

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, April 6, 1918.

THE BEST INVESTMENT OF THE PROFITS OF CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

I.

At the recent Provincial Co-operative Conference the question of the relation of Primary Education to the Co-operative movement was considered at some length. There is a general feeling among the directors of the Central Banks that the illiteracy of the people is a great obstacle to the growth of the Co-operative movement. A suggestion has been made that since the efforts made by the Provincial Government and the District Boards in this matter are inadequate, the Co-operative Societies and Central Banks should help themselves in the matter as far as it lies within their means. In other words, the proposal is to devote a portion of the profits of Central Banks and Primary Societies to the establishment and maintenance of primary schools. One member of the conference has made the suggestion that the provisions by which primary societies are enabled to devote a maximum of 10 per cent of their profits to charitable purposes should be removed, and that in the case of Primary Societies 50 per cent and in the case of Central Banks 25 per cent of the profits should be reserved for the extension of Primary Education. These proposals if carried out are likely to have far-reaching results, and deserve very careful consideration. We shall first examine the suggestion about requiring Primary Societies to devote their funds to Primary Education.

The question is indeed a part of the larger problem of the investment of the profits of Primary Societies. The Maclagan Committee viewed with some anxiety the smallness of the capital owned by the Primary Societies, and the fact that to a very large extent they were dependent for their funds upon an external financing agency, viz., the Central Banks. They were of opinion that "the primary object of every society should be to acquire a permanent capital of its own as speedily as possible." In view of the limited scope of a society, and would rely mainly on the profits of a society, and were of opinion that the major part of such profits should be devoted to the building up of a fund for the society. The surplus assets, as they accrue from year to year, are to be used in larger and larger quantities in loans to members. The societies should thus be rendered independent of outside assistance. The idea that the Primary Societies should be permitted to utilise the whole or a large part of its profits in its business has been severely criticised in some quarters. Our own Registrar, Mr. Collins, is strongly opposed to this procedure. It is open to two very serious objections. First, the independence of the societies would mean isolation for each society, whereas a system of mutual interdependence creates a solidarity which is of great value. Secondly, the incentive to thrift and punctual realisation would be gone. At present the pressure exerted by the Central Banks is useful in making the members and the committees realise the necessity of punctual repayment.

On the other side there is one very strong reason for allowing the societies to use at least a part of their accumulated profits in their own business. It is one of the primary objects of Co-operation to enable the cultivator to obtain money at low interest. True, Co-operation has its value in train-

ing men to habits of thrift and honesty. But its chief "attraction" consists in the prospects which it holds out of bettering one's lot. If Co-operation is to be a success in future the present interest rate of 15½ per cent, at which loans are made to members, must be reduced. No doubt, even this 15½ per cent is much below the normal rate of the mahajan. But unless the co-operative society's rate is still further lowered, we cannot expect large numbers to submit to the discipline of the societies.

This reduction of the rate of interest is not possible unless the societies' funds are used in loans to the members. The Central Banks are unable to attract money at less than 7 or 8 per cent. Add to this the Banks' own profits, the Primary Societies' profits and the lowest safe limit is that which at present obtains. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies recognises the necessity of allowing the societies to utilise at least a portion of their own profits for their direct benefit. "The most intelligent members of societies," he says, "watch the accumulation of their owned capital with interest, and regard its investment, the object of which they can with difficulty appreciate, as a plain breach of faith." Mr. Collins recognises that unless in the near future the individual members are enabled to get loans at 12½ per cent the members will be exposed to the temptations of the money lenders. The Registrar proposes to adopt a middle course. He would have 50 per cent of the profits to be left in the hands of the societies and would invest the remaining 50 per cent in purchasing shares in Central Banks and Government Paper.

