

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Nov. 10, 1917.

MR. MONTAGU AND ANGLO-INDIANS.

The proposed visit of Mr. Montagu to India is the most important political topic of the day. It has kindled hope in the minds of educated Indians and consternation in the minds of Anglo-Indians. The announcement has gone a great way to calm the mood of Indian politicians. But the abuse showered upon Mr. Montagu by the organs of the Anglo-Indian community here and in England show the bitterness of this section of the community against the Secretary of State. One wonders why such an innocent measure as the coming out of the Secretary of State to this country to receive from all influential sections of public opinion in this country suggestions, for changes in the machinery of government should cause such consternation in sober English minds. There is no mention in the announcement of any definite scheme. The words of the announcement are beautifully vague. They may mean much or nothing. The Secretary of State does not commit himself to any particular reform. His object so far is merely to facilitate discussion. Why, then, this fear of mere discussion?

To any one who is acquainted with the debate in the House of Commons on the Mesopotamia Report it must be evident that the real cause of the discontent is to be found in the speech delivered by Mr. Montagu on that occasion. In that speech for the first time in the history of several past decades a British statesman of the foremost rank spoke with warmth and vigour on Indian affairs. The House of Commons seldom goes out of its way to meddle in Indian politics. It is content to leave Indian affairs to the Anglo-Indian bureaucracy. As Mr. Montagu said—even the farce of an Indian budget debate has not been played in the House of Commons for the last three years.

The disclosure of the mismanagement of the operations in Mesopotamia drew the attention of the British public to Indian affairs. It then appeared that India *did* matter. Mr. Montagu caught this psychological moment to focus the fleeting attention of the House of Commons on the obsolete and inefficient machinery of the Indian Government. He spoke with refreshing vigour. He had this advantage that he was then not a member of the government and could therefore indulge in a little plain talk on Indian affairs. What he said must have been very unpalatable to most Englishmen who have taken the salt of India—the more so because it was said by a liberal statesman whom the House would hear. The truth about the anomalous position of the Secretary of State for India in the British Cabinet has been told by Indian statesmen times without number. But it never reached the ears of the British public. But when in the course of an anxious debate in the House of Commons a British statesman asks the House why of all the ministers on the Treasury Bench the Secretary of State for India should not be answerable to the House for his conduct, the anomalous position is brought home.

So long as Mr. Montagu continued out of office the reactionary leaders of the Anglo-Indian community were content to cry "Hush! Hush!" But when this statesman with his freedom from constraint is placed at the head of the Indian administration, and when he simultaneously announces his desire to consider proposals for reform, the

reactionaries are taken aback. They know what his own views are, that he made them public only a short while ago, and that his decisions must be tinged by those views.

This is the real cause of the outburst. The release of Mrs. Besant is a comparatively small matter. As the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says—it is being used by the Anglo-Indians as a stick to chastise Mr. Montagu.

We do not wish to be too sanguine about the outcome of Mr. Montagu's visit. We apprehend that even if Mr. Montagu should be convinced that a large measure of Self-Government should be granted to India, he may not be able to carry out his programme. The "sun-dried" bureaucrats of the India Office and their friends in and outside Parliament will form a tower of strength on the opposite side. And there is the probability that there may not be found able spokesmen for the cause of India in England. In such circumstances the minister may find it difficult to maintain a balance, and, as is human nature, will be inclined to move on the line of least resistance.

Besides, in these times ministerial offices are frequently changing hands. A political crisis may happen within the next six months, or Mr. Montagu may be called on to take charge of some more important portfolio, and then everything will end in noise and smoke. We are not therefore too hopeful of the issue. But we do not doubt the sincerity of Mr. Montagu's motives, and we believe he has behind him the force and authority of the British Cabinet. The fact that a new procedure is adopted, and that another royal commission has not been appointed to tax our pockets and our patience (and incidentally to consider our grievances) is a good sign in itself.

Our duty is plain. We should have a clear idea of what we want, and we must make that plain to the authorities. Let it be known that it is not the ultimate goal of our ambition which we have to debate. On that everybody nowadays seems to be in accord. The question before us is—what is the irreducible minimum which we want to have in 1918? Are we prepared for complete Self-Government with all the responsibilities that go with it, or shall we be content with something less? Let this irreducible minimum be determined and the demand be backed by the whole body of public opinion in the country.

A programme like the one recently fathered on to the late Mr. Gokhale will not do in these times. We do not merely want a few more high posts for Indians; a little extension of local Self-Government will not satisfy us; an addition to the number of members to make speeches in councils is not our object. Let it be clearly known to the authorities that Indian public opinion will oppose every good which is brought in to be the enemy of the best. We desire some measure of control over the legislatures, and through them over the executive.

THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

We beg to offer a cordial welcome to the Hon'ble T. F. Dawson Miller, the new Chief Justice of Patna. The duty which he is called upon to perform is a solemn duty for on him depends in a great measure the purity of the administration of justice in this province. Coming as he does fresh from the best traditions of the English bar, we feel confident that he will uphold those traditions, and maintain a high standard of justice, as also of the manner in which it is dispensed.

Sir Edward Chamier left the High Court in thorough working order. In doing so he showed great powers of organisation and proved himself an indefatigable worker. The experience and training that he had in this country no doubt helped him in grappling with the difficulties that arose. There were several matters, however, in which his actions or rather innovations met with criticism. It is for the new Chief Justice to see how far that criticism was justified and to consider carefully whether the system inaugurated by Sir Edward Chamier ought not in some particulars to be modified.

Sir Edward, in his farewell speech to the Patna High Court bar, referred especially to two objections, viz., (1) the system by which one press is allowed to enjoy the monopoly of printing the paper-books, together with the refusal to allow the same to be prepared by vakils at the option of the litigants, (2) the practice which Sir Edward introduced of refusing to grant postponement of a case set down for hearing, on the ground that the vakil in charge of the case was actually engaged in arguing another case before another bench. With regard to the first objection, Sir Edward contended, that if the work of the preparation of the paper-books had been entrusted to the vakils, as is done in the Calcutta High Court, a sufficient number of cases could not have been got ready and that consequently the work of the court would have been at a standstill. We think there is force in this contention. At the same time, it seems to us that whatever steps may have been necessary, owing to the exigencies of the first year, the practice of the Calcutta High Court may be gradually introduced, not on the ground of safeguarding vested interests, but solely on the ground, that the present practice is too costly for those who seek for justice in the Patna High Court. A system under which the printing charges have been nearly trebled, stands self-condemned. After all, the printing of papers is a luxury. No papers are printed for use in the District courts but it has never been suggested that the quality of justice suffers on that account. We beg to suggest that the scale of printing charges should be substantially revised and that this cannot be done, until the present system is modified.

