REG. NO. C. 59.

Amrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY

VOL XXXVI. CALCUTTA THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11 1904.. NO. 60.

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INDIAN REVIEW

CONTAINS THE FULL TEXT OF

1. THE MAHARAJAH OF MYSORE'S speech at the Madras Industrial Exhibitton. 2. The HON. NAWAB SAVED MAHAMAD'S Address of welcome to the Congress delegates. 3. MR. LAL MOHUN GHOSE'S Congress Presidential address. 4. The HON. MR. JUSTICE CHANDAVARKAR'S address on Social Reform. 5. MRS. BESANT'S address on Hindu Social Progress on National Lines and also her address on Value of Theosophy.

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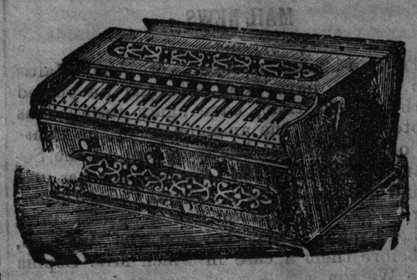

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Dy. Magistrate, Rajshahi,

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BOALIA,

1-5-02.

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ভইজর: রাজসাহী। রামপুর, বোয়ালায়াপোঃ বেড়ামারা, রাজসাহী

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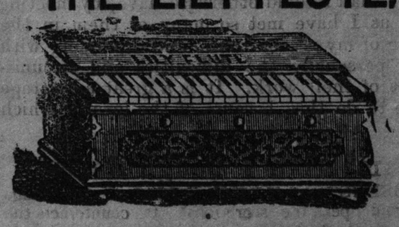

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It improves the system, gives strength and energy after a fortnight's use.

Acts as a charm, even in obstinate cases of Diabetes—which have taken away from us, our best geniuses and worthies.

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DEAR SIR,—The ornaments which you have supplied to me on order on the occasion of my danghter's marriage, have all been of approved design and of neat workmanship. I cannot but too highly recommend the promptitude with which my order was complied with. Thanking you for the same and wishing you success, I remain (Sd.) Kedar Nath Sanyal, Ex. Asst. Commr. Habiganj, Sylhet. Dated 3rd January 1899.

Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Boaliah has executed my orders with great promptness, and the workmanship he has exhibited is highly creditable. He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and fully deserves encouragement and patronage. He is trustworthy in his dealings with his customers.

Dated 4-2-99. (Sd). Nil Kant Majumder

Professor, Presidency College.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR'S TOUR.

—:-o-:—

His Honor Sir A. Fraser was on his visit to Kalna on the 5th instant. In reply to two addresses, one from the Kalna Municipality and the other from the Local Board, he said:—

In your addresses you deal mainly with the question of communications. I thoroughly sympathise with your desire to bring your town into the line of commercial activity, and endeavour to restore to it something of its former importance. I understood that the Hughli-Kalna-Katwa Railway project is now definitely decided upon and may be expected soon to be carried out. I congratulate you on thus finding your wishes gratified in this matter.

In respect of the improvements which you suggest in the Khari Nadi, I am afraid that they are too expensive to be practical. I think also that when you have the railway to which I have already referred, it might be better to have a feeder road from Nadan Ghat on the Khari Nadi to the line of rail. This I believe would as fully meet the requirements of the case and offer you what you desire at a very much less cost than your proposals would involve. I shall have this scheme carefully enquired into.

You ask also in your Municipal address that the income derived from Kalna ferry may be placed at your disposal on account of the difficulties that you have in discharging your duties to the public with the income now at your disposal. I may say at once this is a proposal to which I shall be prepared to give the most favourable consideration, as soon as you are able to assure me that the income which you will thereby obtain will be well spent in the interests of the public. I have received with much pleasure very favourable reports of your work from the Commissioner and Collector. I thank you for the co-operation which you thus give in local administration; and I shall be very glad if I am able to encourage you in your work by placing at your disposal some more funds to be well and wisely spent. I am myself strongly in favour of Municipal and local work in accordance with the principles of Local Self-Government. It has been my duty, as you are no doubt aware, to suspend the exercise of their functions by a neighbouring Municipality, and to call upon the Collector to undertake the duties which they have failed to perform. I desire distinctly to say that this has been to me a subject of great regret. It has been no pleasure to me that one of the early acts of my administration of this Province should have been of this character. But at the same time I hold that this action is entirely in accordance with the sound principles which must regulate the policy of Local Self-Government. The Government has not conferred certain powers on Municipalities and District and Local Boards, because it has desired to rid itself of certain work, or because it thinks that the work which has been handed over to these bodies is work which may be neglected or perfunctorily performed. It has made over this work because it believes that local agency is the best for performing the work. Apart altogether from the importance of training the people in self-reliance and in self-help, the Government believes that local agency best understands the necessity of the case and can best see to the work being done, provided that men of probity and capacity determined to do their best in the interest of the public, can be found to take up the work. This view I hold most strongly and I am desirous that Municipalities and District and Local Boards should be encouraged to do their best in the interests of the people. But, on that very ground, when I find work absolutely neglected, and the interests of the public ignored, I am bound to withdraw the powers which have been entrusted to these bodies in the public interest. I am exceedingly glad therefore to hear a favourable report of you from local officers, who must be the main sources of my information in respect of your work; and I shall be very glad if I can reasonably encourage you in your work by granting the request which you have made in respect of ferry receipts.

The next day, he went to Hooghly, where he received addresses from the Municipality, the District Board and the Rate-payers' Association. His Honor replied as follows:

I take the addresses one by one. In regard to the address of the Rate-payers' Association I have little to say, for I find that it contains reference only to points which are referred to in the other addresses. This is as it should be if the association is to discharge the functions which it sets before itself, namely to advise local officers and local bodies in regard to matters which concern the public interest. I have ascertained from my friend Mr. Ingis that the statement in the address of the Ratepayers' Association to the effect that that Association has cordial relations with local officers, maintains the statement. I am glad that it is an accurate statement. I am sure that the existence of such an association must be of great advantage.

The first matters in the Municipal address that come to me to deal are the questions of an effective system of drainage and with which it is necessary for with you in a good water-supply. I sympathise with you in respect of the impression which is derived from statistics in regard to the unhealthiness of the town and in your desire to do all that you can to make the town more healthy. I am bound, however, to say that I have doubts as to whether the town will be rendered really healthy even by an adequate system of drainage and a good water-supply. For I have been struck in driving along to-day both by the number of small and insanitary tanks which I have seen and also by the large and densely crowded gardens which seemed to me well fitted to prevent perflation of air and to gather together any insanitary influences that may be about. It would be well if something could be done to mitigate the evils which must result from the presence of these causes of insanitary conditions. At the same time, I do not wish for a moment to discourage you in your efforts to secure an effective system of drainage. You have begun well in regard to this matter, both in that you have raised the house tax to the maximum rate and also that you have recently very much improved the collection of the tax. Both of these measures are likely to be unpopular. They require some courage on the part of Municipal members; and they indicate that you have seriously set yourselves to raise all the money that you can for the prosecution of the good work which you have before you. I am informed also that you have submitted a scheme for the systematic drainage of the town so that every rupee that will be spent on drainage in the future will form part of that drainage scheme and gradually you will be able to secure an effective system for the whole town. After examination of that scheme I shall be very glad to give it approval and to give you such assistance in regard to financing it by a loan or otherwise as may seem reasonable and practicable. In regard to the water-supply, I am bound to tell you that there is no practicable scheme yet before me; and it is impossible for me therefore to pass any orders or give any promise in regard to this matter. It will, however, continue, I have no doubt, to receive your attention and that of the local officers concerned with such a question.

In regard to the matter of the provision of suitable railway stations for the convenience of the public, I may say that the Commissioner is giving this matter his attention, and has addressed the East Indian Railway authorities regarding it. Since I came to the Province I have addressed the chief authority of every railway in Bengal, expressing my hope that they will co-operate with me and with local officers in doing all that can be done to meet the convenience of the people. Any railway authorities who would ignore public convenience would, it seems to me, be wanting in commercial common sense; and I trust that this matter and other matters connected with public convenience will receive all due consideration from the railway authorities in consultation with local officers. It is impossible to say what conclusion may be judged reasonable and practicable in all the circumstances of the case in respect of the matters to which you refer; but I think I may safely assure you that these matters will at all events receive due consideration.

I turn now to the address of the District Board. I pass over the acknowledgments which the Board make of the liberality which has been shown by the Government in the past in respect both of communications and of primary education, merely remarking that these acknowledgments give me pleasure, and that I shall continue the policy of my predecessors in this matter. I take up first the reference to the scheme of the canalisation of the river Kausiki. I need not say that I have great sympathy with the scheme which has been proposed, not only because it is one in which the public seen generally to be interested, but also because it is one in respect of which Babu Bama Charan Bhur has made an exceedingly liberal offer. I am very desirous to receive and utilise for the public benefit the handsome gift of Rs. 30,000 which this gentleman offers; but I am bound to say that before approving the scheme and consenting to use his money, I must be assured that there is some reasonable prospect that the scheme will be successful. Now, gentlemen, I have not before me any assurance that the scheme will succeed. I have a letter in my hand from the Executive Engineer of the Northern Drainage and Embankment Division in which Mr. Sen Gupta says: "The canal will hardly be of any use in the way of kharif irrigation. Similarly water is not available for rabi irrigation . . If the cost would not have been prohibitive, I think the river should be excavated for supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes." Having said this he goes on to discuss the cost. In forwarding this letter, the Superintending Engineer of the South Western Circle writes to the Chief Engineer: The supply in the Eden canal is under existing circumstances uncertain and scanty and insufficient for requirements in all but favourable years. The supply could no doubt be given to Kausiki in the favourable years; but that would not be of much use, as the supply would be mainly required in unfavourable years; and the attempt to give it would still further augment the disadvantages under which the existing system labours." You will admit that these extracts, though perhaps not conclusive against this scheme, do not form any ground for accepting it. What I propose to do is this: I propose to enquire as to whether the Public Works officers whose opinions I have quoted have thoroughly understood what is desired by the advocates of the scheme, and then whether the scheme as desired by its advocate can be carried out at a reasonable cost. For this purpose I shall ask Mr. Horn, the Chief Engineer in this department, to come down to Hughli and consult on the spot with the local executive and Public Works officers, and with Babu Bama Charan Bhur and other local gentlemen interested in pressing this scheme. He will ascertain what they want and whether their proposals are reasonable.

The next point to which the District Board refer is the difficulty of maintaining in proper condition the three suspension bridges which they, with apparent propriety, describe, as "rather an onerous inheritance from the Public Works Department." I cannot definitely commit myself to any decision in regard to these bridges, until I have ascertained the history of the case, and the conditions under which the District Board took them over; but as I am speaking frankly to you in reply to frank expressions of your own views I may say that 'prima facie' I concur with you in thinking that these bridges had better be maintained by the Public Works Department, or that you should receive some assistance in maintaining them. From what I hear about them from the Commissioner and others I think that they form too heavy a charge on your finances.

I have now dealt with all the points to which you have drawn my attention, and in conclusion I shall merely say that I thoroughly agree with every word that you have said about the advantages of such tours as I am now making. I regard them as of great advantage, because they bring me into contact with the officers who are my fellow workers in the administration of this great Province. I know them far better than I could otherwise have, by meeting them as I have met so many of them in the course of my recent tours, and discussing with them personally the difficulties and circumstances of their work. It is a great advantage to me to do this, because of the loyalty which always characterises the officers not only of my own service, but also of their services towards the local head of the Government, and on account of the frankness and cordiality by which their communications with me are characterised. These tours are also of great advantage to me in respect of the cordiality with which I am welcomed by the people and by their leaders. The frank communications which you have made to me to-day and the friendliness of our intercourse exhibited yesterday at the party which the Commissioner organised with the object of making us more acquainted with one another, are of great value. I am glad to have met you, to have seen you face to face, and to have exchanged views with so many of you both publicly and privately; and I trust that our relations will be of a cordial and friendly character while I remain in charge of this Province.

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LOOSENS the cough, relieves the lungs and opens the secretions. It counteracts the tendency of a bad cold to result in pneumonia. It is unequalled for bad colds.

The time to cure it is when it is merely a "bad cold." Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is highly recommended by the leading physicians for this malady. It always cures, and cures quickly.

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MAIL NEWS.

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The non-official members of the Malta Council, who have been returned unopposed for the fourth time, have again resigned as a protest against the amendment of the Constitution. No protest has been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, nor has any demand been made for a Liberal Constitution.

Mr. Justice Granthan and a special jury, in the King's Bench Division, on Jan. 15, had before them a case in which Mrs. Sophia Annie Watson, a widow, at present undergoing a term of penal servitude in the Aylesbury Female Convict Prison, sought to recover from Major-Gen. H. Fitz Hugh, of Hassocks, Sussex, damages for an alleged breach of promise, made to her both personally and on defendant's behalf, through the Governor of Lewes Gaol, as well as by letters. The defence was a denial that any such promise was made. No evidence was called on behalf of the plaintiff, while for the defendant it was shown that there was not the slightest foundation for her story. The jury returned a verdict for the defendant.

The "Novoe Vremya" draws attention to the astonishing temerity of the bandits in the Caucasus, who make raids on banks and railway stations and usually succeed in carrying off some plunder. These robbers, it says, "are excellently armed with costly rifles and revolvers of the newest makes. Some one thoughtfully supplies them with English weapons, ammunition, and powder. In bales and cases that are imported into the Caucasus under the modest categories of 'sewing machines,' 'nails,' and 'technical requisites' are frequently found splendid weapons such as might arouse the envy of a good hunter. The bandits of the Caucasus are well mounted on expensive, richly caparisoned horses of the local breed."

Following upon the refusal of the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn to admit Miss Christabel Pankhurst as a student comes a letter of protest from that lady. She is, she says, neither surprised nor disappointed by her failure. She believes the Benchers' unwillingness to admit women as members of the legal profession to be due mainly to unreasoned prejudice. The selfish instincts of lawyers are probably not stronger than those of other people, but owing to the rules governing the legal profession they have a unique power of indulging them. No doubt the Benchers are much influenced by fear of increased competition, already very keen, I am told, in consequence of a too large supply of barristers. To remedy this evil it would be quite sufficient, while allowing women to enter on the same terms as men, to make the regulations as to admission to the Inns of Court more stringent. These legal monopolists will be obliged ultimately to give in. There will doubtless be further applications from women. I shall renew my own later on. The formation of a committee of women who wish to enter the profession and of sympathisers (lawyers and others) seems desirable. The proposal to form an association of women lawyers possessing university degrees has much to recommend it. A considerable amount of legal work would be undertaken by the members of such an association, as every lawyer knows, and the profits and privileges of the older branches of the profession would be seriously threatened in consequence. We shall not willingly adopt such a course, but if the Benchers of all the Inns of Court offer a prolonged resistance to our claim for admission we shall most certainly do so.

The Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police has decided to hold a comprehensive inquiry as to the allegations which it appears have been made in more than one instance with regard to the bribery and corruption of officers. It is realised that the investigation involves issues of grave seriousness, affecting the honour and discipline of what has been termed the "finest police force in the world." The Home Office authorities have made certain representations with a view to securing a searching inquiry, but the commissioner himself, as the commander-in-chief of the force, is naturally anxious that rigorous steps should be taken to assure the public that the integrity of the police may be regarded as untarnished. The extent of the scandal must remain an official secret. It is believed, however, that about a dozen officers in various divisions, including two inspectors and several sergeants are so far involved. A number of detectives from headquarters are endeavouring to ascertain facts upon which definite charges may be made, and also whether the limit of the insidious mischief has been revealed. Their work is naturally of a delicate and not over-pleasant nature. Nevertheless, the men of all ranks, from the newly recruited constable to the superintendent in charge, feel strongly that exposure and expulsion are preferable to taint and suspicion. The temptation to which the police are subjected comes mainly from the bookmaking element, keepers of gambling clubs, and a few of the lower class publicans. According to one of the principal officers, it is possible for a man to more than double his pay if he consents merely to overlook the duty which he owes to all law-abiding citizens.

Imaginary Ailments.

THERE are many who have pains in the back and imagine that their kidneys are affected, while the only trouble is a rheumatism of the muscleses, or, at worst, lumbage, that can be cured by a few applications of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, or by damping a piece of flannel with Pain Balm and binding it on over the affected parts.

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TIBET MISSION.

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THE CHUMBI VALLEY.

A correspondent writes from Phari, to the "Statesman":—

From the Jelap Pass one looks down a deep narrow ravine on the Chumbi Valley. To the right and to the left bare brown hills shut out the visit. Far to the north-east rise the conical peak of Chummlay. The Lhassa road follows the course of a boisterous mountain stream, now half chocked with ice and obstructed by fallen pine trunks. The stream is bounded by moss-grown rocks which form a bed for the dwarf rhododendrons and delicate silver birches.

Looking back, the snows crown the pine trees, and over them rests blue sky. The valley combines the grandeur of the Himalayas with the beauty of the Alps. In spring time the ground is carpeted with a profusion of flowers, primulas, gentians, anemones, celandines, wood sorrel, wild strawberries, irises, and rhododendrons of every maginable hue. Yet this seductive valley is the approach to the barest, most unsheltered country in Asia.

There is a descent of over 4,000ft. in six miles from the summit of the Jelap. The valley is perfectly straight, without a bend, so that one can look down from the Pass upon the Kanjut monastery on the hillside immediately above Yatung. The Pass would afford an impregnable military position to a people with the rudiments of science and martial spirit. A few riflemen on the cliffs that command it might annihilate a column with perfect safety and escape into Bhutan before any flank movement could be made. Yet miles of straggling convoy are allowed to pass daily with the supplies that are necessary for the existence of the force ahead. The road to Phari-Gang passes through two military walls. The first at Yatung, six miles below the Pass, is a senseless obstruction, and any able-bodied Tommy with hobnailed boots might very easily run it down. It has no block houses, and would be useless against a flank attack. Before our advance to Chumbi the wall was inhabited by three Chinese officials, a dingpon or Tibetan sergeant, and twenty Tibetan soldiers; it served as a barrier beyond which no British subject was allowed to pass. The second wall lies across the valley at Zal-Sorg four miles beyond our camp at Chumbi; it is roofed and loop-holied like the Yatung barrier, and is defeuded by block houses. This fortification and every mile of valley between the Jelap and Gantsh might be held by a single company against an invading force. Yet there are not half a dozen Chinese or Tibetan soldiers in the valley. No opposition is expected this side of the Tungla, but nondescript troops armed with matchlocks and bows hover round the Mission on the open plateau beyond. Our evacuation of Khamba Jong and occupation of Chumbi were so rapid and unexpected that it is thought the Tibetans had no time to bring troops into the valley; but to any one who knows their timidity and incompetence, no explanation is necessary.

Yatung is reached by one of the worst sections of road on the march; one comes across a dead transport mule at almost every zig-zag of the descent. For ten years the village has enjoyed the distinction of being the only place in Southern Tibet accessible to Europeans. Not that many Europeans avail themselves of its accessibility, for it is a dreary enough place to live in, shrouded as it is in cloud more than half the year round, and embedded in a valley so deep and narrow that in winter time the sun has hardly risen above one cliff when it sinks behind another. The privilege of access to Yatung was the result of the agreement between Great Britain and China with regard to trade communications between India and Tibet drawn up in Darjeeling in 1893 subsequently to the Sikkim Convention. It was then stipulated that there should be a trade mart at Yatung to which British subjects should have free access, and that there should be special trade facilities between Sikkim and Tibet. It is reported that the Chinese Amban took good care that Great Britain should not benefit by these new regulations, for after signing the agreement which was to give the Indian tea merchants a market in Tibet, he introduced new regulations the other side of the frontier, which prohibited the purchase of Indian tea. Whether the story is true or not, it is certainly characteristic of the evasion and duplicity which have brought about the present armed mission into Tibet. To-day, as one rides through the cobbled street of Yatung, the only visible effects of the Convention are the Chinese Customs House with its single European officer, and the residence of a lady missionary or trader, as the exigencies of international diplomacy oblige her to term herself. The Customs House was first established with the object of estimating the trade between India and Tibet—traffic is not permitted by any other route than the Jelap—and with a view to taxation when the trade should make it worth while. Up to the present no duties have been imposed, and the only apparent use the Customs House serves is to remind Tibet of the suzerainty of China. The Customs House, the missionary house, and the houses of the clerks and servants of the Customs and of the headman form a little block. Beyond it there is a quarter of a mile of barren stony ground, and then the wall with military pretensions. I rode through the gate unchallenged.

