

## The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Dec. 8, 1917.

### THE LAST MEETING OF THE BIHAR AND ORISSA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council, which had been left undisturbed to enjoy its deep and profound slumber amid the din and bustle caused by the anxious crisis through which we have been passing for the last six months, has at last awakened. The last meeting of the Council was not exactly a dumb-show, for it was the first time which witnessed the non-official European members ranged against Government. We are glad that the Hon'ble Mr. Maude did not mince matters but, as they say, "gave it hot" to the planters. The opposition of Mr. Jameson, who has supplanted Mr. Reid, was intelligible enough but some surprise was caused by the charge of Mr. Kennedy, the co-opted member, that the Government had ceased to govern and was prepared to follow the bidding of the agitators. There is however nothing astonishing in the spectacle of Mr. Kennedy, the ex-Congress stalwart, holding forth against the agitators, on the principle that recusants are always more violent than unbelievers. We should however strongly support the Hon'ble Mr. Gopabandhu Das's proposal that when Mr. Kennedy has been co-opted to voice the planters, in all fairness to the ryots, there should be one member to speak for them specially too. And they appear to be sorely in need of one, so far as we could judge from the silence of the Bihar members during the Champaran discussion. In this connection we draw prominent attention to a letter which we publish elsewhere, from an esteemed Bihari friend, who, it will be found, truly voices the public feeling on the subject. The only other non-official member that spoke was the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha who put the point very well when he turned round on the anti-agitators with the pertinent remark, "the educated classes were taunted with doing nothing for the masses, but when they did something, they were branded as agitators."

The Champaran Bill being referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Macpherson, the Hon'ble Mr. Morshead, the Hon'ble Mr. Jameson, the Hon'ble Mr. Kennedy, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha, the Hon'ble Babu Adit Prasad Singh, and the Hon'ble Mr. Maude, the mover of the Bill, the Council then proceeded to a discussion of the Santhal Parganas resolution moved by the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha. There has been some comment on the opposition of the Hon'ble Mr. Campbell to the modest proposal of appointing a committee for considering the desirability of bringing the administration of the Santhal Parganas into line with that of other districts. It is forgotten, however,

that the reverend gentlemen has for the better part of his noble mission lived and worked in a part which is exclusively inhabited by Santhals and aborigines, and his experience has been wholly restricted to the aborigines. He has probably no idea of the fact that in the so-called Santhal Parganas there are wide tracts in which there are very few Santhals, as for example, in the Deoghur Sub-division. It is not therefore to be expected of him, absorbed as he has been in his aborigines, that he would recognise at once that these other non-aboriginal subjects of the King, even admitting that they are a minority, are as much entitled to protection as anybody else. The tame discussion that followed was due to the crude ideas on the subject that seemed to be possessed by speakers on both sides. The two great planks in the Santhal Parganas administration, as was pointed out by the late Lieutenant-Governor in his reply to an address on the subject, are the non-transferability of agricultural holdings and the restriction by which interest payable on a debt is limited to an amount equal to the principal sum advanced. Though both these arrangements are unsound political economy they do not form the bone of contention. There are other features, however, of the non-regulation administration the continuance of which can hardly be justified. What can the Rev. Mr. Campbell say, for example, to the arrangement which gives executive officers untrained in civil law, e.g. a Deputy Magistrate drawing Rs. 250 per month, the right to try civil suits which only Subordinate Judges of proved experience are allowed to try? Can the honourable and reverend gentleman give us any reason why the aborigine, because he is an aborigine, should be deprived of the elementary right of the British subject to be defended by Counsel in a criminal case? Is there any reason why the Deputy Commissioner should choose what persons should have building leases of lands from Ghatwals? Yet that was actually done or tried to be done at Deoghur and Madhupur when a Deputy Commissioner tried to prevent Bengalis from settling there by refusing to sanction building leases. It is said that there has been no complaint. But who are to complain but men of the position of the Honourable members of the Provincial Legislative Council? So far as the illiterate masses are concerned, their complaints manifest themselves in objectionable shapes, which it is the duty of the wise administrator to prevent. Even on the matter of non-transferability of agricultural holdings and stock, the benefits of which are complacently regarded as undisputed, will the Government instruct the survey authorities to enquire into and report on the causes of the large number of abandonments that have taken place in recent years? We have every hope that the enquiry which the Government assured the mover of the resolution would be made by the survey authorities, if conducted on proper lines, is sure to establish the necessity of immediate reform in the obsolete methods of the Santhal Parganas administration.