The second objection to which Sir Edward referred was one relating to the grounds of postponement of cases. Sir Edward contended that the practice which he introduced resulted in the juniors getting a fair share of the work. No one will sympathise with senior vakils who try to monopolise all the work to the exclusion of juniors, and no one will, we suppose, defend a practice which helps the seniors to secure such monopoly. At the same time it must be remembered that no hard and fast rule can be laid down and that the question whether postponement ought to be granted or not in any particular instance will depend on the peculiar circumstances of each case. It should not be forgotten that the daily list is not prepared by the vakils, and that it may often happen that even a junior vakil, who has got only a few cases, may have the misfortune to have two of them called on at the same time for hearing.

These were the only two criticisms that Sir Edward Chamier tried to meet in his farewell speech. They relate only to the business proper of the High Court. There is however a wider capacity, namely that of superintendence and guidance of mofussil courts, in which the High Court can make its influence felt, and it is our duty to point out that there is, rightly or wrongly, a strong popular impression in the mofussil that in this respect the High Court has not proved all that might have been desired. It is felt that the new High Court does not err on the side of sympathy

with the difficulties which litigants and lawyers have to face in this backward province.

The discontinuance, for example, of the practice of allowing the subordinate courts at Patna to be held in the morning during summer caused considerable hardship to the litigants and the pleaders practising here. We do not know on what grounds morning courts have been discontinued at Patna. They used to be held with the sanction of the High Court, and no complaint was ever made that the work of the subordinate courts suffered. Yet in spite of the opposition of the bar, the litigants and the District Judge, morning courts have been abolished at Patna. It is sometimes suggested that when the judges of the High Court can sit in court and work during the day there is no reason why the subordinate judiciary should be unable to do so. It is forgotten however that the conditions are entirely different. Elaborate arrangements have been made in the High Court for the comfort of the judges and the public. The High Court Judges sitting in the cool court rooms with electric fans overhead fail perhaps to realise the scorching heat outside. There are no electric fans in the district courts, no cool corridors and courtrooms, no screens provided to keep off the hot breeze. On the contrary the subordinate courts are in some places not accommodated in the same building. Pleaders and clients have to run about from one court to another in the hot sun, and the wretched litigants and witnesses have sometimes to grill in the shed from 10 to 5 or to stand in the overcrowded court rooms. Unless overwhelming reasons are made out, it seems to us that the long-established practice should not be departed from. There is no reason why a special rule should be made for the Patna courts.

These are matters to which we beg to invite the attention of his Lordship the Chief Justice. We wish also to point out in this connection the great inconvenience caused to the public owing to the courts re-opening soon after the Durga Puja was over. In this case, too, an innovation was introduced without consulting public opinion or public convenience. We hope his Lordship will try to meet the wishes of the public, as far as possible, in the matter of the Puja holidays. But the most pressing grievance that is urged on us from almost all the District courts is the growing practice of the subordinate judiciary to reject applications for time, due, it is said, to pressure from the High Court for greater expedition. We are certainly dead against litigation being allowed to be protracted but we believe the cardinal truth of the old saw, "more haste, less speed" and we are of opinion that in a province where the process of getting certified copies and calling for records is notoriously slow and the difficulties of hunting up evidence and securing the attendance of witnesses are considerable, undue peremptoriness in dealing with applications for adjournments is sure to lead only to an increase in *ex parte* disposals and ultimately to a multiplicity of proceedings and the lengthening out of litigation to an extent which has probably not been foreseen.

We sincerely trust that his Lordship is not one of those who think that judges should have nothing to do with popular opinion or sentiment. So far as the judicial side of their duties are concerned the judges of the High Court are no doubt bound to interpret the law as it is, without any regard whatsoever to popular opinion. But there is another branch of the duties of the High Court, viz. the administrative or executive branch. We trust that his Lordship the Chief Justice as head of the administrative branch, will try to bring it in conformity with just popular sentiment. If the administration of justice in this province loses touch with popular opinion, we venture to think that its

efficiency will to some extent be impaired. It is necessary that justice should be done, but it is also no less necessary that the manner in which justice is dispensed, should arouse the confidence of the public. It will be unfortunate if an impression is created that the Patna High Court will be entirely irresponsible to popular opinion.

In bringing our remarks to a close, we wish to quote the following observations made by the Hon'ble William Renwick Liddell, L.H.D., LL.D., a judge of the Ontario Court of Appeal, in an address delivered before the Illinois State Bar Association:—"God forbid that any court should be influenced in its judgment by the opinion of the litigants or of any other person whatsoever.....But that does not imply that the court should so act as to give rise to the impression among the people that it is wholly indifferent to just popular sentiment." We would particularly draw attention to the following remarks made in the course of the same address:—"It is never to be forgotten that the Courts belong to the people and the wishes—even the prejudices—of the people must be borne in mind..... Independent of public opinion every judge must be, but that is not synonymous with indifference to the manner in which the public receive his judgments and the opinion that they have of his honesty. Like Lord Mansfield, while he should despise the popularity that is run after, he may well prize that which follows. He is called upon for imperative public reasons to avoid the very appearance of evil and see to it that nothing in the manner of his judgments is unnecessarily offensive to his fellow-countrymen, however unpalatable the matter may be. That judge received no commendation who, while he feared not God, neither regarded he man, and no judge may use the objurgation so well-known as attributed to a multi-millionaire, 'the public be damned.' The position of a Judge is one of the very highest to which a man can be called in a free country; the influence for good of an upright and conscientious Judge is incalculable; and when he exhibits defects of manner, lack of prudence and contempt of the commonalty, he grieves the judicious and does as much or nearly as much harm as if he were ignorant of law, indifferent to the soundness of his decision, partial in his treatment of the Bar or litigants and subservient to sinister interests."

The Patna High Court, has yet to make its traditions. We venture to hope that under the guidance of the new Chief Justice, they will be in accordance with all that is best and loftiest in the English bar and we trust that the people of this province may never cease to look to the High Court as a place where they are sure to get justice.

THE CHAMPARAN AGRARIAN ENQUIRY.

THE Government of Bihar and Orissa are to be congratulated on the satisfactory solution of the problems connected with the relations of landlords and tenants in the Champaran district. They have accepted the eminently fair and reasonable recommendations of the Committee of enquiry appointed. These recommendations are, with a single exception, unanimous. The *tinkathia* system, the source of so much abuse and oppression, is to be abolished and in its place is to be substituted a voluntary system of growing indigo. The Government resolution on the Committee's report says that 'the committee have demonstrated beyond all question that the *tinkathia* system has 'outlived its day' and that it is 'essentially unpopular and must necessarily give rise to friction between planter and tenant.' The

