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পাঠকম্পতক।

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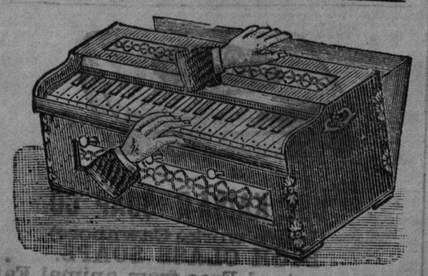

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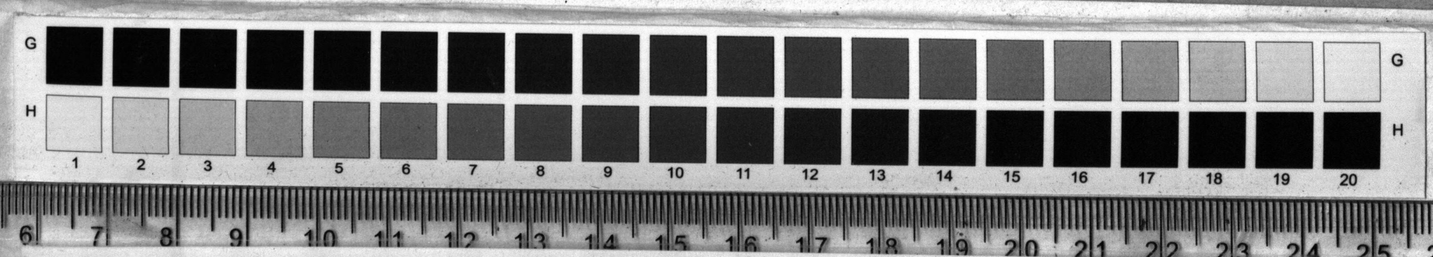

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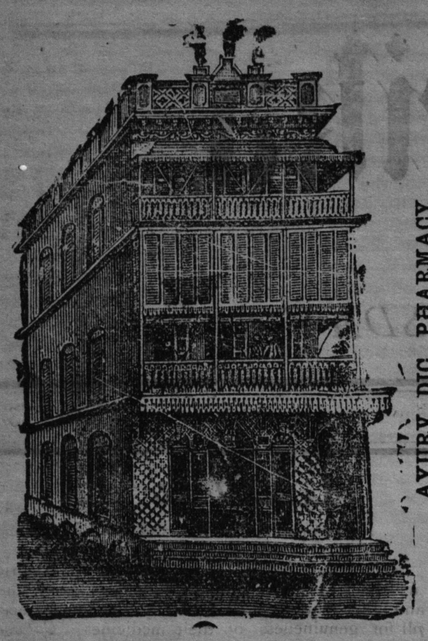

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A CRITICISM OF THE DECENTRALIZATION SCHEME OF MR. BADSHAH.

We do not intend to criticize the circulars of Mr. K. J. Badshah any more but confine ourselves to his descentralization scheme for which he was specially deputed by the Government, bearing an extra cost of Rs. 1,000 per month. He was sent on the distinct understanding that the Government shall not grant any extra sanction for the new scheme as also the grant of about 100 new hands which the Government sanctioned annually during the time of Mr. J. W. H. Sandell. Now, we shall explain the new scheme as devised by the Comptroller. Be it noted here that during two years Mr. Badshah has shewn a good saving of Rs. 60,000 from the establishment and contingent bills to the great suffering of his subordinates.

He divides the office into 4 great sections. They are :—*C section*, including Bengal, Behar, Eastern Bengal and Burmah ; *B Section* consisting of Bombay, Madras, Central India and the Central Provinces ; *L Section* comprising of the Punjab, Sind, the N-W. Provinces, Oudh, Rajputana and Assam ; and the Central Office.

The first three sections should be presided over each by one Deputy Comptroller and one Assistant Comptroller. Next come the Superintendents who will look after the three sections of the office, *viz* the Accounts, the Money Order and the Savings Bank. These Superintendents will get Rs. 200-250 per month. Then follow another set of Superintendents, one in charge of each department. They will get Rs. 150-200 per month. Then come the Supervisors, one in each department. They will get Rs. 100-140 per month. Next, the clerical staff of various grades from Rs. 15-100, the majority getting Rs. 15-50. Besides this, a menial staff for each section is to be provided for. The office of the *C* section is to be located at Calcutta and will occupy the building which they are now occupying. The other two sections, namely, sections B and L, are to be located in or near Bombay and Lahore respectively. The sites for location have not yet been settled, as it depends on the decision of the Government of India. At present the offices of the Bombay and Lahore sections are to be accommodated in rented houses so long Government cannot make room for them.

This is the arrangement of the office staff. Now, we will describe the system of work introduced by Mr. Badshah for the speedy despatch of work with a comparatively less cost, which claims that the work done by 2 or 3 men previously can, under the Badshah system, be very easily done by one man. In the Accounts Branch he has introduced the lump audit system in auditing bills of the various offices, instead of detailed audit, which has been the practice since a very long time and which is the only system for the detection of mistakes, frauds, defalcations, &c. In the lump audit system, the auditor has to check the total amount allotted for the office with that of the bill and to see that the amount charged in the bill does not exceed the total amount fixed for that office. It may be that the amount charged in the bill might not have been actually spent but there is no bar to prevent the Postmaster charging the whole or nearly the whole amount fixed for that office. This is the only change—as far as we see—he has introduced in the office. The new system therefore cannot be regarded as the best and the most economic way of curtailing the cost of Government revenue.

In the Money Order department, Mr. Badshah has not the courage to introduce any new system of work, as he has not sufficient knowledge of the work of the department.

In the Savings Bank too he has not introduced any system except the reconciliation of transfer entry work. The system requires more time as well as many hands for the speedy despatch of work.

Both in the Money Order and in the Savings Bank Departments he thrusts upon each clerk the work of two men and exacts it from them with rigour. If they fail to do the required amount of work such punishments as the stoppage of promotion, degradation or suspension, etc., are meted out to them. In short, the scheme he has devised has proved a source of great hardship to the clerks.

This is the new scheme of Mr. Badshah which is now before the Government of India for consideration. The final decision of the Government will come out most probably by the next month. The office has accordingly been split up into those 4 sections and work is going on in accordance with the new scheme. It has even been ruled that the assistants of all the sections should go out for tiffin and other purposes at 3 different hours one after another, so that they are not in a position to see a man of another section during office hours, however urgent the case may be.

Now, let us see the expenditure that will entail upon the Government for the discentralisation scheme. The expenditure will far exceed the amount incurred under the present system.

First of all the Government shall have to grant a sanction of a considerable amount for the appointment, of two Deputies and one Assistant Comptroller ; to which if the present staff be added, it comes to 3 Deputies and 3 Assistant Comptrollers. The pay of these Deputies has been fixed at Rs. 1000 besides house-rent and that of the Assistant Comptroller at Rs. 500, besides local allowance. An extra staff of menial servants is to be maintained for both the sections. If Government cannot provide for the accommodation of the offices of these two sections without extra cost, house-rent should be allowed to them. Besides these we see another heavy item of expenditure in the transit of all the records and furnitures of the office and also the travelling expense of the clerks and their families. Had the office been in Calcutta these extra costs would not have been incurred. What benefit do we get after spending so much money on the project ? The Government will surely be a great loser in case if the scheme is acted upon.

If Government had the intention of decentralizing the office at all, why then was the present building erected at a cost of some 8 or 9 lacs of public money ? Government could have thus saved the 8 or 9 lacs of Rupees or might have utilized the money on some other urgent public works. Why was not the office located at Chinsura at the time when the question of erecting a building was raised ?

We see no other benefit than the provision for men of different provinces after so much expense of public money. The only intention which pervades through every line of the scheme is the provision for the different races and nationalities inhabiting the different provinces of India

The work will surely not be more quickly despatched in the decentralizing scheme than in the central office. A great deal of correspondence will surely increase for references which could easily be settled if the office were to be located in one central place like Calcutta. With the increase of work, additional hands are to be entertained from time to time. Fraud and defalcation cases are sure to crop up more than at present. The local post masters in conjunction with the section office clerks will find a good opportunity for committing frauds.

The clerks shall have to suffer much if no allowances sufficient to maintain their families are granted, The small pay they get is hardly sufficient to maintain them and to meet the education charges of their children necessary at Calcutta. If no consideration is made to them most of the clerks will surely give up their appointments. They entered the service on no such understanding as going to any part of India.

UNGENEROUS

(*The Bengal Times.*)

UNJUSTIFIABLE and spiteful literary assaults upon brother-journalists, cannot, in any circumstances, be counted as fair and intelligent criticism, and of this nature is an attack upon a daily contemporary—*Amrita Bazar Patrika*—in which motives are imputed to our friend by a hebdomadal, we feel certain are altogether unmerited, and we regret we are obliged—from a sense of fairness—to add that, we cannot but regard them as displaying a personal animus opposed to every true principle of journalistic courtesy ; indeed imputation of motive is destructive of logical power as neutralising it and debasing one's critical faculty. Time and time again, we have had to differ from our *Amrita Bazar* friend, upon a basis of principle, as well as of fact, and we doubt not, we shall differ again, as time progresses. We trust, however, we shall never feel impelled to attribute to him anything like a sinister purpose, because his honest convictions may seem opposed to ours. Our daily contemporary's vigorous exception to Babu Surendro Nath Banerjea's nomination to Sir John Woodburn's Legislative Council, was advanced because he felt that, such a course would mean an unnecessary and unwarrantable exclusion of a portion of East Bengal from representation, in due rotation, as laid down by two Lieutenant- Governors, a step that would be unfair to Dacca, unless it could be shown that her supercession had become necessary, or expedient, and he was careful to insist that, in advocating Dacca's right—or privilege as it is called—he did not intend it to be understood that, Sir John had acted from any but a pure motive. His assailant with ill-considered vehemence, attacks him thus :

"The motive is clear. It is Mr. A. M. Bose's discomfiture that has upset Babu Moti-Lal Ghosh, Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjea has never been in the good graces of the *Patrika*, because he has had the manliness to act independently of both Babu Shishir Kumar Ghosh and Babu Moti Lal Ghosh and to dispute their claim to pose as the 'autocrats' of Calcutta."

Such amenities, in such a discussion, are beyond our comprehension. But let that pass. Having delivered so terrible a blow, this strange critic charges both objects of his resentment with having "too much wind in their heads," a calamity through which they have:—

"Become so thoroughly demoralised with (sic) the foolish attentions of the half-educated rabble of our country that they have the cheek to arrogate to themselves dictatorial powers for which they have neither the capacity, nor the slightest titular justification."

What this sad jumble of nonsense is intended to convey, we can hardly venture to conjecture, with any reliability as to its real significance. We have never heard of any one having too much wind in his head, and "titular justification" we confess is hard to digest. Like "cheek" and other such pet terms, it may have a meaning, and that meaning may appeal to a certain class of reader with peculiar emphasis, such as an equivalent to "*mar sala.*" From that class we are shut out by the stern irony of fate, perhaps ; and it is well so, since, we fear we could hardly follow this critic with intelligence into a possibly higher and decidedly more mysterious phraseology of invective. After telling us that Mr. A. M. Bose is of all public men, our *Patrika* friend's "greatest favourite," by reason of being superlatively docile, he says :—

And not only that Babu Motilal Ghose has the sense to perceive that, with all his braggadocis (sic) and *ex cathedra* (sic) airs, there is an immeasurable distance between him and Babu Surendra Nath Banerjea."

That this mild Hindoo censor should travel into classic regions and rout out words with wrong terminations, wherewith to express his indignation, and should fling them broadcast amongst his readers, is sufficiently sad. But even that phase of his—eh—resentment, is eclipsed in his eulogy of Surrender. Not, whom he very unkindly describes thus:—

"He can never be a rival of Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjea. Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjea is too high for him, so much so, that he has not even the capacity, to appreciate him. Babu Surendra Nath Benerjea is like a star whose very effulgence blinds Babu Matilal Ghosh."

And in this strain, he calls this latter gentleman a "scheming friend" and imputes to him motives of self-interest. It is interesting to know that our friend Surrender. Not is "like a star" and still more so to discover that his classification is with those whose effulgence blinds people—stars of which we have not any knowledge—but even supposing our *Patrika* friend to be thus blinded, how can that strange incident account for Sir John Woodburn's departure from an implied pledge by his predecessor? It is not enough to argue :

"All that the deviation from ordinary practice will involve is a postponement of the election from that division for a time."

Allowing this. Why, we would ask, should there be a postponement for a day, or an hour? In her due rotation, Dacca claims her previlege, as other have done before her, and with success. Now it has come to her turn, what need for a deviation ? Then, this apologist of justice, who sees no harm in substituting one electoral unit for another, without rhyme or reason, argues:—

"The Dacca division will be able to exercise the valued right in February next, when Babu Jatra Mohan Sen's term expires. The disfranchisement for years talked of is therefore a bosh."

We do not quite know what "a bosh" is, but allowing it to be what our critic supposes it, again we ask—*Why* should Dacca division be disfranchised for months, without any cause? As well may a man break another's arm or leg, and justify himself by a plea of temporary inconvenience to his victim. We do not ask why it should be temporary ; but why *at all* ? Then this literary knight-errant tells us that Sir John Woodburn can easily drop his Municipal Bill, instead of waiting for Surrender Not to enter Councill but

"The time of the Government we apine (sic) is too valuable to admit of its playing such a dramatic surprise upon the country."

Whatever may be *apined*—we do not know a bit what that means—we are unable to see in anything that has transpired, in or out of Council, why Dacca should be disenfranchised—a word at which our critic sneers, for some reason he can best explain—nor why any change should be allowed to operate to Dacca's disparagement, unless to serve some important end, political or otherwise. And in its absence, our *A.B. Patrika* friend is perfectly ustified commendably so—in calling in question a disarrangement of public plans, without incurring any liability to be dubbed "a malicious cantankerous journalist." We are strong advocates for ventilating public questions, and we are not too squeamish to see a bold, manly front and fairly broad expressions in offence and defence; but vulgar and uncalled-for abuse, is what does not commend itself as serving any purpose, pohtical or social

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE force of dynamite is always in the direction from which the greatest resistance is offered. When dynamite is on the ground the explosive force is downward ; when it is placed alongside a wall ; its greatest force is against the wall ; when placed under an object, its force is chiefly in an upward direction.

AN electric lamp an on entirely new principle and known as Nerust incandescent electric lamp was recently exhibited at the Society of Arts, London. It employs a rod of refractory earth instead of the usual carbon filament, and this meterial is not enclosed in a glass exhausted of air. The rod is preferably composed of the oxides thoria, zirconia, yttria ; &c., and when in a glowing white-hot state emits a most intense light. The arrangement differs from familiar forms of electric lamps in that it requires to be lighted with a spirit flame, or by other means for the rod does not become a conductor of the electric current until it has been heated.

SIGNOR G. MARCONI, the inventor of wireless telegraphy, who recently obtained permission from the French Government to establish a station on the French coast for the purpose of experimenting with wireless telegraphy between England and France, announces that he has conducted successful experiments between South Foreland and Wimereux, the distance being 32 miles. He personally superintended the test. The London *Times* received the first wireless message across the Channel. The Morse code was used. The messages received were read at the South Foreland Light-house with no more difficulty than those transmitted by cable.

DR. HEXAMER suggest a cheap and easy process by which wood work may be rendered absolutely incombustible. After trying various substances with which to impregnate the wood, he finally recommends water-glass, treating it at a later stage with ammonium chloride in order to render it insoluble. The wood-work is first of all heated in an iron container to expell all moisture; after which the water-glass is admitted under pressure, and is forced into the inner recesses of the wood. Ammonium chloride is then admitted to the container under the same conditions, and the wood is finally washed in running and slowly dried. The recent war between Spain and the United States taught the valuable lesson that a ship of war should have as little wood in its construction as possible and that what there is should be fire-proof.

AT a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine, a report was presented by M. Laborde and M. Jaubert concerning some experiments they made with a view to restoring vitiated or breathed air to its normal condition. The experiments in question have discovered a chemical substance which, by simple contact with expired air, will restore to it its lost oxygen, while at the same time it will rob it of all its noxious properties. Three or four kilogrammes of the compound will allow a man to live 24 hours in a confined space without any fresh air being administered to him from outside. The discovery will be of the greatest use to diverse, firemen, and all who have to face an irrespirable atmosphere. In previous apparatus having the same object, costic soda has been employed to absorb the carbon dioxide, while the oxygen has been renewed from a compressed store of that gas.

ELECTRICITY has been applied for the rapid seasoning of wood and the process is a reliable one. At Charlton, Kent, Messrs. Johnson and Phillips, the well-known electricians, have set up a plant in order to work the Nodon-Breton-New system, which consists in immersing the timber to be treated in a tank containing a solution of borax, rosin and soda—a mixture which may be described as an antiseptic varnish. Plates of metal are arranged above and below the timber, and these are so connected with a dynamo that the electrical current completes its circuit through the wood. By this treatment the sap is driven to the surface of the bath and the borax liquid taken its place in the pores of the wood. This part of the process occupies from five to eight hours, after which the wood is dried spontaneously or by artificial means. It is said that a fortnight's exposure to summer weather will render the wood as surviceable as as if it had been stored in the ordinary way for five years.

ONE of the grandest engineering works has just been inaugurated by the laying of the foundation-stone, at Assouan on the Nile, of a vast granite dam which is destined to hold the waters of the historic river in check. This huge wall will be more than a mile in length 76 ft. high and 30 or 40 ft. in width so that it will form a bridge across the river as well as a dam to conserve its waters. The effect of this obstruction will be the formation of a reservoir with an area of about 670 sq. miles, holding one thousand million tons of water ; and it is estimated that this mighty volume will be the means of bringing 2,500 sq. miles of desert land under cultivation. The so-called cataracts, which are in reality rapids, will disappear, and a lock at each end of the granite wall will form gates for the passage of vessels up and down stream. The work has been planned by Sir Benjamin Baker, will be undertaken by Mr. Aird and will be completed in about 4 years' time. It is regarded as the greatest engineering enterprise undertaken in the land of the Pharaohs since the building of the Pyramids.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE 8, 1899.

BLINDNESS FROM SELFISHNESS.