At Renchengong, a mile beyond the barrier, the Yatung stream flows into the Ammo Chu. The road follows the eastern bank of the river passing through Cheuma and old Chumbi where it crosses the stream. After crossing the bridge, a mile of almost level ground takes one into Chumbi camp. I reached Chumbi on the evening of January 12th, having completed the journey from Darjeeling in two days' hard riding. The camp lies in a shallow basin in the hills and is flanked by brown fir-clad hills which rise some 1,500ft. above the river-bed and preclude a view of the mountains on all sides. The situation is by no means the best from the view of comfort, but strategic reasons make it necessary. Despite the protection of almost arctic clothing, one shivers until the sun rises over the Eastern hill at ten o'clock, and shivers again when it sinks behind the opposite one at three. Dry winds sweep the valley, and hurricanes of dust invade one's tent. Against this cold one clothes oneself in flannel vest and shirt, sweater, flannel lined coat, poshteen or cashmere sheepskin, wool-lined Gilgit boots and for or woollen cap with flaps meeting under the chin. The general effect is barbaric and picturesque. In after days the trimness of a military club may recall the scene, officers clad in gold-embroidered poshteen, yellow boots, and fur caps, bearded-like wild Kerghizes, and huddling round the camp fire in this black cauldron-like valley under the stars.

Both at Home and in India one hears the Tibet Mission spoken of enviously as a picnic. There is an idea of an encampment in a smiling valley and easy marches towards the mysterious city. In reality there is plenty of hard and uninteresting work; the Expedition is attended with all the discomforts of a campaign and very little of the excitement. Colonel Younghusband is now at Tuna, a desolate hamlet on the Tibetan plateau exposed to the coldest winds of Asia, where the thermometer falls to 23 degrees below zero. Detachments of the escort are scattered along the line of communications in places of varying cold and discomforts, where they must wait until the necessary supplies have been carried through to Phari. It is not likely that Colonel Younghusband will be able to proceed to Gyantse before March. In the meanwhile imagine the Pioneers and Gurkhas too cold to wash or shave, shivering in a dirty Tibetan fort, half suffocated with smoke from a yak-dung fire. Then there is the transport officer shut up in some narrow valley of Sikkim trying to make half a dozen out of three with his camp of sick beasts and sheaf of urgent telegrams calling for supplies. He hopes there will be "a show" and that he may be in it. Certainly if any one deserves to go to Lhassa and get a medal for it, it is the Supply and Transportman. But he will be left behind.

A HISTORIC INDIAN CARPET.

OF 17TH CENTURY MANUFACTURE.

There has lately been placed in the artware court of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, a coloured representation of a carpet made in Lahore in the beginning of the 17th century. The illustration of the handsome piece of work is a gift of His Excellency Lord Curzon, to whom the Trustees of the Museum are under an obligation for the presentation of several valuable articles of artistic and ethnological interest to the Industrial section in Sudder Street.

The following description drawn up at South Kensington gives a concise history of the presentation and restoration of the carpet to the London Company of Girdlers:—

An account of the unique North Indian Carpet presented in 1634 to the Worshipful Company of Girdlers by the Master, Mr. Robert Bell, one of the first Directors of the Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading into the East Indies, commonly called the East India Company.

Robert Bell, the donor of the carpet, was born at Eagle House, Wimbledon, in the year 1564, and was a man of gentle birth, apparently of great wealth, and one who took a leading position in the commercial life of the time. In addition to his membership of the Girdlers' Company, he was also Deputy-Alderman of Lyme Street and a prominent Director of the East India Company from its establishment in 1600, and is named in the Charter as one of the first "Committees."

In April, 1634, the then master of the Girdlers' Company dying in office, Mr. Robert Bell was elected master for the residue of the year, and at the expiry of his term of office appears the following minute, 12th August, 1634.

"Also, at this court, Mr. Robert Bell did present a very faire long Turkey Carpitt, with the Companies arms thereon, which he freely gave to the use of this Company as a remembrance of his love."

The carpet, which appears from the minute books of the East India Company to have been made at the Royal Factory at Lahore established by Akbar the Great, is of Persian design, being about 8 yards long and two and a half-yards broad. It contains the Company's Arms, namely, St. Lawrence on the Gridiron, holding a book of the Gospel' in his right hand and a gridiron (the emblem of his martyrdom) in his left; underneath is a scroll, with the Girdler's motto "Give thanks to God," while flanked right and left, Mr. Bell's Arms are wrought, namely: Azure, an eagle displayed argent-in-chief, three fleurs-de-lys or, and introduced in between these and the Company's arms, are two bales of merchandise, stamped with Mr. Bell's initials and trade marks. The carpet luckily escaped the great fire when the hall was burnt down from which it would also appear that the person in charge of the hall understood its value; but for many years past it lay on one of the Company's tables, where no one suspected its worth, until it occurred to the members of the court, prominent among whom were the then Lord Mayor, Sir Alfred J. Newton, Bart. Mr. Rich, the Father of the Company, and the Upper Warden, Mr. Stratton Boulnois, that its history should be enquired into. This was warmly supported by the Court, and the matter was referred to a committee for enquiry and research, and they fortunately, received great assistance from Lady Bateman, the wife of Sir A. E. Bateman, K. C. M. G., a Past Master, who recognised the Arms on the Carpet as identical with those displayed at Eagle House, Wimbledon, Robert Bell's old house, and the present residence of Mr. Graham R. Jackson, R. A., F. S. A. The Court then on the recommendation of Mr. Ernest Normand asked the advice of Mr. H. John Hope, M. A., of the Royal Society of Antiquarians, and Sir C. Purdon Clarke, C.I.E. of the South Kensington Museum. The gentlemen kindly placed their services at the disposal of the company, and advised that the carpet should be cleaned, repaired and framed. The ink spots were removed and the rents repaired by the Decorative Needlework Society of 17, Sloans Street, and the carpet returned to the Hall and subsequently framed in a large oak frame, appropriately carved by Miss B. Campbell, a former pupil at the South Kensington Museum, in a style to correspond with the present mouldings in the Hall, and also with this inscription. "The Gift of Robert Bell Master, A.D., 1634, in rememberance of his love."

Visitors to London are informed that upon application to the Clerk of the Girdlers' Company, at the Hall, No. 39, Basinghall Street, the carpet can be seen on week days.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Kaneko, through the intervention of a friend, had many opportunities for discussing with Mr. Spencer the strong desire of Japan to be reckoned as an equal among the Western peoples. From prominent officials of the Conservative Government which had just gone out and of the Liberal Government which had just come in, he had learned that, had the former remained in power a few months longer, Japan's aspirations would have been gratified, and that the latter sympathised equally with her cause. Let that fact stand to the credit of the Liberal leaders who, in 1890, were ready to accord to Japan a place amongst the civilised nations of the World. Baron Kaneko broached this subject to Herbert Spencer, confidently looking to find encouragement, approval, and assistance. Instead, he found dissent and dissuasion. For an Oriental nation, desiring to preserve its independence and its integrity, the philosopher recommended the largest possible measure of isolation from the Occident, and where isolation was not completely attainable, then the preservation of any system, such as extra-territoriality, which might contribute to restrict intercourse. In vain Baron Kaneko expounded the spirit of the policy adopted by Japan at the time of the restoration (1867); explained the consistency and perseverance of her efforts to qualify for her admission to the rank and file of the Occidental comity; dwelt upon the earnestness of her aspirations, and insisted that the road to safety lay really in the direction of liberal progress, free intercourse, and protection by imitation. Herbert Spencer's views remained unshaken. He had formed them, he said, after a very long study of ethnical and historical problems, and he could not divest himself of his convictions. Finally, in deference to Baron Kaneko's request, he reduced his opinions to writing. It is to the main points in those written opinions that I wish to direct Indian attention. They are as follow:

I. The Japanese policy should be to keep Americans and Europeans as much as possible at arm's length.

2. Intercourse between Japanese and others to be confined to the exchange of commodities. "No further privileges should be allowed to people of other races."

3. It would be a fatal policy to open the whole Empire to foreigners and foreign capital. "If you wish to see what is likely to happen, study the history of India. Once let one of the more powerful races gain a *point d'appui* and there will inevitably in the course of time grow up an aggressive policy which will lead to collisions with the Japanese; these collisions will be represented as attacks by the Japanese which must be avenged, as the case may be; a portion of territory will be seized and required to be made over as a foreign settlement; and from this there will grow eventually subjugation of the entire Japanese Empire. I believe that you will have great difficulty in avoding this fate in any case, but you will make the process easy if you allow any privileges to foreigners beyond those which I have indicated."

4. Foreigners not to be allowed to own land.

5. Foreigners to be prohibited from working the mines.

6. "Keep the coasting trade in your own hands and forbid foreigners to engage in it."

7. On the great intermarriage question, the deliverance of the philosopher is so important that the whole paragraph in which his views are stated must be given. This is it:

"To your remaining question respecting the intermarriage of foreigners and Japanese which you say is "now very much agitated among our scholars and politicians' and which you also say is 'one of the most difficult problems', my reply is that, as rationally answered, there is no difficulty at all. It should be positively forbidden. It is not at root a question of social philosophy. It is at root a question of biology. There is abundant proof, alike furnished by the intermarriages of human races and by the interbreeding of animals, that when the varieties mingled diverge beyond a certain degree *the result is inevitably a bad one* in the long run. I have myself been in the habit of looking at the evidence bearing on this matter for many years past, and my conviction is based on numerous facts derived from numerous sources. This conviction I have, within the last half-hour, verified, for I happen to be staying in the country with a gentleman who is well known and has had much experience respecting the interbreeding of cattle; and he has just, on enquiry, fully confirmed my belief that when, say of the different varieties of sheep, there is an interbreeding of those which are widely unlike, the result is, especially in the second generation, a bad one—there arises an incalculable mixture of traits and what may be called a chaotic constitution. The same thing happens among human beings—the Eurasians in India, the half-breeds in America show this. The physiological basis of this experience appears to be that any one variety of creature in the course of many generations acquires a certain constitional adaptation to its particular form of life, and every other variety similarly acquires its own special adaptation. The consequence is that, if you mix the constitution of two widely divergent varieties which have become severally adapted to widely divergent modes of life, you get a constitution which is adapted to the mode of life of neither—a constitution which will not work properly, because it is not fitted for any set of conditions whatever. By all means, therefore, interdict marriages of Japanese with foreigners."

8. The barriers which the Americans have reared against Chinese immigration "have my entire approval." This approval was based on the fact that "one of two things must happen. If the Chinese are allowed to settle extensively in America, they must either, if they remain unmixed, form a subject race, standing in the position, if not of slaves, yet of a class approaching to slaves; or if they mix they must form a bad hybrid. In either case, supposing the immigration to be large, immense social mischief must arise, and eventually social disorganisation. The same thing will happen if thtre should be any considerable mixture of European or American races with the Japanese."

This was Mr. Spencers advice. Was is good advice? The Japanese thought it was anything but good advice; they considered it such bad advice that they have not followed it in any one particular, not even in relation to intermarriages on which the (unmarried) philosopher expressed himself with most emphasis; in this particular respect, the marriage of a Japanese lady to Sir Edwin Ahnold was regarded as the hall-mark of a definite acceptance of Japan's place as an equal with the European nations. In thus disregarding the philosopher's advice, were the Japanese acting wisely or unwisely? Speaking for myself, I think the question must be answered thus: "Save and except with regard to intermarriages which are to be deprecated, the Japanese statesmen were wise in disregarding Mr. Spencer's advice." Had they acted as he advised, the foremost position in the East,—a position which the Asiatic Island Kingdom occupies—would not have been obtained, while, by this time, Korea would be in the occupation of Russia, and the time would probably have elapsed before 1904 in which a similar fate would have overtaken Japan herself at the hands of the Americans, the English, the Germans, and the French. Japan at this moment would have been the cock-pit in which the nations named fought against one another for supremacy, while Japan carried the weight of them all on her shoulders. No; Mr. Spencer's advice was wholly wrong. It did not apply to the ambitions, the aims, the genius, the desire, of the Japanese people. So far as it had any application, it was to a wholly different state of things from that which existed in Japan. His study of India's condition under British rule, while true so far as your Empire is concerned, led him altogether astray, and deprived his counsel of any value to Japan. In India, all the ruinous consequences which were predicated by Mr. Spencer of Japan have happened, and are still the most abiding characteristics of foreign rule. But,—and this is what Mr. Spencer strangely overlooked, *Japan had no intention of becoming a second India.* Japan meant to maintain her independence. She did not intend that any one, or any half-dozen, European Powers should exploit her or her people for their own benefit Japan for the Japanese was her ideal. *The Western nations were of value to Japan in so far as they helped her to attain what she wanted —for herself.* Not otherwise were they of service. In India nothing of this sort has happened. Before India had awakened to the possibilities of European domination—in the time when she felt herself a giant and the restless foreigners were merely tolerated—she allowed those same foreigners to take advantage of her weaknesses, let them obtain a dominant position, played into their hands when they set nation against nation, and so arrived at a supremacy which has since been retained. What Mr. Spencer laid down for Japan was suited to India two hundred and fiftv years ago, and, if acted upon, would not have prevented a growing intercourse between East and West. On the contrary, it would have furnished and enlarged that interest. India would have stood, as Japan now stands. "four square to all the winds that blow," a bigger customer, proportionately to her population, of those western nations, than she is at this day, while, at the same time developing equal industries from within and keeping the keys of all power in the hands of the Indians themselves. Had India but acted in this way, what a great and wonderful continent would that land have been which stretches from the roof of the world to the world-girdle which makes the equatorial line! The gain would not have been India's alone. England would have been as great commercially as she now is,—nay, greater. Her trade with India would have been four times greater than it is at the present time, to the manifest advantage of all interested. What is more, by holding out a helping hand to India—as England would have done—India would have been enabled to stand on an equality with herself, and England's nobleness would have made her

"a star among the nations"

of a brilliancy and beneficent power such as can now hardly be dreamed of.

But in India itself, what a difference! The greatness of that difference may be gauged by comparing the men in office and the policy pursued in the one country to-day with those in the other. Such a comparison is calculated to break the heart of any appreciative patriot.

Here I must leave this most enticing subject. It is a subject worthy of the closest consideration of Indian publicists, and I, for one, hope it will receive that consideration. Further, it is now clear, that it would have been well for his own reputation if Mr. Spescer, having blundered so seriously in the counsel he had proferred, had barred the publication of his letter, were he living or dead. For ,it exhibits the world-famed philosopher treating a question of vast national, humanitarian, and economic importance, with a total misapprehension of the situation and in a cowardly spirit. Japanese admirers of Herbert Spencer paid the greatest possible respect to the wide fields of human effort over which his philosophy has sway by ignoring, without the least qualification, every item in the counsel of perfection which he tendered to them. After all, Mr. Spencer was a philosopher with limitations, and those limitations were more easily reached than would have been expected by men whose mental being is nourished on social statics and a synthetic co-ordination of knowledge. The Master himself revealed them.

ASTROLOGERS AND THE NEW YEAR.

India has astrologers of her own in plenty in ordinary circumstances it would be an act of supererogation to send the prophesies or predictions of Western astrologers to the East, whence wisdom came, perhaps where alone the highest wisdom still is. But, I have recently come across certain predictions by a European seer which, for one reason alone if for no other, seem deserving of mention. This man recognises the kingly character of the Viceroy of India. "The Viceroy of India," he says, "will abdicate." Only Kings and Emperors "abdicate", even Dukes and all Princes by courtesy simply retire or resign; it is monarchs who abdicate. So here is health to his Majesty the Viceroy of India, and may his abdication be arranged with full consideration for the susceptibilities and feelings of his "subjects." Having told you so much, I must go on and tell you a little more. This year of grace is to be a "year of great immorality in London." Kings, Emperors, and Presidents are to have a bad time of it: The Emperor of Japan will meet with a grave accident; his Imperial brother in China will find that an attempt will be made on his life; an attempt to poison the Czar will fail; President Roosevelt is to fall sick, and a conspiracy will be set on foot to kill him. Two things of special interest to India are to happen:

1. "England loses prestige. The campaign in Tibet falls through." (Perhaps this failure is the occasion for the abdication of King Curzon!)

2. "Tremendous failures in Calcutta and in the Transvaal." I pass over many minor matters, such as "serious financial disasters in America," "volcanic shocks in Constantinople, Chili, and the Philippines," a "a year of unhealthy literature and unlimited materialism" to the final predictions, which are these:

"Everywhere crimes of passion, mysterious deaths, and strange phenomena. 1904 is an anagram of 1409, the date of the birth of Joan of Arc. This year a wonderful child will be born with a high destiny, showing its power in 1924, and anagram of 1429, the date of the apogee of Joan of Arc." The last paragraph contains a safe prediction. "A wonderful child will be born"—and every Mother will be sure that her child is the wonderful one! But, seriously, it is a fact that astrologers, magicians, clairvoyants, and trance mediums, are unanimous in predicting a year of horrors for 1904. I am not a prophet, nor the son of a prophet, but I dare to say that, a year hence, when one is able to look over the whole record of this year's experiences, it will be found to have differed very little from the average of those that have preceded it. But, for the satisfaction of those who like to sup on horrors, I have told the above story as I find it told in quite a number of European and American journals.

THE TREATMENT OF INDIAN PRINCES AT THE CORONATION.

It was to be expected, considering the high average intelligence of the King's princely guests from India to his Coronation in West Minister Abbey, that some of them would record their experiences in a literary form. We hear that more than one such work is already in print. None of these, however, approach in thoroughness and in breadth of view and general interest the profusely illustrated and most excellently prepared narrative by the Maharaj-Kumar Prodyot Coomar Tagore, who represented Calcutta at the great pageant a pageant which was a Twentieth Century Field of the Cloth of Gold. The Maharaj Kumar's magnificent quarto volume will appear the coming summer: in comparison with the works to which we have referred as already appearing, the line of Robert Browning in his poem, Rabi Ben Israel,

"The best is yet to be,"

will most certainly apply. The Maharaj Kumar is to be congratulated on the pains he has taken, and is still taking, to make his record working to be placed by the side of the book on the Coronation written by Mr. Bodley at the King's command and of that which, from the pen of Mr. Fernham Burke, Somerset Herald in the Herald's College, London, is shortly to appear. Mr. Burke's book is also by Royal command. The Maharaj Kumar's volume, which is the outcome of the loyal promptings of a devoted son of the British Empire, is deserving of no little commendation, when it can be spoken of in the same breath with the two important books we have mentioned.

In this connection we may lay before our readers some interesting extracts from another Princely Diary of the Coronation and of the Delhi Durbar. The London correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian" thus discourses on this Diary:—

One of the Indian princes who was in London in 1902 for the Coronation kept a diary, and quite recently caused this, as well as the diary he kept at the Delhi Durbar, to be printed in India, and he has distributed copies of the little volume to his friends. I have just seen one of these. It is a very simple record of what he did, where he went, what he saw, who his hosts were, and other items of the kind. But here and there one gets glimpses of the causes of dissatisfaction and heart-burning which were said to have existed amongst the princes and chiefs at the Coronation and on other occasions. Our Maharajah was good-natured, but he does not conceal all his grievances. On June 2 he went to the Levee, but he was obliged to enter the Palace by the ordinary gate, and not, as on a previous visit in 1893, by the Ambassadors' entrance. On June 6, after lunch with Sir Charles Tennant, he went to the India Office to see Colonel Wyllie in connection with the Court to be held that night. "Colonel Wyllie's instructions," remarks His Highness, "were very simple. I suppose he thought we had come from a barbarous country, where we never had a chance of taking part in such functions." But the King and Queen repaired the errors and defects of Colonel Wyllie's instructions, whatever these may have been, for no sooner had the Indian princes present made their bows than they were desired to stand before their Majesties. "We stood there till all the presentations were made—i.e., for an hour and a quarter. It is really a great honour for us to stand before their Majesties."

From June 22 they became Royal guests up to July 5, and on June 23 His Highness regrets to say that the India Office supplied them with a single-horse coupe ("a single-seated brougham, drawn by a single horse"). "It shows a lack of consideration on the part of someone that we . . . should have to drive in such carriages during the time we were the King's guests." He and a friend joined together and asked for a carriage and pair in place of their two coupes, but he was answered that it was too late that day. "But it was never arranged as we desired." At the historic reception at the India Office on July 4 the chiefs were kept waiting in an anteroom for more than an hour, the Prince of Wales arriving apparently an hour and a half late. "I must say here," says the Maharajah, "what we thought of the reception. We were very much disappointed in many respects. Firstly, though we were allowed to go by the private entrance to the reception, yet we were not asked to take a place on the dais, which is the general privilege of those who have the right of private "entree." . . . Secondly, we were simply presented to the Prince, just like the non-commissioned officers. Thirdly, the Prince did neither shake hands with us nor speak a word to us." But a few days later (July 11) all was well again, for the Prince and Princess received them all at St. Jame's Palace, one by one, shook hands with them, and spoke to each. But even on this occasion the India Office did not give satisfaction. He received no notice of this reception until the last moment, and then had to get into his proper clothes and be off without breakfast. "It was not, I fear, a mistake, but may be an omission"—a somewhat cryptic remark; but its mystery is nothing to the following:—"1st August. Went and saw Colonel Wyllie at the India Office on an important matter. It being of a private character I cannot mention it here, but I may say it concerned a matter which caused great dissatisfaction amongst the Indian representatives, and which could only be a source of annoyance to the representatives and to those by whom they were selected." One wonders what this grievous complaint could have been. It clearly was not the old story of the coupe and the single India Office horse, for on July 20 the Maharajah remarks with satisfaction that from then up to the Coronation-day they were supplied with a landau and pair.