Government have, therefore, accepted the recommendation for its entire abolition, whether 'in respect of indigo or to any other crop to which 'it may have been extended.' This is to be effected by special legislation in which special provision would also be made for the regulation of the growing of indigo on a system of free contracts. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council agrees with the committee that these contracts must be 'absolutely voluntary, that they must be for short terms only, that the particular plots to be cultivated must be entirely at the option of the tenant and that the price to be paid must be a matter of voluntary agreement, and must be fixed 'on the weight of the crop to be delivered.' This is in consonance with the principles of right and justice, the recognition of which was unduly delayed giving rise to much bitterness and dissatisfaction. With the abolition of the oppressive obligations imposed by the *tinkathia* system the relations between the landlords and tenants will improve and a cause of perpetual friction will be removed. The Resolution further observes that the abolition of the system would involve the abrogation of any obligation to grow indigo on that system which may attach to any ryot as an incident of his tenancy. In a large number of cases the tenants had obtained release from the obligation by making cash payments (*tawan*) or by agreeing to an enhancement of rent (*sharabeshi*), but there is still a large number of cases where no compensation has been taken. The committee propose that where enhancements have taken place a reduction of 26 per cent should be made and that where no compensation has yet taken place, the rent shall be fixed at the rate 'at which it would have stood had commutation taken place together with the others and been 'reduced in the manner now agreed upon.' It is gratifying to note that the committee's recommendation in the matter is based upon negotiations with the representatives of several important concerns resulting in a definite agreement which was accepted by Mr. Gandhi on behalf of the ryots. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council considers that these recommendations offer a fair and equitable solution of a very difficult problem, the 'prompt, final and satisfactory settlement of which will, perhaps more than anything else, secure the restoration of amicable relations between planters and tenants.' He therefore proposes to undertake at once the necessary legislation to give effect to the committee's recommendations. As regards the payments made by tenants as *tawan* in temporarily leased villages, the committee, after discussing their validity and justification, recommend that as a condition of the renewal of temporary leases, the Bataiah estate should insist on a 25 per cent. refund through itself to the tenants, and further that the estate should forego for seven years any enhancement of the rent of any tenant who might have paid *tawan*, in cases where it could have been granted in settlement courts on the ground of the rise in prices. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council recognizes that these recommendations represent a reasonable compromise between the conflicting interests of tenant, lessee and superior landlord and 'he will 'request the court of wards to give immediate and general effect to them'. In the case of permanently leased villages of a few concerns in which *tawan* has been taken, it is proposed that the *mukararidars* should be advised to make a refund on the same basis on which reduction is to be made in *sharabeshi* rates. His Honour in Council endorses this recommendation and trusts that the factories concerned will act upon the advice given by the committee. In connection with the exaction of *abwabs* the resolution states that all

the tenants in the areas concerned will be informed that they are illegal and are not in any way countenanced by the management of the estates or by Government. As regards the question whether the *thikadari* system is to be continued or not, it has been decided that the renewal of leases should be conditional on the good conduct of the lessee. The court of wards will be asked to scrutinize cases of proposed renewal, both from the point of view of the lessees' past conduct and of the terms on which a lease may be renewed. The court of wards will also be asked to prepare and submit for the approval of the local Government a suitable revised form of lease, which will provide *inter alia* for the cancellation of the lease for proved misconduct, and give the managers of the estates ample power and opportunity to keep himself informed of what is going on in the leased areas. A refund of the *tawan* will also be a condition of the renewal.

From the above summary of the recommendations of the committee which have been accepted by the Government, it will appear that not only has justice been secured to the tenants but checks have also been provided against the landlords abusing their position and power. To Mr. Gandhi's humanitarian efforts must principally belong the credit of bringing about the agrarian reforms in the district of Champaran. Neither threats nor misrepresentations deterred him from the task he had taken upon himself of securing a redress of the grievances of the down-trodden and helpless ryots. Perhaps no one else in the country would have grappled with the admitted evil with such determination and tact, unmindful of the powerful influences opposed to him. Success has after all crowned his noble efforts. But great praise is also due to the members of the committee for approaching the difficult and delicate questions in an impartial and broad-minded spirit. The Government of Sir Edward Gait also deserve our warmest thanks on their courageous and statesmanlike attitude from the very beginning, without which the festering sore might have remained unhealed. The decision and promptness with which they dealt with the matter in an eminently reasonable manner, and the readiness with which they accepted the recommendations of the committee, must enhance their reputation and prestige; the more so as they have thereby secured justice to a helpless class of people in spite of strong and interested Anglo-Indian opposition.

THE BIHAREE STUDENTS' CONFERENCE AT BHAGALPUR.

(From our own Correspondent.)

The 14th of October 1917 will be a red letter day for our town. Never before the citizens of Bhagalpur had assembled in such large numbers to welcome any visitor. The grand reception of Mahatama Gandhi has been second to that of none. The late Mr. Gokhale and the Hon. Pundit Madan Mohan Malaviya had also visited our town but even they could not evoke such outbursts of popular enthusiasm. Mahatama Gandhi arrived here on the 14th inst. by the morning train. Long before the scheduled time of his arrival the whole platform of the E. I. R. presented the spectacle of a sea of human heads. Many had gone as far as Sultangunj Railway Station to receive Mr. Gandhi in advance. No sooner the train was in sight than the cries of "Mahatama Gandhi ki jai" rent the skies. No less than ten thousand people had assembled to welcome him at the Railway Station. It may be

mentioned here that Mahatma Gandhi was found travelling in Third Class.

The gathering consisted not only of the mass but also of the gentry of the town without any exception. The leading members of the Reception Committee and the gentry were presented to him when he alighted from his compartment. The showering of flowers formed a most conspicuous part of the reception and it was incessant. He was taken in a procession to Babu Debi Prasad Marwari's Garden House where he put up during his stay here. The procession consisted of Jorias, motor cars, horsemen, trumpeteers, flags and the concert party of the local Sangit Samaj. He was carried in a gharry drawn by four horses and the whole route was decorated with flags, festoons etc. On his way Mahatma Gandhi received an address of welcome from the 'Marwari Kanya Pathshala.'

On the next morning i.e. on the morning of the 15th, Mr. Gandhi visited the local Hindi Sabha where he was presented with an address by Pundit Jibanand Sharma to which he made a suitable reply. The work of the Conference began at 12 noon and an hour before the time fixed, the whole pandal was full. More than six thousand persons were present at the opening of the Conference. About 1800 delegates were present among which the Mohammedans were responsible for 200. The rest were visitors. Thousands were refused admission for want of space. The proceedings of the Conference began with a suitable song. This was followed by the speech of the President of the Reception Committee, Pundit Sri Krishna Misra, who welcomed the delegates in well-chosen words. Then followed the election of the President. Mahatma Gandhi then delivered his speech. His speech is more practical than hitherto delivered by his predecessors and read it as many times as you like you cannot find out even the slightest scent of politics. It was delivered to an assembly of students and hence it contained nothing but wholesome advice to them. The Subjects Committee met at 7 in the evening and under the able guidance of the President it finished its labours within three hours only. The members of the reception Committee then entertained the delegates with the play of *Mahabharat* which was highly instructive and was a great success.