Turning to the questions, we notice with pleasure their number and variety and, general-

ly, their importance. We find that Government acknowledge the stiffness of the last Medical Examinations. We are also pleased to note that the difficulties of Engineering and Medical students from this province are engaging the attention of Government and will in all probability be removed. We are not quite satisfied with the explanation of the dismissal of the two Professors of Mozaffarpur though we are glad to learn that they were given their pay up to the close of the vacation. We shall discuss in our next issue the other matters that came up in interpellation.

### PATNA MUNICIPAL METHODS.

A misunderstanding seems to prevail in certain quarters regarding our criticisms of Patna Municipal methods. It has been urged that our remarks are only destructive and discouraging and that we lack the fairness of acknowledging the good work done by Municipal officials while condemning their faults. On the strength of these allegations, the minds of some of the higher municipal officials have been poisoned into the belief that our campaign against the inefficient civic administration of the capital of the Province proceeds more from interested than from utilitarian motives.

The absurdity of a charge like the above is so apparent that it hardly needs any defence. Since this journal was established 44 years ago, it has steadily been its policy to avoid personal praise or blame. It is our proud satisfaction to know that this policy is regarded with approval in the highest quarters. But while considering it beyond our scope to discuss the merits or faults of particular persons, it has consistently been our endeavour to throw light on any defect in the system or the machinery of administration in this country. So far as Patna Municipal matters are concerned, we have all along adhered to the same principle. The Health Officer may be, as he is, an extremely intelligent and energetic person, and we owe it to him to say that he has made many improvements in his department; similarly the Engineer may be, as we trust he is, a highly qualified expert; we do not care so long as the system under which they work or the methods adopted by them are objectionable. Much as we gladly appreciate the brilliant personal qualities of the Health Officer and the remarkable exertions that he is making for the improvement of the conservancy of the city, we should find no fault with him if we can be convinced that his schemes can be satisfactorily worked as a system, that is to say, without being entirely dependent on the extraordinary abilities of the Health Officer for the time being. Similarly, though we are personally unaware of the high professional qualifications which are no doubt possessed by the Municipal Engineer, that fact by itself would be no reason for our strictures on the utter incompetence of the Engineering Department of the city municipality.

As a system, we could hardly conceive of a public body so absolutely irresponsible to popular opinion as the Patna Municipality. The public sentiment for instance on the matter of a proper burning ghat and a respectable disposal of the city's dead has been expressed in no unmeasured terms

many a time and oft through the columns of local papers and numerous signed memorials to the authorities. Yet this just popular grievance has been treated by the municipal officials responsible with supreme indifference. The same attitude of calm contempt for public opinion has been evinced on the question of improvement of bathing ghats, repairs to the long-neglected streets and lanes, the proper flushing of the drains, the lighting of the streets and ghats, in fact, in all matters in which the long-suffering ratepayers have had the temerity to demand a proper value for the money paid by them. And because we happen to voice the general feeling on these matters, all sorts of motives are imputed to us to shield the inefficient system.

The first step to the improvement of the Municipality should be an immediate increase of popular control over the Executive. Under the existing system, the chairman is the head of the Executive as well as the head of the controlling body. How can we expect that he would in his capacity of the head of the controlling body condemn his own actions as head of the Executive? Here is then an urgent case of the necessity of the separation of Judicial and Executive functions, which can be carried out at practically no cost. How can we expect the Municipal Engineer or for that matter any other officer to attend to the ratepayers' grievances when they know full well that so far as their own appointment and tenure of office are concerned, the ratepayers do not count at all? Servants all over the world have the knack of finding out who is master in the house and municipal servants are no exception to the general rule. They are perfectly aware that so long as certain compounds and lawns are kept clean and tidy, so long as they can supply free labour to durbars, fetes and dances, they can afford to neglect the public and their howls of despair.

So far as the Health Officer is concerned, his office is another anomaly. He is not a Municipal servant, strictly speaking. He, however, represents the Sanitary department, which controls the Municipality. He has been deputed by Government to "advise" the Municipality and therefore any executive work he does is only a "favour." He has no authority over the "finance" nor practically any over the servants of the Municipality. We do not make any sort of personal reflection on any one when we state emphatically that all this anomaly should go, if the city of Patna is to be saved from extinction. The grim figures of the city's death roll and the decrease of over 30,000 in the population in ten years are sufficient in themselves to stagger humanity. We appeal to the sense of humanity of the responsible authorities to apply the vigorous broom of reform to the accumulated abuses which vitiate to the core the Municipal Administration of the Metropolis of Bihar and Orissa.