MR. STEEVENS has made himself notorious by his letters. He has abused the Indians, but that does not matter much. His malice, however, is so deep and intense as to lead him to complain that they "breed and breed and breed." His next complaint, therefore, naturally is, that the natives of India have got a very large share of offices in Government employment. The large number of Europeans employed in this country, nay, the practical ostracism of Indians from the public service of the country, did not at all strike him. But it pained his heart to see some Indians holding office in their own country, under British Government. Men are generally good, but sometimes they betray amazing perversity when their interests are concerned. We saw an incident which happened before our eyes. One of our neighbours distributes rice to poor people every Sunday. We saw that some of these beggars, strong men, were driving others away,—others who were old, weak and unable to protect themselves. Said these strong men,—the professional beggars,—addressing the weak, the sick, the halt, the blind, in short, those unable to protect themselves, whom they were driving away,—"Go your way, you *salas* and *salees*. Are you not ashamed to beg? We who live by begging alone have a right to this place. Who brought you here, interlopers?" And thus they would not permit the really needy to stop there to have their doles but they would take all the rice that was to be distributed, every grain of it, because they were strong and beca the sued onor was indifferent.

The beauty of the whole thing was that, when we tried to reason with these professional beggars and convince them that they were acting unjustly, selfishly and ridiculously, we could make no impression upon them. It appeared that they felt sincerely that they were the aggrieved parties. Neither could we convince K— who was rending the heavens with his cry of distress, that he had no case. It was a market-place, and he had collected a large crowd round him. He was loudly complaining of the conduct of Bhairab who, he said, had played a trick upon him. The trick was this. K—, who was making all this row, had borrowed from Bhairab a rupee, promising to pay it back on the following day. K— had failed to keep the promise, nay, he had not paid his debt at all, though a year had passed. Bhairab had somehow or other got hold of a rupee, which belonged to K—and had appropriated it in payment of the debt, which the latter owed him. And K— who had, as we said, collected quite a crowd round him, was delivering himself thus: "Has the world ever seen a knave like Bhairab? He has no sense of shame, honor, or justice. Because some days, nay, many months ago I had taken a rupee from him, which I am willing to pay as soon as I am in a position to do so, he is not, for this trifling matter, ashamed to appropriate the rupee which he took from me only yesterday." Of course, we tried to convince K— that Bhairab had done no wrong, but failed in our attempt; and he continued invoking Heaven to witness the rascality of Bhairab!

It was a service-seeker who wrote to the *Englishman* a good many years ago, complaining against the Babus of Calcutta who would give no chance to the Poor Whites. He said that he had come from England, and applied for a post under the Municipality; but the Babu candidates whom he called "hungry vultures" had given him no chance and one of them had appropriated the place. He complained against the University system of education which created a class of office-seekers. He blamed the Bengalees for the vice they had of hunting after service, when they should have tried to create independent means of livelihood. He confessed that he had come from England to this country to try his fortune as a service-hunter, and yet he felt no hesitation in condemning the Babus for hunting after places and not taking to trade! Blinded by selfishness, he did not see the ridiculousness of his position in posing as the aggrieved party, though he himself was a place-hunter, not in his own, but in a foreign, country.

Similarly, blinded by self-interest a certain Commissioner of Behar also issued a circular complaining of the province of Behar being flooded with the Bengalees. He said it was evidently unjust that the people of one province should deprive the natives of others of posts of emolument. He declared emphatically that a Bengalee had no claims whatever to a post in Behar. It, however, never occurred to him that if a Bengalee had no claims to a post in Behar he, as an Englishman, had a still less claim to a post in India. Here we must say we are doing this Commissioner injustice. For he is not the only sinner in this respect. We can shew hundreds who advanced the same argument under similar circumstances. How many officers, again, wept over the sorrows of the Mussalmans during the rule of Sir Charles Elliot, who, it was alleged, had been supplanted by the Hindus?

Whether the Hindus have supplanted the Mussalmans or not is a doubtful question, but there is no doubt whatsoever of the fact that both the Hindus and the Mussalmans have been supplanted by those who are absolute aliens and who are only birds-of-passage, having no abiding interest in this country. Their sense of justice is shocked when they contemplate the pitiful condition of the Mussalmans, but the pitiful condition of the Indians,—both Hindus and Mussalmans,—who have been ostracized from the public service of their own country, do not at all strike them as unjust or cruel!

But the most amusing case of blindness from selfishness was presented by an Anglo-Indian official in Burmah. It was at a time when that country was in the process of being "pacified." Those Burmans who were yet fighting for their country were dubbed "dacoits." For, had not the India Government appropriated the country by a proclamation? Well, the officials, in charge of the outlying Burmese districts, were hunting down those dacoits, who were fighting for their independence; and those of the latter who were caught were tried by the same officials. The judgment in one of these cases came to light, and caused some sensation. The Captain had raided into the country of the "dacoits", and given them a severe lesson and brought some prisoners, whom he himself tried. In his judgment he severely condemned their lawlessness and then adjudged some of them to be hanged, and sent others to long terms of imprisonment. We have not the slightest objection to these men being punished or even hanged, but the spectacle of their being tried by the same officer who had committed the raid, was a little ridiculous. For the culprits were, no doubt, dacoits, but then they had the same notion of the Captain, who had raided in their country.

THE *Indian Spectator* and *Capital* give credit to Mr. Steevens for one shrewd remark at least It is to the effect that, the nearer India is approaching to England, the greater is the indifference that the imperial country is shewing to its dependency. Previously Englishmen had to remain in this country, willingly or unwillingly; and they had thus to Indianize themselves partially, in spite of themselves. But now the Suez Canal, the railway and the telegraph have brought the two countries closer; and there is no concealment of the fact on the part of Englishmen who come here, that they are now birds of passage who come here only to make money. "Of the life, character, and habits of thought of the people," says *Capital*, "their (the rulers') knowledge grows less and less, year by year, and as Mr. Steevens truly says, 'the longer we rule over India the less we know of it.'

Thus the sympathy, that previously existed between the ruled and the rulers, in consequence of their knowing one another familiarly, is threatened eventually with complete destruction. Surely it would be an awful position for both the countries,—the imperial and the dependant,—when the latter is placed under the rule of one thousand Englishmen, ignorant of the habits of thought of the people and without a drop of sympathy for them, incessantly struggling to make their pile and go home.

During the early days of British rule when there was a sense of insecurity, the Anglo-Indian community had to keep an eye on the methods of Government and take note of the feelings and aspirations of the people. But a sense of security has now removed even that motive to lead them to take any serious interest in the affairs of the country. The art of government has been made easy, and there is no longer any necessity for the present rulers to make those exertions which characterised the early builders of the Empire. Government is now almost a machine without a soul.

The *Saturday Journal* related the funny story, quoted in our columns the other day, namely, how a subordinate made the head of a department sign a paper, on which were clearly written the Ten Commandments. The head, who never looked into the papers placed before him for signature, signed the paper containing the Commandments, mistaking it for an official paper. Now this story carries with it a serious import. It shews how the affairs of the country are carried on now-a-days. The heads of Governments and departments have to saction measures, of which they have no knowledge. That is to say, they have become indolent and careless, and the result is that the real powers are slowly and gradually drifting into the hands of subordinates. The Secretray is stronger than his Chief, and the subordinate is stronger than his superior!

The *Indian Spectator* has a reply to the growl of Mr. Steevens about the large number of educated Indians employed in the administration. It says:—

The fact is, Britain cannot hold India in any other way. Mr. Steevens should not forget that India counts three hundred millions of human beings. Now, if instead of human beings they belonged to a less rational section of living creatures, say, were horses or asses, they would require more Englishmen than there are in England to keep them under proper control. At the rate of one groom for three animals, we should want about one-hundred million of Englishmen which is much more than the population of Great Britain. Otherwise, you will have to delegate your functions to the animals themselves. In the case of men whose intelligence and industry are not a negligable quantity, Mr. Steevens might be more charitable. If educated Indians are willing to serve England an Englishman, we think, should be the last person to stigmatize them for it.

The custom is now for the educated Indians to work, and for his European master to sign. If the educated Indian is abolished, the head of the department will have not only to sign but to draft also. It is the educated Indian alone who made it possible for the ruler to go beyond the capital cities and penetrate into the interior; and it is the educated Indian alone, who has made it possible for the Viceroy to rule from Simla and the Secretary of State from London. If all the educated Indians now take into their heads to leave Government service and till the ground for their maintenance, the machinery of Government is likely to fall to pieces.

If a train is derailed in the midst of a forest, it is the educated Indian who will detect the culprit for the Government. If a newspaper writes a line of sedition, it is the educated Indian who will disclose the conspiracy. Without the help of educated India, the Magistrate will not know what is going on before his doors. Such is just now the thorough grasp of the Government of the country that a murderer cannot hide himself in this vast country, though hanging is a punishment which is not agreeable to Indian notions. The murderer is sure to be traced, only because the Government has educated India to help it.

The real fact is, it is this knowlege, that the rulers cannot proceed one step in any direction without the help of the educated Indian, that makes the creature so detested by his masters. In short, the Babu is hated, because he is essential! And an educated Indian does not cost even as much as a drunken operative in England. He is gentle, submissive, sober, industrious, intelligent, honest, and above all, he can live upon almost nothing.

THE following telegram appears in the *Statesman*:—

An important decentralisation scheme in connection with the post-office is likely to be carried out this year by the transfer of portions of the central comptrolling offices, which are now in Calcutta, to Bombay and Lahore, respectively. In this case each of the new Offices will be under a Deputy Comptroller belonging to the regular Accounts Department, and will help to relieve the pressure on the central office, the Bombay branch serving Madras, Bombay and the Central Provinces, while the Lahore branch will serve the Punjab, the North-West Provinces and Rajputana.

The above evidently refers to the decentralization scheme of Mr. Badsha, Comptroller of the Post Office, about which we wrote a few weeks ago. The details of the scheme are not before us, but judging from the fragments of information placed at our disposal, it seems to us that Government should not give it a hasty sanction. For, if we have been correctly informed, not only will more than one thousand clerks in the Calcutta Comptroller's Office, be punished terribly if Mr. Badsha's scheme were given effect to, but the Government itself would suffer immediately a great deal of pecuniary loss. Lord Curzon has the reputation of going into the details of a thing before he can be persuaded to give an opinion upon it. Here is a matter which needs the serious deliberation of His Excellency; for the proposed scheme has created consternation in the ranks of the clerks. In another column we publish a criticism of Mr. Badsha's scheme from a party who, we have reasons to believe, is competent to discuss the question impartially. We trust, it will attract the notice of His Excellency. The writer contends that Mr. Badsha's scheme is objectionable on the following, among other, grounds: 1st, It will compel one clerk to do the work of two or three, an impossible feat, which will bring confusion into the Accounts Department. Secondly, it will not be possible for the clerks to serve in Bombay or Lahore on the same pay as in Calcutta, that is to say, their salaries must be considerably increased This means an additional expenditure which is likely to swallow up all the money to be saved by the unnatural process of making one clerk do the work of two or three. Thirdly Government will be obliged to take in some new highly paid officers to control the offices at Bombay and Lahore which will largely add to the expenses of the department. And, fourthly, the huge building, which Government erected at a cost of eight lakhs of Rupees for the purpose of locating the entire Comptroller's Office in Calcutta, will have to be practically abandoned or only partially occupied, while houses are to be built anew or rented in Bombay and Lahore for accommodating the subordinate offices. The scheme thus appears to be a failure, when viewed from the stand-point of economy; whereas it threatens to prove a terrible source of oppression to the clerks. The good Viceroy has thus to weigh the *pros* and *cons* with great care, and then to arrive at a decision. Of course, Mr. Badsha is entitled to every consideration at the hands of the Government; but the Government is also the protector of the 1000 clerks who apprehend great mischief from the scheme. Government cannot also be too careful in introducing an innovation, specially when it is objected to by those who will have to bear the chief brunt of the work. In short the scheme claims the earnest attention of Government and should not be sanctioned in a light-hearted manner.

THE prostitution of the sacred functions of journalism, condemned by the *Indian Empire*, has been condemned in still more strong terms by the *Bengal Times*, which is an Anglo-Indian paper. The article is reproduced elsewhere. One can see at once how the sanctity of the editorial "we," has been encroached upon ruthlessly, without a thought that such practice is not respectable. The *Bengal Times* says that he had oftentimes had to differ from us; but he never attributed sinister motives to us. And for ourselves, we have never denied that the *Bengal Times* is an independent paper. Did it not condemn the proceedings taken by the Government in the Munshigunge case? But yet we remember vividly how he and we fought in days gone by. As for his article quoted elsewhere, it speaks for itself. The article condemned by our contemporary has no argument in it; in short, it has nothing but abuse. And to this low state have some newspapers fallen in these evil days! In early days the *Probhakar* and *Bhaskar* fought, to the amusement of the public. But then they had this excuse, that they had no malice. When the *Bhaskar* called the *Probhakar*, *Sala*, their constituents laughed. And when the *Probhakar* retorted by calling the *Bhaskar*, *Shashuria*, the Calcutta public again laughed. In private the combatants embraced one another and rejoiced that they were doing capitally by their methods in the matter of selling their papers. But present-day journalism is a quite different thing. In those days they appeared as buffoons and announced themselves as such. But in these days they act like buffoons, but pretend to be wise men. The *Bengal Times* says that the article attacking us appeared in "a hebdomadal." Evidently this hebdomadal is an organ of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee.

OUR readers know that Dr. Bomford, the late Principal of the Medical College, framed rules by which students who were plucked twice in the University Examination at the end of the 3rd year, were liable to be expelled from the college. He actually struck off the names of some fifty students last year as unfit to continue their studies in the college. After his departure for England on furlough, Dr. Harris, the present Principal of the Medical College, came to officiate for him. He took the case of the students, who had been expelled by Dr. Bomford, into his kind consideration. All these students had passed more than six years of the best part of their lives in the college when they were sent adrift in the world without any prospect whatever, Dr. Harris, on his becoming Principal of the College, re-admitted every one of these students. The idea of Dr. Bomford evidently was that students of the college who were once plucked in the University Examination had lesser chance than those who had never been plucked; and that students who had been plucked twice had scarcely any chance of ever passing the University Examination. The result of the University Examination at the end of the third year, which was published only a few days ago, puts to a practical test the theory of Dr. Bomford. From this, it will be seen that only one-third of the total number of the successful students have passed at their first chance, whilst two-thirds of the passed students are from the ranks of the plucked students! Every one of the oldest students who appeared for the sixth time in the University Examination and therefore had the least chance according to the theory of Dr. Bomford, have passed the University Examination. We cannot too sincerely thank Dr. Harris, but for whose kind intervention a large number of students, who were expelled by Dr. Bomford and who have passed this year, would have been utterly ruined. We hope that Government will see its way to make Dr. Harris permanent. He has not only shown his ability as Principal of the Medical College, but also as a high-class physician whom the metropolis is in so great need of.

HERE is a sensational story furnished to us by a Shillong correspondent An official, a European, we are told, had a Bengali gentleman flogged because the latter had the audacity to apply for a copy of an order passed by him. The wronged man felt himself humiliated and submitted an affidavit to the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar, detailing all the circumstances of the case. That official forwarded the affidavit to the Chief Commissioner who called for an explanation from the offending official. Mr. Cotton not being satisfied with the explanation submitted, has degraded the erring official. We hope to publish full particulars shortly, and we doubt not, they will throw light on the way in which the criminal administration is being carried on in the benighted province of Assam. We thank Mr. Cotton for the courage he has shown in punishing a subordinate in this manner. For, subordinates in almost all the provinces, have now the privilege of doing anything they like with impunity.

WITH what veneration is the system of jury trial regarded in Europe will appear from the following incidents. Sometime ago a Russian juror firmly refused to convict an offender on the ground that it was his (juror's) birth-day. Another Russian juror acquitted an offender, who had robbed a man, on his refusing to lend him money, on the ground that such heartless refusal was a direct incentive to crime. Though jurors in Russia, or, for the matter of that, in England also, behave in this extraordinary manner now and then, yet no one would dream of proposing to do away with the system or curtai their rights. Any Government initiating such a change would be regarded as barbarous and would call forth dire popular wrath upon its head. Matters are managed in a different style in this country. If any country is in need of trial by jury it is India. The administration of justice here is in the hands of alien Judges, who know very little about the language, manners, customs and habits of the people, and thus absolutely require the assistance of the peers of the accused and the complainant to arrive at a correct decision. The jury system is, however, not only an eyesore to the executive authorities, but also to Sessions Judges, generally speaking. The latter would often go aginst the verdict of the jury and curse the system, because it stood in the way of their hanging, transporting or imprisoning, at their own sweet will, the unfortunate wretches brought before them for trial. In other countries, Judges thank the jurors when they acquit the accused and thus save them from the awful responsibility of punishing a fellow-creature. In India, however, Judges, as a tiger, look upon the jury in the same light as a tiger or an alligator does upon its tormentor, when baulked of its prey. As regards the bitter hostility of the authorities, the Governments of Lord Lansdowne and Sir Charles Elliott went so far as to practically abolish the system in this country, not that jurors showed any perversity, but, because, in the honest discharge of their duties, they had to acquit prisoners for want of sufficient legal evidence. It should be noted here that we have no real jury system in this country. We have only the shadow and not the substance. Indeed, there is now very little difference between a juror and an assessor, the Sessions Judge having been empowered to refer to the High Court almost every case in which he happens to differ from the jury.

IN pre-British days the weaving classes in India were in a most prosperous condition. The outbreak of the last famine showed what miserable straits they have been reduced to. The weavers were the first to suffer from the effects of scarcity, and the local authorities in various parts of India had to make special provisions for them as soon as the first signs of distress were visible. They owe their ruin to the growth of the industry in Manchester; and they might have yet held their own against the manufacturers of England if Government had not placed many facilities in the way of the latter to sell their goods profitably in this country. Three-fourths or more of the weavers in India have been compelled to forget the art of weaving and become either agriculturists or pedlars of foreign piece-goods. Not only this. The foreign import of cotton-twist and piece-goods has totally superseded the local manufacture of cotton thread or twist. At one time, spinning by the simple proces of *charka* not only supplied the wants of all India, but those of other countries also. In villages, towns and cities there was scarcely a hut or a house where the *charka* was not seen working with ceaseless activity. The *charkas* are, however, stilled for ever. The spinning of cotton thread was the means of livelihood to widows of respectable but poor families and to innumerable peasant women; but the importation of foreign twist has rendered them absolutely helpless and numbers of them die annually from sheer starvation.

