REG. NO. C. 59

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BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

VOL XXXV. CALCUTTA, SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1905. NO. 78

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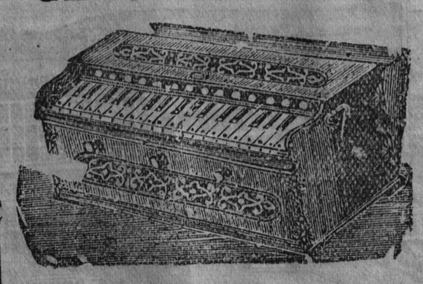

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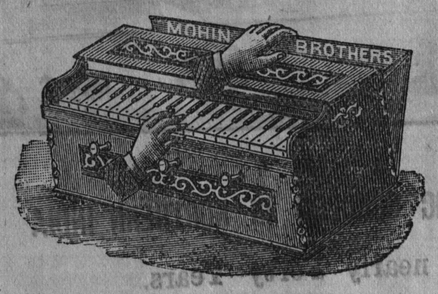

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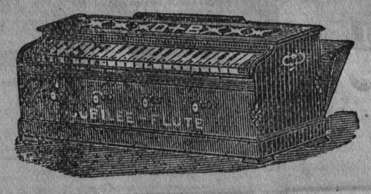

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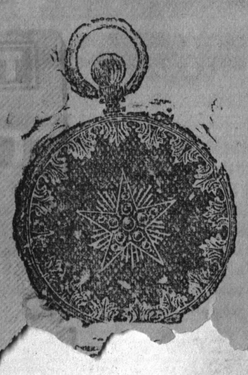

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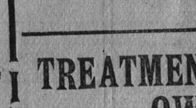

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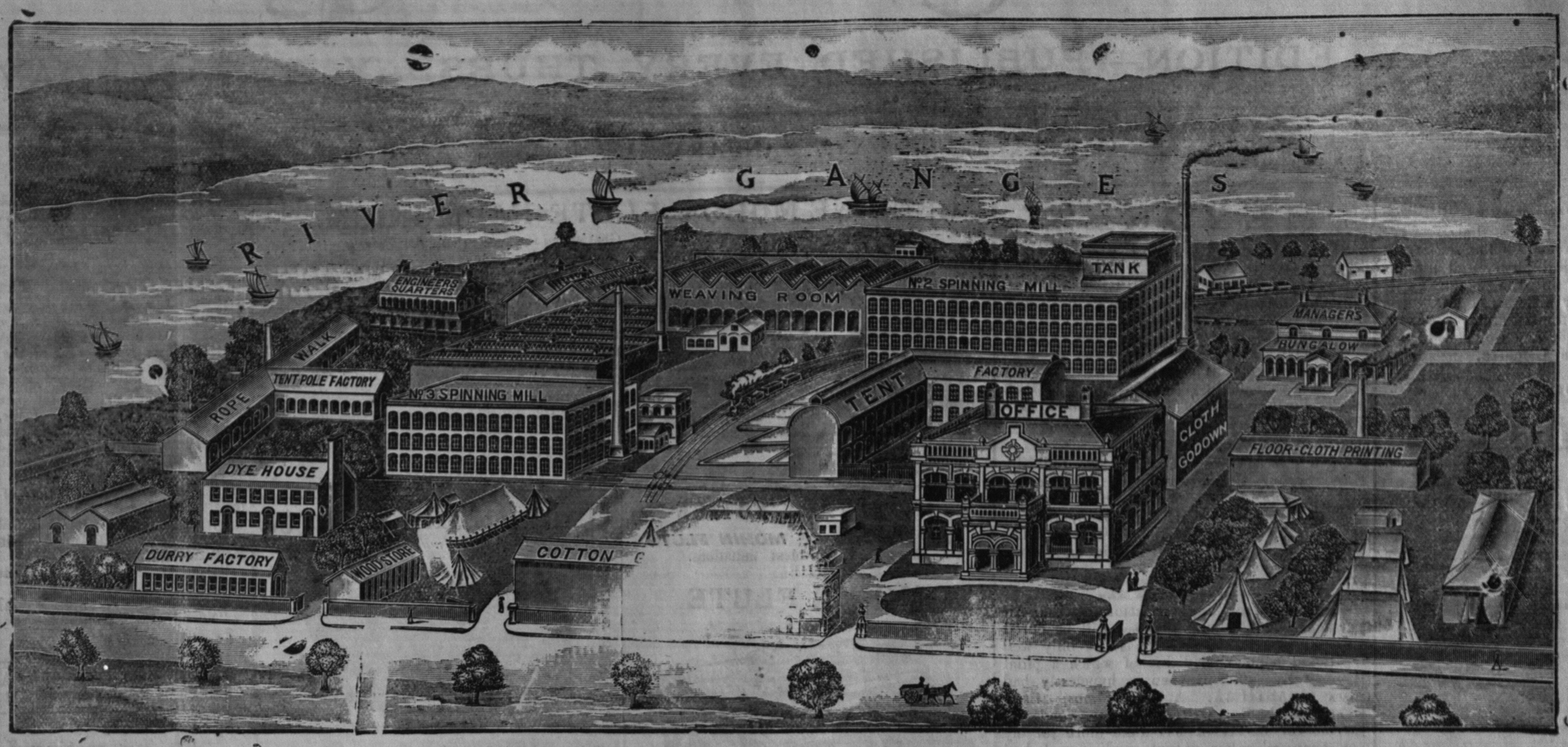

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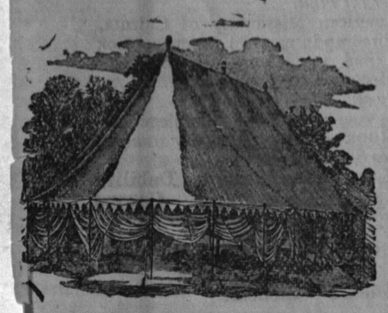

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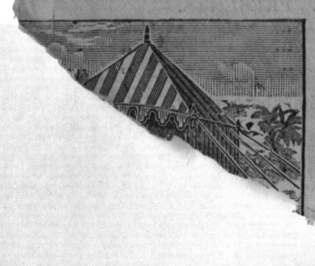

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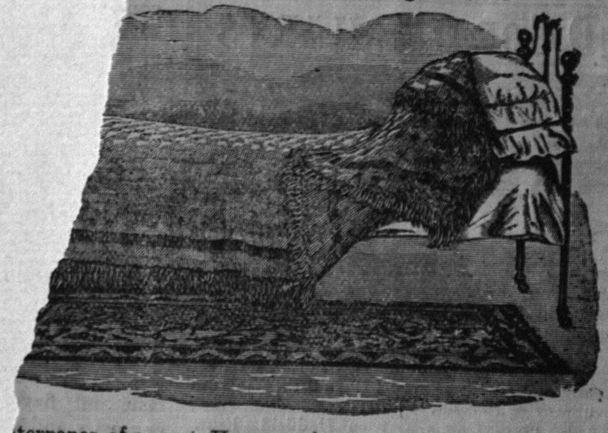

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 15, 1905

WHY THE RESOLUTION WAS MADE "CUMBEROUS."

THE "Englishman" contends that Sir Andrew Fraser's Resolution on the abolition of Competitive Examination is "cumberous" and mere waste of energy; that the sole object of the Resolution is to announce that "in future no candidate will be admitted to the service unless he secures the personal approval of the Lieutenant-Governor or the officials under him." And this being the case, our contemporary contends, the idea might have been condensed in a single sentence.

This is quite true. But our contemporary forgets that language is given to man, not only for the purpose of expressing his ideas, but also of concealing his thoughts. Who knows that it is the deliberate intention of the Government not to express itself in a pithy sentence and give prominence to its real idea? Who knows that the object of the Government is to conceal its real intention in the midst of a cloud of words, and hence the Resolution was made deliberately cumberous to serve a purpose?

A Resolution like this might have passed unchallenged fifty years ago, when there was no newspaper in India, and when very few people understood English. But now the Government has to weigh its words carefully before giving utterance to them, knowing very well that they will be examined critically by millions of intelligent men. The Government was fully conscious of this and ashamed to say in distinct language that, under the present system, merit has no chance, but the sycophant is the master of the situation.

Let us now see how this new policy is likely to work in practice. Mr. John, say, is the Commissioner of the Patna Division, and a well-qualified Bengali youth of Burdwan applies to him for an appointment. Mr. John replies that, as the British Government is just and has to take into consideration the claims of both advanced and backward provinces in India, he must not aspire for any post in Behar, but try to secure one in his own Division. If that is the rule, Mr. John, who is a man of Argyllshire, has no place in India. Still he is there on political grounds. The Bengalee Babu has, however, no place in Behar, because, he was born in Burdwan, and not Patna; that is to say, he is ousted from Behar on geographical considerations. He would have, however, every right to be in Behar if he was a native of Argyllshire!

The Queen's Proclamation provides that merit ought to be the sole test in making selections for Government offices in India. But merit is ignored under Sir Andrew's new scheme; and the talented Bengali Babu is put aside for a less qualified man of a backward province, because, the post for which he applies happens to be in that province.

Let us now see what complications this new arrangement is likely to create. A graduate of the University applies for a post to Mr. District Magistrate James. He is asked by the Magistrate who he is. He says, he is an M.A. with a brilliant University career. "That may be," says Mr. James impatiently, "but who are you,—I mean who and what was your father, and what was his occupation?" The applicant replies that his father was a distinguished man and respected by his countrymen; that he was the Editor of the "Indian News" and did good service to the country.

Mr. James loses temper. Says he: "Did not your father abuse the Government? And you come to solicit employment under the same Government? How impudent of you? Your so-called University education has not taught you decency." And the son of the Editor is expelled with ignominy.

Next comes another candidate. He is asked his qualifications. He says he is only an ordinary B.A., but he is a son of Babu A.B. Roy Bahadoor, who was trusted by the Government. Mr. James' countenance immediately beams with delight. "Are you a son of A.B., that loyal servant of the Government," says he. "Certainly you have good claims; your name is admitted."

Another comes forward. He is also a son of a Government servant, well known to the authorities for his ardent loyalty. This young man, however, appears before the Presence with his shoes on, and assumes a bearing which is rather independent. His very sight gives offence to the Magistrate. Neither is Mr. James mollified by his salams, for he nods in a manner which shews that he has not lost all his self-respect. And the poor fellow's doom is sealed. He is given a long lecture and told that he is an unworthy son of a worthy father and is utterly unfit to serve the Government. His place is in a newspaper office.

Then comes another. After having failed in examination several times, he at last secured a B.A. degree. But then he is a son of a loyal servant of Government. And his chief merit is that he salams gracefully. He salams with both hands; he stands with folded hands before Presence; he speaks on bended knees and calls Mr. James his own "father and mother" and also his father's "father and mother." What can Mr. James do? He has no option but to surrender; for who can resist graceful salams and such humble and loyal solicitations?

In the above we have no doubt drawn some fanciful pictures; yet they represent the real situation, no doubt with honourable exceptions here and there. The Government was fully aware of it; hence it had to make the Resolution cumberous, vague and unreadable. Under the system introduced by Sir A. Fraser, pure merit has no chance; independence is fatal; and the path has been well paved for sycophants and worthless sons of "loyal" servants of the Government to enter the service.

AGRICULTURE AND RYOTS.

THE new Department of Commerce, with a highly-paid special member to guide its affairs, has been heralded with the same trumpets as was done in the case of the Agriculture Department in the eighties. And, we all know, the latter exists only for show, though it costs a good deal of money. We trust, the Commercial Department, which will be a heavy burden upon the tax-payers, will show better results. As regards agriculture, let us hope the recent Conference of the European merchants in Calcutta will result in giving an impetus in the direction of the development of the agricultural resources of India.

One of the enthusiasts in the cause of agricultural improvement is Mr. D. M. Hamilton, lately a member of the Supreme Council. He made a long speech at the Conference, and though we cannot see our way to agree with all he said, yet many of his suggestions are eminently good and practical. For instance, he suggested "the establishment of agricultural institutes, as soon as possible, in various districts of Bengal and other Provinces."

Now is it not a wonder that, though the Agricultural Department is one of the most important, it receives the least consideration at the hands of the State? This shows that the rulers of the land are in some matters not as wise as they pretend to be. Three-fourths of the energies of the officials are diverted to the purpose of "stamping out crime." We have a police station in every ten miles, though we have only one Agricultural Department for the whole country.

The most important business of the district officers is to keep the peace, which means to do the duties of policemen, which again means, to send as many people to jail as possible. Their other important work is to prevent the escape of prisoners, for which we have here jails with very high walls and other precautionary arrangements.

But Englishmen are here not to stamp out crime. That task may very well be left to the people themselves. The mission of the English rulers of this country is far nobler. It is to make the people more manly, more prosperous, more happy. Their mission is a failure if they fail in this duty.

Now instead of a Police station, there ought to be an agricultural school with a farm attached to it in every ten miles. Instead of frittering away their energies in stamping out crime, the Magistrates ought to devote their whole time to the improvement of the condition of the people. Instead of jails, we ought to have graneries in every sub-division, filled with grains, seeds, all modern agricultural implements, and well-bred cattle.

Do the local authorities know how the poor ryots are robbed of their grains? No sooner is the harvest collected than the merchants purchase the grain at the cheapest rate. The immediate necessity of the peasants is so pressing that they have to sell their produce sometimes at half the rate. This done, they find that they have to purchase grain again at the end of the year to feed themselves at much higher rates. Here is a matter in which the authorities ought to be able to help the ryots with their advice.

But the Government here is mainly for exercising authority. That is the chief function of the officials. And the result is disastrous—so disastrous, indeed, that it has now become difficult to make the Government see what its real duties are. The exercise of authority is so pleasing that the rulers are bewitched by the process, so that they are led to forget their true interests and real duties.

It is a pleasure to read the reports of the Agricultural Department in America. They are State papers worthy of the great country from which they are issued. They show that the most earnest thought is given to the subject of agriculture.

But compare the American reports with those issued here. We do not blame the Agricultural Department at all for its lifeless publications. The Department exists in name; and this is very well known to those who are in charge of it. Necessarily the reviews of the Government upon the works of this Department are feeble and heartless. The Department writes its reports in the belief that none will read them, and the Government bases its comments upon them in the same spirit.

Another suggestion of Mr. Hamilton is excellent. He says that, as "famines now-a-days are more money famines than food famines, it would perhaps be more in accord with the ostensible object of the Famine Insurance Fund if it were used for the financing of a people who are starving for want of cheap money rather than use it for the avoidance of debt; and in any case a debt which yields more than it costs is not a thing to be avoided". Exactly so. The so-called tuccavi advances are made to the ryots so rarely and in such small sums that they do not benefit the agriculturists in any appreciable degree. But if the major portion of the famine taxes, which bring one crore and fifty lakhs of Rupees annually to the coffers of the Government, were applied to the purchase of cattle, implements, and seeds for the peasants, that will really do them solid good and add to their prosperity.

SIR HENRY COTTON IN INDIA.

SPEECH, it is said, was given to man, both to express and conceal his thoughts. Surely the measure of free speech that we enjoy must be used with very great caution. For, we may sometimes injure a good cause by too much frankness. We did a good deal of mischief to Mr. Tilak by taking his side ardently. The more the press defended and sympathised with him, the more his persecutors resolved to follow him with unrelenting vigor. We ought to have, from this point of view, concealed our real feelings for him.

The frankest of the rulers of Bengal was Sir George Campbell. The Police, he declared in official documents, was the "watch dog of the Government" and must be supported at any cost. When, therefore, Issur Napit of Howrah died of police torture, and the police officer chiefly responsible for this brutal act was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, Sir George stepped in and felt no scruple in securing his release by exercising the prerogative of mercy vested in him.

Another equally frank administrator was Sir Charles Elliott. He gave out what he meant, and did not know how and when to conceal his thoughts. Mr. Magistrate, H. A. D. Phillips, now in the other world, could not move, as it were, without committing an illegal, unjust, or indiscreet act, and so the newspapers had much to say of him. Sir Charles Elliott loved to defend his subordinates and profoundly hated the Indian press. Finding Mr. Phillips so assailed by the Indian press, and finding also that the charges brought against him were generally true and indefensible, he declared, with great frankness, that he would never hold his subordinate responsible for his actions; and that the more the Indian press meddled with him, the greater it would be his duty to ignore its attack and offer him protection.

Is it possible that the same feeling is actuating our good ruler, Sir A. Fraser, in dealing with the newspaper criticism on the conduct of Mr. Carey of Hooghly? We say so, because, we have nothing before us to feel that this official had ever been seriously taxed by his superiors for his manifold indiscretions. But that is a separate matter.

Now a word or two about our illustrious friend, Sir H. Cotton. He is a marked man amongst the members of the Civil Service. As an official he beat most of his brethren in ability. He is further distinguished by his sympathy for the people of this country. Of course Mr. A. O. Hume or Sir William Wedderburn is as good a friend as Sir Henry Cotton. But, we think, they did not suffer in the way Sir Henry did. If Sir Henry, instead of openly and fearlessly espousing the cause of the Indians, had "dissembled his love for them and kicked them downstairs," then perhaps he might have become the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

So his presence in our midst is possibly a cause of much uneasiness among the members of "the splendid service" to which he belonged. There is also a desire among many,—his superiors, equals, or inferiors,—to ignore, and, if possible to slight him, though of course they cannot openly express it or give effect to it. We hear on a reliable authority that the dinner given to Sir Henry by Sir Andrew Fraser was not to the liking of several members of the service.

We all know, with what warmth, was the Congress welcomed, in the beginning, by Lord Dufferin. We also know how subsequently was this kindly feeling converted into one of bitter hostility towards the organization. This change of attitude was due to one fact, namely, the condemnation of the greatest work of his life by the educated natives of the soil.

The Viceroys in India have no doubt to earn the good feelings of the people of this country. But they are more vitally interested in securing the good opinion of their own countrymen; for, the Indians can do them no good or harm, but Englishmen can. If Lord Dufferin had introduced any great reform in India, the incident would have scarcely excited the notice of the English people at home, his masters. But he was the author of one work which placed him in the foremost rank of English patriots, empire-builders and empire-makers.

It was he who conquered Burmah for England at India's cost. If Clive conquered Bengal, Coote the Maharattas, Napier the Sindh, Gough the Punjab, Lord Dufferin subjugated Burmah for England. Lord Lytton tried to annex Central Asia to the British empire, but he failed. When this great act of Lord Dufferin was violently condemned by the Indian press, his feelings regarding the Indians were embittered, and he dealt a severe blow to the Congress.

The greatest work of Lord Curzon is the invasion of Thibet. This is his only work which has brought his administration directly to the notice of his countrymen. The latter care very little for his partition scheme, University scheme, and so forth. But the Thibet expedition is a big slap in the face of Russia, and has put him in the same rank with the other great conquerors who founded this Asiatic Empire for England.

It is Sir H. Cotton, however, who raised a discordant note, and has done all he can to undervalue this great work of His Lordship. If there is a party, and an influential party, in England, who condemn the Thibet policy of Lord Curzon, it was created by Sir H. Cotton. It was he who has made a large section of the English community to condemn the expedition against Thibet.

And this Sir H. Cotton was made the President of the Bombay Congress! There was not much love lost between the Congress and Lord Curzon, and Sir Henry's presiding at its meetings has certainly not improved the situation. No wonder, therefore, His Excellency declined the offer of Sir Henry to receive from him directly the Congress resolutions, and invited him to a dinner instead! And is it not very natural he should do so? Why should he accept the resolutions from the hands of his great opponent who has condemned the greatest work of his life? Of course Lord Curzon is generous and high-minded enough to be above the reach of petty feelings; yet he is young and human. It is very unlikely that anything presented to him by Sir Henry will be accepted by him with special thankfulness and favour.

In the same manner, attempts were made to make it appear that Sir H. Cotton was taking a leading part in this agitation against the partition question. To do it is to excite the Government to go against us. We already know that, the Government is undecided about this question; to make it appear that Sir H. Cotton is at the bottom of this agitation, or has a principal or any hand in the matter, is to lead the Government, which is now undecided, to assume a decided, we mean, an aggressive and determined attitude towards this measure. We are extremely glad to find that better counsels prevailed, and no such attempt was made at the "Comerence" of Wednesday last, though a certain newspaper was most anxious to make Sir Henry the leader of the movement.

When Mr. Brandlaugh was at Bombay, attempts were made to humiliate and thwart him. But he was a member of Parliament and had a following in the House. Indeed, Lord Cross feared him almost as much as he did Mr. Gladstone. But Sir Henry is not backed by any such force except the good-will of the Indians, which, however, has no value in the eyes of the rulers of the land.

DAY before yesterday's Town Hall meeting showed what a firm hold Sir Henry Cotton had upon the esteem and affections of the people of this country. The vast majority of the audience had perhaps never seen his face. Yet hundreds, nay thousands, deemed it their duty to come forward and express their sense of gratitude to him. Well may the guest of the evening be proud of the honour done to him, on Tuesday last, specially in consequence of its unique character. The Government honours people with titles of honour, but they carry no souls with them. The honour done to Sir Henry, however, emanated from the depths of the hearts of thousands, and was thus a living thing. And why was Sir Henry honoured in this extraordinary manner? Even he himself was staggered at the nature of the demonstration. "What have I done to deserve such an honour at your hands?" said he, in surprised tone, in his reply. As a matter of fact, he was only a Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government and could not thus do much. On the other hand, he was bound to carry the mandates of his Chief, and was now and then an unconscious or unwilling instrument of mischief to the country. All the same, his heart was with us. He mixed freely with the educated classes and came to love and esteem them. In short, he made us feel that, he was one of us; that he would stand by us in our prosperity and adversity; and that he would share with us in our joys and sorrows. Hence he succeeded in winning the hearts of the nation, and unhinging the minds of those who met to honour him. The latter deluged him, as it were, with showers of admiration and grateful feelings as soon as he entered the hall of the meeting.

