

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Feb. 9, 1918.

THE ECONOMISING OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Some very striking figures relating to collegiate instruction in this province were brought out in the course of the interpellations at the last meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council. The number of students in the six first-grade colleges in the Province and their proportion to the teaching staff, as gathered from the statements furnished in reply to a question by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath, may be conveniently shown in the following table:—

College.	No. on the staff.	No. of pupils.	Average Number of students per Professor and Lecturer.
Patna College	32	476	14'8
Ravenshaw College	27	557	20'6
Greer B.B. College	16	325	20'3
B. N. College	20	700	35'0
T. N. J. College	20	660	33'0
St. Columba's College	12	201	16'6

The number of students who were refused admission to these colleges owing to inadequacy of teaching staff or to want of accommodation, as given to the same member, is as follows:—

Patna College ...	71
T. N. J. College (including 73 who did not apply formally) ...	143
Greer B. B. College ...	60
St. Columba's College ...	15
B. N. College ...	5

The figure for the Ravenshaw College is not given. The true significance of these figures, however, appears only on comparison with the corresponding figures of expenditure incurred in these colleges as well as those showing the college results at the University Examinations.

The total direct expenditure on these colleges in 1916-17 and the cost per student have been compiled in the following table from the First Quinquennial Review of the Progress of Education in Bihar and Orissa:—

College.	Total cost.		No. of pupils.	Cost per student.		
	Rs.	Rs.		As.	P.	
Patna College	1,28,403	382	317	0	9	
Ravenshaw	1,13,796	475	233	3	0	
Greer B. B.	36,871	270	128	0	5	
St. Columba's	26,556	183	137	9	6	
B. N. College	42,226	588	74	11	9	
T. N. J. College	44,191	621	71	2	7	

The number of students sent up to the University Examinations in 1916-17 from each of these colleges and the number of successful candidates as given in the Quinquennial Review are as follows:—

College.	Examinations.							
	I. A.		I. Sc.		B. A.		B. Sc.	
	St.	Pd.	St.	Pd.	St.	Pd.	St.	Pd.
Patna Coll.	71	40	44	29	52	36	18	16
Ravenshaw	133	71	47	31	65	38	9	7
Greer College	82	26	...	...	54	23	...	...
St. Columba's	44	22	6	6	33	16	...	...
B.N. College	235	62	39	12	77	31	8	4
T. N. Jubilee	197	105	35	24	101	46	...	...

An examination of these statistics gives rise to the uncomfortable feeling that the province is not after all getting the best value for its money. The Patna College, we find in the Quinquennial Review, is capable of teaching 510 students. It will be found that the actual number it is teaching is only 476 and that inspite of the fact that it was capable to teach 34 students more, 71 students seeking admission were rejected. But the most important question is why the Patna College which annually costs more than the total direct expenditure incurred in the three aided colleges in the Province should teach only less than a third of the total number of students receiving instruction in those colleges. What is the speciality in the outturn of work in that college which should make it necessary that the cost per student in that college should be so much in excess of that in other colleges? What is the peculiarity of teaching in the Patna College that the average teacher should have only 14 pupils to teach while in a sister Government College, a teacher with the same qualifications, and belonging to the same service should have to teach 20 pupils? What valuable contribution to the world's knowledge has been made by the members of the Patna College staff who are thus specially favoured? It does not infrequently happen that even with this staff the Professors sometimes do not finish half the prescribed courses. As regards the quality of teaching as evinced by the percentage of passes, the following table calculated on the results of the 1916-17 examinations will show at a glance that this pampered institution does not necessarily show the best percentage and that even where it does, its superiority is not at all commensurate with the huge difference in cost:—

College.	Percentage of Passes at Examinations.			
	I. A.	I. Sc.	B. A.	B. Sc.
Patna College	56'33	65'90	69'23	88'88
Ravenshaw "	52'63	65'95	60'31	77'77
Greer "	31'70	...	42'59	...
St. Columba's "	50'00	100'00	48'48	...
B. N. College	26'38	30'76	40'25	50'00
T. N. J. College	53'3	68'57	45'54	...

All these figures fully demonstrate the fact that though there ought to be a limit beyond which the number of pupils in a college should not exceed regard being had to the strength of the staff, the Patna College certainly is overmanned and should fairly be required to teach at least double the number that it is at present doing. If want of accommodation be pleaded, inspite of the palatial buildings and lavish equipments, the system which has been recently adopted in some of the Calcutta colleges should be introduced without delay.