AS you sow, so you reap. Where are the authorities now who had established a reign of terror in this country in the name of stamping out the plague? They are nowhere to be found now; but the result of their work exists, to the consternation of the ruled and the rulers. We hear that the other day the cry of *tickawalla* was raised at Ghazi Meah's fair at Benares, and there was a regular stampede of a vast number of people. In the rush and confusion which followed, many shops were looted, and women and children robbed of their ornaments. It is thus in the power of a few *budmashes* now to raise the cry of the plague inoculator and throw a town in a state of confusion and disorder. And all this is, because certain unsympathetic measures were inaugurated, about four years ago, in the teeth of opposition from the entire nation, and enforced with ferocious rigour by aliens amongst a helpless people whose manners, customs and languages were utterly unknown to the latter. In order to give effect to these measures, wives had to be separated from husbands and daughters from their parents; and they were forcibly dragged to, and detained in, public hospitals,—there to die in the presence of not their dear ones, but in that of utter strangers. These incidents happened in Bombay, Poona, and some other towns in the Western Presidency; but, the masses in other parts of India came to know all about them; so, when plague was declared in Calcutta, the city presented a scene the like of which was perhaps never before witnessed in any other place in the world. Nay more: while the educated Bengalees held a public meeting here to thank Sir John Woodburn for his sympathetic plague policy, the lower classes charged the Government with having created a body of inoculators for the purpose of killing them by instilling a subtle poison into their system! The notion, it seems, has yet a hold upon the popular mind, for, otherwise, the Benares stampede, noted above, would not have occurred. This must be the inevitable result of the introduction of bad measures in this country. It is a pity, the Government is slow to profit by these sad experiences. India was flooded with bloody riots because of that foolish and cruel measure, the Age of Consent Bill. The measure was foolish because it could not be worked; as a matter of fact, it is now a dead letter. It was cruel, because it legalized cruelty on immature girls. Under the law, a husband can associate with a wife of 12 years. According to the custom of the country, however, a husband and wife could not live together unless the latter had attained her maturity. With the results of the Age of Consent measure before them, the authorities should never have attempted to inaugurate and enforce the plague measures in the way they originally did. Unfortunately they forgot all about the Consent Bill affair, and followed the same policy over again. And it will now take many years yet to convince the ignorant masses that the Sarkar is not an enemy but a friend, and that it was actuated by the best of motives when it inaugurated its plague measures.

REFERRING to the signallers' strike, a Bombay correspondent writes us to say that the authorities there have made a political question of it and are trying to connect Mr. Tilak and his party with it. Mr. Kelkar of the *Mahratta*, we are told, was asked twice or thrice about the subject; and in spite of his assurance that he had advised the signallers not to strike, the Poona Police are not satisfied and giving broad hints to the effect that Mr. Tilak is at the bottom of the whole affair, when, as a matter of fact, he had been at Sinhgad for two months past and had not even heard of the strike for some days after it was announced. Similar enquiries are also being made at Bombay without any tangible results. We cannot, of course, approve of this policy of suspicion on the part of the Bombay authorities. Why should they display such bitter feelings towards Mahratta Brahmins, specially towards men like Mr. Tilak, who are not illiterate fools and are thus quite able to appreciate the benefits of English rule? If the signallers have struck, it is not because they received evil counsels from Mr. Tilak and others, but because they have a substantial grievance against the Railway Company. This is the real origin of the strike and every body knows it, but the authorities will not acknowledge it. The Railway Company are, of course, interested in giving a political aspect to the strike in order to secure official help; but why should the Government play into their hands and not see that it is purely a private quarrel between master and servants? Says our correspondent: "They at the headquarters at Mahabaleswar converted a simple murder at Poona into a political conspiracy; they are now fairly on the way of stamping the strike of the signallers of a private Railway Company with the hall-mark of a Brahmin rebellion!" This is how spectres are raised in Bombay. The signallers are still holding on; while the Company, it is said, are in a very sorry plight. Our correspondent says that the goods traffic is almost at a standstill, and the Company are reported to have been suffering a daily loss of fifty to sixty thousand rupees! We fancy, all this loss will have to be ultimately recouped at the cost of the Indian tax-payers, as the Railway is a guaranteed one. And the Government is actually helping the Company by suspending the usual rules and regulations of traffic! Considering the manner in which the railway line is being conducted without the help of trained signallers, it is a wonder that no accident has yet occurred, causing serious loss of life and property. Our correspondent hears that some such accidents were narrowly averted during the last two or three weeks. And yet the Company persist, while the police are employed to find out whether or not Tilak is at the bottom of the affair! We deeply regret that this sort of statesmanship should be allowed while Lord Curzon is at the head of the India Government.

A PURNEA correspondent informs us that Mr. A.H. Vernede, Officiating Joint Magistrate, has been transferred to Maimensing. We are not aware if Mr. Vernede's transfer has anything to do with the exposure of some of his extraordinary doings in the columns of Indian newspapers, but it goes without saying that the intelligence has afforded great relief to the inhabitants of Purnea. Only yesterday, we got a communication from that district, in which the writer complains bitterly of the way in which Mr. Vernede was discharging his duties. The best course for all parties would have been to transfer the Joint Magistrate to the Secretariat, where he could not play ducks and drakes with the honour and liberty of the people. By this way several young wrong-headed Civilians have been cured of their proneness to act in a high-handed manner.

THE Peace Conference itself is a triumph of moral over physical force: it is a miracle. It is Russia which invites, and England, Germany and France which respond to the call, the object being to pass a vote of censure upon war. The Conference is a miracle from beginning to end. Now, if Russia, England and France give up fighting, what remains to them? Is not fighting very profitable? It is the poor soldiers who rush to the mouth of the cannon; it is the young Lieutenant that follows; and it is the war-makers who derive all the advantages. Such an advantageous profession is war for the war-makers; and for these war-makers to sit in penance, condemning their chief pastime, is, as we said, a miracle.

THE London *Spectator* suggests an enquiry as to "why this mighty (Indian) Governmen

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s always living from hand to mouth, why it never has any reserves, why even a demand for poor relief extinguishes surpluses, drains the streraniesto exhaustion, and compels perpetual recourse to oans. The cause of this sad state of things is too apparent to require an enquiry. Indeed, those who are entrusted with the charge of the Indian Empire know it well, but they do not find their way to acknowledge or remove it. And the reason is plain. Such a move would interfere directly with their own interest. "The Empire will last my time,"—that is the policy which has hitherto guided every responsible ruler of India. That the people of a country, which is subjected to a systematic drain of a gigantic character and the commerce of which is in the hands of an alien people, should live from hand to mouth is self-evident. The most wealthy country in the world, if pumped in this way, would become as poor as India in no time.

IF plague has brought in its train suffering and misery all round, it has benefited a certain class of men, namely, the passed military pupils of the Medical College. As plague officers, they are drawing very handsome salaries. But if our impecunious Government is so generous towards them, it is niggardly towards another class of medical men, namely, the Assistant-Surgeonst who have also taken service as plague-officers and are doing the same work, and whose qualifications as medical men are far superior to those of the former. Nor is this all. They accepted the appointments on an assurance that they would receive Rs. 160 a month. But on their entering the service, they were told that they should remain satisfied with Rs. 130. Of course, they have demurred at this, and the matter is yet under the consideration of the Government. But while the Assistant-Surgeons are not to expect more than Rs. 160, the military students of the Medical College, though inferior to them in point of education, are allowed Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per mensem! The reader need scarcely be told that these military students possess the virtue of a white colour.

WE take the facts of the following case from the *Medini Bandhav*: Rajani Ghosh and a few others were accused before Mr. Heron, the Joint-Magistrate of Midnapur, of having snatched away cattle, which were going to be impounded by some men of Messrs. Watson and Co. The defence was, that the story of the prosecution was false and that it was got up simply with a view to put them to trouble, Considering the straitened relations between Messrs. Watson and Co. and their tenants, the trying Magistrate ought to have made some allowance in favour of the accused, even while accepting the statement of the prosecution as true. But what he did was, that not only did he disbelieve the story of the accused but passed on them exemplary punishment, sentencing them to various terms of rigorous imprisonment. They appealed against this finding, and the result is that the District Judge has let off the accused with a fine of Rs. 20 each. Some of the remarks in his judgment are worth noting. He says :—

I may note here that the lower Court's memo. of Rajani's examination is an insufficient and somewhat misleading record of what Rajani really said.

What a commentary upon the judicial conduct of the Joint-Magistrate! In another place, the Judge says :—

Yet the offence does not merit the severe sentences inflicted.

He concludes thus :—

While up-holding the convictions I alter the sentence on each appellant to a fine of Rs. 20 each in default, one month's rigorous imprisonment. The order to furnish security is not, I think, shown to be necessary and is set aside.

Now, the punishment inflicted upon the accused, by the Joint Magistrate, meant practically their ruin. Some of them might have also died in jail, for, it is a notorious fact that many short-term prisoners, especially those who are not hardened criminals, cannot stand the rigorous prison discipline. Such being the case, the conduct of Mr. Heron is simply unjustifiable. Why should he send a man to jail when a fine would have served the ends o justice? The manner in which criminal administration is carried on in this country is telling severely upon the people of this country. For the sake of humanity, these cases of magisterial vagary should attract the attention of the Government. If the Government only warn a young Magistrate when he is found to play ducks and drakes with the liberty of the subject, it not only makes British rule popular in this country but does a real service to the offending official himself. By their indifference towards the high-handed proceedings of the Magistrates, the higher authorities are creating discontent in the land, and making these wrong-headed officials more reckless and defiant.

THE retrial of Harry Ambler for causing the death of one Jugdeo Tewari, under orders of the High Court was to have come off on the 3rd instant but, as already announced, was postponed to the 19th intstant. We are informed that the accused has not yet surrendered and that is why the case has had to be postponed. Mr. Douglas White, Barrister, will appear on behalf of Government to prosecute and Mr. Cranenburgh of the Calcutta Police Court to defend the prisoner.

RED-TAPEISM is one of the drawbacks of the present-day Indian administration. The evil had grown into such magnitude as to strike even the most casual observer. Lord Curzon is comparatively a new-comer. His Excellency has not, however, failed to mark this feature in the transaction of official business in this country. For sometime past it has been broadly hinted that the Viceroy is not going to put up with such a state of things any longer and that reforms are under consideration. Now we understand that the move in this direction has already been taken, and a set of rules framed. Hitherto, it has been the practice for Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under-Secretaries, and Assistant Secretaries to write notes on every case that came before them. In some offices the custom went so far that in noting on a case, every official had to recapitulate the whole story. The result of all this is to unnecessarily increase the volume of the file; so that by the time it reaches the Viceroy's hands, after going through the various stages, it has assumed inordinate proportions—much of which is nothing but mere repetitions. But now under the new rules it is proposed that only the Secretary or his Deputy is to note on each case. By this means the file will contain only one authoritative summary. Besides this, the system of voluminous noting, now in vogue, is to be discouraged. When practicable the officials are to see and discuss things personally with each other. All this will surely tend to simplify and expedite the transaction of business. It is understood that a different method from that which now obtains in departmental report-writing is also under contemplation.

As the result of our enquiry into the allegations against the Munsiff of Kasba, the correspondent, who drew our attention to the matter, writes under date, 31st May. About three weeks ago, two leading members of the local bar, Babus Mohim Chandra and Koylash Chandra, moved the District Judge on behalf of the Kasba people. Thereupon the official, on the 13th May, wrote to the High Court for the removal of the Munsiff. No order has yet been passed on that letter. On Monday last, a petition numerously signed by the people of Kasba was submitted to the District Judge, who wired the matter to the High Court.

THE judiciary and the military have fallen ou, at Madras. The Government of India have been called upon to decide a curious question as to the right of Clive's Battery to disturb he judicial equanimity of the Honorable Judges of the Madras High Court by the booming of big guns. Besides being unpleasantly interrupted and frequently startled, their Lordships have cause to fear some injury of a serious nature to the building itself. Accordingly the High Court informed the Local Government that the latter would be liable to prosecution if the continuance of the gun practice resulted in injury. The matter was referred to Sir George Wolseley, who with a true military spirit has pointed out that the authorities should have taken this fact into consideration before they changed the site of the High Court from where it was to where it now stands. Thus finding no chance of satisfying the Madras Commander-in-Chief as to the claims of the High Court to remain where it now stands, the matter has been referred to the Government of India.

SOMETIME ago, some European officers of the Secunderabad Garrison went to the village of Surraram, where they got into a quarrel with some villagers. On return, they reported the matter to the Resident, alleging that they had been set upon by the villagers and assaulted. Thereupon the Resident asked the Nizam's Government to institute an inquiry into the affair and to have the villagers brought to Hyderabad for identification. The Minister informed the Resident in reply that it would be inconvenient to give effect to his suggestion, inasmuch as it would be a great hardship to the villagers to take them away from their occupation in this busy season. But the Resident was inexorable. He gave a lecture to the Minister for his failure to carry out his instructions. He said that there would be no hardship in bringing the accused villagers to Hyderabad and that this was not the busy season of cultivation, and ended by expressing a hope that the Nizam's Government would lose no time in taking necessary action in the matter. Of course, after such an expression of views on the part of the Resident, which is tantamount to an order, the Nizam's Government has no other alternative but to yield and to carry out the instructions of the Resident.

THE acquittal of Private Horrocks in the Rangoon Recorder's Court has been a sad failure of justice and the fact is admitted by all, irrespective of class or community. The Burmans have already petitioned the Government on it. The European community in Burma have also acknowledged in distinct terms that the decision of the Recorder in the outrage case has not been all that could be desired. Nay, they are so much exercised over the affair that they are afraid of a retaliation by the Burmans. A correspondent writes in the *Rangoon Times* of the 23rd May last, of two ladies (evidently Europeans) having been insulted in a public road by two Burmans. "This episode," goes on the correspondent, "may perhaps be regarded as specially significant, in view of the dissatisfaction with which a late judicial decision has been regarded by a large section of the Burmese community." A bit of straw will show the direction in which the wind blows and this expression of opinion is sufficient to show that the Europeans are keenly alive to the gravity of the situation. Evidently, they are of opinion that because one belonging to their race had been acquitted of the charge of committing a brutal outrage on ta Burmese woman there is nothing strange tha the Burmese in their turn should seek to pay hem in their own coin.

THE Political Agent of Muscat wires that no Baluchist or 3rd.class passengers will be allowed to land at Muscat or Gwadur.

HER Excellency Lady Curzon of Kedleston presented the Beresford Pole Cup to the winning team at Annandale on Saturday afternoon.

HIS Excellency the Viceroy was to have visited the Revenue and Agriculture Department and the Army Head-quarters Offices yesterday afternoon.

HIS Excellency the Viceroy received His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, G. C. S. I., at an informal interview at Viceregal Lodge, Simla, on Friday afternoon.

HER Excellency Lady Curzon of Kedleston has been pleased to signify her willingness to open a sale of work at the Town Hall, Simla, at 12 noon on Tuesday, the 20th June, for the benefit of the Simla Zenana Mission.

COLONEL RAVENSHAW of Udaipur, officiates at Ajmir as Commissioner, *vice* Colonel Thornton, as the latter proceeds to Berar on special judicial work before going on furlough.

IT has been decided to place Ootacamund for P. W. D. purposes under the Government Architect, and it will in future form part of that officer's division along with Madras. The Government roads and buildings in each place will therefore be in charge of the same individual. Amongst the works that are now occupying the Government Architect's attention at Ootacamund, is the new ball-room at Government House, estimated to cost Rs. 80,000. The present ball-room has been found to be utterly inadequate to accommodate the large gatherings that now-a-days have to be invited to Government House.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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THE CHIEF COMMISSIONERSHIP OF CHOTA NAGPUR.—Mr. A. Forbes, C. S. I., goes on leave very shortly, and we understand that during his absence Mr. J. G. Ritchie, C. S., will act as Commissioner of the Chota Nagpur Division.

THE CHIEF-COMMISSIONERSHIP OF ASSAM.—In the event of Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, going home on short leave, it is possible that Mr. C. W. Bolton, Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal, may be selected to officiate to him.

SIX MONTHS FOR A KISS.—The *Ant*, a Prome weekly, says :—"Two Burmans, one of whom is a lad of 17, were sentenced to 6 months' and 4 months' rigorous imprisonment each by the Myook of Hmawza for attempting to kiss a young Burmese girl."

CURRENCY NOTES.—The total amount of Currency notes in circulation in India on the 31st. of May was Rs. 28,25,09,400, against a total reserve in coin and bullion of Rs. 18,25,09,454. Of the latter nearly three and-a-half crores is in gold, the distribution of which is as follows:—More than three quarters of a crore is in Calcutta, over two crores and-a-half is in Bombay, and Rs. 135 in Rangoon.

THE CRY OF THE WOLF—From ages in the past the lisping school baby of every nationality is learning the trite old story of the nasty boy who used to cry out 'wolf, wolf,' and thus enjoy the disturbed ease of his gullible neighbours. The ultimate result of it was that the people lost faith in his cry even when the real wolf one day found an opportunity to make his appearance. The moral of the story is often lost upon some of our Anglo-Indian papers who smell, or lead their readers to believe that they smell, sedition in every act done or word uttered by the Deccan people.—*Mahratta.*

A SENSATIONAL CASE.—A very sensational case has been just decided by the District Magistrate of Purneah in *re* Mr. Walker *versus* Sergeant Lee. The case of the prosecution was that on the 7th instant at about 2 P. M. Mr. Lee went to house of Mr. Walker hit him between the eyes with fist saying "you are my wife's champion" and then struck another blow on his left jaw. The accused is, reported to have also said "perhaps you have kissed her too." The complainant was then taken to bed, in reaching which he become unconscious. The reason assigned by the prosecution for this severe handling was that Mr. Lee must have told the accused that on two occasions he had seen the effect of his assault on her; and on one occasion, he (complainant) advised her to apply to the Magistrate for protection. The case was tried with, the help of Messrs. Downing, Hays and Gerald Shillingford who acted as assessors. A number of witnesses were examined by the prosecution. Dr. Lee was examined by the defence. The Court was crowded with a large number of spectators both European and Indian. The accused admitted the guilt but pleaded provocation owing to his wife being insulted by the complainant. The Magistrate concurring with the assessors fined the accused Rs. 4.—*Behar Times.*

SERIOUS CHARGE AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS.—A Lalitpur correspondent writes to the Lucknow *Advocate* regarding a case of outrage on a young Brahmin girl. The culprits, he says, are two Mahomedan Police officers, one Head Constable and the other a Sub-Inspector at Jakhaura, a Police and Railway Station on the Jhansi-Lalitpur line. The 3rd accused is the wife of the Head Constable in question who took a leading part in abetting the crime. It appears that the girl Latkan intended to return to her parents in Rai Bareilly district and with that object she came to Jakhaura to catch the train, where unhappily she fell into the clutches of the Police, wrongfully cofined, scandalously outraged and utterly ruined for life. The statement of the girl is that she never had any intercourse with her husband and this fact receives support from the evidence of the Assistant Surgeon. The Head Constable and his wife are being tried before Mr. Silberrard, I. C. S., Sub-divisional Officer of Lalitpur, to whom public thanks are due for the prompt action he has taken in the matter. In the time of an officer of a less vigour of mind this case would have remained undetected. The case has excited a good deal of righteous indignation among the Hindu population owing to its horrible nature and on account of the reputation of the husband of the girl who belongs to a very respectable family of "Malvia" Brahmins, resident in village Dilwara, close to Jakhaura. Pandit Devaki Nandan Chaube, B. A., Vakil, is conducting the prosecution while a Barrister from Lucknow has been retained for the defence.

