

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Aug. 31, 1918.

THE SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE EIGHTH Conference of the Registrars of Co-operative Credit Societies held at Simla in the second week of this month possessed little interest for laymen, though of vital importance to co-operators. The most important of the matters dealt with were concerned with banking principles: the acceptance of savings deposits, the disposal of reserve funds and the provision of adequate fluid resources. With the idea of India's hidden and hoarded wealth continually obsessing the minds of a certain class of our economists, it was not surprising that the conference was of opinion that the co-operative village-banks should perform the functions of savings banks. The conference also recommended that a proportion of the provincial allotment of takavi should be placed at the disposal of the Registrar, and that co-operators should not receive such loans except with the consent of the society. The question of creating a machinery for the discounting of promissory notes was referred to a committee to be assembled as early as Government considered it practicable. To progress was made with the idea of a state ex bank. A question which at one time threatened acute controversy, namely, the six months' standard of fluid resources, was found to have been shorn of its difficulties by the experience of the last three years. Central Banks are strengthening their position by rapidly accumulating reserves and it has become less necessary than before to insist on a rigid standard. The greatest value of the conference lay perhaps in the free interchange of opinions among the representatives from different parts of India.

A WRITER IN A CALCUTTA NEWSPAPER attempts to show by quoting figures that the abnormal prices of cloth are not due to depletion of stock, scarcity of freight or the rise in manufacturer's prices, but is due to the forcing up of prices by speculators. The following interesting account is given by him of the methods of these worthies:—"The prospect of an unlimited rise in prices has introduced into the trade an unlimited number of intermediaries. Instead of passing through two hands before reaching the consumer, the goods pass through 20 hands or more, the intermediate sales being mere paper transactions, until it reaches the consumer with the crushing weight of the intermediate profiteering. The piece goods marts in Calcutta in Cross Street, Puggyaputty and such localities are nowadays crowded till late into the night with hundreds of persons converted into dealers in piece goods, all bent upon forcing up prices. The state of the market has given rise to corners and combines. One firm is said to have cornered one popular brand of dhoti by buying up the stocks, with the result that it forced up the price from Rs. 5 per pair on the 14th instant to Rs. 5-11 on the 17th instant. From the morning of the 17th instant the price rose from Rs. 5-11 to Rs. 5-14. Four firms are said to have formed a combine and have forced up the price of a brand of grey Shirting from Rs. 27-8 per piece on the 14th instant to Rs. 29 on the 17th instant. The raising of prices for speculation is rife not only in the case of ready goods but also in the case of goods to arrive. The process of sale at a profit passing through a number of hands now commences as soon as a dealer has effected a contract with an importing firm in respect of goods to arrive." And all this, if true, is going on under the nose of the most advanced administration in India. Who knows what is going on in the dark and obscure corners of the Province?

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

Second Indian War Loan.

The whole of the cash subscriptions received will be given to His Majesty's Government for the prosecution of the War as part of India's £ 100 million contribution.

ISSUE OF

- 5½ per cent. Income-tax Free War Bonds, 1921 Repayable on the 15th September 1921 at Rs. 100 per cent.
- 5½ per cent. Income-tax Free War Bonds 1923 Repayable on the 10th September 1923 at Rs. 100 per cent.
- 5½ per cent. Income-tax Free War Bonds 1925 Repayable on the 15th September 1925 at Rs. 103 per cent.
- 5½ per cent. Income-tax Free War Bonds 1928 Repayable on the 10 September 1928 at Rs. 105 per cent.

AND OF

POST OFFICE 5-YEAR CASH CERTIFICATES FREE OF INCOME-TAX.

Principal and Interest on the Revenue and Assets of the Government of India.

WAR BONDS 1921, 1923, 1925, AND 1928.

Issue Price : Rs. 100 for every Rs. 100 applied for
Interest : Payable half-yearly at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum on the 15th March and the 15th September.

Advance interest from the date of purchase to the 14th September 1918 will be paid at the time of purchase of Bonds.

Advance interest from the date of Purchase to the 14th March 1919 will be paid at the time of purchase on Bonds purchased through the Post Office after the 14th September 1918.

Special Rights: War Bonds 1921, 1923, 1925 and 1928 will be accepted at par during the currency of the Bonds as the equivalent of cash for the purpose of subscription to any future long term loan issued by the Government of India, whatever rate of interest is attached to such issue.

