

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Dec. 22, 1917.

PRIMARY EDUCATION AND COMPULSION.

It will be remembered that the Lieutenant Governor of the United Provinces in his capacity as Chancellor of the Allahabad University made a noteworthy speech at the last annual Convocation, in the course of which he declared that the British Government's decision in favour of responsible self-government for India committed the Indian Administration to a complete overhauling of educational policy. "Responsible Government," said Sir James Meston, "is a pyramid which can only grow with its base as an intelligent electorate. Our task is thus to introduce into the apathetic masses in our rural areas and into the ignorant proletariat of our towns a degree of education which will fit them, in ever increasing numbers, to be the basis of our future political structure." Sir James's view is shared in common by most thoughtful students of Indian politics. In fact, the call for enlightening the masses affords the only note of harmony that has been sounded so far amidst the discordant and jarring cries that have been raised in Indian political circles in connection with Mr. Montagu's promise of reform.

The pronouncement of Mr. Montagu that the aim of British rule is the progressive realisation of responsible self-government in India, if it means anything, means therefore a definite taking over by Government of the charge of educating the Indian people into a state of fitness for providing the qualified electorate necessary for self-government. That is at least the considered opinion of no less an authority than Sir James Meston, and seems to us to be the logical corollary to the famous declaration of the 20th of August. The responsibility of Government in the matter of elementary education being thus clearly fixed and defined, we confess to a feeling of amused perplexity at the inclusion of a clause in the recently passed Bill on primary education moved in the Bombay Legislative Council by Mr. Patel, and a very similar provision that has been made for the Primary Education Bill that is before our own Provincial Legislative Council. The clause, of course, is the one which absolves government of the financial responsibility of primary education. The idea underlying this strange provision in a measure calculated to better the condition of the masses is not quite clear to us; in fact ill-informed and irresponsible people are already busy discovering all sorts of sinister motives to explain the official attitude. It has been suggested, for example, that the immunity of Government revenue from the cost of primary education has really been maintained with the object of defeating the purposes of the measures proposed, and thus incidentally demonstrating the unfitness of the people for responsible self-government.

For our part, after the generous declaration of policy of the Secretary of State and the clear exposition by Sir James Meston of what that declaration means, we have no doubts on the score. We believe that Government is now solemnly pledged to a policy, the first and foremost pro-gramme of which is wholesale education to the masses. Believing this, we feel absolutely no hesitation in strongly condemning the proposed Bihar and Orissa Primary Education Bill in so far as it contains the menace of an additional burden of taxation in the Educa-

tion Cess, in so far as it entirely absolves the public finance of the charge of mass education, and in as much as the proposed measure would introduce compulsion, which we oppose, without making primary education absolutely free, which is what we want.

We oppose the proposed Education Cess because, as it is, we are overburdened with taxation, because in a country like India, as has been pointed out by John Stuart Mill, the task of educating the people is the Government's sole duty, a duty, as we gladly admit, the Government itself has solemnly undertaken, and because it is our deliberate opinion that so far the duty has never been properly discharged. Poor as the country is, it would surprise most people to be told that out of the average annual expenditure on public instruction in India, 44 percent is contributed from fees and private sources, and 56 per cent from provincial revenues and municipal and local funds. The percentage of expenditure by Government would appear much less, if we separate the contribution by local boards and municipalities. Thus the average annual cost of educating a pupil in arts colleges is Rs. 150-3-5 out of which Government contributed only Rs. 58-11-8. The corresponding figures for pupils of secondary and primary schools are Rs. 16-13-5 and Rs. 5-15-8, and Rs. 5-2-9 and Re. 1-3-5 respectively.

If it is true, as is disclosed by these figures which relate to the whole of British India, that Government has not so far done all that it should have done, nowhere could this be said with so much force as in this Province where the progress of education, specially primary education, has been notoriously slow. Thus, the number of public primary schools in Bihar and Orissa decreased from 23,950 in 1912-13 to 23,402 in 1915-16 and the number of scholars in them from 674,496 to 643,117. Similarly in the case of private institutions the number declined in these four years from 2,657 to 2,217 accompanied by a corresponding fall in the number of scholars from 38,416 to 35,525. The number of scholars in the Lower Primary stage who could read printed books decreased in the same time from 391,375 to 303,368 while the number of those who could not read printed books increased from 283,030 to 331,284. That the public and the self-governing bodies are not to blame can be seen from the fact that the total amount spent by Local Boards and Municipalities on education rose from Rs. 876,136 to Rs. 16,85,562 in these four years. After this and in the face of Mr. Montagu's declaration, it would be futile to exonerate Government from its proper share of liability in this matter. A Bill for Primary Education which adds to the people's burden while releasing Government from its obligation is at once unjust and inexpedient and opposed to the noble ideal which Government has itself set up. If there should be universal education, Government should find the funds.