THE MOHANPUR MURDER CASE.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

SILCHAR, JUNE 3.

The hearing of the Mohanpore Murder case was resumed yesterday before Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner.

Babu Hari Charan Das, Government Pleader, instructed by the District Superintendent of Police, with Babu Kali Mohun Deb, appeared for the prosecution. Mr. Donogh, Barrister-at-law with Babus Kamini Kumar Chanda and Mahesh Chandra Dutt appeared for the defence.

The court was crowded with spectators, among whom were a goodly sprinkling of Europeans. The accused, Mr. Ross, was provided with a chair, behind his counsel. Eleven witnesses were examined, their cross-examination being reserved. One witness was tendered for cross-examination. The depositions were read out by an interpreter.

The first witness, Hamid Ali, who had given the first information before the police, said that some persons including deceased Osman Gani went to cut bamboos on their own land which had been demarcated from the garden land. On returning from Hailakandi after giving *ejahar* he saw the dead body of Osman and Abdul Gofur wounded.

The second witness, Anjoo Mia, said he had gone to the jungle to cut bamboos with the deceased and Abdul Gofur, on the 25th Ramjan, about noon. He heard Osman cry out, "Come, Mohonpur Sahib' has seized and is taking me away." He heard the report of a gun and coming to the place whence the sound proceeded saw Osman lying dead. He then saw the Sahib firing a second time and wounding Abdul Gofur. After which the Sahib with four coolies ran away.

The third witness, Abbas Ali Mia, said that on Tuesday, the 24 or 25 Magh, he had gone to the hills with the deceased, Abdul Gofur, Anjoo Mia and Askar Mia. He heard the report of a gun. Osman died a little before midday. He saw the dead body with a wound thereon. Witness heard another firing of gun, and on being questioned said that Mohanpore Sahib or Ross Sahib had fired the shot. There were 4 or 5 coolies with the Sahib. The land on which the deceased and Abdul Gofur cut bamboos belonged to Bustiwallas. It was demarcated by a boundary pillar.

The fourth witness, Kassim Ali, said that he had gone to the hills with Abbas Ali, Anjoo Mia and the deceased to cut bamboos. He and Osman cut on the same *patta*. At about 10, when after finishing the cutting of bamboos he was about to start, Osman called out, "Sahib has caught me." He heard the firing. of guns twice and could not say clearly, how Osman had come by his death and Abdul Gofur wounded. There were 4 or 5 coolies with the Sahib. The witness identified the gun with hesitation.

The fifth witness, Fakiruddin, said that on Tuesday, the 25th *Magh*, he, his nephew, Osman Gani, Abbas Ali, Anjoo Mia and Askar Mia had gone to cut bamboos. When they had cut and tied the bamboos, Osman cried out, "Sahib is taking me away." Witness went up to Osman and heard his altercation with the Sahib. After going some distance the Sahib fired at Osman, when Abdul Gofur cried out "Come, Sahib has killed Osman." The Sahib fi ed again wounding Abdul Gofur who thereupon cried out, "killing me, killing me". There were four coolies with the Sahib, who after all this had happened, walked away a little too fast. The witness further said that the land on w ch the deceased and Abdul Gofur had cut bamboos belonged to them.

The sixth witness, Abdul Gofur, said that on a Monday or Tuesday, in *Magh* or *Falgoon*, he and the deceased had gone to the hills and cut bamboos on their own lands when the Mohanpore Sahib came and seized Osman and him. After a great deal of angry altercation with the Sahib as to their rights to the land and his seizing them, the Sahib ook out his gun and said to Osman, "If you make more noise I will shoot you." The witness heard the deceased saying, "You can kill me but cannot take me away." At once he heard the report of a gun, looked back and saw Osman had fallen. The witness cried "Dhuhai" and called out "Come and see Mohanpore Sahib has shot down Osman Gani." No sooner had he said this, than the Sahib fired at him. He then fell down senseless and could not say what had since happened. There were four coolies with the Sahib.

The eighth witness, Askar Mia, said that he had cut bamboos at some distance and heard the deceased cry out, "Sahib has seized me, you come." He then heard the firing of gun and Abdul Gofur calling out, "Sahib is killing Osman, shooting Abdul Gofur."

The ninth, tenth, and eleventh witnesses hardly said anything about the occurrence.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SILCHAR, JUNE 4.

On the proceedings of the Mohanpur murder case being resumed yesterday, at 3 o'clock, before a crowded Court, Counsel for the defence applied, under section 208, Criminal Procedure Code, for the taking of the evidence of Dr. David Taylor, the medical officer of tea gardens in the Hailakandy quarter, then present in Court, who had examined the wounds of Abdul Gofur at Hailakandy Hospital. The application was granted on condition that in view of his leaving for England witness could not be recalled in the case of a commitment to High Court. Counsel then filed another application under the proviso to section 162, Criminal Procedure Code, for copies of the deposition before the police of witness Anjoo, who has tendered for cross-examinations on the previous day. This application was also granted. Three witnesses were examined-in-chief, their cross-examination being reserved.

The first witness yesterday, Kasim Miat said that in Roojamash, date not remembered, he and deceased Osman Gani had gone together to the hills to cut bamboos. Six or seven others also went, among whom he recollected Abbas Ali Fakiruddin, Anjoo Mia and Askar Mia. As the Shahib was dragging him away Osman called out to the witness who thereupon went closer. The Sahib fired at Osman. Abdul Gofur gave *dohai* and cried out, "man is killed." The Sahib then again fired at Abdul Gofur. Both fell on the ground and Osman expired. Witness and others carried the deceased away. He did not know the Sahib's name, but correctly identified him in Court. Witness saw the Sahib firing a short gun with one hand and recollect, ed seeing one or two coolies with him.

The next witness, Sub-Inspector Ishan Chandra Palit, said he received and recorded the first information given by Hamid Ali and investigated the case, the investigation being partly done by the District Superintendent of Police. On receiving the first information, he started for the place of occurrence in company with the Sub-divisional Officer of Hailakandi. He took down the deposition and examined the wounds of Abdul Gofur, which were—one on the chin, two on the neck and two on the shoulder. He also examined the wounds of the deccased, namely one on the chest, half an inch in diameter, and another near above the waist. Both these examinations were held in the presence of the Sub-divisional Officer. The Sub-Inspector was shown the spot where Osman Gani and Abdul Gofur were said to have fallen and found blood-stained leaves, one blood-stained bamboo, one toopie, chips of wood, one dry rotten tree chipped off, in one place and cut bamboos all about the place. He took charge of those things which where now produced before the court as exhibits. The witness saw marks of shoes near a small stream at a little distance towards the north of the spot where Osman Gani was alleged to have fallen. A plan of the place of occurrence was prepared by a surveyor at his instance.

The third witness, Doctor Taylor, said that on the 8th of February last he had of his own motion examined the wounds of Abdul Gofur at the Hailakandi hospital and found five wounds—two on the chin, two on the neck and one on the shoulder,—all on the left side. In his opinion all those injuries were caused by one bullet. Considering the wounds of the deceased, he believed that a single discharge of a revolver coul I have sufficient force to shood two men, the wouned person, in witness's opinion, occupying a front and nearer position and on a lower ground than where the deceased was.

During the last two days of enquiry two interpretors have been changed and a third taken.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SILCHAR, JUNE 6.

The hearing of the Mohanpur murder case was resumed yesterday at 12 o'clock. Two more witnesses for prosecution were examined, their cross-examination being reserved. The first witness, Benode Behary Chowdhury, said he had gone to the place of occurrence in company of Mr. Carnac, District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Graham, Sub-divisional Officer, Hailakandy, and Sub-Inspector, Ishan Chandra Palit and prepared a map of it on the spot. The places marked thereon being shewn to him by Mr. Graham and the Sub-Inspector. He knew Pattas Nos. 7 and 8 and the Mohanpur grant. There were 8 boundary stones to demarcate Mohanpur grant from Nos 7 and 8. He tested only 3 of these stones concerned in this case and found them correct. Witness explained at length the letters and figures on the map representing the different spots on and about the alleged place of occurrence. Next witness Prasanna Kumar Purkastya, Hospital Assistant, Hailakandy, said he had examined the deceased Osmangoria and the wounded Abdul Gaffor. He found 3 gunshot wounds on the body of Abdul Gaffor—two severe and one slight, all in his opinion being caused by one bullet. On examination of the deceased he found one perforating gunshot wound on the left side of his chest about 10 inches long and half-an-inch in diametre caused by a bullet entering into the chest and passing out. Witness described the deceased as a healthy and strong person, aged about 30 or 35 years. He believed death was caused in less than half an hour of the infliction of the wound.

THE train conveying mails from Madras for Bengal, the N.-W. P., the Punjab, and the Central Provinces, missed connection on Thursday at Dhond. Letters and papers will therefore be delivered in Calcutta a day late.

IT is contemplated to demolish Peterhoff, once the Government House at Simla, and now occupied by the Finance and Commerce Department of the Government of India, and to construct on its site a new building for the accommodation of the Home, Revenue, Legislative, and Finance Departments.

THE Afghan Agent, Sardar Muhamad Ismail Khan, arrived in Simla at the end of last week.

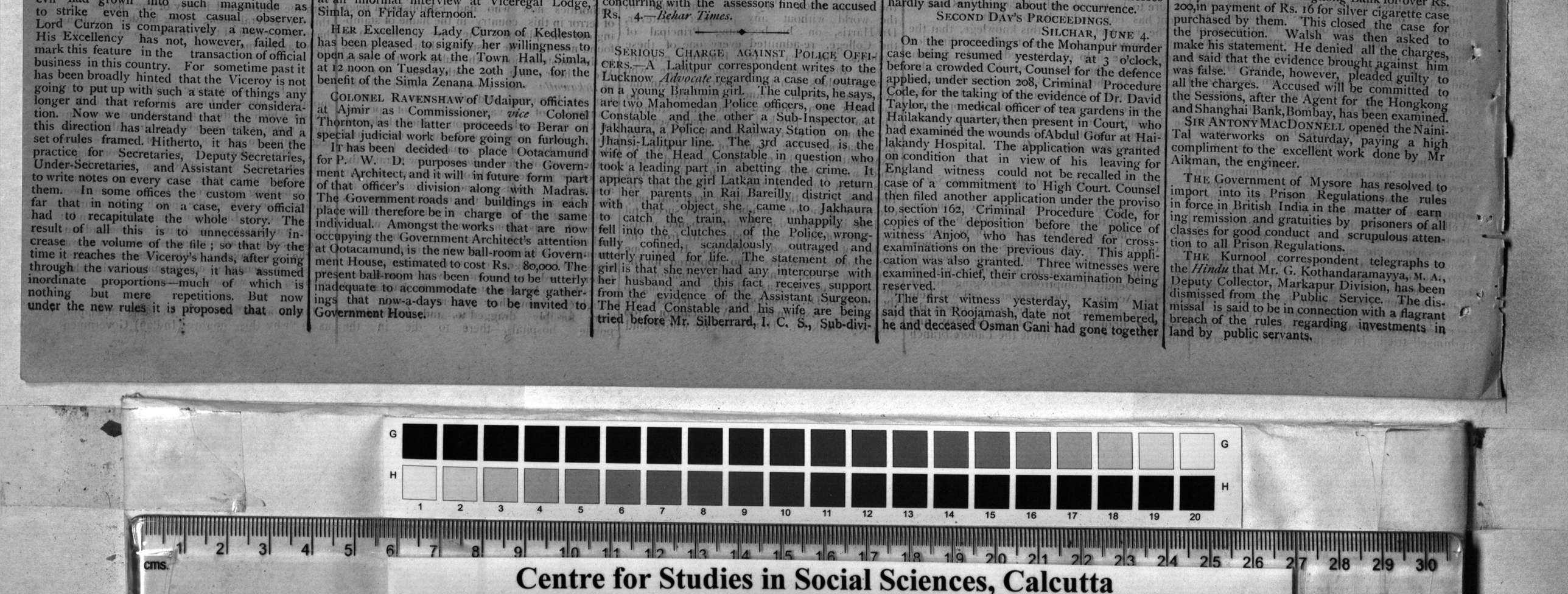
SARDAR NASRULLA KHAN (the Shahzada), is about to be married to a daughter of the Sardar Azizullah Khan, Governor of Turkestan.

THE case of wholesale cheating against Walsh and Grande was resumed on last Saturday before the Cantonment Magistrate. The further evidence adduced went to show that both accused went into a Mahomedan merchant's shop in the Cantonment and tendered another forged cheque there on the Hongkong Bank for over Rs. 200, in payment of Rs. 16 for silver cigarette case purchased by them. This closed the case for the prosecution. Walsh was then asked to make his statement. He denied all the charges, and said that the evidence brought against him was false. Grande, however, pleaded guilty to all the charges. Accused will be committed to the Sessions, after the Agent for the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Bombay, has been examined.

SIR ANTONY MACDONNELL opened the Naini-Tal waterworks on Saturday, paying a high compliment to the excellent work done by Mr Aikman, the engineer.

THE Government of Mysore has resolved to import into its Prison Regulations the rules in force in British India in the matter of earning remission and gratuities by prisoners of all classes for good conduct and scrupulous attention to all Prison Regulations.

THE Kurnool correspondent telegraphs to the *Hindu* that Mr. G. Kothandaramayya, M. A., Deputy Collector, Markapur Division, has been dismissed from the Public Service. The dismissal is said to be in connection with a flagrant breach of the rules regarding investments in land by public servants.



Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MAY 19.

THE PHILLIPINE QUESTION.

I HAVE just returned from a six weeks' visit to heUnited States, and now resume with much pleasure, my weekly letters to your columns, which during my absence have been carried on by Mr. Frederick Grubb, who spent last winter in India, and is well-known to many of your readers.

The question which more than any other was agitating the political mind of the United States citizens, is naturally the assimilation of the Phillipine Islands, which is giving much more trouble than was anticipated. I was much struck with the deep interest all political leaders, both in the press and at Washington, are taking in the study of British Indian history and administration, especially as developed in the annexation of Upper Burma, which after the deposition of Theebaw, presented very similar problems and difficulties sa those which beset the United States' Government in the conquest of the Phillipine Islands. In previous letters, I have impressed upon thoughtful Congress Indians the importance of watching closely from its very inception the progress of United States' rule in the Phillipine Islands. That great and powerful nation, whose constitution is based upon the purest democracy, has taken up the burden of the east, and made itself responsible for the exercise of sovereignty over the entire archipelago of the Phillipine Islands. It must, in future, be held responsible, not only to the Phillipine people, out to all the nations of the world interested in the trade of the islands, for the protection of person and property in every corner of the islands. It is its duty to bring this about with the least possible delay. The revolt of Aguinaldo and his supporters, involving much fighting and heavy loss of life, is clearly odious to the American people, and now that leader has been vanquished in the open field, there is a strong desire on their part to secure the establishment of peace on a basis which, while recognising the complete sovereignty of the United States, will, at the same time, provide that the Philipinos shall have an adequate share in the Government, and that the administration shall, as far as is safe and practicable, be entrusted to native hands. The Phillipine Junta appear willing to come to terms, and I could find no considerations of pride, or desire for supreme dominion in the minds of American politicians that will hinder the early accomplishment of the end thus desired. It appears therefore almost certain tha in the Phillipines, as in Cuba, the result of the conquest will be a Government maintaining American sovereignty and promoting the largest possible local self-government; the whole to be based and constructed with the view of transferring altogether the responsibilities, as soon as they have reasonably demonstrated their inherent capacity. I have gathered from my intercourse with American politicians, Republican and Democratic alike, that the only object the United States ought to desire s the honourable fulfilment of their obligation to civilization in the Phillipines, and that the sooner the Philipinos can manage to govern themselves, the better the American people will be pleased.

It is impossible for such an experiment as this to be worked out, by an Anglo-Saxon people over Eastern populations, without providing results that will act obliquely if not directly, on our own administration in India. The declared policy of the United States with regard to the Phillipines is on all fours with the policy which the National Congress advocates for India—again I say, its progress is deserving of the closest and most attentive study by every thoughtful and patriotic Indian.

A SHAM INDIAN PRINCE IN AMERICA.

I was greatly amused, the week I left New York, to see in the "New York Herald" of May 1st, a fine portrait of "Prince" T. B. Pandian, followed by an interview between his "Royal Highness" and one of the reporters of the "Herald." The prince appears to have informed his interviewer that he was a member of the noble Zemindar family of India; but that in his own country he is not permitted to use his princely title, because he has abandoned the religion of his forefathers and become a Christian. Everywhere else, however, he is entitled to use the title and he so impressed the "Herald" man, that he declared the worthy Pandian to "look every inch a royal personage." Prince Pandian has taken up his abode at a leading hotel in Broadway, New York, where he dazzles the innocent Yankees with a "brilliant red turban and a broad yellow sash." According to His Royal Highness' own account of himself, he has come to America to lecture about and enlist sympathy for "my persecuted people"—the descendants of the people who inhabited India at the period of the Aryan invasion, who from the time of their conquest have been held in serfdom, and who are still "slaves" in spite of the advent of British rule in India. The prince then grandiloquently declares "my people are called the Pariahs." As a matter of fact, this bogus prince has come to America to play upon the ignorance and kindly sympathy of American Christian people, and to draw money out of them. His declared object of what he calls his "evangelism" is to emancipate the Pariahs from slavery, to give them a chance for education and for instruction in the Christian religion, and to supply them with the necessities of life without persecution. I happen to have had some personal experience of this Pariah prince, for some years ago I employed him in connection with the Anglo-Indian Temperance Association, as an occasional lecturer in the Madras presidency. He took the fees, but seemed to think the delivery of the lectures was a quite unnecessary detail. Some little time ago he was exploiting the religious public n this country, but here his pretensions were easily tested and he did not meet with much success. He was wise enough not to play the "Royal Highness" here. When I saw the article in the "New York Herald," I wrote at once to the editor exposing the humbug of this sham "prince" giving him full discretion to publish my letter over my signature, but I left before it could be published and I don't know if Pandian has been exposed or not. However, any person credulous enough to be taken in by such a transparent fraud as a "prince of the noble Zemindar family of India" deserves his fate. The American people give a very warm and hospitable welcome to every reputable Indian visitor, and it is a great pity that their hospitality should be abused by such persons as these.