Interest of War Bonds 1921, 1923, 1925 and 1928 will be income-tax-free but will be taken into account in determining the rate at which the tax levied on other income and will be liable to super-tax.

Form of Securities: War Bonds will be issued in the form of (a) Inscribed Stock Certificates, or (b) Promissory Notes. These will subsequently, if desired, be exchanged, free of cost, for Bearer Bonds when the latter are available.

If no preference is stated by the purchaser, War Bonds will be issued in the form of Inscribed Stock Certificate.

Promissory Notes, will in order to avoid delay, be issued in the first instance in as few separate pieces as possible but these will later on be exchanged free of charge for pieces of such denominations as may be applied for. A single Stock Certificate will be issued for the amount required.

POST OFFICE 5 YEAR CASH CERTIFICATES (FREE OF INCOME-TAX)

of

Rs. 10, Rs. 20, Rs. 50, Rs. 100 and Rs. 500.
Payable 5 years after issue.

Issue price.

Rs. 7-12, Rs. 15-8, Rs. 33-12, Rs. 77-8, and
Rs. 387-8.

SINCE OUR ARTICLE ON THE CLOTH QUESTION was written a Press communique has been issued indicating the lines on which Government intend to take action. It is proposed to introduce a bill at the forthcoming session of the Legislative Council empowering the Government to appoint a controller of cotton cloth who will act in association with an advisory committee of persons with technical knowledge of the trade. The controller is to have power to require the mills to manufacture certain kinds of cloth, for which they will be paid at rates fixed so as to allow a reasonable margin of profit. The cloth so produced will be retailable to the public at strictly controlled prices, either through the agency of Government shops or of licensed vendors. The Government of India have decided to appoint Mr. F. Noyce, I. C. S., at present Secretary to the Indian Committee as Controller of Cotton Cloth. These measures will certainly be welcome, but do not go to the root of the matter, as we shall try to show in a future issue.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE Foodstuffs Conference held at Nagpur:—In reference to the first item on the agenda there was general agreement that detailed forms of returns would involve delay, but that with a view to pool India's resources to the best advantage it was desirable to submit provisional estimates. From the railway point of view it was held essential to have periodic indications of prospective needs since the organisation of railway traffic to meet requirements took time. The following resolution was arrived at:—(1) (a) That, assuming that the general situation has once been taken stock of, it is necessary that there should be submitted monthly telegraphic reports by the Directors of Civil Supplies to the Central Transport and Foodstuffs Board giving information by divisions or other homogeneous administrative areas as to any change in the situation, provided that whenever such changes on an appreciable scale occur these should be reported by telegram forthwith. (b) Also that a summary of the telegraphic reports so received by the Board shall be furnished immediately to the Communications Board for communication to the railway authorities and distributed to all Directors of Civil Supplies. Items (2) and (3) of agenda related to needs in regard to foodstuffs and fodder respectively. The Directors of Civil Supplies reported so far as possible the situation in their respective provinces, showing that part of the United Provinces, all Rajputana, part of Central India, the northern portion of the Bombay Presidency and parts of the Deccan and Madras would be specially in need of supplies, while stocks were plentiful in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and promised well in the Central Provinces. The following resolution was passed:—(2) "That the general summary of the situation emerging from the information supplied to the conference by the Directors of Civil Supplies should be supplemented by more detailed quantitative particulars of provincial stocks and requirements to be submitted to the Central Transport and Foodstuffs Board not later than September 15th and thereafter periodically. It is recommended in the meantime that the Controller of Traffic should arrange without delay for the movement of foodstuffs known to be wanted to those areas requiring them from those which it has now been ascertained can supply them, instructing the Directors of Civil Supplies and railway administrations accordingly." The third resolution, which related to fodder, was as follows:—"That, as in the case of foodstuffs more detailed particulars of requirements and of stocks should be submitted to the Central Transport and Foodstuffs Board not later than September

15th next and... essay at the same time as in... case of foodstuffs. It strongly recommended the immediate steps taken by the Controller of Traffic to arrange the movement to areas where it is urgently required of fodder already available, instructing Directors of Civil Supplies accordingly. The consideration of the traffic arrangements for meeting the needs of deficient provinces was referred to a sub-committee presided over by Colonel Cameron, and the question of the position and powers of Directors of Civil Supplies was discussed by a sub-committee presided over by General Freeland. These sub-committees submitted reports to the conference on Tuesday, which were considered and adopted. Finally measures were considered for diminishing unnecessary cross-traffic, and a resolution was passed emphasising the need for the provision of freight for India's needs in order to relieve the congestion on the railways.