Even at the Coronation itself there was some mismanagement, for the Maharajah remarks:—"Though it was a high privilege to allow us to go into the Abbey, yet we could see neither the actual ceremony in the Abby nor the grand pdocession from the Palace to the Abbey. We were only 14 in number, and we might have been easily provided with seat in the Abbey proper, so that we might have had a chance of witnessing the actual ceremony of the Coronation. As regards the question of space inside the Abbey, many were allowed to go into it carrying the coronets of peers and peeresses. However, we must be satisfied with having had the high privilege of going even to the nave of the Abbey at the Cornation ceremony of our King-Emperor." He did not think the illuminations as good or general as those in India, and did not admire them much except the Canadian Arch. In mentioning the honours granted at the Delhi Durbar a few months later the Maharajah observes that in the long list of these only two of the Indian representatives at the Coronation were decorated, and this for indepent services—not for going to London for the Coronation. "There was a great disappointment," he remarks, "amongst the other representatives, and not only these but also many of those that were invited to the Durbar were anxiously waiting. . . . Several of them left Delhi on the same night or the next day, probably with discontent." But I must not part from His Highness without saying that the note of his diary is one of warm loyalty.

It may be hoped that neither the India Office nor the chief civilian officials in India will ever learn the name of the wditer of these outspoken observations. Should he become known a very big black mark will be placed against his name. And that will be the beginning only of his troubles.

SCRAPS.

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We are informed that the views of the Government of India on the question of Preferential Tariffs, as affecting India, which were sent home to the Secretary of State in a Despatch dated 22nd October last, with a Minute by Sir E. Law, have been published in a Blue Book which was presented to Parliament on the 8th instant.

The "Medini Bandhab" in its last issue devoted half its space to chronicling a series of serious dacoities which occurred successively in certain villages within the jurisdiction of thanas Khargapur and Naraingunj in Midnapore. It is really a matter of grave moment that under the peaceful British rule people in this country should live constantly in the throes of a chronic consternation. We can not account for as to how such daring dacoities could happen so consecutively under the very nose of the police? We are glad however to learn from the same source that Mr. Luson, the able Magistrate of the district, has taken immediate active steps to prevent any recurrence thereof, and has transferred the police Sub-Inspector, against whom the "Bandhab" made certain serious allegations, to a distant station.

We are glad to learn that the exhibits contributed by the Travancore School of Arts to the Madras Industrial Exhibition have received high recognition at the hands of the Judges. An ivory tankard has won a gold medal, while a silver medal has been awarded for a plantain fibre cloth contributed by the same Institution. The Sri Moola Rama Varma Technical Institute, Nagercoil, has won another silver medal for a plantain fibre lace cloth. It is to be ardently wished in this connection that other Indian states should largely follow the noble example set by their sister State of Travancore in the matter of fostering and furthering the cause of our indigenous arts and industries. They should always bear in mind what no less an authority than Sir Henry Cotton said in a recent meeting in England regarding the improvement of our indigenous arts and industries wherein truly lies the future improvement and enlightenment of the land we live in.

At the last meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council the Hon. Mr. Macpherson, in reply to a question about the Cabulee oppression in the muffasil said that some of these Cabulees did sometimes oppress the people and referred to the standing orders contained in the Police Code, which imposed upon the Police officers the duty of protecting the public from depredations of wandering gangs, whose object was to plunder rather than legitimate trade. So far so good, but the pity is the muffasil police generally do not observe those orders. The "Barisal Hitaishi" has a somewhat lengthy article regarding this subject. It says that the depredations of these gangs have of late been persistently on the increase and are gradually coming to a head. The people do not object to their carrying on "bona fide trade among them but very rulerully object to their method of realizing the money value of their commodities. They oppress the poor people—and sometimes the female members of their customers for the payment of their due either by instalment or in full long before the day appointed in the contract book comes. At the time of making contracts the Cabulee merchants of course make no objection whatever to the terms their customers propose and complacently agree to their proposal. But this is not all. Some people buy clothes from these wily merchants and give them false names and false addresses. And the Cabulees when the dates of payment arrive appears before the door of these persons, and extort money from them. The police ought to take particular notice of such cases and try with an iron hand to put a stop to their repeated recurrence? We hope the higher authorities will also take note of this.

Calcutta Gazette.—Feb. 10.

Appointments and Transfers.

Babu Lalit Kumar Das, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Dacca, is allowed combined letve for six months, viz., privilege leave for seven days, and leave on medical certificate for the remaining period.

Maulvi Syed Karam Hussain, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hazaribagh, is transferred to Chittagong.

Maulvi Saiyad Hasan Mirza, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to Hazaribagh.

Mr. H. F. E. B. Foster, substantive pro tempore Joint-Magistrate and Deputy collector, is posted to Hazaribagh.

Babu Surja Kumar Das, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is transferred temporarily to Faridpur.

Mr. S. E. Stinton, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Burdwan, is transferred temporarily to Burdwan.

Mr. F. G. Williams, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, is transferred to Burdwan.

Mr. H. S. Sclurr, District Superintendent of Police, is posted to Shahabad.

Mr. F. Roddis, Assistant Superintendent of Police. is transferred t oMymensingh.

Mr. W. B. Bucknill, Assistant Engineer, is appointed to act as a Professor in the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. B Heaton, or until further orders.

Promotion.

The undermentioned Assistant Superintendents of Police, are confirmed in second grade with effect from the 19th November 1903:—(1) Mr. R. G. Watling, ( ) Mr. F. C. Swaine. (3) Mr. M. L. A. Luffman.

Subordinate Civil Service.

Babu Kasiswar Chakrabati is appointed substantively pro tempore to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the fourth grade, and posted to the Chittagong Division.

Babu Saroda Nunda Das, Sub-Deputy Collector, is confirmed in the second grade of Sub-Deputy Collectors.

Babu Nishi Kant Mukerji, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to Chittagong

Judicial Department.

Babu Uma Charan Kar, Munsif, Dacca, is appointed to act as Sub Judge of the same district, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Upendra Chandra Ghose, and Babu Bepin Behary Mukherji, M.A., B.L., will act for him.

The following confirmations, promotions and appointments are sanctioned in the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service:—

Confirmed in the first grade of Munsifs.

Babu Bihari Lal Chatterjee, with effect from the 30th November 1903, vice Babu Jogendro Nath Ghose, deceased.

Babu Jagat Narayan Sarkar, with effect from the 12th December 1903, vice Babu Rajani Nath Mitter deceased.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the first grade of Munsifs.

Babu Bepin Behari De, with effect from the 30th November 1903.

Babu Phani Bhusan Mookerjee, with effect from the 12th December 1903.

Confirmed in the eccond grade of Munsifs.

Babu Romesh Chandra Bose, with effect from the 28th November 1903.

Babu Kally Das Mukerjee, with effect from the 30th November 1903.

Babu Tincoury Chowdry, with effect from the 12th December 1903.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the second grade of Munsifs.

Babu Bhupal Chandra Ganguli, with effect from the 28th November 1903.

Babu Amulya Chundra Ghose, with effect from the 30th November 1903.

Babu Jogesh Chundra Mukerjee, with effect from the 12th December 1903.

Confirmed in the third grade of Munsifs.

Babu Haripada Bandopadhya, with effect from the 28th November 1903.

Mr. Syed Nasimul Huck, with effect from the 30th November 1903.

Babu Probode Chandra Bose, with effect from the 12th December 1903.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to the third grade of Munsifs.

Babu Haripado Mazumdar, with effect from the 28th November 1903.

Babu Ananta Nath Mitter, with effect from the 30th November 1903.

Babu Khetter Nath Banerji, with effect from the 12th December 1903.

Confirmed in the fourth grade of Munsifs.

Babu Ashutosh Goswami, with effect from the 28th November 1903.

Babu Sita Nath Ghose, with effect from the 30th November 1903.

Babu Jatindra Chandra Lahiri, with effect from the 12th December 1903.

Appointed substantively pro tempore to the fourth grade of Munsifs.

Babu Sarada Kumar Sen Gupta, Officiating Munsif, Baijopur, Mymensingh.

Ashutosh Mukerjee, Officiating Additional Munsif, Midnapore.

Bepin Behari Mukerjee, Officiating Munsiff Dacca.

Babu Manmatha Nath Mullick, Officiating Additional Munsif, Burdwan.

We have been receiving news after news of thefts, burglaries and dacoities of sorts from Mahal in Manbhum. The Head Pundit of the local U. P. School has this week addressed a letter to the vernacular paper published there. In it he graphically, and we believe truthfully and accurately, describes how within ten days several cases of petty thefts and burglaries and a serious case of dacoity occurred successively at Mahal. On the 17th ultimo a gang of seventy or eighty dacoits surrounded the house of a neighbour of his at dead of night. Some of them entered the house, roused its owner and asked him to deliver to them the key of his cash-box on pain of death. The poor fellow tried to raise a cry of alarm whereon he was beaten black and blue, and some of his employes, who tried to rescue their master and save his property were also served in the same cruel manner. The key was then secured and the men coolly collected anything and everything they could lay their hands on and left the place in triumph. The police, as usual, are now locking the stable door when the steed is stolen.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

PARTITION OF BENGAL.

AGITATION IN THE DISTRICT OF DACCA.

From our Special Correspondent.

Dacca, Feb. 8.

HOW AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEME IS FORCED UPON.

The very day the "Gazette of India" containing Mr. Risley's letter in connection with the dismemberment of Bengal had reached Dacca,

MR. SAVAGE,

the Commissioner, told the pleaders and other people assembled in his court that they should agitate for the separation of the whole division of Dacca from Bengal, which, if they succeeded in procuring, would be for their good. This piece of unsolicited advice was not accepted, and the agitation against the partition scheme commenced. After a time the Nawab Bahadur's alternative scheme came forth and it was also not accepted. Attempt was made to force the scheme upon the Mymensingh people, but it failed. It is a singular coincidence that all the European District Magistrates of this Division, advocated alternative schemes and asked the leading protestors to accept them. In other districts all attempt in this direction, made in the ordinary way, having sadly failed here in Dacca a shrewdly-conceived novel way was successfully attempted TO FORCE AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEME upon the people. From the beginning the Nawab Bahadur has interested himself for the adoption of such a scheme; and so the gentlemen belonging to the Nawab family or to his party are bound to support him; and so is the case with the Government nominees in the District Board and the Municipal Corporation. The combination of these two parties has given the advantage for adoption of such a scheme by the District and Municipal Boards by a majority of votes. Mr. Rankin, the District Magistrate, being assured of a majority, advisedly introduced in the joint address to the Viceroy to be presented by the District and Municipal Boards an alternative scheme for the partition of Bengal. This he succeeded in considering as passed by a majority in spite of the earnest opposition and dissent of three representatives of the people. I deem it of the utmost necessity to narrate in detail.

HOW THIS WAS DONE.

A joint committee was formed composed of nine members of the District Board and Municipal Corporation for making necessary arrangement for the reception of His Excellency the Viceroy and preparing an address. Of these nine members, five belonged both to the Municipality and District Board, two were exclusively elected by the District Board and two by the Municipality. These nine members are:—

(1) J. T. Rankin, Esq., I.C.S., District Magistrate and Collector, Chairman of the Municipality and District Board.

(2) Khajah Mahammad Yusoff, nominated member and Vice-Chairman of the District and Municipal Boards, and a near relation of the Nawab.

(3) Ray Akhay Kumar Sen, Bahadur, a retired Deputy Magistrate and nominated member of the District and Municipal Boards.

(4) Moulvi Aulad Hosein, Special Sub-Registrar of Dacca, and nominated member of the District and Municipal Boards. He is not an inhabitant of this district.

(5) Babu Ganga Narayan Ray, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner, and a nominated member of the Municipality. He is not an inhabitant of this district.

(6) Khajah Mahammad Mussa, a near relation of the Nawab, a nominated member of the District Board and an elected member of the Municipality; but elected to the Joint Committee as a member of the Municipality.

(7) Babu Ananda Chandra Chakravarti, an elected member of the District Board, representing Narayanganj Sub-division.

(8) Babu Mahendra Kumar Ghosh, an elected member of the District Board, representing Munshiganj Sub-division, and

(9) Babu Sarat Chandra Chakravarti, an elected member of the District Board representing Manikganj Sub-division, and also an elected Commissioner of the Municipality.

At the meeting of the Joint Committee held on the 5th instant at the District Magistrate's private Chamber, the Chairman, Mr. Rankin, laid before the meeting his draft address for adoption by members with the remark that he was decidedly of opinion that they must submit an alternative proposal in connection with the partition of Bengal, that that was also the opinion of Mr. Savage, the Divisional Commissioner, and that he (Mr. Rankin) had no doubt that the Vice-Chairman, Khajah Mahammad Yusoff, was at one with him on the point. In the draft address in question he said he had inserted a paragraph embodying a prayer to the effect, that, if the transfer of the Dacca District (to Assam) be inevitable, then a large portion of Eastern Bengal may be taken to form a separate province to be governed by a Lieutenant-Governor with the help of a Legislative Council with Dacca as its capital, keeping in tact the existing rights and privileges of the people. Of the nine members, the last-named three representatives of the people, namely, Ananda Babu, Mahendra Babu and Sarat Babu, strongly objected to the inclusion of such a prayer in the address, as it was totally uncalled for. Babu Ganga Narayan Ray, Personal Assistant to the Commissioner, and Ray Akhay Kumar Sen Bahadur were also of the same opinion. At this stage the meeting was adjourned after a discussion of more than two hours.

The next day, at 11 a.m., when the members of the Joint Committee met, the Chairman again laid before the meeting the draft address with a slight modification of language of the paragraph in question. He inserted the words "a large portion of the province" in the place of "a large portion of Eastern Bengal," and omitted the prayer for making Dacca the capital of the proposed newly constituted province. In laying the draft address again before the meeting, Mr. Rankin remarked that he made the language of the paragraph indefinite to meet the wishes of both parties. But the last-named three elected members still refused to acquiesce in it. They said, that though the language was vague, it was still clear that by agreeing with it, they would be a party to the proposed division of the Bengali-speaking nation, an arrangement to which their constituencies were strongly opposed. Thereupon Mr. Rankin assured the three gentlemen that their dissent would be recorded in the proceedings, and took the address as adopted by a majority.

THREE MEMBERS RESIGNED.

As a result of this official interference, Babus Ananda Chandra Chakravarti, Mahendra Kumar Ghosh and Sarat Chandra Chakravarti, the three openly-dissenting members of the Joint Committee, have to-day tendered in their resignation from their membership of the District Board to the Government of Bengal. Here is the copy of their letter of resignation:—

"We, the undersigned members of the District Board of Dacca, beg leave to state that we were members of the Joint Sub-Committee of the Dacca District Board and the Dacca Municipality for preparing an address to His Excellency the Viceroy on the occasion of His Excellency's intended visit to this city. In the draft address which has been adopted by the said Sub-Committee, a clause has been inserted praying for a large part of the Province being formed into a separate administration with a Lieutenant-Governor and Council etc., in case the division of the territories under the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal be deemed inevitable, we entered our protest against and dissented from any such alternative proposal being put forward in the address as uncalled for, and against the views not only of ourselves personally but of the people of the Sub-divisions whom we represent in the District Board. The people of those Sub-divisions have expressed their unqualified dissent from any scheme which would divide the Bengali-speaking people and place them under two administrations. As the draft address containing the alternative proposal has been adopted notwithstanding our strong disapproval and dissent we think after due deliberation that there is no other course left to us but to withdraw from the Board, lest our continuance in it might be construed as an acquiescence on the part of ourselves and of the people whom we represent to a scheme of dividing the Bengali-speaking nation in some form or other, we very deeply regret to forego the high privilege of presenting an address of welcome to His Excellency the Viceroy of India, but we feel bound in the interest of our country and to avoid all misconstruction to withdraw from the Board and submit our resignation and we pray that you will be pleased to submit this letter of our resignation to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal for his kind acceptance."

I am told that a good number of the elected members of the District and Municipal Boards will also submit their resignations. This affair has created great sensation here and is the talk of the town.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR.

NAVAL STRENGTH OF RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

IN ASIATIC WATERS COMPARED.

RUSSIAN.

Battleships.—(1) Tsarevich, 13,000 tons, 64 guns. (2) Retvisan, 12,700 tons, 62 guns. (3) Pobieda, 12,670 tons, 61 guns. (4) Peresvict, 12,674 tons, 61 guns. (5) Osliabia, 12.674 tons, 61 guns. (6) Petropavlosk, 11,000 tons, 53 guns. (7) Sevastopol, 11,000 tons, 53 guns. (8) Poltava, 11,000 tons, 53 guns.

Armoured Cruisers.—(9) Bayan, 7,800 tons, 37 guns. (10) Rossiya, 12,500 tons, 68 guns. (11) Gromovi, 14,367 tons, 64 guns. (12) Rurik, 10,950 tons, 48 guns.

JAPANESE.

Battleships.—(A) Asahi, 15,200 tons, 52 guns. (B) Mikasa, 15,200 tons, 50 guns. (C) Hatsuse, 15,000 tons, 52 guns. (D) Shikishima, 14,850 tons, 52 guns, (E) Yasima, 12,500 tons, 34 guns. (F) Fuji, 12,500 tons, 34 guns, (G) Chin-Yen. 7,350 tons, 18 guns.

Armoured Cruisers.—(H) Idzumo, 9,800 tons, 42 guns. (I) Iwate, 9,800 tons, 42 guns. (J) Yakumo, 9,850 tons, 40 guns. (K) Azuma, 9,436 tons, 40 guns. (L) Asama, 9,750 tons, 37 guns. (M) Tokiwa, 9,750 tons, 37 guns.

HOW THE RUSSIAN ARMY IS RECRUITED.

The Russian Army is recruited by compulsory service, and on a war footing can dispose of 5,000,000 trained men. But only a small part of this army is available in the Far East, since the question of supplies has to be kept in mind. The war strength of the Russian Army in Asia is 239,000 men. In the Far East the Russians are believed to have a force of about 200,000 men, 40,000 of whom are Cossacks, or mounted infantry. In Port Arthur is a garrison of 30,000 men. The army under Admiral Alexeieff can be reinforced from Europe by the Siberian railway at the rate of about 4,000 men per day, but it is not certain that such a rate could be long maintained. Two army corps are stated to be on their way from European Russia to the Far East, and their strength may be taken together at 68,000 men.

HOW THE JAPANESE ARMY IS RAISED.

The Japanese army is raised by conscription, and all males over 20 years of age are liable to service. On a peace footing the army consists of 143,000 men, but in the event of war Japan can put half a million of men into the field. The Jap makes an excellent soldier. Well disciplined on the German model, the individual soldier is intelligent, alert, active and fearless in his devotion to duty. In spite of the difference of race, these qualities have caused the Jap to be respected by western nations, and the "lively little Jap" is regarded as an acceptable ally by British soldiers and sailors alike. We had an illustration of the excellent qualities of the Japanese soldier in the China expedition of 1900. The Mikado's troops then won the admiration of soldiers by their smartness and fighting qualities, and gained the good opinion of the whole world by their abstention from all riotous and brutal proceedings.

The trial before the Shahi Jirgia at Sibi of nine men implicated in the murder at Chaman of a dedler in preciops stones resulted in a collective fine of Rs. 5,000 showing how life is valued among tribesmen in these territories.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

The Midnapur-Bhoojdihi Section.—We understand that the Midnapur-Bhoojdihi section of the Bengal Nagpur Railway will be opened for coaching traffic on and from the 15th instant.

Registration Dept.—Babu Jogendra Chandra Mukerjee, Rural Sub-Registrar of Jagatballabhpur, is appointed to be Rural Sub-Registrar of Lakhmipassa, vice Babu Amrita Lal Ray, deceased.