This means that in addition to the classes which are held during the usual college hours, duplicate classes will be held for another set of students in the morning hours and in the evening. So far as the morning hours are concerned, there could be no manner of objection to the procedure for it would be found most in conformity not only with the traditional methods of instruction in this land but from the point of view of climate and health as well. Moreover even at the present day, morning classes are held in several of the professional colleges in India without its being felt as an inconvenience either by the students or the masters. With regard to the evening classes, there are some well-founded objections as it would interfere with the students taking part in games and sports. To obviate this difficulty we might so arrange that any one set of students will get their evening classes on alternate days. The new arrangement, if it does not entail any heavy additional strain upon the members of the staff,

deserves a good trial as with the existing number of colleges, double the present number of students could be accommodated. This experiment has been tried in the United States of America and is known as the Gary Duplicate plan. The idea underlying this is that it is a waste to allow the fine and expensive buildings to remain empty for a major portion of the day, for the community can get the full value of the money spent by making use of them for all hours of the day. In America, we learn that the system is not confined to Gary alone but is being tried and adopted in other places also. We are told that in New York City after less than a year of trial those who control the finances urged the adoption of the plan for the whole City. In England also suggestions are being made to adopt this plan for the half-time continuation classes of boys between the ages of 14 and 8. Our province also might begin the experiment on a limited scale.

The Indian ideal of the pupils' mode of life was one of *Brahmacharya* and renunciation. How far we are wise in turning the heads of our younger generation with the luxurious and princely style affected by modern schemes of education is a question which we need not discuss here. It is obvious however that in the midst of the universal cry for economy, our students do not derive the best lessons on thrift from the almost stupid extravagance which seems to be rife in some of our highest educational institutions.

THE FAILURE OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

Nearly four years have elapsed since the Government of India published an elaborate resolution on the history of sanitation in India since the year 1859. Almost simultaneously did the Imperial Government earmark to all the Provincial Administrations annual recurring grants for sanitation and the sanitary services as a supplement to the substantial non-recurring grants of the previous three years. So far as this province is concerned, how the money received by this extraordinary windfall was spent is not at all clear, though from the figures given in reply to a question by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath at the last Council meeting, it would seem that out of a total Imperial grant for sanitation of Rs. 29,85,000 in the five years ending 1916-17, a sum of Rs. 23,05,000 has been spent leaving a balance of Rs. 6,80,000. Similarly, out of the total grant of Rs. 1,56,000 for sanitary services during these five years, the amount spent is Rs. 1,36,000, leaving a balance of Rs. 20,000.

Yet what has been the progress in sanitation during these five years? Plague is as bad as ever and though the earlier years of the quinquennium showed a substantial difference on the right side between births and deaths, the rate of mortality seems to have steadily increased in the closing years, so much so that the mortality last year was actually higher than that which prevailed in malaria-stricken Bengal.

The cause of this is not far to seek. The official explanation of the slow progress of sanitary reform is the ignorance and perversity of the uneducated masses, whose "apathy, fatalism and resentment of interference", we are told, "constituted a formidable obstacle to all sanitary progress." "In the land of the ox-cart, one must not expect the pace of the motor car." This characteristic confession sums up in a nutshell the result of the millions gone.

But may we ask, what can be expected of a people, the majority of whom cannot get a single full meal in a day? With slow starvation

eternally facing them, they see no way out of sickness and premature death. And it is suggested for these people that they must live in sanitary quarters and in clean and healthy localities; they must fill up their tanks and cut down their trees, even though they cannot get food for subsistence and even if these trees and tanks are their only stores of food and drink! No wonder the people are apathetic! And if they resent interference, they do so because they cannot tolerate the irony of attending to the external wants of the system while the triling internal wants of hunger and thirst remain unsatisfied. They also resent official interference about their health, because the sanitary laws are in their element in a prison or an army barrack, but prison or army discipline is not exactly suitable to the antiquated ideas of comfort and freedom that obtain among the people.

The resolution of the Government of India pointed out three conditions essential for all schemes of sanitation. Sanitary reform, it was laid down, in order to be successful

(1) "must rest on a knowledge of the people, their conditions of life, their prejudices, social customs and habits, their surroundings and financial means; and must secure their co-operation;

(2) "must recognise the diversity of local conditions in a country which includes numerous communities, castes and creeds and which exhibits almost every variety of climate, temperature, humidity and level of sub-soil water, and

(3) "its introduction must be preceded by preliminary local surveys, inquiry or experiment."

The efforts of Government in this province, we fear, have not satisfied the requisites mentioned above. In fact, sanitary work in this province seems to have been carried on more by fits and starts than in pursuance of a deliberate and systematically worked policy. The recent experiment of a Publicity Bureau, for example, affords a good illustration of our contention. One fine day, it enters the head of some person that a Publicity Bureau was the thing wanted. The necessary expense is sanctioned, a Superintendent is appointed to organise the Bureau, the Bureau starts work and bids fair to be a complete success when another fine morning, the bubble bursts, the Superintendent goes and the Bureau vanishes in the air, and another unfulfilled project is added to the long list of good intentions with which the path of sanitary progress seems to be paved.

The constitution, prospects and functions of the sanitary services are also typical of the extremely perfunctory manner in which the whole question has been treated. We have in a recent issue shown some of the grievances under which the sanitary services appear to labour. Apart from the troubles attendant on appointment and confirmation and from the question of pay and prospects, we have grave doubts whether there is any clear idea on the part of the authorities of the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy Sanitary Commissioners and the Health Officers. In reply to a question by the Hon'ble Mr. S. K. Sahay at the meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council held on the 12th December last, the Hon'ble Mr. Sifton said:—

"The functions of the Sanitary Department are chiefly of an advisory nature, the Department being open to consultation by Government Officers and local bodies on any questions relating to water-works, drainage, conservancy, town-planning, public health and the like subjects. The administration of vaccination and the collation of vital statistics is also entrusted to the Department. The Sanitary Engineer ins-

pects the existing sanitary engineering works and makes recommendations regarding their administration and maintenance."