Education to be universal must be free. The proposed Bill does not ensure free primary education. True, there is a provision by which persons proving that they are unable to pay can get their children educated free. But those who know anything about village conditions in Bihar would at the first glance declare this provision to be utterly useless so far as any real relief is intended. Compulsion is always an evil, and even in the most advanced countries, it was never resorted to till only recently when in fact the country as a whole was sufficiently educated to appreciate the principle underlying the measure. Circumstances in India are not the same: here an ordinary direction is magnified into commands and corruption practised thereon. We should on principle oppose compulsion in this matter, at least so long as we have not made a fair experiment of free education without compulsion. It is our conviction that there is a very

strong desire for education among the masses which however cannot find vent owing to the high cost of instruction. In Assam, fees have been abolished in the upper primary and middle vernacular classes. The result has been an increase of middle vernacular schools for boys from 36 to 47 and of the pupils reading in them from 2,796, to 5,244. Primary schools for boys increased from 3,534 with 148,978 pupils to 3,760 with 161,730 boys. If real progress in primary education is wanted, let our own Government follow the enlightened example of Assam, by making such education entirely free. The Local Boards and Municipal funds now contribute more than eighty per cent of the total expenditure on primary education in the province; let our benign Government open the coffers of its bounty and provide a sum equivalent to that paid by the people, and universal and free primary education will no longer be a distant dream.

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THE LAST SENATE MEETING.
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The resolution passed by the Patna University Senate at its last meeting, fixing the scale of fees for the University Examinations at the new rates introduced by the Calcutta University has come in for a good deal of criticism. This is but natural, as the case for the Resolution was not properly put, neither were the procedure and the framing of the Resolution quite happy. The arguments advanced in support of the Resolution can be summed up as follows; the Patna University Act, it appears was introduced on the express undertaking that it should not entail heavy demands on the straitened finances of Government; the requirements of the Budget framed made it imperative that the recently inaugurated Calcutta scale of fees should be retained, it being urged that this retention of a rate of fees which our examinees would have had in the ordinary course of things to pay, but for the sudden creation of the new University, cannot be regarded in the light of a grievance.

The criticisms that the above arguments have been subjected to are briefly as follows. The *Express* challenges the fact of there being any undertaking as mentioned and denies the right of any one to give such an undertaking on behalf of the people without consulting them. On the question of the requirements of the Budget, the *Express* supports the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath's suggestion to meet the deficit by a reduction in the salary of the Registrar and in the remuneration of examiners. The same view has been taken in the letter written by an esteemed correspondent subscribing himself as INDIGENT PARENT, which appeared in our last issue. Our correspondent in fact goes the whole hog and suggests that the post of the Vice-Chancellor should be honorary. He also challenges other items of the Budget by comparing them with the expense under similar heads incurred by the Calcutta University during the four years ending 1912-13. Both our correspondent as well as the *Express* condemn the justification on the Calcutta analogy of the enhanced rates.

On an examination of the whole discussion, we are constrained to say that the feeling of irritation that has manifested itself on account of the Resolution seems to be due more to the attitude of the official majority with their *jo-hukum* following than to the actual measure proposed. The new scale of fees introduced by the Calcutta University was announced long before the coming into force of the Patna University Act. We do not remember to have heard at the time the faintest whisper of protest in Bihar, either from students or their parents. The decision of the Calcutta University was not due to any stern financial necessity as seems to be the

idea both of those relying on it and those attacking it. It was an openly avowed scheme of exploitation to meet the wherewithal for post-graduate instruction lately taken in hand by the Calcutta University. The *argumentum a fortiori* by which Sir Ali Imam justified the acceptance of the Calcutta scale of fees has therefore no application. Even the Calcutta University had to raise the fees! This was the main argument of Sir Ali and his supporters. The fact, however, is not that the Calcutta University had to raise the scale, the enhancement being made not to avert bankruptcy, but to bring in some profit with which new schemes (in this case the post graduate scheme) of improvement were to be carried out.

As regards the demand for more money from Government, it is difficult to accept the plea, set up by the *Express*, of ignorance of the understanding that no more money was to be asked from Government than was given by it. It is an open secret that after the controversy, which arose on the first introduction of the original Patna University Bill, the Government of India had decided to shelve it at least till after the war. The history of the progress of the Bill after that, which was traced out by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in his first Convocation address, seems to make it clear that the Act as it stands, creating a purely examining University, was the result of a compromise between the insistence from this Province for the early creation of a University, and on the other side, the reluctance of the Government of India due to inability to find the necessary means. The present scheme seems to have been hit upon as a sort of via media by which Bihar could have a University without drawing on the hard-pressed Government finance. The arrangement, so far as we remember, was not thrust on the people by Government, but was the result of the persistent demands made for some such thing as we have now got, both in Councils and Durbars, and in the press and on the platform. It is not exactly fair to go back on the hasty vows we then apparently made.