Ondal-Sainthia Construction, E. I. R.—We hear that the alignment of this branch, as shown in the project, will be altered to suit the local interests. A detailed survey will, therfore, be necessary to settle the issue.—"Indian Engineering."

Chittagong Harbour.—The Government of Bengal, it is understood, are about to depute Mr. Dumayne, Vice-Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust, to report upon the approaches to the Chittagong harbour, and more especially as to the state of the sand bar at the entrance to the river Karnafuli.

New Stations, N.-W. R.—We understand that arrangements have been made to open the Wazirabad-Khanewal section, comprising the following stations, for public traffic:—(1) Chiniot Road, (2) Darkhana, (3) Pucca Anna, (4) Shonkot Road, (5) Abdul Hakim, (6) Abbaspur, (7) Makdompur Pakhoran, and (8) Chutiana.—"Indian Engineering."

Agra-Delhi Chord Railway.—The Engineer-in-Chief, Agra-Delhi Chord Railway, has reported to the Government of India that the construction of the line was interrupted by the delay caused to the supplies of rails despatched from Karachi Port, owing to the Traffic Department of the North-Western Railway's failure to supply empty rail trucks promptly.—"Indian Engineering."

P. W. Department.—Mr. A. H. Mac Carthy, Ex. Engr., Gandak Division, is granted leave for three months, Mr. O. S. Smith is permanently promoted to be Ex. Engr. 2nd grade, and Babu Ashutosh Bose, to be Assistant Engr, 2nd grade; Mr. B. K. Finnimore is appointed Offg. Sup. Engr., of the Northern Circle; and the Bengal Government Notification No. 152, dated the 2nd November 1903, appointing Mr. B. Parkes Superintending Engr., of the Northern Circle, is hereby cancelled.

Bharat Dharma Maha Mandal.—Babu Tulapati Singha, General Superintendent of H. H. the Mharaja of Darbhanga writes:—I am desired by His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga, K.C.I.E., to announce that the Bharat Dharma Mahamandal General President's Office has been started here from the 1st of January and accounts in connection with the Central Fund have been opened with the Bank of Bengal. It is acknowledged with thanks that His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Cashmere has been pleased to send in Rs. 20,000 as part payment of his liberal donation.

The Chittagong Jetties.—The decision at which the Government of India has arrived in regard to the working of the Chittagong Jetties, is that they are henceforth to be treated as an integral part of the Assam-Bengal Railway. The Government reserve the right to resume possession should they consider such a step at any time called for in the interests of trade, or should an improvement in the financial position of the Port Trust of Chittagong give sufficient and permanent promise of its ability to meet fully the interests on the capital cost of the work. This is a different matter to giving the Railway a free hand with the Port itself, including the improvement of the River, as stated by the lay Press.—"Indian Engineering."

An Interesting Case.—An interesting case is pending before the 4th Subordinate Judge of Tangail. The facts of the case are as follows.—His Highness the Maharaja Rameshwar Singh Bahadur K.C.I.E., of Durbhanga brought a bond suit sometime ago against the Babus of Madhubani for Rupees 133,000. The above defendants filed a written statement alleging that the plaintiff had no right to sue because the bond was executed in favour of the late Lachmeshwar Singh Bahadur K.C.I.E. and the Plaintiff lived always separate from His Highness the late Maharaja Bahadur, and so under the Hindu Law the said plaintiff had no right to the money as also to the Raj. On the 1st instant interrogatories were filed on behalf of the defendants aforesaid to be replied to by the Plaintiff.

Vital Statistics.—The total number of deaths registered in Calcutta during the week ending 30th January, 1904, was 463 against 451 and 458 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 150. There were 27 deaths from cholera, against 22 and 16 in the two preceding weeks; the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 6. There were 17 deaths from plague, against 11 and 12 in the two preceding weeks. There were no deaths from small-pox during the week against "nil" in the previous week. There were 9 deaths from tetanus against 10 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel complaints amounted to 116 and 54, respectively, against 92 and 51 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 27-7 per mile per annum against 37-7 the mean of the last five years.

Acquisition of Land.—Whereas it appears to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal that land is required for improving the Oriental Public Library at Chauhatta, in Patna, it is declared that for the above purpose a piece of land measuring, more or less, 3 cottahs 9.77 chittaks of standard measurement, bounded on the north and east by the land of the Oriental Public Library; west by the house of Shaikh Abdur Rahaman; and south by the main road to the Patna City; and that whereas two pieces of land are required for the construction of a hostel for the Patna College in the village of Badshahiganj, Patna, it is declared that for the above purpose two pieces of land measuring, more or less, 19 bighas 14 cottahs 2.44 chittaks of standard measurement, bounded one on the north by the high bank of the Ganges, east by the land acquired for the hostel for the Bihar School of Engineering, west by a public lane, and south by the fields of Ram Das, Ajodhya Mahto, Mathur Mahto, Girja Dubey and Dukhan Mahto, and the other on the north by the high bank of the Ganges, east by a public lane, west and south by the Public Works Department godown, will be acquired by the Government.

Revenue Department.—Mr. Lalit Mohan Sen Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, third grade, substantive pro tempore, in charge of the Tondu Range of Jalpaiguri Division, is transferred as an attached officer to the Chittagong Division. Maulvi Muhammad Salim, Assistant Opium Agent, attached to the Bihar Agency, is granted privilege leave for one month and nineteen days; and Mr. M. Mackertich, Assistant Factory Superintendent, Patna, is granted leave for one month.

Civil Medical Dept.—Assistant Surgeon Harendra Kumar Das is appointed temporarily as Medical Officer on the Dhubri-Gauhati extension of the E. B. State Railway: This cancels Civil Medical Department Notification appointing him to the Golakganj Dispensary, and Assistant Surgeon Biman Bihari Basu, M.B., Teacher of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Temple Medical School, Patna, is granted an extension of the tenure of his present appointment for a period of five years.

Monetary.—On the 7th February, the total amount of silver coin in the Government Treasuries was Rs. 8,87,89,342 and of gold coin and bullion Rs. 14,19,78303, while the silver held in security for notes was Rs. 1,70,05,179.

Sir W. Emerson and Victoria Memorial.—Sir William Emerson arrived in Calcutta on Tuesday and is a guest at Government House. He will find that the work of clearing the site for the Victoria Memorial is already well started. An army of coolies is at work. Trees have been cut down, the ground has been fenced in, and levelling operations are in progress.

Weather and Crops in Bengal.—Rain is reported from the Sonthal Parganas and some parts of Bengal Proper. The fall was heavy at Contai in Midnapore and moderately heavy in parts of East Bengal, but light elsewhere. Rain is needed in Burdwan, Murshidabad, Champaran, and Palamau. Prospects generally good, but some damage to crops has been caused by insects in Burdwan and by hail in Darjeeling and Mymensingh. Lancing of poppy and harvesting of early rabi crops have commenced. Preparation of lands for early rice and jute proceeding. Cattle-disease reported from nine districts. Fodder and water, generally sufficient. The price of common rice has risen in seven districts, has fallen in six and is stationary in the remainder.

An Important Ruling.—An important ruling by the Customs Department is published in the Gazette of India. It deals with articles containing no silver but described as "German," "Potosi" "Nevada," or "Art" silver. The Government of India are of opinion that such goods, when marked as "German silver" or "Nickel silver," may be passed without objection. These trade descriptions are well known to all classes likely to be affected; and they have been in use for a sufficiently long period to render it very improbable that any purchaser will be deceived thereby. The Government is not prepared to extend this ruling, however, to articles not made of silver, which are marked as "Potosi silver," "Nevada silver," "Austral silver," "Art silver." They are of opinio nthat it would be unsafe to assume that descriptions of this nature would not deceive purchasers in India; and they consider that such goods, if marked in this manner, should be dealt with as bearing a false trade description within the meaning of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act. No. objection will be taken to the use of such marks, provided that the word "silver" is omitted.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

London, Feb. 5.

Russia's reply to Japan was forwarded yesterday evening to Admiral Alexeieff. If he approves of the same, it will be despatched to Tokio, where it will arrive on Monday at the latest. The belief prevails at St. Petersburg that Russia does not concede Japan's demand regarding Manchuria.

The "Times'" St. Petersburg correspondent says that the Tsar's hesitation has been overcome, and that Russia makes no concession.

The "Daily Graphic" says there is no essential change in the tenour of the Russian Note since the 29th January, and, though conciliatory in tone, it firmly declines to accede to the wishes of Japan regarding the integrity of China. It makes concessions on otner points, but this is a vital issue, and Japan's resolution to reject terms is unaltered.

The House of Commons have rejected Mr. Robson's amendment to the Address by 278 against 192. During the debate Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman stated that, just after the Bloemfontein Conference, Mr. Chamberlain in a conversation with him proposed sending 10,000 troops to the Cape, and asked him whether the opposition would agree. He added: "Don't be alarmed the Boers won't fight, and we are playing a game of bluff." Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman decided to endorse such a policy.

Mr. Chamberlain denied using the word "bluff," and said that he approached Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman considering that a grave national matter should not be treated as a party matter. He told Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman that the Government had offered not to take any steps whatever without consulting him, and Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman accepted the idea. "I said I believed that there was no probability of war, but our difficulty was to convince the Boers that we were in earnest." Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman subsequently wrote that the Opposition declined the offer, and that the Government must act on its own responsibility.

Sir M. Bhownaggree, in the House of Commons, asked to have the exemption of British subjects from the operation of the Labour Ordinance specifically provided for therein. Mr. Lyttelton said that Lord Milner had already telegraphed that it was not proposed to employ British Indians in the mines, and he was communicating with Lord Milner on the subject.

Unprecedented and wild speculation in coffee continues at New York.

London, Feb. 6.

Enormous liquidations took place in the New York cotton market yesterday. The bulls were overwhelmed by an avalanche of selling, and were routed.

The return match between Warner's team and Victoria has commenced at Melbourne. Victoria won the toss, and, in their first innings, have made 269 for 4 wickets, McAllister 133, not out.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

London, Feb. 6.

It has been raining in Melbourne and no play has taken place to-day.

The programme of the Colonial Reliefs show a considerable reduction in the Army in South Africa during the course of the year. Nine Infantry and three Cavalry regiments return between March and August, and will be replaced by six battalions.

Lord Rosebery, the Duke of Devonshire and Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and other Free Traders of both parties dined at Lord Wimborne's last night. This is regarded as the foreshadowing of a definite alliance.

The Duke of Connaught becomes Inspector-General. It is understood that Lord Roberts desired to obtain the post for six months. Generals Kelly-Kenny, Ian Hamilton, Brackenbury, Shone and Nicholson, it is notified, are to vacate their present appointments.—"Pioneer."

A despatch from St. Petersburg says that Russia's reply was telegraphed on the 4th instant to Admiral Alexeieff who transmitted to Baron Rosen at Tokio an authoritative statement that the St. Petersburg Government has gone as far as it possibly can to meet Japanese wishes, and if Japan is animated by the same peaceful sentiments as Russia, it will receive the fresh proposals in a manner permitting eventual accord. Baron Rosen has been furnished with full instructions for a fresh phase in the negotiations.

The Post Office notifies that private coded telegrams will not be accepted for Japan.

A semi-official telegram from St. Petersburg confirms the news that Baron Rosen has handed the Russian reply to Japan.

The P. and O. steamer Palawan has sailed from London with a large quantity of ammunition for the China fleet, besides 110 ratings and a few infantry.

The Japanese warships, Nishen and Kasuga, have left Singapore.

Imports for January decreased a quarter of a million and exports three quarters of a million.

London, Feb. 7.

The Tsar is about to proceed to Moscow to submit his cause and the Empire's fate to the Almighty before the altar of the Troitzke Monastery as his fathers have done in the past before drawing the sword.

M. Kurino, the Japanese Minister at St. Petersburg, proseeds to Berlin to-morrow.

The British Embassy at St. Petersburg takes charge of Japan's interests.

London, Feb. 7.

Reuter wires from Shanghai that the transport Kwangping is leaving with a force of Sherwood Foresters for Chingwangtao, presumably to safeguard the Tientsin-Niuchwang Railway.

Sir Ian Hamilton has started to join the Russian forces.

The unrest in the Balkans is markedly increasing. The Turkish Government is commandeering the rolling stock as before the Greek war.

The Army Council has been appointed. It consists of the Secretary of State, Mr. Arnold Forster; the military members are Generals Sir Neville Lyttelton, Horsley, Douglas, Plumer, and Wolfe Murray, the Civil Members are Lord Donoughmore, Mr. Bromley Davenport, and the Secretary is Sir Edward Ward.

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Powell Williams, member for South Birmingham.

London, Feb. 8.

It is officially notified that the departure of "K" Battery, Horse Artillery, from India, homeward, which was fixed for 16th February, is postponed for the present. The Battery may said on 8th March.

A despatch from the Government of India, dated 22nd October, stating the views regarding preferential tariffs, will be published as a Blue-Book.

An enthusiastic gathering of City men took place at the Guildhall to-day. The Duke of Devonshire, who presided, said, in his address on the fiscal question, that whatever the differences were, all would unite in not embarrassing the Government in its anxious task of safeguarding the Empire's interests in the Far East.

Earl Percy in Common said that the correspondence with Russia on the subject of Manchuria will be published shortly.

Government, he said, intends to send Consuls to Mukden and Antung.

London, Feb. 9.

The Japanese torpedo boats have attacked the Russian warships at Port Arthur.

Admiral Alexeeff telegraphs that Japanese torpedo boats attacked the Russians Squadron in the outer roads of Port Arthur at midnight on 8th instant. The battleships "Retvisan" and "Tsarevitch" and the cruiser "Pallada" are damaged.

Japan's patience was then exhausted; she seized three Russian merchantmen with cargoes of local and stores on board. It is reported that two other Ru sian merchantmen were seized outside Sasebo.

The Tsar's visit to Moscow has been postponed indefinitely.

The American Naval Attache at Tokio telegraphs that the Japanese Naval Division has started for Chemulpho.

Kaiser William has abandoned his projected cruise in the Mediterranean, owing to the present crisis.

The "Daily Telegraph" publishes a despatch, dated Nagasaki, 6th instant, stating that, when the Russian's squadron left Port Arthur, it escorted troopships to the Yalu River and landed a full Division.

London, Feb. 9.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Gerald Balfour replying to Mr. Mosley's amendment on the fiscal question gave such emphatic assurances regarding the policy of the Government in the matter that Sir M. Hicks-Beach declared that he could hardly ask more for the present. Moreover he said he never would desert the Government in the present foreign crisis and opposed the amendment.

The Standard says that the Unionist free-traders are relieved from a painful dilemma and will certainly support the Government.

The tea trade has memorialized the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce the tea duty adducing statistics in support of the memorial.

In the return match at Melbourne, the Victorians were all out in the second innings for fifteen. The first four weekets fell for nothing.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, FEBRUARY 11, 1904.

NO NEED FOR THE PROPOSED O.S. ACT.

SIR A. ARUNDEL, in his speech on the Official Secrets Bill, has said everything excepting what the public wants to know most. Why was this Bill introduced at all? Why was it originally made so hideous? Why should the provisions of the existing Indian Act be so violently disturbed and recast on lines which no civilized Government could accept, specially, when its parent, the English Act, remains unaltered? And, lastly, why should the Indian Legislature deviate from the principles laid down in this connection by the British Parliament, and refuse to be guided by the light thrown on the subject by the Parliamentary Law Committee in 1889, when they passed this piece of legislation for the whole British Empire? Neither has the Viceroy in his speech of the 18th December nor Sir Arundel in his two speeches uttered one word in regard to these important matters.

The Viceroy in his speech referred to above said that he was not responsible for the measure,—that it was kept ready for introduction into the Council before his arrival in this country. We are glad to hear of it; for, this shows that he has no parental affection for the Bill, and that he is not likely to be swayed by any private feeling in this matter. Now does not the very fact that, during the course of his five years' administration, Lord Curzon has not come across a single case in which a State Secret has been disclosed to the detriment of public interests, prove conclusively that these offences are practically non-existent in this country, and, therefore, the existing Act needs no amendment absolutely? It is quite true that the Viceroy mentioned the occurrence of two or three cases of lillicit photographing of the exterior of some forts, but, surely, that did not justify the Government to forge altogether a new law of an atrocious character, penalising the disclosure of even civil secrets.

So the situation is this. Since the passing of the present Official Secrets Act in 1889, nothing has happened to make it more stringent for the protection of official secrets. At least, not a single instance was brought forward to show the necessity of amending the present law. On the other hand, the few cases cited by the Viceroy were not only most trival, but they related to military, and not civil, matters. The measure is thus not wanted at all; and there is absolutely no justification for inserting provisions in the Bill by which the disclosure of so-called civil secrets has been rendered penal. We, therefore, submit that the Bill should not be proceeded with but dropped; for, as we have stated above, the State is not at all in need of such a drastic measure, while, on the other hand, if passed, it may prove an engine of great oppression in the hands of misguided rulers. We very much regret that, none of the three representative Indian members in the Select Committee urged its withdrawal in their Note of Dissent. We dare say they will do it when the matter is taken into consideration at a later date; for, even if all their suggestions were accepted, the new Act would yet hang like the sword of Damocles over the head of the Indian press.

The Bill in its original shape was a live monster. Some of its ugliest features have no doubt been taken away in the Select Committee, but it is yet an object of dread, as several of its fangs yet remain unbroken. We shall point this out in a subsequent issue. In the meantime, we shall try to impress a very simple truth upon the mind of the Viceroy, namely, that secrets,—official or non-official,—can never be protected by legislation if the people are perverse. Marvin betrayed an official secret, knowing full well that he would be caught red-handed and dismissed. But the fear of dismissal did not deter him. Secrets are protected, not by the enforcement of draconian Acts but by the operation of moral laws. Just see how the innate sense of right prevents poeple from disclosing awful secrets and committing dreadful mischief.

A multiplicity of toll-gates was the cause of the extraordinary "Rebecca" insurrection, which broke out in North Wales in 1843. Parties of five and six hundred men, armed and mounted, used nightly to traverse the counties of Carmarthen, Pembroke, Cardigan, and Brecon. They were always led by a tall man, dressed in female attire, and it was at his command always that the toll-gates were thrown down and the toll-houses burnt.

Large bodies of military were sent into the disturbed districts, but so well did the "Rebeccaites" keep their councils, and so secretly did they manage their forays, that no effectual check could be put upon their proceedings; and in the end they succeeded in demolishing practically all the obnoxious barriers in the districts where they operated.

The fate of London, in the event of war, rests in the hands of five working men.

A cottage situated on the Thames Marshes is the key to the situation of the submarine mines which would protect the Metropolis in the event of a Naval reverse. By means of an electric switchboard, the working of which is only known to these men, a powerful fleet could be sunk in ten minutes.

The Russian Government tried to bribe one of the men with £100,000 some years back to give them the secret, but without effect.

A similar secret is held by a detachment of the sappers in charge of the mines and general defences at Portsmouth and other maritime ports, and were any of these men other than loyal, the position might be gravely imperilled.

Look also at the secrets which lie in the keeping of workers at Naval dockyards.

Any one of these men, and there is an army of them, is in a position to realise fabulous sums were he disposed to reveal what he knew to a foreign agent.

Considering a first-class battleship contains sometimes over five hundred secrets in its construction, it will be seen what an enormous strain there is on the reserve of these workmen.

Any one of those secrets would be worth enormous sums to a foreign Government. However, in spite of temptations often offered them, cases in which these secrets are betrayed are very rare indeed.

The exact constituents of lyddite and cordite are secrets of incalculable value to foreign Powers, yet these could be revealed by any one of the thousands of men employed by the Government at Waltham and elsewhere, and by the great private contractors in various parts of the country.

If France had as many traitors in her army as her gutter Press would make us believe, they would be good prey for the British spy.

What would not Government, for instance, give to learn the secret of that new quick-firing gun introduced a year or so back into the French artillery?

A word or two from a hard-up gunner would probably provide him with opulence for the rest of his life—if he liked to take the risk of betrayal.

There are no two opinions about the necessity of protecting, even by stringent measures, such secrets as involve the safety of the Empire, but the Government here already enjoys unlimited power. If Local Governments can, under the famous Regulation, deport innocent men like the Natu brothers without any trial and keep them in endurance vile as long as they choose, surely, they will find no difficulty in punishing real enemies of the State,—who, by betraying secrets, seek to endanger the safety of the Empire,—by availing themselves of the provisions of this Regulation. What the public apprehend is that, an Act like the proposed Official Secrets Act may not only offer temptation to the authorities to tamper with the independence of the press, but it may hold out encouragement to officials, illegally inclined, to abuse their powers and commit illegalities. At present the fear of exposure is a great check upon them: that factor must not be weakened in any way. But the Bill, even in its amended shape, has that feature.