TRADE BETWEEN BIHAR AND ORISSA AND Nepal last year fell short of previous standards. The figures which carry us to March 1913 indicate a total turn-over of Rs. 370.4 lakhs against Rs. 402.9 lakhs of the preceding year. Since 1912-13 the import trade has been showing a steady decline, while a progressive increase has been recorded on the export side. Last year imports, which accounted for about Rs. 214 lakhs out of the total trade, dropped by Rs. 36.6 lakhs. Animals (living) and grain and pulse are the principal articles which were mainly responsible for the decline. The increase of Rs. 4.2 lakhs on the export side was chiefly in cotton manufactures. The total value of the trade does not include treasure, the registration of which continues to be defective as it is generally carried as personal luggage. The aggregate value of the imports declined from Rs. 250.6 lakhs by Rs. 36.6 lakhs or 14.6 per cent. to Rs. 214.0 lakhs. The principal articles imported from Nepal are food-grains (the predominating group being rice, husked and unhusked), oilseeds, jute (raw), animals (living), tobacco, hides and skins and ghee. Of these food-grains including pulses, oilseeds, jute (raw), tobacco and ghee represented 79.4 per cent. and animals (living) and hides and skins 11.4 per cent. of the total value of imports. Rice showing 42.2 per cent. of the total value of the imports continued to be the largest single item. During the year under review the import of this article was maunds 35.4 lakhs against maunds 42.4 lakhs of the previous year; the de-

An Assassin.

Rheumatism is like an assassin. Before you know it you are in its power, and the terrible pains and aches that follow are even worse than an assassin's knife was driven in your flesh.

LITTLE'S ORIENTAL BALM is the one and the only true and sure cure for Rheumatism. It is applied outwardly and penetrates with astonishing quickness into the blood itself, where the trouble is located. It destroys and drives out all the acids and impurities that cause Rheumatism, and restores the vigor of youth to stiffened joints and aching muscles.

Little's Oriental Balm is certain in its action. It has never failed to cure the worst cases of Rheumatism when the directions were faithfully followed. It has brought relief to thousands, and will cure thousands more.

Sold at Re. 1 per bottle. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors.

increase of m... previous year; the decrease of... 16.5 per cent. in volume and... 35 lakhs i. e. 28.2 per cent. in value... due to the bumper crops in Bihar during last two seasons. Of the oilseeds imported from Nepal mustard and rape and linseed continued to be the most important, though in the year under review there was a decline in quantity of 11.3 per cent. and 2.0 per cent. and in value of 13.3 per cent. and 5.8 per cent. respectively. The import of jute (raw) from Nepal was 269,775 maunds valued at Rs. 20,81,975 against 235,075 maunds valued at Rs. 17,99,446 of the previous year, showing an increase of 14.9 per cent. in volume and 15.7 per cent. in value. The import of tobacco has been showing a progressive increase... the previous year and improved in the year under review by 12.7 per cent. in volume and 37.6 per cent. in value. The import of ghee showed a slight decline of about 7.7 per cent. in quantity and 6.5 per cent. in value. The trade in live animals, which mainly consists of horned cattle—bulls, bullocks, cows, calves, buffaloes, and sheep and goats—dropped considerably, i. e. by 41.3 per cent. in value. The trade in hides and skins which considerably improved in 1916-17 showed a further increase of about 6.4 per cent. in value during the year under report. The export trade for 1917-18 showed an improvement of about Rs. 4.16 lakhs i. e. 2.7 per cent. over that of the preceding year. Articles manufactured as distinct from raw products constitute the bulk of exports from Bihar and Orissa. Of these, cotton yarn and piece-goods, mostly of foreign origin, head the list. The export of these articles has been steadily declining since 1915-16 and in the year under review dropped in volume from maunds 89,291 by 17,137 maunds or about 19.2 per cent. to maunds 72,154, but the value rose by 17.1 per cent. The decline in volume and increase in value is due to the adverse effect of the European war on India's trade in piece-goods. The export of "metals and manufactures thereof" dropped by 23.3 per cent. in volume and 4.5 per cent. in value. Salt dropped in volume by 15.8 per cent. but owing to the high price ruling the value showed an increase of 9.0 per cent. Other articles of importance on the export side are tobacco, oils, sugar, spices, animals (living) and provisions. Tobacco improved in value by 23.4 per cent. and oils by 8.9 per cent., the trade in sugar showed no noticeable fluctuation, while animals (living) declined by 27.9 per cent., provisions by 17.9 per cent. and spices by 1.2 per cent.