The Registrar is right in giving importance to the necessity of maintaining a large Provincial Reserve Fund as a safeguard against a temporary failure of confidence. The direct loss to the societies will be made up a thousand times over in the strength of the entire structure, and in a sense of pride and security in belonging to a large and organised co-operative machinery. There is one point, however, to which the attention of co-operators in this province has not been sufficiently drawn. That point refers to the importance of the Primary Societies owning in a large measure the share capital of the Central Banks. At present the Central Banks are in their nature really joint-stock companies. The shares are held by individual shareholders who are generally of the middle class, and not to any great extent by the societies. The directors are generally drawn from the local gentry, and the Primary Societies have absolutely no voice in the management. As a natural consequence the connection between the Central Banks and the Primary Societies is of a very loose kind. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies strongly condemns the view that the Central Banks should be regarded by the Primary Societies as an outside financing agency. But under their present constitution they are an outside financing agency. Unless a very large proportion of the profits of Primary Societies are in future devoted to the purchase of shares in Central Banks, this unsatisfactory state of things will continue with the consequent danger of a conflict of interests between the Central Banks and the Primary Societies. The Maclagan Committee were alive to this danger, and recommended a gradual elimination of private shareholders from Central Banks by the substitution of Primary Societies as shareholders. No doubt, it is possible to go too far in this direction. There are obvious objections to the complete democratisation of the Central Banks. The movement will be in danger of losing the guidance and support of the middle class, at the same time that it is impossible to find from the cultivating classes financiers capable of managing the affairs of a vast banking organisation. For a long time to come therefore the Central Banks must con-

tinue to have among the shareholders and on the directorate men who belong to the middle class. With this limitation, we believe that it is of the highest importance to enable the Primary Societies to acquire a much larger interest than they have at present in the Central Banks. We are of opinion that if the Registrar's suggestion of allotting 50 per cent of the profits of Primary Societies to investments is put into practice, at least three-fourths of this amount should be devoted to the purchase of shares of Central Banks, and in no case should the amount devoted to the purchase of Government Paper exceed one fourth of the total outside investment.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERNMENTS.

We are all painfully aware how the repressive policy of Government resulting in indiscriminate internments of political suspects without trial and the untold hardships which some of the unfortunate victims had to undergo, have spread deep discontent throughout the country. No doubt it has been urged on behalf of the Government in justification of their action that they are possessed of abundant evidence pointing to the existence of widespread political conspiracies, and that in the interest of the weal and safety of the country they are compelled to have recourse to the special powers with which they have armed themselves to suppress them and to eradicate the evil from the country. We have been assured that "every case under Reg. III of 1818 is sent up to the Government of India with a full history of the life of the person and of the information against him. This information is carefully scrutinised in the Home Department, a summary of each case being sent to the Secretary of State in the cases of persons upon whom restraint is imposed." Under the Defence of India Act, it is stated, a similar procedure is followed by the Local Government, though no report is submitted to the Secretary of State, viz., that the evidence in each case is carefully considered by an experienced judicial officer, and that no action is taken against any one unless there are sufficient grounds for the imposition of restriction. Now all this is very well, so far as it goes, from the Government stand-point. There can be no question whatever that in the matter of these internments the Government are actuated by the very best of motives.

But notwithstanding this definite assurance, the general public are not fully convinced, not even the most sober-minded and reasonable portion of the community, that there is a wide-spread conspiracy for the overthrow of Government, though it cannot be denied that there are some stray misguided youths who may be accused of being of the revolutionary party. What strikes the people is that the system under which the Police are allowed to exercise unreasonable and irresponsible power is apt, more often than not, to lead to abuse, and that all the persons now under restraint are not rightly confined, many innocent persons being confounded with the guilty. The further complaint of the public, and especially that of the interned and their relatives, is that their comfort and health are not carefully looked after and that more undue and harsh restriction is often placed upon them than is demanded by the exigencies of the case. The cases of Manindra Nath Seth, Jyotish Chandra Ghosh, Sarada Charan Maitra, Mohinimohan Samanta and others show how the harsh treatment accorded to these detenus have resulted in tragic consequences, and how the interpellations which from time to time have been put

in the Bengal Council in this connection have proved unavailing.