THE FUTURE OF THE PARTITION PROSPECT.

WILL the Govednment abandon this project of partition of Bengal? Yes and no,—let us speculate a little, why yes. It is because the instinct of the British Government urges it never to disregard popular voice. When the Government comes to realize that the agitation against the project is based upon real and strong opposition it will give way. Even the irresponsible administration of Lord Lansdowne's Government, which distinguished itself most in giving projects first and finding reasons for them afterwards, had to yield to the agitation against the Age of Consent measure. For, along with the passing of this measure, an executive order was issued by the Government of India that the Act should be as rarely resorted to as possible. As a matter of fact, it has now become a dead letter and the Government has ceased to meddle with the social affairs of the Indians. The Government of Lord Curzon, with all its defects, supposed and real, has this advantage that, it is not at least so devoid of intelligence as its two immediate predecessors were.

Another great reason, why it is hoped that the project would be abandoned is that the present ruler of India will have to commit an outrage upon his own policy and natural inclinations if he accepts it. By his Parliamentary training he has learnt to respect opposition and listen to what the other side say. The Viceroys who preceded him had no such training, none had it. The fact is, Lord Curzon is not a statesman who owes his post to his position as a peer, or to family influence, but a statesman, who had to obtain it solely by dint of his own merit, energy and activity. Those who are trained in this way, and as we said Lord Curzon is the only Viceroy who has such training, can never act the part of a despot, even in India.

And then, Lord Curzon threw out the bold challenge, even when he had just begun his administration that he liked to be judged by his acts when he left these shores. It may be contended that this means nothing, but not so. This means that His Excellency has an ambition of leaving behind him here in India a fragrant remembrance of himself.

Sometime ago we referred to a list of the good works done by Lord Curzon, which was prepared by one who was eminently fitted to do it. In that list we find the following credited to the account of his Lordship.

"Attention paid to memorials:"

"Attention to Public Opinion:"

Here, we are told, in distinct terms, by one who can speak with authority that, Lord Curzon is distinguished from his predecessors by his "attention to public opinion," nay even attention to the memorials of private parties. It is not possible for such a ruler, with such a training and such instincts, to run counter to the ardent wishes of a nation.

Our Burdwan correspondent informed our readers on Saturday that, a public meeting had been arranged in that city for a protest against the project of partition. But what has Burdwan to do with the project which affects only the people of East Bengal, whom Mr. Risley has learnt to call "Bangals?" We have often said in these columns that the Westerners of Bengal are as much interested in the question as the Easterners of this province are, and the attempt to hold the public meeting in Burdwan is a conclusive proof thereof. That meeting of Burdwan was postponed on the same ground that the Calcutta meeting was, that is to say, it has been postponed till the return of the Viceroy from East Bengal. We say, yes, the project will be abandoned on the ground that Lord Curzon will not very naturally like to go against the wishes of entire Bengal, both East and West.

There is another great reason why the project is likely to be abandoned. The authors of the project took a jump in the dark. They actually launched their project first, intending to find reasons for it afterwards. The Government of Lord Curzon is going to introduce a more than revolutionary measure, a measure in which the advanced race of the fifty millions of Bengalees to a man are opposed, and which is also opposed by an influential body of non-official Anglo-Indians. Nay, the majority of the Judges of the High Court as well as many other officials, executive and judicial, are against it.

The Government is also perfectly aware that the agitation is likely to be continued not only in East Bengal but to be carried to the West also; that, if necessary, it will be also carried before the English public, and before Parliament. That being the case, if the authors of the project took a leap in the dark in the beginning, they will not do so now. They will now hesitate, inquire, and think. They will have to take into account the agitation that is likely to follow the partition, and an attempt at partition. They will have to take stock of the confusion that is likely to follow the measure if carried out, and they have also to estimate the cost that the senseless project is likely to entail upon the Empire. For, be it remembered that the opponents of the project, if weak and helpless, are at least intelligent men and will not fail to point out its defects. The Government is fully aware that it will have to render an account to an intelligent public here and in England.

We have now to enumerate the reasons which may lead one to think that the project would be thrust upon the country at all hazards. The consideration of this part of the subject we mean to postpone for a future issue. Today we shall only observe that when we remember the way some important documents, unfavourable to the project, were sought to be kept, behind the screen, we felt that the Government had a *zid* in the matter. The fact that the Government did not consult the High Court also leads one to the same conclusion.

HOW TO LIGHTEN THE VICEROY'S AND L.-G'S WORK.

(SIR STAFFORD NORTHCOTE'S METHOD.)

MR. RISLEY, in his famous letter to the Government of Bengal, on the dismemberment of this province, refers to the discussion that took place on this subject so long ago as 1867, when Sir Stafford Northcote was the Secretary of State for India. One year before he assumed office, that is to say, in 1866, the Orissa famine had occurred. The report of the Famine Commission, appointed to enquire into the matter, made such a deep and painful impression upon the mind of Sir Stafford that he suggested various means to avert a calamity of this nature in future. At that time there was no communication between Calcutta, and Orissa and Assam, by railway or steamer, and it was really very difficult for the ruler of Bengal to look after the affairs of these two distant provinces properly. And this was one of the reasons why millions of people died of starvation in Orissa without the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal Sir Cecil Beadon's being aware of the fact. To prevent future famines Sir Stafford, therefore, suggested, among others, "to separate the less advanced districts, such as Orissa and Assam, from Bengal proper, and to place them under Commissioners of a non-regulation system."

Sir Cecil Beadon, who had resigned his Lieutenant-Governorship, was at the time in England. Sir Stafford consulted him; but Sir Cecil opposed his views. And, in his despatch, dated August 15, 1867, to the then Viceroy, Sir John Lawrence, Sir Stafford wrote: "Sir Cecil Beadon tells me that this is a retrograde policy; but I am not sure that it is necessarily wrong on that account. I do not want to de-Bengalise Bengal itself, but are we not misapplying its peculiar system when we carry it into such districts as those I have mentioned?" What Sir Stafford felt was that Bengal was too advanced to be amalgamated with backward provinces like Assam and Orissa. Mr. Risley, however, scouts this idea altogether. He admits that Assam is in a very retrograde condition; yet, he thinks, that the highly-advanced districts of Bengal may be, with profit to them, weighted with a starving and non-regulation province like Assam.

There was another reason which led Sir Stafford Northcote to propose the taking away of Assam and Orissa from Bengal. If the question of lightening the work of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has just now been agitating the mind of the Government of India, the subject of relieving the Governor-General of a large portion of his duties was similarly before the Council of the Secretary of State in 1867. The idea of Sir Stafford was to make Bengal a separate Government like that of Bombay or Madras, and make it independent of the control of the Government of India to a large extent. His proposal therefore was that, in the place of a Lieutenant-Governor, Bengal should have a Governor, with a Council of his own, and that the system of administration to be introduced there should be of a superior kind, which could not be suited to Assam or Orissa, and hence these provinces should be cut off from Bengal proper. This is what Sir Stafford says in the despatch referred to above:—

"Whether the chief of the Bengal Presidency should be a Governor sent out from England, like the Governors of Madras and Bombay, or a Lieutenant-Governor drawn from the ranks of the Civil Service, is a question upon which I do not feel at all clear. The answer must greatly depend upon the maintenance or the abandonment of the close connection between the Government of India and that of Calcutta. If Calcutta is to be the capital of India, you cannot have a really independent Government of Bengal. Ought, then, Calcutta to be the capital? That depends, I think, upon the question,—On what principles is India to be administered? Is it to be governed on English or Indian principles? Are we to endeavour to impress our own character on the people, or to adapt our institutions to their characters, and, it may be, to their weaknesses? Are we to centralize or to localise?"

Sir Stafford Northcote deprecated the idea of thrusting European civilization upon the unwilling people of India by a central Government having Calcutta for its capital; and, he ended by saying that, "I look, therefore, to the opposite policy: that of localising our administration, as much as possible, and adapting it to the wants and prejudices of each district, introducing our own ideas with great caution and forbearance." What an amount of suffering and misery would have been avoided in this country if the English rulers of India had followed these wise counsels of a sympathetic and far-sighted statesman like Sir Stafford Northcote! Here is Sir Stafford's scheme of "localisation" or "decentralization," described in the same despatch:—

"For this purpose, I should say, decentralise, and specifically remove our seat of Government from Bengal. Let Bengal have a thoroughly well-organized Government of its own, and give it a sufficient amount of freedom of action to make up for the loss of the imperial position. I do not quite know where the seat of the Supreme Government should be; but I think, wherever it is, the Governor-General ought, from time to time, to visit different parts of India to see with his own eyes what the local Governments are doing, to learn their wants, and to take counsel with them and to invigorate them with his presence and advice. I cannot think that the presidency Governments ought to be under the entire control and direction of the Supreme Government. I think they should have certain duties and functions assigned to them, for the due discharge of which they should be directly responsible to the Home Government, which would naturally exercise a very moderate amount of self-control. I would let the presidency Governors appoint their own councils, and make themselves directly responsible for all their actions. In like manner I would let the Viceroy appoint the Supreme Council, and make him absolute in all matters which were reserved for the Supreme Government, responsible of course to the Home Government."

The then Governor-General, Sir John Lawrence, opposed the proposal. He said that the central Government must have powers of control over the local Governments. And, finally, when the matter of lightening the duties of the Governor-General by making Bengal a separate Government came for discussion before the India Council on December 18, 1867, Sir Stafford's reforming ideas were defeated by a majority. As expected, several narrow-minded newspapers ridiculed the proposal of Sir Stafford Northcote and considered that it was too advanced for the people of India. Referring to their criticism' says Sir Stafford: "The newspapers seem to be writing a great deal of nonsense about the Americanising the institutions of India; but," he adds, characteristically, "there is no use in making one's self unhappy about them." He himself had adopted the views of the minority of the Council, "that it was desirable that the Government of Bengal should be erected into a presidency on the footing of Madras or Bombay, and this was part of his confirmed general theory that "the Government of India should be detached from local administration." (Vide his speech on Government of India Bill, April 23, 1868).

Now it is not the ruler of Bengal but the Governor-General of all-India who really wants relief. This was confessed by Lord Curzon himself in the speech that he delivered on the Universities Bill on the 18th of December last. "We are already over-burdened with work," observed the Viceroy; "we are anxious to throw it off at every turn; and the idea that we should desire to add to our over-whelming labours by taking higher education out of the hands of people who are competent to deal with it and monopolise it to ourselves is not one that could be entertained by any one who was familiar with the inner workings of the Government." Yes, there is no doubt about the heavy burden of duties that rests on the shoulders of the Viceroy. This was perceived as early as the sixties by a keen and wise statesman like Sir Stafford Northcote, and the remedy he suggested was the best under the circumstances.

We think the time has come when the reforms proposed by Sir Stafford Northcote should be introduced. What he suggested was to convert Bengal into a presidency like Bombay or Madras, and give its ruler—either a Lieutenant-Governor or a Governor—a Council. The only difficulty in the way of giving effect to the proposal is that, the capital city should then be removed elsewhere. But, Sir Stafford perceived this objection and sought to remove it in his own way. Indeed, it would not matter much if the seat of the Supreme Government were removed from Calcutta to another place for three months; on the other hand, a more central station than Calcutta might enable the Viceroy to do his work better. The chief merit of Sir Stafford's proposal consists in this: It will, if adopted, lighten not only the work of the Viceroy but also of the ruler of Bengal. Here is a way out of the difficulty created by the partition scheme of the Government. The whole country will feel deeply grateful to Lord Curzon if he solves the present problem, which has thrown the whole of Bengal into convulsion, by adopting the suggestion of Sir Stafford Northcote.

THE reply of the Government to the question of the Hon'ble Mr. Cable, who asked for the reason why the High Court had not been consulted on the subject of the dismemberment of Bengal, is as unsatisfactory as the one given to the questions of the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee. What Sir Denzil Ibbetson said was that, "as it is not proposed to alter the limits of the High Court's jurisdiction, it does not seem to the Government of India necessary to consult the Hon'ble Judges at the present stage." But the preceding Government,—we mean the Government of Lord Elgin,—took a quite different view of the matter in 1896 when the Chittagong Division was sought to be transferred. At that time also, it was not in contemplation to withdraw the jurisdiction of the High Court from the transferred districts; but yet the Government thought it of vital importance to invite the opinions of the Hon'ble Judges. And the report of the High Court showed that the Government was well-advised in adopting this course, for the Hon'ble Judges pointed out, after well-reasoned arguments, that no portion of Bengal could be transferred to Assam without making it suffer judicially, even though it remained within the limits of their Lordships' jurisdiction.

IN the opinion of the Judges the proposed change, if carried out, "would affect the administration of civil and criminal justice" of the Chittagong Division. In its judicial aspect, said the Judges, the question divided itself into two branches: (1) The law to be administered; (2) the judicial agency. In considering the matter they had the experience of Sylhet to guide them, which district was then enjoying the fruits of transference. And what was their conclusion? In regard to the first, the Judges held that "a transfer of the Chittagong District and the Chittagong Division to the Government of Assam, as at present constituted, would not fail to be a retrograde and mischievous step in regard to the Legislative needs of the districts transferred; and, from the judicial point of view they think that any such transfer to be deprecated." As regards the second branch of the question—the judicial agency—the Hon'ble Judges pointed out that, like Sylhet, the districts proposed to be transferred, would not get the benefit of the services of either first class Sub-Judges or Sessions Judges, and this meant a serious wrong to them. Nay, more. Like Sylhet the districts of the Chittagong Division might be placed at the mercy of the military Assistant Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Commissioners who are ignorant of law and procedure. The High Court was, in short, distinctly of opinion, "also on the ground of the judicial agency to be employed, the districts in question would suffer, if transferred."

IN the face of above declarations of the Hon'ble Judges, how could the Government refuse to consult them again on the present occasion, when the question has been brought forward in an aggravated form, without its motives being misconstruted? The public cannot be blamed if it draws the inference that the Government is not anxious to invite the opinion of the High Court because it may not, as in 1896, support its present scheme. We are really at a loss to understand why should the Government lay itself open to such a charge when it has declared that it is open to conviction, and when its avowed object in partitioning Bengal is the welfare of the people. Instead of letting the Judges of the High Court alone, specially when its predecessor sought their help and advice, the present Government should have of its own motion and without being interpellated, asked them to state their views, and thereby removed all suspicion from the minds of the people, as regards its attitude to this revolutionary measure. We very much deplore the unwillingness of the Government to take the Judges of the High Court into its confidence, more so as they are the best parties, from their judicial training and experience, to advise the executive authorities on the subject. And it should have occurred to Government that so long its scheme was not supported by the highest judicial tribunal in the land, it would be considered as a rotten one by the whole world. The Government should not take a jump in the dark. Suppose the transfer is effected and suppose disaster follows it, the statemen, who are going to do it with eyes shut, would then not be able to prevent the mischief by any amount of trouble.

THE manner in which the amended Official Secrets Bill has been condemned by both the Indian and Anglo-Indian press shows conclusively that the Viceroy has failed to convert its hostile critics into ardent advocates. The tocsin of alarm was sounded by the "Englishman"; and there is not a single newspaper in the country which does not see great danger in the measure, even though some of its ugliest features have been removed in the Select Committee. The "Pioneer," in the following paragraph, shows how some evil genius is exercising its sinister influence over the attempts of a liberal-hearted Viceroy to make the measure as innocent as possible:—

The extraordinary course that has been followed by the Government of India over the Official Secrets Bill seems to point to the existence of some masterful, autocratic personal influence inside the Cabinet, that has hitherto been unsuspected by the public. This may seem at first sight a far-fetched suggestion, but will any other hypothesis account for the succession of coups that have fallen on an amazed and apparently innocent community? First came the Bill itself launched out of a clear sky at Simla; a Bill loaded with menaces totally new to British subjects, and subversive of the primary maxims of British law, the explanation vouchsafed for this strange instrument being that its introduction was desirable. As soon as the public had recovered its breath over this, an agitation arose which was kept simmering by the knowledge that it must be some months before anything further could be done, but which by the time the Council met at Calcutta had risen to a respectable degree of heat. The first act of the Viceroy on his return to the capital was to reassure the public in the most emphatic manner; the Bill, he declared, was none of his doing but the revival of an old measure, long on the stocks. The extension of the original scope of the measure from a protection of military secrets to every class of civil intelligence without discrimination, was due, he showed, to the circumstance that several persons had been caught attempting to photograph fortifications. Seeming in fact to share the public astonishment at the character of the measure, His Excellency broadly hinted at blunders on the part of the draftsmen and ended with what was almost a promise that the Bill would be reduced to harmlessness: "We shall be prepared if convinced of the unsuitability of our language to alter it; if we have been guilty of obscurity to correct it; if shown to have gone too far to modify our plans." Having been thus told that it is all a misunderstanding the public lays aside those apprehensions which His Excellency was pleased to make a jest of and waits the result with confidence. And now, after the best part of a couple of months, re-appears the same Bill with a minimum of modification, and in a form which invites a renewal of the agitation. To whom are we to attribute this? Obviously not to a Viceroy who welcomes criticism, and rejoices at every opportunity of taking the public into his confidence. One is compelled to discern behind the head of Government the workings of a stronger will, a sinister, reactionary, Russianising influence which thwarts the benevolent sentiments of the Viceroy and turns them to its own purposes. We cannot afford in these days to be too explicit: but who was it who went out of his way to introduce the measure? Who turned so fiercely upon the non-official Members who interposed their objections at its introduction? Who has piloted the measure through Committee, and in spite of everything has brought it out almost in its original shape? That criticism is vain that falls upon the Czar and fails to take account of Arun—Alexeieff.

The only course left to the Government is to drop the measure when it has been condemned so virulently from one end of the country to the other. And if there is one statesman capable of doing it, it is Lord Curzon. His Excellency performed a far more difficult feat when he threw out the Telegraphic Messages Bill which had all but been passed, and which, with the honourable exception of the "Indian Daily News," was supported by the entire Anglo-Indian press. As we pointed out the other day, the offences, for the protection of which the Bill has been introduced, are non-existent in this country. Why then create this unpopularity and odium for the Government for nothing? And if the Bill is passed as it is, it is bound to be repealed afterwards like the Vernacular Press Act.

THE opinion we expressed about the Maharajah of Mourbhanj has been confirmed by no less an authority than the Commissioner of Orissa. His Highness is a Prince the like of whom is scarcely to be found anywhere in the whole world. It is quite true he is the ruler of a small principality; all the same he possesses sovereign powers and he may use them, like the ordinary race of Princes, more for his own benefit than that of his subjects,

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But his constant egret is that, he cannot perform his duties to his people in a still more unselfish manner than he does. But let the Commissioner of Orissa,, who, as Superintendent of the Tributary States of that Province, went to Mourbhunj on the 22nd December, describe His Highness's character. While distributing prizes to the pupils of the local High School the Commissioner, says our correspondent at Mourbhunj, "spoke highly of the education, enlightenment, moral character, sense of duty and self-abnegation of the Maharajah whom he compared with Dilip by quoting the very beautiful and suggestive lines of our immortal poet Kalidas". The Commissioner went on to observe:—

"Dilip taxed his subjects not for the pursuit of his selfish ends or the gratification of his vanities but to return them to the people in thousand-fold, as the sun sucks up moisture from the face of the globe to return it to the earth in the shape of fertilising and life giving rains. It was frequently said that our ruling chiefs were given to sensual pleasures and to selfish ends only, but here was an example of what a ruling chief should be. It was for these high qualities of the Chief of Mourbhanj that Government delighted to honour him so recently and he further hoped that more and greater honours were in store for him and that at no distant date. He resumed his seat by invoking the blessings of the Deity that the young Maharaja might live long to enjoy his honours and to receive more.'

The chief merit of the Maharajah consists in his having been able to keep himself absolutely pure in spite of various temptations in his way. Though trained under heterodox principles almost from his infancy, he has not allowed himself to be demoralized by the glitter of modern civilisation; on the other hand, he has improved himself most by studying the literature and science of the West. A fine English scholar and having a taste for science, he devotes a considerable portion of his time to the enjoyment of intellectual pleasures. Since the death of his wife, he has been leading the life of almost a religious recluse.