If to give advice gratis is the be-all and end-all of the existence of sanitary officers, why blame them when there is no progress? They are only to offer advice and do nothing else. They are only so many walking dictionaries of sanitation, to be looked up only when there is doubt. There being no responsibilities, no responsible work can be demanded, much less an observance of the three great conditions laid down by the Government of India. Is it a wonder that the Department is a failure?

THE PATNA MUNICIPAL BUDGET.

The draft budget of the Patna City Municipality for the year 1918-19 shows that the Municipality will commence its work for the year with a probable balance of Rs. 51,976 including Rs. 10,711 of the Latrine Fund, the Government grant of Rs. 25,000 for construction of slaughter houses, Rs. 9,781 of the general fund, Rs. 5,000 as the unspent balance of the flushing scheme and some other sundry items. The total collections during the year 1918-19 of the dues current and arrears together with the above-mentioned balance at the commencement are estimated at Rs. 7,77,533; but the sanctioned estimate for the current year is shown at Rs. 9,65,953 and we find an actual collection of Rs. 7,75,565 made during the past nine months. The most important items under the head of receipts are tax on houses and land and latrine fees. The former is expected to bring into the coffers of the Municipality at the existing rate Rs. 1,46,000 including Rs. 12,000, the arrears of the current year, and the latter Rs. 74,000 inclusive of arrears. Under the head of expenditure the estimate for the coming year shows a capital outlay of Rs. 2,81,534 on the proposed water-works and of Rs. 1,15,795, on flushing scheme. The cost of cleansing public and private latrines is estimated at Rs. 13,975, lighting at Rs. 24,503, establishment for collection of taxes at Rs. 10,517, Health Officer's pay Rs. 3,825, road cleaning Rs. 37,270, road watering Rs. 9,973, construction of markets and slaughter houses Rs. 30,500, public instruction Rs. 11,516, public works including the establishment and construction and repair of roads, etc. Rs. 67,348, payment to sinking fund Rs. 23,627 and repayment of loans Rs. 12,000, besides some minor items. The total expenditure is thus estimated at Rs. 7,57,338 which is expected to leave a balance surplus of Rs. 20,225 at the end of the year. Commenting on this, the *Express* in a leading article says:—

"The budget, in spite of the generosity of the Municipality in paying its servants, clearly proves that the collections for the year will be more than sufficient to cover all expenses including the capital outlays for the proposed water-works and the flushing scheme and will leave a surplus in its hands of more than twenty thousand rupees. Under such circumstances the proposal to raise the taxes still further and extort additional money from the starving people in these hard times is simply preposterous. The rate-payers are not getting half the adequate return for the payments they are already making in the shape of taxes. The Patna City Municipality has surely much greater need of the advice given to the District Boards by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in Council. We must impress upon the Commissioners the necessity of sound budgeting as the basis of their activities. There is reason to fear that

money is wasted in some cases by chimerical projects and in others by want of or insufficient supervision over the works of the subordinate staff. There should not be any indecent haste to pass a bill for payment at the close of the financial year, and it is well that some of the Commissioners have given notice that payment of sums above five hundred should not be made without the sanction of the general meeting. In the words of His Honour in Council we have to say that 'the root of these defects is to be found in a defective system of budgeting. There is too great a readiness to accept any scheme proposed without proper examination of its real necessity and ultimate cost.' By way of illustration we may mention two proposals which are awaiting sanction of the Commissioners. One is to purchase a steam launch at an enormous cost for the purpose of throwing night soil into the Ganges in the rainy season. Not to mention that it is revolting to religious sentiments of the Hindu population of the town who use the water for Divine worship and other religious purposes, a pollution of the water which is drunk at least by half the people of the town will lead to serious injury to their health. It is therefore to be hoped that the members of the Committee appointed to consider this project will have sense enough to put their veto to it. [N. B.—This has been vetoed.—Ed., B. H.] The other scheme is in connection with the improvement of the drainage. We are surprised that a proposal could seriously be made to throw away Rs. 25,000 as initial cost and Rs. 3,500 annually on a temporary improvement of the main drain. It has been proposed that pending the permanent construction of the whole outlet drain which may take another few years or more, the sullage water from Peerbahore and Bankipur Wards may be collected in a swamp at some place near Sadiqpur road from where it could be lifted up by steam pump, treated into filter to purify it and given to the cultivators for irrigation of fields or discharged into the same drain below Sadiqpur. The idea of spending so much of the hard-earned money of the rate-payers on only a temporary improvement seems to be on the face of it most objectionable and we hope the Commissioners will set their face against it."