What may, however, be reasonably objected to is the undue advantage which seems to have been taken of the alleged undertaking, to burk all attempts to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that the present allotment is not sufficient, and to request, while loyally abiding by the present arrangements so long as the financial scarcity lasts, that the same might be revised at the earliest opportunity. It was in this part of the Senate's business that the official attitude cannot be glossed over. Why could not the supporters of the Resolution frankly admit that the increase in the rate of fees would be a hardship which, however, under the circumstances could not be helped? Why should they go out of their way to try to prove that the increase would mean no hardship and that the students could very well afford it. It was this ignorance of the genuine poverty of the people, and the want of sympathy that was betrayed that have sent a thrill of uneasiness through the minds of many people as regards what they fear is in store for their children under the new University. Another fact which the public has rightly viewed with strong displeasure is the lack of backbone displayed by some of the Senators, who for reasons best known to themselves, either remained mute spectators or attempted to make the worse appear the better reason under the palpably transparent influence of what is known in popular parlance as "flunkeyism." In the temple of learning, at least, let there be no sham.

The last objection that now remains to be examined is that the increase of fees was not necessary, as the deficit could easily have been met by a reduction of expenses. For this purpose INDIGENT PARENT has hunted up the figures of ex-

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penditure of the Calcutta University up to the years 1912-13. Now it must be admitted from a comparison of these figures with those of the Patna budget that the latter seems to have been framed in haste without reference to the ordinary expenditure at Calcutta. At the same time, it must be remembered that the unnecessarily large amounts that have been budgeted were due to the present state of the market about which there can be no certainty. It is certainly better to be on the safe side, and to be prepared for all contingencies. As regards reduction of examiners' remuneration or in the salary of the Vice-Chancellor or the Registrar, we consider that those who advocate this do not take into account actual facts. The days are long gone by when the high officials in India were actuated by a passion of affection for the land of their adoption, when they would have considered it an honour to be called upon to discharge the honorary duties of a Vice-Chancellor in addition to their own regular routine work. How many of the High Court Judges of Patna or the members of the Bihar Executive Council would care to accept such a thankless job? Nay, we ask whether the Hon'ble Mr. Jennings himself would like to retain his present office if it were a purely honorary one appended to his office as Director of Public Instruction. If there is any such self-sacrificing person, the Government should certainly utilise his services and thus save a sum of Rs. 30,000 per annum to the University. But if no such martyr is forthcoming, what can be done but to pay the amount. The same may be said as regards the Registrar and the examiners. It is a notorious fact that the Calcutta University has of late found it extremely difficult to get high educational officers to set papers for the Premchand Roychand scholarship examination, as the endowment does not provide for any remuneration to the examiners. We could not afford risking such experiments in the case of a new University.

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INDIANS IN THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

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In a recent issue, the *Englishman* while taking landholders to task for their lack of enthusiasm for the progressive development of cultivation by the introduction of scientific and up-to-date methods, made the remarkable admission that "in spite of the large revenue that Government receives from the land, the Department which is entrusted with the improvement and development of agriculture is starved and insignificant." In a country where the vast majority of the population depend solely on agriculture, where the failure of a single crop may bring on untold misery to millions of people, a policy of niggardliness so far as the agricultural department is concerned cannot be justified. And if there is any department of government in which Indians should be widely employed, it is surely in the department of agriculture, the most important function of which is to popularise the latest and most scientific agricultural methods among a class which is notoriously shy of anything foreign or new. This was apparent to the Public Services Commission which in its report recommended that this department should be manned entirely by Indians, and that, to begin with, fifty per cent of the higher posts should be thrown open to Indians.

In the general neglect which the calims of agriculture suffer both from the officials and the articulate section of the Indian community, the hard lot of Indians in the Agricultural Department has not attracted the attention that is sorely needed. It is possible that the affairs

of the major services, such as the Civil Service or the Educational Service, or the Medical and the Engineering Services have loomed so large before the public view as to shut out all lesser objects from the gaze of our vigilant politicians. Fancy even the lynx-eyed Editor of the *Modern Review* in his comprehensive analysis of the grievances of Indians in the public services has omitted to mention the Department of Agriculture.

Whether they have been advertised or not, there seem to be genuine grievances under which Indian officers of the Agricultural Department labour, at least in Bihar and Orissa. Here, as in other branches of the public service, there is a close Imperial Service to which members of the provincial service can seldom aspire. In the Imperial Branch of the Bihar and Orissa Agricultural Department, out of nine substantive appointments, only one is filled by an Indian officer, namely Mr. Daulat Ram Sethi, who possesses exceptional educational qualifications. The Indian gentlemen who are in the Provincial Service mostly possess degrees of Cornell or Cirencester, besides other university degrees, English and Indian. They are in no way inferior to any of the European gentlemen in the Imperial branch; yet they have to hold subordinate ranks on low remuneration. It is not strange that the department, in spite of its avowed object of teaching the masses, has so far been unable to make any headway among them, the reason being that the controlling officers are mostly out of touch with the people.