The letter of Herbert Spencer, addressed in 1892 to Baron Kancko, a high Japanese official and the chief lieutenant of Count Ito, the Japanese Prime Minister, and reproduced elsewhere from the "Times," will no doubt create a sensation in the whole world. For, the sayings of this great English philosopher have always been regarded with profound respect by cultured classes in every country. And what does he say? He advises the Japanese to keep "Americans and Europeans as much as possible at arm's length." And the main reason for his giving this advice to them is that, "in presence of the more powerful races your position is one of chronic danger, and you should take every precaution to give as little foothold as possible to foreigners." Spencer asks the Japanese to study the history of India and be wiser. This has naturally led the editor of the "Times" to fall foul of the philosopher—the idol of his nation—and accuse him of anti-patriotic bias, and characterise his advice "as narrow, as much imbued with antipathy to real progress as ever came from a self-sufficient, short-sighted Mandarin, bred in the contempt and hatred of 'barbarians'". Nay, even our own London correspondent—the Liberal of Liberals—is disgusted with the utterances of Spencer and has a fling at him in his letter which is published in the usual place. It is, however, satisfactory to find that there is at least one Englishman in England—a disciple of Spencer—who has the courage to reply to the strictures of the "Times," and show that his master was more than a narrow-minded and so-called patriot. This is what the disciple of Spencer writes in the "Times":—

"Yes. Spencer was not a patriot of the type you admire most. He had the higher interests of the whole human race at heart. With him true and earnest patriotism was not incompatible with equally true and earnest humanitarianism. He could not sacrifice his keen sense of justice at the altar of a patriotism that could inspire the aggressive military spirit, so prevalent amongst the European nations at the present moment. Was he far wrong when he characterised that spirit as 'return to barbarism'? What political idea can be higher than the ideal that inspired Spencer and still inspires the best and the noblest of our race,—the ideal, viz. that every nation unless it infringes on the rights and freedom of another nation, should be let alone to develop its own possibilities and work out its own destiny? Is it not true that human happiness would be best promoted by the strenuous pursuit of this ideal? Does not history abundantly prove the soundness of Spencer's advice to young Japan? Is not the late Boer war, not to go further, against which, by the way, the late philosopher preached to the best of his ability a striking illustration of the truth of what he says with regard to the probable causes and results of collisions between the Japanese and the foreigners?".

Spencer's advice deserved condemnation if the civilization of the West was based upon religion and morality. But, when "might is right" is the policy that guides the affairs of European and American nations, the illustrious philosopher only stated a very ordinary truth when he said that the Japanese should prevent the former from getting any permanent footing in their native land. Indeed, divorced of higher principles, the Europeans and Americans as nations, though not as individuals, for there are hundreds and thousands amongst them who can view the situation from a superior platform like Herbert Spencer—are acting every now and then like barbarians to satisfy their material greed. If Japan had followed the advice of Spencer—if she had not been fired with the ambition of rising to the position of the first-class European powers by inviting and encouraging them to stay in their mother country—she would have not found herself in the awkard position she is now in. In a conflict with Russia, she is likely to be crippled for ever, even if she comes out victorious in the end. All this she might have avoided if she had kept the Europeans and the Americans at an arm's length, at the same time, improving her condition by importing scientific knowledge from Europe and America, and imparting it extensively to her people in the way she has been doing.

The Bharat Dharma Mahamandal is an institution which is backed by Hindus, some of whom are wealthy, influential and hold foremost positions in society. But it has not been able to form as yet a definite programme of work. Indeed, it is difficult to form one for it. The works must be such as are calculated to enlist the sympathy of the Hindus and secure the approval of the wealthy donors, and do not provoke opposition from the Government and other communities. Thus, if the protection of the sacred cow be made one of the objects of the movement, the project will be enthusiastically received by the Hindus in general. But men of wealth and position will not approve of it, nor will the Government encourage it, but rather oppose it. Education, under Hindu principles, is the main object with which the "Mandal" has appeared before the public. But this sort of work will not create immediate enthusiasm. The "Mandal" ought to take some such work as will impart enthusiasm to the Hindus, and help their spiritual progress directly and material improvement indirectly. First, let them carefully examine the defects that exist in the Hindu society. Having fingered these they will be able to determine how to remove them. For instance, there is no unity amongst the Hindus. And what is the reason? It is, because, it is hard to determine who is a Hindu and who is not. A worshiper of Ganesh is a Hindu, so is a worshipper of Hanuman. The worshipper of Siva is a Hindu so is a worshipper of Krishna. And free-thinkers and philosophers who have no faith in a personal God, are also Hindus. And who are the latter? They are the Sannyasis, the great leaders of Hindu society. But a Mahomedan is easily identified. Who is a Mahomedan? It is he who follows Mahamad. A Christian can also be easily identified, for he is a follower of Christ. But the Hindus have no single Avater to rally round, and hence there is no centre to bind or unite them. It is a Person who made the Mussalmans; it is a Person who made the Christians; and it is only Philosophy which keeps the Hindus together. But philosophy has not the binding force of a personality. The Hindus must proselytize and preach. They can never grow, for they do not accept proselytes. When there was a conflict between the Hindus and the Mussalmans in by-gone days, the latter accepted the Hindus who joined them with open arms, but the former refused to accept converts. Nay, they refused to accept the pervert Hindus who repented and wanted to re-enter their society. And thus Mussalmans grew at the cost of the Hindus. To acquire vitality, the Hindus must preach and proselytize, proclaim an Avatar and accept the perverts who repent. That is the way every religion grows; that is the way grew Buddhism, Christianity and Mahomedanism. One work of the Mandal is thus to employ well-qualified preachers not only to spiritualise the Hindus but also to win those back who had gone astray. Christ promised to his followers the Kingdom of Heaven. Many of his followers rejected that Kingdom which is beyond ken, and preferred that of the earth. The Christians have now acquired the kingdom of the earth. And the result is that they and Christ are utter strangers. Of course, a great many do not know it, but a great many also know it. They feel that men cannot live without a religion; they hanker after one, and try to get one but get none. The idea now prevails very strongly in many Christian countries that the light will come from the East, that is to say India. This is believed not only in America and Germany, but also partially in England. In proof of the statement that there are men and women in England who are hankering after a religion and expect it from India, let us furnish an example. When Keshav Chandra Sen went to England, half of London ran to hear him. They had no religion likely to soothe them and they expected to get one from Keshav Chandra and thus they come to him like thirsty souls. But was their thirst appeased? No! Why, the "Spectator" explained. It said that, in going to hear something now, they only board Christianity, from Babu Keshav Chandra and thus they came back disappointed.

Well may the Czar go on his knees before the Almighty God at the thought of the ghastly war that has broken out. For, a conflict between two such powers as Russia and Japan is likely "to stagger humanity" in a more confounding manner than the Boer war did. They talk of the superior civilization of Europe. It is in fact the worst form of barbarism that the world has ever seen. The refined cruelties invented by science and arts in modern warfare must be the products of the Evil One himself. In former times they fought with swords, clubs, javelins and arrows. A single Maxim gun, however, is able to commit one thousand times more havoc and create one thousand times more horror than thousands of such weapons put together could do. Then fancy the ruinous cost of the construction and maintenance of modern armaments, and how a tolerably big war has the effect of crippling the resources of even the wealthiest nation in the world. The English Government fought with only fifty thousand farmers of the Transvaal, and the money it had to spend for this purpose, if properly utilized, might have actually converted every part of Great Britain into a heaven. The war between Russia and Japan means the destruction of both. Nay, more. Other powers, including England, might be drawn into the vortex of this struggle, and thus a universal conflagration of a most terrible character may rise upto consume the whole world. Is it possible that the uttermost limits of the patience of God have at last been reached by the growing wickedness of the human race? There is no doubt, however, that God Himself has been deposed from His throne; that His prophets are no longer honoured; that religion has fled; that moral laws are trampled under foot; that, like brutes, the strong fall upon and tear the weak into pieces; in short, all that is good has disappeared and all that is bad now guides the affairs of the so-called civilized nations. That being the case, who knows but the time has at last come when the Creator is determined to exterminate these unworthy specimens of humanity, who are "made after His own image," by making them cut one another's throats in the same manner as the Lord Sri Krishna did when the race of Jodus—His own progeny—became haughty, intolerant and unrighteous? As regards India, she is of course quite unconcerned. She has had her days, but, she like the modern nations, committed great sins, and when these sins accumulated into a huge mountain she fell, perhaps never to rise again!

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From Our Own Correspondent]

London, Jan. 22.

FACTS FOR THE WEEK.

1. "Die for men and you're forgot;
   Kill 'em; and a big stone marks the spot."
2. THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD ON THE BIRMINGHAM GOSPEL.

Every Bishop has solemnly promised to be merciful for Christ's sake to poor and needy people; but this Birmingham gospel is all in the interest of the rich, and is without mercy for the poor and needy. Therefore, as I understand the matter, it is my bounden duty to oppose it.

"In whatever specious garb it may be dangled before men's eyes, it is in fact one of those erroneous and strange doctrines, based on selfish interest, appealing to low motives, and fostering feelings of antagonism, jealousy, hatred, and bitterness, which are directly contrary to the spirit of God's Word. Consequently, every minister of Christ is bound to do his part in banishing and driving it away.

"The doctrines of the retaliatory and Protectionist tariffmonger, making food dearer, clothing dearer, and almost every necessary of life dearer, will sink the poor into deeper poverty; they will make it more difficult for every labourer to bring up his children in a decent home or to keep them in good health with sufficient food and warm clothing; they will grind down every poor working-woman to a still harder lot. And we have to remember that the poor, who will be thus affected—and their name is legion—cannot suffer in this way without losing mental and moral as well as physical vigour. In other words, this Protectionist policy will depress and degrade the poorest and weakest of our people, and will make the work of the moral reformer, the philanthropist, and the minister of Christ harder than before."

SOME INTERESTING INCIDENTS BRIEFLY TOLD.

Indians and a Free Trade Commission.

The "Daily Chronicle" has taken the trouble to compile a list of Free Trade Commissioners who, it considers, would be far superior to the fifty-eight gentlemen whom Mr. Chamberlain has secured. Unlike the man from Birmingham, your contemporary did not forget India. On the contrary, it found two Indians ready to its hand. Those two were the Parsi, Dadabhai Naoroji, and the Bengali, Lal Mohun Ghose. Very good commissioners, too, they would have made.

Political Excitement in Norwich.

Although it was one o'clock on Saturday morning when the High Sheriff read out the figures telling of Mr. Tillett's magnificent victory, it was much later than that when all the citizens of Norwich had gone to their homes. The huge market square, and all the side streets, were crammed with thousands of people who seemed as if they would never tire of cheering. The new member said a few words from the balcony of the Liberal Club, and Mr. Wild addressed his supporters in the Conservative Club. The great scene, however, was in the streets. Men of all classes danced and sang in the very exuberance of their delight. It seemed as if every one of Mr. Tillett's 8,000 supporters had come up and brought all their friends and kindred with them. And it was long before the streets of the ancient city were quiet again.

An Argument between a Filipino and an American.

There is rather a good story told of an argument between a Filipino and an American, in which the latter was endeavouring to prove the great blessings which would accrue from American occupation. He showed that the resources of the country would be developed, and how high wages would be paid, and how all the people would be making money.

"And what then?" asked the Filipino.

"Why, after a time you will have made enough to retire upon."

"What does that mean?" asked the Filipino.

"Why, just do nothing all day and enjoy yourself," said the Yankee.

"But what else are we doing now?" was the reply of the man who failed to see why it was necessary to go through a course of treatment to gain a state which he already possessed and enjoyed.

Some of the New Curses in the Philippines.

"One of the most serious phases of the Philippine problem," says the author of a recent book in favour of Christian work in the new American Colonies, "is the character of the large number of Americans in the archipelago. Scattered all over these islands, wherever there was or had been an army post, there are the worst lot of American blackguards to be found in any part of the world." The author goes on to say that the American saloon is the greatest curse which has been introduced into the archipelago. There were 70,000 Americans in the island when he was there, and without going outside what one can learn from his interesting book, one is prompted to speculate whether it would not be better for these missionaries to devote themselves to removing the beam from the eye of the American population before endeavouring to wipe the mote from that of the Filipino.

English Drinking and Gambling.

Mr. G. F. Watts, the artist, expresses himself strongly in the "Pall Mall Magazine" on drink and gambling. He says: "I look across our English world and see clearly the two vices which more than anything else are obstructing the wheels of progress—drinking and gambling. They are apparent to the least observant of men. You cannot take up a paper, or walk through the streets of a city, without realising the awful ruin which these two evils are working in the world. But if this is so patent, if this is the general agreement of mankind, why is there no concentration of national energy on the subject? Think how great a revolution would be wrought in English character and in English health if legislation set itself sternly to the task of preventing drunkenness and gambling! Just those two things." Is it not possible Mr. Watts asks, for political parties to sink their differences and to combine to fight against these root causes of national degeneration and national unrest? And he replies, "Surely, surely!"—He might, I must here add, have replied: "Surely not! Surely not! "for one of our political parties finds its greatest number of supporters in the beershop keepers and those whom they influence. One of the general elections of the past twenty years was won by "Beer and the Bible", an alliance between the drink-sellers and the clergy of the Established Church; that alliance is still an active one.

English Ignorance of Foreign Languages.

Some very unflattering pictures were drawn at the recent Conference of Teachers which met at Chelsea, of British incapacity to teach and to learn modern languages. Mr. H. Graves, one of his Majesty's inspectors of schools, said that he could astonish the conference if he liked by showing them some papers in French which he had had to examine. It was surprising that young women of eighteen or nineteen could imagine that the translations they had made from the French could be tolerated by any examiner. A complete jargon was the result of translation attempted upon a language of which the writer knew absolutely nothing. German, too, very much to our discredit, said the inspector, was neglected in this country. Few of our Cabinet Ministers knew German, and misunderstandings which arose were often due to the fact that nations knew so little of each other.

A Japanese Village.

The name of the village is Minamoto. It contains about three hundred families, the total number of inhabitants being 1,600. It is to one man, the ex-headman, Namiki, that the credit of having brought the community to its present condition is almost wholly due. Namiki resigned his post last March, after having directed the village affairs for nine years. In educational matters, Minamoto is ahead of even the most advanced of the Japanese cities. Every one of the hundred and twenty-five boys who has reached school age is attending school. Of the one hundred and two girls, eighty-eight attend school, while of the fourteen others, most are only residing temporarily in the community. The school has a permanent fund amounting to Rs. 18,000, which yields an income more than sufficient to pay the whole school expenses, although not a cent. is asked in the way of fees from the children.

Tendency of Twentieth Century Progress.

The Pessimists say that the monarch of the future is to be the money king. Society will be remodelled into four great classes. Apart, on the seats of the mighty, will sit the money kings. Below them will come their managers, agents, clerks—the middle class. Then there will be the millions who toil with their hands. The professional classes must remain, for there can never be a trust in doctors, artist, clergymen, or authors. The small trader will disappear.

The Pope and the Pen of the Journalist.

A few days ago, Pius X. gently took a stylographic pen from the hand of a Protestant journalist, pronounced a benediction upon it, and returned it, saying: "No one has a nobler mission than the journalist in the world of to-day. I bless your symbol of office. My predecessors consecrated the swords and shields of Christian warriors; I choose rather to ask for blessings on the pen of a Christian journalist."

STRONG ACTION WITH REGARD TO TIBET.

Three organisations are to join hands next week in a strong protest against the unconstitutional action of the Government of India with regard to Tibet. The New Reform Club Political Committee, the British Committee of the National Indian Congress, and the London Indian Association have banded together, and an interesting meeting is likely to be the result. The meeting will take place next Wednesday afternoon at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Mr. Thomas Lough, M.P., will take the chair, and the principal speaker will be Sir Henry Cotton; Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee will speak as the representative of the people of India. The resolution to be considered protests against the armed invasion of Tibet, which the Government has undertaken (1) without publishing any information as to the causes of this action, and (2) without obtaining the consent of Parliament before incurring the cost of an aggressive campaign, which will be a heavy burden on the already overtaxed people of India.

THE FIRST RURAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL IN INDIA.

It will be in the United Provinces that the first rural agricultural school will be established in India. It is only in accordance with the fitness of things that Northern India should lead the way in such a reform. Bengal, for example, had schools and high educational institutions fifty years before Madras made a beginning in this respect. (I wonder whether this fact is responsible for the Southern Presidency being called "The Benighted Presidency." Bombay, too, was a long way behind Bengal, notwithstanding the high public spirit of its merchant classes. I received a letter a few days ago from Anagarika Dharmapala, written from New York at the end of the year. He was to leave New York on the 16th of January, and, I suppose, will reach London next Monday. He is to call on me, as he tells me in his letter he is desirous to have a long chat with me, and also to get all India's friends to work up the educational movement he has in hand. What that movement is, and the way in which it will be begun, had already been stated to me in the two following paragraphs:

"To raise the status of the agriculturist and the man engaged in arts and crafts, the two classes that go to make up the one hundred and seventy-seven millions of Sudras in India, is my cherished desire. I have got a young man from Boston to go to India to start the first rural agricultural school. In Canada the rural agricultural and manual training school is a success.

"If India is to be raised, it is by the education and elevation of this class. A few thousand "Kerani" clerks, and a few thousand "chaprasis" that eat the crumbs that fall from the Englishman's table, cannot make a new India; neither the few barristers who eat up the poor ryots. Make the feet of the body politic of India strong—the Sudras are the feet. The Buddha worked to elevate the Sudra to manhood, and India rose." Elsewhere the Dharmapala has stated that the first school will be established in Benares, with branches in laundry work, agricultural training, carpentry, and other industrial occupations. As to the greatness for the need for improved agricultural and industrial training, this practical missionary excited not a little interest in America by describing the field of effort thus:

"There are 47,000,000 land-owners who know nothing of the wind-mill, with which much could be done to prevent failure of crops and avert dreadful famines. They know nothing of the improved plough, and a dozen other essentials I hope to bring to them. So they starve. In the trading class are 12,000,000 who hold themselves to that kind of work. Comparatively few are employed, and they are not valuable. A million goldsmiths find work to do—in copying Western ideas. They have lost all originality. Of the 3,000,000 barbers, those outside Calcutta, and a few other large cities, used hand-made razors. They never saw another kind. The majority of the 3,000,000 blacksmiths are not employed, for English iron-work goes all over India, and the native smith is very crude. The carpenters, 3,000,000, have no tools for good work; all fine furniture is imported, and there are no Indian architects. Some 9,000,000 weavers must do coolie work, since their old-fashioned labour cannot compete with English machinery; about 3,000,000 washermen still find employment, but they are beating clothes on a stone. The washing machine would seem wonderful to them. You may find similar handicaps for the oilmen, now out of employment; the potters who know little or nothing of the glazing process; the leather-workers and others, all mentally dwarfed."

"But the ascetics, it is said, broaden the masses spiritually."

"The ascetics are an aimless class. About 2,000,000 wander about without house or home, following the cult of Krishna: 'Give up all and follow me.' Many of them are men of high rank, but a majority are not students. Their religion is renunciation—belief that all is illusion. I hope, if my schools prosper, to enlist their aid. They would be valuable teachers."

Perhaps, when I have had a talk with this eager and practical Buddhist I may be able to explain more fully the undoubtedly fine aims and objects he is striving to realise.

THE TERRIBLE "VOICE" AT PUBLIC MEETINGS.

When verbatim reports of English political meetings are published, if the occasion of the meeting be at all an exciting one, what the reporter terms "A Voice" will be found to play an important part in the proceedings. A political audience in this country is not at all bashful in expressing its disagreement with the orator who may be addressing it, even if he be a first-class statesman. Where the speaker is a man of ready wit, alert in the art of instant retort, he generally gets the better of the interruptor. As a rule, the ready speaker rejoices in such interruptions, for the reason that they give him a chance of saying smart things which, save under such stimulation, might never have been afforded to him. Hitherto Mr. Chamberlain has shown himself an adept at this kind of verbal warfare. But, on Tuesday last, at the Guildhall in the City of London, on an occasion when he was expected to be at his best, he was at his worst, and the terrible "Voice" non-plussed him completely. It is almost inexplicable that he should have been so easily annoyed, and had nothing to say for himself. Here are three examples:

1. Mr. Chamberlain: Granted that you are the clearing house of the world, are you entirely without anxiety as to the permanence of your great position? Are you as certain as perhaps a generation ago, you might have been that your command of the financial world is as unassailable as ever it was? There are signs that require grave reflection. Is it not the fact that within the last few years an unexampled thing has happened? The rate of money has been higher in the City of London than in Paris or Berlin.

A Voice: The war.

Mr. Chamberlain: The war?

Having asked the question, Mr. Chamberlain, says the "Westminster Gazettee," looked it in the case and left it—unanswered.

2. Mr. Chamberlain: You are the clearing-house of the world. Why? Why is banking prosperous among you? Why is a bill of exchange upon London the standard currency of all commercial transactions?

A Voice: Free imports.

Without answering his critic, Mr. Chamberlain, manifestly annoyed, proceeded with the remarks he had voluminously recorded in "Notes" as long as an ordinary speech.