THE NECESSITY OF FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

SPECIAL FOR THE BEHAR HERALD.

I.

In the course of a leading article that recently appeared in the *Behar Herald*, it was stated that "the number of public primary schools in Bihar and Orissa decreased from 23,950 in 1912-13 to 23,402 in 1915-16 and the number of scholars in them from 674,496 to 643,117. Similarly in the case of private institutions, the number declined in these four years from 2,657 to 2,217 accompanied by a corresponding fall in the number of scholars from 38,416 to 35,525." In the first Quinquennial Review on the progress of education in Bihar and Orissa which deals with the period from 1st April, 1912, to 31st March, 1917, the number of primary schools in the province is shown to have increased from 21,591 in 1911-12 to 23,402 in 1915-16 and 24,413 in 1916-17 while the number of scholars also shows an increase from 597,910 in 1911-12 to 643,117 in 1915-16 and 672,332 in 1916-17. This seeming contradiction in the two sets of figures having aroused our curiosity, we went into a careful examination of all the official statistics available. The Quinquennial Review is

absolutely silent on the state of things in 1912-13, 1913-14, and 1914-15. It gives the figures for 1911-12 and takes a big jump to 1915-16. This is unsatisfactory, as the report obviously does not indicate the actual curve of the progress achieved in each of the five years under review.

This feature of the Quinquennial Review, though hardly desirable, is certainly not its worst. We have found on comparing the tables given in the Review with earlier statistics, serious discrepancies which have not been properly explained. The figures for 1911-12 were separately given in the Fourth Quinquennial Review of the progress of education in Bengal for the period from 1907-08 to 1911-12. The number of primary schools in this province in 1911-12 was shown there as 23,249 and the number of scholars as 645,417. True, as has been pointed out in the Bihar Quinquennial Review, these figures for 1911-12 included those of the Feudatory States of Orissa which have been excluded from the Bihar Review. But we find on inspection that the figures of only 12 out of 19 States were taken, and that the total number of primary schools in these States was 141 and the number of scholars reading in these schools was 5193. (Vide Fourth Quinquennial Review of Education in Bengal, p. xvi, General Table III, cols. 10 and 11). Deducting these figures from the grand total, we find that there were in 1911-12, 23,108 primary schools in Bihar and Orissa and the number of scholars in these schools was 640,224. These figures are certainly much higher than those shown for 1911-12 in the Bihar and Orissa Quinquennial Review, and if correct, would show the progress of primary education in the province during the quinquennium to be much more modest than it is stated to be. Similarly in the report on the progress of education in Bihar and Orissa for 1912-13 the number of primary schools is shown in General Table III to be 23,940 and the number of pupils 674,287. These figures tally approximately with those quoted in the *Behar Herald* article. The number of primary schools in the Native States as given in col. 10 of the table was 208, and the number of scholars in these 208 schools was 5,816 (vide col. 11). Allowing for these figures, the number of primary schools in Bihar and Orissa proper in 1912-13 was 23,732 and the scholars in these primary schools numbered 668,471. If these statements again are correct there has not certainly been much progress since 1912-13, at any rate till 1915-16.

The figures shown in the *Behar Herald* are apparently taken from the Statistics of British India, Vol. V, Education, ninth issue, 1915-16. That excellent compilation gives the figures for the four years 1912-13 to 1915-16. There is some discrepancy between the figures given in the Imperial Tables and those found in the Provincial Reports. There is a slight variation, as we have already shown, between the two statistics in respect of the year 1912-13. For 1913-14, the difference is greater, for the number of primary schools and that of the scholars in them are given in the Imperial table as 24,354 and 689,529 while the Annual Report of the Province shows them as 22,681 and 633,253. The Feudatory States have been specifically excluded. Taking the Provincial figures, the fall in the progress is distinctly noticeable. The figures for 1914-15 are identical in both the Imperial and Provincial Tables being 23,408 schools and 650,426 scholars. There is however some divergence in the two statistics in respect of 1915-16, the provincial statistics returning 23,391 scholars and 642,765 scholars as against 23,402 and 642,117 in the Imperial figures, which so far as that year is concerned, have been affirmed in the Quinquennial Review.

Now, if there was a systematic variance between the Imperial and the Provincial figures we could probably arrive at some explanation,

notwithstanding that none is offered. It will be seen, however, that there is no method in this statistical madness; sometimes one set of figures is shown for a particular year while a different set is shown for that very year in some later report, and, what is still more amazing, some still later report will go back to the original figures. No wonder that one is confused and lost in this wilderness of conflicting statistics. The fact remains, however, that in the Statistical Abstract of British India, primary education in Bihar and Orissa has been shown to have retrogressed during the four years 1912-13 to 1915-16. The recently published Quinquennial Review, though silent on the point, shows from a comparison of the figures for 1911-12 with those for 1915-16 and 1916-17 that there was apparently some progress. How the figures given for 1911-12 were reached is not quite clear, those that we could gather being quite different and pointing to a contrary conclusion in the matter of the progress of primary education in the province. We have not thought it necessary to go into a detailed comparison of the figures for what are classed in the statistics as private institutions. The comparison that we have made relates only to the figures for Upper and Lower Primary Schools for boys and girls, which are classed in the statistics as Primary schools.