DEALING WITH THE MORTALITY FROM WILD BEASTS AND SNAKES IN 1917 the Government resolution lays stress on the special measures taken in Bihar and Orissa to account for the improved figures of the year. Commenting on this, the *Englishman* remarks:—"Possibly the non-publication of the measure... the fear of giving information to the enemy... when we examine the figures a little more closely... Bihar and Orissa has for the last... years headed the list in the table of mortality from wild beasts, while as regards deaths from... she has yielded the first place to the... Provinces only in the year under review... accounted for the major part of the deaths from wild beasts. The following table shows the figures of destruction of dangerous animals and snakes:—

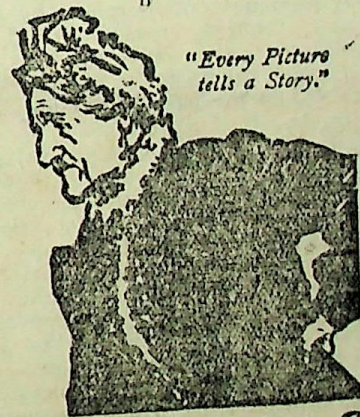
	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917
Elephants	96	100	105	71	76
Tigers	345	415	386	334	258
Leopards	157	199	192	157	119
Bears	206	659	156	129	213
Wolves					

Hyenas	234	249	147	157	99
Other animals	512	1,134	265	140	281
Total	1,550	2,760	1,352	998	1,046
Snakes	16,784	17,204	16,566	5,740	9,171

The actual mortality from wild beasts and snakes in these five years was as follows:

	Wild Beasts,		Snakes.
	Tigers	Total	
1913	251	546	5,640
1914	289	547	5,968
1915	376	684	6,795
1916	530	847	5,970
1917	378	655	5,885

It would be seen that inspite of the heavy mortality of the last two years the campaign of extermination slowed down considerably during this period. The same may be said of the figures of rewards paid for the killing of animals and snakes. The total amount paid in each of the five years 1913 to 1917 was Rs. 11,892; 15,493; 9,380; 5,298; and 6,199. Coming again to arms licenses, we find that the number of new licenses annually granted decreased from 753 in 1913 to 531 in 1917, while the total number of licenses in force fell from 12,799 to 11,845 in 1916 and 11,247 in 1917. These are the "special measures" that the figures disclose. No wonder, the *Englishman* has been led to remark as quoted above. Will some Hon'ble member of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council attempt to elicit more precise information as to the mysterious "special measures" that were no doubt adopted in this Province during 1917 to check the depredations of wild animals:



Are You Getting Old Faster Than You Ought?

WATCHFULNESS can add years to anybody's life. Some people are old at sixty, others are young at eighty.

Your habits mean sound or weak kidneys—good blood or bad blood, for weak kidneys let uric acid collect in the blood to ruin health.

Always keep the kidneys active, but especially after middle age. This is good insurance against nervous, rheumatic, and urinary troubles, stiff and lame joints, poor sight and hearing and hardening of the arteries.

Rest the kidneys by avoiding overwork, worry, and strong drink; by regularity of habits, daily walks, light diet, and plenty of sleep. And at the first sign of backache, rheumatic pain, or urinary disorders use Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. They are a special kidney medicine, and help the kidneys to filter from the blood excess uric acid which causes backache, lumbago, urinary troubles, dropsy, rheumatism, and gravel. You would know how good they are if you would talk to people who have used them.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are Rs. 2 per bottle; 6 for Rs. 10.8; obtainable from all dealers.

THE SPECIAL CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH.