But this does not complete the tale of the woes of Indians in this department. As if to fill the cup of their humiliation to the brim, lately there has been enacted in this department a piece of jobbery, it is difficult to call it by any other name, of the most unjustifiable kind. Recently, there being several vacancies in the Imperial Service, one post, namely that of the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bankipur, has been filled by an officer from the Provincial Branch. And who was the officer selected? Would it be believed, it was not the senior-most man, nor the next, nor the third, nay neither the fourth! Out of the ten officers in the Provincial Branch, nine were Indians and one an Anglo-Indian. The oldest officer in the service joined in 1893 while the latest recruit was the Anglo-Indian gentleman, Mr. James Robinson, who joined as late as 1st December 1914. Out of these ten officers, this Mr. Robinson, the latest recruit has been selected for the Imperial Service. At the time that he was so appointed, there were at least five officers who were senior to him in service and were drawing a higher pay, having much more experience and equal if not higher academic qualifications than Mr. Robinson possesses. If such a thing was perpetrated in any of the major branches of the public service, say amongst Professors or Deputy Collectors, we can very well imagine the hue and cry that would be raised. But who is to voice the grievances of "the poor crooked scythes and spades" of the agricultural department? There is however Sir Edward Gait of whose love of justice we have had striking proofs, and if these lines happen to meet His Honour's eyes, the chances are that the Lieutenant Governor "will know the reason why" the juniormost officer in the Provincial Agricultural Service has superseded the nine other equally-qualified senior Indian officers.

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THE PRINCE OF WALES'S VISIT TO NEPAL.

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(Concluded from our last issue.)

Before the visit of H. R. H. Prince Albert Edward of Wales, another Prince of the Royal blood came

to this country. H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh the second son of Queen Victoria came to see his august Mother's distant dominion towards the end of 1869, during the cold weather. But that was before the foul deeds of the assassins, which convulsed the bulk of the Indian nationality and threw them into utter confusion. The murders of the two highest officials of the empire were the cause of much distrust and doubt about true Indian loyalty. Hindus and Mussulmans alike were looked down as a common race of bandits whose hands were always seething and besmeared with the scarlet fluid.

When the Duke of Edinburgh returned home he depicted the grandeur of the continent of India in the most glowing terms, and above all about the sincere loyalty of the mass of the Indian subjects. The Prince of Wales, his elder brother, was tempted to see what was described to him in a realistic fashion a charming account of his Mother's vast dominion in the East and an empire in itself of far greater importance in area and wealth than all the territories of Her Britannic Majesty combined or put together. The soul-stirring reception which the Prince of Wales met with in all directions and from all quarters in India, especially from the Native States fully justified, and evinced in larger proportions the impressions formed by his younger brother the Duke. It convinced him absolutely as well as the whole British public, including the sceptics, that the homage paid to him, was not a mere matter of ostentation, but proceeded directly from the heart with intense passion, love and reverence both for his person and for the Great Queen whose benign rule had for its keynote progress, peace and prosperity throughout the country from end to end. This fact alone among a number of others was hailed in and welcomed as the basis for the foundation of the Great Indian Empire, greater than that of the Moghals which the keen perception of the Prime Minister of England inspired him to achieve in the midst of obstacles. The fears of the Indophobites were dispelled. People who are still alive (and quite a good number yet) bear testimony to the fact of the sturdy feelings of loyalty and devotion which swayed the three hundred million souls in 1875-76 when the Prince of Wales landed on the shores of India at Bombay. A similar demonstration was witnessed in the beginning of the year 1877 when Her Majesty Queen Victoria was proclaimed Empress of India.

Sir Jang Bahadur while in England imbibed a strong passion of personal regard for the Prince of Wales. He contracted a strong friendship for him and his esteemed father, the Prince Consort. When he found the Prince on Indian soil, his first impulse was to strengthen the ties of friendship by inviting the Prince over to the domains of Nepal by proposing a hunt of big games in the *Terai*. It will be remembered that among other pledges of cordiality the Prince of Wales had made a present to Sir Jang Bahadur of two huge vases of silver engraved and with inscriptions of his name and that of his guest. We saw these mementos of Art and sincere acknowledgement of friendship placed in the Allahabad Exhibition. Sir Jang Bahadur received also the present of a gun. He was not slow to recognize or reciprocate the honour done to him, when chance brought that Prince almost to his threshold. With the remarkable and lively ardour of a Hindu and an Asiatic to serve his gracious and benevolent friend in the best of manner and style, and a feeling stirred to its inmost depths he set about to make large preparations for the hunt. He expressed his resolve to escort the Prince in his sports and amusements. A fortnight in the company of the Royal guest was eagerly sought; and Sir Jang was elated with a conscious-

ness that such association, however brief, was the highest guerdon and felicity reserved for him. He therefore did his best to amuse the Prince in the best style with the diversions of hunt during his short sojourn. A commendable hospitality was fervently offered and as gracefully and complacently accepted, particularly when Sir Jang proposed to be his special guard and a constant companion throughout the period.