It is not necessary, however, to labour the point any further, our object being only to expose the pitfalls of statistical generalisation. So far as the progress of primary education is concerned, it is nowhere claimed to be anything remarkable, numerically. It is in fact admitted in the Government Resolution on the Quinquennial Review that the returns for 1915-16 showed a decrease of 106 schools and 9,350 pupils. Though the figures for the last year show an increase of 221 schools and 9,436 boys, it is feared that there may be a fresh relapse in the current year. In the Review itself, dissatisfaction has been expressed in no uncertain terms at the condition of primary education, specially such as is supposed to be imparted through Lower Primary Schools. The small increase that has been shown practically means no improvement, for in working out the percentage of scholars to the population of school-going age, the figures for population of the Census of 1911 have been taken. In reality, however, the population of the Province must have increased a great deal in the last seven years. It will be seen from the last Census report that there has been a net increase of 36.2 per cent in the population in the period from 1872 to 1911. This gives an average increase of .92 per cent each year. It must be noted that the last two decades were an exceptionally bad period for population. Yet the increase in the last decade was 5.1 which gives an average increase of .51 every year. Taking the figures of births and deaths, during the four years ending 1915-16, we find that there was a steady increase in the population, which can be clearly seen from the following table:—

Year.	Rate of births per mille.	Rate of deaths per mille.	Increase in population per mille.
1912-13	42.52	31	11.52
1913-14	42.10	29.14	12.96
1914-15	42.3	28.3	14
1915-16	40.4	32.2	8.2

Making due allowance for inaccuracies in the registration of vital occurrences, and also for emigration, the average rate of increase in the population may be safely taken as one per cent annually. The population of the area under report was 34,490,084 according to the Census of 1911. In the last seven years, even on the modest calculation that we have just made, the population must have increased by nearly two-and-

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a-half millions, a fact which should always be borne in mind in considering the percentage of scholars to the population of the school-going age as well as in computing the actual number of population of school-going age, for, it must be remembered, we have before us a legislative programme dealing with the subject and that therefore we are not just now so much concerned in showing ourselves off by statistical jugglery, as we are in devising a constructive and practicable scheme based on the most reliable and up to date figures.

NOTES.

Pestering the Premier.

From the latest communication it appears that Lord Sydenham "in person privately presented" a certain "Madras memorial" protesting against the release of Mrs. Besant and "the humiliation of Provincial Governments", to Mr. Lloyd George. There is nothing to be surprised at in that. If a man in Lord Sydenham's position chooses to pester the Prime Minister in this manner, we presume he has got to be put up with as an unavoidable nuisance. How importunate the "Indo-Britishers" must have been is shown by the statement that "owing to his manifold engagements" Mr. Lloyd George had to decline to receive the "formal deputation" into which Lord Sydenham's henchmen were anxious to constitute themselves.

* * *

Fiscal Autonomy.

The communication which Sir Ibrahim Rahimutullah addressed sometime ago to the Secretary of State and the Viceroy on the question of the defence of India, is of considerable interest, as embodying the views of a representative Indian who has been called to a high position in the Government of his presidency. In his letter, Sir Ibrahim puts forward a strong plea for fiscal autonomy. "India produces from her soil," says he, "a super-abundant supply of raw materials of varying kinds and has an enormous demand for manufactured goods. Its natural advantages for developing into a large manufacturing country are great. It ought not to be difficult with the unrestricted powers of her Government, to organise means to bring about the industrial development of India, which will result not only in supplying to a large extent her own requirements but also enable her to export her manufactured goods to other countries. For this purpose, full fiscal autonomy is necessary." The *raison d'être* of fiscal freedom is embodied in a nutshell in these words. Moreover, it has also to be borne in mind that a country which exports her raw materials and is content to import manufactured goods against such exports, cannot in the very nature of things, stand in competition in matters of economic development with other countries working on a different basis.

* * *

The Defence of India.

Sir Ibrahim Rahimutullah makes very pertinent observations on the subject of the defence of India. He urges in forcible terms the improvement of the defence of India, both military and naval. "There is a super-abundance of man-power in India," he remarks, "not only sufficient for the defence of the country, but also for the rest of the Empire. Most of the difficulties which Britain has had to contend with during the present war would never have arisen if full confidence had been reposed in the undoubted loyalty of India and a large Indian army had been trained for the defence of the Empire." The truth of these obser-

vations cannot be gain-said. The man-power resources of India have not yet been tapped to the fullest advantage. The standing European Army is a heavy charge on the Indian tax-payer, which may well be curtailed without in any way interfering with efficiency and strength by organising a fairly large Indian army. What India wants for her defence is the nationalisation of both the Army and the Navy, so that their maintenance will not mean a heavy drain on her slender resources. With political freedom, fiscal autonomy and a national army and navy, India will really be the bulwark of strength of Great Britain and the Empire.