SIR HENRY very accurately displayed his knowledge of the Indian character when he sought to explain the cause of the ovation which greeted him here and elsewhere. "I have often noticed," said he, "that the people of India are over-whelming in their gratitude to those English officials who have shown them kindness and sympathy." That is our strength, and that is our weakness also. Small mercies will make us slaves of those who will care to distribute them to us. How easy it is to satisfy the people of this country and evoke the feeling of gratitude in them! And yet, nowhere perhaps is the estrangement between the ruled and the rulers so wide as in this country. Is this not a wonderful phenomenon? Gratitude is divine feeling, and the more is it cultivated the better is the prospect of the person or persons who cultivate it, if not in this world, but in the other. From this point of view, our "over-whelming gratitude" is a source of strength to us. At the same time, the easy and cheap way by which our grateful feelings can be called forth is our great weakness. We are apt to make much of the small mercies that are now and then scattered to us by men in authority. A few mere kind words from a Lieutenant-Governor will so overwhelm many of us with gratitude as to make us surrender our independence to him. How many good men and true we have lost in this way! There are few Bengalees, if any, who will venture to contradict a statement, however unreasonable, coming from an English friend, say, like Sir Henry Cotton. In short, this over-whelming sense of gratitude in us sometimes also means want of backbone and manliness on our part. Perhaps it is for this reason that many officials in this country do not attach much importance to our outburst of grateful feelings, and thus keep themselves aloof from us.

IF we reproduce the following from the "Indian Daily News," it is of course not for its fine sentiments but the genuine humour it contains. It will be remembered that, Sir Henry Cotton as President of the Bombay Congress wrote to the Viceroy to permit him to hand over the Congress resolutions personally to His Excellency; and Lord Curzon, instead of acceding to this request, invited him to a dinner. And the "Daily News" thus seeks to eke out some amusement at the expense of Sir Henry and the Congress people:—

"A correspondent sends the following fable, which he says brings La Fontaine up to date:—'Once upon a time the mice 'log' being much annoyed at the goings on of the cat held a Congress at which they passed resolutions annually to bell the cat. No mouse, however, could be found willing to undertake the business. At last someone suggested that they should call in a celebrated rat who, belonging to a more powerful order of vertebrates, would be able to assist them. At the next annual meeting the celebrated rat was accordingly voted to the chair, and the usual resolution was passed; the Chairman undertaking that he would see to the matter himself. Amid loud cries of 'shabash,' the Chairman proceeded to the Capital, and there and then requested an interview with the cat for the purpose of presenting him with a bell somewhat remarkable. The cat, however, who was aware of the object of his visit, replied that he was unable, at the moment, to discuss the subject of bells, but that on account of the agreeable gastronomical relations which had always subsisted between himself and the rat family, he would have the greatest pleasure in meeting him. The rat on getting this letter was extremely puzzled. 'It is couched,' he said, "in irritatingly ambiguous language and there are moments when it seems to me that I can hear him licking his lips over my mangled remains. Ami ki korbo, Mohashoy," he said turning to his trusted chief delegate, "shall I go?" "I should not go," said the chief delegate, "if I were you. A life like yours is too precious to the cause of progress. He would probably partition you, which God forbid! I myself should put the bell in a parcel with a brick and send it [illegible] labelled 'Urdu manuscripts.' [illegible] annas 8 to pay. By 9 a.m. the [illegible]ning we shall at all events have secured a great moral victory." That is just the very thing that occurred to me" said the rat, and he sent his private secretary for a brick. "I am sorry I must leave you now," he added, "I have to go and see the Dalai Lama who has sent to ask my assistance and advice." Moral—Before you create an idol, see carefully that the back prop is sufficiently strong to be able to carry the straw stuffing."

The "Indian Daily News" has drawn his moral; let us draw our own. Now "the celebrated rat" in this case is no rat at all, but he is a cat, and comes from the same stock to which our contemporary's cat belongs. But "the celebrated rat," pained at the havoc committed upon the race of rats by his powerful colleagues, left them and cast in his lot with the former to protect them, as far as he could, from the injustice of his own species. By thus joining with the weak and oppressed rats, he of course lost his caste with his own people. They derided him; they called him a "rat"; they would hiss and hoot him if they could. But then he was a firm believer in certain principles which are no doubt considered "sickly" by the majority of the cats, but which, in his opinion, are divine in their character. One of them is that there can be no higher duty for a cat or a rat, or even a bat, than to uphold the cause of the weak against the strong, when the former are in the right. Influenced by such a sentiment, "the celebrated rat" risked the displeasure of the big cat, whose subordinate he was by upholding the cause of the weakest class of rats called coolies, and thereby lost his chance of ever occupying the position of the ruler of the Province inhabited by the rats. Now which of the two is really great and noble—a cat who "licks his lips over the mangled remains" of the rats—to quote the words of our contemporary—or his colleague who, making immense personal sacrifices, himself becomes a rat, in order to save the rat species?

THE new Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, Mr. E. H. C. Walsh, seems to be as good an officer as his predecessor Mr. Inglis was; at least he has rendered himself very popular within the short time he has been at Hooghli. When the Christmas present of Mr. Carey appeared in our columns, the Commissioner, we hear, was simply astounded. The reader may remember that this Christmas present was a notification, issued by Mr. Carey as Magistrate, to the well-to-do people within his jurisdiction, for subscriptions in aid of the local Lady Dufferin Hospital, and in which notification vile epithets were applied to the parties appealed to for money. The Commissioner, we hear, was so ashamed of the conduct of the Magistrate that he sent round one of his men to the people insulted by Mr. Carey to express his regret to them for the indiscrition of his subordinate. This one fact shows that Mr. Walsh is above the ordinary run of Civilians. May we inquire of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, how long does he intend to keep Mr. Carey at Hooghli as Magistrate, to the annoyance of the people and the embarrassment of the Government? We may guarantee that, no Magistrate has given the Lieutenant-Governor so much trouble or put him into such an embarrassing position as Mr. Carey has done. All the same, he seems to be going to become a permanent fixture at Hooghli. This will show how helpless are the rulers of Provinces when a subordinate of theirs, belonging to the Civil Service, is wayward and defiant.

OUR Gaya correspondent has furnished us with the particulars of "one of the latest freaks of Mr. Forrester" in his capacity as officiating District Magistrate of Gaya. It refers to the criminal prosecution, or rather persecution, of one Miss Abbasi, her brother Mahabat, and a few others, on a most frivolous charge of kidnapping certain girls for immoral purposes. There are two stages of the case. A full history of the case at the first stage was published in the "Patrika" long time ago, and we shall briefly recapitulate it to enable the reader to understand the situation clearly. On certain information having been lodged in the thanna, Mahabat was brought before the Police and accused of committing a row. He admitted the offence but said that the row was caused by his demanding rents of a house from some people who had fled away to Lucknow for fear of criminal prosecution. A regular complaint was then filed against these people who had run away to Lucknow and a warrant was issued for their arrest. Some males and females belonging to the party were brought down to Gya under arrest from Lucknow. The case was tried by the Joint Magistrate of Gaya. The story of the defence was, that Mahabat and his sister had tried to win over the female defendants for immoral purposes, and failing in their efforts had brought a charge of riot against them in order to coerce them through the help of the Court.

THE Joint Magistrate believed the defence story and acquitted the accused. He next convicted Mahabat and sentenced him to imprisonment, which on appeal, was commuted into a fine. The matter should have stopped there. But Inspector Rees of the Gaya Police became fired with the zeal of protecting suffering humanity and took up the cause of the dancing girls concerned in the above case, and so there was a further development. One day, he surrounded the house of Abbasi and her brother with a "posse" of constables and arrested them. The accused did not know what offence they had committed, neither could their pleader enlighten them on the point. In great distress, they applied for bail, but Mr. Forrester refused to grant it. They then moved the Sessions Judge. When the pleader for the accused related the facts of the case, there was a roar of laughter in the Court, for, it transpired that the girls were not kidnapped at all by the accused but arrested under a warrant and brought to Gaya under the orders of a Court! The Judge at once released them on bail.

Mr. Forrester however was so much impressed with the gravity of their offence, that he kept the case in his own file and at last committed it to the Sessions. The Sessions Judge at once looked through the harassing nature and absurdity of the prosecution, and adopted the unusual course of referring it to the High Court for quashing the commitment. The Hon'ble Judge however refused to interfere at that early stage. Thus the accused had to undergo all the hardships of a criminal trial, which resulted in their ultimate acquittal. The Judge was so much impressed with the frivolous character of the prosecution that he passed his order of acquittal without cross-examining witnesses. All is well that ends well. But, pray, ought not somebody to be held responsible for the mental agony, physical trouble, not to speak of unnecessary expenses, to which the accused were subjected during the lengthy course of the trial before the lower Court and the Court of Sessions?

A CORRESPONDENT writes to us from Krishnaghur, complaining of the great hardship to which suitors, pleaders &c., are subjected, owing to Mr. McBlaine not attending his court now and then. Says our correspondent:—

"He did not come to court on the 6th and 7th ultimo, as he had his right thumb injured. It is not known how he came by this accident, though several rumours are afloat. Again on the 12th ultimo, he did not also attend. The jurors, pleaders and the accused were kept in waiting till 5 p.m., Mr. McBlaine not thinking it necessary to intimate to them that he would not attend his court."

It is the old story over again. Graver charges than the above were preferred against him, but, neither the High Court nor the Government of Bengal took any notice of them. So like Mr. Carey, Mr. McBlaine also threatens to be a permanent fixture upon the people of Krishnaghur.

WE congratulate the people of the Central Provinces on the appointment of Mr. J. O. Miller as their Chief Commissioner. Lord Curzon has shown real appreciation of merit by conferring this high appointment upon this official. It will be remembered that Mr. Miller served the Viceroy as his Private Secretary after the retirement of Sir Walter Lawrence. In this way he came in constant contact with His Excellency, and the latter was thus able to know him intimately. Mr. Miller is, perhaps not a pushing officer; but he is able, industrious, kind, and sympathetic. We dare say he will prove a blessing to the people of the Central Provinces. This Province, though backward, has always been lucky in its Chief Commissioners. Indeed, almost all of them left a sweet fragrance behind them, thereby enabling the people to remember their names gratefully. Many of these good Chief Commissioners subsequently became the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal; but, such is our "nasib" (lot), that every one of them, except Sir Richard Temple, proved a ruler of a very different kind. Sir Richard

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was the first Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces who got the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal, and he gave us an elective system by which the administration of the Calcutta Municipality was practically placed in the hands of the representatives of the rate-payers. Sir John Woodburn was the last of the Chief Commissioners who was appointed as Lieutenant-Governor of this Province, and one of his main works was to knock this excellent system on the head and officialize the Calcutta Corporation thoroughly! Sir Andrew Fraser, to our misfortune, has not begun well. Let us trust, however, that, in the end, he will show by his acts that he is as much a benefactor of the people of Bengal as he was of those of the Central Provinces. As for Mr. Miller, his turn is to occupy the gadi of Belvedere when Sir Andrew vacates it.

We cull the following from the sayings of clever men:—

"Do I believe in putting a stop to swearing? No, I don't. If you prevent the working man from swearing, and thus relieving his feelings what will happen? Why, he will go home and murder his family."—G. Bernard Shaw."

"The same kind and measure of thought and care that are now given to a case of disease should be given to a case of crime."—"Sir Robert Anderson."

Bernard Shaw says that, if the working man is not permitted to swear, he will go home and murder his wife or son. It is this trait in human character that led the British Government to grant freedom of speech to the natives of India. The anarchists, the bloody socialists, and other dangerous characters have no position here, because of the freedom of the press. The people have the permission to swear and relieve their surcharged hearts, and thus they do not take to objectionable methods for the purpose of obtaining redress.

What Robert Anderson says is that men have not been able, in spite of their boasted civilization, to outgrow their savage nature. Because they have the power, therefore, they hang a man, who had, from uncontrollable impulse, killed a fellow-being, or imprison another, because he had inherited the passion from his parents who were thieves. Of course dreadful is the position of a man who finds himself in the position of an accused before a Judge with a passion for conviction and severe sentences; but still more dreadful is the position of the Judge who, by indulgence in this passion, has brutalized his soul. Such a Judge converts himself into a beast of prey, though originally he was a man, made after the image of God.

The "Statesman," we find, has a fling at us in an article on Sir Andrew Fraser's new scheme for the recruitment of the members of the Province in its issue of the 10th instant. One of our contemporary's peculiar characteristics is that, if he condemns a thing he must also say a few words in favour of it with the help of his oft-used expressions, "at the same time." In the present case he points out a grave defect in Sir Andrew's scheme, namely that, it is not the case that, in the distribution of appointments under the present rules, "an Honours degree is to be regarded as constituting a higher educational qualification than an ordinary degree." Having thus disapproved of the scheme, he brings his "at the same time" into requisition for the purpose of condemning us and showing that the scheme is not as bad as is represented to be. Says our contemporary:—

"At the same time, it is a misrepresentation to say, as one of our Indian contemporaries lately did, that "if there were two candidates, one an ordinary B.A., and another with an Honours degree, the former should be preferred in a backward province."

Whether the misrepresentation is ours or on the part of the Statesman, we shall presently see. But may we enquire of our contemporary, why does not he call us by name, instead of an Indian contemporary? As the meaning of the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" is "a paper which is a market of nectar," that is to say, which distributes sweetness and ambrosia, surely he would not have lost but gained by publishing our name in his columns, for, it might have possibly rendered his pages more fragrant than they are. Now to the point. Has our contemporary quoted us correctly? This is what he makes us say:

"If there were two candidates, one an ordinary B.A., and another with an Honours degree, the former should be preferred in the backward Province."

Now is not the above quite meaningless? We have written so many articles on the subject that it was with some difficulty that we could lay our hands on the passage which has been quoted by the writer in the "Statesman" in a distorted form, no doubt to suit his purpose. This is what we wrote in our article of December 30:—

"Sir A. Fraser lays down that 'an Honours degree shall not be insisted on, either throughout the province or, in any part of the province at the present time, because there are parts of the province where selection would be far too limited if an Honours degree were insisted on.' That is to say, according to the scheme of Sir Andrew, if there were two candidates, one an ordinary B.A., and another with an Honours degree, the former should be preferred *if he belonged to a backward community*!"

The words italicised above have been clean omitted by our contemporary. Any one can now see who misrepresented, we or the "Statesman." First of all, our contemporary misquoted us and sought to make us look foolish; and secondly, the only construction that can be put upon the words of Sir Andrew, quoted above from his Resolution, is the one given by us, namely, that an ordinary B.A. in a backward province has greater chance in securing an appointment than an Honours degree man in an advanced district.

It goes without saying that the speech of Sir Henry Cotton on the question of the partition of Bengal at last Wednesday's so-called Conference—for, it was no Conference but a regular public meeting—was a splendid one. It is of special value to us for a particular reason. He supported every statement in the memorial, adopted at the Town Hall meeting of March last. Speaking of this document, he said: "A few months ago a great meeting was held in this hall in which a memorial, I hold up in my hand, well-reasoned and forcible, was prepared protesting against all the schemes." Now when Sir Henry approves of this memorial, it is, we submit, entitled to the best consideration of the Government; for, the Viceroy is no doubt high-minded enough to concede that, if any official can speak on this subject with authority it is the late Chief Commissioner of Assam, who also served thirty years in the Bengal Secretariat and had thus opportunities of knowing the views of more than half-a-dozen Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal. It is also gratifying to find that Sir Henry Cotton travelled over almost all the points raised in the memorial and confirmed them emphatically in his vigorous language. Indeed, he followed the very lines upon which the memorial was based.

Sir Henry's declarations upon two points are also deserving of the special attention of the Government. One is the conversation he had with Sir John Woodburn when the latter was Home Member. After the Lushai Hills had been transferred to Assam, Sir Henry asked Sir John what had happened of the proposal for the transfer of Chittagong to Assam, and he said that, "the whole question has been allowed to drop after the receipt of your (Sir Henry's) minute." Now when the predecessor of Lord Curzon showed such regard to the views of Sir Henry in this matter, we may expect the same consideration at the hands of His Excellency. The other point relates to the alleged over-work of the Lieutenant-Governor. This question has no doubt been exhaustively dealt with in the memorial, but, coming from Sir Henry, his views on the subject have their special value. He totally denied that the present-day Lieutenant-Governors are more hard-worked than their predecessors; on the other hand, the latter have far less works than the Provincial rulers of the seventies, eighties, and even a part of the nineties.

Sir Henry suggested two alternatives for the solution of the problem. One was the substitution of a Governor in Council for the Lieutenant-Governor, and other was to cut out Behar, Bhagulpur, and Chota Nagpur from Bengal and establish them under a separate Chief Commissionership. The first suggestion has already been adopted in the memorial, but the latter is absolutely unacceptable to the promoters of the movement set on foot in Bengal to protest against partition. The "Englishman" has the following on this subject:—

"We do not know that Sir Henry Cotton assisted the cause of non-partition much by his counter proposal of Wednesday night. If you must have partition, he said in effect, why not separate Bihar, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur from Bengal instead of Dacca, Mymensingh and Chittagong? Doubtless this would be a less objectionable plan than the one put forward by Lord Curzon last year, but Sir Henry Cotton in the same speech stated the answer to his own suggestion. He denied that there was any call for dismemberment on the score of an overworked Lieutenant-Governor and pointed to the number of prize givings and other functions in Calcutta which the provincial ruler now finds time to attend, whereas formerly he did not. Sir Henry Cotton laid his finger upon the proper remedy for any congestion which now exists when he advocated the changing of Bengal from a Vice-Governorship to a Governorship, whose Governor might be appointed direct from home. The case for bestowing a Governor upon Bengal is overwhelming, when we recollect the comparative insignificance of the other two Presidencies."

The promoters of the anti-partition movement would, on no account, agree to the separation of Behar, Orissa or Chota Nagpur from Bengal. When Sir Henry holds such a view, it would have been suicidal on their part to make him a leader of the agitation. As for the so-called Conference held at the Town Hall, it was a mistake and this we intend to show in a future issue. The conference has served no purpose whatever; perhaps, it has done some mischief.

Mr. Nevile Priestly, Traffic Superintendent E. B. S. Ry., has written an exhaustive Report on Railway Administration in America.

Owing to the unusually heavy rains at the first start of the monsoon, the orange crop in Prome has practically failed, and the fruit seems to be of very poor quality.

As cases from plague are every day on the increase, the Principal of the M. C. College, Allahabad, has allowed those students who live in unhealthy quarters and wish to shift from fear of plague to live in the College compound in small huts.

The harvest is almost completed in the Kachin Hills. The crops around here have been poor, and the Kachins on the Cowrie Hills have to eat red rice or none at all. Many of them will suffer within a short time if they cannot find work to do. Large numbers are down, ready to do anything, but there seems to be little to do.

A Chinese woman, sentenced by Mr. Gompertz to undergo six months' imprisonment for detaining a young girl, misunderstood the situation; and thinking it was her victim who had to go to gaol was all smiles. The girl labouring under the same delusion swooned. A kindly policeman explained matters, the harpy did the swooning and the young girl grew more cheerful.

Situation in Dir has taken a serious turn, and intimation has reached Calcutta that hostilities have broken out between the Nawab of Dir and the Khan of Nawagai. The latter, it is reported, has also succeeded in capturing a Dir fort after serious fighting. The Government of India is pledged to support Badshan Khan of Dir, and the Khan of Nwagai been warned more than once not to embark upon a war. The movable Column which has been stationed at Chakdarh must now necessarily intervene to help the Nawab of Dir and also to keep open the lines of communication between Chitral and India.—"I. D. News."

The final report on the sesamum ("til") crop of the Punjab for the year 1904 states that the area placed under til was 158,900 acres as compared with 244,400 acres last year and a decennial average of 190,620 acres. The causes of this contraction are the late arrival of the monsoon in most districts and its failure in the Central Punjab, where "til" is most largely grown as an unirrigated crop. Decreases are most marked in Hissar, 22,100 to 13,600 acres; Ferozepore, 16,400 to 1,800 acres; Montgomery 23,100 to 4,500 acres; Lahore 15,400 to 6,900 acres, and Multan 37,300 to 23,800 acres. Slight increases ap-Montgomery. Yields above the average are reported from Muzaffangarh and Gurgaon. The outturn in Gurdaspur was average. In pear in Karnal, Jullundur, Gurdaspur, and all other districts the outturn was unsatisfactory. The total outturn is estimated at 317,925 cwts. against 519,369 cwts. last year, and a decennial average of 352,618 cwts.

SCRAPS.

His Highness the Rao of Cutch, accompanied by his elder son, will visit Calcutta as a State guest in the week beginning February 27th and will be accommodated at Hastings House.

The manager of "Prabuddha Bharata," Lohaghat P. O., Almora, writes:—"A kind friend has given us one year's subscription for 50 copies of "Prabuddha Bharata," wishing that a copy may be sent free of charge to such libraries, colleges and schools as would like to have it. The Manager will be glad to send to any such institution a copy of the paper each month from January to December 1905 on receipt of an application, countersigned by the Head-master or Principal in case of schools and colleges, and by a leading citizen in case of a library."

A meeting of the Senate of the Calcutta University will be held at the Senate House, College Square, on Friday, the 27th instant, when some twenty-seven items of business will be disposed of. The syndicate will recommend to the Senate, under the new Universities Act, that the Senate be divided into four Provisional Faculties, viz. Arts, Law, Medicine and Engineering: that each of the Provisional Faculties be directed to meet and elect a President and appoint Provisional Boards of studies; and will also recommend names of fellows to constitute the different Boards and Faculties.