It is, however, gratifying to note that the public agitation in this matter and the Resolution that was moved by Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee at the last meeting of the Imperial Council on the subject of internments have met with partial success. In a recent speech in the Bengal Council, His Excellency the Governor of Bengal was pleased to announce his intentions as regards future cases of internment and that the proposals have met with the full approval of the Government of India. The latter in deference to the widespread feeling on the subject have expressed their willingness to go a step further. The Government would be asked "to appoint a committee consisting of one Indian and one English officer of judicial experience of whom one at least shall be a High Court Judge or an officer who has served in that capacity, again to make a careful investigation into each individual case, to sift the materials on which the order of restriction or confinement is based, to consider any memorials that are put in on behalf of the prisoners whose cases are under investigation, and to advise the Government whether the orders are justified by the material that has been placed before them." Now for the last three years the public have been persistently pressing upon the Government for the appointment of an advisory committee of the kind which has now been announced, and we are glad that the Government have now seen their way to meet the wishes of the people. Every thing will however depend on the personnel of this committee. The selection of the members must be careful and judicious. The duty of the committee will simply be to advise the Government whether the material facts submitted to its examination justify the imposition of the restrictions, the nature of which is to be determined by the Local Government, or in the cases of persons confined under Reg. III, by the Government of India. It will also be the duty of the committee to ascertain whether detenus have not shown by their conduct that they have mended their ways to such an extent that their further detention is unnecessary. It has been further announced that the Local Government will be asked to appoint for each person detained under Reg. III or for each locality in which detenus are confined under the Defence of India Act, one or more non-official visitors to be associated with an official visitor to see that necessary measures are being taken for their health and welfare, and to enquire into the complaints made, and their reports with such recommendations as they may think fit to make are to be submitted direct to the Local Government. We are deeply grateful to the India Government for the kind measures which have now been inaugurated in the interests of the unfortunate individuals against whom action has been taken or who are to be proceeded against under Reg. III or the Defence of India Act. They will go a long way to allay the existing general irritation in the matter of the internments.

THE TALE OF THE PARROT.

(FREELY TRANSLATED FROM SIR RABINDRA
NATH TAGORE'S *Totakahini* IN THE *Sabuj
Patra* FOR MAGH, 1924.)

(1)

There was once a bird. It could sing but could not repeat the holy passages; it hopped and flew about but knew not the customs and manners of society.

The King thought, "This bird is of no use; on the contrary, it eats up the fruits of our gardens and thus does mischief." He called his minister and said, "Educate the bird."

(2)

The King's nephews were entrusted with the care of its teaching. The Pandits held prolonged deliberations. The question was, why was the poor thing ignorant? It was decided that a creature which lived in a nest made of grass and straw could not possibly gain much learning. The first thing therefore to be done was to build for it a goodly cage. The Pandits returned to their homes loaded with presents and much pleased with themselves.

(3)

The goldsmith started making a cage of gold. The cage that he turned out was such a rare piece of workmanship that people from distant parts came flocking to see it. Some said, "This is the last word on education." Others again remarked, "Never mind the teaching; lucky indeed is the bird to get such a cage."

The goldsmith went home with purses well-filled.

The Pandit sat down to teach the bird. Taking a pinch of snuff, he exclaimed, "It cannot be taught without a large number of books."

The nephew summoned the authors. They brought cartloads of books. Whoever saw the books had to admit, "This is teaching indeed." The writers got rewards which they had to carry away on bullocks. When they got home, they never again suffered from want.

The costly cage required constant care. There were the repairs, besides the work of cleaning and polishing. An army of men were employed for these duties and another to inspect their work. Fat salaries were taken away by them every month which filled their chests, and they and their relations thrived exceedingly well. Meanwhile, all this ado made every one recognise that there was progress.

(4)

In this world we feel many a want, but never that of a fault-finder. The whole brood of fault-finders started the cry, "The cage is looked after only too well, but no one thinks of the bird."

The King heard this. He called his nephew and asked, "What is this I hear?" The nephew replied, "If your majesty would know the truth, let the goldsmith, the Pandit, the authors, the caretakers and the inspectors testify; those who find fault do so because they do not get anything."

The King understood and presented his nephew with a gold necklace.

(5)

The King wanted to see for himself the rapid pace at which the bird's education was progressing. One day, he came to the hall of learning accompanied by his ministers and courtiers. At the gate, he was received with flares of trumpet, the music of bands, the blowing of conch-shells and the ringing of bells. The Pandits chanted laudatory verses. The army of labourers, smiths, writers, and inspectors all sent forth repeated cheers at the top of their voices. The nephew said, "Your Majesty sees what a vast undertaking it is." The King assented and wondered at the din. The nephew submitted, "This is no empty sound, there is a mint of money behind it."