RAMNAD RAJ STERLING LOAN.

The Rajah of Ramnad, who, by the way, is a patron of "Prince" Pandian, has evidently got as much faith in the gullibility of the British public, as his protege has in that of the American Christian Churches. This personage has projected a scheme on the Money Market here, which he calls the "Ramnad Raj sterling loan." He proposes to raise a loan of £175,000, for which he offers as security a sort of second mortgage on his ancestral estates. In the prospectus he explains that he has got into debt partly by litigation with his family and partly by "excessive family expenditure." He informs the financial public that the litigation has now been entirely ended by a binding compromise, but no binding compromise is proposed with regard to the excessive family expenditure. The loan is required to pay these debts, and the Rajah offers five per cent interest secured upon the property. This security, however, does not seem to be a first charge, as the Indian Government appears to hold some sort of prior charge upon the assets, the nature of which is not explained in detail. The actual receipts for seven years are set out and vary from £44,000 at the highest to £29,000 at the lowest. The prospectus is very reticent on details of actual expenses to be deducted but admits that during the seven years they have averaged £32,000. The Rajah appears to take the highest receipts, and deducting the average expenses, to base the difference £12,000 as a safe margin to pay the £8750 required for the punctual payment of interest. Hunter's Gazetteer of India gives the tribute payable to the Indian Government as £31,500. If it is still that amount no margin is provided in the estimate of actual expenses for any management charges or any income to the Rajah himself. I am afraid there is little prospect of this loan being floated.

THE WELBY COMMISSION.

THE scandal of the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure appears at last to have reached a head. On Monday last., Sir M. Bhownaggree asked the First Lord of the Treasury if he could state to the House why the Royal Commissioners on Indian Expenditure, appointed in 1895, had not made their report; and whether it was to be hoped that the Commissioners would make their report without further delay.

Lord G. Hamilton.—I have already explained in replies to various questions that I have no power over the proceedings of the Commission; but the present condition of things can be best explained by the letter which I have had addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, and which I will read:—

"India Office, Whitehall, S. W., May 15, 1899.

"Sir,—I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to call your attention to the fact that the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into Indian Expenditure held its last meeting upon July 27, 1897, after which day it adjourned.

"A period of nearly two years has therefore elapsed, during which no meetings have been held, nor so far as the Secretary of State can ascertain, has any material advance been made towards the adoption of a report upon the matters referred to the Commission for investigation.

"This delay is a matter of much regret to her Majesty's Government.

"Lord George Hamilton therefore requests that you should communicate this letter to every member of the Commission in order that they may inform him whether and, if so, when they propose, by the submission of a report to her Majesty, to discharge the functions entrusted to them; and on receipt of their replies he will consider what advice he should submit to the Queen through the Home Secretary as to the continuance of the Commission.

"Considerable inconvenience has already been caused to this department from its inability to settle various outstanding financial questions which were specially referred to the Commission for their opinion."

Sir M. Bhownaggree.—Has any answer been received?

Lord G. Hamilton.—No: the letter has only just been sent.

Mr. Gibson Bowles (King's Lynn).—Who was chairman of this Commission?

Lord G. Hamilton.—I think my hon. friend can ascertain.

Mr. Gibson Bowles.—I am trying to.

Lord G. Hamilton.—The chairman was Lord Welby.

This letter has been sent to me officially, as a member of the Commission, and I hardly see why the Commissioners as a whole are to be thus censured for what is the fault alone of their Chairman, in whose hands rests the sole power of initiative. I feel sure I speak for all the Commission in saying that they feel humiliated by the totally unaccountable neglect of Lord Welby to take any action whatever towards thr adoption of a report on evidince of the fies importance, carefully and laboriously got tot gether by a Commission of busy, hard-working public men who have not been lacking either in capacity for their work, or industry in carrying it out. I have myself made repeated appeals to the Chairman, Lord Welby, to call the Commission together, if it be only for the consideration of a single stage of the report, and I know others have done the same, but our appeals are met with stony indifference and entire silence. The Commissioners as a whole are most anxious to proceed at once to the consideration of a report on what has been one of the completest enquiries ever made by a Royal Commission, and they are in the humour to support any action the Secretary of State may be able to take to compel its accomplishment.

Lord Welby appears to be absolutely without excuse either for the long delay, or the rude indifference with which he treats all remonstrances from his colleagues and the repeated censures of the public press. Since he undertook the extremely important duty of Chairman of this Commission, he has taken also the Chairmanship of the Finance Committee of the London County Council and is now Chairman of the entire Council for the current year;—the most absorbing public position in the country. He ought in decency to have resigned the Indian Commission when he assumed the Chairmanship of the Finance Committee; but not to do so when taking the Chairmanship of the entire Council, was flagrant neglect indeed. I suppose the outcome of this circular letter from the Secretary of State will be an immediate meeting of the Commission and if Lord Welby is then found to be still without a draft report, his colleagues will call for his immediate resignation, and probably ask Mr. Leonard Courtney to undertake the drafting ofa report.

Three months ago in reply to an urgent letter from me, Lord Welby wrote to me that he had some sort of draft report *in print*, and that he proposed to send it round at once to the members of the Commission. I find, however, that nothing of the sort has been done during my absence in America. There is really only one decent course open to Lord Welby, and that is at once to resign his Chairmanship, hand over to his successor lwhatever draft, if any, he has prepared, and eave it to that successor to repair his neglect as well as may be. The trouble is that the Commissioners, who are full of other work as a rule, will have forgotten much of the evidence and cannot properly approach the consideration of a draft report without refreshing their memory by a reperusal of the evidence. However it is an unusually competent Commission and fortunate in possessing at least half-a-dozen members every one of whom is competent to bring its proceedings to a creditable finish if only Lord Welby can be got out of the way. The Home Secretary naturally is reluctant to recommend the Queen to take harsh action towards a political opponent and especially towards a man in such a lofty public position as Chairman of the London County Council; but he will fail in his duty if, when the Commission meets, Lord Welby has no draft report ready, he does not insist on his immediate resignation. I do not see how, under any circumstances, the report can be made in this session of Parliament. The Whitsuntide holidays begin to-day, and when they close, we shall be within two months of the close of the session. This will be a short enough period for members of the Commission to consider any draft report based upon such an enormous mass of evidence, and the scurvy treatment which they have received from the Chairman, will naturally compel a closer scrutiny of the Report than would have been the case, had it been felt that proper and careful work had been given to its preparation. The whole thing is one of the gravest public scandals we have had for a long time past, and I trust the Secretary of State for India, now that he has taken the matter up, will see it through to a happy conclusion. Since writing the above sentences I have received a note from the Secretary convening the Commission for June 1st.

The following extracts from a leading article in the "Times" this week is worth reproduction in your columns, and clearly points to a demand for Lord Welby's resignation at once. The "Times" is not just to the other Commissioners, for the editor must know perfectly well how powerless they are, except in remonstrance. If all the other members have been as faithful in remonstrance as I have been, Lord Welby has had a weary time of it.

The House, it must be admitted, uses its power, in regard to Indian affairs, with lenity and consideration. It is, as a rule, content to accept the judgment of official experts unless where larger interests are involved and other elements of opinion are brought in. But when an inquiry on specific questions is instituted under the authority of Parliament, relating to matters of great public importance, the Legislature has some reason to complain if, after the lapse of several years, nothing has, in fact, been done to carry out the instructions of the Crown. Yesterday a curious instance of such a failure to give effect to an investigation ordered by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the wishes of Parliament, was brought up in the House of Commons. Sir M. Bhownaggree asked Mr. Balfour whether he could say why the Royal Commission appointed in 1895 to inquire into Indian expenditure had not yet made any report, and whether it was to be hoped that some conclusion would be arrived at without further delay.

The reply of the Secretary of State for India consisted in reading a letter addressed by him to the Secretary to the Royal Commission. The contents are very remarkable indeed. The Commission was appointed in 1895, before the resignation of the late Government, and Lord Welby, a most distinguished public servant, and a man, as all the world knows, of great ability, was chosen as Chairman. The subjects into which the Commission was directed to inquire were of very great and urgent importance to the Government of India and to the Indian Administration here But, after Lord Welby and his colleagues had considered the problems referred to them, they adjourned their proceedings as long ago as July 1897, and from that day to this have never agreed upon any report or even intimated the fact of their irreconcilable disagreement, assuming that to be the cause of the delay, to the Crown. The Secretary of State for India, who has certainly not exhibited any unreasonable impatience in this matter, has been, at length, compelled to communicate personally with the individual members of the Commission, and to ask them whether or not they intend, "by the submission" of a report to Her Majesty, to discharge the "functions entrusted to them." It is added that, on receipt of their replies, he "will consider what advice he should submit to the Queen, through the Home Secretary, as to the continuance of the Commission." Nothing of the kind, we fancy, has ever occurred before. It is officially stated that inconvenience has been occasioned at the India Office by the the inability to settle financial questions which were specially referred to the Commission. Yet the Commission has ceased to hold any meetings or to take any evidence for nearly two years, and in the meantime its Chairman, Lord Welby, has accepted what we must suppose are the onerous as well as the honourable duties of presiding over the London County Council. As an eminent member of the Civil Service, now *en disponibilite*, Lord Welby's assistance is naturally competed for in various directions. But the acceptance of the chairmanship of a Royal Commission involves, we should say, obligations which ought not to be set aside, in favour of any other invitation except by an explicit act of renouncement. What have the members of Lord Welby's Commission been doing for the past two years? What do they propose to do in the future? What conclusions have they arrived at which justify them in suspending their inquiries, without reporting to the Crown, and in permitting their chairman to engage, in the meantime, in more arduous and absorbing, though not more important, duties subject to a quite different mandate? It is, in fact, indisputable that, since the appointment of the Royal Commission in 1895, no material advance has been made towards adoption of a report upon the matters referred to the Commission for investigation. It would be vain to deny that the Secretary of State is justified, after so long a period of suspense and patience, in deciding to intervene at last.

LORD CURZON'S UNPUBLISHED BOOK.

An amusing story is going round in literary circles, which appears to have a good foundation of truth. It is said that immediately previous to his being appointed Viceroy, Lord Curzon had completed a very interesting book relating to Indian questions, which he had sold to Messrs. Harper, the great American publishers, for issue simultaneously in America and this country. The great interest which is taken in Lord Curzon's career by American society, in consequence of his marriage, with a popnlar American lady, was expected to secure for the volume an unprecedented circulation in the United States. Messrs. Harper are credited with having given a very large sum of money for the copyright. How much, I cannot say, but it is known that an English firm offered him £2000, so the sum agreed upon with the American firm is probably a good deal more. The book was actually in type, and almost ready for publication in the London printing office of the Harpers' but as it would never have done for a book relating to India to be published by a statesman who had just been appointed Viceroy of India, the arrangement with the Harpers had to be cancelled, the type has been distributed and its publication suppressed. It will probably now never see the light as the subject will be stale and obsolete by the time Lord Curzon retires from the Viceroyalty. All the Viceroy's books are written with such power and research that everyone who has read his other books are very sorry indeed to be deprived of this new publication which, dealing as it would have done with the whole question of the forward movement and our frontier policy, would have been of unique interest to Indian politicians.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

MR. C. M. W. BRETT, Dist and Sess. Judge, Bhagalpur, is allowed furlough for six months.

Mr. D. H. Kingsford, I. C. S., is allowed leave for six months.

Mr. H. L. Stephenson, Offig Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Patna is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. E. B. H. Panton, Offig Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Shahabad, is transferred to Patna, and is also placed in charge of the Patna City Sub-division.

Babu Jotischandra Acharyya, Offig Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Sonthal Parganas, is allowed leave for one month.

Mr. W. H. H. Vincent is appointed to act as Dist and Sess Judge, Bhagalpur.

Babu Rama Ballabh Misra, Offig Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to the head-quarters station of the district of Champaran.

Babu Rai Krishna Bahadur, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Mazaffarpur.

Babu Bepin Beari Sen, Munsif of Gaya, is appointed to act as Sub-Judge of Gaya; this cancels the order of the 5th May, in 1899, appointing Babu Ghaneshyam Gupta to act as Sub-Judge of Gaya.

Babu Abhoy Prosad Dass, sub-pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, is posted to the Bhadrak sub-div.

Mr. P. M. Robertson, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, is allowed leave for six weeks.

Babu Khettro Bhusan Prosad, sub pro tem Sub Dy Collr, is posted to the Rajshahi Divn

BABU Khetter Mohan Mitter, Dy Coll, Bankura, is vested with the powers of a Collector, under Act I of 1894, in that district.

Babu Rajendra Nath Banerjea, Hd Master of the Hooghly Branch School, and now officiating Hd Master of the Hooghly Training School, is appointed to be Head Master of the Rangpur Training School, *vice* Babu Jay Gopal De.

Babu Kisori Mohan Sen Gupta, Prof, Hooghly College, is appointed to Act as Hd Master of the Hoogly Training School, during the absence, on deputation, of Babu Ishan Chandra Ghose.

Babu Ashutosh Chatterjea, Tempy Proff, Chittagong College, acting for him. Babu Joy Gopal De, Hd Master, Rangpur Training School acting for the latter.

Babu Iswar Chandra Ghosh, B. L., is appointed to be Law Lecturer of the Dacca College.

Babu Mohini Mohan Dutt, Proff Patna College, is appointed to be a Professor in the Rajshahi College.

Babu Krishna Chandra Bhattacharjea, Temporary Proff in the Rajshahi College, is appointed to be a Temporary Professor in the Patna College.

Babu Hari Charan Ray, Offig Hd Master, Hooghly Branch School, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. Dwija Das Dutta, Offig Principal of the Chittagong College, is confirmed in that appointment.

Shams-ul-ulma Abul Khair Muhammad Siddiq, Supdt of the Dacca Madrasah, is appointed to be Asst Inspector of Muhammadan Education, Rajshahi and Burdwan Divisions, Maulvi Muhammad Ibrahim, Asst Inspector of Muhammadam Education, Raishahi and Burdwan Divisions, acting for him.

Babu Nogendra Nath Mitter, sub pro tempore Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on excise work, Darbhanga, is allowed leave for two months, under article 273 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations.

Babu Annanda Prasad Bagchi, Munsif of Brahmanbaria, is allowed leave for forty-nine days, viz, eighteen days under article 309 of the C S Regulations, and the remaining period under article 306 (b) of the same Regulations.

Babu Saroda Prosad Chatterjee, Munsif of Bhagalpur, is allowed leave for one month and four days, viz., one month and two days under articles 307 and 309 of the C S Regulations, and the remaining period under article 306 (b) of the same Regulations.

The undermentioned gentlemen are appointed to be Honorary Magistrates of the Independent Bench at Siragjanj, and are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class t—Babu Uma Charan Sen, and Annada Prosad Ker.

Mr. C. S. Delmerick, Sub-Dy Opium Agent, Badaon, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the C S Regulations, Mr. F. W. Harris, Assistant Opium Agent of Kochla (Badaon), acting for him.

Babu Nilmoney Dey, sub pro tem Sub. Dy Coll and Asst Settlement Officer, Muzaffarpur, is appointed to be an Asst Settlement Officer in the district of Gaya.

Dr. J. A. Fink, Offig Civil Medical Officer of Malda, is appointed, to act as Civil Medical Officer of Faridpur.

Major E. H. Brown, M.D., L.M.S., Offig Civil Surgeon of Muzaffarpur, is allowed privilege leave for three months, under article 291 of the C S Regulations, Captain A. Gwyther, I. M. S., Inspecting Medical Officer, Plague Observation Camp, Chausa, acting for him.

Military Assistant Surgeon G. T. Milchém, attached to the Maitford Hospital, Dacca, is allowed privilege leave for six weeks under article 291 of the C S Regulations.

Babu Jugal Kishor De, Munsif of Contai, is allowed an extension of leave for seven days, article 306 (b) of the C S Regulations.

Babu Pankaja Kumar Chattapadhyaya, Munsif of Satkania, is allowed leave for forty-two days, viz, one day under article 309 of the C S Reguiations, and the remaining period under article (b) of the same Regulations.

Babu Ramapati Dey, Munsif of Dacca, is allowed leave for fifteen days, under article 306 (b) of the C S Regulations.

Mr. J. W. Fox, Hony Asst Engineer, Circular and Eastern Canals Division, is granted privilege leave for one month, under article 291 of the C. S. Regulations.

Babu Charu Chandra Banerjee, sub pro tem, Sub-Dy Coll and Supt of Distillery, Arrah, Shahabad, is allowed leave for two months and-a-half, under article 723 (a) of the C. S. Regulations.

Babu Jotindra Nath Mukerjee is appointed to act as Rural Sub-Registrar of Sealdah, in the district of the 24-Parganas.

Assistant Surgeon Purna Chandra Purkait, in medical charge of the Charitable Dispensary of Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month under article 291 of the C. S. Regulations.

Assistant Surgeon Behari Lal Pal is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital.

Assistant Surgeon Debendra Nath Hazra, doing supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital, is appointed to the Eastern Bengal State Railway Hospital at Kaunia.

Assistant Surgeon Jogneswar Mukerjee is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital.

Assistant Surgeon Biman Behari Basu is appointed to do supernumerary duty at the Medical College Hospital.

Babu Jogendra Nath Sen, Sub-Inspector of Schools, Govindpur, (class VII), is allowed leave of absence for one month and ten days, under note to Article 294 of the C. S. Regulations.

Babu Mahabir Prasad, Sub-Inspector of Schools, 2nd Circle, Palamau (class VIII), is allowed leave of absence for one month, under Article 294 of the C. S. Regulations.

Maulvi Ahsanullah, M.A., Dy Inspector of Schools Backergunge (class IV), is allowed leave of absence for forty days, under Article 291 of the C. S. Regulations.