The Ludhiana merchants have some serious grievances against the local railway station. But let us quote their own words:—"It seems all anarchy. No special officer seems to be responsible for the work carried on there. Goods are refused to be booked for weeks and weeks. 'Phatak is closed' is always the cry. Unfortunately if the goods are accepted, they remain lying exposed to wind and rain, thus causing a heavy loss to the owners. Such practice has got a very bad effect on the Ludhiana Trade. The merchants cannot send their goods in time and thence they receive no orders for supplies. Poor merchants are nowwhere. The attention of the Station Master is invited every day but he turns only a deaf ear to all these. The District Traffic Superintendent has addressed on the subject but no substantial result is arrived at." It is a pity that the District Traffic Superintendent did not care to take any notice of these complaints. We hope however that this will attract the attention of the higher authorities and steps will be taken for immediate relief.

Kapil Tirtha is a sacred place of pilgrimage in memory of the saint Kapil in Kolhapur. It is an object of veneration to every good Hindu. In 1895 the local Municipality decided to fill up the Tirtha or tank attached to it. The Hindu community of the locality presented representations to His Highness the Maharaja of Kolhapur and the latter was pleased to pass orders to the effect that owing to sanitary grounds it was desirable to fill up the tank but "a small portion thereof should be left in the centre and a "kund" or pool built thereon for religious purposes so that the sanctity or purity of the place might be permanently maintained." The above order was passed as far back as 1896 but up to now, unfortunately, nothing has been done to give effect to that decision of the Maharaja. The Hindu residents of Bombay and other towns and places in the Maharashtra have again approached His Highness with a memorial, praying that the authorities be directed to give effect to the orders of the Maharaja. We trust the Maharaja will give due consideration to the just prayer of the memorialists.

The hay merchants of Baghbazar, it seems have a real grievance, if what they say in their petition to the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners be true. This is what they say in their petition:—"Since the appointment of the present wharf superintendent who was appointed to that post less than a year ago, he has caused us considerable trouble, annoyance and unnecessary expense by questioning the correctness of the chalans. Whenever it has been alleged by the superintendent of wharfs that any particular chalan is incorrect, we have repeatedly requested him to have the contents of the boat counted in his presence or in the presence of some one authorised by him in that behalf, but he invariably declined to have any weightment made but insists on payment of what he considers the excess quantity." This arbitrary mode of proceeding is not only unjust and unlawful, but results in the merchants being compelled to pay toll on quantities of straw which do not exist. The method adopted by the Superintendent causes not only obstruction and delay in the conduct of business but unnecessary expense and damage. We are sorry to note that although repeated memorials have been submitted to the Vice-Chairman nothing has yet been done to remedy the evil. They have now approached the Chairman and we hope this officer will institute an enquiry and pass such orders as will remedy the existing evil.

The international Postal Conference will be held in Rome next spring, and the Government of India have been invited to be represented on it. It may be remembered that the Conference had to be postponed last year.

Mr. H. Savage, C.S.I., Commissioner on special duty in connection with Chowkidari organisation, has arrived at Muzaffarpur. He leaves Muzaffarpur about the 21st and arrives in Calcutta about the 25th instant, visiting Birbhum and Hooghly "en route."

A Report is published showing that the Burma Government is planting rubber trees on a considerable scale in Tenasserim with a view it proving, beyond doubt, the financial success of rubber cultivation in that province. Experiments are also being conducted with various rubber-producing creepers in the Pegu and Tenasserim forest circles and in the northern divisions of Bhamo, Katha and Myitkyina. The "Hevea" rubber creeper had given particularly promising results, though much has still to be learnt about the best way of collecting and preparing its gum for the market. The Burma Government proposes to alter the existing rules so as to facilitate the allotment of large areas for rubber cultivation. The scheme includes concessions for a period of years in the matter of revenue. Summing up the position, the Report states that the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma considers that, from the evidence collected, there is "every reason to believe that, at least the cultivation of "Hevea" in the Tenasserim Peninsula, will be financially successful and that if this hope is realised, His Honor anticipates, within the next few years, the development of an important industry may be confidently looked for."

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

London, Dec. 23.

DISAPPOINTED HOPES IN RUSSIA.

Reformers must needs become hardened to disappointments, and the Russians are no exceptions to the rule. When the cause of progress and of the will of the people has to be championed against an old established autocracy, there must of necessity be attack after attack on the stronghold. Patience, courage, perseverance and faith in the ultimate victory are essential characteristics of those who would better the condition of the downtrodden and oppressed. The reform movement in Russia has received a disappointing set-back. The Czar has declared that, having received an autocracy on his accession to the throne, he must hand on an autocracy to his son. Poor babe! What sorrows the future holds for the son of the Emperor of All the Russias! Although the champions of liberty have fought a good fight, the reactionaries are reported to have won the day, and the eagerly awaited manifesto, when it comes in January, will only include internal reforms. No official reports of the solemn Council of the Czar and his Ministers, held a few days ago, are as yet available, but it is evident that the high hopes recently entertained and regarded as likely to be granted owing to a marked change of attitude in the direction of leniency, are doomed to disappointment. The Grand Duke Sergius and the Procuratoe of the Holy Synod are considered to be the most powerful enemies of reform. The argument of the religious autocrat is that the Czar is not only the political master of Russia but head of the Church, and any weakening of his absolute rule would be a blow to religion and morality and likely to lead to a relapse into barbarism and sin. It has always been the experience of men and nations that when zeal for religion becomes the support of despotism, the result not only cramps all freedom but frequently provokes bloodshed and deeds of ruthless violence. No war is so terrible as a religious war because of the angry passions let loose under the justification of conscientious obedience to doctrines of faith. The St. Petersburg Correspondent of the Fresch journal, the "Matin," declares that at the Council M. Witte, formerly Finance Minister and now hold the offices of Head of His Majesty's advisers, told the Czar plainly that his refusal to listen to the reasonable demands of the Zemstvos would open the way to revolution. What was not granted by peaceful means would very likely be seized by force. The sop offered, according to latest reports, of small concessions in administrative measures is not sufficient to satisfy the hopes of the people; the freedom of the press is again curtailed the right to discuss Government actions whether in the press or at meetings is withheld, and it looks as if the recoil would result in further restrictions of a galling character. There are very dangerous elements in the situation and they have a marked similarity to those that led to the outbreak of the French Revolution. This set-back is grievously disappointing even though it was scarcely to be hoped that all the demands of the reformers would be conceded; but it cannot be regarded as a final settlement. The forces of autocracy may appear to triumph, but the force of the people's will, when really aroused, cannot thus be held in check. It is thought that the Czar himself is desirous of granting some measure of reform, but he is held by the fetters of the autocratic conviction on which he has been nurtured, and he allows himself to be over-ruled by those of his Ministers who declare that freedom is a dangerous weapon in the hand of a people not prepared for it. As one of the London journals remarks, in commenting on the situation, Nicholas II. is not strong enough to take the lead; he is of a halting mind. It would need a Peter the Great, backed by a Minister as wise as Stein and as bold as Bismarck to do the work. Prince Mirsky, who has shown himself so staunch an advocate for progress and for breaking down the iron bands of autocracy, has won the gratitude of the reformers, and even if he be compelled to resign his influential posit on the progress made under his administration will not soon be forgotten. It is certain that the refusal, if events verify the report that has reached us, to deal with the desire of the enlightened Russians to take a share in the conduct of the affairs of the nation will bring troublous times in the near future. The war is exceedingly unpopular and the latest disappointment that Kuropatkin must be largely reinforced by a further calling out of the reserves, together with the destruction of the Pacific fleet and the fall of Port Arthur which is now looked upon as almost inevitable betoken a very serious aspect of affairs. No one looked for the regeneration of Russia by a single stroke of the pen, but the danger of destroying hopes that had been raised in some measure of justice being granted is one which not even the Czar's most reactionary Ministers can afford to disregard. The reformers themselves will have been strengthened by every effort they have made, and in Russia, as elsewhere, the truth of the old Hindu teaching holds good: Thy duty is with action, not with the fruits of action.

It is notified that all ranks who took part in the operations in connection with the delimitation of the Aden Hinterland between 2nd January, 1903, and 28th May, 1904 both dates inclusive will reckon such service as War Service. The record entered in the Army List will be:—"Aden, 1903-04. Operations in the interior."

An important step has been accomplished in the direction of linking up the Andaman Islands with India by wireless telegraphy, Mr. Simpson having succeeded in establishing communication between Diamond Island, on the coast of Burma, and Skipper Island. Messages came through satisfactorily between these two points on Thursday.

The Belgian Consul, in Bombay, in his last communication to his Government, reports on the situation in the Portuguese Indian possessions—Goa, Damas, and Diu—where the acute commercial depression which was mainly owing to the bad crops of the last few years, now gradually passing away. Endeavours are being made to extend trade relations with Europe, for which purposes the Clan Line was recently approached to establish a direct service between Maramagao and Antwerp. Moreover, the Port of Marmagao is to be rebuilt and fresh accommodation created for an increased traffic. At present the principal connection between that part of the world and Europe is effected by a German line.

Arrival.—Sir Charles Rivaz, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, arrived in Calcutta by the Punjab mail Thursday morning. His Honor is due to leave Calcutta on the 17th.

Financial Statement.—The Financial Statement for 1905-6 will be presented in Council by the Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Baker on 2nd March and will be discussed on the 29th March.

Railway Board.—An inter-departmental Committee will assemble to discuss the question of power and scope of the Railway Board as soon as Mr Wynne joins the Government of India.

Farewell Dinner.—The Viceroy gave a farewell dinner to Sir Edward Law at Government House Thursday night. Sir Edward leaves to-day for the Straits Settlements.

E. I. Railway.—A new time-table will probably be introduced on the East Indian Railway from the 1st April with the object of securing the more accurate running of trains to and from the Punjab.

Maharaja of Sonbursa.—The Maharaja of Sonbursa (North Bhagalpur) is shortly expected to visit Calcutta. Babu Suresh Krishna Basu on behalf of the Raj has already arrived here to arrange for His Highness' residence during his short stay in this city.

Plague Mortality.—There was another marked increase in plague mortality last week, the total number of deaths being 24,385 or 2,000 more than in the previous week. Of this total the United Provinces claim 10,817 deaths, the Punjab 5,017, Bombay 3,136, and Bengal 3,067.

The Paper Currency Bill.—The Paper Currency Bill, which was introduced at the last meeting of the Viceroy's Council, has been circulated among local Governments for opinions. It is intended to pass the Bill before the close of Calcutta Session. Government is still undecided as to the introduction of a Bill to amend the Indian Coinage Act, and, even if the Bill is taken up at the latter end of the season, it will not be possible for Government to carry the measure through the Council during the current season.

Application for Letters of Administration.—At the High Court on Thursday before Mr. Justice Stephen, Babu Surendra Nath Bose, of Messrs. Orr, Dignam and Co., applied for grant of letters of administration, with copy of the will and two codicils annexed, in the goods of Robert Joynt Gordon Grant, deceased. The deceased, who was a retired Colonel in His Majesty's army, died in England in January, 1904, leaving a will and two codicils, and appointing two persons as executors of his will. Probate was granted in England to the executors, and they have requested the Administrator-General to take out grant for them. The assets consists of a house at Umballa in Punjab valued at Rs. 4,000. His Lordship made the order asked for.

Collision on the River.—A rather serious collision occurred in the Hughli at about half past eleven on Wednesday morning close to the anchoring buoy at Kulpi Roads between the steamers Auchencrag and Ockenfels. It appears that there were three steamers, the Evandale, the Auchencrag and the Okenfels proceeding down the river at the same time when the Auchencrag in trying to avoid a collision with the Evendale got foul of the steamer Okenfels and sustained damage to her port bow which necessitated her putting back into port for repairs. The other steamers however, proceeded on their way. The Auchencrag is a British vessel of 3,908 tons and has been engaged in the coal trade for some time. The Okenfels is a German trading vessel which trades between Hamburg and Calcutta. The Port Officer is holding a preliminary enquiry into the matter.

Circus Vs. Theatre.—The readers of the "Patrika" will remember that sometime in December last a case of cheating was filed at the Calcutta Police Court by Babu Mati Lall Bose, Proprietor of Prof. Bose's Great Bengal Circus, against Babu Amarendra Nath Dutt, Managing Proprietor of the Classic Theatre. We are glad to announce that the case has been settled out of Court on the latter tendering the following unqualified apology to the former:—"I now understand well, that the force of disinterested affection with which you looked upon me from before, still exists unabated. I consider it (my) good luck that I have not fallen from the sacred seat of brotherly love in your noble heart. Under the circumstances it is no longer proper to brighten the face of the enemy (i.e. to give the enemy a chance to exult) by continuing the Police case. My prayer is that you may at least for the sake of (your) previous love, forget the offence I am guilty of and forgiving me from the fullness of (your) heart, embrace me again as a brother. Regarding the case which I instituted on the ground of my having deposited ornaments with you, I proclaim freely before the world that you are in no way guilty of or implicated in it. I am heartily sorry for the stigma which I sought to cast on your pure, bright, stainless (and) unblemished character, by making an unreasonable accusation under a wrong impression, and I implore your forgiveness unreservedly. You are at liberty to publish, or make (any) use you like of, this letter, for removing the stain on yourself.—Amarendra Nath Dutta, Classic Theatre."

PNEUMONIA always results from a cold or an attack of influenza. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy quickly cures these ailments and counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. It is made especially for these and similar ailments and can always be depended upon. For sale by

Smith Stanistreet and Co.
Wholesale Agents B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

M. C. Society.—A lecture an "Social Reform in India" will be delivered by Babu Profulla Kumar Bose on Sunday at the Bagbazar Mohesh Institution hall under the auspices of the above society. The lecture is open to the public.

Rash Driving.—On Friday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, I.C.S., Chief Presidency Magistrate, the police prosecuted one Shaik Ramjan for driving an omce gharry rashly and negligently in Lall Bazar and thereby causing its destruction by colliding it with a Tramcar. Accused was fined Rs. 50.

Calcutta North Club.—The final round of the Playfair Handicap cup (so generously presented to the club by Sir [illegible] Playfair Kt., C.I.E.) will be played off at the club grounds, Beadon Square, at 3-45 p.m. to-day. The competitors are Messrs B. N. Sen and G. C. Dey, and a contested game is expected.

Breach of the Port Rules.—On Friday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, the Manager of Messrs Fraser and Co., was prosecuted for having allowed their cargo boat no. 13213 to be in a dirty condition off no. 4 Jetty, on the 5th instant, and thereby committed an offence under section 62 of the Port Rules. Accused was fined Rs. 5.

Settled out of Court.—On Friday, before Mr. D. H. Kingsford, I.C.S., Chief Presidency Magistrate, the case in which a teacher, named Mahar Barook Nomardi of the Jewish Free School, stood charged with having assaulted one D'Elies, a student of another school, by a cane, was called on for hearing. It was alleged, that the defendant noticed the complainant gambling with some boys of his school and so the chastised him with a cane. Mr. Sandell appeared for the prosecution and Babu Kristo Lall Dutt for the defence. At the intervention of the Secretary of the School the matter was amicably settled. The court allowed the case to be withdrawn and discharged the defendant.

Suit against the Secretary of State.—On Thursday Mr. Beachcroft, the Land Acquisition Judge of Alipore, delivered judgment in a land acquisition case in which the Government acquired fifty-three bighas of land at Garden Reach Road from the Ind a General Steam Navigation Co. for the purpose of extending the Kidderpore Docks. The Collector awarded Rs. 500 per cottah and Rs. 500 for the removal of fixtures, aggregating Rs. 5,00,000 in all, but the I. G. S. N. Company claimed Rs. 1,000 per cottah or Rs. 10,70,000 for the value of the land. Rs. 1,65.000 for the value of buildings, and Rs. 90.000 for the fixtures. Messrs, Pugh, (Senior and Junior) and Mr. Cotton, instructed by Mr. Eggar, of Messrs. Sanderson and Company, appeared for Government and Messrs. Garth and Allen, instructed by Mr. Macnair, of Messrs. Morgan and Company, appeared for the claimants. The Judge, after a protracted hearing, awarded Rs. 33,000 more than what the Collector had awarded, but without costs.

Enticement.—Sometime ago, a constable attached to the Calcutta Police Force, married a young woman, Nathia, and kept her in charge of his father-in-law. He used to visit his wife every now and then and meet her all necessary expenses. Lately the constable fell ill and went to hospital for treatment. When he came out of hospital, he learnt that during his absence, two men with the help of his father-in-law, had managed to entice away his wife and that she was now living in adultery with the two defendants. The constable brought all these facts to the notice of the Commissioner of Police by a formal complaint and his wife was restored to him. But this arrangement continued only for a short time. His wife was again removed by the defendants with every moveable property. On Thursday before Mr. D. H. Kingsford I. C.S., Chief Presidency Magistrate, Babu Suresh Chunder Mitter, on behalf of the complainant made an application against two of the defendants on a charge of enticement and against the father-in-law for having aided and abetted them in the commission of the offence. The court after hearing the facts, ordered the issue of warrants against the defendants.

A Fatal Zemindary Riot.—On Thursday Mr. Harward, the Additional District and Sessions Judge, presiding over the Alipore Criminal Sessions disposed of a case in which one Nabin Chander Nascar and four refractory ryots of Babu Troylackho Nath Biswas, a zemindar of Jaun Bazar, Calcutta, were charged with being members of an unlawful assembly, rioting and murder. The zemindar obtained a rent decree against the first accused, and one Khether Nath Sirdar, with a peon of the Court and several other persons, went to the first accused's house on the morning of the 23rd September last for the purpose of attaching his property. As the peon was attempting to execute the order of the Court, the first accused and his men rushed out of the house armed with spears and other deadly weapons and attacked the decree-holder's men, with the result that Khether Nath was killed, while three other men were severely wounded. The first accused also received serious injuries. Babu Bunkim Chander Sen appeared for the prisoners and urged the plea of self-defence. The Jury, however, returned a unanimous verdict of guilty against one and not guilty against four of the accused. The Judge disagreeing with the verdict, referred the case to the High Court.

ABOUT COLDS.—In all countries and among all nations of the globe, cough medicines are used probably more extensively than any other one class of medicines. Every human being is subject to throat and lung troubles, which may terminate his existence people everywhere realize the dangerous consequences of a neglected cold, for the majority of fatalities have their origin in and are characterized first by a simple cold. The more careful and prudent persons do not permit a cold to run its course, but treat it promptly For many years Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been in use throughout the United States and many other countries and time has proven it to be the best adapted of any remedy yet made for all throat and lung diseases and especially coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. It always cures and cures quickly For sale by

Smith Stanistreet and Co.
Wholesale Agents B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

Weather.—A storm of some violence with torrential rain, broke over Calcutta about midnight Thursday night.

The Home Member.—It is understood that Sir Denzil Ibbetson will officiate for Sir Charles Rivaz when the latter takes leave in the Spring.

Evening Party at the Narajole Raj Prasad.—Babu Sushil Kumar Neogy M.A., of Bagbazar Calcutta, and son-in-law of Narajole Raj entertained the gentry of the town of Midnapore at an Evening Party held at the Raj Prasad, at Midnapore. The guests were highly pleased with the courteous behaviour of their host and the rich dishes served.

Calcutta University Institute.—A correspondent writes to say that the above institute is in a bad way. It is said that the number of junior members has appreciably dwindled and that there seems to exist some misunderstanding among its members. The authorities in charge of the institute ought to inquire into the allegations and remove the grievances

A Female Body Exhumed from the Grave.—On Thursday, the police under the orders of the Coroner, exhumed the body of a Mohamedan woman, named Janab Bibee, aged about 30 years, who lived in Colootolah Street, from the Manick Tolah Burial Ground where she had been intered, for the purpose of holding an inquest on the said body as a complaint had been made that she had died of poisoning.

Presidency Magistrates.—The gentlemen named below are appointed, to be Presidency Magistrates for the town of Calcutta, and are authorized to sit singly for the trial of cases:—Rai Jogesh Chunder Mitter Bahadur, and Rai Chunder Naran Singh Bahadur. Khan Bahadur Maulvi Delawar Hosain Ahmed is also appointed, under secton 18 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, to be a Presidency Magistrate for the town of Calcutta, and is authorized to sit singly for the trial of cases.

Public Works Department.—Mr. A. H. C. MacCarthy, Executive Engineer, was, on return from leave, attached to the office of the Superintending Engineer, Gandak Circle on the 12th and 13th December 1904. both days inclusive. Mr. T. Butler Superintending Engineer, has been granted by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India an extension of furlough up to 4th February 1905 inclusive, and Babu Haridas Bhadury, Supervisor, second grade, Gandak Circle, is granted leave on medical certificate from 16th Nov. 1904 to 28th February 1905. Commander G. Trusler, Sub-Engineer first grade, 1st Calcutta Division, is granted privilege leave for two months and twenty-one days, combined with furlough in India on private affairs for nine months and ten days, with effect from the 10 January 1905.

Changes in the Jurisdiction.—In consequence of the changes in the jurisdiction of certain tahnas on the re-establishment of the Barrackpore sub-division, in the district of the 24-Parganas, the following nominal changes in the jurisdictions of the Registration sub-districts of Dum-Dum, Barasat and Naihati, in the same district, are notified for general information:—(1) The Registration sub-district of Dum-Dum shall have jurisdiction over thana Dum-Dum, as defined by the notifications cited above, and over the outpost of Rajarhat. (2) The Registration Sub-district of Barasat shall have jurisdiction over thana Barasat, as defined by the notifications cited above, excluding the outposts of Amdanga and Rajarhat subordinate to it (3) The Registration sub-district of Naihati shall have jurisdiction over thana Naihati, as defined by the notification of the 9th February 1904, cited above, and over the outpost of Amdanga.