His Majesty was pleased beyond measure. He went out of the gate and had mounted on his elephant, when a fault-finder who was hiding in a bush close by shouted out, "Your Majesty goes away without seeing the bird."

The words struck the King who had forgot all about his intention of seeing the bird. He returned

and ordered the Pandit to show what the bird had learnt.

This was done, and to the King's satisfaction. Surrounded on all sides by rules and orders, the bird could hardly be seen. But the King was satisfied that no pains had been spared. It is true that there was not to be found in the cage a grain of seed for the bird's fare, but there were heaps of books, the pages of which had been stuffed into the bird's mouth with the point of a pen. The singing was stopped, for the gagging had stifled even the faintest sound.

When returning, the King ordered the fault-finder's ears to be pulled.

(6)

With the progress of education, the bird gradually pined away in proper form. The keepers thought this to be a hopeful sign. But an evil nature is not easily got rid of. In the morning, the bird would often look towards the light and flap its wings in an unruly manner. As if this was not wicked enough, it was seen on some days trying to snap at the bars of the cage with its bill.

The Kotwal exclaimed, "Disgraceful conduct."

The blacksmiths came with hammer, anvil and bellows; they sheared the wings of the bird and put on a heavy iron chain round its legs. The Queen's brothers shook their heads and gloomily remarked, "These birds are not only foolish but positively ungrateful."

Thus the Pandits went on teaching with pen in one hand and pricks in another.

The wives of the blacksmiths began to wear gold trinkets and the Kotwal received an order of merit.

(7)

The bird died.

When,—nobody exactly knew.

The wretched fault-finder spread the rumour of the bird's death.

The nephew was called into the Presence and asked about it. He replied, "The bird has finished its course."

The King enquired, "Does it hop any more?"

The nephew said, "No fear."

"Does it fly?"

"No."

"Does it still sing?"

"No."

The King wanted to see the bird. It was accordingly brought before him. With it came the Kotwal, the sentries and the bodyguards. The King patted the bird. It gave no sound. Only the rustling of the leaves of the dry books with which it had been stuffed could be felt.

THE PREVENTION OF PLAGUE.

We give prominence to the following timely circular issued by the Government of Bihar and Orissa:—

The outbreak of plague this year in several districts of the Province has been of unusual severity. Other Provinces have the same unfortunate experience and in the United Provinces and Bombay the increase in mortality has been much greater than in Bihar. The reasons for the severity of the epidemic are general and not local; it is due largely to the unusual climatic conditions of 1917 when a short and very mild hot weather was succeeded by long and plentiful rains, these conditions being peculiarly favourable to the early recrudescence of plague in the following cold weather. The mortality

ty in this Province rose rapidly up to the end of January, but since then there has been a distinct check in the rate of increase. The absence of winter rain is conducive to an early cessation of the plague season, and if the present dry conditions continue it may be hoped that the plague will abate earlier than usual this year with the onset of the hot weather.

2. It is desirable to publish as widely as possible the fact that the two most simple and effective ways of meeting a local outbreak of plague are fumigation and evacuation both of which can be effected without any expert assistance. The burning of *battis* composed of cow-dung and *nim* leaves should be undertaken wherever the rats of any locality appear to have been infected, without waiting for the disease to attack the human population. The object of fumigation is the destruction of the rat fleas, which convey the infection, and the expulsion of the rats harbouring the fleas from the inhabited houses. The process is cheap, and free from any objections; and the materials are everywhere available. This kind of fumigation is especially useful in towns where evacuation cannot conveniently be carried out. In order to be effective, fumigation should be repeated at frequent intervals.

3. After plague has once broken out the best remedy is evacuation. This is already generally recognised in those areas which have become accustomed to the disease; but the evacuation of villages is often delayed too long on account of the difficulty experienced in obtaining materials for erecting thatched sheds at a distance from the village sites. For such preventive measures and for facilitating the general evacuation of infected villages the sanitation funds of local bodies can be properly employed.