### "A HIGHLY DISCREDITABLE TRANSACTION."

Such is how the taking of "tawan" which is being so stoutly defended by Messrs. Irwin, Jameson and Kennedy, has been characterised in a striking letter subscribed RUAT CŒLUM appearing in Sunday's *Statesman*. It will be remembered that the position taken by these sturdy champions of Anglo-Indian liberties was that before the advent of Mr. Gandhi, relations between planters and tenants in Motihari were all milk and honey, that the sole desire of the tenants was to be allowed to cultivate indigo and grow fat, and that it was the presence of the stormy petrel of South Africa and the machi-

nations of lawyers who were probably starving under the old regime of peace and content that stirred up the present discontent. RUAT COELUM'S letter demolishes with a crushing blow all this gossamer fabric of the planters' defence. For, if indigo planting was profitable to the ryots, why did the planters as men and gentlemen compel them to pay lump sums varying from Rs. 40 to Rs. 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  to release them from the obligation of cultivating indigo? The iniquity or fairness of allowing a system to go on under which ryots are forced to cultivate a particular crop depends entirely on the question, does it pay the ryots to grow that particular crop? If not, they must be relieved. That being the crux of the matter, the answer is very well given in the words of RUAT COELUM:—

"The matter is really set at rest by the action of the planters in taking 'tawan'."

"These planters held their villages on temporary leases from the Bettiah Raj, and obtained indigo from the raiyats by virtue of a contract pure and simple. Attempts have sometimes been made to show that the obligation to grow indigo in such villages was an incident of tenancy and did not arise from the contract, but these attempts ended in hopeless failure. These contracts to grow indigo were ended by agreements according to which the planter released the raiyat from the obligation and the raiyat paid the planter a lump sum varying from Rs. 40 to Rs. 66 $\frac{2}{3}$  per acre of land cultivated with indigo. Now if indigo paid the raiyat, why should he pay a large sum for being released from a favourable contract? There are two possible answers only. First, the raiyat believed wrongly that indigo did not pay him, and the planter took advantage of his ignorance to induce him to pay a large sum for a release from an obligation which it would have paid him better to retain. Such an action hardly accords with the character of integrity and benevolence which the planter claims for himself, and this solution must be rejected. The other solution is that there was some consideration on the planter's side other than that mentioned in the agreement for release. I do not know what this consideration could have been. The planter was not in a position to protect the raiyat in a village he held on a temporary lease from an enhancement of rent and we have yet to hear of a planter who has taken 'tawan' and has agreed to pay to the raiyat the amount by which the rent of the latter has been recently enhanced. Moreover we are told the raiyat loses by the release from the obligation to grow indigo in that he no longer gets an advance from the planter at the time he most wants it. The only advantage we know the raiyat to have gained is freedom from the harassment of the planter's servants and would any planter thank a defender of his position who argued that it was worth a raiyat's while to pay so large a sum for such freedom? *Non tali auxilio*. Either the taking of 'tawan' was a highly discreditable transaction in which the planter made use of his influence and superior knowledge to extract a large sum from the raiyat for a release which was worth nothing or it does not pay the raiyat to grow indigo at the rates fixed by the Bihar Planters' Association. I have no doubt that the latter is the correct answer.

"It is remarkable that in such circumstances the cultivation of indigo has proceeded for so long on its present lines, but the explanation is that while the indigo contract was in theory a voluntary one the cultivator believed that the landlord had the legal right or the power (he would hardly be capable of distinguishing between the two) to enforce the execution of the contract and its subsequent carrying out.

"As for the Sly Committee's recommendation

with respect to 'tawan' there must be many who were surprised at their moderation."

## NOTES.

### One Rupee Notes.

One rupee currency notes were announced to be issued at the head offices of the Presidency Banks at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras from the 1st December. As has already been announced the notes will be legal tender throughout India and encashable for rupees at all currency offices. They will be accepted by all District Treasuries and Sub-Treasuries in payment of Government dues and by post offices and Railway administrations in payment of all postal and railway transactions. The facilities at present afforded for cashing currency notes of other denominations at the district treasuries will be extended to one rupee notes and for the convenience of the public the Government of India have further made arrangements for the encashment of the notes at the head and sub-post offices in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras and the suburban areas of these cities up to a limit of Rs. 5 a day for any one person. It was the intention of the Government of India to commence the issue of two and a half rupee currency notes at the same time, but they have been unable to do so owing to the fact that sufficient supplies have not yet been received in the country. It is however hoped that it will be possible to make two and a half rupee notes available to the public very shortly on the same conditions as one rupee notes.