Departure of Sir Henry Cotton.—Sir Henry Cotton left for Bombay by the Bombay mail train Thursday evening. Among the large gathering at the Howrah railway station to bid good-bye to Sir Henry were His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga, the Hon, Mr. R. T. Greer, the Hon. Babu Nalin Behary Sircar, the Hon. Babu Bhupendro Nath Bose, the Hon. Babu Saligram Singh, Rai Sarruth Chunder Banerjee Bahadur, Mr. H. E. A. Cotton, Mr. Digby, Kumar Dakineshar Malia Mr. J. N. Barooah, Mr. S. K. Lahiri, Mr. Preonath Ghose, Babu Preo Nath Addy, Babu Nibaran Chandra Ghattak, and Babu Romoni Mohun Chatterjee. On arrival at the station Sir Henry was presented with a handsome bouquet by the members of the North Club. After conversing for some time with the principal personages present Sir Henry shook hands with all and entered his carriage. As the train steamed out of the station three hearty cheers were given for Sir Henry, and Kumar Dakineshar Malia handed him a beautiful bouquet.

Charge of Theft Against Sub-Registrar.—On Thursday Inspector Rash Behari Ghose, of the Bhowanipore Thanna, charged Babu Ganganarain Roy, Sub-Registrar of Hughly District, with theft before Moulvi Seraj-ul Huq, Police Magistrate of Alipore, it is stated that the accused one day came to visit the temple of the goddess Kali at Kalighat with his family in his own carriage from his residence at Behala. While they were in the midst of the crowd of pilgrims in the temple, a woman of the town cried out that a Babu had snatched away her gold necklace from her person, and subsequently pointed out the accused as the person who had taken it. The Police, who were on the spot, arrested the gentleman who however, at the request of several gentleman present, offered to pay the woman the estimated value of the ornament to avoid the trouble and disgrace that would necessarily follow a police enquiry. But the Police took him in the custody. The trial is proceeding.

The Persian Consulship was held for a long time by the late Hon'ble Mr. Rustomji and after his death his son succeeded him. Mr. Mehta was the Persian Consul for a time and he resigned about a year ago. We are now glad to learn that Khan Bahadur Meerza Shajaat Ali has been appointed in his place by the Shah of Persia and recognized by His Majesty's Government and His Excellency the Viceroy. The Khan Bahadur is held in great esteem by a considerable number of Indians and Europeans and he holds at present a number of important public offices.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR

London, Jan. 9.

A telegram from Tokio says it is proposed shortly to float a fourth "Domestic War Loan" on the same condition as the third.

London, Jan. 10.

Reuter's correspondent wiring from Port Arthur on the 6th, says, 5,000 of the garrison marched from Pigeon Bay fifteen miles to Changungtsu Railway Station, and thence were entrained for Dalny. Some pathetic scenes were witnessed.

The Japanese have already repaired the railway and changed the guage to Port Arthur, into which trains will enter in a few days.

London, Jan. 10.

The steamer "China" ships half a million of gold at San Francisco for Japan to-day.

London, Jan. 10.

Admiral Botrovsky's squadron has reached Port Said.

London, Jan. 10.

The Emperor of Germany has conferred the order of merit on General Stoessel and General Nogi in recognition of their heroic bravery at Port Arthur.

London, Jan. 10.

Large batches of prisoners from Port Arthur are daily arriving in Japan.

London, Jan. 10.

The North Sea Enquiry Commission again discussed its procedure to-day privately.

London, Jan. 10.

Reuter's correspondent at Tokio says according to an official statement the mine clearing vessels hitherto have destroyed 395 mines in the radius of forty miles of Port Arthur.

London, Jan. 10.

The recent reorganisation of British Fleets, coupled with an article in The Army and Navy Gazette, advocating the destruction of the German Fleet by Britain before it becomes too powerful, has caused a regular scare in official quarters at Berlin. It is understood that reassuring explanations have now been given.

London, Jan. 10.

Reuter's correspondent at Mauritius wires that it is rumoured the Japanese fleet has arrived at Diego Garcia.

Rozhdestvenski was informed on the 2nd instant that the Japanese fleet had proceeded to meet the Baltic Squadron and he has therefore redoubled his vigilance.

Rozhdestvenski's aide-de-camp was interviewed at Tamatave on the prd instant and said that the Baltic Squadron would require a month to cross the Indian Ocean.

London, Jan. 11.

Reuter's correspondent at Sandakan says two Japanese transports were at Labuan on 4th instant scouting. Two colliers for Russia arrived at Labuan on 7th instant.

London, Jan. 11.

M. Doumer addressing a meeting of the radical left prior to his election declared that every opportunity should be taken to subject the Ministry to a reverse.

London, Jan. 11.

The publication in the French papers of an exhaustive statement written by Baron Kodama in 1902 explaining Japanese ambitions and setting forth particularly Japanese designs against the French in Indo-China is creating a sensation in Paris. The Japanese legations deny authenticity but nevertheless it produces an impression.

London, Jan. 12.

The subscription to the new Russian loan opened at Berlin and closed immediately. Applications were unusually large.

London, Jan. 12.

General Nogi reports that 546 guns were captured at Port Arthur, 82,670 shells, 30,000 kilogrammes of powder and 2,266,800 rifle rounds.

The North Sea Enquiry Commission has completed its rules of procedure. The Agents' statements will be read at the first public sitting on the 19th instant. The examination of witnesses, the presentation of agents conclusions, and the final announcement of the Commission's conclusions will also be public. The sittings at which the Commissioners deliberate will be secret.

Botrovsky's squadron leaves Suez to-morrow.

London, Jan. 13.

The whole of the Russian cavalry recently formed into one enormous force under General Mistchenko, is displaying considerable activity. A detachment has damaged the railway between Aushanchan and Haicheng and Yingkow and Tashichow on the Japanese line of communications.

London, Jan. 13.

Russia has sent a circular to the Powers complaining of China's violation of neutrality since the war began, and claiming the right to act according to her own interest in the matter of China's neutrality.

GENERAL.

M. Gouin, Senior Senator, in opening an address to the Senate, said he hoped the year 1905 would see the end of the bloody war between two Powers, one of which had seen so many of its soldiers immolated in the finest defence ever known, and the other had gained the admiration of Europe by the greatness of the bravery it had displayed.

London, Jan. 10.

The gold output in the Transvaal last year was sixteen millions sterling as compared with 12½ millions in 1903.

London, Jan. 10.

The Pope has received in audience the Duke and Duchess of Genoa. This is the first time that a prince of the House of Savoy has entered the Vatican.

London, Jan. 10.

A letter from Mr. Chamberlain has been published in Melbourne in which he declines the invitation sent him to visit Australia. He says personally he would not repine if the Opposition had the opportunity of showing the real character of their alternative policy. "A short time in opposition would," he says, "invigorate and unite our party which on return to power could look forward to a triumph."

London, Jan. 11.

The protracted strikes at Baku Oil fields have resulted in serious bloodshed. It is officially admitted that twenty persons were killed in the fighting that took place between the strikers, Cossacks and police on the 5th instant. Forty-two oil towers have been burned by the strikers.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

GENERAL.

London, Jan. 10.

The French Chambers reassembled to-day. M. Doumer, the notable opponent of M. Combs, was elected President of the Chamber by 265 votes, defeating M. Brisson, who had 240 votes.

London, Jan. 11.

President Roosevelt strongly advocates a special session of Congress for the readjustment of the tariff, but the session is unlikely before next Autumn.

London, Jan. 11.

The American Government has informed China that it disapproves of the proposed cancellation of the concession for the Hankow-Canton Railway and regards the American Concessionaires as entitled to the protection of the American Government.

London, Jan. 12.

M. Fallieres has been re-elected President of the French Senate.

The American Senate's Commerce Committee has increased the subsidies referred to on the 6th instant to eighty thousand for a monthly service and 160 thousand for a fortnightly service.

London, Jan. 12.

Parliament meets on 14th February. There are persistent reports in Parliamentary circles that Parliament will be dissolved in March.

London, Jan. 12.

The provisional running of trains on the Orenburg-Tashkend Railway will commence on 14th instant.

London, Jan. 13.

Mr. Balfour in a speech at Glasgow last night dwelt upon the achievements of the Government in the direction of Army and Navy reform. He said that the real problem of the British Army arose at the point where alone there was a possibility of conflict with a great military empire. The problem of the army was the problem of the defence of Afghanistan. The changes in the War Office would enable us to intervene more effectively in any contest on the North-West Frontier of India. Moreover under the strong grasp of Lord Kitchener our forces in India were being reorganised so as to add to their efficiency without any material addition to their numerical strength. The army's new field gun was the most powerful one in the world.

The result of the naval changes was that the fighting power of the fleet during the first twentyfour hours of hostilities would be augmented threefold.

Lahore, Jan. 13.

The election for the vacancy caused at Mile End by the death of Mr. Spencer Charrington, Conservative, member, has resulted in the return of the Hon. H. L. W. Lawson, Conservative candidate, who polled 2,136 votes against Mr. Strauss, Liberal candidate who polled 2,060. The election was largely fought on the question of the exclusion of undesirable aliens, which Mr. Lawson advocated.

NEWS IN ADVANCE OF THE MAIL.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

London, Jan. 2.

Russian officers who have arrived Europe announce their intention of swearing before the Paris Commission that the Russian fire sank two Japanese torpedoes in the North Sea affair.

Russia is preparing to bring Kuropatkin's strength to 700,000. The Russian Service Journals strongly recommend the recall of the Baltic fleet without any delay.

The naval department at Tokio has published an intercepted letter written by an officer of the battleship Sevastopol. The writer states that the defenders are resigned to their fate and are sadly disappointed at the non-arrival of the Baltic Fleet, but are determined to fight to a finish and not to submit to the shame of a surrender from starvation. The fortress cannot, says the writer, hold after December. General Stoessel's so-called impregnable [illegible] is a myth. The capture of the 203 [illegible] hill implies that Port Arthur is [illegible] after the capture of Metre Hill [illegible] 10-inch shells penetrated the [illegible]s of the Sevastopol to the bottom [illegible]. He also describes the hopeless [illegible]ained from Japanese torpedo boats [illegible]evastopol had quitted the harbour. [illegible] hints, without however naming Kuropatkin, that the Russian Commander-in-Chief is responsible for the fate of Port Arthur in failing to prevent the landing of the Japanese in Gulf Liaotung. He bitterly adds that very few of our officers dare to brave death, and the majority's only desire is to save their own lives. We Sevastopolers are determined to die fighting. The proposal that Admiral Birileff should take a fresh squadron of Baltic warships to Japanese waters to reinforce Rozhdestvensky's fleet does not commend itself to practical seamen of other powers. Birileff will need 180 officers, but at present very few are available, all capable Commanders and navigators having been secured for Rozhdestvensky's ships.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

SPOILS OF THE CONQUEST.

(From the Japanese Consul.)

Bombay, Jan. 13.

On Thursday General Nogi reports that the delivery was completed. The following are the principal things: permanent forts 59; guns 546 whereof large calibre 54, medium calibre 149 and small calibre 343; cannon balls 82,670 ammunition 30,000 kilogrammes; rifles 35,252; horses 1920; battleships 4, except "Sevastopol" which entirely sunk; cruisers 2; gunboats and destroyers 14; steamers 10 etc; besides small steamers 35, which are usable after little repairs.

SIR THOMAS GALLWAY.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, Jan. 13.

Surgeon General Sir Thomas Gallway of His Majesty's forces in India is expected to return early in February.

TELEGRAMS.

INDIAN TELEGRAMS.

QUETA-NUSHKI RAILWAY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, Jan 11.

Work is proceeding satisfactorily on the Queta-Nushki railway which should be ready for opening in the spring.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, Jan 11.

We understand that a small departmental committee has been appointed to consider the question of the amalgamation of the Postal and Telegraph departments.

NEW FIVE-RUPEE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, Jan 11.

Some specimens of the new pattern of five-rupee note have reached India. They are larger than those tried experimentally last summer and have a figure of 5 boldly punched in red on the face. They should prove generally acceptable to both the Indians and Europeans.

SIR A. GASELEE.

Allahabad, Jan. 11.

Sir A. Gaselee, General Commanding the Eastern Command, will visit Allahabad on the 17th and inspect the troops and lines of the 9th Bhopal Infantry.

SIR CHARLES RIVAZ.

Allahabad, Jan. 11.

Sir Charles Rivaz passed through Allahabad to-day on his way to Calcutta.

A POLITICAL APPOINTMENT.

Allahabad, Jan. 11.

Mr. Tucker, Political Agent of Bhopawar proceeds immediately to Quetta to officiate as Agent to the Governor-General of Baluchistan.

THE CHINESE COMMISSIONER FOR THE TIBETAN AFFAIRS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, Jan. 13.

No definite date can yet be given for the arrival in Calcutta of Tangshurji, the Chinese Commissioner for Tibetan affairs, but he will probably reach India early next month.

EXPERIMENTS IN WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Allahabad, Jan. 13.

The wireless telegraphy experiments at Diamond islands have proved a success, Mr. Simpson of the Telegraph department having transmitted messages a distance of 150 miles. This should make communication between the Andamans and Burma quite feasible.

PROTEST AGAINST THE PARTITION OF BENGAL.

(From a Correspondent.)

Kendua (Mymensingh,) Jan. 13.

At a largely attended meeting of the people of Noapara (Mymensingh) great alarm was expressed at the new partition and resolutions strongly protesting against it were adopted and a copy of the resolutions was submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy.

THE WEATHER AT DARJILING.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Darjiling, Jan. 13.

Rain with thunder and lighting fell last night culminating in snow in the early hours of the morning. The Kunchinjunga and Phalut ranges as well as some of the surrounding hills appear thickly embedded in white, but the station itself has a slight sprinkling and it is now bright and clear.

A NEW JAIL IN PUNJAB.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Lahore, Jan. 13.

It is under contemplation to build a Central Jail for the Southern districts of the Punjab. The Deputy Commissioner and the Civil Surgeon of Ludhiana district etc., will meet at Ludhiana on the 16th instant to consider whether the proposed jail should be located in that city, and if so on what site.

SIRDAR INAYETULLA KHAN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Agra, Jan. 13.

Sirdar Inayetulla Khan has been driving out, always accompanied by the Commissioner, Colonel Jennings and Sardar Mohamed Usuf Khan, in a landau drawn by a team of horses of the 14th Battery R. F. A., driven by Europeans Gunners. To-day being the Mohamedan Sabbath, the Sardar and the Afghan noblemen attend prayers in the Musjid tent, specially erected near his Highness' tent. This evening the Sardar and party visited the Taj. The prince, accompanied by the Commissioner, Colonel Jennings, and Sardar Mohamed Usuf Khan drove out in a splendid four-in-hand, provided by the Bhurtpur State, the escort being furnished by a squadron of the 13th Bengal Lancers.

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT.

MR. STUART'S TOUR.

Allahabad, Jan. 12.

Mr. H. A. Stuart, C.S.I., Director of the Central Criminal Intelligence Department, arrived here last evening from Calcutta on his annual cold weather tour, the object of his tour being to secure a more complete co-operation between the police in the different provinces in British India and the Indian States. He stays here till the 18th instant as the guest of the Lieutenant-Governor, and leaves for Hyderabad, whence, after three days' stay he will readh Bombay on the 24th instant. From Bombay he will proceed to the Central Provinces, then he will tour in Central India and Rajputana, the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province. He will reach Simla on the 4th of April.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

High Court.—Jan. 13.

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CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Henderson and Geidt.)

A RULE ISSUED.

Babu Gobinda Chundra Roy obtained a rule on behalf of one Abdul Majid calling upon the Deputy Commissioner of Kachar to show cause why the sanction of prosecution passed against the petitioner should not be set aside.

One Mobshur Ali instituted criminal proceedings against Abdul Majid under Sec. 133 Cr. P. Code alleging that the latter had caused an obstruction to a certain "Nala." The Extra Assistant Commissioner of Silchar ordered a police enquiry before issuing any notice to the defendant and on receipt of the report stayed the proceedings. The complainant thereafter moved the Deputy Commissioner of Silchar, who referred the case to the Lower Court with directions that the defendant should be required to open the "Nala" within a fixed time and if he failed to do so, the obstruction should be removed by the Police. The case was accordingly revived by the Extra Assistant Commissioner. The petitioner filed a written statement and prayed for the appointment of a jury; but no notice was taken of it. The petitioner then formally applied to the Extra Assistant Commissioner for permitting him to produce his documents; the case was accordingly adjourned till following day but owing to want of time the Extra Assistant Commissioner could not see the documents on that day. On the 3rd November the petitioner produced some "pattah" and the Cadastral map and the Extra Assistant Commissioner after perusing then returned them to the petitioner but passed no order in the case. Thereafter the complainant made an application praying for sanction to prosecute the petitioner on the ground that he had not opened the "Nala," The sanction was granted in the absence of and without any notice to the petitioner. Aggrieved by the said order the petitioner moved this Court.

THE PALAMOW SENSATION.

Moulvi Syed Abdul Majid is a Zemindar in the District of Palamow. On the 13th June 1903 Mr. Lyall, the Deputy Commissioner of Palamow, instituted a proceeding under Sec. 145 Cr. P. C., in respect Zof 3000 Bighas of land, making the petitioner as the first party and one Babu Indradeo Narayan Sing as second party. The Deputy Commissioner upon a consideration of the evidence adduced by both sides held that Indradeo Narayan to be in possession of 4 annas and 7 gundas Mokorari right on the entire land. He also held that Moulvie Abdul Majid had committed offences under sections 193, 211 and 471 I.P.C. and directed the District Superintendent of Police to enquire into the circumstances of the case and of the documents therein filed. The petitioner moved this Court against those orders, which were afterwards set aside. While the case was pending in the High Court and while further proceedings were stayed a warrant was issued against the petitioner and his elephants etc., were attached. After the case was disposed of warrants were issued against the petitioner, Dhaniram, who, it was alleged, had executed a "kobla" in favour of the petitioner in respect of the purchase of the land in dispute, and one Tulshi Sing, the writer of the "kobla." It was alleged in the petition that on the 13th September Mr. Lyall called R. Hossain, an attesting witness to the "kobla" and a respectable Zemindar, to his bunglow, arrested him and sent him to hajut because he would not depose against the petitioner. He was released on bail. Dhaniram was also arrested, his statements were taken and he was released on bail. A warrant of arrest was issued against Tulsi Sing, who for fear of being sent to hajut, on the 1st October last accompanied by a pleader of Gya surrendered himself before Mr. Lyall and applied for bail. Mr. Lyall after hearing the pleader sent Tulsi in custody to the Court Sub-Inspector who told Tulsi that the case was an unbailable one and that the only way by which he could be released on bail was to obey the orders of Mr. Lyall. Thereafter the District Superintendent of Police came and took Tulsi in custody to his bunglow where he had to wait for an hour and was sent with the orderly peons to the bunglow of Mr. Lyall. Tulsi was told to sit in a chair before Mr. Lyall who asked him as to why he had brought a pleader from Gya and he had not gained anything by bringing a pleader. Mr. Lyall then told Tulsi Sing that he must speak the truth otherwise he would be sent to jail for seven years. Tulsi was here shown the record of statements of the other witnesses. Mr. Lyall then sent for two constables with hand-cuff; this frightened Tulsi very much and he made his statements. Tulsi was then taken before the District Superintendent of Police under the custody of an orderly peon of Mr. Lyall. There he was asked to speak the truth; he was further told that other witnesses had spoken against Abdul Majid and that the latter would not be saved by his (Tulsi) speaking in favour of Abdul Majid. The District Superintendent of Police said that unless Tulsi deposed as others did he would be sent to hajut. Tulsi Sing was here ordered to be released on bail of Rs. 200 at about 8 p.m. On the 1st October an application for a copy of the order sheet of the proceedings with expedition fee was filed under the signature of a pleader in the ordinary course, before the Senior Deputy Magistrate, but the application was sent to Mr. Lyall for orders. Mr. Lyall by his order dated the 11th October last refused to grant a copy. Thereafter a Counsel moved the Deputy Commissioner for obtaining copies and Mr. Lyall passed orders for granting copies of such papers as affected Tulsi Sing but refused to grant copies of other papers. When Counsel appeared before Mr. Lyall the former was asked if he appeared for Abdul Majid. The petitioner therefore apprehended that he would not get a fair and impartial trial in the Court of Mr. Lyall. He moved this Court for the transfer of the case from the District of Palamow.

Mr. Jackson, Mr. P. L. Roy and Babu Dasarathi Sanyal appeared for the petitioner.

Their Lordships issued a rule on the Deputy Commissioner of Palamow to show cause why the enquiry under Sec. 476, now pending before him should not be transferred to the Magistrate of some other District competent to try the same on the grounds stated in the petition. All further proceedings would be stayed until the disposal of the rule. This rule would not have any effect until the petitioner surrendered, but on his surrender he would be forthwith admitted to bail to satisfaction of the Magistrate.

SIR H. COTTON AT GAUHATI.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Gauhati, Jan. 10.

A UNIQUE SPECTACLE.

Gauhati witnessed a spectacle on the 7th January last, on the occasion of the reception of Sir Henry Cotton, which, it can be supposed, it will not very easily forget. The reception of such a grand personage by only a few inhabitants of this place—all non-officials—proved once for all how much strained the relations between the rulers and the ruled have grown and what a depth of degradation the Britishers in this benighted province can stoop to. Of that by and by.

ARRIVAL.