4. Other methods of meeting plague, which may usefully be employed, but which can only be of temporary efficacy, are rat-catching and inoculation. The destruction of rats has only an ephemeral effect unless at the same time the causes facilitating their propagation are removed. The rat population can be kept down permanently only by improving the sanitary conditions of the villages and by the careful disposal of the refuse and waste food upon which such vermin live. Experiments have shown that without radical improvement in scavenging rats will invariably multiply in a very short time up to the normal maximum for which food is available. If the refuse and garbage of village sites are regularly destroyed and grain is stored either in *pukka* houses or in rat-proof receptacles the number of rats, and consequently the sources of infections, will be greatly diminished. Clean houses with clean surroundings are the best preventive of plague.

5. Inoculation is not effective in eradicating plague because it only provides protection for the individual inoculated. Plague is not conveyed directly from one human being to another but only through the medium of rat-fleas. Inoculation conveys immunity for a very limited period, and even if the entire population of an area is inoculated, this will not prevent an outbreak of plague in the following year after the effect of inoculation on the individual has passed away.

6. His Honour in Council is anxious that these simple facts should be made known as widely as possible throughout the affected areas and trusts that local bodies will encourage the formation of committees of educated persons who will advise the more ignorant people upon the steps to be taken for self-protection. His Honour in Council also hopes that local bodies will provide out of their funds for the distribution of *nim-battis* and for assistance to the poorer villagers desiring to build

kutcha shelters for themselves while their homes are infected.

7. Although it is not desirable that any pressure should be put upon unwilling persons, facilities for inoculation should be provided at all dispensaries; and when the practice is at all popular, travelling Sub-Assistant Surgeons with inoculating apparatus should be employed by local bodies to visit the areas where the epidemic is most serious. A great deal can be done to popularize inoculation by the leaders of the local communities setting an example in submitting to the operation.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

MR. Collins, Registrar, Co-operative credit Societies, Bihar and Orissa is going away on deputation as a member of the Munitions Board, Simla.

WE are sorry to hear that Babu Brajendra Nath Dutt, Dewan, Raj Hathwa, was down with remittent fever. He is, we are much assured to learn, now well.

RAI Saheb Bhuban Mohan Chatterjee, Special Land Acquisition Deputy Collector, Bhagalpur, it we hear, again to be posted to Patna in connection with the Diara Survey.

THE number of appeals filed in the Board of Revenue in partition cases in 1915-16, 1916-17 and 1917-18 were 75, 85 and 147 while the appeals allowed numbered 11, 9 and 18 respectively.

THERE are 12,000 cases of commutation of rent under Section 40 of the Bengal Tenancy Act to be disposed of in Gaya on the completion of the Settlement operations.

RAI Bahadur Barada Kanta Ganguly, it we hear, going to be placed on special deputation in the High Court. Mr. J. R. Dain is probably coming as Additional District Magistrate, Patna.

SINCE the close of the last year, the Government of India have accepted the Local Government's recommendation that railways should be required to pay local cess on their profits from collieries.

A PUBLIC meeting of the residents of Patna will be held to-day at 5-30 p. m. at the premises of the Anglo-Sanskrit School to explain the objects of the National Education Movement and to take active steps for the success of the National Education Week which lasts from 8th April to 15th April.

A CERTAIN number of draughtsmen, tracers, accountants, typists, clerks, overseers and sub-overseers are required for work on irrigation canals in Mesopotamia. The rates of pay offered are at least double those prevailing for similar service in India for all posts to which would here be attached a pay of Rs. 100 and less, and not less than fifty per cent extra for posts which would here be paid up to Rs. 200. Conditions and details of pay offered are obtainable from the Offices of Superintending Engineers.

AT the meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council held on the 2nd instant, after

questions, the Irrigation Bill was passed into law. A general discussion on the budget followed, most of the speeches however being taken as read. The Hon'ble Mr. LeMesurier then closed the debate with a sympathetic and comprehensive reply. The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Syed Ahmad Husain's resolution for the extension of the operation of section 31A of the Bengal Tenancy Act to Bihar districts was negatived by 20 against 8 votes.