On the 16th the Conference again reassembled at 11-30 in the afternoon. After some preliminaries were gone through, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu rose to address the students amidst deafening cheers. She spoke in Hindustani for 50 minutes and she dwelt mainly upon the social evils. Her address was very much appreciated. Then various competitions were held and the prizes were given away by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu. After the formal vote of thanks, Mr. Gandhi left the pandal entrusting Nawab Sarfaraz Hussain Khan Bahadur to finish some minor items as he had to leave this town that very evening. The departure also was equally touching and it amply proved how can a man command honour from his countrymen by dint of his strength of character. The conference again met next morning at 7-30 and Mrs. Sarojini Naidu addressed the students for about an hour in English. The conference meets next year at Purnea.

The Conference was an unprecedented success this year. One special characteristic of this year's conference was that the proceedings were conducted in Hindustani and Mrs. Naidu who had never spoken in Hindustani before had to speak in it and Mr. S. N. Sahay Bar-at-law was refused hearing when he began speaking in English. Eventually good sense prevailed and he had to speak in Hindustani.

The Reception Committee had a Herculean task this year as the number of delegates was

almost treble. It deserves our congratulations for ably rising equal to the occasion and maintaining the reputation of our town which is famous for hospitality. * * *

This week has been unusually active for us. A public meeting was held on the morning of the 16th in the Mansoorganj residence of our townsman Mr. D. N. Singh. Another meeting was also held there the next evening in which Nawab Sarfaraz Hussain Khan Bahadur presided. These meetings were attended by thousands. Resolutions expressing our keen dissatisfaction at the non-release of Messrs. Mohammad Ali and Saukat Ali and expressing determination to establish a Home Rule League and stating that the joint memorandum of the Congress and Muslim League is the irreducible minimum of our demands were passed. These meetings were addressed by a host of speakers among whom the names of Mr. D. N. Singh, Mahatma Gandhi, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Mr. Rajendra Prasad, M.A., M.L., Mr. Krishna Prasad of Gaya and Mr. Anadi Nath Ghose may be mentioned. More than one hundred persons consented to become members of the Home Rule League on the spot.

A parda meeting of the ladies of Bhagalpur was held in the afternoon of Wednesday last. It was largely attended * * * Mrs. Sarojini Naidu addressed the meeting. The numerous exhibits of needlework were also exhibited. Another Ladies' meeting was held at Adampur to consider the desirability of forming a Ladies' Home Rule League.

NOTES.

The Calcutta College of Commerce.

We draw the attention of our readers to the prospectus of the Calcutta College of Commerce which appears in our advertisement columns. It would appear that the institution supplies a long felt want in a sphere which is just now engaging the attention of thoughtful men in this country. In wishing the College all success we venture to predict for it a long career of usefulness. * * *

The Italian crisis.

The "Times" Military Correspondent draws comfort from the fact that the Italian retirement will involve for the enemy participation in a winter campaign, it being, he says, "an advantage on the side with the greatest resources to fight during the winter". This consolation is perhaps not so empty as it might at first sight appear. But it would certainly be wise, as Colonel Repington says, for the Allies to make sure before too deeply engaging themselves in Italian operations that their efforts are not likely to be wasted through any lack of energy displayed in dealing with the enemy's intrigues. Mr. Lloyd George on the other day spoke of the organisation of an offensive behind the Allies' lines, and the remarkable success attained by Mackensen's troops on the Upper Isonzo suggests that there may have been something more to account for the breakdown of Italian resistance than the failure of one or of Italian resistance to a new form of poison gas. However there is no need to be despondent as yet about the Italian situation. The Italians from the latest reports seem to be holding their own behind the Tagliamento and from another quarter comes the first reply to Mackensen's stroke. Like General Maude, General Allenby has succeeded in inflicting a severe blow on the Turks and perhaps this may be only the beginning of important developments.—*The Pioneer.*

The late Sir Pardey Lukis.

With the death of Sir Pardey Lukis, India has lost a man of towering importance and ability in the direction of medical and sanitary affairs. His tenure of the post of Director-General of the I. M. S. has been fruitful of much good work both for the medical services in India and for improving the health and sanitation of the country generally. The war interfered with many good plans of his for the benefit of India; but he adapted himself to war conditions and threw himself into war work with great energy and a firm grasp of the problems to be tackled. His work for the St. John's Ambulance and Red Cross is too well-known to need mention here. His war services might have been greater still but for some red-tape regulation that barred him from becoming Director of Medical Services. In that capacity he would have played a greater part in the provision of Medical units for Mesopotamia, and it may be that if he had been in control the worst part of the Mesopotamia scandals would have been avoided. At any rate, for a few months he officiated as D. M. S., and during that time the work for the medical services both in Mesopotamia and in India showed very remarkable foresight and amazing energy in the increase of units and the provision of necessities. Sir Pardey Lukis was one of the very few men selected for praise by the Mesopotamia Commission. That in itself was a great tribute; and those who know the quality of his work and the tireless energy he devoted to it will endorse it. India has lost in him a man of exceptional energy and foresight and his place will be difficult to fill. His sympathy with the indigenous systems of medicine and his recognition of the status of those practising them will always place his memory in a warm corner of the heart of India. * * *

Parliament and Mr. Montagu.

In spite of the determined effort of the Anglo-Indian caucus, the truth about feeling in England especially in Parliament is gradually filtering through. The House of Commons debate on Mrs. Besant's release was received with complete silence by the Harmsworth Press and with general approval elsewhere of Government policy. Hostility is entirely confined to a few ultra-Tory sheets. Sir John Rees, in a letter to the "Morning Post," declares the outcry over the release to be as unreal as the pity poured out on the alleged outraged feelings of Lord Pentland. It seems to him of utmost importance that the Parliament and the country should encourage and aid the Viceroy and the Secretary of State and give them full confidence and unstinted support in this their mission.

The violence and vulgarity of the Tory comments are creating general disgust. Among provincial papers the "Birmingham Post" pokes fun at the versatile Mr. Joynson Hicks who takes the whole earth as well as heavens for his province. It observes:—"The interest of the House in the subject is illustrated by the fact that 18 members stayed to hear the debate." The "Aberdeen Journal" admits that the war has changed British sentiment and to some extent the angle of vision towards India and Indian feeling and expects Mr. Montagu to construct a halfway house in the road leading from a dependency to a self-governing dominion. The "Yorkshire Post" declares:—"Changes in India are inevitable. The manner in which India has taken her share in the war has shown her readiness and fitness for a larger degree of participation in the Government. This is the

natural result of these many years of British rule of which the Englishmen may well be proud." The "Yorkshire Observer" says:—Mrs. Besant voices a considerable section of Indian opinion and it would be absurd to assert that free atmosphere could be obtained for consideration of all views concerning the future government of India while the exponents of certain reforms were in prison. The journal is satisfied that any extension of self-government in India will be accompanied by safe conditions. The Anglo-Indians need have no fear of dangerous concessions to revolutionary opinion."