The express steamer from Dhubri with Sir Henry Cotton on board, arrived at about 2-30 p.m. at the Gauhati station. The river being silted up near the station-ghat, steamers cannot come near the shore, but stay in the midstream whence mails and passengers are trans-shipped ashore. Sir Henry was conveyed in a jolly boat to the sands where a Shamiana was set up and the whole way from the river-side to the Shamiana was lined on both sides with plantain trees and flags. The local band was requisitioned and kept the whole thing lively with occasional tunes. At the landing place as well as under the Shamiana waited a few gentlemen of the place including the pleaders of the local bar with a sprinkling of school-students, and a motley crowd of the steamer-ghat coolies and Khalasies. There was not a single white face to be seen, nor any Government servant, worth the name! Even the students of the local Cotton College and Collegiate school were strictly prohibited by their Principal Shahib from joining in any demonstration for Sir Henry Cotton. It did not require much time and effort for Sir Henry to realise the whole situation. Apparently he was prepared for it. He, however, enquired about all the gentlemen—big officials and small—Europeans and Indians—and did not express much surprise when told that almost all the European residents of the town were, all on a sudden, called away to attend to their duties in the muffasil; some of them within a couple of miles or so! He was not also consequently more than reasonably surprised to mark the absence of even the E. A. C's and the Sub-Deputy Collectors and other Government officers whom to see Sir Henry would certainly like very much. He understood everything at a glance and with great equanimity and firmness stood it with great cheerfulness and presence of mind.

RECEPTION.

After a few minutes' talk with all the gentlemen and very cordially shaking hands with all, Sir Henry was driven in a Tonga cart beautifully decorated with flower-garlands and flags for the occasion to the Curzon Hall—the other gentlemen and the school-boys, whose number increased every minute, following, some in carriages, some on foot—forming a small procession.

AT THE COURT COMPOUND.

There was no exhileration or jubilation whatever. All faces seemed to be marked with melancholy and gloom as if bearing the marks of some great pressure upon their hearts. When the procession reached the court-compound, Sir Henry stopped and asked if there was anybody in the court-offices who wanted to see him. Of the whole fry of the Government-servants, crowding the court-offices, one alone (whose name for evident reasons I omit to mention) boldly rushed out of his office to pay his humble but most sincere respects to Sir Henry Cotton, his old master and chief. The others—oh! the whole lot of them—skulked in the corners of their offices and hid their faces in sorrow, if not in shame. None dared come out. Oh! the service! the service! how slavish people may become under the iron rule.

AT THE COLLEGE.

Sir Henry next expressed a desire to meet the gentlemen—of course those who wanted to see and hear him, at the local Curzon Hall and then walked on to his beloved College—the Cotton College of Gauhati. The students were not, as I have said before, allowed to come to receive him. A few, however, whose feelings were too true and strong to be kept in check, broke bounds and defying all threats of the dumb professors rushed out to show their Sir Henry Cotton—the founder of the beloved institution.

IN SEARCH OF THE PRINCIPAL.

When Sir Henry went to the College walked from room to room, followed by a thick crowd but nowhere could the Principal or the Professors be seen! But Sir Henry was not to be baffled. He was determined to find the whole lot out from their hiding places. He gathered from a boy that the Principal and some of the Professors had been into the Laboratory-room, how busy—of course nobody could say. Sir Henry instantly repaired to the Laboratory and met them. He came away in a few minutes.

AT THE CURZON HALL.

Sir Henry next went to the Curzon Hall which, and the approach to which, were slightly decorated with paper-cuts and evergreens. A pretty large gathering waited there to see and listen to Sir Henry Cotton—the once beloved Chief of Assam. Sir Henry addressed the audience in very feeling terms and assured the people of this province of his warm love and sympathy. The address was couched in so very pathetic terms and expressed in so sincere feelings that not a few of those present were with their eyes wet with tears. After he took his seat Messrs Ram Das Brahma, pleader of the local bar, and J. N. Baruah, Rai Bahadoor, spoke a few words in praise of the high merit and virtues of Sir Henry and in appreciation of the valuable services done by him to the country and its people. They were followed by Babu Bepin Behary Chakraverty B. A., Headmaster, Private H. E. School, who on behalf of the students of the town expressed their deep reverence, respect and love for Sir Henry Cotton. The pent-up feelings of the students for a time got free vent and were expressed in three hearty, loud cheers. Sir Henry was apparently much moved by the addresses and again rose and spoke a few words exhorting the students to be very earnest, steady and persevering in their endeavours for, nothing but these divine qualities would ensure their success in life—in the long run. He took his seat amidst cheers.

AT THE DAK-BUNGALOW.

Two rooms were secured in the Dak-Bungalow for the accommodation of Sir Henry. Thither he was next conducted by the gentlemen—a thick crowd following him and giving vent to their feelings in different ways—sometimes cheering Sir Henry but at other times throwing not very parliamentary epithets upon the absentee grandees of the town. Tiffin and dinner were ordered in the Dak-Bungalow. As the day closed, the students of the Cotton College and other schools gathered there in large numbers and cheered Sir Henry as the "Champion of Justice." Sir Henry very kindly spoke to the boys, familiarly and cheerfully talked with them, shook hands with all and heartily encouraged them in their life work and mission. The closing part of Sir Henry's half-a-day visit to this town was most interesting, pathetic and dramatic.

"STOLEN" VISIT.

Although not a single European official thought it worth his while to see the 'People's man", Sir Henry, however did not omit an opportunity of seeking a few out and bringing home to their minds what stuff and material they are made of. It was really very dramatic and interesting, this painful surprise of Sir Henry's stolen visit to a few worthy Britishers—Sir Henry's own countrymen—and some of them, if I am correctly informed, owing their very position and influence to his favour! One European gentleman is said to have extended his hospitality to Sir Henry, but on second thought sent word to say that as he was going out of the town he was sorry not to be able to have the opportunity and pleasure of entertaining Sir Henry. Sir Henry very good naturedly expressed his gratification at the unavoidable absence of the big officials for he was, as he said, thus enabled to get greater opportunities of mixing with the people.

DEPARTURE.

Sir Henry to the last minute of his stay talked with the gentlemen and assured them that he would never forget the love and kindness of the people of this province. He left for Calcutta by the express steamer that very evening.

ATTITUDE OF THE EUROPEANS AND ITS RESULTS.

Though not a single European or Indian official took part in Sir Henry's reception though no very great demonstration was shown on the occasion, peoples' feelings, spontaneous and natural, could not be checked but flowed too freely in unbounded love and reverence for Sir Henry Cotton. The present attitude of the European residents has rather served to bring to the minds of the Indians how a friend of theirs—how one who feels for them a bit and speaks a word for them, even if a Britisher, is held by his own countrymen. The growth of this feeling between the rulers and the ruled is certainly not a very happy thing to see and contemplate.

KRISHNAGHUR NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Krishnaghur, Jan. 12.

A CASE OF MURDER.

The Sub-divisional Magistrate of Kusthia committed Polla Mondal and others on a charge of committing culpable homicide under the following circumstances. Since Sravan last Pollan lost 3 buffaloes and 2 cows. The death of the animals was suspected to be due to the administration of poison by the deceased Dino Mochi, who used to skin the carcass of dead animals. On the last occasion, a buffalo was poisoned and Pollan and others conspired together to beat Dino, when he would go to flay the carcass. This time they left the dead body of the animal in a field surrounded by "Bubla" trees near a "Jole." In order to give a wrong scent, some of the accused fished in the "Jole" and others lay in wait on the adjoining field. As soon as Dino went there and commenced skinning it, they all assaulted him and beat him with lathi, Belat, Kandal. The deceased screamed in agony and some people came to his rescue when the assailants fled. He was so much wounded that he died on the spot. The case had been fixed for hearing on the 9th but, as one of the accused fell dangerously ill in the hajat and was unable to attend court, the case is adjourned on the 27th instant.

A VERY SENSATIONAL ABDUCTION CASE.

This case in which Esua Latif and Punchkori were tried jointly about six months ago, has been remanded by the Hon'ble High Court on the ground that the joint trial was bad in law. The facts of this case were reported and published in the "Patrika." The case of Esua and Punchkori is being tried now, and the case of Esua and Latif will be tried on 13th January.

MATTERS MUNICIPAL.

Yesterday, a meeting of the Rate-payers Association was held at the Govinda Sarak Banga Bidyalaya, to discuss municipal matters and resolutions to the effect that the conditions of almost all the roads are lamentable, the conservancy arrangement is very defective, patch works of road repairs are absolutely necessary as the dust and ditches have rendered traffic most inconvenient, the system of watering is very unsatisfactory were passed unanimously. The copy of the resolutions will be sent to the District Magistrate and the Chairman of th eMunicipality. We hope prompt steps would be taken to redress the grievances of the rate-payers.

A Poona correspondent writes under date the 9th instant:—Private Walker, of the East Lancashire Regiment, has been arrested by the police on a charge of attempting to murder a woman named Annetta, living near the bazaar. On Sunday night Walker, who has recently been reduced to the ranks from Sergeant, was on guard duty at Ghoripuri when he left his post and went to the woman's house, taking with him his rifle. He appears to have had a grudge against another woman living in the same house and while hiding near the place in the hopes of seeing her come out saw Annetta, the owner of the house appear with a lantern in her hand mistaking her for the woman he desired to be avenged upon Walker fired, but luckily missed his mark. He was immediately arrested by the military police. A preliminary enquiry was held by Mr. Holman, Assistant Superintendent of Police, and Inspector Moore, when evidence was recorded. The matter will be laid before the military authorities to decide whether Walker is to be tried by a civil or military court. Walker was placed before Major Wake, Cantonment Magistrate, this evening, and remanded for a week.—"Times of India."

A CASE OF SATI.

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(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Bankipur, Jan. 12.

Sometime back I sent you an account of a case of Sati that had taken place in Behar Sub-division. The son of the deceased named Juggernath Missir with 12 others were committed to take their trial in the Sessions. The case came to a close yesterday, when seven of the accused were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and the remaining six were acquitted. The whole facts of the case will appear from the following:—

COMMITMENT ORDER.

Emperor vs. Juggernath Missir and 12 other charges under Secs. 304, 304-114, and 306 I. P.C.

Five of the accused in this case s and committed for trial on charges of culpable homicide and abatement of suicide, whilst the remaining eight have been committed on charges of abatement of suicide. Though the 13 accused committed for trial have thus been divided into two distinct batches—the charges nevertheless are with reference to one and the same transaction. This was the immolution of a Hindu widow on the funeral pyre of the deceased husband or as it is termed in the vernacular a case of Sati, which may be described as a ghastly offence against nature, against humanity and law of the land. Happily the offence is exremely rare, indeed it was hoped that the great blot of Hindu rites and ceremonies had been effectually and permanently exterminated. It is wherefore not a little startling to be thus presented with instances of a revival of the barbarism of the dark ages. The evidence goes to show that one Chaudhuri Missir alias Chatturbhuj Missir, a Brahmin of Sanchari village, having died on the 8th October last, arrangements were made for the cremation of his body at the "Devi Sthan" of that place, on the banks of a small river. A piece was cut in the ground in the shape of a St. Andrew's Cross and the funeral pyre was built over it. The body being laid on the pyre, the widow having bathed in the river and adorned herself as for her marriage, took her seat on the pyre and called on her son, the accused Juggernath Missir, to do his duty as a devout Hindu, Juggernath lighted some wheat stocks and having walked round the pyre three times, applied, according to custom, the fire to the mouth of the deceased. This failed to ignite the pyre and it is said that he and the four Brahman accused, viz., Balkishun Missir, Dwarka Missir, Ram Charan Missir and Sachman Tewari, performed the Humad, which consisted of the burning of incense and the placing of lighted chips of wood, dipped in ghee under the pyre until it ignited. By this time a vast crowd had assembled. As the smoke from the incense ascended and the flames reached the widow, she is said to hve "moved about" or writhed and finally to have stood up and turned towards the setting sun but immediately fell back on the pyre apparently overcome by the increasing flames and amidst cries of "Sat Ram," "Sita Ram," "Sati Mai Ki Jai," the beating of drums, the clang of cymbols and blowing of the Sank or shell, was burnt to ashes with the corpse of her husband. The evidence goes to show that the five Brahmin accused (1) Juggernath Missir, Balkishun Missir, Dwarka Missir, Ram Charan Missir and Lachman Tewari, were the persons who lighted or assisted in lighting the pyre. The accused Luchmi Narain Singh (2) Udit Singh, (3) Adit Singh, (4) Langru Singh have been identified as persons who were standing round and near the pyre crying "Sath, Sath" "Sat Ram" and 'Sati Mai Ki Jai." If these cries of Hindu piety were not actually a necessary corollary to the cremation and immolation, they certainly signified sympathy with approval of the act and by thus giving it their support they can only be regarded in the light of abettors. The accused Ram Lal Burchi cut and prepared the wood for the pyre and was present during the whole of the proceedings. Dilchand Chamar and Ganga Chamar were two of the drummers employed during the progress of the ceremonies and thus participated in them whils. Sawar Choukidar the watchman of the village being present refused to lay any information before the police, though the necessity of doing so was suggested to him. . . It is an unfortunate circumstance that the majority of the witnesses are Hindus and as such the accused have the full benefit of their sympathies. Of this, several of the witnesses gave every indication and some of them were distinctly unwilling witnesses. Apart from this, the character and nature of the transaction itself was such as would ordinarily occasion a considerable diversity of description in the statements of the different witnesses. The points to which their attention was rivetted was the funeral pyre itself and the terrible scene that was there being enacted. The individual acts of those who were ministering to the ceremonies were of but very minor importance. There was much excitement, the crowd was great and the noise of drums, cymbols and gong whilst effectually drowned any agonised cries there may have been from the unfortunate victim only added to the confusion and blurred the powers of accurate or rather detailed observation of the attendants. To them it was of but little consequence who applied the fire to the pyre, the great thing was to see the pyre burn and with it the unfortunate woman...The accused Juggernath Missir beyond saying that his mother died as Sati on the same day that his father died, refused to make any statement. He, however, admits having made the statement recorded by my predecessor on 22nd Oct., 1904, in which he said his mother "went and sat upin the funeral pile and fire broke out from her person". The accused Ram Charan Missir, Dwarka Missir and Balkishun Missir now say that Chatturbhuj Missir and his wife died in the same day from natural causes and were burnt on the same pyre and thus the woman became Sati, but that is not in accordance with the statements previously made by them before my predecessor under sec. 164 C. P. C. Ram Charan Missir then said that when the body of her husband was placed on the pyre, the widow declared she would be a Sati and that "she went and sat on thepyre and fire broke out from her person"..... Dilchand Chamar and his brother Gunga Chamar say they sat at a distance and played the drums and cannot say if there were one or two bodies on the pyre. Ram Lal Barhi says he lent his axe to Juggernath to cut fire-wood for the pyre, but did not himself attend the funeral or witness the burning of the bodies. These statements have yet to be proved but it is a significant fact that such a complete change has been made in the line of defence to be adopted.

(Sd) J. T. Babonean,
Dy. Magistrate.

The case having come to the Sessions, the jury returned a unanimous verdict of "guilty" against the following who were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment specified against their names:

Juggernath Missir 5 years' rigorous imprisonment, Balkishun Missir 3 years, Dwarka 3 years, Ram Charan 1½ years, Somar Choukidar 1 year, Gunga and Dilchand Chamars 9 months' each.

The rest were found "not guilty" and acquitted.

PUBLIC WORKS POSTINGS.

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Lieutenant C. F. Birney, R. E., on return from field service is re-appointed to the Public Works Department as Assistant Engineer, 2nd grade, and posted to the North-Western Railway.

Babu Sailendro Nath Banerjee, Engineer Student, Sibpur College, is appointed Apprentice Engineer and posted to Bengal.

Mr. A. S. Thomson Superintending Engineer is appointed to officiate as Chief Engineer and Secretary to Government of Bengal in the Buildings and Roads Branch.

Mr. A. N. J. Harrison, is appointed to the Superior Accounts Branch as Assistant Examiner 1st grade, and posted to Madras.

Captains Wilkinson and Hopkins, R. E. Executive Engineers, are posted to the North Western Railway.

Messrs. Despeissis and Savielle, Executive Engineers, are permitted to retire from the service of Government.

Major McElhinny, R. E., is appointed Deputy Traffic Superintendent, Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Mr. Thomas, Assistant Superintendent in the Locomotive Department, is appointed to the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

MINERAL DISCOVERIES IN CEYLON.

The "Ceylon Government Gazette" has recently published a notification which will have a considerable interest for mining people. The new mineral "thorianite" which has been discovered by Mr. W. D. Holland and the Mineralogical Survey and analysed at the Imperial Institute, has been found to contain over 70 per cent of "thoria," the material from which incandescent gas mantles are made. The mineral occurs in very black cubic cystals, and is abundant at Bambarabotuwa in the Province of Sabaragamuwa where it was first found. Slight traces have also been discovered near Balangoda, and also near Ratnapura and near Russella, and perhaps also in a plumbago mine in the Kurunegala District. Thorite is another mineral containing over 60 per cent of thoria, and it has been found by the Mineralogical Survey at Bambarabotuwa and at Gilirmale, in the Province of Sabaragamuwa. The Government is informed that £30 per cwts. is now offered in England for thorianite containing from 70 to 72 per cent of thoria; the value of the thorite would, therefore, be slightly less. In view of their high commercial value, Government desires to encourage a search for these minerals; intending prospectors are accordingly informed that the Government will for three years undertake to levy no royalty on the mineral, except in the case of extraction from Crown lands, where the permission to wash will be by agreement on liberal terms. Samples of thorianite are, we believe, on view at the Colombo Museum, and at the offices of the Government Agents in the districts mentioned.—"Bomaby Gazette."

RE-OPENING OF THE VICTORIA MEMORIAL EXHIBITION.

On Tuesday afternoon next the Viceroy and Trustees of the Victoria Memorial will be at home at 4-30 in the Galleries of the Indian Museum to a number of invited guests to inaugurate the re-opening of the Victoria Memorial Exhibition. A large numbe of valuable additions have been made to the collection during the past year and a third gallery has now been opened for the purpose. His Majesty the King has continued to take the warmest interest in the undertaking designed to commemorate the late Queen Victoria; and, in addition to the oil-paintings which he presented a year ago, has now forwarded to the Trustees two bronze busts of Queen Alexandra and himself as well as a costly writing-cabinet and chair from Windsor Castle which were in daily use by Queen Victoria while conducting her official and private correspondence. The interesting pictures and memorials so generously lent by the Judges of the High Court and the Asiatic Society of Bengal, will also be on view: as well as a complete collection of Indian Army medals and coins, a large number of exquisitely illuminated Oriental manuscripts of extreme rarity, and many notable additions to last year's collection of oil-paintings, prints, engravings, and personal relics. These include a number of objects relating or originally belonging to Warren Hastings, which have been presented by a lady in England who has inherited a large number of his personal effects. We are informed that models of the battle-fields of Plassey and Seringapatam are also in course of execution: and that many oil-paintings of distinguished Indians and Anglo-Indians have been promised. The exhibition will be open to the public after Tuesday next, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., until the middle of February, and after that date to 6 p.m. until the close of the season. It will also be open on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A report from Zhob Valley states that a prisoner under detention at Kila Saijallah, after receiving a sentence of 14 years' imprisonment, secured a rifle and shot a sentry and escaped. He wounded another sepoy before being recaptured. The sentry died of his wound.

While some villagers were passing the jungle at Pallikuda, in the district of Anuradhapura, Ceylon, they met to their surprise a number of elephants headed by a tusker. Fearful for their lives, one of them, who happened to possess a gun at the time, discharged a shot in the direction of the herd of elephants, which brought down after some hours the tusker to the ground; but they ran helter-skelter to their homes, thinking that the shot was a miss. The tusker, which fell dead in the jungle about fifty yards from the road, was noticed by another villaer, who removed the tusks, which were very valuable, and kept them in his house, taking every precaution not to let the secret out. It appears that the District Mudaliyar of the place, while on circuit, found the carcase of an elephant deprived of its tusks. He investigated the matter and traced the hidden tusks, which are said to weigh over 70lbs. and are valued at Rs. 600. The tusks will be advertised for sale.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

PARTITION OF BENGAL.

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SIR H. COTTON'S VIEWS.

On Wednesday evening a conference was held at the Town Hall under the presidency of Sir Henry Cotton to consider the question of the partition of Bengal. The conference was held in the ground floor. It was largely attended. All the leaders of the people of Bengal—Hindus and Mahomedans—were there. There were more than 300 delegates from muffasil towns present and they took active part in it. It was in fact a second protest meeting similar to the one held sometime ago to protest against the partition scheme.

Raja Peary Mohun Mukerjee proposed that the chair be taken by Sir Henry Cotton. In doing so he said:—

You, gentlemen, who have come from remote districts to attend this conference to give us the benefit of your counsel in determining our course of action in the matter of the proposed partition of Bengal have received with no greater sense of relief than we men of west Bengal the statement made by Sir Denzil Ibbetson in the Council Chamber in reply to the question put by His Highness the Maharaja of Durbhanga. We have in that statement an indication that before coming to a decision His Excellency the Viceroy is anxious to examine and deliberate upon thoroughly a measure which is so very repugnant to the feelings and wishes of the people. We are deeply grateful to His Excellency for it. It has reduced to narrower limits the work of the Committee appointed at the public meeting held in this hall in March last and at which I had the honour to preside, a meeting by the way more largely and influentially attended than perhaps any ever held in this historic hall. We may now venture to presume that His Excellency is no longer particularly in love with the scheme and we may view it with equanimity freed from the apprehension that the measure had been settled by the Government of India and that immediate effect would be given to it. Luckily we have now in our midst one illustrated gentleman who has always been a sympathetic and warmhearted friend of the people of India and whose knowledge and experience gained in a long and distinguished career in the public service of the country entitle him to speak with authority on the question. We should not slip the opportunity of hearing his opinions on this momentous question. I am sure we shall vastly benefit by it. I now beg to propose that Sir Henry Cotton be requested to take the chair and request him to address the assembly.

SIR H. COTTON'S SPEECH.