Babu Tarak Bhandu Chakravarti, Addl Dy Inspector of Schools, Dacca (class II), is appointed to be Dy Inspector of Schools, Dacca, on the pay of his own grade.

Maulvi Mahmud, B.A., Second Master, Anglo Persian Department, Calcutta Madrasa (class III), is appointed to be Addl Dy Inspector of Schools, Dacca, on the pay of his own grade.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

SIMLA, JUNE 6.

It has been announced in the "Gazette of India Extraordinary," issued this morning, that Colonel Gardiner, R. E., has been appointed, from forenoon of to-day, to officiate for Sir Arthur Trevor as Public Works Member. He took over charge under the usual salutes from His Excellency the Viceroy, who has held direct control since Sir Arthur Trevor's departure.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

PARIS, JUNE 4.

The French Government has despatched a cruiser to Cayenne to fetch Dreyfus home, and he is expected to arrive at Brest on the 26th instant.

LONDON, JUNE 4.

President Loubet visited the races at Autenil to-day. The League of Patriots organized a violent and hostile demonstration around the presidential stand which eventually had to be protected by mounted guards. Many arrests were made. The public are disgusted with the demonstration.

PARIS, JUNE 5.

After a tremendous uproar originating with the Nationalist members, the Chamber of Deputies has adopted by 513 against 32 votes, a resolution denouncing the demonstration at Autevil.

M. Depuy announced to the Chamber that the fashionable clubs concerned in the demonstration would be closed.

PARIS, JUNE 5.

The Chamber then passed a resolution by 317 against 212 votes to placard the judgment of the Court of Cassation in the Dreyfus case through out France and to postpone the prosecution of General Mercier until after the court-martial at Rennes.

LONDON, JUNE 5.

The Government on Thursday next will move in the Lords and Commons a vote of thanks to the forces lately engaged in the Soudan.

MR. UPCOTT, Public Works Secretary, is not going on leave, as has been stated. The Viceroy having been unable to spare his services, he remains at his post.

THE Minister of Hyderabad is suffering from an attack of ophthalmia caused by exposure to the sun while recently shikaring near Vicarabad.

THE Gwalior Gateway, presented by the late Maharaja Scindia to the South Kensington Museum in 1886, and which has since remained packed away in the vaults of that institution, is to be erected as the entrance to the Oriental Courts in the new structure, the foundation-stone of which was laid with so much *eclat* by Her Majesty on the 17th of May.

THE Amritsar Municipal Committee has instituted an annual examination for the Clerical and Commercial Course, the passing of which will be considered equivalent to the Entrance, and certificates will be bestowed by the University. Boarding-house is provided and the fees only amount to Rs. 2-8 per mensem.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

A SPLENDID INDIAN PRINCE.

THE Nizam of Hyderabad is one of the strangest monarchs in the world. He is a finely-featured, brown-bearded, handsome man, in every respect an Oriental, surrounded with strange conditions and a luxury that is very likely unmatched in the world. He is an eager sportsman, and one of the most daring tiger hunters in India. It takes but a little less than £2,000,000 to maintain his establishment for a year.

In the main palace of the Nizam the royal jewels are kept and extraordinary treasures they are. There are thousands of emeralds, pearls, and precious stones to almost every kind. It seems as if the wealth of King Solomon's mines were before us. They make, perhaps, the greatest collection of jewels in the world, worth £6,000,000. One of the biggest diamonds ever found is the Nizam, which is as big as a champagne glass, and worth just £800,000. It weighs about 450 carats. From one side a large piece has been broken under curious circumstances.

The story of how the diamond was discovered is a strange one. A native workman of Portyal used to see it gleaming from a clay bank. As he came and went to work it shot its flashing fires in a mysterious way. He thought it the devil's eye, for it shone at night. He consulted a holy Brahmin, who was taken to the spot.

"You did well to tell me," declared the Brahmin, for it would have done you serious injury. The stone was dug from the bank, but the Brahmin was not sure it was a diamond. He seized a hammer, and with a blow smashed a small part of it into fragments. The larger stone was sold to the grand-father of the present Nizam for a lakh of rupees.

THE MAN WHO WASHED A TIGER BY MISTAKE.

WHEN Pezon, the lion tamer, was at Moscow with his menagerie, he hired a Cossack to clean out the cage of the wild beasts. The Cossack did not understand a word of French. Pezon tried to show him about his work by motions with a pail and sponge. The moujik watched him closely, and seemed to understand.

Next morning, armed with a broom, a bucket and a sponge, he opened the first cage he came to, and quietly stepped in. He had seen his master step into two cages of harmless brutes but this one happened to belong to a splendid tiger that lay on the floor first asleep.

At the noise made by opening the door the creature raised its head and turned its eyes full on the man, who stood in a corner dipping his big sponge into the bucket.

At that moment Pezon came out, and was struck dumb by the sight. What could he do to warm the man? A sound might enrage the great beast. So Pezon stood still. The moujik sponge in hand, cooly approached the tiger, and made ready to rub him down.

The cold water on its hide pleased the tiger, for it began to purr, stretched out its paws rolled over on its back, and offered every part of its body to the treatment of the moujik, who went on scrubbing with might and main. All the while Pezon stood there with his eyes wide open, as if nailed to the spot. When he had finished his job the Cossack left the cage as quietly as he entered it. But he never did it again.

IT is stated in connection with the eightieth birthday of the Queen, that presents have been so numerous that they almost equal even these which arrived at last Jubilee. The most magnificent, says the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, have come from the Indian princes, who, by the way, have of late sought every opportunity of exhibiting their loyalty to the Royal House. These include many rich specimens of Oriental and lacquer work—so many, indeed, as to be almost embarrassing to the officials at Windsor. Ther latter have been assiduously at work for the last eight days in arranging the gifts, and already the idea is entertained of an exhibition in the capital. Not a single native Indian prince of importance is without representation among these gifts.

SIR SALTER PYNE, interviewed by a *Reuter* agent, explains that though he has left the Ameer's service, relations continue friendly. With regard to the feeling of the Afghans towards the British, he considers them to be amicable." The animosity against Englishmen, which was formerly universal, is not now apparent. Collectively, if not perhaps individually, the Afghans like the English. With regard to the Ameer's relations with the Government of India, it would be unwise for me at this moment to say more than that on the whole they are friendly. The constant stories of the contemplated despatch of Russian missions to Cabul are purely mythical. All the years I was in Cabu I never saw a Russian emissary. I will not say that the Ameer has not a very high opinion of the might of Russia. He has seen it and realises it. He appreciates the autocratic Russian Government which naturally appeals to him, while he regards the British humane administration as a sign of weakness; but on questions of policy he fully realises the value of being on good terms with the British.

THE Tay has recently been the scene of a somewhat sensational invasion—an invasion of the common seal. This animal has been seen in large numbers in the river, and its appearance recalls the occasion, some three years ago, when it came before, as was then supposed, after the large shoals of sprats that were in the estuary. This time it is believed to be in chase of salmon, and the salmon fishers have been organising a grand *battue* of these poachers of the deep. To kill the common seal, however, is said to be no easy task. In the far north you can have their fury coats right over their ears before they can make up their minds that you are worth floundering away from, but "the European seal," says the *Dundee Advertiser*, is as wary as a curlew." Although for that matter, there is many an Asiatic Seal about whom the same might as justly be said.

A CARD OF THANKS.

I wish to say that I feel under lasting obligations or what Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has done for our family. We have used it in many cases of coughs, lung troubles and whooping cough, and it has always given the most perfect satisfaction, we feel greatly indebted to the manufacturers of this remedy and wish them to please accept our hearty thanks.—Respectfully, Mrs. S. DOTI, Des Moines, Iowa. Sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

AGUINALDO: A CHARACTER SKETCH.

IN the *Singapore Free Press*, is a character sketch of Emilio Aguinaldo by Howard W. Bray. He says :—

"He is a born leader of men, like Washington, Napoleon, El. Cid, Saladin, Cæsar, Mahomet, Sakymuna, and the Founder of Christendom; one of those who have always risen from the people at the critical stage of their respective country's history. He has accomplished what few have accomplished, and will go down to history as one of the world's heroes—every inch a man."

What is most puzzling to the profane reader is writes a correspondent to a contemporary, the utter stupidity of any newspaper with pretence to seriousness admitting into its columns such rubbishly nonsense—blasphemous and utterly untrue, every line of it. Of Aguinaldo, the following has appeared as a recent estimate of him:—"Aguinaldo—a defied ignorant Indian, with a swollen head, but empty for all practical purposes. Timidity verging on cowardice is his chief characteristic. He never fought a battle in his life, and is afraid to leave his room much for fear of being knifed by some kind country man whom he was wronged."

Not a great while ago this native was an assistant godown man in a Manila warehouse, earning $8 or $10 a month pay. A short time at this work and he entered the service of the Padre Cura, of Bacoor, a Spanish priest, as head man (and bottle washer) and when he had sufficiently captivated the Cura's confidence, and felt himself a *necessity*, the former probably found it convenient to put him into a position of trust in the neighbouring village of Cavite Viejo, where, against the remonstrances of the villagers, who did not fancy a Cura's nominee under any circumstance, Aguinaldo was made Gobernadercillo (petty Governor) as a creature of the Cura, to carry out his orders and do his dirty work generally. When he had sufficiently roused the villagers against his rule, he having no doubt feathered his nest nicely during his tenure of office, he set about putting himself right with the natives by stirring up strife against the priests all round—out of gratitude probably to his protector, the Cura of Bacoor, for giving him a "leg up" and placing him in power, where he could avail of his opportunity to plot mischief against the white man in general and the priests in particular!

He conceived the idea of rising against—the Government for the expulsion of the friars first, and, afterwards for the extermination of the Spaniards. To this end he occupied himself in getting together such arms as he could get hold of, making ammunition out of scrap iron and any bits of metal he could find about the arsenal and shipyard at Canacao. A small powder factory was put up, and from small beginnings he got together a few hundred guns wooden, and metal of a primitive description, and therefore practically valueless to cope with modern arms. Only a diseased imagination could conceive the idea of fighting with such weapons.

At length, however, thinking himself ready, and as he thought, certain of the revolt of the native Spanish soldiers and Guardia Civil in his favour, he ordered the movement of the 29th August, 1896, when he planned the taking of Manilla by way of Sampator. On that day, early in the morning, a few hundred Indians appeared with a rush at Santa Mesa, the most ragged ruffians that could well be imagined, shoeless, the little clothing they had in rags, and armed with bolos, bamboos and anything they could lay hands on. Aguinaldo reckoned without his host and the Guardia Civil instead of siding with him turned upon his ungainly followers, slaughtering them right and left, and no further attempt was made to take Manila.

The heart of the rebellion was in Cavite, where the Spaniards could only act upon the defensive until reinforcements should reach them from Spain and their native troops were not to be trusted. When reinforcements did arrive the Spaniards promptly crushed the movement, and Aguinaldo made peace by selling himself and his "Army" for money, the history of the transaction being so well-known that repetition is unnecessary.

This inspired defied bullet proof Indian gto his vindicator and character sketcher to interprte for him in the Singapore arrangement, of which all have heard, and now both the Signapore U. S. Consul and Aguinaldo accuse the interpreter of misinterpreting between the two as to what they really said. This is how the discrepancy between the two versions is explained by the Americans.

Any success the "rebel army" may have had against the Spaniards in the fresh campaign is due first to encouragement from the Americans who "armed fed and encouraged them to revolt" (Denby in the February *Forum*), and in their fight with the Americans the credit of any success is due to others the fire-eaters Mabini, Luna, Pio del Pilar, Buencamino, Montenegro and a few others of the same stamp of questionable reputation but clever organizers, and authors of the furious articles that have from time to time appeared in the rebel papers—lawyers and medicos by profession most of them Aguinaldo had also by his side about 400 Spaniards—deserters, of whom Celso Mayor is principal officer and their handiwork is a plainly visible in the excellently constructed trenches around Malolos, Calumpit, and other places, which, in the possession of white men, need never have surrendered. Yet what did Aguinaldo and his natives do but run as soon as the enemy came to close quarters? There are diyers opinions as to the plan of campaign prsued by the Americans, the general opinion being that if they had gone to work to capture the Manila Railway as vigorously as they did in the case of the warterworks the backbone of the movement would have been broken in a week. They should have taken the railway at any cost as then they would have had control of the provinces that supplied the sinews of war and food to the rebels—who, by this time, would probably have been starved out in the mountains. All are anxious to see the end of a struggle that at the outset "was to last a fortnight," but a year is gone by and the rains upon us—the only thing in sight chaos. Let us hope not. The Americans will have to buck up if we are to have a better Government then the defunct Spanish *regime* which indifferent though it may have been, was an improvement on the present military despotism. We have gone from the frying pan into the fire. The Custom House is a veritable curse, and ought to be abolished.

HIS Excellency the Governor of Madras paid a State visit on Sunday at Ootacamund to the Maharaja of Dholpur.

SHOOTING IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES.

(By a Mahratta Sikari.)

WHILE I was at Nagpur, some three weeks ago, I heard of an account of a tiger, which had settled itself to the jungle of Chandrapur for more than two years and which has ever since been an object of dread to the inhabitants of the locality. I was told that it was bigger than that killed by the Gond Raja of Nagpur during Dewali holidays; it had killed some men, not to speak of its havoc among cattle; that many good *shikaris* including many Englishmen had attempted to kill it but with no success. The above description fired my natural inclination for sporting and I made up my mind to try a shot at the king of the Chandrapur forest. With that object in view, I left Nagpur for the jungle. On the way, I met an acquaintance of mine at a place, twenty miles from the jungle. Here I hired a bullock-cart and started for my destination, accompanied by two *shikaris*. We provided ourselves with guns. It was 6 P. M. when we were fairly on the skirts of the jungle. We took leave of the cartman and entered it. I cannot describe in words how I felt as we went on. For miles together, on all sides, no vestige of human habitation was to be seen. It was past seven and we were in the midst of deep forests. Our spirits were up, as we were expecting some exciting adventures every moment.

After walking for a mile or so, we came near a tank. My shooting excursions had enabled me to get an insight into the habits of wild animals. It was a very sultry day and I knew wel that wild an.mals in the neighbourhood would come to drink water. I made my plan at once. I was to take a post near the tank, from where we might command the view on all sides, without being seen. After some labor, we found out such a place and we all sat down. For half an hour or so, we sat quiet still. The time hung heavily on us. Suddenly we heard a rushing sound at a distance. It came nearer and nearer. When 100 yards off, we had a glimpse of the moving animal. It turned out to be big panther. We got ready to shoot it as soon as it came within range. From the direction the wind was blowing, I knew that the animal could not scent us, and we were secure at our post, without the fear of being detected. The panther came so close that we had a full view of it. It got down and drank water to allay its thirst. It was then that I took aim and fired. The shot took effect. Two other shots followed in quick succession and gave a quietus to the animal. I was not satisfied with the day's work. I had shot many a tiger before, so shooting a panther was not likely to satisfy me. Be that as it may, the skin was taken off and is now with me.

The next two evenings, I went to the jungle, but the big tiger whose fame had spread far and wide was not to be found. On inquiry, I learnt that if it was very ferocious and possessed uncommon strength, it was very shrewd and cunning. Once attempts were made to shoot it from a *machan* by alluring it with a bait. The experiment proved succesful in some measure, for the animal was fired at. But no vital part was hit, and no serious injury was done to the infuriated animal. It is said that he still carries the bullet in his body. It however learnt a lesson, and since then all attempts to cure it with baits have proved unsuccessful.

THE *Petit Blue* announces that ten men of the Republican Guards and four gendarmes who sailed on Tuesday (May 9) last from St. Nazaire on board the Lafayette, are to form the escort which is to bring back Dreyfus to France, and that Dreyfus may be expected to arrive about the end of June.

THE *Novosti* is responsible for the statement that the Tsar will make a tour through Siberia towards the end of July, and go through several of the convict prisons and settlements. It is believed his Majesty will mark the occasion by granting a liberal amnesty to political exiles.

THE directors of the Leverette-Bake Tanning Process, Limited, invited a large number of gentlemen on Tuesday to visit the Ipswich Tannery and inspect the Company's new process for tanning hides. The improvement is obtained by forcing hydrogen gas through the vats in which the hides are hung. The great advantages achieved by this process are: saving of tanning material, prevention of loss of hide substance, saving of labour and time, superior quality of leather, and superior weight and substance ofleather produced. At the Ipswich Tannery Works 48 vats have been adapted to this process, and have been working about two years. Some 800 cubic feet of gas, costing 14s. to 16s. per 1,000 feet, are used weekly the rate per hide working out at a fraction of one penny.

AN extraordinary story is told by a woman at Amiens, to the effect that she was often employed by the late Colonel Henry to copy documents bearing on the Dreyfus case, and that, moreover, she helped M. Lorimier, Colonel Henry's secretary, to bury a batch of such documents, including alleged letters of the German Emperor, at a spot in the forest of Marly. These statements have been made to a Magistrate sent by the Court of Cassation to receive them, and the woman has given details in some measure corroborating her story and attesting her knowledge of the documents in the case. The *Daily News* Paris correspondent learns that there is now a majority of ten Judges of the Court of Cassation in favour of a revision of the Dreyfus case. M. Depuy, the Premier, has also spoken of himself as an advocate of revision, but the position of the Cabinet is believed to be very uncertain. Should it be thrust from office, as it is likely to be, as the result of its policy with regard to Dreyfus, M. Brisson will probably come forward again.

WOULD NOT SUFFER SO AGAIN FOR FIFTY TIMES ITS PRICE.

I awoke last night with severe pains in my stomach. I never felt so badly in all my life. When I came down to work this morning I left so weak I could hardly work. I went to Miller & McCurdy's drug store and they recommended Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It worked like magic and one dose fixed me all right. It certainly is the finest thing I ever used for stomach trouble. I shall not be without it in my home hereafter, for I should not care to endure the sufferings of last night again for fifty times its price—G. H. Wilson Liveryman, Burgettstown, Washington Co., Pa. This remedy is for sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and B. K. PAUL & CO.

SUPERSTITION IN THE SOUDAN.