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### Caste in Politics

A new and sinister danger to national progress, resulting from the tolerance with which the system has been allowed to exist, is now being brought home to us. We refer, of course, to the demand that has been and is being made to apportion political reforms on the basis of caste. It is impossible to conceive of any other demand the acceptance of which would more inexorably strike at the root of the healthy and progressive national life that all patriotic and thinking Indians long for.

It is well, therefore, that the Aryan Brotherhood Conference put on record its disapproval of the principle involved in the movement to secure special representation by separate electorates of sects and castes. As the resolution passed at the Conference concisely states, in no civilized country where representative government has prevailed, has sect or caste of any kind been recognized for the purpose of that government and the recognition of this principle by the State in India for such

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purposes would be highly detrimental to the interests of the whole body politic and would have the effect of sanctioning, perpetuating and accentuating the distinctions and differences of caste, which it ought to be the aim and effort of every civilized society and State to disallow and discountenance. Hitherto the efforts to secure the mitigation of the injustice and grimness of caste distinctions, if not the abolition of caste itself, have been spasmodic and faint-hearted. Mr. Parekh said that the slow rate of progress in this direction causes anxiety and despondency in young and ardent minds and that they desire the rate of progress to be accelerated. He added that to achieve a rapid progress "We must combine, organize and work in a body with an earnestness worthy of the cause." We can only add that, if the new danger we have referred to, causes young and ardent minds to realise the imperative necessity of suiting action to conviction, the achievement will not long be delayed.

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**The Position of Indian Chiefs.**

The difficulty of allowing the Native States to participate in the work of legislating for British India becomes obvious if regard is had to the inevitable effects of such a step. The point is thus well put by Mr. Samartha:—

The elected representatives of the British Indian tax-payers in the Legislative Council would be justified in urging that if the Rulers of the Native States, who are not at present bound by the laws made by the Indian Legislature, are to have a voice in the making of those laws, they in their turn must have a right not only to make laws for the Native State but to interpellate and move resolutions in regard to the internal administration of those States. If this right is granted, what becomes of the sovereignty which the Rulers of the Native State at present share with the Paramount Power and of which immunity from the powers and functions of the Indian Legislature is a marked and, in some cases, the only remaining feature? Again, what would become of "the freedom of internal administration," which has been guaranteed to them? If, on the other hand, the claim of the Indian tax-payer, in these respects, is not conceded, he would have a just grievance that outsiders, who had no concern with British India, whose territories did not form part of British India, whose subjects were not British subjects, who were not amenable to his control and who did not share with him the burden of direct taxation, were foisted on him as a drag on his political progress.

All this, however, does not, and should not, mean that the Indian politician is not anxiously alive to the necessity of the subjects of the Native States playing their rightful role in a federated self-governing India in a not distant future. How soon the time comes will, however, depend entirely on the Princes and the Chiefs. All that every patriotic Indian can hope for is that the rapid progress of self-government in British India, to which we all look forward, will inevitably lead to the development of free constitutions in States now governed by enlightened and wise rulers and that the example of the latter will not much longer remain unfructified in other States.

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**The All-India Women's Deputation.**

In his reply to the deputation of women on the subject of Indentured Labour, Lord Chelmsford rightly stated that the Government of India would be greatly helped if they could hear the views of

women, especially on the matter of Indian women's education. Apart from this and the inherent right of Indian women to be heard in common with every other section of the community, their claim is strengthened by the statement made by Mr. Fisher in the Commons the other day that the further and proper development of primary education (in which Indian women are especially interested) was dependent on the settlement of political and administrative questions which Mr. Montagu is to discuss in India this winter. We have no doubt, therefore, the All-India Women's Deputation will be received without any hesitation. The deputation will be representative of the many organizations that have been started by and for women during the past few years, such as the Women's Home Rule League Branches, Women's Indian Associations, the Indian Women's University, the Seva Sadan and other institutions of the kind.