Amidst loud cheers Sir Henry Cotton rose and said:—

Rajas and Gentlemen, I fear it will be quite impossible for me to throw my voice so far back as to be audible in this great hall and indeed it will be useless for me to attempt the impossible. I have come here this afternoon to preside at the conference to be held regarding the proposed partition of Bengal. Well, gentlemen, the first thing I have to advise to you in this connection is to be moderate in your views, to express them with clearness, but at the same time with every respect and consideration to the authorities of the country. Nothing is to be gained by the use of violent or strong language. Our object is, if possible, to conciliate our relation and to win them round by argument and reasoning to our own views of the situation. Least of all, gentlemen, is our present Viceroy a man to be coerced by any violence of opinion or expression. I have ever allowed myself on every occasion to speak language—rather most respectful language—of our eminent and distinguished Viceroy and am convinced that he is devoted to the interests of this country according to his own lights, these lights being unfortunately, in many a respect, quite different from our own. But of his conscientiousness and sincerity, of his ardent love of justice, his detestation of wrong there can be no doubt whatever. But we differ from him widely in respect of the proposal he has put forward on his own responsibility for the dismemberment of this province. All we can do is to approach him with utmost respect and beg him to reconsider the opinions he has already expressed and if possible to drop the scheme; or, if not, at least so far to modify it as to make it as little objectionable as possible.

Now, we labour under one great disadvantage as we do not know exactly what the present scheme is. The proposal of dismembering Bengal sprang from small beginning. It rose from a small conference held in this city just 15 years ago with the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, the Chief Commissioner of Burma, the Chief Commissioner of Assam and a few high military authorities. They sat to consider measures for the better protection of our North-Eastern frontier. It was then proposed that the Lusha Hills should be transferred to Assam and in order to facilitate the administration, it was recommended that the Chittagong Division should go with them. That was in 1891. In 1896 the matter had proceeded a little further. In the earlier part of that year Sir William Ward was the Chief Commissioner of Assam and he prepared a somewhat elaborate scheme for the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam and he added to it in a general way a hope coupled with a few recommendations of his own that the districts of Dacca and Mymensing might also be transferred. Then I succeeded to the Chief Commissionership of that province. The matter was referred to me for my opinion by the Government of India and I said in a minute, which has been published in this country and which doubtless many of you have seen, speaking with the right of experience which I possessed of the districts of Chittagong and Comilla as well as from long experience in Bengal in all its districts—I said that I thought the proposal to transfer the Chittagong Division was very ill-advised and as for the transfer of Dacca and Mymensing I alluded to it only to scout it as altogether out of the question. I said I would be very glad to take over the administration of the Lushai Hills. Accordingly Lushai Hills were transferred to Assam and the proposal to transfer any other part of the Bengal Province was allowed to drop. I remember speaking on the subject shortly after about a year after or perhaps a little more, two years after—with Sir John Woodburn who was then Lieutenant-Governor of the province and had succeeded to that post from being Home Member of the Viceroy's Council. I asked him what had happened of this proposal for the transfer of Chittagong to Assam and he said that "the whole question has been allowed to drop after the receipt of your minute." It was evident, he said that "you showed no particular keenness or desire to become Lieutenant-Governor of the new province. Well, so the matter rested until I left India.

The question was then re-opened by the well-known letter under the signature of Mr. Risley, which when published, I think about 18 months ago, created much consternation in your community. It was then suggested that as Bengal was too large for any one man to control, certain portions of Bengal including not only Chittagong but the Dacca Division also should be transferred to Assam. In consequence of the violent agitation which the public in this matter caused, Lord Curzon visited those districts—Chittagong, Dacca and Mymensing—and he made certain speeches about a year ago in which he adumberated a third and still larger scheme. This time, as I understand, abandoning any idea of augmenting the Chief Commissionership of Assam but framing the constitution of a new Lieutenant-Governorship with all the appenages of a Lieutenant-Governor. That scheme included the whole of the Dacca Division, the Chittagong Division and also Rajshye Division excluding of course Darjeeling. There must be a new Lieutenant-Governor with his head-quarters at Dacca; there must be a new Board of Revenue; a new High Court and all the functionaries which are usually associated with the Lieutenant-Governorship distinguishing it so far from the Chief Commissionership. That proposal has been before the public about a year. It gave no more satisfaction to your community than the scheme which it superseded. On the contrary there aroused, if possible, greater opposition. A few months ago a great meeting was held in this hall in which a memorial—I hold up in my hand well-reasoned and forcible, was prepared protesting against all the schemes which have been put forward and praying that they might be abandoned. This memorial was, I believe, presented to His Excellency as long ago as May last and up to the present time no answer has been received to it. Various rumours have rent the air. We have heard of one thing and another thing. We are told that the last scheme of the Viceroy has been sanctioned by the Secretary of state in Council and we have further told that it has not yet been submitted at present to the Secretary of State for his consideration. I gather from an answer recently made in Council to a question put by the Hon'ble the Maharaja of Durbhanga—I gather that the Government of India has up to the present moment not made up its mind as to what scheme it will adopt or whether it will adopt any scheme at all. I gather from an answer recently made in Council to a question put by the Maharaja of Darbhanga that the Government of India has up to the present moment not made up its mind as to what scheme it will adopt, or whether it will adopt any scheme at all whether the Government of India, even at the eleventh hour, is not prepared to abandon the proposal which has given such just irritation throughout the province. This is how matter stands in regard to the history of this measure. It is, I think, an opportune moment that I am able to stand with you at a time when it is possible that our united protest, temperately and moderately expressed may be able to influence the Government of India so far as to reconsider the whole question.

Upon the proposals, gentlemen, the first point I have to come is that this suggestion for the partition of the province appears to have come spontaneously and uninvitedly from the Government of India itself. I do not believe that the proposal was made at the first instance either by the Government of Bengal or the Administration of Assam.. It sprang like the mapple from the head of Jove not in full but partially equipped. The subsequent weapons have been furnished by the Viceroy himself after his visit from Dacca and Mymensingh. The proposal was strongly objected to the moment it was understood and recognised. I suppose that there is not anybody of opinion whatever in the province, of the least weight or importance, in favour of any of the schemes put forward.

They are condemned by the sentiment of the community. But Lord Curzon is the last person in the world to despise the influence of sentiment. He is himself possessed of extraordinary sentimental disposition. I am sure that he must realise in his heart that this sentimental objection on the transfer is entitled to the greatest weight. But the objection is much more than mere sentimental. It cuts at the root of your national existence. All your usual relations will be severed by this transfer, all your historical associations will be ruptured, linguistic ties will be snapped and matters of administrative interest and importance will be most seriously injured. It is difficult to exaggerate the hardships which will follow from this transfer. Look how many of our bigger zemindars have their estates and properties in the eastern Bengal. Many of them reside in Calcutta for convenience just as our wealthy noblemen in London with their estates in the country reside in London. It is in Calcutta that they have all their agencies of management. All management is controlled from Calcutta. Calcutta is the centre of Bengal from which everything radiates to the distant muffasil towns. No one will feel this separation of eastern Bengal from Calcutta more than the zeminders. The administrative inconvenience of the parties will be enormous. It is difficult to exaggerate the inconvenience attaching to the reorganisation even of the districts. I hear talk now of the breaking up of Midnapur into two districts, of Mymensing into two districts. Well, whatever benefit may result from such partition in their case there can be no doubt that it will result in great administrative inconvenience in those districts and this will magnify a hundred fold when you break up a province. In this connection, gentlemen, I would like, if I may, to make what may be called a personal appeal to His Excellency the Viceroy and to the members of his council.

Gentlemen, Lord Curzon was though he is not now, a member of the Unionist administration. He is one of those who have protested with his whole heart and voice against the separation of Ireland from Great Britain and that although the Irish people longed for this separation. Now I find him in Bengal putting forward proposals of the separation of half of the province although the people of both parts are emploring him to leave the whole province to them. Well, there is a curious inconsistency in this. It shows how differently one judges when one's own interest isaffected from that when dealing with the interest of others. But if Lord Curzon could do this—if he could put himself in your places and realise how detestable was the idea of the partition of Bengal—if he could realise how revolting it was to your feelings—then he would not have hesitated in abandoning the unfortunate scheme with which he has identified himself.

I ask him why he has proposed the partition of the province. It is said, and I believe the only ground, that the administration of Bengal is too heavy and large for any one man to control. Now, gentlemen, undoubtedly the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal is a very heavy and onerous charge. I should be the last man to depreciate its responsibility and importance. But I hesitate to say, and I believe there were no real grounds for saying, that it is beyond the power of one man to adequately control and manage it. Now, gentlemen, I am in a position to speak with some authority on this point. It so happened that I have had a longer and closer experience of distinguished Lieutenant-Governors than any other man of my generation. I was Under-Secretary to Government in the time of Sir George Campbell. I was junior Secretary under Sir Richard Temple and Sir Ashley Eden. I was Secretary to the Board of Revenue under Sir Rivers Thompson. Sir Steuart Bayley brought me into the Secretariat and there I remained during the administration of Sir Charles Elliott, Sir Antony MacDonnell and for some period of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. I was however brought into closest relation with all those distinguished Lieutenant-Governors for a period covering nearly 30 years and I hesitate to say that the Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal is a heavier charge now than it was 30 years ago. In many ways it is a much easier charge. Population has increased, resources of the province have developed, communication has enormously expanded and what is the result of this development of communication. It means that the Lieutenant-Governor, with his headquarters in Calcutta, is in immediate touch with all the portions of the province. I can remember that Sir George Campbell visited Dibrugarh in Assam and that it took him a whole month to get that district. It is inconceivable to them—the Lieutenant-Governors at the present time—taking months on the way to reach any portion if his territory. I submit, gentlemen, when I joined the province I was posted to the district of Midnapur, only 70 miles off, and it took me two days to get to my head-quarters. You can now get there within 3 or 4 hours. When I was quartered at Chittagong the posts used to take 3 or 4 days to come from Calcutta to Chittagong. It now comes in less than 24 hours, and so in every other part of the province. What a journey it was for a Lieutenant-Governor to go to Puri marching down the whole trunk road which took him days and days together disconnected as he was from this hear-quarters to reach his destination. Those times have passed and in all these matters at most as far as closeness of connection is concerned, as far as being in touch with his officers is concerned, the position of a Lieutenant-Governor is infinitely easier than it was a quarter of a century ago.

When we have only a few months ago a conference of the Divisional Commissioners at Darjeeling, there was no practical difficulty in collecting the Commissioner from all parts of the province to advise the Lieutenant-Governor to some important points. Would that have been possible 30 years ago? It would have been surely impossible. It would have taken 10 days at least by many of the Commissioners to have arrived at Darjeeling and such a proposal as that of convening them together to advise the Government on any point would not have been possible.

I am now disposed to think that consideration of this kind seems not to increase the burden placed upon him by any increase of population or development of provincial resoures, and certainly I can not say that during my long experience at the Secretariat the work of a Lieutenant-Governor was appreciably heavier than it was 30 years ago. On the contrary Sir W. Grey, Sir G. Cambell, Sir P. Grant in those times were never able to find time to inspect sub-divisions. When I was Sub-divisional officer, the inspection of a sub-division was a thing absolutely unknown. Sir Charles Elliott with all the increased work thrown upon him found time to visit subdivisions and I say that Sir Andrew Fraser with his energies will find time to do it. The Lieutenant-Governors find ample time now to preside over comparatively small and unimportant meetings in this city, they find time to inspect public works, great and small, very often which are going on at different places. If they find time for such duties I do not think it can be just to say that they are overworked, certainly they have time to attend to indefinite number of details which their pedecessors never attempted. I do not know whether one of the objects of the proposed partition is to enable the Lieutenant-Governor to go into such details as those which I have referred. But a Lieutenant-Governor should concentrate himself on important matters. And I believe that Bengal, as it now is, is not too heavy a charge for a Lieutenant-Governor who can find himself unable to cope with matters which really demand his personal attention.

Gentlemen, what is needed in Bengal is not the partition of the province but the appointment of a Governor brought out from England and assisted by experienced councellors like Bombay and Madras. That is the real reform, urgent reform and simple reform which is now called for in Bengal. If I remember rightly Lord Curzon in his Mymensing speech discarded this idea and suggested that administration by Governors was not found to be very satisfactory. Well, if so I would ask him why does he not propose that the Governorship of Bombay and Madras should be abolished and Lieutenant-Governors appointed in their places. He thinks that if he were to suggest any such proposal it would be condemned as absurd and ridiculous. The Government at home will never listen to such a proposal for a moment. But if, on the other hand, the Governorship of Bombay and Madras are advantageous to those provinces why should it not be adequately advantageous to Bengal. I tell you gentlemen, that it would be advantageous and for this among many other reasons. You will always find the Governor of a province a nobleman or high officers appointed from England directly by the Secretary of State who will be more independent than any Lieutenant Governor is or possibly can be and what we want nowadays is independence in our Governments. A great drawback to a Lieutenant-Governor or to a Chief Commissioner is that he is not in a position to be independent without risking or sacrificing his future prospects. That remark has application to a Chief Commissioner. It is also strongly applicable to Lieutenant-Governors. In the first place these officers owe their appointments to the Viceroy and it is not likely therefore that they would oppose him in any matter in which the Viceroy sets his heart. But more than this the Lieutenant-Governors are human beings and most of them, if not all, return in their hearts a desire to be enshrined in the council of the Secretary of State when they retire. It is not therefore likely that Lieutenant-Governors would oppose Viceroys while they desire that haven of rest.

But, gentlemen, even if it be held that the work in Bengal would be too heavy for a Governor assisted by a Council, which I deny, the desired result of relieving him of responsibilities can be attained by other measures than that of partitioning Bengal. It will be for you to consider the scheme. I do not say that it will be accepted with any unanimity by the population. I can say that this certainly will not be opposed with anything like the vigor and force to which the partition of Bengal has met. If the dismemberment must be made I would say separate Behar, Bhagalpur and Chotanagpur from Bengal and establish them under a separate Chief Commissionership. It will be infinite times preferable to any proposal for dismembering Bengal. There is a large section of the Behari population who would welcome and rather they would shake their heads in approving it. Others would prefer to remain in Bengal as now. But a proposal of this kind will not certainly excite anything like the opposition that the present proposal has aroused.

Gentlemen, I will go further even about the redistribution of the province and taking away the districts. I would say that if you dismember Bengal and create a separate province bring Assam back to Bengal. It would be, I believe, a popular measure in Assam and I am certain that in the districts of Sylhet and Cachar it will be welcomed with greatest delight and joy. These districts have never ceased to regret their separation from Bengal. I would suggest to give the Chief Commissioner of Assam powers similar to those with which the Commissioner of Sind is vested in the Government of Bombay. He exercises greater power and greatly relieves the Government of Bombay. So there will be a Commissioner in that frontier. This proposal would at all events involve very little expense.

The suggestion of a new Lieutenant-Governor is to be condemned if not on any other ground but on enormous expense. Everything would be doubled. You in Calcutta will lose many things by the creation of a new province. Everything will be affected. Your High Court will be dwindled to a second grade court and the power and independence and the influence the bar holds and most of its duties will be greatly reduced. Trade will be affected by the transfer. The object of the new Government will be to establish a rival post and rival everything in that metropolis. If the partition must be made I say let it be made on the lines I have proposed. In any case I suggest in Calcutta a Governor and a Council and that, gentlemen, is the line to which I recommend you to agitate.

Do not cease to agitate. Nothing will be gained if you keep quiet. It is certain nothing will be lost if you agitate. You have before you examples of the mode of agitation which is taking place in England, not at the present days only but also in the past. Look at the agitation of free trade made by Cobden and Bright years and years. Hundred thousand pounds were expended. They did not win the victory in a day. Now look at the Joseph Chamberlain. He is now trying to undo what Bright and Cobden achieved. Look at the energy he throws himself into it, look at the hundreds and thousand pounds he is expending. He is setting you an example of how to agitate.

These, gentlemen, are the principal observations I have to offer you on the subject of this conference. I hope they will fructify in your mind and strengthen you in your arguments and reasons, for I am freely convinced that if you are only firm, persistant and resolute you may win you may carry the day if not in India, I sencerely hope you will be successful at least with the British public.

The following resolutions were then proposed seconded and carried with acclamation:—

That this Conference has learnt with a sense of relief that no decision has yet been arrived at by the Government on the question of the proposed partition of Bengal and the Conference while strongly disapproving of the partition of Bengal prays that if the scheme of Partition has undergone any modification or expansion as stated in some of the leading Anglo-Indian newspapers, the revised scheme be laid before the public for discussion, before the Government of India arrives at a final decision on the subject. That a copy of the above resolution be submitted to Government with the signature of the Chairman of the conference.

That the committee which was appointed at the public meeting in March last be reconstituted with power over any further development of the scheme and take prompt and effective action.

That a vote of thanks proposed by Babu Surendra N. Banerjee the meeting separated.

The small party under Captain Rawling crossed the British frontier from Tibet on the 24th December, and by the 1st January they were marching comfortably along a good road in the Sutlej Valley, having reached the land of staging bungalows. They reached Simla yesterday. With regard to the survey and geographical work, Captains Ryder and Wood will have a record of surpassing interest to place before the Government and the world at lare. It appears that the Miraim-La (the watershed between the Brahmaputra and the Sutlej) was crossed so far back as the 26th November. There was bad weather with snow, but the pass was easy, though 16,600 feet above sea-level. A lake with no outlet was seen, and then the great Mansarowar Lake itself was reached. Here the work of exploration was, of course, full of attraction, for the controversy regarding this sheet of water is a very old one. Captains Ryder and Wood went to the outlet, and found there was no flow. A rise of three feet would have been necessary for the stream to run, but the Tibetans agreed in declaring that in the rains and when the snow melts, i.e., for some four months of the summer season, there is always an outflow. About a mile down the channel in the direction of the next lake, known as the Rakas Tal, a hot water spring was discovered. Later on all three British officers explored this lake, which was frozen over, and had no outflow. The Tibetans stated that a stream used to run from it in past years. The net result of the exploration was to place the source of the Sutlej far more to the west than has been usually believed. When the party visited Gartok they found only a few dozen people in winter quarters, their houses being in the midst of a bare plain. In the course of the journey to the British frontier, the party had to cross the Ayi-La, 18,400 feet, the cold being intense as snow was falling. The Sutlej there flows through very broken country, with ravines 2,000 feet deep. All members of the party are reported well.

INDIAN AGRICULTURE.

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THE CONFERENCE AT PUSA.

It is rare indeed that so important a conference is held in India, as that which opened on Friday last at Pusa in Behar, and which is formed by the meeting of the Directors and Deputy Directors of Agriculture in every Indian province together with the expert advisers of the Imperial Department of Agriculture and two or three other gentlemen representing several agricultural industries in India. The purpose of the conference is to consult as to the subjects which can best engage the attention of the experts attached to the Imperial Department, the most effective lines of investigation for each province, and, generally, to advise as to the best means of making the departments of agriculture of as much use as is possible to the cultivators of every class in the country.

The first day's deliberations were principally taken up with the consideration of the programme for the new Imperial experimental station at Pusa for the work of the chemist and other experts of the department, and of the work suggested for the ensuing year in each province. In connection with the first of these subjects it was pointed out by Mr. Bernard Coventry, the Director of Pusa that the whole place has only recently been reclaimed from jungle, and the present year's work would very largely consist in bringing the land into general culture, coupled with the testing of varieties of several of the crops which can be grown. A considerable area has been set aside for the culture of Java indigo, which is very promising. It was suggested that a plan for permanent experiments should be drawn up by the Pusa staff at an early date, and experts from other parts of India should be invited to make suggestions in connection with it.

A long programme of work was brought before the Conference by Dr. Butler, the expert in fungus diseases under the Imperial government, the principal feature of which is a study of Rust in wheat with a view to the production of types resistent to the disease, both in the United Provinces, in the Punjab and in the Central Provinces. Dr. Butler also promised to arrange a visit to Assam, chiefly to study potato blight and to recommend means for combating it.

After a consideration of a programme arranged by Mr. Lefroy, the Government entomologist, (which included a visit to Assam and a study of insect pests there), the proposed work of each of the provincial departments was taken into consideration. It is unnecessary to describe these programmes here in detail and we will merely indicate the resolutions passed and suggestions made which are of general interest.

The lack of an organised department of agriculture in Burma and in Assam was much deplored, and the conference was strongly of opinion that such a department should be arranged, with a staff of expert advisers if this is in any way feasible. With regard to the latter province, it was suggested that the existing experimental stations did not meet the needs of the plains districts which form the larger part of the province, and it would be of great advantage if experiments could be carried on in such districts.

One of the most urgent matters, in the opinion of the conference, in connection with Indian agriculture, is the provision for tobacco curing by the most modern and best methods, and a suggestion received its approval that the need of a tobacco expert and a chemist to deal with this matter was an urgent one. Until such a man is available it is not likely that any useful results in this direction will be obtained.

Considering the large scheme of agricultural investigation in progress in the Central Provinces, it was also considered that expert officers are urgently needed there.

After considerable further technical discussion, the queston was raised as to the possibility of the extension of jute cultivation in India, which from the point of view of the manufacturing industry in this material is of great importance, and it was suggested that this crop might be tried in the Godavari delta.

Owing to the lack of an organised agricultural department it was not deemed possible to make attempts to extend jute cultivation in Burma but after such a department is constituted the matter will probably receive very careful attention in that province.

The second day's proceedings dealt with the exceedingly important subjects of irrigation, of improvement in cattle breeding, and of culture. With regard to cattle breeding the almost complete failure of nearly every attempt be import high class stock from abroad was pointed out, and there was a general consensus of opinion that much more was likely to be done by selection from the indigenous breeds, whether milk or draught cattle. It was not even wise, according to experiments made up to date, to transfer cattle from one province to another as a rule, as they nearly always threve less well, and this was especially the case with draught cattle.