The *Terai* is infested by some of the wildest and most ferocious animals of the world, the lion not being excepted. Sir Jang undertook to be the leading spirit and to guide the whole party. A large collection of tigers, rhinoceros, and buffaloes was bagged, although the Prince had no experience of these before. It was reported that during the course of the hunt on one occasion a monstrous Master Stripe leaped over to the head of the very elephant which was carrying the Prince, Sir Jang being with him at the time. The huge animal with its jaws open faced the Prince on the *koudah* (a comfortable seat with chair protected breast high in front). A bullet through its gaping jaws and head despatched the beast in time, and it rolled back on the ground. Here the cool courage of the Prime Minister of Nepal stood the Prince in good stead, as the animal before being brought down had made the situation immensely perilous for a moment. The Prince was encouraged to shoot when the nerves unaccustomed to such sights naturally slacken. A well-directed shot dispelled the anxiety caused in the minds of the spectators who formed the party. It was a terrible moment of nervous excitement. The spectacle was as rude as sudden; and the undoubted courage of the Prince under the advice of Sir Jang saved the situation. For a fuller description the reader is referred to the *Graphic* of the time. Fourteen days of a most delightful and animating pastime, though occasionally tiresome and dangerous, came to a close with the Prince being landed in the adjoining British territory. Another such lively scene was witnessed when His Majesty the King Emperor George V visited the *Terai* in December 1911 about which arrangements had been made by the King of Nepal who, however, died a few days before the arrival of His Imperial Majesty in his dominion. The parting of Sir Jang Bahadur with the Prince of Wales was a most touching one, and is narrated as an episode in which the hard and veteran Nepalese General shed tears like a child. The Prince of Wales visited Bankipore on his way to upcountry on the 4th January 1876. It was a most lively scene of two hours. Here he received the present of a tiger in a cage from Vilayet Ali Khan. His visit was arranged by Mr. C. T. Metcalfe, the Officiating Commissioner, and Babu Durgagatty Bannerji, his Personal Assistant. His Majesty, the present Emperor on his way to the *Terai* and back visited Bankipur and passed on the river in a steam launch on the 17th December and 29th December 1911 respectively.

NOTES.

Mr. Banerjee's Election.

The uncontested election of Mr. Surendra Nath Banerji as Bengal's representative to the Imperial Council is quite in the fitness of things. Though a new generation (the creation of Mr. Banerjee himself so to say) has arisen to dispute Mr. Banerjee's long and undisputed sway in the political arena, we confess to a feeling of pleasure at the sight of the present Grand Old Man of India coming into his own. For if there is any place where Mr. Banerjee is in his element, it is in the Council

Chamber in the thick of debate. Those who have witnessed the proceedings of the Legislative Council with Mr. Banerji in the heat of the fray must have carried away with them memories of this venerable "die-hard" fighting an almost hopeless fight, often alone, but still fighting, against executive vagaries. We congratulate Bengal on the graceful manner in which her doughtiest champion has been returned unopposed.

NOTICE.

With the kind permission of our readers, we take our usual one week's holiday on account of Christmas. The next issue of the paper appears on the 5th January 1918.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

THE next meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council will be held on the 31st January, 1918, at 11 A.M. at the Government House, Patna.

THE final examination of B classes in Bihar and Orissa for 1918 will be held at Bhagalpur on the 8th, 9th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 15th March 1918.

THE current issue of the *Bihar and Orissa Gazette* publishes the results of the second Half-yearly Departmental Examinations held in last October.

THE sensational Gaya assault case has been amicably settled, on Mr. Robertson, the accused, making a public apology. All's well that ends well.

WE regret to announce the death on Monday last of the wife of Babu Sarat Kumar Banerji, the well-known Vakil of Patna. We offer him our sincere condolence.

THERE is a strong rumour that the court of one of the Munsiffs of Patna is going to be abolished. We would strongly deprecate such a course being adopted without the public being fully consulted.

THE next examination for Mukhtears in Bihar and Orissa will be held on the 18th February 1918. The examination of candidates for Pleadership will be held on the 19th and 20th February 1918. Cuttack candidates will sit for the examination at the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack. The last date for paying the fee for admission to the examinations is the 5th January and the last date for identification is the 7th January 1918.