In the Lords the debate on Lord Sydenham's motion was another failure for the reactionaries. Lord Islington said whatever decision was agreed to by the conferences in India would be transmitted by Mr. Montagu on his return to the Government for consideration and for the approval of the Parliament. He read the Viceroy's cable received that day saying he acted on his own responsibility in ordering Mrs. Besant's release, the Madras Government loyally accepting the decision. Restrictions imposed by other local Governments were removed entirely on their initiative and the Government has no reason to be dissatisfied with the result of the release. The reception of Mrs. Besant in various centres had naturally been the cause of minor local excitement to which no importance need be attached. Mrs. Besant's utterances were moderate and in keeping with her undertaking. Lord Curzon said that for months past telegrams, letters and appeals had come from the Viceroy and the Council urging a definite declaration of policy. It was useless to urge that these matters should not be raised now. You could not unchain forces now at work in every part of the world. The release had a distinctly tranquilising effect.

ARRAH RIOTS.

HINDU-MOSLEM RELATIONS.

A meeting of the Hindus was held at Bankipur on the 24th October. It was attended by about 500 people. Rai Sahib Radha Krishna Jalan, the Marwari leader of Patna, presided on the occasion. Resolutions were passed expressing sympathy with the distressed Mussalmans in the districts of Shahabad and Gaya and urging on both the Hindu and Mahomedan communities to take steps to prevent such occurrences in future. A subscription list was also opened. The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Krishna Sahay, who was unavoidably absent, sent a letter expressing full sympathy with the object of the meeting. Some of the prominent Hindus of Patna spoke on the occasion, the Hon'ble Rai Purnendunaryan Sinha Bahadur being one of the speakers.

RAI PURNENDU NARAYAN SINHA'S SPEECH.

Gentlemen,—The Bakrid riots of the district of Shahabad and of parts of the District of Gaya show more than anything else the extremes we have come to for want of popular responsibility and of popular government. In everything, even in matters social and religious, we are apt to look up to Government for reform or redress. We have lost power of initiative and it does not always strike us that there is any such thing as a collective public duty of the non-official leaders of all communities. This is no doubt due to the persistence of a strong parental Government, which looms largely, a little too largely, in the minds of the people and any idea of their own responsibility is crushed out to an extent, which is really alarming, and it seems to me that a substantial measure of popular responsibility in Government is the only remedy for such a state of things. But it is not all the fault of the bureaucratic

form of Government we are living under. It is due to much mutual misunderstanding between the Government and the people.

Since the days of Lord Dufferin, the impression in the people's mind has been that Government wants to divide the Hindus and the Mahomedans, in order to, weaken the demand for Self-Government. Whatever may be the truth underlying this general impression, I am not prepared to say, that this has anything to do with the Bakr-Id disturbances in the province of Bihar. Whoever heard of these disturbances before the memorable events of the town of Gaya, when the zeal of a Hindu pandit aroused strong counter-feelings in the minds of the local Mahomedan public? The result was there were more cow sacrifices in the town of Gaya than there were ever before. Ever since that most unfortunate incident, we have been hearing more and more of the assertions of right by the Mahomedans with corresponding growth of fanatic enthusiasm on the side of the Hindus. This led the authorities to take executive measures of precaution and to make a final register of villages where cow sacrifice is made. Both Hindus and Mahomedans are dissatisfied with this register and it is quite likely that Hindu and Mahomedan police underlings managed things in their own way in the preparation of the register. That Hindu and Muhammadan officers may at times abuse their power as public servants is not beyond the range of possibility. If authenticated instances of such abuses be brought to the notice of Government, I have not the slightest doubt that severe notice will be taken of the conduct of the officers concerned.

But it is no longer a question of surmise as to what Government policy is in the matter. Considering the disastrous effects of last year's Bakr-Id riots in the district of Patna, the leaders of the Home Rule movement in the district approached the District Officer and the Superintendent of Police with an offer of their services to prevent any disturbance, where it was apprehended. Both the officers warmly accepted the offer and mention was made of the places where according to police reports, disturbance was likely. The leaders set themselves to work, brought about a reconciliation between Hindus and Muhammadans at two of those places and there was no disturbance this year. The services of those leaders have been officially recognised. This shows that if the people do not leave everything to Government but if they come forward to do their part of the work, from a sense of public duty, if not from a sense of responsibility, they will advance their cause immensely for the fulfilment of those legitimate aspirations, which are now uppermost in their mind.

Now let us turn to the unfortunate events in the district of Shahabad. The Hindus and Mahomedans in the village of Ibrahimpur within the jurisdiction of thana Piru could not fall out in a day. Their dispute went up before the Magistrate. There was time enough for Hindu and Mahomedan leaders to intervene and to prevent the villagers from going astray. If that had been done, we would have been spared the brutal excesses that have disgraced the village and its surroundings for a long distance. I have been told that as numerous arrests have been made and as numerous cases are cropping up I must not prejudice the people under trial by anything that I say. It is furthestmost from my mind to do any such thing, nor is it possible for me to prejudice individual persons. That will depend upon specific evidence as to the part taken by each individual. We are not at all concerned with such evidence with the alleged guilt of any individual. But it is high time, that from the public platform we

must proclaim to every Hindu in the province that it is no part of Hinduism to loot the houses of Mahomedans or to kill or wound them. This is atrocious enough in all conscience. This is un-Hindu and inhuman and those that take part in it place themselves beyond the pale of Hinduism, or for the matter of that of any other religion, or civilisation. Those that are guilty of such atrocities cannot expect to have any sympathy from their co-religionists. In fact they had none from many Hindu villagers and from many Hindu zemindars. The Maharaja Bahadur of Dumraon, the Kumars of Surajpura, Rai Bahadur Harihar Parshad Singh and others in Shahabad district showed a bold front against the breakers of law. The Kumars of Surajpura gave protection to several Mahomedans. The Hindu Zamindars of Bikram and Paliganj Thanas in the Patna district and their Hindu tenants were to a man determined to drive away the marauders and protect the Mahomedans. The Hindus of village Salimpore in Jahanabad sub-division thrice drove away the attempted assaults of the predatory gangs upon the Mahomedans of the village. I am told that several Hindu villagers in Shahabad also gave protection to Mahomedans but I have not yet got the list of the same.

This shows that the respectable Hindus condemn as they must, the looting of villages and the attendant evils. A high police officer told me whatever connection the Rajputs and and Babhans had in the original agitation, they are not to be found in the body of looters, who consist chiefly of Mushars, Chamars, Rajwars, Dusads, Ahirs. We must put down the excesses of this year not to ordinary breaks in the Hindu-Mahomedan 'entente' in matter of cow sacrifice, but we must put them down to the predatory habits and traditions of the low class Hindus of the Shahabad district which necessarily leave but little room to assign any excessive religious significance to these riots. Hindus in all parts of the province must disown these acts and not only enter a stong protest against them but should also show active sympathy with the distressed sufferers.

This is one of the objects of this meeting but we must not stop there.

The question of Bakr-Id has become a vexed question with us in the province and Hindus and Mahomedans must set themselves to find out a solution of the cow-killing problem. We must, face facts boldly and not try to mince matters, and if both sides proceeded in a reasonable way, there is no reason why this problem of all the problems on this earth should prove insuperable.