The principal feature of the day's proceedings related however to cotton culture. The most complete experiments on the subject were reported from Bombay, where indeed extensive attempts have been and are being made to improve the local cotton by selection from existing plants, by hybridising various Indian cottons by crossing Indian cottons with types from Egypt and America, and by directly introducing cotton from these countries. It is well known that the introdution of exotic varieties into Indian culture has not been attended, hitherto, with success in any district. Experiments were however reported which indicated that Egyptian cotton should be fully tested for possible growth in Sind, and it was noted that no less than a thousand acres will be experimentally sown in that district in 1905.

Further than this, a large number of new hybreds are being developed some of which held out promise of being distinct improvements on the indigenous cottons of Bombay, and after several years it will probably be possible to put some of these improved cottons into general cultivation. Selection from existing varieties has not hitherto yielded such promising results as was at one time hoped, but improvement is manifest and the method will be continued.

Results of experiments in selecting seed by various methods together with programmes of future work were put forward by other Indian provincial officers and it is evident that there is very great activity among the Indian departments in relation to cotton.—"Englishman."

Mr. Morshead, C. S., will shortly join the Finance Department, Government of India, with a view to introduce an improved system of trade registration which obtains at home, and will also help the Government of India in drawing up the Imperial Customs Service scheme.

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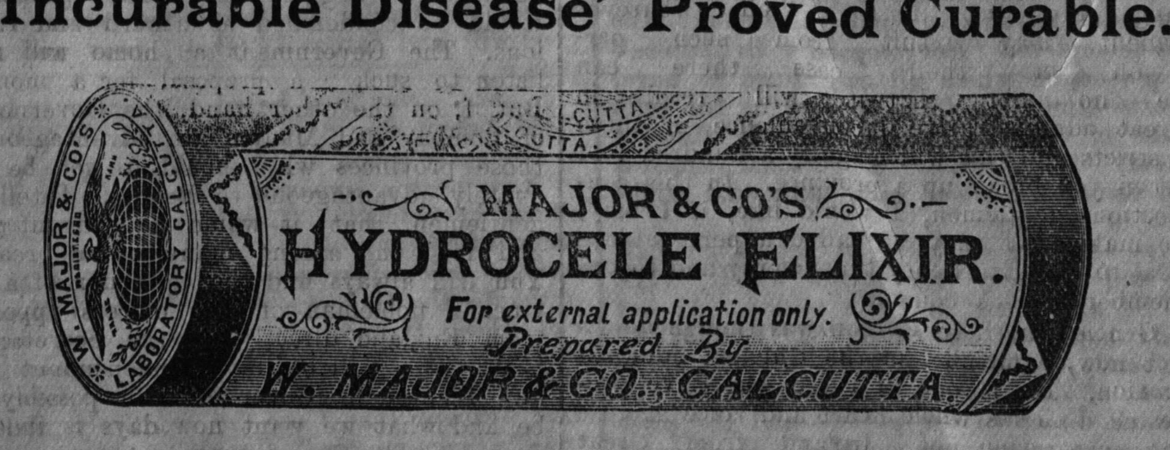

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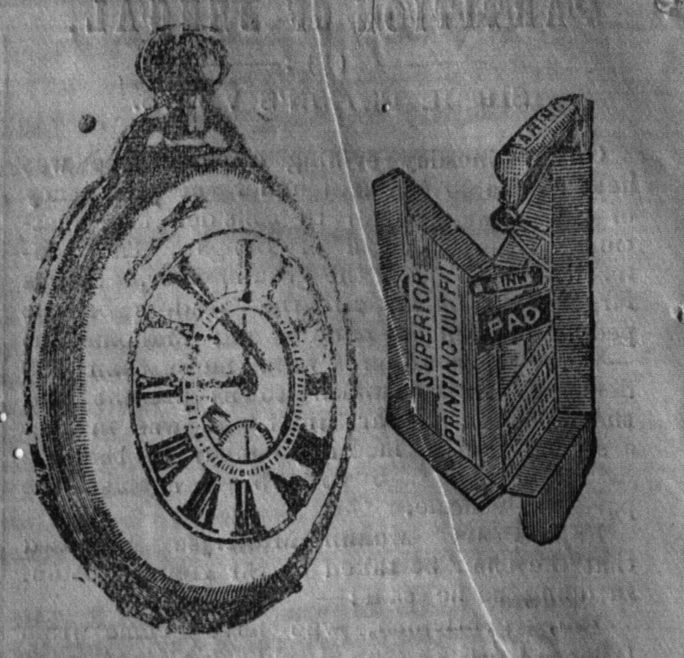

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

GAZETTE OF INDIA.—Jan. 14.

—:(0):—

His Majesty the King, Emperor of India, has been graciously pleased to appoint the Honourable Mr. John Prescott Hewett, C.S. I., C.I.E., to be an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor General of India.

A vacancy having occurred in the office of an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor General of India by the resignation of the Honourable Sir Edward Fitzgerald Law, K.C.M.G., C.S.I., His Majesty the King, Emperor of India, has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr. Edward Norman Baker, C.S. I., of the Indian Civil Service, to be an Ordinary Member of the Council of the Governor General of India.

Colonel S. H. Browne, M.D., C.I.E, IMS, (Bengal), Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal, is granted privilege leave for two months and thirteen days.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. D. Murray, M.B., I.M.S, (Bengal), is appointed to officiate as Inspector General of Civil Hospitals, Bengal.

The services of Colonel H. K. McKay, C.I. E., I.M.S., (Bengal), are replaced permanently at the disposal of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief in India, with effect from the 3rd December 1904.

The Honourable the Chief Justice of the High Court of Judicature at Fort Willam in Bengal has appointed Mr. A. P. Muddiman, Indian Civil Service, to be Registrar on the appellate side of the court, with effect from the 3rd January 1905.

Mr. G. A. T. Bennett, Deputy Postmaster General, in charge of the Eastern Bengal Circle, is granted furlough for two months with effect from the 26th of December 1904. Mr. J. A. Betham, Superintendent of Post Offices acting for him.

CHOWKIDARI SYSTEM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Dacca, Jan. 9.

The Chowkidari system is being now organized under a new scheme promulgated by Mr. Savage, Commissioner on special duty, in the district of Dacca. In persuance of which Babu Barada Prasad Ganguly, Deputy Magistrate on special duty, visited Subhadya on the 29th December 1904, and requested the villagers there to hold a public meeting to nominate a president of the committee of the Subhadya Union. A public meeting was accordingly held at Subhadya on 1st Jan. last and Babu Parbati Nath Das, a retired Sub-Inspector of Police, was elected under the new scheme and the proceeding of the meeting was submitted to the Magistrate. Babu Jogendra Kumar Bose, Deputy Magistrate, Dacca, came to Subhadya on the 8th Jan. 1905, to select a president of the Subhadya Union, when a public meeting, in which above 500 villagers representink all creeds and classes attended, was held at his instance. Babu Jogendra Kumar Bose asked if the villagers wanted to suggest unanimously any name to be appointed president. The vilagers suggested the name of Babu Parbati Nath Das, who commanded confidence of the public. Babu Jogendra Kumar Bose then asked if there were any candidates for the post of the president. Babu Sarada Kumar Roy of Subhadya voluntarily offered himself as a candidate for the post, but no one voted for him except his own cousin, Babu Dakhina Charan Roy. Then votes for Babu Parbati Nath Das were taken and the whole assembly excepting Babu Sarada Kumar Roy and his cousin, voted in his favour. Babu Jogendra Kumar Bose then wanted to know if there were any able person to hold the post of the president, when names of Babu Aditya Charan Chakrabarty, Babu Abhoya Charan Mitra, Babu Paresh Nath Ghosh and Munshi Golam Mustafa were suggested by the public. But the majority of the villagers informed Babu Jogendra Kumar Bose in unmistakable terms that they wanted Babu Parbati Nath Das above all, as they expected honesty and impartiality from him and added that they wished that no Government officer be selected as president of the Committee. Babu Jogendra Kumar Bose left the meeting saying that he would consider this matter and submit his report within three days. The public are awaiting anxiously to know the result. So we see this system will do more harm ultimately than good as it will foster quarrels among the influential villagers. Moreover in a village, it is scarcely possible to find an impartial, educated man for the purpose. Educated men of to-day prefer a own life. They will not agree to serve the Government gratis living in the village, their ultimate object being to earn money living in towns. Zemindars will no doubt be found in sufficient numbers but alas the people can scarcely place confidence in them. So another engine of oppression is going to be introduced under the new Choukidary system.

BRANDING A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

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On Tuesday, afternoon, at the Bombay Police Court Inspector Aldridge charged Rama Raghoo, a Hindu, and his wife, Radhibai, with causing hurt to their daughter-in-law, Rajoobai, by branding her with a heated ladle. The evidence showed that the girl Rajoo resided with her husband and the accused at Parel. On Monday morning, she took the morning meal for her brother-in-law to the place where he was employed. She returned home late and when asked by the second accused to take her meals she declined to do so saying she was feeling cold. The first accused, who was also then in the house, fastened the door of the room from the inside, heated an iron ladle and branded her on her legs and arms. The second accused gagged her and held her down. Both the accused then locked the room from the outside and went out. They returned home at about twelve noon and told the girl to grind corn. She did so till 4 p.m. when both the accused went out leaving the girl at home. The girl ran away to her mother and showed her the marks of branding. The brother of the girl went to the accused's house, taking her with him and remonstrated with the accused when they both referred him to the police and declined to receive the girl. A report was, consequently, made to the police, who arrested the accused. His worship on the evidence convicted both the accused and sentenced the first accused to one month's rigorous imprisonment. The second accused was fined Rs. 25, with an option of one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

HOOGHLY ITEMS.

—:(0):—

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Hooghly, Jan. 9.

THE SERAMPORE CIVIL COURT FRAUD CASE.

The hearing of the above case, particulars of which have already appeared in the "Patrika" has at last come to a close. The pleader accused Babu Sarat Chandra Mitter was discharged under section 253 Cr. P. C. and the accountant, Babu Banku Behari Gupta was charged under sections 409, 403-109 I. P. C. and Saroda Chandra Pal, the Mohurir, under sections 403-409 I. P. C. Mr. A. E. Stinton, the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Serampore, after hearing both sides reserved judgment. He has gone to Assam on transfer and will send the judgment to Serampore.

AN EXCISE OFFICER IN TROUBLE.

There is a case pending before Mr. A. Mahomed, Deputy Magistrate of Serampore, in which Babu Probodh Chandra Choudhury, Excise Sub-Inspector, and two others stand charged under section 323 I. P. C. at the instance of Babu Bistoo Charan Chatterjee of Monirampore. On the 3rd "Kartik" last the Excise Sub-Inspector and his men arrested Bistoo Charan and Nagendra at the river ghat suspecting they had cocaine with them. They asked the Sub-Inspector to search their person in the presence of respectable men. Accordingly they were taken to the front of the Dispensary of Dr. Hari Dhone Mookherjee. The doctor was asked to search the person. No cocaine was however found. Bistoo Charan demanded the name and designation of the Excise Sub-Inspector who was not in uniform. This led to an altercation in the course of which the Sub-Inspector is alleged to have given a slap to Bistoo Charan, and the other two comrades of the Sub-Inspector assaulted him with fists and blows. At last the Sub-Inspector made over the two gentlemen to the Police on a charge of assaulting a public officer on duty under Sec. 353 I. P. C. The two gentlemen were detained in Hajat and released on bail the next morning. The case under section 353 I. P. C. was tried by Mr. Stinton who discharged them. The present case is going on.

LURKING HOUSE-TRESPASS.

At the Hooghly Criminal Sessions one Jogeswar Kulwar, with previous convictions against him, stood charged with lurking house-trespass and theft. On the 28th October last while the complainant was away from his office bungalow the accused made an entrance into his room and from an Almirah brought out a pair of spectacles, a set of gold buttons and several other articles, and was about to make off with them when he was caught and made over to the Police. The accused admitted his previous convictions. The learned Sessions Judge agreeing with the unanimous verdict of the jury convicted and sentenced the accused to 4 years' rigorous imprisonment.

POSSESSING STOLEN PROPERTY.

One Punchoo Ahir, an up-countryman, having several previous convictions was arraigned under sections 411-75 I. P. C. charged wth the offence of dishonestly keeping in possession stolen property. He was found in possession of a pair of bullocks and a cart the property of a carter of Calcutta. The evidence adduced by the prosecution having conclusively proved the guilt, the accused was on conviction sentenced to undergo 4 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

THEFT BY A SERVANT.

An old thief, named Jiban Chandra Mondul, was charged before the Criminal Sessions under section 381-75 I. P. C. The accused, who was employed as a servant in a grocer's shop, taking advantage of the temporary absence of his master ran off with Rupees forty in cash by breaking open an iron safe. He was however arrested and subsequently committed to the Sessions. The accused confessed his guilt and admitted nine previous convictions. The learned Sessions Judge convicted and sentenced the accused to suffer rigorous imprisonment for six years.

THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA UP-TO-DATE.

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The bringing up to date of the "Encyclopaedia Britannica" is an event which, under any conditions, would attract attention, for the great library (of which the first Edition appeared in 1768) has taken its place as a public institution whereever the English language is read. There were, however, certain circumstances attaching to the new issue which have made its production a subject of unprecedented interest. There was, in the first place, the interest which every one feels in looking forward to an authoritative record of the events, personalities, discoveries and movements of his own day-matters of the utmost interest, matters recorded here for the first time. Then again the contributors who, under he editorship of Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, collaborated upon the task, were men of the highest standing in public estimation—the dinner to which Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace invited the Prime Minister and other guests to meet the contributrs was acknowledged to be the most brilliant gathering our time has witnessed. But there is a further reason for the extent to which the appearance of the new issue has aroused public attention. Sold by "THE TIMES" which publishes and has sole control of the work) under a novel system, at a low price payable in small instalments, the newly completed "Encyclopaedia Britannica" is a possession which all can afford to have. The attention, therefore, aroused by the publication of the work was no merely abstract interest, but rather, a personal interest about something which each individual might possess if he chose.

It is this special offer at less than half price and for easy instalments which "THE TIMES" announces in India to-day. As has already happened elsewhere, "THE TIMES" will shortly withdraw in India also from the business of distributing the recently completed work direct to the public—and the price will then be more then doubled. Readers of this paper, therefore, who would like to learn fully what the new work is, while it is still to be subscribed for at the special rate, should not fail to read the announcement which appears on another page.

IN AMERICA Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is a great favorite with the mothers of small children for colds, croup and whooping cough. It contains no harmful substance and always gives prompt relief. Sold by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents B. K. Paul and Co. Abdool and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

FAREWELL DINNER TO SIR EDWARD LAW.

On Thursday evening His Excellency the Viceroy entertained the Hon'ble Sir Edward Law to a farewell dinner on the occasion of the resignation by the Hon'ble Member of his seat as Finance Member of the Governor-General's Council. The Lieutenant-Governor, the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Charles Rivaz (Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab), and many of the leading officials and members of the mercantile community were present as well as a number of ladies. After dinner when the health of the King-Emperor had been drunk, His Excellency the Viceroy proposed the toast of Sir Edward Law in the following speech:—

Your Excellency, Your Honours, Ladies and Gentlemen,—The strains of the beautiful song to which we have just listened, Schubert's immortal "Adieu," lead me by a natural transition to the toast of the evening. How quickly our official generations in India come and go may, I think, be illustrated by our experience of tonight. Scarcely six years ago I was entertaining a company in this hall, some of whom are perhaps present here now, to bid an official goodbye to that capable financier, Sir James Westland. Only a year after I was offering a similar farewell to his successor Sir Clinton Drawkins. And now we are here again to extend the righthand of friendship and farewell to our distinguished guest, Sir Edward Law, who, after completing almost a full term of service in India, is about to retire. To have enjoyed official relations, as I have done, with no fewer than five Finance Ministers—for Mr. Finlay, and now Mr. Baker, must be added to my list makes me feel incredibly old (laughter) from the official point of view, and at the same time reminds me that in addressing Sir Edward Law this evening I may almost say to him "Morituras to saluto."

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is one feature in which Sir Edward Law has been singularly unlike his predecessors. Since first a Finance Member was appointed in India, he is the only Minister from the outside who has spent anything like his full term of office in this country. Mr. Massey and Lord Cromer, who each stayed the best part of three years, come a respectable second. But the rest are comparatively speaking nowhere. I regard this fact as a testimony both to the interest which Sir Edward Law has taken in his work and to the success which has attended him. (Applause.)

There is another respect in which our guest has enjoyed an almost unique position. He has been in closer touch with Commerce (hear, hear) than any Finance Minister of modern times—as indeed any Member for a Department that bears the name, or till lately bore the name, of Finance and Commerce ought to be Sir Edward Law has been almost as well known to the merchants, let us say of Karachi and Bombay, as he has been to those of Calcutta (applause), and it may be said with truth that the mercantile community throughout the country have appreciated his frank accessibility, his shrewd acumen—based upon no common experience of men and Governments—and his invariable and practical common sense. (Applause.)

Then there is another point. Sir Edward Law has taken a very genuine and consistent interest in the development of the natural resources of India—in indigo cotton, sugar, jute, and tea; in the manufacturing industries of this country, such as iron and steel, which he has done his best to promote; in railway progress; and last but not least, in that which is the staple industry of the millions of India, namely, agriculture. Now it may perhaps seem to some of you here present a rather curious thing to claim that a Finance Minister should take an interest in objects not purely financial in their character and application, but I can assure you that is not the case. The Finance Minister in India, who merely devotes himself to figures and to book-keeping, will never leave his mark upon the history of this country; and it is because Sir Edward Law has not looked at his work in India through the narrow spectacles of the accountant but from the wider standpoint of the statesman and man of affairs, that he has attained the success which he has achieved. (Applause.)

I have much to say tonight about pure finance. That is a tolerably stiff dish at any time, and I conceive that to serve it up between a dinner and a dance would be positively inhuman. (Laughter.) None the less, we all know that Sir Edward Law's term of office has synchronised with a period of stability in our national resources, of prosperous budgets and reduced taxation, of expansion in the principal sources of revenue and of a steady strengthening of our financial reserves. He made a speech himself only the other day to the Conference of the Chambers of Commerce here in which he showed how broad is the basis upon which in his judgment the finance and the credit of this country ought to stand; and it is no exaggeration to say that Sir Edward Law has done much by his own labours to realise his own ideal. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is one presence the loss of which tonight we all deplore and that is the beautiful and accomplished lady, if I may so speak of her, who has shared her husband's labours in India, and who has brightened our dull Northern wits with a more than Athenian vivacity and grace. (Applause.) I request Sir Edward on my behalf and on that of many others, to convey to her our tender and respectful messages of good-will and farewell. (Hear, hear and applause.)

I have sometimes heard our guest talk darkly about dim days in the past, I believe in the early seventies, in which he is alleged to have been a somewhat rowdy gunner subaltern in Calcutta. (Laughter.) I do not know whether concrete evidences of this strange metempsychosis will ever find their way into the Galleries of the Victoria Memorial Hall. (Laughter.) These stories, however, though they find little confirmation in the present tastes and pursuits of Sir Edward Law (except that I see he is rarely absent from a race-meeting) (laughter) have never created in me any surprise, because they only illustrate that alertness of temperament and versatility of intellect which have in the past carried him through so many triumphs, and will, we hope, lead him to further successes after he has left us.

It is, I am sure, the sincere hope of all the ladies and gentlemen seated at this table, and of many others outside who are included in the ranks of his personal friends, that such successes, and that much future happiness, may lie before him wherever he may be, and it is with these hopes for his future and with grateful remembrance of the service that he has rendered to India, and of the friendship that he has given to those who have been his colleagues in the work of Government that I ask you, Ladies and Government, to join with me tonight in drinking his very good health. (Loud applause.)

The Hon'ble Sir E. Law responded to the toast as follows:—

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen—When I was a small boy it was impressed upon me, perhaps somewhat vigorously, that little boys might be seen, but should not be heard—and seen as little as possible. I have always been anxious to convince myself of many merits and graces, but even though I have listened with much gratitude to His Excellency's flattering remarks, I fear that I am unable to find a sufficient reason for quitting that path which was laid out for me in my boyhood. Therefore I must not be seen too long upon my legs this evening, nor shall I be heard annoyingly and feebly struggling to express my thanks. I must endeavour to convey in the simplest and shortest words my deep sense of gratitude to His Excellency for the very kind manner in which he has proposed my health and of the numerous friends seated at this table for the manner in which they have received it. I will only add that I have been much touched by His Excellency's kind reference to my truly better half. I wish she were here this evening. Had she been present I know that she would have experienced a special feeling ofpleasure at what His Excellency has been good enough to say, and she would most certainly have desired me to express our gratitude for the great kindness which we received from Her Excellency Lady Curzon on the occasion of my wife's serious illness and on many other occasions. I am truly glad to think that His Excellency is now relieved of the prolonged strain of anxiety by Lady Curzon's recovery. (Applause.)

MAHARANI HARASUNDARI'S SRADH AT COSSIMBAZAR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Cossimbazar, Jan. 12.

The Maharajah has just brought to a most satisfactory close the grand and magnificent Sradh of his grand-mother, the late Maharani Harasundari. The Sradh was in Dansagore form, consisting of besides the full number of Sorashes, elephant, horse, palanquin, boat and about one thousand brass Kalsis and some thousands of shawls.

Over one thousand Brahmin Pandits with pupils attended from all parts of Bengal, Behar and the United Provinces. They were most comfortably located, sumptuously fed and presented with magnificent gifts, besides which their travelling charges, though generally exorbitant, were all paid in full satisfaction.

Beggars gathered in unusually large numbers beating the record of the District, the total being 32 thousand, every one of whom even the baby on the lap was paid in silver, cloth and eatables being equivalent in cash to one rupee per head.