The draft of the statement to be placed before Mr. Montagu has not yet been finally adopted. The most emphatic fact in the statement is that the women of India understand and support the broad claims of their people for self-Government within the Empire, and press for its bestowal as urgently as do their brothers. They have therefore, in large numbers, signed the petition organized by Mr. Gandhi in favour of the Congress-League Scheme of Reforms. Further, their interests, as one-half of the people, being directly affected by the demand in the scheme that the members of the Legislative Councils should be elected directly by the people on as broad a franchise as possible, they pray that, when such a franchise is drawn up, women

**Hemorrhoids.**

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may be recognised as "people." In agreeing with the demand that a full measure of Local Self-Government should be immediately granted, they ask that it should include the representation of women. They urge a pronouncement by the Government in favour of compulsory and free education for boys and girls and widely extended secondary education, and for the immediate setting to work to this end. Meanwhile, they insist, Government should devote as much attention to the education of girls as to that of boys so as to remove the present differentiation which provides facilities for ten times as many boys as girls. Recognising that a better physical standard is also an essential of national progress, they advocate educational means by which to cope with the disastrously high rate of infant mortality and the high death rate of young married women.

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#### Students and Sanitary Propaganda.

The waste of youthful energy and its diversion to objectionable channels of activity constitute a serious danger both to the young men and the community. The fact has been long recognised in the highest quarters. Lord Carmichael, for example, in a speech on the methods of the anarchists in Bengal showed the dangers that were run by those who unsuspectingly allowed their boys to join such harmless and benevolent movements as the Ramkrishna Mission or flood relief work. The danger consists in the fact that the insidious enemies of law and government find their best recruiting field in these associations of youthful enthusiasts. The true solution of the problem is not that we should "repress the noble rage" of our boys and rear them up as milksops, but the real way out of the difficulty is that responsible men should take charge of these boys who should be allowed to cultivate their best gifts under their guidance, and not that of the anarchist in the guise of a philanthrope. Thus, it has been repeatedly declared that the ignorance of the Indian masses as to the rules of health is the main cause of disease and mortality. There is a great scope for propagandist work in this direction. Why not let our college boys under the care of their Principals or Professors go out for short period every year to a number of villages as preachers of the gospel of healthy living? A threefold advantage would be derived,—the boys would find an authorised and healthy outlet for their benevolent and social activities, the work would be better done than it is at present by the ignorant and ill-paid men employed for the purpose; and lastly it will save a great deal of money which is now being spent on the useless sanitary staff. Most of the European universities have a recognised social service movement. Why should ours lag behind? We invite the Bihar Press Bureau to consider the suggestions here thrown out.

#### LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

LIEUTENANT P. Basu M. B., I. M. S., late Assistant Surgeon, Purulia, now at Karachi, has passed the departmental examination in Baluchi in the Lower Standard, securing the prescribed rawad.

So the High Court has thought fit to ignore the representations submitted from many districts in the Province regarding the Dasahra vacation, and has retained the absurd arrangement by which 20 out of the 30 days allowed expire before the actual ceremony. This nonchalant disregard of public wishes is "progressive realisation of responsible self-government" with a vengeance!

The news of the death in action of Mr. C. Russell, M. A., Principal, Patna College, will be received with sincere sorrow. In him, the Indian Educational Service loses an officer of rare merit. Much sympathy will be felt for his wife, who is left a widow within a short time of her marriage. Mr. Russell had risen to the rank of Tempy. Captain and had been wounded at Gallipoll.

RECRUITING in Bihar and Orissa for a number of years past had been almost entirely discontinued, and it was feared that the military instinct of the people and their connection with the army had to a great extent been lost. Endeavours are being made to a resuscitate recruitment in the Patna and Tirhut divisions, and during the four months, July to October, close on 1,200 combatant recruits were obtained. It is hoped that when the agricultural operations of the season are over these very satisfactory figures will be considerably improved. In addition to combatants, during the same period 4,300 recruits for labour in France and Mesopotamia were obtained from the whole province.

AT the last meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council statistics were given regarding the Bakrid riots. It would appear that 124 villages were looted in Shahabad, 28 in Gaya and one in Patna. Property of the alleged value of seven lakhs in Shahabad and one lakh in Gaya was carried away by the rioters. Forty-one are known to have been killed and 176 injured in the course of these disturbances. Proceedings have been instituted against 1,800 persons in Shahabad, 400 in Gaya and 38 in Patna, and a large number of accused are still absconding. It is a pity that Government did not disclose the number of Mahomedans killed and wounded, in spite of the anxiety felt on the score.

AT the last Bihar Legislative Council meeting, replying to the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Dwarka Nath, the Chief Secretary informed the Council that the number of persons interned in the province was 23 of whom 8 had been restrained under the authority of other Governments and 16 by the Government of Bihar and Orissa of its own motion. Six internment orders were passed in 1916 and eighteen in 1917. All the detenus were residing at their own houses or with near relatives and in the interests of their own safety as well as of the public peace it was not considered desirable to publish their names or state where they were detained. Government would however, he added, be glad to supply the Hon. Member for his private use with such information as could unobjectionably be given regarding any individual or individuals in whom he may be interested.