"With history looking on us, our labours to-day may well strike sympathy in the hearts of those who have the refinement to feel the agonies of a race that, conscious of its rights, is struggling to realise them. The struggle is arduous, every step of it is laborious, but our purpose is firm and our courage enduring." With these striking words, Mr. Syed Hasan Imam began his presidential address at the special session of the Indian National Congress on the 29th at Bombay. It was truly a historic occasion and the gathering was thoroughly national in every sense. On every face could be seen the light of a noble enthusiasm and a high purpose; consciousness of duty and calmness of deliberation were what the occasion demanded, and it is the most illuminating comment on the change that has come over the nation, that in spite of the heat and strife of the past few weeks, each and every member of the vast gathering that assembled in the pandal at Bombay evinced a sense of responsibility and dignity that may be well emulated by the legislative assemblies of nations which have undergone "centuries of political discipline."

The calm repose and the dignified tone of the presidential address correctly reflect the spirit and tenor of the debates; there was no perverid and torrential eloquence; none of the gushing rhetoric and bombastic periods that are the usual bore of our public platforms, no rambling or straying from the point,—but the speech as well as the proceedings were alike characterised by severe simplicity, by singleness of purpose, by unflinching precision and 'sound reasoning'. Mr. Hasan Imam is eminently an advocate. As a Judge of one of the highest tribunals in the land, and as a barrister, he has all along been distinguished for his fearless independence, clear-sighted acumen and perfect grasp of the essentials of the most intricate and complicated issues. It was in the fitness of things that he should have been called upon by the united voice of the people to preside over the National Assembly at a time when it is absolutely necessary to sift the grain from a mass of chaff, and to concentrate upon the very first principles which were in danger of being completely lost sight of under a camouflage of irrelevant issues. Judging by his speech, it is obvious that Mr. Imam has amply justified the great trust which the nation had reposed in him.

Mr. Hasan Imam starts by exposing the hollowness of the attempt to support the Montagu-Chelmsford proposals out of gratitude to the illustrious authors of the Report for the pains that they have undoubtedly taken in drawing it up, and for the principles enunciated by them in the first part. "In a matter so grave as the laying of the foundation of our constitutional structure," says Mr. Imam, "the duty of analysing and sifting the proposals outweighs all considerations of mere courtliness or thanksgiving." The proposition that, as the people most affected, we have to consider the proposals on their merits, is such a self-evident truth that it requires no demonstration. On this canon Mr. Imam goes on to consider the proposals themselves. His examination of these is searching and severe, but always, as he has himself desired, "in a spirit of sympathy and not of mere carping criticism." Incidentally he points out what has been apparent to many that there seems to be no material difference between those that advocate rejection and those that advise acceptance, "for the common feature of both is to continue the struggle till our rights are won." "We know no extremists, and we know no moderates names

that have been divided into 'enemies' to divide us. We know only one in the demand of a United India, and so long as our rights are denied to us, we shall continue to struggle."

In his discussion of the Reforms, Mr. Imam analyses the declaration of policy of the 20th August last year, and shows up effectively the qualifying phrases with which that declaration was sought to be hedged in.

The main features of the proposals relating to the Government of India and the Council of State are then gone into and fairly and justly criticised; and the distrust of the people latent in them has clearly been brought to the surface. "The ideal that we have always set before us is that the Government of India should be constituted that that Government should be the government of the people." "The cardinal principle of the demand is that Indian interests are not any more to be subservient to the interests of others, and if the proposed reforms are intended to restore to us what we have lost, then the reformation of the Government of India should not be and must not be on the lines of the proposals, but on those that would secure to the people at least an effective voice in the governance of the country." A clearer declaration of first principles could not have been made, and Mr. Imam is certainly right when he says that we are now no more content with promises. The quotation from the Report about the "belief abroad that assurances given in public pronouncements of policy are sometimes not fulfilled" has been particularly apt. Indian public opinion has been correctly voiced in the following passage,— "Just as we are told to realise that India's political future is not to be won merely by fine phrases, so we ought to make it clear to Government that a whole fifth of the human race cannot be kept loyal to foreign rule by mere promises. The days of fine phrases and hollow promises have equally passed and if we are to be kept within the great British Empire, our confidence must be won, our affection must be secured."