AN interesting case involving a nice point of law was decided in the High Court on Tuesday by their Lordships Justices Roe and Sir Ali Imam. One Sukhdeo Pathak of Sonapur was convicted under section 170 I. P. C. on the charge of having given himself out as a C. I. D. officer and thereby securing free admittance to the Railway Platform of the Sonapur Station, B. and N. W. Ry. and sentenced to three month's rigorous imprisonment. The matter came up in revision before the High Court. Their Lordships held that the

conviction could not be sustained as the act complained of did not appertain to the ordinary functions of a C. I. D. officer as such. The mere assumption, their Lordships remarked, of an authority without doing any official function did not bring it within the purview of Section 170 I. P. C. The conviction was therefore set aside and the accused acquitted. The accused, it may be remembered, is also under an order of detention under the Defence of India Act.

THE City Magistrate has just concluded the trial of one Maharaj Tewari, a constable in Patna District for having brought a false civil suit before the Munsif at Patna against a man in the District of Balia in U. P. The Defendant coming to hear of the suit informed the District Magistrate at Balia who promptly took up the matter and after a careful investigation by the C. I. D. found the suit was false and fraudulent. The C. I. D. of Patna was communicated to and Akhauri Raghu Nath Sahai was entrusted with further enquiry. On his recommendation sanction for the prosecution of the man was obtained from the High Court and he was put on his trial before the Deputy Magistrate, Patna City. He has been convicted and given six months. We congratulate the C. I. D. and Mr. Sahai on the result. In this case but for this intervention the poor Defendant would not have been able to get justice.



As Long As You Are Well

You probably Overdo:

OVERWORK and worry don't pay. No body can defy Nature's Laws. We all need peace of mind, exercise, and eight hours' sleep to keep well. We must not over-eat, nor drink much, except of milk or water.

Careless habits load the blood with uric acid poisons. The kidneys act as safety-valves, filtering the blood, and passing off the poisons, but are bound to weaken under any continued strain, and once they falter, you feel tired and nervous. Your back aches, you have headaches, dizzy spells, and urinary disorders.

The first thing to do to get relief is to get back to simple, sensible habits. But you must also help the weakened kidneys. You can depend for this on Doan's Backache Kidney Pills.

This medicine will prove of great service in restoring the activity of the kidneys, and helping them to expel uric acid and the body's fluid waste. Doan's Pills are guaranteed free from any injurious ingredients whatever.

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

IN welcoming our new contemporary, the *Bihar News*, which made its first appearance on Sunday last, we acknowledge with thanks the extremely complimentary reference which it has made to ourselves. From the number to hand, the *Bihar News* appears to be an interesting acquisition to the narrowing circles of journalism in this Province. We wish it all success.

IF we again draw the attention of the Health Officer of Patna to the disgraceful state of the passage and the landing at the head of the Moradpur Ghat it is simply to show him one more instance of irresponsiveness to public complaints which seems to characterise Municipal methods in Patna. This Ghat is resorted to by a large number of highly respectable ladies and gentlemen for the purposes of bathing. Yet these orthodox people have in the exercise of piety to wade through filth and slime not to speak of the horrible stench arising from the black pool overspreading the passage. It appears that the nuisance is due to the collection of slop water from the compound of the building which was formerly a hide factory but is now occupied by an officer of the Police Department. Will the Health officer kindly inspect the place in person and see for himself both as a Hindu Brahman and as a Sanitation expert, whether the state of things is exactly conducive to health and whether it is not shocking to Hindu feeling.

AT the last meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council, the Hon'ble Rai Sarat Chunder Sen Bahadur did well in drawing pointed attention to Mr. Irwin's effusions in the Press, in which the Local Government had been spoken of in terms hardly flattering to its prestige, and asked if it was intended to take any steps in connection with this matter. But curiously enough, beyond a curt answer in the negative, the Government did not deign to take any notice of the subject. Why the Behar Government was disposed to take the complaint so lightly is more than we can understand. But is it not a little funny that the answer was conveyed in such a curt and evasive manner? In regard to the question bearing upon the declaration of incompetence of the Rani of Ramnagar to manage her estate, the answer was, again, inconclusive. There was no sufficient reason made out as to why the Rani was denied even the opportunity to prove her competence. At any rate, the grant of a little time for that purpose would not have hopelessly muddled matters. We are however extremely glad to hear that the Government has been pleased to give back the Rani the management of her estate. For this decision we sincerely congratulate Government. The Hon'ble Mr. Sen also did a public service in eliciting from the Government an assurance that following the example of Bengal and Madras, it was now considering in what districts of the province, the experiment of appointing non-official Chairmen of the District Boards might be tried. We hope to have soon an announcement on the subject.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—On the northern side of Razia Begum's house, there is a lane called Pandariba Lane. It is nothing but a long cesspool. The filthy matters running through the drains of Begum Saheb's and adjoining houses, all gather together in this lane. To pass through this lane is a risky affair as the smell which this lane, the repository of filthy matters, shoots forth is simply horrible and disgusting. One can not cross this lane without feeling sick. Now, sir, in these days of civilization when the whole country is crying for the health of the people, are our City Fathers sleeping? I should say, yes. Our Municipality