3. Mr. Chamberlain: I am told that whether the goods which you handle have given employment to your own countrymen or to foreigners, it matters not to you. ("Oh!") London is cosmopolitan. The City has nothing to do with patriotism. ("Oh!") Yes, but that is the consequence of the argument.

A Voice: Come to the point,—at which apposite observation there was laughter.

There is special significance in all this—significance arising out of the place and the circumstances. Had Mr. Chamberlain been so contumeliously treated in a provincial town, he might have sneered it aside as the product of provincial manners. But, to be interrupted and ridiculed in this way, when addressing a select audience in the very heart of the Empire, there is, as I have said, special significance in the fact. It is clear that London does not take Mr. Chamberlain at his own valuation.

A GRAVE MISJUDGMENT BY MR. HERBERT SPENCER.

IF ONLY INDIA HAD BEEN AS WISE AS JAPAN.

The late Mr. Herbert Spencer has always been regarded as possessing moral and physical courage equal to his learning and perspicacity. That is to say, he was believed to have been one of the pluckiest men alive, one who would never shrink from saying what he thought from the fear of what anyone, in turn, might say of him. Yet, a letter written by the illustrious philosopher on August 26, 1892, to Baron Kaneko, of Japan, to be shown to the Japanese Prime Minister of that period, and which has found publication in a recent issue of "The Times", ends with this remark:

> "I give this advice in confidence. I wish that it should not transpire publicly, at any rate during my life, for I do not desire to arouse the enmity of my countrymen."

I must confess I do not recognise in this craven statement the great philosopher, who is revered by cultured people throughout the world as on other man of the Nineteenth Century was revered. What he says is really pusillanimous, for, after all, who so much preferred to regard with utter scorn the opinion of unthinking Englishmen, as did Herbert Spencer? However, let that be. I desire to write a somewhat long paragraph concerning this Spencerian epistle of 1892, because of the bearing of his remarks on the connection between England and India. What was the advice which Mr. Spencer gave to Japan, and which he did not wish made known to his own countrymen during his lifetime? Baron

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE MAGICAL LAND.

HOW JAPAN CAME TO EUROPE.

Life must seem like a dream to Mutsuhito, the Emperor-magician of Japan, the man of the hour in the Far East to-day, as he looks back to the time when he came to power. As long as Japan has a place in the world his name must live on the roll of the world's great men.

It was not given to many of the great world-figures who made history and founded empires to sow the seed and watch the harvest gathered in. England toiled painfully through the centuries, through war and revolution, now suffering long oppression, now beating down its kings, out of the long night of feudalism into the freedom which she has spread throughout the earth. But to one man in the world it has been given to find a nation bound and to set it free, to ascend a feudal throne, and to base it firm upon the people's will.

Mutsuhito has brought Japan to Europe. It is almost as if he had by a stroke of a magic wand, transformed the England of the Conqueror into the England of to-day. Half a thousand years seem to have slipped by forgotten in the generation which Mutsuhito has reigned.

ONE MAN'S LIFE.

Time and history seem both to be playing tricks when we think of the rise of Japan. The things which should be centuries old are only thirty years, and almost on the same page we find Prime Ministers and feudal lords. There are men, and men not very old, who remember when for an Englishman to set foot in Japan was a perilous thing, when Japan was to Europe as a closed book which none had dared to open. Then across the vast distance, came rumblings of a storm, the dim message of a mighty change, and Europe knew that Mutsuhito, a young man in an old country, the youngest, perhaps, of all the rulers in the world, had broken down the power of centuries, swept aside all but a thousand years of custom, and laid the foundations of a new Japan.

It was the work, as it were, of a night. In a short war, the Shogun, the dynasty which had ruled Japan for seven hundred years, was overthrown, and the dynasty which through all the centuries had, ruled Japan in name now ruled in fact. That was in 1868, when Mutsuhito was sixteen, and it seems an incredible thing outside a novel that a youth in his teens should lead a kingdom out of Egypt into the Promised Land. Yet all that is modern and powerful in Japan has come into being since the Emperor was sixteen, and in his short life is bound up all the strange change which has made Japan the Hope of the East to-day.

A MIGHTY SACRIFICE.

Even now there are times when Japan looks rather like a picture in a fairy book than a country on the map. At the Emperor's garden-party grey veterns scrape up the soil where his chair has rested and carry it away, and if the Emperor has taken a piece of cake and left half of it, no guest need think twice who would carry off the crumbs. When a prince is born, he who presents the babe to Mutsuhito must cover his mouth lest he breathe by chance upon an Emperor of Japan, and Alice in all her dream of Wonderland saw nothing more strange than she might have really seen if she had been awake in the Land of the Rising Sun.

But there were wonderful things for the world to see in Japan when we were young. Such things as men had rarely looked upon were there to gaze upon when Japan drew up its blinds and threw open its doors to all the continents. Great nobles gave up their lands and castles to the State. The feudal lords, heads of great families which had ruled Japan a thousand years, the sword-bearers who had fought her battles and preserved her fame in war laid their wealth and dignities and traditions, their very homes and incomes on the altar of the New Japan. Two hundred landed lords gave up their estates to the Emperor who was building up a kingdom which could have no room for other lords than he. No such laying down of rank and power had been seen since the nobles sacrificed their privileges in the National Assembly in France, eighty years before. It was an event this surrender of its glories by a proud nobility which somebody has said "throws into the shade the achievements of Peter the Great, the reforms of Joseph II, and even the French Revolution itself." It was at least a sight which neither gods nor men had seen more than once or twice since the gentle-women of Florence flung their rings and bracelets on Savonarola's Bonfire of Vanities.

THE LOVE OF THE OLD.

But Savonarola himself could hardly have changed the whole life of a nation; we know how his kingdom fell. And there were crisis and storms in Japan, with revolts against the new regime, and risings of the old, and once, when the streets of Japan ran with Japan's best blood, the tragic close of thirty thousand lives marked for ever this parting of the ways between East and West. Nor was it easy for the Emperor to deprive of their last privilege all the lords who had magnanimously laid down the rest. Yet so small a thing as the wearing of a sword came necessarily to be forbidden, and slowly the old tradition and picturesqueness of life in Japan passed away before the nttion's eyes. Japan was loth to let it pass. We like to remember that story of the wife of a Japanese Ambassador, who was attended by a leading physician in Vienna. She had a bed such as any great lady in Vienna might sleep upon; but in it the physician found a board upon which she really lay, and hidden in the soft pillows lay the old-fashioned head-rest common in the old Japan. How hard it is to let the habits of a lifetime go!

But all Japan, indeed, lived two lives in those strange times. Its young men came to Europe, saw our civilisation, studied our politics and learned in our schools. Marquis Ito, with Count Inouye, came to London in their teens to learn the way in which a nation should go, and landed at the docks so hungry and lonely and helpless that they threw down one of the only two dollars they had on a baker's counter, snatched up a loaf, and ran back with it to an empty ship, in which they spent the night. In the heart of Japan the desire to throw off the weight of the ages of the East and put on the mantle of the West was not to be kept down. But it is not a simple thing to leave undone to-day the things we did through all the days of last year, and Japan did not easily conquer itself. Everywhere there remained a lingering affection for the old.

THEN AND NOW.

"Among all the innovations of the era," a great authority on Japan has told us, "the only one that a Japanese could not lay aside at will was the new fashion of dressing his hair. He abandoned the queen irrevocably; but to the rest he lived a duel life. During hours of duty he wore a fine uniform, shaped and decorated in foreign style. But so soon as he stepped out of office or off parade he reverted to his own comfortable and picturesque costume. Handsome houses were built and furnished according to Western models. But each had an annexe where alcoves, verandahs, matted floors, and paper sliding doors continued to do traditional duty. Beefsteaks, beer, 'grape-wine,' knives and forks came into use on occasion. But rice-bowls and chop-sticks held their place as of old."

Japan had grown old in the old paths, and now, thirty-five years after, there are those who tread them still.

But Parliaments and Constitutions are wonderful things, and the New Japan has taken her place in the front line of nations. The attempt to set up a Parliament without parties failed, and we saw the other day that the Japanese Parliament, the child of the political genius of Asia, had dared to rebuke the Emperor who brought it into being. Men who ruled Japn before Mutsohito was born live humble lives to-day. Sons of feudal lords whose ancestors lived in great castles, led great armies, and ruled great territories are servants of shopkeepers and clerks now. Even the pensions which were to have gone on for ever were bought up by the State in its transforming days, and liberty, equality, and fraternity have been cut deep in vivid letters across the living Japan.

Thirty-five short years and to-day men tremble to think what thirty-five short hours may bring for this magical land of the modern world.—A. M. in the "Daily Mail."

THE ONLY WOMAN IN TIBET.

The following letter has been received from Miss Annie R. Ttylor, the only Englishwoman in Tibet:—

Thibetan Pioneer Mission,
Yatong, Chumbi Valley, Tibet, Dec. 27th.

Sir,—I hear that there is a rumour in England that Colonel F. E. Younghusband's Mission to Tibet is a "bloodthirsty" expedition. This is anything but the truth, for the uttermost consideration is shown to the people, and down this Valley they are reaping a harvest of rupees, and not bullets as reported.

The Dalai Lama has sent orders that no obstacle is to be put in the way of the advance of the Mission, and as long as he is in power there is no danger of war.

The Chinese are very naturally doing their best to prevent friendly relationships being established between the Indian Government and the Tibetan Government, and so the trade of Tibet slipping through their hands into ours; but, of course, it is all done under the guise of helping us.

A strong escort is needed by the Mission to give confidence to the Tibetan officials in making friends with the head of the Mission, for which there could not be a better man than Colonel Younghusband, who is wise and kind in his dealings with the people.

It would, indeed, be shortsighted were any obstacle put in the way of the Mission by the Home Government, and thus the prestige of Britain lessened in the East, and the frontier of India kept in unrest through the influence of Russia in Tibet—a very real danger.

I have a small shop here, "the Yatong Medical Hall," the only shop in the so-called mart, and have lived here among the people for over eight years.

As a missionary I welcome the Mission, and look on it as the advent of prosperity to the land of my adoption, as well as meaning the increase of British trade and prestige and the opening of the long "closed land" to the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ—I am, Yours in His service, Annie R. Taylor.

We hear that His Highness the Raja of Chamba having abdicated in favour of his heir and brother Mian Bhoori Singh, the latter has been installed on the "guddee" by the Commissioner of Lahore under whose political control the State is. For several years past ex-Chief had been but a ruler in name, his brother carrying on the duties of a ruler. The arrangement had been working so smoothly and successfully that the public is at a loss to account for the sudden and silent revolution. The staitling report from Chmba will, we dare say, remind our readers of the fate of the preceding dispossessed Chief of the State who journeyed to England with the object of appealing to the Sovereign in person. He was, of course, sadly disillusioned on his arrival in the land of our rulers; and failing in his attempts to obtain redress of his grievances, wandered broken-hearted over the face of Europe till death came to his relief.—"Tribune."

Dysentery.

OR Inflammation of the bowel or large intestine is of more frequent occurrence during the summer months. It can be checked and cured if Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhœa Remedy is taken accroding to the printed directions with each bottle Chamberlain's Cvilice and Diarrhœa Remedy is invaluabe to all meedicine chests. Get a bottle to day, it may save a life.

Price Re 1 and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stanistreet and Co., Calcutta on receipt of an order Wholesale agents—B. K Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Karim Calcutta.

Baby Cough Must Never Linge

NOTHING! is more distressing than to see a helpless little infant suffering with a cough and to be fearful of using a remedy which may contain some harmful ingredient. The makers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy positivealy guarantee that this preparation does not contain opium in any form, for any of other harmful substance. Mothers may confidently give this remedy to their little ones. It givess prompt relief and this is perfectly safe. It alway and cures quickly

Price Re 1. and Rs. 2 Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stanistreet and Co. Calcutta only freeipt of an order Wholesale agents—B. K Paul and Co. Abdoo Rahmana nd Abdool Karim Calcutta.

Interesting Items.

ANOTHER HAPSBURG ROMANCE.

For some time reports have been current that the Archduke Ferdinand Karl, the younger brother of the Archdukes Franz Ferdinand and Otto, and third son of the late Archduke Karl Ludwig, contemplates marriage with a lady of the bourgeoisie.

The "Tagblatt" published a contradiction of these reports from an authentic source, but "Die Zeit" and the "Neues Wiener Journal" assert them to be true. "Die Zeit" repeats the assertion to night, and adds that the Hofrath Czuber, the father of the lady in question, does not dispute their truth.

The Archduke made the acquaintance of the Fraulein Bertha. Czuber a year ago in Prague, where he commands the 18th Infantry Brigade, and where the Hofrath Czuber was a professor at the German Teachnical School. The latter is now professor of mathematics at the School of Engineering in Vienna.

"Die Zeit" asserts that the Archduke formally asked the lady's hand in marriage on the Sunday after Christmas Day, and has resolved to open his heart to the Kaiser, his uncle, and ask his Majesty, as the head of the house, to sanction his union.

Whether he has really taken this eventful step or not is not known, but he returned to Prague yesterday.

The Archduke is 36, and immensely popular on account of his winning manner. He is a man of strong will, devotes himself with marked zeal to his military duties, is a warm friend of art and science, and inherits his father's talent for the stage.

Fraulein Czuber is a graceful girl of 22, with blue eyes, fresh complexion and a mass of fair hair. Being a professor's daughter, she has received an excellent education, and speaks French, English, and Italian.

There seems nothing very improbable in assuming the possibility that the Archduke will be allowed to follow the inclination of his heart as so many Hapsburgs have done, his elder brother Franz Ferdinand, the heir-presumptive, having himself contracted a morganatic marriage. But it is also possible that this very fact may prove an obstacle, always assuming "Die Zeit's" assertion to be true.

A voyage round the world may, however, interrupt the Archduke's marriage projects.

ETHER FOR PLANTS.

When at this cold, inhospitable period of the year a laburnum tree produces a beautiful, brilliantly-coloured bloom, and strawberry plants displai, amid their fresh green foliage, bright flowers that will not fade away until dainty fruit takes their place, the beholder is at once struck with the far-reaching capabilities of the science which has produced such a result.

Etherisation, as recently mentioned in the "Daily Mail," is the means by which plants may now be made to flower a month or two earlier than hitherto, even in forcing houses. At Dersingham, in Norfolk, Mr. T. Jannoch, F.R.H.S., has during three seasons conducted important etherisation experiments.

Mr. Jannoch has constructed a substantial brick ether chamber, hermetically sealed. Inside, the plants which are to be placed under the anæsthetic are arranged in rows. Then the ether is poured in through the roof. Being heavier than air, the vapour descends and thoroughly penetrates the plants. With the exception that the old leaves fall languidly from the stems there is no perceptible change in their outward appearance. Yet the fumes inside the chamber would be sufficient to extinguish human life.

The plants are kept under ether for forty-eight hours; during the next twelve hours the chamber is ventilated; then for another forty-eight hours the vapour is applied. After the plants are removed to the forcing house only three days of a well-regulated temperature is necessary to bring forth miniature buds of fresh velvet green. A week later the development is vigorous, while within ten days the full bloom may be seen.

Mr. Jannoch has mainly devoted his attention to the frail lilac, of which he has during the season reared 15,000 plants, of a hundred different varieties, the majority of which were subjected to etherisation.

He has given the following periods as an average of the advantage in time which etherisation possesses over ordinary methods:—Lilac, two months; laburnum, two months; wisteria, one month; Azalia mollis, one month; Deutzia gracilis, one month; strawberries and fruit generally, at least one month.

Mr. Jannoch has experimented with strawberry plants from Sandringham, but perhaps the finest of all his achievements was the production at Christmas of a full laburnum bloom.

A NEW AIRSHIP.

The latest airship is a navigable twinballoon, two balloons being used side by side, in order to obtain a properly-balanced central propulsion, and is said to be the most scientific and practical method yet devised.

The framework is constructed of bamboo and wire, with outline of hexagonal frame, having an horizontal boat-shaped frame in the centre of and between the two balloons. The centre shaft rests on this frame, and is worked by the motor below, thus driving two propellers. The bottom framework accommodating the motor is oblong in shape, and to this the two balloons are fixed.

The second rear-propeller also works on the level of the three propeller also works on the ones are specially large, and give a sufficient force to sail the airship at a fair speed, the third being fixed at the top, and only meant to be used under favourable conditions. Steering is effected by an ordinary rudder.

The propellers, which are the most important part of an airship, underwent many changes before a satisfactory result was arrived at, the idea having been to produce as far as possible the natural flexible action of a bird's satisfactory result without beating it fruit-wing, which while gliding in the air, gives a lessly. A very high speed of revolution having been found merely to churn the air, a more moderate action has been adopted.

The balloons have a particular shape of their own, being cigar pattern, but straight on one side at the centre of the structure, in order to fit the frame. Each nose is attached to the upper boat-shaped frame. They have valve at top and inlet at the bottom centre, which is in connection with the platform below, and enables the quantity of gas to be duly regulated.

It is estimated by means of the model that an air-ship built on these principles would travel about eighteen miles an hour in calm weather; a 30-h. p. motor being necessary to attain this speed.

A full sized ship would be 75ft. long in the framework. while the balloon would measure 70ft. lo[illegible]nd 27ft. in diameter, and lift 4,000lbs. [illegible]ing two persons and the necessary equi[illegible]ent. The material of the balloon would be of fine linen treated with a special composition, rendering it proof against leakage of gas. Bamboo would form the framework, rendered rigid with a rigging of fine steel wire. The motor, which is to be placed in the centre of the lower framework, gives the whole ship an even balance, and works the gearing connecting the shafts which drive the propellers on the upper and lower platform. The cost of a fullsized ship of this character, including a shed large enough to accommodate it when inflated, would be about £2,000.

The model will be on view in the showrooms of A. W. Gamage, Ltd., Holborn, to-day (Friday), and anyone interested in airships is invited to inspect it.

That's the thing you want.

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DAILY NEWS PRINTERS LOCKED OUT.

HOW THE PAPER WAS PRODUCED LAST NIGHT.

The compositors engaged on the staff of the London "Daily News" were yesterday paid two weeks' wages and their services dispensed with.

The dispute may best be explained by statements made to a representative of the "Daily Mail" last night by the managing director of the "Daily News," Mr. T. P. Ritzema, and by Mr. C. W. Bowerman, the secretary of the London Society of Compositors.

Mr. Ritzema said:—"With the advent of the linotype composing machine a revolution was created in the printing industry. In the provinces an elastic and just system of payment was arranged between the masters and the Typographical Society, time work and piece work both being permissible, and the machine operator going to the 'case,' or the 'case' hand to the machine as convenient.

"In London the Society of Compositors has taken up an entirely different attitude, penalising the trade, and the daily Press in particular. When the scheme of employment was adopted in 1896 the men were in favour of 'time,' but as some of the masters were anxious to find out the possibilities of the machine a "piece' system was tentatively agreed upon. The 'time' rate suggests by the masters (£3 7s. 6d. per week) was considered inadequate by the men, although in Manchester to-day the rate is only £2 7s. 6d.

BOARD OF TRADE REBUFFED.

"Two years ago representatives of masters and men held sixteen conferences to revise the conditions of employment, and a provisional agreement was drawn up for acceptance by the general bodies. The result was that the Society of Compositors declined to consider a 'time' rate or to give permission for machine operators to fill up their time at 'case.'

"Following this rejection of the scheme drawn up by their own delegates, the London Society of Compositors sent the employers a revised piece scale, which exceeded even that existing prior to the conference. They at the same time refused to meet the masters again except on the understanding that three points—

(1) A 'time' rate of wages,

(2) Employment either on machine or case,

(3) The appointment of a Joint Committee to deal with all matters in dispute,

were banished from the area of discussion. As these were the only serious points at issue, the refusal amounted to breaking off the negotiations. So unyielding were the men on the point of a 'time' rate that they declared they would not consider it if, instead of £3 7s. 6d. a week, which the masters offered, they were offered £10.

"The employers appealed to the Board of Trade, which offered to appoint an arbitrator, a conciliator, or an impartial chairman. To this offer of official intervention the society adopted the attitude of Lord Penrhyn in similar circumstances. Mr. Bowerman's reply to Sir Alfred Bateman was that his committee 'are unable to accept the suggestion of the Master Printers' Association that the matters in dispute submitted to the arbitration of the Board of Trade.'

TERMS THAT WERE REFUSED.

"As managing director of the 'Daily News,' I then wrote to Mr. Bowerman offering the following terms for 'time' work:—

Three pounds ten shillings per week as a minimum wage for ten years for machine and case hands. Two weeks' holiday, with wages in advance. Twenty pounds to widow in event of death. Ten pounds in event of wife's death. Ten shillings per week for five weeks in case of illness, and 5s. after until recovery. A pension of 5s. per week to any member who has reached sixty years, and been in employ of firm for not less than twenty years, if unable to follow employment or is dispensed with.