THE Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta, have very rightly protested against the Government proposal to fix maximum prices for all coals for all purposes and to close collieries working third class coal on the ground that labour of those collieries will be compelled thereby to go to collieries working first and good second class coal and thus enhance the output of those coals to meet increased Government demands. The Federation submit that fixing of maximum price will at once react on raisings by reducing the incentive of hard work. Government interference in fixing rates of coals for private consumption would only benefit industries which have raised prices of their products uninterfered manifolds. Some of these are essential for coal mining. The prospect of increased

output of good coal by the closure of third class collieries is extremely problematic the chance being labour returning to agricultural and other works as newly opened third class collieries are worked mostly with local agricultural labour. If a portion of this unskilled labour at all go to another colliery they will go to shallow second class collieries having working similar to working of third class collieries. Such closure will occasion utter ruination of a large number of colliery proprietors and will remove them and their agents from recruiting works minimising recruitment of fresh labour for mining. Third class collieries are now mainly supplying fuel for domestic purpose and small industries. As a result of this closure the Federation apprehends the reduction of general output and consequent widespread discontent arising from the scarcity of domestic fuel and also the paralysis of the country's industries throwing thousands out of employ followed by criminal activities and thus causing a situation of extreme gravity.

THE case of Mr. Brahmeshwar Dayal, B.Sc., who, after undergoing a course of training at Rurki, as a Bihar and Orissa Government scholar has as yet failed to secure a job in the Provincial P.W.D. Service, once more illustrates the dangers of an exclusively "expert" control of matters relating to practical politics. Here we have the unique instance, possible only in India, of a Government sending up a young man for special training, and when he returns qualified, powerless to utilise his services. The reason is that the Local Government has no hand in the matter of recruitment to the Provincial Service of the P.W.D., and though it may spend money for training its own men for the service, yet it may not appoint them. In this connection, the following account of the affair from the *Express* will bear repetition:—

In April 1914 in pursuance of a notice issued by the Director of Public Instruction, Bihar and Orissa, Mr. Brahmeshwar Dyal, student of the Patna College, who had just finished his B. Sc. examination, appeared at the Rurki entrance examination and passed successfully in all the subjects except drawing. He was admitted to the Rurki College at the instance of the Local Government which graciously awarded to him a scholarship for three years. But the patronage of the Local Government could not secure for him a better status than that of an unprivileged student with no prospect of competing for the Provincial Service. It appears, however, that his admission gave rise to a long correspondence and discussion between Government and the Rurki authorities which has now resulted in securing annual concession to two students from Bihar and Orissa for competing for posts in their Province. But it is to be regretted that Mr. Brahmeshwar Dyal, whose efforts have largely helped in securing this privilege for his province and who has passed the final examination at Rurki and qualified himself for the post of an Assistant Engineer, has failed as yet to get an appointment in Bihar and Orissa, while passed students from other provinces are getting them every year and only recently the appointments of a U. P. candidate and a Punjabi to our Provincial Engineering Service were announced by the *Bihar and Orissa Gazette*.

AT to-day's meeting of the Patna University Senate, the draft regulations were referred to a committee, and the Calcutta regulations retained for the present. It was resolved that the Senate should meet thrice a year and the matriculation fee was raised to Rs. 15.

THE *Mithila Mihir* draws attention to the inordinately high prices of salt which are being demanded for retail and wholesale dealings by the *goladars* of Darbhanga. It is alleged that prices ranging from 8 rupees a maund for wholesale to ten rupees a maund for retail sales are being realised. The state of the salt market in Darbhanga is not peculiar to that District. We are receiving similar complaints from all over the Province. Salt being one of the commonest necessities of life among the poorer classes this tremendous increase in the price of salt has brought on untold hardship to the masses. It would appear however that the *goladars* have taken advantage of the refusal of Government to accept fresh orders for some time, on account of there being already too large a number of orders to deal with. The cost price, so far as the *goladars* are concerned, is not more than Rs. 2/12/-. We understand that the matter is engaging the attention of Government, which has asked municipalities to start salt depots of their own whose orders would receive preferential treatment. The Durbhanga Bank has offered to supply salt at Rs. 3 to Rs. 3/2 per maund provided it is given the contract for the whole province. Immediate action is urgently needed.