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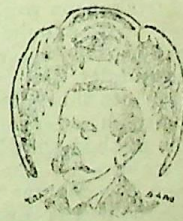
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The Kumbh Mela.

In view of the great importance of the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad and the special sanctity of February 11th the Government have decided to remove the prohibition on the sale of railway tickets for Allahabad and neighbourhood by the ordinary trains on February 8, 9, 10 and 11. It will not be possible in view of the grave difficulties of the railways at the present time and the urgent military necessity to run any special trains into Allahabad. The additional numbers brought into Allahabad in consequence of the removal of the prohibition of February 8, 9, 10 and 11 will of course increase the difficulties of providing means for the pilgrims to leave Allahabad and it will only be possible to provide the means gradually. The Railway Board will do all in their power but the number of tickets available each day for those who wish to leave Allahabad by train must be limited by the number of trains which it is found possible to run.

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Campaign Against Malaria.

The campaign against malaria outlined in the recent speech of His Excellency the Governor of Bengal will receive the whole-hearted support of every section of the Bengali community. His Excellency's speech in itself will have a most stimulating and beneficial effect upon the public in making it realise the vital importance of co-operation in the matter. That malaria is the most virulent of all the diseases which afflict the people of Bengal is well known. The statistics quoted by His Excellency will amply bear out this statement. Malaria is responsible for 350,000 to 400,000 deaths in Bengal every year. At least a hundred attacks of malaria occur for every death; and accordingly the disease is responsible for 200,000,000 days of sickness in the Presidency every year. Its special finger, as Lord Ronaldshay very truly remarked, may also be traced in the diminution of the birthrate as well as in the increase of the deathrate with the result that in the most malarious districts the population shows a serious decline.

Such being the situation, any campaign that may be started to mitigate the fury of the disease must have full and cordial support. Government has not been quite idle in the past. Research and investigation have been undertaken on well-defined lines. It has been proved that anopheles and malaria flourish together, and that if the former can be got rid of, the latter will gradually die out. The malaria problem thus resolves into this: it is necessary to bring about conditions adverse to the breeding of mosquitoes. The method that has been most successful is what is known as the Magra Hat scheme. Some years ago the country between Magra Hat and Diamond Harbour was little better than a swamp. The health of the people in consequence was deplorable. A well-planned scheme of drainage has now changed the aspect of the country. Not only has the health of the people improved, but a set of excellent communications in the shape of navigable channels has been provided.

Government has prepared three schemes, all on the same general lines as the Magra Hat scheme, for the districts of Nadia, Jessore and the 24 Parganas. Considerable areas are covered by these schemes, and the outlay is estimated at Rs. 8,00,000, Rs. 1,72,000 and Rs. 10,00,000, respectively. It is proposed to execute the projects with the machinery of the Sanitary Drainage Act. The Government of Bengal will make substantial grants, and the people who will be directly benefited are expected to finance the schemes by loans in accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act. One of the merits of the scheme is that it will, within a compa-

ratively short time, more than repay the expenditure incurred. It is hoped the District Boards concerned will take up the schemes without delay. Two of the districts affected by the scheme have been granted the privilege of electing non-official Chairmen of the District Board; and Lord Ronaldshay made an appropriate appeal to them in the following words:—

"Am I then claiming too much when I say that by inviting their assistance in this matter, I am providing them with an admirable opportunity of making memorable in the annals of their districts their assumption of the cares and responsibilities of their new office?"

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

There has been a recrudescence of searches and arrests at Bhagalpur. What with these, and the outbreak of plague, Bhagalpur must have been having a merry time of it.

THE Bhagalpur correspondent of the *Patrika* writes that Professor Kriplani was released on the 28th ultimo before the expiry of his term. By the way, the *Patrika* seems to have committed a mistake in thinking that the Professor was convicted at Bhagalpur, the fact being that the trial took place at Motihari.

THE *Mithila Mihir* relates the following:— "Recently the raiyats of the Belwa concern in the district of Champaran submitted a petition to the Magistrate in which several allegations were made against the proprietor of the concern. The Magistrate found the allegations to be false and ordered the applicants to be prosecuted under section 182 I.P.C. On the day fixed for the hearing, the accused appeared in court with their witnesses. When the Deputy Magistrate found that the accused could not be prosecuted under section 182 I.P.C., he let them off on their paying Rs. 10 each to the War Fund."

THE first grade scholarships awarded on the result of the last Intermediate Examination in Arts and Science to Saradindu Mohan Ghoshal of Ravenshaw College and Susil Krishna Mallick of St. Columba's College have been cancelled and awarded to Bimal Chandra Guha and Atul Muzaffar Abdulla of the T. N. Jubilee College. The second grade scholarships which had been awarded to these students are now awarded to Baldeodas Jhunjunwala and Ashrafi Misra of the same college. The special scholarship of Rs. 7 for Mahomedan students which had been awarded to Samsuddin Ahmad of Patna College is now awarded to Saiyid Abdur Rahman of that college. Why?