WE understand that Babu Sarat Chandra Roy, the Curator of the Bihar and Orissa Museum is resigning and going back to Ranchi to carry on his ethnological researches. The Museum's loss will be the country's gain. It behoves the authorities in appointing his successor to look out for a whole time man whose sole business it will be to improve and enrich the Museum and make it really useful. We strongly object to the appointment of any one who has other work of his own and who may have a particular axe to grind in taking up the office of the Curator. A real and sincere scholar who has no eye to the main chance is what we want for the post.

THE following candidates have passed the Pleadship Examination held in February last:—

Roll No. 1, Lakshmidhar Rout; No. 18, Raghu Chandra Choudhry; No. 21, Chandrabhusan Thakur; No. 35, Ram Pratap Sinha Varma; No. 42, Debendra Nath Das; No. 49, Pyare Lal Misser; No. 66, Md. Shamsul Haque Mallick; No. 100, Jaigovind Sahay; No. 106, Shiva Ram Prasa; No. 121, Shibeshwar Prasad Sinha; No. 127, Badrinath Lal; No. 133, Gajadhar Prasad; No. 143, Radhanath Sarangi.

The result is extremely unsatisfactory. A system of examination under which only 13 out of nearly 150 candidates passed, stands self-condemned. We shall revert to this subject in a future issue.

CONSIDERABLE progress has been made in the Nalanda excavations. It can now be demonstrated that upon the main site which has been opened up four separate and successive monasteries had been erected through a series of centuries each being erected over the previous one and the second in date enveloping the oldest. Two brick structures with the appearance of artificial caves with arched ceilings carried out in brick masonry have been unearthed. It appears that in the original monastery the verandah around the central court was at one time lined with sculptures which, from the fragments now recovered, seem to have been of great excellence and beauty. A large collection of inscribed seals and numerous small statues in both stones and metal have been discovered and also a fairly large metal column with an elaborate capital showing a lion above an elephant.

THE Government of India have decided to grant a number of exemptions under the new Income Tax Act, particulars of which are set out in a "Gazette Extraordinary." Among the incomes exempted are the official allowances paid to an accredited agent of a Prince or State in India and the official salaries or fees received by foreign Consuls, representatives and Consular employees from their Governments. Scholarships granted to meet the cost of education, sum: compulsorily deducted by order or with the approval of Government from the income of a member of the forces for payment to a regimental mess or band fund and allowances attached to the Victoria Cross, the Military Cross, the Order of British India and the Indian Order of Merit are also exempted. Other exemptions are

the income received by a shipping company incorporated or registered out of India whose ships are ordinarily engaged out of Indian waters, the interest on Government promissory notes held by Ruling Chiefs and Princes at the property of their States, the yield of Post Office Cash Certificates and the interest on deposits in the Post Office Saving Bank. It has, further, been decided that interest on Government securities purchased through the Post Office and held in the custody of the Accountant-General Post and Telegraphs, shall not be liable to income-tax, but it will be taken into account in determining the total income of the taxpayer for the purpose of assessment.

THE following students have passed out successfully from the Sanitary Training School, Gulzarbagh:—Dobi Prosad Roy, Jagat Bandhu Chowdhury, Baikuntha Nath Roy, Satish Chandra Ghosh, Raghu Nandan Prasad, Nityanand Deo, Sthiti Chandra Mazumdar, Bhupendra Nath Mazumdar, Shrish Chandra Lahiri, Jogendra Nath Ganguli, Dharendra Nath Ganguli, Syed Nurul Hossain, Mahammad Mahmud, Rajnarain Sing, Rameshwar Prasad.—There were 20 students, out of whom 15 have passed, the percentage being the highest in the record of the School.

ON Thursday the 4th instant Sir Edward Gait made over charge of his office to Sir Edward Levinge K. C. I. E. who officiates for him during the period of his leave. Sir Edward Levinge has the reputation of an able and sympathetic administrator. We hope and trust that he will preserve intact the healthy spirit of sincerity and responsiveness to public opinion, which was such a marked feature of Sir Edward Gait's Government. We trust also that he would revise some of the opinions that he arrived at as President of the Bengal District Administration Committee, which though they found favour in bureaucratic circles formed the subject of much public criticism. In one direction at least, namely, in the passing of the control of secondary education to officialdom, his recommendations have already borne their bitter fruit in this province, which, probably on the principle of *experimentum in corpore vili*, seems to be specially reserved for all sorts of experiments. The charge of a great Province even for a temporary period is a heavy responsibility; and the fact that Sir Edward Levinge has been entrusted with it, when he had probably made up his mind to retire, and in spite of the fact that there were at least three other senior and tried officers on the active list any one of

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whom could as well have been appointed, only serves to bring out the extremely onerous nature of the trust. We are confident, however, that with his past record, Sir Edward will be quite equal to it.