In regard to the Provincial Governments it is acknowledged that we are more liberally treated than in the Government of India. But the 'certificate procedure' and the Grand Committees have been rightly held up as displaying the same spirit of distrust of the people as the proposed constitution of the Central Government. "These safeguards in the hands of a 'strong man' may be turned into effective weapons for the destruction of the Reforms themselves." The recent utterances of one of these 'strong men' are referred to as an example of the fact that it is against such 'strong men'—and as the President says "this unfortunate land has many of this breed—that the people require special measures of protection. As regards the Ministers, the difficulties that will attend their work under the scheme have been clearly foreseen. Responsibility of the Ministers to the people is demanded by the suggestion upon appointment every Minister shall be compelled to seek re-election and that a further condition to his office should be that he should continue to enjoy the confidence of the House. It is suggested that the Ministers should be members of the Executive Council enjoying the same status and emoluments as the Members of the Council. Whichever of the question of dignity, Mr. Imam makes the novel, but reasonable, suggestion that 'the unmeaning waste' of powder involved in the firing of salutes should be discontinued.

It is true that in his criticism of the details of the Reform proposals and on the miscellaneous matters of Fiscal policy, the Post and Telegraph Services, the Army, and the non-official Anglo-Indian Community, Mr. Imam has not gone over any new ground.

But this is a speech for which the merits of the proposals have had in the country have not left any ground uncovered. The Scheme has been thrashed out most completely in countless writings and speeches, and all its details laid threadbare. The criticisms have crystallised into definite demands for improvement, and the speech of the President of the Social Congress cannot be charged with staleness, if it gives a resumé of what the country was.

Those who attended the Congress must have the concluding words of the speech still ringing in their ears,—“To deny that India feels the ache of the stranger is to shut one's eyes to fundamental facts.....The people know it, and they are asking for reparation for the incidents of the past. If, in the language of Mr. Asquith, the Empire is to be for us as well as worth living for, that reparation must be made. The plea, to resist our demand, is put forward by short-sighted people who India is not yet educationally fit. They ignore the fact that it is not in literacy that the knowledge of one's rights lies, but in that intuitive capacity which is God's gift to all races.....For India remain within the Empire, she must be freed from an unwholesome tutelage, and unless she is accorded a place of honour and of dignity along the self-governing units of the Empire, which now a source of profit will assuredly turn in a source of peril.”

These words ring and ever ring throughout the length and breadth of the country, and carry with them the exhortation—“Press your demands forcefully and insistently, and if you are not heard now, your causing righteous indignation of the cause will prevail in the end. The righteousness of a century ago by which the great English statesman said,—“Of all forms of tyranny I believe the worst is that of a nation over a nation,” and, “heaviest of all yokes is the yoke of the stranger.” It is particularly applicable to the warning of Lord Morley to the British Empire with which the speech ends—“If Imperialism means your degradation of civilisation and lowering your standard of all you hold precious, beware of it.”

THE CRISIS.

While the cotton crop is being treated with glowing accounts of its profits, our cotton Kings grim tales of misery reach us every day from the cotton fields. Hats have been looted, and the cotton clothless and destitute. Mothers and sisters have been heard of in the streets of the City, in a state of nature, the life of a condemned man, and because of the ruthless dealings of the hundreds of the country. In Iather, Godiva did. A horrid picture of the impendments of its better half, sends a shudder through the nation, however redress to its rulers. Urging through the public meetings and up agonising voice demanded immediate action. Memorials have been sent for the case of *Juggernaut* moves. The press has reported that the price of cotton piece goods, which were not. Meanly, they have suddenly and in strange manner, in a speech of His Excellency in Bengal, gone up five to six

times the pre-war prices. This unprecedented and sudden rise in prices has again brought the question of profiteering to the forefront. The scandal of profiteering middlemen is not of recent origin. But the question at issue is so complex and its causes are so widespread that it is not only futile but even dangerous for Provincial satraps or administrations to interfere in the matter. It may or may not be a sphere beyond their power to understand but it is certainly one beyond their power to grapple with. As has been rightly observed this is not a provincial matter. The Hon'ble Maulvi Fazlul Haq's successful resolution in the Bengal Legislative Council for the appointment of a special officer to report on the steps necessary to improve cotton cultivation in Bengal was, we fear, based on an ignorance of this great truth. There seems to be an idea that all that is necessary to remove the cloth difficulty is that Bengal should produce her own cotton and consume cloth made out of it. The capacity of Bengal for the cultivation of commercial cotton has not been looked into. In the five years ending 1916-17, the area under cotton crops in Bengal was only 0.3 per cent. of the total area under cotton in India. It would take too much space here to show why there is no possible chance of growing enough cotton in Bengal to have appreciable effect on the piece goods market. It will be sufficient to point out one fact. Cotton requires a particularly rich soil, free from flood, and at the same time plenty of rains. Bengal soil may be rich and it is favoured with abundant rainfall, but it is not sufficiently high, and hence jute and rice must remain the staple crops of Bengal. In Bihar and Orissa, we have in the Chota Nagpur plateau a region which bears some similarity with the adjoining tracts of the Central Provinces and Berar but the reclamation of the land requires men and money which it is not in the power of any Provincial Government to provide. And after all, it is not from want of a sufficient production of raw cotton that India suffers. India produces more raw cotton than our cotton mills can dispose of, but so long as the war lasts, there is no chance of importing more machinery to increase the output of manufactured articles. Handloom weaving can afford no adequate solution unless the weavers abandon their present practice of purchasing imported or Indian mill-spun yarn and revert to the old method of spinning their own yarn. Even then, it would be but a makeshift which would collapse as soon as normal conditions prevail.