THE belief in witchcraft (writes Mr. Kar Berghoff, late Inspector for the Suppression of Slave-trade in Fashoda) is already very common in Lower Egypt. The more one proceeds towards the South, the darker is the skin of the native on the banks of the holy Nile, and in the same degree their superstition takes a more intense colouring. The Northern belief in ghosts disappears almost entirely in the realistic mind of the South. While the limit of power of the sorcerer in the Delta does not extend beyond the "evil-eye," love-charms, etc., the Soundan does not content itself with such modest results. Nay, to the utmost fright and terror of the Nubian and negro, both gifted with a fantastic imagination, the sorcerer transforms himself here at night time into the most savage animal, and under this disguise devours his innocent victim.

In the Arabic-speaking Soudan, the most common spotted hyena is called "maraffi." This animal plays an important part in African superstition by its nightly habits of living, its appearance and horrible voice, which changes from a deep howl into sounds reminding one of the laughter of a maniac. The popular belief in Sennar and the Eastern Soudan is that the hyena is not an animal, but an evil-doer changed by black witchcraft into animal form. Never has the hyena been seen in sunshine, because the latter is believed to break the spell of witchcraft, but as soon as the light of heaven has disappeared in the West, the hoarse cries of these monsters gathering to their nightly feasts resound from every side.

Aged women with red eyes and hoarse voices, who have missed their vocation in life, are generally believed to be witches, who take the form of these horrible beasts by manipulating the teeth of a hyena, or strange roots, or by other forms of sorcery. The purpose of this transformation is supposed to be a secret desire for human flesh and thirst for vengeance. Can one imagine a more horrible revenge than the tearing of the enemy's body out of its grave and devouring it!

If such a hyena is killed, it dies as an animal. If it is only wounded, and it succeeds in reaching its hiding-place, where the transformation from man to beast has taken place (generally an anthill), it will retake its human shape. The wound, however, will remain, and by following the traces of blood, the sorcerer can be hunted down. The superstitious natives are generally afraid of shooting a hyena, lest they should commit a murder.

In the districts of Sennar, witchcraft and sorcery seem to be well spread and developed. Even the waters of the Blue Nile are made the scene of evil deeds, where the villain is disguised as a crocodile, and attacks mankind. The sorcerers transformed into crocodiles have a chieftain called "Bunnie," who once a year is visible on a small sandy island opposite Sennar. It is an old male crocodile of more than five metres in length. These supernatural crocodiles can not be distinguished externally from the real amphibia, whose form they have taken as disguise. It is, however, believed that the crocodiles which, at sunrise, raise themselves out of the water and face the morning sun are transformed human beings. Some sorcerers are said to kill their victims by eating away their intestines in some inexplicable manner, and so to cause their slow but certain death. As an example, an Arabian military doctor told me the following. In the year 1878, an old woman Fazogl had been accused of causing the death of a soldier in this manner, and she was publicly executed. This doctor himself had made the *post mortem* examination of the soldier's body and had found the intestines eaten away and torn.

In Quellabat, at the frontier of Habesh, some of the Takarri are said to have brought from their former home in Darfur knowledge of secret science, and to have developed the art of sorcery to such a degree that they can transform themselves, not only into hyenas and crocodiles, but also into lions. How deeply superstition is rooted in all classes of the Soudanese population is shown by the fact that, under the Governor Musa Pasha at the Hokindareeyeh of Khartoum, there was in 1863 a round earthenware vessel, still in existence, filled with mysterious roots, to which were led all persons denounced for sorcery. Were the innocent, they could approach the jug with a firm step. If, however, they were in league with an evil power they would tremble at the aspect of the urn, hesitate in their movements, and willingly confess their guilt without having been submitted to a cross-examination.

Turning to the neighbouring Christian Abyssinia (Amhara), we find that witchcraft and sorcery are in a similar way at their nefarious work. Here it is the "Buddha" who addresses his intended victim in full daylight in the street or the market under some pretext, and so bewitches hill that he falls into a fever, and, attracted by an irresistible power, goes to find his sorcerer in the night, who in his house or some quiet spot kills him to satisfy his cannibal desire for human flesh. This spell, however, can be broken if in good time some roots or leaves of special medical power are inserted into the nostrils of the victim, and certain chapters of the Scripture are read to him.

In the year 1879, by order of King John, the property of several proven sorcerers was confiscated, and they were marked on the forehead with red-hot irons to prevent them from doing further harm. The Nubians, Abyssinians, and the negro tribes of the White Nile have a firm belief in the power of the "evi eye." It is supposed to do harm to cattle and horses and so to bewitch guns that they constantly miss their aim. The eye of envious people is generally said to be gifted with this mysterious power, and persons, having a beautiful child, a fine horse or camel will expose them as little as possible to the gaze of strangers. They adorn them with all kinds of amulets to guard them against evil influence. Such charms are a small bright silver plate, a pierce silver coin, tusks of the wild boar, pieces of hard roots, or, as the most powerful of all, a small leather bag containing a piece of paper on which a quotation from the sacred writings is copied. To preserve his harvest of "doorrah" against the malicious influence of the evil eye, the native of Toka plants in his field a pole upon which the bleached skull of an ox is placed.

Fortune-telling and divination are everywhere at home in Africa; they are carried on in the Eastern Soudan by a manipulation of sand (*dharber ramleh*). This is the art of reading the secrets of the future and predicting distant events from signs and impressions made with the fingers at haphazard on loose sand. The Baggara Arabs and the black Fur are most renowned for their skill and adroitness in this secret art. In Kordofan and Darfur nobody will start on a long journey or undertake any matter of inportance without first consulting the local sand-oracle upon the result of his enterprise.

An Arab friend of mine, who had travelled long in the Darfur, told me the following interesting incident referring to the art of reading in the sand. It had come to the ears of the Turkish Governor of a province that an old man in the neighbourhood was astonishing everybody by the exactness of his divinations. The Governor ordered this man to be brought before him, as he wished to submit him to a test. As soon as his messengers had gone, he had two hares placed by the side of him under a "tabag" (a large basket-like cover made of differently coloured reeds and used for covering food). The messengers, however, did not find the old man at home. His nephew, who, but a boy, was already well known for his cleverness in the mysterious craft, offered to go to the Governor in his uncle's place, and returned with the messengers. The Governor looked at him with disbelieving eyes and said, "My son, if you can read secret in the sand, tell me what is under this "tabaga." The youth shook up the sand which he had brought with him in a corner of his gown. He sat himself on the ground, made his manipulations and signs, and replied, after short meditation "There, under the tabaga is wool like the wool of newly-born camels, there are also ears like those of donkeys; if my uncle were here, he would say that there are hares underneath that cover."

The Governor was greatly surprised at the result of his test-case, and gave the clever boy a handsome present.

FOREIGN NEWS.

THE FAR EAST.

THE correspondent of the *Times* at Pekin telegraphed yesterday:—

The Tsung-li-Yamen officially notified the British Legation on the 10th inst. that Russia demanded a railway from Manchuria to Pekin, but no action has yet been taken, though it is anxiously awaited.

In an interview yesterday between M. Podzneef, manager of the Russo-Chinese Bank, and Hu-Yafen, the former director of railways, who negotiated the New-chwang Railway contract, M. Podzneef intimated that the present Russian demand was the direct consequence of the action of the Chinese in signing a contract in opposition to the wishes of Russia. He added that Russia had not withdrawn her opposition to the construction of the railway under the terms of that contract, but would continue her opposition.

The interview, although unofficial, throws some light upon the Russian attitude.

Now that something is known of the new Anglo-Russian agreement I find a general concurrence of feeling in diplomatic circles that the agreement is designed rather to hoodwink the British electorates than really to improve relations between the two Powers in the Far East. The agreement is thought to display marked ignorance of the conditions in China, since Russia grants nothing of value in return for the concession by England of much which it is advantageous for her to relinquish. It is confidently stated that the identical note sent to the Tsung-li-Yamen on the 8th contains the text of the agreement only, omitting the supplementary note, which is alleged not to be in complete accord with the Northern Railway contract.

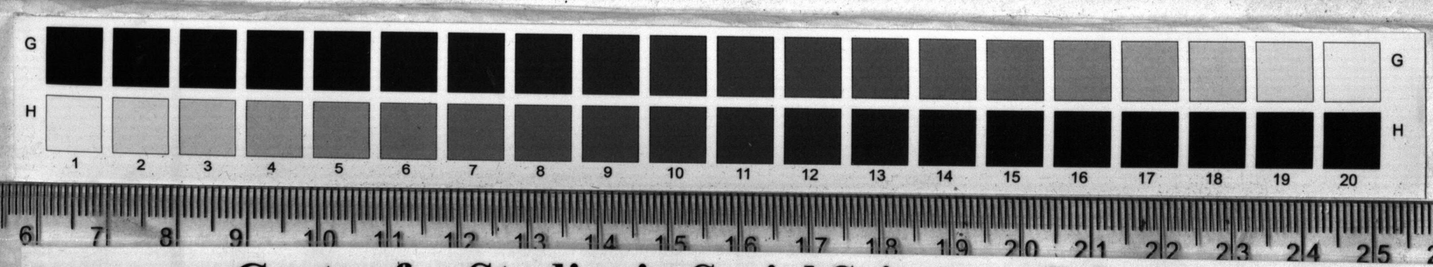
The position in regard to the Northern Railway difficulty continues to be most unsatisfactory. China has failed to pay the instalments due on April 15 and May 15, while the control permitted by the Chinese directors is visionary. It is humilating that diplomatic action should be necessary every month to enforce payment in accordance with the terms of the loan contract.

THE particulars of a daring and ingenious robbery of jewellery have been reported to the police in Brixton. A traveller, said to be in the employ of Messrs. Lawson and Ward of Hatton Garden, in the course of his business round on May 2 visited Brixton, taking with him in a brougham large quantity of a jewellery, to the value, it is believed, of £2000, the vehicle being driven by a coachman in livery. Shortly before three o'clock in the afternoon a visit was paid by the traveller and coachman to an hotel adjoining the Brixton Theatre, Brixton Road, the vehicle being left unattended, so it is declared, outside the hotel. According to eye-witnesses, about half-an-hour before another brougham, similar in construction and appearance to that occupied by the traveller and coachman, had drawn up at almost the same spot, the two vehicles being there together. The driver of this brougham was attired in almost similar livery to that of the traveller's coachman. He also entered the hotel for refreshment. A few minutes after the traveller and his coachman had entered the hotel, the other man was seen to leave, jump up on the box of the traveller's brougham and drive off at a furious pace up Brixton Road in the direction of Streatham Hill. It was not discovered until some time afterwards that a change of broughams had been made. A search was then made for the missing brougham, and after some time had elapsed the traveller and coachman, who had joined in the pursuit, found the vehicle empty in Nightingale Lane, Wandsworth Common. It transpired that a lady had seen the door of the vehicle forced open in Nightingale Lane. The articles stolen comprise 600 dress rings (set with rubies, diamonds, etc.); 200 gem rings (18ct.), 300 gold brooches, 80 gold guard bracelets, 70 gold tassel alberts, 50 gold alberts, 40 gold guard chains, 270 gold signet rings, 150 gold sleeve links, in addition to a quantity of jewel cases.

HOW TO CURE A SPRAIN.

Last fall I sprained my left hip while handling some heavy boxes. The doctor I called on said at first it was a slight strain and would soon be well, but it grew worse and the doctor then said I had rheumatism. It continued to grow worse and I could hardly get around to work. I went to a drug store and the druggist recommended me to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I tried it and one-half of a 50-cent bottle cured me entirely I now recommend it to all my friends—F. A. BABCOCK, Erie, Pa. It is for sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and B. K. PAUL & CO.



Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, May 15.

ROYAL ENGINEERS.—Major Rasch asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that lieutenant-colonels of the Royal Engineers and other senior officers ordered to India for a term of service were deprived of rank and seniority by being ordered to serve in subordinate positions in the Military Works Department, while continuous service juniors were placed above them; and by what statutory authority was regimental seniority ignored.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am not aware of any cases in which lieutenant-colonels and other senior officers of Royal Engineers ordered to India have been placed under their juniors. The present organization of the Military Work Department in India is about to be changed, but it has been decided with the occurrence of the War Office that, so long as it is maintained, an officer must accept the grading to which the Government of India think it right to post him, provided that he shall not be called on to serve directly under an officer junior to him regimentally.

THE FINANCES OF INDIA.—Sir M. Bhownaggree asked the First Lord of the Treasury if he could state to the House why the Royal Commissioners on Indian Expenditure, appointed in 1895, had not made their report; and whether it was to be hoped that the Commissioners would make their report without further delay.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have already explained in replies to various questions that I have no power over the proceedings of this Commission; but the present condition of things can be best explained by the letter which I have had addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, which I will read:—

"India Office, Whitehall, S. W., May 15, 1899.

"SIR,—I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to call your attention to the fact that the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into Indian expenditure held its last meeting upon July 27, 1897, after which day it adjourned.

"A period of nearly two years has therefore elapsed, during which no meetings have been held, nor, so far as the Secretary of State can ascertain, has any material advance been made towards the adoption of a report upon the matters referred to the Commission for investigation.

"This delay is a matter of much regret to her Majesty's Government.

"Lord George Hamilton therefore requests that you should communicate this letter to every member of the Commission in order that they may inform him whether, and, if so, when, they propose, by the submission of a report to her Majesty, to discharge the functions entrusted to them; and on receipt of their replies he will consider what advice he should submit to the Queen through the Home Secretary as to the continuance of the Commission.

"Considerable inconvenience has already been caused to this department from its inability to settle various outstanding financial questions which were specially referred to the Commission for their opinion.

"I remain yours truly."

Sir M. Bhownaggree: Has any answer been received?

Lord G. Hamilton: No; the letter has only just been sent.

Mr. Gibson Bowles: Who was chairman of this Commission?

Lord G. Hamilton: I think my hon. friend can ascertain.

Mr. Gibson Bowles: I am trying to.

Lord G. Hamilton: The chairman was Lord Welby.

THE ENGINEERING COLLEGE COOPERS HILL.—Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the existing president of the Engineering College at Coopers Hill accepted his appointment three years ago on the express condition that he should also discharge the duties of a professor at that institution; whether he is aware that this condition, thus first introduced, caused other eligible candidates to withdraw, on the ground that both functions could not be efficiently discharged by the same individual; and whether, as the Secretary of State has now reverted to the former system, and invited applications for the post of professor, it is intended to reduce proportionately the president's emoluments now that he will be relieved of the professor's work.

Lord G. Hamilton: It is true that the existing President of Coopers Hill College was appointed on condition that he should act not only as President, but also as Professor of Constructive Engineering. Whether this condition deterred other candidates from applying I am unable to say. The combination of duties had not been tried previously to Colonel Pennycuick's appointment, and, after about two years' experience, he represented to me that the arrangement was one which could not be satisfactorily worked. After very careful consideration of the matter in Council, I decided to relieve Colonel Pennycuick of his professorial duties without reducing his salary, which was the same that had been drawn by his predecessors who took no part in the teaching of the College.

Mr. Hudson asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he has received a petition from Mr. A. S Russell, of the Indian Public Works Department, dated May 1898; whether this correctly represents the position of the officers sent out to India from the Coopers Hill Engineering College during the first three or four years; and whether he proposes to take any steps to remedy the grievances from which this officer and his contemporaries appear to suffer from want of promotion, and which was not considered by the Select Committee of the House in 1890.

Lord G. Hamilton: Memorials have been received from Mr. A. S. Russell and other officers of the Indian Public Works Department who were recruited from the Royal Indian Engineering College in the years 1874-76. The contents of these memorials are now engaging my attention, but I can say nothing as to the decision which may be arrived at.

Tuesday, May 16.

NATIVE TROUBLES IN BANGANAPALEE.—Mr. Bryce asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been called to the troubles which recently arose in the small Native State of Banganapalee, in the Madras Presidency, and to what was alleged to have been the harsh treatment by the Nawab of that State of a number of his subjects; and whether he would look into the matter and consider whether some searching inquiry into the facts should be directed.

Lord G. Hamilton: My attention has been called to the proceeding referred to in this question, and I have been in communication with the Government of Madras in the subject. I learn from them that the Political Agent at Banganapalee was specially instructed to watch the trial of rioters, which took place after the recent disturbances, and that measures were taken to prevent any miscarriage of justice. I also learn that the Nawab has been constantly remained by the Government of Madras of his obligations, and that they are endeavouring to induce him to improve his administration. The right hon. gentleman may rely on it that I shall continue to give my attention to the matter, and shall take any measures which may appear to me after full consideration to be advisable.

NEW COLLEGE OF LAW AT BOMBAY.—Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is aware thata new College of Law, with a suitable staff of professors, under the presidency of the Hon. Mr. Justice Tyabji, was established at Bombay in 1897 by private enterprise, and that in January 1898 this college was affiliated to the Bombay University; whether he will state for what reasons the Bombay Government refused its sanction to such affiliation when applied to by the University authorities; whether he is aware that since the founding of the University in 1857 such sanction has in no other case been refused; and whether he will explain how this refusal is in accordance with the declaration of her Majesty's Government in 1884, upon the report of the Education Commission, that in higher education private effort should be increasingly and mainly relied on and systematically encouraged.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have no information as to the character of the private institution referred to in this question, or of its staff of professors. But I understand that the Government of Bombay, who have quite recently taken steps to inprove the Government School of Law and to make it equal to all demands, considered that it was not advisable that the control of the higher legal education should be wholly or partially in private hands. They, therefore, with the full concurrence of the Government of India, refused the affiliation which had been applied for. As regards the question of precedents, it is obvious that every application of this kind must be dealt with on its own merits. I see no reason to doubt the soundness of the decision arrived at in this case, nor does it appear to me to be inconsistent with the views of the Education Commissioners, who considered that the establishment of competing schools in one locality might involve a clashing of interests and a waste of power."

INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES.—SIR H. Fowler asked the Secretary for India whether the despatch from the Government of India, No. 129, dated May 5, 1898, was signed by all the members of the Viceroy's Council.

Lord G. Hamilton; Yes, sir, the despatch was signed by the Viceroy and by all the members of his Council.

Mr. Maclean: Are these members of the Viceroy's Council the same who agreed with the Viceroy in reversing his predecessor's decision?

Lord G. Hamilton: Yes, I believe they are. As the hon. member is aware, when people get more accurate information on a subject they sometimes change their opinions. (Laughter and "Hear, hear.")

RAILWAY GAUGES IN INDIA.—Sir J. Kitson asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been drawn to the continued extension of the metre and other smaller gauges of railways in India in competition with the legitimate spheres of the standard gauge; and whether he would take steps towards defining the scope of the smaller gauges.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am quite aware of the importance of defining the limits within which the metre gauge and other smaller gauges should be used. They are sanctioned, not in competition with the standard gauge, but either for feeder lines as an improvement on ordinary roads, or for railway systems in districts such as Burma, where broad-gauge lines would be impracticable on account of their comparatively high cost.

INDIAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state when the financial statement, with the proceedings thereon in the Viceroy's Legislative Council, will be placed in the hands of members.

Lord G. Hamilton: In order to save the expense of reprinting, it was arranged last year that copies of the financial statement, with the proceedings in the Legislative Council thereon, should be despatched from India for the use of members of the House. I have ascertained that the requisite supply is on its way to England and may be expected to be in the hands of members by about the end of the Whitsuntide recess.

THE REGULAR ARMY IN INDIA.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state what number of the 258,010 appearing on the Estimates for 1899-1900 as forming the Regular army, are at the present time stationed in India, and are paid for out of the Indian Revenue; and what is the total amount charged to India on account of the troops referred to.

Lord G. Hamilton: Of the 258,010 men appearing on the Estimates for 1899-1900 as forming the Regular army, 73,175 are on the Indian establishment, and the whole of their pay, food, clothing, and other charges, including transport to and from India, is defrayed from Indian revenues. The Estimates do not admit of an accurate separation of the charges under all heads for the European and the Native forces; but in a return given to Parliament a few years ago (No. 20 of 1894) 891rs. was given as the average annual cost of a British soldier in India. Taking this rate, the cost of those men would be about 650 lacs of rupees, or (at 1s. 4d. the rupee) 4,333,000*l.* Perhaps the rate may now be somewhat higher. This is exclusive of a payment of 548,700*l.* (or 7*l.* 10s. per head) to the War Office for depot and recruiting charges in this country, and of the cost of deferred pay and pensions.

IMPORTS OF SUGAR INTO INDIA.—Captain Sinclair asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is yet in a position to give the House the figures for the imports of sugar into India for the twelve months ending March 1899, specifying the different countries of origin.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have as yet received from India no trade statistics later than those for February 1899; but I expect to receive the final volume for the financial year in the course of a week or a fortnight.

CHITRAL.—Sir W. Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether it has been decided to reduce the garrison at Chitral; whether he would consider the advisability of withdrawing this garrison altogether from Chitral and Gilgit; and i he could state what saving would be effected by such withdrawal.

Lord G. Hamilton: My answer to the first clause of this question is in the affirmative. As to the possibility of withdrawing the garrison altogether, I can only say that no proposal of that kind is before me, nor can I give an undertaking of the kind which the hon. baronet desires. I am not able without reference to India to state accurately what saving would be effected by such withdrawl.

THE BOMBAY INSOLVENCY COURT.—Sir William Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India: If he could state what is the total cost of the establishment maintained by the Clerk of the Insolvency Court, at Bombay out of his fees; and if, as stated by the Secretary of State for India, the clerk pays the cost of the establishment out of his fees, he could explain why 4,438 rs. per annum is shown in the Civil Estimates, 1897-8, Vol. II., Bombay, page 78, as paid by the Government for theestablishment of the clerk of the Insolvency Court.

Lord G. Hamilton: The total cost of the establishment maintained by the clerk of the Insolvency Court at Bombay out of his fees was stated in 1895 at 2,194 rs. per annum; this is in addition to the sum of 4,374 rs. (in 1895) contributed by Government. I did not state in my previous answer that the clerk paid the cost of the whole establishment out of his fees. What I said was, that out of the fees he receives "he meets certain charges for establishment."

INDIA GAZETTE.

THE services of Lieutenant L. E. Hopkins, R. E., Assistant Engineer, 2nd Grade, State Railways, replaced at the disposal of the Burma Railways Company, Limited.

Mr. A. W. U. Pope, Offig. Traffic Supdt. of the O. and R. Railway, is confirmed in his appointment and promoted to Class I, Grade 3 (temporary rank), of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways.

Mr. W. C. Boyce, Offig. Traffic Supdt. of the East Coast Railway, is confirmed in his appointment and promoted to Class I of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways.

Mr. J. R. Muirhead, Chief Traffic Inspector, O. and R. Railway, is appointed to officiate as Asst. Traffic Supdt. on that Railway.

Mr. F. F. Hensley, Examiner of Accounts, Bezwada-Madras Railway, is appointed to officiate as Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Burma. Mr. E. A. Lee, Offig. Govt. Examiner Accounts, Burma Railway, is appointed to the charge of the Office of the Examiner, Public Works Accounts, Burma, in addition to his own duties, pending the arrival of Mr. F. F. Hensley.

Mr. J. M. Hartley, Dy. Examiner of Accounts, Office of the Examiner of Accounts, East Coast Railway, is transferred to the office of the examiner, P. W. Accounts, Burma.

Mr. K. Balarama Iyer, Examiner of Accounts, Office of the Examiner of Accounts, N. W. Railway, is transferred to the Office of the Examiner of Accounts, East Coast Railway.

Mr. G. B. Goyder, Dy. Examiner of Accounts, Office of Government Examiner of Accounts, E. I. Railway, is transferred temporarily to the Office of the Examiner of Accounts, N. W. Railway.

Mr. R. A. Way, Supding Engineer, 1st Class, Satte Railways, is permitted to retire from the service of Government under Article 712 (*c*), of the C. S. Regulations.

Mr. A. S. Jameson, Loco. Supdt, E. B. S. Railway, in Class I, Grade 1, of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways, is granted special leave for six months, under Article 341 of the C. S. Regulations.

Mr. L. E. H. Yates, District Loco. Supdt. in Class II, Grade 1 of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railway officiating for him.

The following promotion and reversions are ordered in the Superior Accounts Branch:— W G. G. Bayly, Deputy Examiner, 1st. grade to Examiner, 4th Class, III grade, temporary rank. J. Shaw, Examiner, 4th Class, II grade, sub. pro tem. to Examiner, 4th Class, III grade. F. C. W. Dover, Examiner, 4th Class, III grade, sub. pro tem to Examiner, 4th Class, III grade, temporary rank.

Mr. J. B. Braddon, Examiner of Accounts, has been granted an extension of furlough on medical certificate for three month,.

Mr. E. P. Dansey, Conservator, 1st grade, in charge of the Central Forest Circle, N.W.P. and Oudh, is granted furlough for 2 years.

Mr. C. G. D. Fordyce, Dy. Conservator, 2nd (officiating 1st) grade, Bengal, is appointed to officiate as Conservator, 3rd grade, and to hold charge of the Central Forest Circle in the N.-W. P. and Oudh.

Mr. A. E. Wild, Conservator, 2nd. grade, Bengal, is appointed to officiate in the 1st grade.

Captain C.H. D. Ryder, R. E., Offig Dy Supt. 1st grade, Survey of India Department, is granted furlough for eight months and nineteen days.

Lieutenant B. R. Daunt, I. S. C., Prob Asst. Supdt., 2nd grade, Survey of India Department, is granted six months' leave on medical certificate.

THE JUNGLI BABA.

A FRIEND writes us as follows: "The account given in the *Theosophist* of November 1897, page 127 (gleaned from a correspondent of the *Madras Mail*), of a *Yogi*, reported to be 850 years of age, and stating that he is open to investigation, is certainly misleading. It might interest your readers to know how the case actually stands. On the occasion of my visit I drove from Rahuri station—Dhond and Manmad Railway—to the Yogi's place—two miles off. I found him an intelligent man, with bright eyes, sharp features, rather sound teeth, hair and a moustache almost grey, of slight built, and dressed in a scanty cloth, used for the time being. He spoke Hindustani and was very affable. As to his age, he replied "Men say that I am 850 years old," but he neither affirmed nor denied. He went on to mention the different reigns he had lived under, but about this there is nothing authentic. He mentioned that he could live on indefinitely or terminate his existence at will; his object in living was for the good he might be the means of doing for others. His resources depended on the charity of his followers. He expressed himself willing to show phenomena and to impart knowledge to all comers, provided the enquirer consented to set in "Goopha," *i.e.*, to undergo an ascetic training for a month or so. He could appear in the astral form, he said, at any place indicated, but that the enquirer must have sufficient faith to make the thing a success. His name is Narain Dass Maharaj, commonly called Jungli Baba when at Bombay. Under these circumstances persons intending a visit are likely to meet with disappointment."—*Theosophist.*

MAIL NEWS.

THE Russians have decided to extend the Central Asian Railways to Verni, and thence in a northern direction.

VALLADOLID has been greatly disturbed by repeated affrays between University students and cadets of the Cavalry school. The citizens have sided with the University students. The trouble arose out of a personal altercation between a student and a cadet with reference to a young lady. The Governor of the city found it necessary to proclaim a state of siege before order was restored.

SIR SALTER PYNE, who is rapidly recovering, says that whether he returns to Kabul or not, depends upon circumstances. He says that, in all probability, the Amir's next illness will be fatal. Sir Salter anticipates that the Afghans will accept Habibullah as a ruler without much demur. The Afghans generally are now friendly to us. The Amir appreciates the autocratic Russian Government, but fully realises being on good terms with the British.

THE Berlin correspondent of the *Times* says that Russia has been watching the growth of German influence in Asia Minor with no little jealousy; moreover, the railway from Constantinople, *via* Bagdad to India, can only come about if Germany consents to meet England half way. Respecting the control of the Mesopotamian section, the Germans are trying hard to obtain from the Sultan a concession for the Konieh-Basra Railway.

THE Governmemt officials at Washington admit a grave danger exists of trouble with the Cubans. If General Gomez declines to accept the terms offered, the Government contemplate the issue by General Brook of a proclamation announcing that each Cuban who surrenders his arms shall receive the amount due to him, and unless the arms are surrendered the officials declare not one penny will be disbursed. In any event they declare the Cubans will be required to disarm, even if force becomes necessary to accomplish it.

AT Buda Pesth, M. Pinter, Director-General of Electricity, read a paper on the new system of rapid telegraphy invented by Pollok and Virag by which it is claimed that 100,000 words can be transmitted within an hour. Experiments have been carried on with a line of wire 650 kilometres long lent for the purpose by the Government, and the results showed that even that number of words was not the limit of transmission. Telegrams must be previously perforated on slips of paper in the Morse alphabet, and it is calculated that the new system will reduce the cost of long telegrams to about one-twenty-fourth of the present rate, provided they are handed in at the telegraph office in the form of perforated slips, in which form they will be delivered to the addressee.

THE Peace Conference opened at the Hague on May 18. The Conference decided to despatch the following telegram to the Tsar:—"The Peace Conference lays at the feet of your Majesty respectful congratulations on the occasion of your fete-day, and expresses its sincere desire to co-operate in the accomplishment of the great and noble work in which your Majesty has taken a generous initiative, and for which it begs you to accept its humble and profound gratitude." It is settled that the labours of the Peace Conference will be divided into three general sections, first on disarmament, secondly on the laws of war, thirdly on mediation and arbitration. It is not certain that three commissions will be designated in strict correspondence will these three groups of questions. On the other hand three sections, namely political, military, and naval will be established, and will study successively all the questions dealt with.

THE Chinese Government has acknowledged the receipt of the communication in which the British and Russian Ministers apprised it of the Anglo-Russian agreement, but expressly stated that the acknowledgment in no way implied acquiescence in principle. The two nations could enter into arrangements concerning China without consulting her. According to Reuter's Pekin correspondent the Chinese are reported to be much excited by the Russian demand for a concession for a railway connecting Port Arthur with Pekin. It is asserted that the Russians have acted in bad faith towards Great Britain, whose railway undertakings representing over two millions of money would be in jeopardy, and the Chinese Government are said to have informed the Russian Minister that they are unable to grant this demand. In diplomatic circles the general opinion is, the correspondent adds, that Russia's action was intended to show the world that the new convention with Great Britain in no way fettered her action at Pekin, and perhaps tended to strengthen the prestige of Russia with the Chinese.

IN the Leigh Divorce Case, it was said that the petitioner and respondent the Marquis of Abergavenny's daughter, lived very happily until three years ago, when Lord Cottenhum become Master of the Leicester Hunt Kennels, which are near petitioner's house. The guilty couple were traced to the Nonte Carlo Hotel in Leicester Square, where they occasionally occupied rooms. Bursting open the bed-room door the detective and lawyer's clerk found it empty. They burst open the door of a room communicating, where Lord Cottenham was discovered in a dressing-gown at breakfast laid for two person, and partially consumed. Lord Cottenham denied knowing where lady Rose Leigh was. The detective observed another door. This also was burst open and proved to be a bed-room. It contained two of the respondent's trunks, and various articles of male and female attire lay about the room. Seeing some clothes hanging on a peg, the clerk lifted them up, and, to his astonishment, behind the clothes he found Lady Rose in her night-dress.

THE N.-W. P. *Gazette* contains the new rules, issued after revision on a consideration of the criticisms received and of the orders of the Government of India, for the definition and management of *nazul* property in those Provinces.

VARIETIES.

THE finest shops in a Chinese city are those devoted to the sale of coffins.

TWO-THIRDS of all the letters posted in the Post-offices of the world are English.

THE empire of Morocco is the most important State that is absolutely without a newspaper.

RECENTLY a Paris court granted in four hours two hundred and ninety-four divorces—over a divorce a minute.

THE Chinese are perhaps the most lightly taxed people in the world. In China all the land belongs to the State, and but a small sum per acre is paid as rent. This is the only tax, and it amounts to about 2s. 6d. per head yearly.

CLOTH is now being successfully made from wood. Strips of fine grained wood are boiled and crushed between rollers, and the filaments after being carried into parallel lines, are spun into threads, from which cloth can be woven in the usual way.

A CHAMELEON, when blindfolded, cannot change colour. When not blinded, and left in a cool, dark place, it assumes a greyish tint. When a light is admitted, the chameleon's colour changes to brown, dark green or blood red according to the intensity of the light.

BOTH of Lord Rosebery's sons in appearance bear traces of their Jury ancestry. This, of course, is on the side of the mother only, but it is sufficiently marked to be complete. They are good-looking boys, and very clever as well as estimable. The faces of the daughters are, with Lady Peggy's (now Countess of Crewe) exception, English.

A JEALOUS Spanish girl, not long ago, removed a more beautiful rival by the tempting artifice of presenting her with a pair of gloves. The gloves had been dusted inside with powdered glass, steeped in poison. When the victim "tried on" the gloves, the tiny fragments of glass inevitably scratched the skin, and the poison did the rest.

THE greatest suspension bridge in the world is the Brooklyn Bridge, U. S. A., which also leads the world's in the number of its daily passengers. Its length including approaches, is 5,989ft.; the distance between the towers, 930ft.; the weight of the structure is 6,470 tons; its cost was over £3,000,000. The bridge trams carry about 45,000,000 people every year.

A LITTLE sugar taken with water, not too cold, in case food is not readily obtainable, will be found to relieve any feeling of exhaustion or sharp hunger. Indians discovered this centuries ago, and it is now a custom in Hindu homes to offer sugar (or jaggery) and water to a guest newly-arrived: in fact, it would be inhospitable to omit the sugar.

INCLUDING the 20,000,000 dollars indemnity now paid to Spain in respect of the Philippines, the war with Spain has cost the United States 275,000,000 dollars, and, from all causes, 6,190 lives, or 2¼ per cent, of the troops engaged, as against 6¾ per cent, of deaths upon the average of the troops employed during the first year of the Civil War.

A FRENCH medical paper recommends, as the best cure for nervousness, remaining in bed a few weeks. It reports cases of what seemed incipient insanity cured by this simple method. It recommends a partial return to the custom prevalent in the time of Louis XVI., when the bed was used not only for sleeping, but as a pleasant place to remain while reading, eating, receiving friends, etc.

A NEW expedition to the North Pole is talked of. The author of this, says the *Birmingham Post*, is a well-known Canadian Militia officer, Capt. Berner, and he is at this moment at Ottawa in the hope of securing the active assistance of Lord Minto and the Government. The Captain desires to set out on his expedition as a distinctly accredited representative, and with this object he intends to appeal to the Royal Geographical Society. His proposal is that the Canadian Government should provide a sum of 30,000 dollars, and he hopes to take advantage of the lessons of Nansen's voyage. He will equip a second Fram, make for the North Pole by way of Behring's Straits and the coast of Siberia, and there get into the Arctic current.

THE scientific aspect of dreams is full of interest as was shown by Professor J. H. Muirhead in his lecture on dreams before the Aristotelian Society on 8th May. He said that dream consciousness was characterised by the absence of the mind's normal faculty of co-ordinating its experiences and its tendency to suffer disintegration. This was illustrated by its tendency to become absence of logical connection in its thoughts, its feelinglessness in presence of objects that usually excite strong emotion, and its emotionalism in presence of objects that do not, and, lastly, by the tendency of primitive instincts and suggestions to gain uncontrolled possession over its actions. The dream might be an important source of knowledge of more primitive forms of consciousness. A dream consciousness had been found also to illustrate in a striking way the pervasive force of habits and the vitalising energy of the mind. An examination of dream consciousness could not fail to impress even the most superficial observer with the poverty of the materials—a few random impulses of the sense organs, a few residual throbs of the nerve centres—out of which the mind constructed a world of original and often poignant experience.

ON an average of 1,000 children born in England, 11 are twins; in Scotland 11; in Ireland 17. In general, twins occur in 6 births. In England there are 9,736 twins born every year, or about 4,868 double births. The cases where there are more than two at a birth average eight per year. There have been authenticated instances of more than three—even of five.

A COLLIER casually descended fifteen yards into an old flooded mine near Welling Borough by means of a rope, to see if the waters were subsiding. All his efforts to get back were unavailing, and for eleven days he was entombed. A visitor to the spot, hearing a voice below secured the man's release. Though provided with water he had been without food the whole eleven days.

NEW Zealand is to be well represented at the Paris Exhibition. Two thousand New Zealanders are to be brought over to Europe in a liner chartered for the purpose, and the trip which is to last six months, is to cost the very moderate sum of £75 per head. Since Mark Twain described his famous voyage in the Quaker city expeditions of this kind have from time to time been organised, and have usually been remarkably successful.

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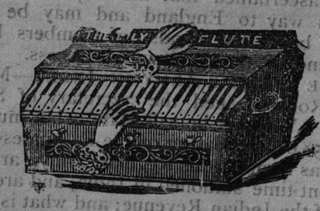

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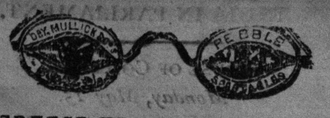

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