BANDHUA, as it is locally called, is the only popularly celebrated festival among the Santhals in Dumka. The date for its celebration is fixed by the Deputy Commissioner some time in the month of January every year. For this festival the Santhals for a period of 4 days or so are given the liberty of every sort of merry-making among the members of their community and are allowed to prepare Pachoi—an intoxicating beverage to the extent of their consumption for that period. They are further exempted from the service of any legal or other processes upon them. No case or suit, to which a Santhal is a party, is fixed for hearing

during this period. In fact the Courts are supposed to be closed for them except that they can move the Magistrate for taking cognisance of offences committed against them.

ON Monday last the Full Bench of the Patna High Court consisting of the Chief Justice and Justices Chapman, Mullick, Roe and Atkinson delivered separate but concurring judgments in the Habeas Corpus application questioning the power of the Governor-General in Council to constitute Special Tribunals. All the Judges agreed in rejecting the application, holding that the Governor-General in Council had such power. In winding up his judgment the Chief Justice said:—"Apart from the High Courts it would be difficult at the present day to find any court in this country which does not owe its existence to an Act of the Indian Legislative as an executive act of the Governor-General. Were we to decide that such acts are *ultra vires*, practically the whole administration of justice in British India would cease to exist. The decision arrived at makes it unnecessary to consider the question which was raised as ancillary to the main question namely whether this Court has jurisdiction to issue a writ of *habeas corpus*, and that point I leave undecided."

THE replies elicited in answer to questions put by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Sarat Chandra Sen, in the Legislative Council make it much more difficult to understand why the Government should have thought fit to station a Subordinate Judge at Dhanbad, in spite of public protest and criticism. It appears that in 1917, 45 suits above the value of Rs. 200, were instituted from Dhanbad. During the same year, 37 Sub-Judge suits coming from Champaran were tried at Muzafferpur. But we have yet to hear of any Subordinate Judge being posted in Champaran on that account. From the point of view of the Government a Subordinate Judge is so urgently required at Dhanbad that the Sub-divisional Officer has now to hold his court in the Town Hall in order to provide for the accommodation required by the court and office of the Subordinate Judge. All this for the sake of the colliery managers who 5 times in 1916 and 6 times in 1917, had to take the trouble of coming to Purulia to give evidence in suits instituted from Dhanbad.

By way of contrast, we may notice that in spite of a numerous signed petition (none of the signatories unfortunately were colliery managers) the continuance of the morning courts, the High Court abolished them at Patna. The Government are probably right in placing the responsibility for the decision on the High Court. But the public would have been thankful to the Government, if in answer to Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narain Sinha's questions, some indication had been given of the reasons that led the High Court to prescribe a special rule for Patna while in most of the other districts, morning courts continue to be held as before. As we are quite sure that the temperature of Patna has not gone down with the establishment of the High Court, we entirely fail to understand upon what minute balancing of "relative advantages and drawbacks", a long established practice against which no complaint had ever been made was departed from.

WE are glad to learn that the proposal for the raising of fees in the Temple Medical school has not yet been accepted by Government. The dearth of qualified medical practitioners in this province is serious. In our opinion no fresh barriers should be put in the way of medical education of

the people of this province. As to the higher scale of fees for students from other Provinces, we very much doubt, if there is any instance of the regulation of fees in an educational institution on a racial basis. We sincerely hope not. It cannot be contended that if a few students come from other provinces for the purposes of medical education to fill vacant seats the staff and the number of teachers in the Temple Medical School will have to be increased. The more qualified medical practitioners we have, the better it will be for the country. We trust the policy of the Government will be directed to that end. In this connection we should like to invite the attention of the Government to the fact, that in 1916-17 only three and in 1917-18 only four students passed out, while the figures for the previous two years were 11 and 21 respectively. This sudden drop in the number of successful students can only be due to the raising of the standard of examination. In our view any increase in the stiffness of the examination without a corresponding expansion of the field of recruitment is to be deprecated. Unfortunately the proposed increase in the scale of fees, coming pat with the sudden jump in the standard of examinations, affords very little ground for the belief that the authorities really want more Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

MAHATMA GANDHI IN CHAPRA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The 27th of January will ever remain a red letter day in the annals of the Saran District as it was on that date that Mahatma Gandhi paid a visit to Chapra. Previous to his coming a reception committee, with Babu Lakshmi Prasad as Chairman and Babu Vinayachal Prasad as Secretary was formed to make arrangements for the reception of the distinguished guest. Since two or three days preceding the 27th, people from the District and from Ballia, Ghazipur and Gorakhpur began to pour in and as it was impossible to accommodate the people under any Shamiana the open space in front of the Mathia of Rhamdhyam Dass was fixed for the purpose. The news had spread so rapidly that Mr. Gandhi began to receive tremendous ovations at every station from Hajipur upwards. The big zemindars of Sonapur and a very large number of the peasants assembled at the station and offered flowers in cart load. Several gentlemen from Chapra had also gone to receive him at the Sonapur station. At Chapra Kutchery thousands of people assembled at the train time to give him an ovation. At Chapra station people began pouring in by 10-30 A.M. The station was fully packed up with gentlemen of the District, visitors and volunteers waving 'Red and Green flags.' There was not an inch of space left in the station yard or the over-bridge or outside the station within the station area. So much so that the line clear had to be carried over the roof of the carriages of the train. On the arrival of the train the Mahatma received a tremendous ovation. The station platform was literally covered with flowers. When he came out of the station a procession was formed which passed through all the important quarters of the town. Flowers were literally showered wherever he went. Artists were taken by enthusiastic persons, Marwaries, priests, and the common people.