But this question of raw cotton is, as we have said, not for provincial Governments to solve. “It is not a matter,” as has been pointed out by one writer, “whose handling can be confined to India, or even the United Kingdom, since one ultimate cause of the trouble is the high price, and short supply, of American cotton. Improvements therefore can be effected only by first going back to the source of the distress and by introducing remedial steps at every stage until the goods pass into the hands of the actual consumers. It is easy to demonstrate that prices are rising, that there are economic explanations of the rise, that such causes are supplemented by reckless profiteering, and that this position is causing grave embarrassment and discontent. The need is not further discussion, but action, and it is fairly certain that, in course of time, action will come. But when, rests entirely with the British Government. This is too grave a problem to have escaped official attention, and one of these fine days our friends the profiteering middlemen will wake to read an announcement of intended action that will give them the shock of their lives.” That fine day which has been long overdue, will not now, let us hope, take an un-

conscionably long time in coming. Taking all all things into consideration, we should repeat our suggestion of prohibiting all exports of cotton manufactures from India.

HOARDING AND THE RISE OF PRICES.

The second number of *The Bengal Economic Journal* for 1918 is replete with interesting matter. Most of the articles are papers read at the Bengal Economic Conference held in Calcutta in Christmas week last year. The articles range over a large variety of subjects. Professor E. A. Horne of Patna College writes on "Industrial development and the labour question". Professor H. S. Jevons of Allahabad writes on the closely allied topic of "The labour question as affecting industrial development in India." Mr. J. S. Chakravarti is responsible for an article on "The development of Savings Banks," and Mr. B. A. Collins (our Registrar of Co-operative Societies) for one on "Co-operation and Industrial Development." By far the most important group of articles, however, is the trio on Currency Problems; Professor J. C. Coyajee writing under the title of "The Appreciation of Silver," Professor Gilbert Slater under that of "The After-War Price of Silver" and Mr. Madan Tata's under that of "Our Currency Problems."

Professor Coyajee attempts to make an estimate of the net effects of the appreciation of silver. The article is, as usual, scholarly and full of references. But the learned professor has a weakness for balancing opposing forces, and a tenderness for minor considerations which detract from the lucidity of his writings. He concludes that the problem of exchange is overshadowed by the problem of tonnage, and that even if the exchange had not been raised it would have been impossible to increase India's exports owing to the scarcity of freight. As to India's loss by exchange, he is of opinion that she has been able to transfer the burden to a considerable extent to the foreign buyers. He tries to meet the objection that whereas the prices of Indian exports have risen only 17 per cent. those of her imports have risen 70 per cent—the inference being that the rates of exchange of goods is unfavourable to India. Professor Coyajee's reply to this objection is that "high prices and small sales are a poor business situation." If the prices of Indian imports are rising, "India responds by buying much smaller quantities." The learned professor forgets that this "response" is really the groans of millions arrived on the verge of nudity and shivering at the prospect of the coming cold weather. Mr. Coyajee's point is this—the rise of 17 per cent. in the price of exports puts an additional quantity of money in the hands of classes who produce for the foreign markets. But owing to the very high prices of foreign imports these men reduce their purchases to such an extent as to have a large quantity of extra cash on their hands. On this subject the writer quotes a very interesting passage from the report of the Controller of Currency—"During this year of the war, however, such goods were to be found in the up-country bazars in much smaller quantities and then only at such high prices as would frequently induce the consumer to do without his purchases until the price should come down. It is probably correct to attribute mainly to the restriction of imports and to their higher prices the fact that so few of the rupees issued during the year returned from circulation." As evidence of the fact that more money passes into the hands of the agriculturist and more of it retained by him, Professor Coyajee draws our attention to the phenomenal increase of capital and deposits of Co-operative Societies and that portion of the capital which is owned by agriculturists. The evidence is exceeding-