(To be concluded.)

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

MR. REID took over charge as Collector of Patna from the 1st instant.

WE offer our Bejoya greetings to all our readers and wish them a prosperous and happy year.

WE are glad to learn that our new Chief Justice has recovered from the slight indisposition which prevented him from attending court for three or four days.

WE understand that Professor Owston Smith, who succeeded Professor Jadunath Sircar in the Patna College is resigning his post in the Indian Educational Service to accept a post on Rs. 1500 in the Indore State.

WE draw the attention of the Postal authorities to the frequent changes of postmen in Beat No. 1 of the Moradpur Post Office which lead to serious inconvenience of the public. Cases are not rare when letters and postal articles are misdelivered while considerable delay arises in their delivery due to the ignorance of the constantly changing postmen of the names and residences of the addressees.

OUR attention has been drawn to the hardships felt by the respectable bathers at Moradpur Ghat due to the stagnant and filthy pool of water which covers the passage leading to the Ghat. It would appear that this water is the outfall of the Law College drains and the smell issuing from it is horrible, not to speak of the discomfort of having to wade through this slime after being purified in the Ganges. Will our Chairman inquire?

WE have received a copy of *Equity for Students* by Mr. Navakumar Chaudhuri, B. L., vakil, Patna High Court. The author, who is a nephew of Rai Bahadur Radha Govinda Chaudhuri, Government Pleader of Ranchi, is to be congratulated on the success which he has achieved in his maiden venture. He has made an extremely promising start and we are sure that if he goes on as he has begun he has a bright future before him. The book, as will appear from the name, is adapted to the requirements of Calcutta University B. L. students, but the thoroughness and lucidity with which the subject has been treated will make the handy little volume useful even to busy practitioners. The price is only Rs 1/8/- which is cheap for the paper and get up of the book and for the matter it contains. The book has received high encomiums from the Bench and the Press.

THE Maharaja Bahadur Sir Rameshwar Singh of Darbhanga made over charge on the 5th November of his office as member of the Executive Council, Bihar and Orissa, to Mr. Sharfuddin, erstwhile Puisne Judge of our High Court. A similar exchange of appointments between the Bench and the Executive Council occurred in Bengal and presumably it is considered as desirable to bring judicial acumen to the Council as to strengthen the Court by the appointment of an officer with recent experience of the difficulties of provincial administration as in the case of Sir Syed Shamsul Huda. The Maharaja of Darbhanga has long occupied a unique position both as a zamindar and as a public man. He found time also while a Member of Council to attend to multifarious interests outside the Province. Perhaps his most notable action in the provincial Legislative Council was a speech warmly defending the present system of government in the Santal Parganas. The late Rai Bahadur Siva Sankar Sahai wished to bring that district into line with other regulation districts, and confer on it the benefits of local self-government. The Maharaja had no difficulty in pointing out that the special rules applicable to the Santals were designed to give the aboriginals protection against outsiders and to confer on them a form of local Home Rule suited to their primitive needs. The resolution found only one supporter in the Council besides the mover. Mr. Sharfuddin has had other experience than that of the Law courts, having been in his earlier days Vice-Chairman of the Patna District Board, and a far more difficult post, Chairman of the Patna Municipality.

IT was a thoughtful address which Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narain Sinha delivered the other day at Bankipore on the recent Id disturbances in

Bihar. It is published by us on another page to which we invite the attention of the leaders of both the communities. In view of the fact that much political capital has been sought to be made of them by opponents of Indian aspirations, it behoves the enlightened members of both the communities to repudiate the suggestion of their inability to act together peacefully, not only by bringing about a speedy and amicable settlement but also by establishing the machinery, wherever necessary, to prevent, by mutual agreement, the recurrence of such incidents in the future. It will be noticed from Mr. Sinha's speech that the Home Rule Leagues, where they existed, rendered commendable work in preventing riots and promoting peace and good will. It is gratifying to note that such work has been recognised by the Local Government.

THE following communique on the subject of the Bukrid disturbances in Shahabad and the adjoining districts has been issued by the Government of Behar and Orissa in continuation of their communique of the 8th October:—By the 10th October, military and police forces drafted into the disturbed area had succeeded in getting the situation in hand and since that date no fresh disturbances have been reported. On the 9th idem news was received that disturbance had broken out across the Sone river in Arwal Thana of the Gaya district and in one village (Imamganj) of South Dinapur in the Patna district and there also the disturbances were soon suppressed. The total number of villages attacked and looted in the course of riots was approximately 100 in Shahabad district, 20 in Gaya district and 1 in Patna district. In all about 650 arrests have been made. Investigation of cases is in progress and preparations are being made for the trial of offenders. The disturbed Thanas have been proclaimed under section 15 of the Police Act 1851 so that claims for compensation may be dealt with and arrangements made for additional police. Meanwhile a force of 600 military police lent by the Assam administration has been drafted into the disturbed area and will be retained there, with troops and local police forces already employed as a precautionary measure till the unrest has settled down to normal conditions.

WE cull the following from the Government resolution on the annual report on fishing in Bengal and Bihar for the year ending 30th June 1917:—

Mr. Mohsin, one of the two Superintendents of Fisheries, resigned his appointment towards the end of the year under report: his place has since been filled.

Much interest attaches to the formation of a co-operative society among a few fishermen in a large Government fishery in the Ganges in the neighbourhood of Rajmahal, and to the attempt to arrange for the sale of their catches in Calcutta without the intervention of middlemen. The financial results were so successful that the fishermen received Rs. 14 a maund for their fish in place of Rs. 5, but the members of the society with whom the fishery was settled gave up fishing and sublet the fishery to others. It is evident that much patient work will be necessary before the spirit of co-operation can be developed and it will probably be necessary to form small societies for strictly limited areas.

There has been a notable extension of the useful work of supplying carp fry for cultivation in tanks, the quantity supplied amounting to 6 lakhs of fry compared with 2½ lakhs in the previous year: as the fry are paid for by the public, it is

obvious that they are found satisfactory. The completion of carp tanks at Delabagh in Arrah district will improve the supply of pure fry, and the success in the artificial cultivation of catla gives promise of making it possible to avoid the introduction of predatory fish which is the chief obstacle to the successful cultivation of fish in tanks. The very necessary investigation into the habits of hilsa was continued: artificial cultivation, however, was not achieved and no discovery of economic value as regards hilsa has yet been made.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—Kumar Guru Prasad Singha of Khaira who was on a flying visit to Bankura, was kind enough to come over to the Bar Library on the 2nd October and to make a generous gift of Rs. 1000/- for purchasing Law books. Babu Chandra Sekhar Sircar the well-known Vakil of Bhagalpore who came to conduct a case in the local Sub-Judge's Court was pleased to make a donation of Rs. 111/- on the 4th October for the same purpose. The benevolent Kumar of Khaira graced a meeting of the Sahitya Parisad (Local branch) and promised to support it by a donation of Rs. 300/- on behalf of his wife and by a monthly subscription of Rs. 14/.