If these terms are not agreeable to your society, I shall be pleased, in conjunction with yourselves, to submit the question of working on 'stab,' and the rate of wages to be paid, to the Board of Trade, and will abide by its decision.

"To this offer there came a mere formal acknowledgment that the whole matter is in the hands of the Employers' Association!"

Conciliation offered by the Labour Conciliation and Arbitration Board of the London Chamber of Commerce was also declined by the society. That closed the period of negotiation.

"The proprietors of the 'Daily News' withdrew from the Master Printers' Association. Yesterday afternoon the members of the London Society of Compositors hitherto employed in the production of the 'Daily News' were paid off—the regulation minimum of two weeks' salary of £2 8s. being supplemented voluntarily by the average excess earnings of each man. To-night the 'Daily News' is being produced by a new staff of compositors, engaged on the terms set forth in the letter to Mr. Bowerman, an additional number of men finding employment."

THE PRINTERS' VIEW.

Mr. C. W. Bowerman, secretary of the London Society of Compositors, said:—

"The trouble arises from a desire on the part of the proprietors of the 'Daily News' to introduce payment by established wages (called 'stab' in the trade) instead of by piece. Our members object to the 'stab' system. They have been brought up on the method of payment for what they do. They consider it gives them more freedom, and do not see their way to depart from it. This is not a question of many or all.

"The piece system has been in operation in London ever since morning newspapers were started. When Mr. Cadbury came to London as proprietor of the "Daily News" he objected to piece payments, and the matter came before the Employers' Association. We had conferences with a special committee representing the owners of daily newspapers with reference to working conditions and certain rates of payment for extras in connection with the operation of linotype machines. We failed to come to an agreement.

"After that failure the owners of the 'Daily News' made an offer of special terms for 'stab' wages. They had made that a special feature at the conferences. The London Society of Compositors was unable to accept 'stab' rates, as our members were strongly opposed to it. They simply desired to go on working by [illegible]

"We had heard nothing of the matter for nine or ten months till to-night. The men—who number about forty linotype operators and hand compositors—presented themselves at the office as usual. They found it in charge of the police and non-society men inside."

HOW THE PAPER WAS PRINTED.

Not the least difficulty was experienced in producing the paper last night. The new staff were at their posts at the usual starting hour; the linotype machines were ready, with their gas-jets burning beneath the molten metal of which the lines of type are cast; and the old overseer set the work going as if nothing had happened.

The new men fell into the ways of the office at once; the "copy" was set up as speedily as had been done before; column after column of type was produced at the usual rate of speed; and pages were made up for stereotyping at the scheduled time. Indeed, an air of satisfied calm pervaded Bouverie-street all night; inside and outside the building there was no sign of lockout or of change.

IRRIGATION POLICY OF THE INDIA GOVERNMENT.

—:-0-:—

The Irrigation policy of the Government of India during the next few years will be of the most vigorous type, but it will not be possible to set it in full swing straight away. In the alignment of canals, the construction of bunds and tanks, the setting-up of weirs, etc., the most careful plans and estimates have to be prepared. Otherwise there may be wasteful expenditure of public money, not to mention actual damage done to land, already fertile, by interference with natural drainage. But there is another fact to be borne in mind. There does not exist, at the present time, a staff sumciently strong to undertake new works on a big scale. Since the Irrigation grant in the Budget was raised from 75 to 100 lakhs per annum, it has never been found possible to spend the whole allotment, and 15 lakhs or so have "lapsed" each year. In the case of all Public Works no accumulation of funds unspent under a Budget Estimate is permitted. The financing is from year to year, and new allotments are made when the annual Financial Statement of the Government of India is drawn up in March. Thus if the last ten years be taken it will be found that the total amount spent on Irrigation projects is much less than the annual grants added together. Now the allotment is to be raised to about 1¼ crores annually, and it is intended to work up to this gradually. The permanent staff of Engineers will, therefore be strengthened by the engagement of men in England, and in two or three years important projects will be well in hand in various Provinces. In the Punjab alone schemes costing four million sterling will be undertaken, the final plans and estimates for these being now nearly ready. Elsewhere there will be smaller Provincial projects started, after tests have been applied to ascertain the volume of water available from rivers that are not fed from the snows. In the Central Provinces, Central India and Rajputana attention will probably be paid to the building of storage tanks, and the application of the bunding system will be made on scientific lines. A continuous policy in the matter of Irrigation now appears to be assured, and it is in view to future requirements that the Budget allotment is to be increased.

A Colombo correspondent writes under date, Feb. 4:—The Mexican Republic have advanced to Snyman, an ex-Boer General, ten thousand pounds on twenty-five years' credit towards the purchase of lands to be coloniesed by Boers within three years, the Boers to be exempted from military duty, also taxation.

The "Neues Wiener Journal" states that most of the high officials of Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria's household have been dismissed, owing to the discovery that some documents of the highest importance have been stolen from His Highness's table. Confidential secrets of the Palace have also been betrayed. The stolen documents are said to be in possession of a great Power having a special interest in Balkan affairs.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY.

SPEECH BY MR. BRODRICK.

Mr. Brodrick, M. P., Secretary of State for India, presided in the rooms of the Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, when a paper on "The Presidency of Bombay," illustrated by lantern views, was read by Sir William Lee-Warner There was a large audience, among those present being Lady Leitrm, Lady Kathleen Clements, Lady Lee-Warner, Sir M. Bhownaggree, M. P., Admiral Sir E. Fremantle, Sir C. and Lady Lyall, Sir Owen Tudor Burne, Sir S. C. Bayley Sir George Birdwood, Sir William Wedderburn, Sir H. Trueman Wood, Sir A. Trevor, General Dunsterville, General Prendergast Sir Philip Hutchins, Sir C. Stevens, and Mr G. Digby (Secretary of the Indian section).

Sir William Lee-Warner, in the course of his paper, said that Bombay, with its 123,000 square miles of British territory and a population of 18,500,000, stood only fourth in the list of Indian provinces; yet the results of British administration for a century, notwithstanding physical and racial difficulties unequalled in any other province of India, had made it the most educated, progressive, and liberal contributor to the imperial revenue of any province in the empire. Taking all the principal heads of revenue for the year 1901-1902, the Bombay Government, although the Presidency had just emerged from the miseries of plague and famine, collected 1,282 lacs, against 1,180 from Madras and 948 from the United Provinces There was no evidence that the population was crushed by the weight of the burden it bore. Activity and progress were visible on all sides. Out of an aggregate of imports by sea, excluding Governemnt stores and treasure valued at 67,000,000l. (calculating the exchange at 10rs. for the pound) in 1901-1902 Bombay and Sind took 32,000,000l., against 25,000,000l. and 6,000,000l. for Bengal and Madras. Thirty-six million pounds' worth of exports out of a total volume of 88,500,000l went from the Bombay Presidency, against 37,000,000l. and 8,000,000l. from Bengal and Madras respectively. The vessels built in Bombay and Kurrachee for that year numbered 3,868, out of a total of 4,833 built in the Indian Empire. The railway-borne traffic of the Presidency bore similar testimony to local enterprise, and the number of factories, 37[illegible] under inspection, far exceeded that of any other province. The two great harbours of Bombay and Kurrachee were the gates from the west that opened on India, and so long as the political anxieties of the future were mainly concentrated upon the North-West frontier, the improvement and safety of those ports must be of vital consequence to the empire. In architecture Bombay was full of interest. The stones of the Presidency told their story of conquerors following conquerors and leaving behind them confusion and variety. The flora and fauna were also witnesses of man's attempt to join together in one province distinct families of creation. Having dealt at length with the expansion of the British power in Western India, the lecturer proceeded to say that the great work of giving to each ruling chief a regularly defined position had long been completed, and a complicated system of foreign jurisdiction and political control was now well established. Yet the fact remained that an immense burden of political duties upon the officials in Bombay which was unknown in any other part of India. The petty chiefs were more sensitive than those of higher degree, and were very prone to quarrel with each other. Even with the strong protecting British power there were constant difficulties to be solved. Patience, gentle influence, and tact were required day by day to get native chiefs to co-operate with the collectors of British districts in suppressing crime, protecting the revenue, pursuing and extraditing criminals, and securing the attendance of witnesses or defaulters. The cardinal difficulty of the Bombay administration lay in the number of native States which British administration of policy had generously and honestly preserved from extinction. Another difficulty was the turbulent classes of Bombay. There was no reason to suppose that civilisation had yet overtaken fanaticism or predatory instincts in the Western Presidency. Nor must the influences of thwarted ambition be overlooked. The King-Emperor had no more valuable servants than the Brahmans of Bombay, but a man was wanting in imagination who failed to realise the disappointment which the overthrow of the Peshwa's Government caused to that caste. By education, firmness, justice, and tact much had been done to meet the difficulty. But beneath it lurked danger in times of trial and disturbance, which no prudent man could afford to make light of. Although the Government of Bombay had been shorn of many of its former responsibilities and powers, the guardianship of the western ports of India, the development of its capital city, and the welding together of the numerous races and distinct portions of the province were a satisfying and honourable task for its Government. To that effort the public services and the mercantile community of Bombay had nobly responded. With regard to the Government of the province, the question of converting the Governor in Council into a lieutenant-general was frequently discussed. There was no reason why Indian divisions should not from time to time fill the post. But the system of sending out to Madras and Bombay a governor who had no previous knowledge of Indian administration possessed some advantages. It provided India with a statesman in the confidence of the Government, who was eligible for the post of Governor-General in an emergency; it imposed some check upon the dangerous tendency of over-centralisation; and it ensured to the population of the Presidencies the application to their concerns of an impartial, open mind, free from any preconceived ideas. So long as a province could show the material progress achieved in Bombay, reformers might hesitate to change materially a system which was rooted in the past, valued by the governed classes, and justified by results. (Cheers.)

Mr. Brodrick, in thanking the lecturer for his address, said any one who did not know that Sir William Lee-Warner had been an admirable, vigorous, and busy public servant would assume that he had gone out to India as an amateur photographer. (Laughter.) He had brought home to many of them his enthusiasm with regard to ancient architecture and other objects of interest which he had found out and exploited in the Bombay Presidency. He valued the opportunities which Indian society gave them of gaining some knowledge of the architecture and antiquity of India, and, above all, of the present administration of the most successfully governed Asiatic State which the world had ever seen. (Hear, hear.) When they considered that we were governing Ireland in the 18th century, and at the end of that time had comparatively little progress to show, they could realise what, in the 19th century, had been achieved in India amid chaos and confusion. He thought that too little attention had been paid by Englishmen as a rule to the devoted services of those who gave many years of their lives, in not always the most favourable climate or surroundings, to carrying out unobtrusively but most successfully a systeb of government which was a pattern to the civilised world. Sir William Lee-Warner had touched admirably on the blending of expert knowledge with external administrative power which they saw in the Government of India. It was quite true that, as in the case of the Presidency, so in the case of the supreme Government at Calcutta, we had only from time to time relied for our governors on those who had had local experience and who had been bred up, so to speak, in the service of India. There were, however, some exceptions. Lord Lawrence was a Viceroy who marked himself out by great success in previous administration. In the present Viceroy we had a man who, besides having great industry and capacity, and a love of India which had made his subordinate every other consideration to the Government of India, had also given the best part of his life before he went there to the study of Asiatic questions and of Asiatic customs and travel. He thought that from time to time that was a useful alternative to the sending out of men who, however otherwise qualified, might not have personal acquaintance with, or previous experience of, Indan affairs. (Hear hear.)

Mr. Brodrick, who had another engagement to fulfil, then withdrew, and the chair was taken by Sir George Birdwood.

In the course of the discussion which followed,

Sir M. Bhownaggree, M. P., said that whatever might be the difficulties of administration in India, Sir William Lee-Warner would freely admit that the Native States to-day formed the bulwark of the power of Great Britain in India, and were willing to follow British methods of administration if properly guided. (Hear, hear.) The people of Aden regarded with great concern the prospect of its being segregated from the administration of India and placed under the Foreign Office. They believed that their best interests were safeguarded under the Government of Bombay and the Govrnmnt of India. (Hear, hear.)

A MYSTERIOUS DEATH.

Bihar, Feb. 3.

There is a small Mahomedan family in Mahalla Kagzi, in Bihar. In that family there was a boy aged about ten years. On the 22nd ultimo, as usual, the boy went to the nearest fields to fly kites at noon. In the afternoon the boy returned home, rather in a hurry, and laid himself down on a "charpoy" in a small dark room not ordinariiy used by them. Apparently no one took any notice of him. After nightfall the parents of the boy began to make inquiries of him and with the advance of the night their anxiety turned into alarm. At about 10 p.m. the mother of the boy had, one some business, an occasion to enter that dark room and cried aloud in excess of joy at finding the boy sleeping on the "charpoy." But her joy did not last long. She called the boy by name, but no response came. She was much alarmed and shook him forcibly, yet there was no indication of life. By this time other members of the family came there and it was resolved to call in a medical man. Sometime after the Hakim came and examined the boy. At last to the great sorrow of all the members of the family, the Hakim announced that life was extinct and that the boy must have been dead a few hours back. A few more hours passed in lamentations and as the night was advanced nothing was done for the disposal of the dead boy. They did not remove the body and kept the door locked from outside.

When calm again prevailed in the house, a mysterious incident happened. In the small hours of the morning cries were heard from that very room. They then opened the door and on entering the room they were simply astounded at the sight that presented before their eyes. They saw the dead boy again alive and moving about the room. At first they could not believe their eyes. They rubbed their eyes again and again and with the mingled feelings of joy and astonishment they saw the resurrection of the boy. Apparently the boy was all hale and hearty. They then began to pester him with questions and he answered rightly to all the queries.

In the morning there was again joy in the family an before the sun rose bright in the horizon, the news of the resurrection spread like wild fire and the villagers of both sexes and of all ages began to pour in in shoals. Wild stories were related concerning the incident. The more imaginative could not resist the conjectures of their fertile brain and they transferred the incident into a story somewhat like the momiting of the black crow in the legend. Thus passed the morning. In the forenoon at about 11 a.m. the boy again had a relapse. To all appearance he was dead—quite unconsious of the outside world—there was no vibration, no beating of the pulse, no breathing. There was no dearth of seers in the village and the wiseacres sat in council. There was much discussion and no small quantity of tobacco was consumed. Thus passed several hours. But before they could come to any definite conclusion, the boy again rose up and stood on his legs. This second resurrection happened before many persons. There was no visible change in the boy except that the natural color of his face became somewhat pale. After the second resurrection the boy could not utter a single word. He lost his power of speech.

After a lapse of about 7 hours the boy had a relapse for the third and last time. As on the two previous occasions he became unconscious and apparently dead. The parents fondly hoped that he would again rise. But no. Hours passed but there was no sign of animation, the boy lay breathless. They kept the body in the house full 24 hours, hoping every moment to see the dead boy moving about. At last when they saw that after a few hours it would be decomposed they buried the body near the local Victoria Memorial Hall.

THE KALLACHERRA DACOITY CASE.

Silchar, Feb. 5.

In the Kallacherra Dacoity Case Madhuram and Rajchandra were examined yesterday. They described the arrest by them of the first two, Eauddin and Pith who were caught in the jungle near the Manipur Tea Estate. When they were produced before the havildar they complained they had been robbed of their money by the Bengalis, who arrested them. The havildar deputed a sepoy and constable and they realized the amounts. Paltu described the circumstances of the arrest of the approver at 3 a. m., on the 11th December, when the latter was found trying to escape by the witness who had been placed to guard an exit from the garden. The Cabuli offered resistance but was overcome by the other chaukidars. He had no shoes on and his clothes were wet and covered with mud. Dhaniram, who with two other Bengalis, arrested Amir Mohomed described the similiar condition of his garments. Then evidence was given of the whole party of 25 men being surprised while in the midst of dividing the booty when eight men were arrested and several bags of coin and silver ornaments and the clothing and shoes of the party were found. When the attacking party led by the head constable and consisting of constables and the Manipur garden coolies and bustiwalas closed in upon the gang they showed fight, but on the police firing two blank cartridges they tried to escape and eight were caught. The articles found and the eight men with the first two men caught were then sent on to the Cutlcherra. Musin Gurmeg, the havildar who accompanied Mr. Burt to Kallacherra described the march to Kallach[illegible] from Damcherra, when a mounted syce brought the message of the dacoity. Mr. Burt then despatched three parties of sepoys in there directions. The witness and party proceeded towards Oloiecherra, where he assisted in the arrest of four men in the afternoon of the 10th, and got also two other men from the bustiwala. He brought these six men up to Kutlicherra where, on arrival, he found the Inspector-General. By the latter's directions he took the whole body of prisoners arrested up to then, namely, 16 men to Hailakandi on the 12th. On the 13th he took them to Lala to Mr. Kemp for identification. In the mean while the prisoners helped themselves to the shoes and clothing found where the arrest of the eight men had been made, each man evidently taking the shoes and clothes which he claimed. Chapanna Mantri and Lirsem Kuki deposed to having seen 10 Cabuls without any shoes and with garments covered with mud escaping through the jungles towards the south. They identified one of these ten men who is one of the accused. The witnesses accompanied Mr. Burt who arrived in their punji two days later up to Oloecherra Tea Garden through the jungles following the footprints of the Cabulis. Ambika Charan Chakravarti, a native doctor of the garden, saw 10 men two days later who from their description were the same men seen by the Kukis. Irfan Ali, a constable of the Patharkandi in Sylhet, arrested, four men in Kaltila behind a hut in a jungle. They had no shoes and their garments were torn and muddy, and they had about Rs. 350.

THE NUSHKI SEISTAN ROUTE.

The telegraph line is completed to, and the office is opened at Robat Killa on the Perso-Baluch frontier, nearly 500 miles from here on the Nushki Seistan route. Considering the inclemency of the weather most of the time, the construction party employed at the work have accomplished it wonderfully speedily. The Seistan Arbitration Commission camp is now within a couple of days of telegraphic communication with India by the Nushki Seistan route. The Pathans resident here believe that the Amir will come to Kandahar in the spring, and from thence either to Chaman or Quetta to Lord Curzon previous to his departure to England. Color is lent to this by the fact that skeleton models of the new Viceregal railway carriages are being tested in tunnels and round sharp curves on both the Sind-Peshin and Bolan frontier sections of the N.-W Railway. The first and main tunnels on the Nushki Railway are expected to be finished in the end of March, when the laying of the line to Nushki will be taken in hand. Large quantities of iron ore were produced in the mines discovered, and are being loaded up at Khanai station next to Boston junction on the Sind-Peshin section and sent to Karachi for shipment to Europe. The quality is said to be excellent. As the result of Lord Kitchener's tour in the Zhob last summer it is understood that the line of railway will be constructed from Harnai, via Hindubagan and Fort Sandeman to Dera Ghazi Khan, which will much shorten the route from thence into Baluchistan. The weather here now is bright and bracing foreshadowing an early spring.

Formal notifications by the Amir of Kabul that he has named his Commissioners to act with Major Roos-Keppel in demarcating the Mohmand border is expected within the next few days. It has been delayed owing to the great difficulties in maintaining communication with India caused by heavy snowfall. As this would also have interfered with the work of the Joint Commission, the delay has caused no real inconvenience.

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6. DR. G. C. BE[illegible] BARUA, L. R. C. P. (Edin.), L. F. P. (Glasgow) and L. M., etc., late Civil Surgeon, British G[illegible], says:—"... Healing Balm is a splendid remedy for the diseases of Genito-Urinary tract and it acts like charm."

7. DR. R. G. KAR, L. R. C. P., (Edin.), Secret[illegible] Calcutta Medical School, says:—"... Healing Balm has given me immense satisfaction in cases of [illegible]rrhœa."

8. DR. T. U. AHMED, M. B., C. M. L. S. A., [illegible] His Majesty's Vice-Consul, "says:—"... I can recommend this Healing Balm strongly to the [illegible] public."

9. DR. R. MONIER, M. B. C. M. (Edin.), Resident Surgeon, Park Street, Government Charitable Dispensary, says—".. Healing Balm was used by me in several cases of Gonorrhœa and was found successful."

10. DR. R. A. FERMIE L. R. C. P. & S. etc., says:—".. I used Healing Balm for Gonorrhœa in a number of my patients and found it very efficatious."

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PRINTED and published by TARIT KANTY DAS BISWAS, at the PATRIKA Press, No. 2, ANANDA CH. CHATTERJEE'S Lane, and issued by the PATRIKA POST OFFICE, CALCUTTA.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta