated. The gentleman while coming from Nawadah enquired something of the Station Master to which the latter replied somewhat haughtily. Hot words were thereupon exchanged, which ultimately ended in blows. The Station Master is said to have been severely assaulted by the Chaprasi of the Counsel so much so that he had to be removed to hospital. The Counsel has been off on his personal recognizance but the Chaprasi who dealt the blow is still at large.

THE VAGARY OF THE POLICE.

Lately a dismissed servant of a Bengali gentleman was charged with the theft of a copy of "Madhabilata" belonging to the Bankipur Book Club. The servant when questioned by the police said that the book belonged to his former master who purchased it in Calcutta and who had given it to him for the purpose of reading. The police on enquiry learnt that the former master of the servant who is said to have purchased the book at Calcutta had brought it from the Bar Library. Although it transpired that the servant had gone to sell the book, the Peerbahore Police hushed up the matter on the plea of "mistake of fact".

LOCAL FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL.

The only girl who was sent up for the last Entrance Examination from the local Female High School has passed in the third division. There was another girl-candidate for the examination from this school, but unfortunately she fell ill just before the examination. The girls attached to the Training classes of the School have also passed their final examination most creditably. The school which is under the supervision of Prof. Mullick, of the Patna College, is doing good work here.

A NUISANCE.

People commit nuisance on either side of some of the main roads here and yet no police officer turns up to arrest the culprits. The metalled road on the Kankerbag side on which the local female High School now stands is a regular emporium of nuisance. Not only do the low-class people living in the neighbourhood commit nuisance there on but Municipal carters also throw the refuses of the town in close proximity of the school-building and the mehters the night-soil The sight of the people committing nuisance in the neighbourhood of a girls' school is indeed something objectionable. The police should at once take prompt measure to put a stop to such nuisance.

THE NEW DISPENSATION CHURCH.

The Sradh ceremony of the late Rev. P. C. Mazumdar whose death was announced in a recent issue of the "Patrika" was performed by the local Bramhos on Sunday last. So closely was he related with his friends here that some of them volunteered their services for nursing him in his sick-bed.

ABNORMAL HEAT.

Since a week or so we are getting excessive heat. There is no prospect of rain in the near future save and except what fell on Saturday before last. This day a terrible storm passed over Bankipur and caused a steamer with a good number of passengeres to be capsized.

Begum Rahatbi, wife of the Hon. Mr. Justice Badrudin Tyebji, died on the 7th instant at her bungalow in Warden Road, Bombay. Mrs. Tyebji had been in indifferent state of health for some time past. The last public movement at which she took a leading part was in connection with the meeting of the Bombay ladies recently held at Mazagon to adopt measures to give a fitting welcome to their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales on their arrival in Bombay next November. On that occasion she made a felicitous speech in Urdu on the loyalty of the Indian women to the Throne. The deceased lady leaves a numerous family to mourn her loss.

"No Doctors Treatment

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