REPLYING to a question on the Shahabad riots by Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Ahmad Hussain at the last meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council, the Chief Secretary replied that the Criminal Investigation Department was not aware of any organisation of the rioters before the outbreak of the disturbances. Naturally, seeing that the primary occupation of the Police nowadays is to ferret out likely detenus under the Defence of India Act and not such trifles as the discovery in time of an organisation to gather a hundred thousand people for the very ordinary crime of looting a hundred and twenty-four villages! The Sub-

## Poor blood

Young babes, growing children, young mothers, indoor workers and dwellers in unhealthy districts are particularly liable to this condition, which should never be neglected. SCOTT'S Emulsion enriches the blood and nourishes without taxing the digestive organs. Then, colourless cheeks regain the glow of health, appetite returns, sleep becomes more natural and the body assumes the grace and glow of buoyant health.



## SCOTT'S Emulsion

Inspectors, constables and chaukidars in those places were also probably all the while sleeping with mustard oil in their nostrils. Under the circumstances, the only wonder is that the riot came to be known at all, and we can very well understand the gratification that those entrusted with the work of quelling the disturbance must have felt when the trouble subsided as well as the loud pæans of praise of the measures taken, with which the welkin rings.

The *Patrika* publishes the following story of the late Guru Prasad Sen, to show the absurd lengths to which the fetish of official prestige used to be carried in those days:—

Here is an interesting incident to show how the fetish of official prestige is worshipped by the Indian bureaucracy. It was related to the writer of this note by the late Babu Guru Prasad Sen himself, who is the hero in the story. Babu Guru Prasad was elected a member of the Bengal Legislative Council in the middle of the nineties of the last century by the electorates of the Dacca Division. He was practically a permanent resident of Bankipur, where he held a high position as the leader of the local bar. The officials, however, had no love for him on account of his sturdy independence and uncompromising public spirit. The then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal who was also the ruler of Behar came to visit Patna, but he held no Durbar! This was such an unprecedented thing—indeed a Durbar and a Lieutenant-Governor's visit were inseparable—that the people naturally became curious to know the cause of this departure from the usual practice. The secret at last oozed out. It transpired that Babu Guru Prasad was at the root of the mischief. If a Durbar were held, they could not help inviting Babu Guru Prasad, but as a member of the Council, he was entitled to a higher seat than that of the Commissioner of the Division. Of course such a sacrilege could never be permitted. So it was ordered that rather the Lieutenant-Governor's visit should go without a Durbar than the prestige of a high official be hurt in the way alluded to above.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

[ We do not hold ourselves responsible for the facts and opinions stated by our correspondents. ]

#### CHAMPARAN AGRARIAN BILL.

To The Editor, "Behar Herald," Bankipur.

Sir,—While we are deeply thankful to the Government of Sir Edward Gait for having promptly introduced the "Champanan Agrarian Bill" into the Bihar Legislative Council, one is constrained to say that the personnel of the select committee to which it has been referred is not such as to inspire public confidence. In the first place, the nomination of Mr. P. Kennedy, Vakil of Mozaffarpur, to a seat in the local council for three months is open to serious objection on the ground of his being a staunch partisan of the Indigo planters, on whose behalf he was deputed to watch the proceedings of the Enquiry Commission. After the virulent tirade with which he made his debut into the Council the other day, and his undisguised hostility to the very introduction of the Bill, his inclusion in the Select Committee is bound to give rise to considerable misgivings in the public mind. Mr. Jameson, the newly installed representative of the Planters, also opposed the introduction of the Bill; and the fact that he too has got a seat on the Select Committee is not calculated to reassure the public mind. On the other hand, who is to represent and safe-guard the interests of the poor ryots