The grandest feature during this magnificent ceremony was the amalgamation of the different sects of the [illegible]a's caste-people. About one thousand caste-people came from Burdwan, Ranaghat, Dighapatia and other Samajes and they all dined together, thus solving the great problem of intermarriage between the different sects. The Raja Bahadoor of Dighapatia attended. The guests were all sumptuously entertained and duly honoured. A large number of distinguished guests and friends came who were most comfortably lodged and every possible attention was bestowed on them. A large number of Brahmins were fed and paid [illegible]ee each. Kirtan and [illegible] followed. Vaishnabs w[illegible] numbers and they were [illegible]

[illegible]erful capacity [illegible] on his legs [illegible]g to every [illegible]e time be[illegible]sts, and friends [illegible]sual charming man[illegible]

The [illegible] ceremony has been universally admitted to be the most successfully and smoothly conducted and the grandest Sradh performed in recent years.

The Inspector of Gymnasia in India makes the following tour:—Mandalay, 13th to 14th January; Shwebo, 16th to 17th January; Bhamo, 19th to 20th January; Rangoon, 23rd to 24th January; Madras, 27th January; Secunderabad, 28th to 31st January Poona, 1st to 4th February; and Lucknow, 6th February.

We are glad to state that to suit the convenience of those who may wish to exhibit the same pictures at both the Bombay and Madras Exhibitions this season, arrangements have been made to extend the period within which such pictures will be accepted at Madras to the 15th February, i. e., eight clear days after the closing of the Bombay Exhibition.

It was understood that one of the subjects to be discussed at the Pusa Conference was the cultivation and deterioration of jute. This evil is so great and is increasing so rapidly that it is to be hoped that the conference will have done something to bring it to head. The appointment of an expert to report exhaustively and suggestively on the subject is an essential preliminary to any efforts of a remedial character; and we trust that this fact has not been lost, either on the conference or the Government.

A public breakfast was given to Sir William Wedderburn in the Parisian Garden at M. D'Angelis' Restaurant, Madras, on Saturday morning, by the members of the Mahajan Sabha. Mr. Eardley Norton presided and there were about twenty guests present. Among these were Mr. John Adam, Dr. T. M. Nair, Mr. J. L. Rosario, Mr. C. Krishnan, Mr. V. Ryru Nambiar Mr. N. Appusundaram Pillay, Mr. K. Narayana Rai, and others. An excellent breakfast was provided, and the pavilion in which the repast took place was decorated with flags.

AN EDITOR'S OPINION.—John S. Dawes, Esq., editor and proprietor "Guardian and Star," Hokitika, New Zealand, said: "I have found Chamberlain's Cough Remedy a very valuable medicine, having received great benefit from its use when suffering from a cold, and as a preventive for croup in children its excellent properties have been testified in my family" For sale by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Wholesale Agents B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool and Abdool Kareem, Calcutta.

STRAY NOTES FROM ASSAM.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Sylhet, Jan. 8.

SIR HENRY COTTON AT GAUHATI.

The approaching visit of Sir Henry Cotton at Gauhati is not likely to be attended with any extraordinary upheaval of popular enthusiasm and the reunion will most probably be a very tame affair. Although diligent attempts have been made to secure the attendance of a large number of Indians of light and leading and personally known to the ex-Proconsul, there is hardly any prospect of a respectable and representative gathering from all parts of the Province. There is an impression among the local public that the Administration of Assam would not countenance the demonstration in progress and those who will take part in it may be brought to book in some shape or other, and this rumour has chilled the enthusiasm of a good many friends and admirers of Sir Henry who would otherwise have flocked in large numbers to accord a hearty welcome to the popular ex-ruler of the Province. So far as Surma Valley districts are concerned, Silchar is holding an Industrial Exhibition at the present moment, and the cream and intelligence of the district are deeply absorbed in making the Exhibition an unqualified success. Mr. Kamini K. Chanda was invited to join but he being the Vice-Chairman of the Exhibition Committee cannot absent himself from the station without upsetting the existing arrangements. The Raja of Sylhet and a few other leading gentlemen of the district were invited but they have treated this summon to duty with supreme indifference, and not a single gentlemen of rank and importance is likely to undergo the fatigue and exposure of a journey to Gauhati when there is no alluring prospect of personal gain, save and except the prerogative of shaking hands with an ex-Governor shorn of his official potency and power.

ASSAM RURAL POLICE.

The fiat has gone forth from the capital of the Province that village community should be formed, and the present system of village Punchayet should be overhauled by introducing the elective system of recruitment and inducing the leading men of the locality to go in for these situations so that the rural police of Assam may be an efficient organisation for dealing with the suppression of local crime. Mr. A. Majid of the Assam Commission has been specially deputed to the Assam Valley districts for looking into the possibility of enlisting the co-operation of the village Chowkidari Union for settling of local disputes and the disposal of smaller and less important matters. The idea appears to be to place the village Police and Chowkidars under the supervision of the Revenue officer, and thus do away with the necessity for securing village inspection by the regular Police. The election of Punchayets seems to be in progress, and an Assistant Commissioner has been deputed to hold local meetings of the tax-payers and obtain the votes of the majority in favour of the intending Punchayets. Your local correspondent had the singular good luck of attending one of these mob-meetings beneath the village Banyan tree under the blue canopy of the midday firmament, when the Assistant Commissioner unacquainted with the manners, customs and even the dialect spoken by the electors, takes his seat in this meeting, and asks the electors through his Amla who fulfills the double functions of an interpreter and a ministerial officer, to signify their consent by raising their hands. A great bustle and confusion takes the [illegible] deliberations and the Huzoor [illegible] with the result of this grand [illegible] campaign. The upshot of this fussy [illegible] stration is that the leaders of the [illegible] community fight shy of the elective and [illegible] recruitment takes place from the dregs and dross of the community whom the Government seeks to get rid of by this process of elimination or election!

JAPANESE FLEET AT DIEGO GARCIA.

—:—:—

Diego Garcia, where the "Japanese Fleet"—somewhat vague term—is reported to have arrived, is the largest islands of the Chagos Archipelago, a group of islands in the Indian Ocean south of the Laccadives and Maldives. If the Japanese are concentrated in any force at this point, their object may possibly be to prevent a junction between the two now united squadrons under Admirals Rozhdestvensky and Foelkersahm and that under Admiral Bostrovsky, last heard of at Port Said. But the story of their presence there, though it seems to have alarmed the Russian Admiral, is probably only an idle rumour based on the ingenious calculations of some amateur strategist. The Chagos Islands are a British possession, and it is to be presumed that the British Government have taken measures to prevent a breach of its neutrality, at this and other points of the Indian Ocean, by either belligerent, especially as the Archipelago lies on the Baltic Fleet's most direct course to the Far East. From the Chagos Islands to Batavia (Dutch) is 2,090 miles; Batavia to Saigon (French) 1,100; Saigon to Formosa (Japanese) 1,000; Formosa to Izu Islands (off Japan) ,400; and the Izu Islands to Vladivostok 1,000. Even if, however, the Baltic Fleet succeeds in evading the attentions of the Japanese fleet for some time to come it is quite evident that the rest of its journey is not going to be altogether "plain sailing."—"Pioneer."

A meeting of the Northern group of District Boards was held at Bezwada at 12 noon Saturday in order to elect a representative to the Madras Legislative Council. The result was a foregone conclusion, as only one candidate, the Hon. Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Iyer, had been unanimously nominated by all the District Boards, and was accordingly elected.

A Mysore correspondent writes:—"Herr Oscar Kaufman, who is still out shooting in the Kakenkotte Forests under the guidance of Mr. Charles Theobald, the shikari, has bagged another bull bison, which is a bigger animal than the previous one. A full grown tigress has also fallen to his rifle. Three little cubs and a cart load of trophies have been sent in to Mysore. Herr Kaufman from Kakenkotte goes to Heggedevenkotte and Hunsur before returning to Mysore. He is anxious to collect a large variety of animals and birds and has a native skinner whom he brought from the North with hi-

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE CONFERENCE AT PUSA.

THE PROGRAMME.

The following is the programme of the first meeting of the Board of Agriculture recently held at Pusa:—

Subject I.—The programme of work of the Imperial department of Agriculture.

A consideration of the programmes submitted by:—

(a) The Director, Pusa Research Station:
(b) The Agricultural Chemist:
(c) The Cryptogamic Botanist:
(d) The Entomologist.

2. Provincial Directors should examine them to see whether they meet the requirments of their provinces. Imperial Experts should examine them to see whether the progammes of branches, other than their own, meet their requirements.

Subject II.—The programmes of work of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

3. A consideration of the programmes submitted by:
(a) Bombay.
(b) United Provinces.
(c) Bengal.
(d) Madras,
(e) Punjab,
(f) Burma,
(g) Central Provinces,
(h) Assam.

4. The Imperial Experts should consider whether the programmes meet their requirements, and whether they can suggest improvements. The Provincial Director should consider whether the programmes of other provinces can be improved so as to meet any special requirement of their provinces or to co-ordinate their work.

Subject III.—Extension and Improvement of Indian Cotton.

5. A general discussion as to the best methods of giving effects to the policy laid down in Government of India letter No. 23-936, dated the 16th September 1904, dealing with—

(a) The botanical examination and classification of all existing varieties of cotton, both wild and cultivated;

(b) The introduction of better varieties and improved methods of cultivation;

(c) The provision and distribution of good seed of the varieties ordinarily grown.

6. It would be an advantage, where this has not already been done, if each province could clearly define the conditions of the problem as it affects their own province. I Attached is a note indicating the conditions in the Central Provinces. The Board could then consider the programme of proposed work of each province best suited to the local conditions.

7. The Board should also discuss the best means of giving practical effect to the proposal of the Government of India for the collection and distribution of the best seed of existing varieties.

Subject IV.—The Extension of Jute Cultivation.

8. Mr. Mollison consider that the cultivation of jute may be extended from Bengal to some other parts of India, e.g., Burma, the delta areas of Madras, and perhaps in parts of Bombay. In some parts jute is sown practically as a dry crop and does well, if the soil is continuously wet or lightly flooded after the plants have made some progress. This proposal may be considered, and, if approved, arrangements made for the experimental growth of jute.

Subject V.—Irrigation.

9. A discussion on the experiments arranged to give effect to the recommendations made by the Irrigation Commission in Chapter XI of their Report. The records do not give full information of the programmes arranged by all provinces. It is hoped that a special discussion of these programmes will [illegible] officers by giving them information which may help in improving or extending the experiments. In this discussion the following among other, questions may be considered:—

(a) The amount of seepage in long water-courses.

(b) The best methods of leading water over the fields and of preparing the land to receive it, e.g., broad Irrigation, the Poona system of narrow beds, the length of the plot, the Baroda system of furrow irrigation, the small bed (Kiari) system;

(c) The testing of the duty of water; the minimum quantity of water for the successful cultivation with (a) a full yield (b) a fair yield of important irrigated crops in years of (c) normal (d) deficient rainfall;

(d) The best methods of giving water to principal crops; number of waterings and depth of each watering;

(e) The manures that can be used to best advantage with irrigation;

(f) The value of irrigation for crops not ordinarily irrigated, e.g., high grade cotton;

(g) The best mechanical means of measuring the quantities of water used in irrigation;

(h) The best means of preventing percolation of irrigation water from one experimental plot to another.

10. Irrigation from wells may also be discussed, with reference to (a) the types of wells suitable for particular soils and localities; (b) the best boring apparatus for testing the presence and depth of sub-soil water; (c) the use of oil-engines for raising well-water.

11. The experiments in progress at Cawnpore and Pusa for investigating the moisture condition of the soil may be considered; also the advisability of extending them to other farms.

Subject VI.—Agricultural Education.

12. Mr. Mohison proposes during his furlough to visit Agricultural Colleges in England, consult Professors, and draft a curriculum of studies for the PusaAgricultural College. This subject is, therefore, not ripe for discussion. But the Board can usefully discuss how many pupils may be expected to attend from each province, and at what stage of their agricultural education. Proper provision can then be made for them at Pusa. The Board may also discuss what inducements in the shape of scholarships and promises of future Government service, it will be advisable for Provincial Governments to offer to pupils.

13. In regard to education generally, the Board may discuss the arrangements made by Local Governments for the training of village schoolmasters, so as to take them more capable teachers of the reading lessons, dealing with agricultural subjects and illustrating them by object-lessons drawn from agriculture. In Bombay, this training is given at the regular Training Colleges under the Education Department, at each of which a small farm has been started. In the Central Provinces, each village school-master goes through a special course of instruction for six months at the Agricultural School on the Experimental Farm under the control of the Director of Agriculture. A discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of each system may lead to the formulation of a definite scheme that can be recommended for general trial.

14. Another subject that the Board may discuss is the training of Farm Overseers in practical work at (a) Pusa and (b) Provincial Farms.

15. The Board may also consder the advisability of opening classes at certain Experimental Farms for the training of the sons of agriculturists in practical farming.

Subject VII.—Veterinary.

16. A discussion of the schemes in progress for the improvement of the breeds of agricultural cattle, for the breeding and rearing of bulls, and for the prevention and cure of disease.

Subject VIII.—Publications.

17. The existing publications, dealing with the work of the Department of Agriculture, are—

(1) Annual Reports of the Departmens of Agriculture;
(2) Annual Reports of Experimental Forms;
(3) Bulletins of the Department of Agriculture;
(4) Agricultural Ledgers;
(5) Indian Museum Notes (Entomology).

18. The first are largely confined to administrative matters, and are clearly unsuitted for the publication of papers on scientific or practical agriculture.

19. The second are records of the annual work of Experimental Farms. The Government of India have lately suggested that the annual report should be confined to a review of management, of the general lines of experiments undertaken and their progress, and of any positive action taken to make the farm and its teachings useful to the agriculturist; that it should not be a detailed record of experiments, which should not be published until they have become sufficiently advanced to yield definite results, when an Agricultural Ledger should be issued. The Board may consider this proposal.

20. The Government of India (letter No. 1258-33-2, dated the 12th September 1904) has made an important distinction between Bulletins and Ledgers. 'In deciding whether a note or report should be published in bulletin or ledger form, the principle to be followed is that what is published for the information of the reader should go into the Ledgers, while what is circulated in order to obtain further matter for the information of the writer should go into the Bulletins.

21. Proposals have already been submitted to the Government of India recommending that the publication on Entomology known as "Indian Museum Notes" should be given up in favour of a somewhat similar publication, to be entitled "Notes on Entomology," and to be edited by the Entomologist to the Government of India. It is intended that this publication should be a common medium for the publication of the results of work done in India by the Government Entomologist, by provincial officers and by private contributors.

22. Several officers have reported that the Agricultural Ledger does not meet their requirements, for the following, amongst other, reasons:—(a) The irregularity of its appearance, (b) Unsuitability of size, (c) Unsuitability of type and paper, (d) Want of a good index. Its object is to provide matter for the revision of the Dictionary of Economic Products, which is quite different from the object of Agricultural publications.

23. The Government of India decire that the Board should consider a proposal for the publication of an Agricultural Journal. If this is recommended the following points should be considered:—(a) The object of the Journal—whether it should be a medium for the issue of scientific reports for the information of scientific experts or a medium for the publication of information for the agriculturist and the general reader interested in agriculture, or both; (b) the subject matter and its division into sections; (c) the number of issues to be made each year; (d) the general editing and the editing of the different sections; (e) the size, type and other matters connected with its form; (f) its price and free distribution list.

Subject IX.—Measures to bring the Imperial Experts into closer touch with Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

24. Amongst the proposals made under this head, the Board may consider:—

(a) Rules regarding direct correspondence between Imperial Experts and (1) Provincial Directors and (2) Deputy Directors.

(b) The training of provincial assistants in special branches of work by the Imperial Experts; Entomologist, Cryptogamic Botanist, Agricultural Chemist, and the like.

(c) The provision of Rest-Houses at Provincial Experimental Farms.

(d) The publication of a Quarterly Journal.

(e) Imperial Experts should report to Directors the general results of a tour as soon as it is completed.

(f) Provincial Experts taking up a special subject (e. g., sugar) should be given facilities for extending their enquiries at Pusa and also in other provinces.

(g) Imperial Experts should make a special endeavour to meet the Provincial Directors during their tours and to discuss with them the work of their Department.

Subject X.—Measures to bring the Provincial Departments into closer touch with agriculturists.

25. The varying local conditions make it impossible to lay down any definite scheme, but the followitg measures have bben suggested, some of which may be found suitable:—

(a) more extended use of publications, both English and vernacular, consisting of (1) bulletins or leaflets describing improvements that have been tested and that can be put to practical use; (2) a vernacular Agricultural Magazine;

(b) Frequent communiques to the vernacular press;

(c) The formation of District Agricultural Associations;

(d) The establishment of demonstration plots, more particularly outlaying plots within easy reach of Experimental Farms;

(e) The establishment of classes at Experimental Farms for the training of agriculturists in practical farming;

(f) Agricultural Shows;

(g) The utilization of the agency of Court of Ward Estates;

(h) Inducing large landowners to act as pioneers of improvements;

(i) Inducing cultivators to visit Experimental Farms. (The provision of suitable accommodation for such visitors at each Farm).

(j) The selection and distribution of good seed upon the lines of the United Provinces plan.

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SUBORDINATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

Babu Binode Behary Das, an Assistant Master (Drawing Master), Dacca Training School and Madrasah (class VI), is allowed leave of absence for three months.

Babu Ashutosh Das is appointed to act as an Assistant Master (Drawing Master) in the Dacca Training School and Madrasah during the absence, on leave, of Babu Binode Behary Das.

Babu Ramesh Chandra Gupta, M.A., Sub-Inspector of Schools, Sonthal Parganas is appointed to act as Deputy Inspector of Schools Purnea, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Girish Chandra Som.

The following arrangements are sanctioned consequent on the retirement of Mr. E. Cleghorn, Assistant Head Master, Anglo-Persian Department, Calcutta Madrasah:—

(1) Maulvi Mahmud, B.A., B.L., Assistant Master, Anglo-Persian Department, Calcutta Madrasah, and now Officiating Head Master of that institution is appointed to be Assistant Head Master of that institution, vice Mr. E. Cleghorn, but he will continue to act as Head Master of that institution during the absence, on leave, of Maulvi Amjad [illegible].

(2) Maulvi Alfazuddin Ahmed, M.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Hooghly, under orders of transfer to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Burdwan is appointed to be an Assistant Master in the Anglo-Persian Department, Calcutta Madrasah, but he will act as Assistant Head Master of that institution during the absence, on deputation, of Maulvi Mahmud.

(3) Babu Hira Lal Pal, B.A., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Midnapore, under orders of transfer to be Deputy Inspector of Schools Birbhum is appointed to be Deputy Inspector of Schools, Burdwan, vice Maulvi Alfazuddin Ahmed, transferred.

(4) Babu Hara Kanta Bose, B.A., Assistant Head Master, Faridpur Zilla School, under orders of transfer to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Birbhum, vice Babu Hira Lal Pal, transferred.

(5) Maulvi Hurmutulla, Assistant Head Master, Murshidabad Nawab's Madrasah is appointed to be Additional Deputy Inspector of Schools, Burdwan, vice Babu Hara Kanta Bose, transferred.

(6) Maulvi Abdul Huq Abid, B.A., Head Master, Patna City School is appointed to be Assistant Head Master, Murshidabad Nawab's Madrasah vice Maulvi Hurmutulla, transferred.

(7) Maulvi Muhammad Azizul Huq, M.A., Head Master, Murshidabad Nawab's High School is appointed to be Head Master, Patna City School, vice Maulvi Abdul Huq Abid, transferred.

(8) Babu Makhan Lal De, B.A., Head Master, Jalpaiguri Zilla School is appointed to be Head Master, Murshidabad Nawab's High School, vice Maulvi Muhammad Azizul Huq, transferred.

(9) Babu Manmohan Chandra, B.A., Assistant Head Master, Birbhum Zilla School is appointed to be Head Master, Jalpaiguri Zilla School, vice Babu Makhan Lal De, transferred.

Babu Hari Das Chakravarti, B.A., Lecturer on Sanskrit, Chittagong College is allowed leave of absence for two months.

Babu Mathura Prasad, Assistant Head Master, Arrah Zilla School, is allowed leave of absence for one year.

Babu Satyendra Nath Gupta, B.A., Offg. Assistant Master in the Arrah Zilla School is appointed to act as Assistant Head Master of the Arrah Zilla School during the absence, on leave, of Babu Mathura Prasad.

Babu Lalit Kumar Chakravarti, B.A., an Assistant Master in the Arrah Zilla School on a salary of Rs. 40, and now officiating on Rs. 45 a month, is appointed to act in place of Babu Satyendra Nath Gupta.

THE AGRICULTURIST AT THE BOMBAY EXHIBITION.

Our readers are aware that Government have brought over representative farmers from different parts of the country, to show them the actual working of Western implements of agriculture with a view that they might be induced to introduce such changes in their old methods as would facilitate and improve cultivation. It is interesting to note that people like Sir J. Monteath are taking a personally active interest in the organisation of the lectures and the practical demonstrations of exhibits now in full swing. We are glad, that Government is anxious to see the impressions produced by the demonstrations on the agriculturists and ascertain from them the extent of its usefulness. We have published in our Marathi columns the conversation which took place between Sir J. Monteath and some of the farmers—our representative Mr. Page being the interpreter between them. In his own blunt and frank manner a farmer told Sir Monteath that unless the forecasts were thrown open to their cattle and the assessment greatly reduced practical demonstrations would not induce them with lean cattle and empty purses to pay for new improvements. Till then he said they would only gape and wonder at the mechanical facilities, to benefit by which the sircar has kindly brought them to Bombay. The general feeling among the agriculturists seems to be that Government should in each district make such experimental demonstrations from time to time and practically show the utility of the implements and innovations to which they wish the cultivators to take to. We are glad to note that the representative agriculturists are thinking of holding a meeting, with a view to lay before the Government their difficulties and grievances. We are sure they will receive the careful attention of Government.—"Indu Prokash."

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