THERE is just now only one Indian District Magistrate in Behar. He is Mr. B. C. Sen, stationed at Bhagalpur. The splendid manner in which he worked to keep peace and order during the last Moharram so much impressed the people of Bhagalpur that some of their leaders thought it to be

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their duty to call on him and express their thanks for his labours in this connection. It is on record that during the Swadeshi agitation in East Bengal, when a wave of unrest was passing over it, the few districts ruled by Indian Magistrates were conspicuous for their calm and tranquil atmosphere. And no wonder that such should be the case. For Indian Magistrates are in a better position to find out the real cause or causes of a trouble and therefore more fit to adopt proper remedy to suppress it than their European colleagues. To place an Indian official in charge of a district is to grant some sort of Home Rule to the people inhabiting it. By appointing more Indians as District Magistrates, Government may thus kill two birds with one stone—it may satisfy to some extent the popular desire for Home Rule and remove the causes of internal disturbance in the country.—
A. B. Patrika.

THE Secretary, Suhrid Parishad and Hem Chandra, Library, Bankipur, sends us the following supplementary list of subscriptions towards the "Parishad Mandir" Fund:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount already acknowledged	1400	12	3
The Hon. Rai Bahadur			
Purnendu Narayan Sinha	89	0	0
Sj. Monmotha Nath Dey	80	0	0
Dakshina Ranjan Ghosh			
(2nd inst)	66	0	0
Ramlal Sinha (2nd inst.)	50	0	0
Sarada Charan Goho	50	0	0
Hem Chandra Bose (Monghyr)	25	0	0
Susil Madhab Mullick	15	0	0
Pashupati Kumar Sinha	11	0	0
Rai Bahadur	9	0	0
Rebatikanta Nag	10	0	0
Jadu Nath Sarkar (2nd inst.)	10	0	0
Surendra Mohan Das	5	0	0
Surendra Nath Sarkar	4	0	0
Benode Behary Mukherjee	4	0	0
Fully paid up subscriptions under			
Rs. 4.	58	0	0
Part paid up subscriptions under Rs. 4.	15	0	0
Total...	1892	12	3

The actual expense incurred in the construction of the building is Rs. 2417-2-3, out of which Rs. 1892-0-0 from the subscriptions collected plus Rs. 525-0-0 from the general fund have been paid up. Thus a debt of nearly Rs. 473-2-3 has still to be paid. We have learnt that several respectable gentlemen have promised to subscribe towards the fund but they have not done so as yet. If the gentlemen who have so promised kindly pay up the debt may be sunk in no time.

ON the right bank of the Gandak, writes an esteemed correspondent, there is the Kalibari at Sonopore erected by Dewan Rai Ram Soondar Mitra who flourished at Bankipur (Pucca Bari) towards the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the nineteenth. His long horoscope extending over 21 feet or more in a roll was seen by me about 1873. My reverend father consigned it to the river Ganges as dead men's horoscopes according to popular prejudice had to be so treated. I was quite too young then to preserve any notes. Thus much of valuable information is lost. Ram Soondar's Kalibari is now fast getting into a dilapidated condition for want of repairs, as his heirs on the male and female lines do not care to preserve such a monument of their ancestors. It is encroached upon by the river Gandak also. On the opposite side at Hajipore on the left bank of the Gandak may be seen still

to this day the remarkable Nepalese Temple proclaiming the existence of the Nepalese territory up to the end of the eighteenth century, before being acquired by the British Government. Rai Ram Soondar's first wife, a dark complexioned Kulin lady who left no child, became a *Sati* with the corpse of her husband, and her ashes were buried and a temple erected on them which still exists on the right bank of the Ganges at Moradpore Ghat, Bankipore, to the north east corner of the Old Normal School, now occupied by the premises of the Patna Law College. His heirs are now the premier Bengali Zamindars in the District of Gaya which till 1864 was known as the District of Behar.

A MEETING to get recruits from the domiciled Bengalees in Behar for the Bengalee Regiment was held at the Union Club, Ranchi, on Sunday the 14th October. The Hon'ble B. Foley I. C. S. Commissioner of the Division presided. In opening the meeting he said that H. H. the Lieutenant Governor would have presided that evening but urgent duty had called him away. He had been commissioned to say that he was deeply interested in the Bengalee Regiment movement and that he would be glad to render whatever help he could to further recruiting for the Regiment amongst the Bengalees domiciled in Behar. The Bengalee Regiment had already won a name for itself for every military officer whom he met had spoken well of it. He called upon Dr. Mullick to address the meeting. Dr. S. K. Mullick eulogised the civil and military authorities for the help they had rendered to the Bengalee Regiment Committee which alone had made it possible for them to achieve success. It was a glorious day for Bengal. Dr. Mullick explained the conditions of service and the necessity of getting recruits. Mr. Chuckerbutty in moving a vote of thanks to the chairman said that he presumed Sir Edward Gait and Mr. Foley were parents, at all events they were of

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the age to be parents and if they blessed this movement and said that young men should join they spoke as fathers and guardians and therefore Bengalee parents must consider this as an urgent problem. He thanked Mr. Foley and the civil officers of Behar for their sympathy. Mr. Foley having replied, the meeting terminated with three cheers for the chairman.

SIR EDWARD Levinge who has vacated office as Senior Member of the Executive Council of Bihar and Orissa, has been intimately connected with the province during his twenty-nine years' service. He came out to India in November, 1888 five years later than Mr. Maude who now succeeds him as Vice President of the Council. He spent most of the early part of his service in Tirhut, first as subdivisional officer at Sitamarhi and then as Collector of Muzaffarpur, after an interval in the Secretariats of Bengal and the Government of India. After being first additional Commissioner and then Commissioner of Patna he went to Cuttack as Commissioner of Orissa, a Division whose interests, including those of the Feudatory States, he has never failed to represent. Sir Edward Baker selected him to succeed Sir William Duke as Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal during the somewhat critical period which preceded the re-partition, and it was notorious that Mr. Levinge's tact and charm of personality did much to soften the somewhat brusque asperity of Sir Edward Baker's regime. He reverted to his old post of Commissioner of Orissa at his own request and was there when Lord Hardinge selected him in April 1912 for the new provinces's first Executive Council, though the Council was not constituted until August. It was generally recognised that a better appointment could not have been made. In 1913 he was absent from the province for some months touring as President of the Bengal Districts Administration Committee whose recommendations designed to revive village administrations have been generally accepted by the Government of Bengal and will be introduced as funds become available.