Arches were erected everywhere in the town and the houses fully decorated. Ladies from the balconies showered flowers as Mr. Gandhi passed in the phaeton, unhorsed and drawn by pleaders, Mukhtears, Zemindars and the general public throughout the whole town. The lowest estimate of the procession is about fifty thousand which mostly consisted of people not only from the district but from Ballia, Ghazipur and Gorakhpur. At 2 p.m. the procession came to Babu Tappanarayan's Bungalow handsomely decorated and there he was duly received and Babu Tappanarayan's children sang songs of welcome. At 3 p.m. Mr. Gandhi attended the sessions of the first Provincial Moslem Conference. At 4-30 p.m. a meeting of the citizens of Chapra was held at which more than twenty thousands of people were present. The proceedings began with songs; then Babu Lakshmi Prasad delivered his address as Chairman of the reception committee in Hindi. In welcoming the distinguished guest he gave a short history of the political life of Bihar. He described how the peasantry of Bihar on account of their ignorance came into the clutches of the indigo planters and how Mahatma Gandhi had come to their rescue and with tact and ability he had freed them from the planters without displeasing the Government. Thereafter he gave a short sketch of the life of Mahatma Ji and of his tussle with the colonial Government in Africa. After this Mahatma Ji delivered his speech in Hindi. Mr. Gandhi on rising was loudly acclaimed and received a tremendous ovation. After thanking the public of Chapra for the reception they had accorded him he said there were two methods by which the various communities inhabiting India might be at peace. The first was by means of the sword; but this method was a failure as was apparent from the History of Europe. The second method was one of love and good will with every body and it was this method alone which was calculated to bring peace and plenty to the Indians. He asked the audience to fear none except God, to speak the truth and to hurt no one. He laid great stress on social service and said Self-Government could only be achieved by the aforesaid means and no other. In the evening Mahatma Gandhi paid a visit to the Gokhale Library and performed the opening ceremony of the "Swarajya Pustakalaya". There was also a meeting of "The Mahila Sabha," Chapra, at Mahatma Ji's residence at which he gave good advice to respectable ladies of the town. By the morning train on the following day Mahatma Ji left for Gopalganj. Again at every station he received ovation. At Sewan station people had assembled in very large numbers to do him honour. At Gopalganj several thousands of men were waiting to receive him and hear him. He delivered a very eloquent and inspiring address again emphasising the necessity of mercy and fearlessness. On his way back he had an interview with the Maharaja and the dowager Maharani of Hathwa who were waiting for him at Hathwa Raj House. He came back to Chapra in the evening.

While Mahatma Ji was at Gopalganj his noble wife paid visits to many respectable ladies at Chapra and gave them pieces of good advice. She also visited the Kanya Pathshala, the only institution here in which religious education forms a part of the curriculum. She was very pleased with the progress of the girls. On Tuesday the 29th, Mrs. Gandhi left for Motihari by Railway train and a large number of men assembled at the station to see her off. Mahatma Ji also left for Gandhua a village near Mashrakh in company of Mr. M. Haque and Babu Gorakh Prasad by motor. At Gandhua he addressed a meeting of the people of the locality and then left for Motihari amidst shouts of "Bande Mataram" and "Gandhi Maharaja Ki Jai."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

The public are advised that it has been found necessary to place a restriction on the booking by passenger train of packages exceeding one maund in weight each, to and from Subzimundi stations and the Chandni Chowk and Sudder Bazar City booking offices at Delhi. This restriction applies to public traffic only and not to Government and Military traffic and personal luggage booked as parcels.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
4th Feb. 1918. } *General Traffic Manager.*

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

With effect from 1st March 1918 the free time allowed for the removal of parcels at all stations on the East Indian Railway will be 48 hours from midnight of the date of arrival at destination instead of 7 days as at present. Parcels not removed within this limit of 48 hours will be subject to a wharfage charge at the rate of—

2 annas per package for first 24 hours or part thereof.

1 anna per package for each subsequent period of 24 hours or part thereof.

Sundays, Good Friday and X'mas day are considered as 'dies non.'

By order,
Calcutta, } C. M. PEARCE,
5th Feb. 1918. } *Genl. Traffic Manager.*

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

With immediate effect, the booking of the undermentioned commodities by passenger train as parcels or luggage is prohibited:—

Piece-goods
Gunny
Hides

Chillies
Ghee
Potatoes,

This restriction does not apply when such commodities are booked on account of the Military or other Government Departments.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
Dated 14th Jan. 1918. } *General Traffic Manager.*