in the Select Committee? If Sir Edward Gait found it necessary to take the unusual step of nominating Mr. Kennedy to be a temporary member of the Council as an expert, for the express purpose of assisting in this legislation, did it not occur to him that it would be only just and fair to have offered a seat to Mr. Gandhi also on the Council as a representative of the ryots, or to Babu Braj Kishore Prasad M.A., B.L., who has made this question his own, both when he was a member of the Bengal and Bihar Legislative Councils, and also subsequently? Another member of the Select Committee, the Hon. Mr. Morshead, Commissioner of the Tirhut Division, it will be remembered, resented the very presence of Mr. Gandhi in Champaran, at the outset, and instituted criminal proceedings against him which Government had subsequently to withdraw. His historic letter to the District Magistrate of Champaran, dated 13th April 1917, has only a quaint antiquarian interest now. In the precious document he says that "relations between the Planters and ryots had engaged the attention of the administration since the sixties," and that "it was doubtful whether the intervention of a stranger in the middle of our treatment of the case would not prove an embarrassment." But it is now clear that if the quiet "stranger" had not stepped in, the matter which had been hanging fire for over half a century, would have continued "engaging the attention of the administration" till doomsday. It is to be hoped that Mr. Morshead will sink whatever personal feeling he may have in the matter, and try to do even-handed justice to the poor, unrepresented ryots of Champaran. As things stand at present, there are now two avowed representatives of the Planters in the Select Committee, while there is none on behalf of the ryots. Those who know the Hon. gentlemen who "represent" the Tirhut Division on the Legislative Council, will not be surprised that they kept their lips hermetically sealed even on such an important and vexed question relating to a portion of their Division, to which, it is no exaggeration to say, the attention of the whole of India is now drawn. It need hardly be said that the appointment of the Hon. Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayan Sinha on the Select Committee has been hailed with satisfaction by the public, who thoroughly appreciate his crushing reply to Mr. Kennedy's mischievous and unjustifiable reference to "agitators." If a corner of the veil, which enshrouds the correspondence column of the Anglo-Indian papers, be lifted, it would at once be seen that the so-called "agitators" are not those who have stood by the ryots at immense personal sacrifice; but those who like Messrs. Irwin, Jameson, Kennedy and Co. blinded by self-interest, are now making frantic efforts to prevent even tardy justice being done to the helpless ryots of Champaran. And yet the Anglo-Indian claims to be the custodians of the best interests of the voiceless masses of India. Brazen-faced effrontery could go no further. O Tempora! O Mores!!

JUNIUS.

## ADVERTISEMENTS.

### EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

#### NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela at Allahabad—1918.

The public are hereby informed that during the period the Kumbh Mela will be

held at Allahabad the booking of all Goods (including Coal) and Live-stock to and from stations situated between Jeonathpur and Chakeri (excepting Allahabad) and to and from stations between Naini and Tikoree will be stopped between the dates mentioned below:—

The public are therefore requested to arrange their despatches accordingly.

January 1918 from 11th to 16th

February 1918 from 9th to 19th

" " 23rd to 28th.

By order,  
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,  
Dated 17th Nov. 1917. } General Traffic Manager.  
4-2

## EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

### NOTICE.

#### Christmas and New Year Holidays 1917-18

In view of the restricted train service, it is notified that no concession in fares will be given over this railway during the ensuing Christmas and New Year Holidays.

By order,  
GENL. TRAF. MNR'S } C. M. PEARCE,  
OFFICE, } General Traffic Manager.  
Calcutta, dated 29th }  
Nov. 1917. }

## EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

### NOTICE.

#### Kumbh Mela at Allahabad 1918.

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

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

By order,  
GENL. TRAF. MNGR'S } C. M. PEARCE,  
OFFICE, } General Traffic Manager.  
Calcutta, 11th Oct. }  
9-5 1917. }

## EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

### NOTICE.

#### Servants of first and second class passengers by Mail trains.

The attention of the public is drawn to this Railway's Notice of the 17th February 1917 restricting the number of servants accompanying 1st and 2nd class passengers by Mail trains.

First class passengers are allowed to take only two instead of three and second class passengers only one instead of two servants by Mail trains on payment of ordinary third class fares.

This rule is still in force, *vide* para. 29, page 99 of E. I. Railway current Time and Fare Table, and passengers are requested to conform to the rules.

By order,  
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,  
The 29-11-1917. } General Traffic Manager.

## EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

### NOTICE.

#### Prepayment of freight on Coal on and from 1st December 1917.

On and from 1st December 1917, no Coal will be booked under Money "To-pay" Invoices.

All Coal will be booked under:—

(a) "Weight only" Invoices showing the Weight and the Rate but not the Calculated Freight.

(b) "Paid" Money Invoices, and the name of the Despatching Colliery will be entered as the sender in each case.

Coal will only be booked under "paid" Money Invoices on the written request of the Colliery despatching the Coal and provided the freight is tendered at the time of despatch.

Money in payment of freight due on consignments will only be accepted from the duly authorised Representative of the Colliery loading and despatching the Coal and can on no account be accepted from Middle-men, Brokers, &c.

Further particulars can be obtained from the Office of the Coal Manager, East Indian Railway, 105 Clive Street, Calcutta, and from the Office of the Assistant Traffic Manager, (Coal) Dhanbad.

By order,  
CALCUTTA, } R. S. HIGHET,  
29th November 1917. } Agent.