READERS of the *Behar Herald* are aware that we make it a point not to advertise fancied grievances of students who find their examination papers too stiff. We believe that the best persons to judge of such matters are the educational authorities themselves, as it is from the ranks of educationists of standing that paper-setters are selected. It is a sound principle to leave minor details of the work of education to those who are engaged in the work. It is therefore with great reluctance that we here undertake to draw the attention of the authorities of the Patna University to the abnormally difficult passages set for translation from Bengali in the first English paper for the Matriculation Examination. Anyone who has the least acquaintance with the standard of the Matriculation Examination in any other Indian University must admit that the passages referred to above were exceptionally difficult. We shall be probably told that the Patna University intends to raise the standard of Matriculation in order to get a superior batch of students for higher education. If so, we should expect to find a similar raising of the standard in the other parts of the English papers. But that is not the case. The questions in essay and general composition are exactly what they should be. The Urdu and Hindi passages again are quite fair. It is only in the Bengali passages that an impossible standard is expected. We suspect that the moderators did not give sufficient attention to this part of the paper. We doubt whether the passages in question were at all moderated; otherwise, how is it possible that passages which are unintelligible in the vernacular should be set for translation into English to Matriculation candidates? Anomalies like these are not calculated to inspire confidence in the management of the Patna University. We trust that the Bengali Settlers' Association will take up the matter.

A NUMBER of questions were asked at the last meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Babu Adit Prasad Singh on the pay and prospects of Sub-Inspectors and Deputy Inspectors of Schools. In answer to another question by the same member it was stated that the question of allowing the Patna Municipality to elect its own Chairman will not be reopened at present. In reply to Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath, it was stated that the rate at which the compensation for the Bakrid riots will bear to the land revenue in the case of landlords and to the rental in the case of tenants would be 1: 18 and 1: 36 respectively. The same member also asked and obtained information about the Vernacular School Leaving Certificate Examination and about hospitals under District Boards in the Province. From an answer to a question of Mr. S. K. Sahay we learn that as many as 56 of the prisoners in the Shahabad riot cases died in jail, 51 while under trial and 5 after trial. The total number of deaths which occurred in the whole prison population of the Province in 1916-17 was 252, a figure which drew upon the jail administration a severe censure from the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. We wait to see what action is taken in regard to the death of 51 under-trial prisoners in one district in the course of a few months. It will appear that 23 deaths were due to pneumonia which, it is well known, is caused by exposure and cold. We should like to know who was responsible for this. Mr. Sahay's question on the quarters provid-

ed for the Secretariat clerks also raises a sore point. Anglo-Indian clerks drawing salaries up to Rs. 150 have been provided with quarters which cost from Rs. 8000 to 9000, while the best type of quarters provided for Indian Assistants, namely, those for officers drawing Rs. 250 and over cost only Rs. 5000. The explanation offered for this differential treatment is the difference in the modes of living and types of building required by the occupants of the respective quarters. We fail to understand how the mode of living can be of any assistance in deciding the question of accommodation, the solution of which should be solely guided by a consideration of the number of persons that may be expected to live in a house. It is well-known how most of the Anglo-Indian families can live very comfortably in small flats with two or three rooms because these families do not generally include relations other than wife and children. It is equally certain that an Indian gentleman who draws a salary of even Rs. 50 per month has to provide accommodation for many other dependants and relations than his own wife and children. We have seen the C type quarters provided for clerks below Rs. 75, and we consider it a shame that the Government should have sanctioned these shanties for the housing of gentlemen many of whom have been accustomed to live in much bigger residences. There are only two rooms with no verandah on the outside. There is no room for servants, and none at all for guests and visitors. The conservancy and water-supply also leave much to be desired. We are told that the Government of India have been quite generous in respect of the quarters they have provided for Indian Assistants at Delhi. Why should