ELSEWHERE we publish a summary of a Resolution of the Bihar Government on the recommendations of the Champaran Agrarian Committee. Two of the recommendations of that Committee relate to the abolition of the Tinkathia system and the reduction of certain arbitrarily high exactions. The former is virtually the abolition of forced labour and even the Bihar planters could not with any show of decency object to it. As regards the latter, a limit to the exactions has been placed on two varieties of exactions which were felt to be most oppressive, namely, "Sarra beshi" and "Tawan," Mr. W. S. Irwin, whose name has since attained some notoriety by his scandalous attacks on Mr. Gandhi recently complained in the Calcutta Press that the planter members agreed to the suggestions of the Committee regarding *sarra beshi*, only on the understanding that the right to collect the vexatious *Tawan* would not be interfered with. This gentleman wrote in the *Statesman* :—

"With the exception of II and III, the two exactions referred to above most unjustly and unfairly conceded as a sop to Mr. Gandhi, is there one single thing in all the above that could not have been done at least as well and with infinitely less friction by the local authorities in conjunction with the Bihar Planters' Association? But trivial and absurd as most of them are, will any sane person believe that we would have conceded II—the one point in which we were absolutely unas-

sailable—had we for an instant suspected that all these other points, (less grave but equally tangible grievances as the two specified) especially I would be surrendered to Mr. Gandhi?"

How untrue his allegation is is evident from the following Press Communique which Sir Edward Gait issued stoutly repudiating Mr. Irwin's suggestion that the Committee had agreed to any of his stipulations as to *Tawan* :—"The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council has been drawn to a letter from Mr. W. S. Irwin, Manager of the Motihari concern in the Champaran district, which appeared in the issue of the 'Statesman' of the 21st and of the 'Englishman' of the 22nd October, making certain aspersions against the president and other members of the Champaran Agrarian Committee. Before that letter appeared the Local Government had issued a Resolution, dated the 18th October, containing their orders on the committee's Report and had forwarded it to the Government of India. This Resolution and the Report will be published in the ordinary course in the next issue of the Bihar and Orissa 'Gazette.' The Lieutenant-Governor in Council is unable to believe the allegations made by Mr. Irwin that the Committee obtained his consent to the reduction of *sharabeshi* by leading him 'distinctly to understand that it (*tawan*) would not be interfered with.' He therefore sees no reason to modify or postpone the publication of the order already passed. It is important that these orders should be communicated as promptly as possible to all concerned." It is evident from Mr. Irwin's letter that he would cling to the practice of exacting such terms from the tenants which even he considers to be unjust and trivial, provided he were let alone; and yet he seeks to prove that the Committee was unnecessary to do justice to the ryots! Fortunately for the ryots, Sir Edward Gait's Government have shown themselves strong enough to accept the Committee's recommendations. It is to be hoped that they would insist on their being acted upon in practice as well as recognised in theory.

BHAGALPUR NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Under the auspices of the Home Rule League a public meeting was held in the other day in Mr. D. N. Singh's Bungalow to raise subscriptions for the relief of the Arrah riot sufferers. A substantial amount was collected the greater portion coming from the Hindus. The Hon. Mr. Naim was also present. When everything was going on smoothly.

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he, as the spokesman of the Mohamedans (as he still thinks himself to be) rose and proposed that Hindus and Mohamedans should raise two different subscriptions. At this, the president of the meeting Mr. D. N. Singh was at his wit's end and at once sought the vote of the meeting. To the joy of all, Mr. Naim had not even a single supporter and his proposal was lost.

Then came the Dasehra and Moharrum problem. Our popular Magistrate Mr. B. C. Sen took the leaders into his confidence and he must now congratulate himself upon the splendid results. Police aid was not sought and the volunteers to whom all credit is due, managed the whole affair splendidly and the Dasehra and Moharrum passed away without the slightest hitch. People here say that they had never witnessed the celebration of Moharrum with so much order.

Babu Sukhraj Rai departed from a very old principle to finish Bharat Milan on Dasmi Day. Then came another function. The volunteers went to the Magistrate to thank him for the confidence reposed in them and for the successful termination of their labours. Mr. B. C. Sen rightly remarked in the course of his reply that he was indebted to them a great deal and not they to him. To revert again to Mr. Naim I am informed that he is trying to hold a counter Home Rule meeting. I doubt not that our Mohamedan friends will rise equal to the occasion and his efforts will be discredited by every sane man, as they well deserve to be.

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2-1

IN THE COURT OF THE SUB-JUDGE AT BHAGALPUR.

T. Suit No. 388 of 1917.

Babu Homeshwar Singh ... Plaintiff.

Versus.

„ Kuleshwar Singh }
„ Cheleshwar Singh } ... Defendants.

Public are hereby informed that Babu Surendra Nath Chatterji has been appointed as Receiver of the Shankerpur Estate in dispute in the above case. Any one having a claim against the said Estate may apply to this court by the 31st October 1917.

The 27th Sept. } H. N. MAJUMDAR,
1917. } *Subordinate Judge.*
(3-3)

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OF

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NOTICE.

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- (I) That the maximum weight per package must not exceed 3 maunds.
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Consignments aggregating more than

12 maunds in weight or single packages exceeding 3 maunds will not be accepted for despatch to Fairlie Place Goods Depot.

Other conditions as laid down in para. 2, pages 334 and 335, Chapter XII of E. I. Ry. Goods Pamphlet No. 1 (Series No. 1) of 1917, remain unaltered.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
19th Oct. 1917. } *General Traffic Manager.*

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela at Allahabad 1918.

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

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

GENL. TRAF. MNGR'S. } By order,
OFFICE, } C. M. PEARCE,
Calcutta, 11th Oct. } *General Traffic Manager.*
9-1 1917. }

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Sale of unclaimed property.

Notice is hereby given that unless the undermentioned goods are removed and all charges due thereon paid before the 12th Nov. 1917, they will be sold by Public Auction and the proceeds disposed of in terms of the Indian Railways Act of 1890.

Consignment—3 bundles gunny bags.
Ex Charkbi Dadri to Barka Invoice No. 1.

R/R No. 25101 dated 26-1-17.
Sender Sew Karan Dass.

Consignee Boidut Roy Brij Lall.

Consignment—4 wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Luckeeserai to Burhee Invoice No. 31.

R/R No. 12822 dated 15-1-17.
Sender Basanta Lal.
Consignee same.

Consignment—2 wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 37.

R/R No. 15531 dated 26-1-17.
Sender Madho Rai.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

Consignment—3 wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 23.

R/R No. 15516 dated 14-12-16.
Sender C. Ram D. Ram.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

Consignment—one wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 36.

R/R No. 15540 dated 25-1-17.
Sender Madho Ram.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

Consignment—one wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 7.

R/R No. 8087 dated 19-11-16.
Sender Madho Ram.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

Consignment—3 wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 29.

R/R No. 15531 dated 14-1-17.
Sender Chowdhry Duma Ram.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

Consignment—one wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 32.

R/R No. 2561 dated 18-1-17.
Sender Madho Ray.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

Consignment—2 wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 31.

R/R No. 15334 dated 17-1-17.
Sender Madho Rai.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

Consignment—one wagon load stone ballast.

Ex Karwandia to Raghunathpur Invoice No. 34.

R/R No. 9473 dated 21-1-17.
Sender Madho Rai.

Consignee Bhujawan Mistry.

By order,

CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
The 20-10-17. } *General Traffic Manager.*