keeps so many highly paid officials. What these officials do, nobody knows. One word more and have done. Our Bihar Government has appointed Mr. Lahiri to lecture the people on sanitation, so that they may look after their own health. It is very good of our Government to take so much trouble for the health of those who have been assigned to its care. May I ask in all fairness how many and what sort of lectures the Government has arranged for our City Fathers and our Municipal officials who have contracted to look after our health? If the answer is in the negative, I should ask the Government to do so. To my mind it seems that they need more the lessons of sanitation than the people.

THE long list of casualties, we were going to say the roll of honour, in the ranks of journalism in Bihar that appears in a review of the subject appearing in the first number of our new contemporary the *Bihar News*, has given the *Statesman* the chance of having a fling at our province. "Just as South Africa," says our Chowringhee Friend, "has

DRIVEN OUT

Whenever Little's Oriental Balm enters a home the headaches are driven out. By simply rubbing in a little of this sure-acting remedy the most stubborn ache or pain is soon brought to terms. When you apply

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you can feel the pain going away. Think of it—from maddening sleepless nights and tortured days you can enter a land of absolute relief. Clearhead, upright and tingling with health in every limb, you can once more face the world without the dread of throbbing temples or twitching nerves. You become yourself again—the self you would like to be.

Sold at Re. 1 per bottle. Of all Chemists and Medicine Vendors throughout India.

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SCOTT'S Emulsion

been charged with being the grave of reputations, so Bihar appears to be a regular churchyard for journalistic enterprises." The statement that the atmosphere of Bihar is peculiarly unhealthy for journalism, if true, affords the gravest condemnation of the manner in which the province has been administered. The Press in India shares the noble work which the Government has taken upon itself of educating the people in responsible self-government. It is the moral duty of Government and officers of Government to support and help the Press without which it cannot flourish in a backward country. How many of our district officers in Bihar and Orissa buy and read provincial papers? And yet they are supposed to be in touch with the genuine needs and grievances of the people! If a newspaper dies an untimely death, the responsibility, nay the sin of it, ought to be fastened on the shoulders of the unsympathetic and indifferent bureaucracy, which, like Pilate of old, asks what is truth, and does not wait for an answer. So far as the *Statesman's* taunts are concerned, we do not mind them so much, as we consider that it is better to die than to add to the span of life by a disgraceful sacrifice of principles, by masquerading under a name which we have no right to assume, and thus adding to the already long black list of Vicars of Bray.

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MOZAFFERPUR NOTES.
CONGRESS.

(From our Correspondent.)

A meeting of the District Congress Committee was held in Muzaffarpur the other day, in which a large number of delegates to the congress were elected; and it is expected that a good many of them will attend the Congress this year.

"OUR DAY."

The "Our Day" celebrations began here on the 12th and closed yesterday. The show was opened by Mrs. Morshead, and the main items consisted of Fancy Bazar, amateur theatricals, Bioscope, wrestling, and Lucky Bag. There was also a Raffle of Motor-car, which was won by Mr. Weston, our Collector. There were also a Gramophone Raffle and a Flower show. All these took place at Juran Chapra House. Then on the 13th and the two following days, sports and other amusements came off on the Sikenderpore Maidan, which consisted of long jump, high jump, sack race, obstacle race, foot ball, cocoanut shie, caesar sally, ring throwing, merry-go-round etc. Besides all these sources of income the Police had been collecting grains and vegetables in the villages for "Our Day"; and these were sold in the town at cheap rates. It is expected that the total amount of proceeds will exceed Rs. 30,000. Mr. Barnicott was himself going round the shops collecting prizes for the "Lucky Bag," and it will continue up to the 25th instant.

—o—
BHAGALPUR NEWS.

(From our Correspondent.)

The health of the town is not at all satisfactory. Rats have begun to fall in some mahallas and few cases of imported Plague are also reported. Cholera does not appear to have entirely subsided. Dr. Haripada Sarcar has been appointed Health Officer and I have no doubt Government will approve of it since Dr. Sarcar is a local man with ten years' private practice. But the most important topic these days is the celebration of Our Day Fete here. A most attractive programme was arranged

by the committee. The services of a Calcutta Band were secured for the occasion. Camel and Elephant rides, Mina Bazar, the Lottery, besides the Lucky Bag formed conspicuous parts of the programme. But perhaps the fortune-teller's part was most amusing. The trees of the Sandy's Compound were very well illuminated. The local Sangit Samaj gave two performances, one in Hindi and the other in Bengali on the occasion. The Royal Amateur Theatrical Club of Champanagar also gave one performance. This must be admitted that almost every player acquitted himself creditably of his part. The Banaili Raj headed the list of donations by subscribing Rs. 10,000 towards the fund and other gentries too were not slow in paying their quota. The local Home Rule League paid Rs. 250 towards it.