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not the Local Government show the same breadth of imagination and the same amount of generous sympathy for a class of hard-worked and deserving officers? We know that Government is extremely particular in respect of discipline. We do not understand, however, how it expects subordinate Anglo-Indian officers to show proper respect to superior Indian officers when such contemptuous comparisons are being instituted to the detriment of the latter. We understand that the matter has already drawn the attention of the Senior Member of the Executive Council, and we sincerely trust that the Hon'ble Mr. Maude, at any rate, will see to the removal of this invidious colour line. The present arrangements cannot stand in the name of justice, equity and good conscience.

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ALL-ORISSA BENGALI SETTLERS' CONFERENCE

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FIRST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

THE second All-Orissa Bengalee Settlers' Conference was held on March 30th in the Municipal Gardens, Cuttack. The spacious pandal was very tastefully decorated. About 1500 delegates and visitors from every district, subdivision and village attended. European officials, members of the executive, judicial and educational services also attended. A special feature of the conference was that quite a goodly number of Brahma and parda ladies were present. The Secretary of the Association Mr. J. N. Bose, Babu Ramsankar Roy, Chairman and members of the Reception Committee and volunteers clad in gay uniforms conducted the president elect, Rai Bahadur Harendra Narayan Roy Mohashay M. A. to the dais amidst vociferous cheers. The proceedings opened with a concert and a song of benediction sung by Pandit Sarat Chandra Bandopadhyaya and a song specially composed for the occasion by Babu Lalit Chandra Mitra of Calcutta and sung by a choir of Bengalee boys and girls trained to music by Babu Jyotish Chandra Sen. The Chairman in a felicitous speech welcomed the delegates and visitors. Rai Bahadur Janakinath Bose in proposing the president referred to the fact that his ancestors came to Orissa five centuries ago and alluded to the many acts of public service done by him and his ancestors. Maulvi Abdus Samad in seconding the election of the president referred to the great part played by the Bengalees in Orissa. Letters and telegrams of sympathy received from several gentlemen including the Maharajadhiraj of Burdwan were read out by Mr. J. N. Bose. The president then delivered a most thoughtful and impressive speech. He dwelt on the present condition of the Bengalees domiciled in Orissa and indicated lines of future action. Resolutions about the success of British arms, expressing sorrow at the untimely death of Babu Jagadish Chandra Roy Choudhury and welcoming the announcement of the Secretary of State about the goal of British rule in India were put from the chair and carried. Great enthusiasm and perfect unanimity prevailed throughout.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

Before the second day's proceedings began Mr. J. N. Bose read out the letters and telegrams of sympathy from Sir Rabindranath Tagore, Babu Motilal Ghosh, Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Singh, Kumar Santisekhar Rai, Kumar Manmatha Nath De and others. About two thousand people of all communities attended. Resolutions (1) for representation by non-official Bengali members in the Patna University and the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council, (2) for the re-

union of Orissa with Bengal on the basis of linguistic, technological, religious and other affinities, facilities of communication with Calcutta and for the advantages derived so long from the University and the High Court of Calcutta (3) for equal treatment with the Oriya of all communities domiciled in Orissa in the matter of Government appointments and educational scholarships (4) for the private manufacture of salt (5) for promoting the study of Bengali literature and (6) for the starting of co-operative credit societies were eloquently moved and seconded by Bengali, Mahomedan, Telegu and Oriya gentlemen and enthusiastically carried. Rai Janakinath Bose Bahadur read out the list of several scholarships given to deserving students by the Association. The usual vote of thanks and the song by girls concluded the sitting of the Conference.

Mr. J. N. Bose was 'At Home' in the Conference pandal and the visitors and the delegates were treated with music and light refreshment and quite an enjoyable evening was spent.

On the invitation of Rai Bahadur Harendra Narayan Rai Mohashay the Conference sits next year at Balasore. The President entertained the volunteers and workers to a sumptuous dinner in the evening.

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Application with copies of certificates will be received by the undersigned up to 15th April 1918.

G. MILNE.

RANCHI, } Director of Agriculture,
The 22nd March 1918. } Bihar and Orissa.

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