REVIEW.

"BACHA" (The child) by Captain M. A. Qureishi I.M.S., translated into Hindi by Prof. Karm Narayan M. Sc. of the Muir Central College, Allahabad. Can be had of the latter at Re. 1 a copy. Postage extra.

This book deals with the subject of the bringing up of children, their diseases and how to cure them. The fact of its having been written by an Indian I.M.S. officer of long standing is a sufficient guarantee of the accuracy and usefulness of information contained in the book. The value of the book is enhanced by several instructive illustrations incorporated in the text. Very useful advice is given to the mother on the subjects of feeding and nursing of children while the chapters on Malaria Small-pox, tuberculosis and typhoid are particularly well-written. When the high rate of infant mortality (about 19 lacs a year) in India, on the one hand, and the appalling ignorance of our women on the other, are borne in mind, the value of such a book as a guide cannot be overestimated. The language is easy and simple and it is hoped that the book will find a place in every Hindi-knowing house. It may also be used as a text-book for advanced students in Girls' Schools.

The translator is a Biologist of repute in the United Provinces and the Punjab, who has always taken a very keen interest in the diffusion of scientific knowledge among the public. He has laid the Hindi-knowing world under a deep debt of gratitude by the publication of this book which really satisfies a long-felt want, for so far as we know there is no book in Hindi covering the same ground and giving so much valuable information on the bringing up of children.

We heartily recommend this book to every Hindi knowing mother in northern India.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED.

WANTED for service under the Saran District Board 3 competent Doctors having Sub-Assistant Surgeon's qualification for epidemic duty temporarily (for about 6 months) on salary of Rs. 40/- a month as fixed Travelling Allowance and also a Local Indian Doctor to fill up a vacancy in the permanent staff on salary of Rs. 40/- rising to Rs. 85/- a month, according to District Board Scale.

Applications with copies of diploma and other certificates will be received by

the Civil Surgeon, Saran, up to 25th December 1917.

Selected candidates will be requested to join at once.

They will get no Travelling Allowance for joining the appointment.

BIRENDRA NATH CHAKRABARTI.

Dated, Chapra, } For Chairman Dis-
The December } trict Board, Saran.
1917. } 2-1

THE BENGAL AND NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in England)

NOTICE.

Tenders for supply of Miscellaneous Stores for the year ending 31st March 1919.

The Agent, Bengal and North Western Railway Company, is prepared to receive tender up to noon the 1st February 1918 for the supply of Miscellaneous Stores for the twelve months ending 31st March 1919.

Forms of Tender, at Rs. 3/-each giving all particulars can be obtained on application to the Store-keeper, Bengal and North Western Railway, Samastipur.

The Agent does not bind himself to accept the lowest or any tender or to assign any reason for doing so.

J. WALKER.

Gorakhpur, } Agent,
The 15th Dec. } Bengal & North
2-1 1917. } Western Railway.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela at Allahabad—1918.

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

The public are therefore requested to arrange their despatches accordingly.

January 1918 from 11th to 16th
February 1918 from 9th to 19th

" " 23rd to 28th.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
Dated 17th Nov. 1917. } General Traffic Manager.
4-3

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Sale of unclaimed property.

Notice is hereby given that unless the undermentioned goods are removed and all charges due thereon paid before the 31st Dec., 1917, they will be sold by Public Auction and the proceeds disposed of in terms of the Indian Railways Act IX of 1890.

Consignment—One bundle used empty gunny bags.

Ex Kusunda to Luckeeserai.
P. W. B. No. 42804 dated 15-8-17.
Sender Ram Narayan Gouri Dutt.

Consignment—4 bags lime.
Ex Barh to Phesar Invoice No. 2.
R/R No. 25609 dated 24-5-17.
Sender Raghubaus Shaw.

Consignee Self.

Consignment—1 bale country made woollen.
Ex Cawnpore C. G. to Bhagalpur Invoice No. 57.

R/R No. 46713 dated 1-9-17.

Sender C. W. M. Co. Ld.

Consignee Self.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
The 13-12-1917. } General Traffic Manager.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela at Allahabad 1918.

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

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

By order,
GENL. TRAF. MNGR'S. } C. M. PEARCE,
OFFICE, } General Traffic Manager.
Calcutta, 11th Oct. }
9-7 1917.