ly interesting. It is probable that the rise in the price of silver is on the whole beneficial to the extent there is a good. But the sacrifice? The agriculturists' domestic budget shows in not a few years few considerable items of even comforts, let alone luxuries. That being so, the curtailment of purchases means that they are not being supplied with the bare necessities of life. It may not be very easy to estimate the loss of efficiency which this forced economy means. But the loss is not the less serious because it takes place in this insidious manner. The accumulation of cash is a tangible something, and appeals to our senses. But when we seriously reflect on the price we are paying for it, the question arises whether it is worth having.

There is one thing on which Mr. Coyajee does not lay sufficient stress. It is that the rise of 17 per cent. in the price of exports to which he refers is not uniformly distributed over all the articles of Indian exports. In the connection the following remarks of Mr. Madan Tata are very pertinent:—"I know it is currently said that India is doing extremely well by the war, that it is rolling in prosperity, but this again is very superficial talk. We read and hear of people having made fortunes by the war, but forget to stand and think which people. It is the commercial and industrial classes—the capitalists large and small—that have immensely profited by the war. The cultivator, who forms the vast majority of the masses of India, has not so benefited. Of the five crops, cotton, wheat, jute, rice, seeds—and they form 70 per cent of the total export of India—two, wheat and cotton, have been selling higher than they did in July 1914. The others are selling lower." So it may very well be that the greater part of the rise of 17 per cent. has gone to swell the profits of the commercial classes, and the remainder has been divided by the producers of only two crops, cotton and wheat. The rise of 17 per cent conceals the fact that the producers of most articles are actually getting less money than they used to do before the war. Even this reduced income they cannot wholly spend owing to the rise of prices of imports. Can there remain any doubt that, if these facts are true, the efficiency of the agriculturists over the greater part of India has been seriously impaired and their hardships increased to a very serious extent?

The reduction of the purchasing power of agriculturists due to the rise in prices of goods is a serious problem of hoarding. The recent report of the strong men are referred to shows how this has happened. It is against agriculturists' money in the President says "this country has increased by of this breed—that shows that these classes measures of protection on hand. But is this the difficulties that to refrain from uneconomical hoarding, we hope the Ministry of the Central Publicity Board will suggest views on this subject. It will be a further condition of requirements makes it difficult for the House. It is the suggestion of freely to buy their usual requirements should be met by the hands unspent. This is the status quo. People who are in the novel, but speak of such hoarding as the unmeaning waste explained everything, but the firing of salutes so-called hoarding and these times, or do we speak of the details where? As is well known on the miscellaneous took in ordinary times he Prof. Services, the chase of silver for ornamental purposes, the Indian Communi- now? We know too well that we are on a new ground.

behind that of
 very silver, should be quite
 ing silver ornaments is many
 than bar silver, and yet the demand
 To my mind this is very
 that the masses are not hoarding
 sense of the term. But the fact re-
 amount of rupees continues to
 ards upcountry. What are these
 are they made? My answer is
 ily proceeds of produce retained
 itable opportunity to spend them
 his then is the problem of hoard-
 remedy? To us it appears that
 imports are reduced consider-
 or whatever you may choose
 . The only alternative is to
 last thing we should wish
 poor agricultrists to do.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

THE tenth day of Mohurrum will henceforth be observed as a postal holiday in all circles.

LOCAL readers are reminded of the War Loan Meeting to be held in the Patna Collegiate School on the 5th September at 5 P. M.

WE understand from an authoritative source that there is absolutely no truth in the rumour of Mr. Clayton's dismissal, which was published in several newspapers.

IN the neck-and-neck race between this Province and the C. P. for the seventh place on the War Loan list, the latter has again shot ahead of the former. Buck up, Borissa!

THE proposal to place Deputy Inspectors of Schools in the Provincial Educational Service is going to be given effect to. Thirteen men will be taken in every year, preference being give to those who are B. T.'s.

THE Press front that is being sent from India to visit the Provinces except Bihar and the United Provinces. What is the reason for this exclusion?

While the Association Assistant Director Bihar and Orissa, having training, Babu Barada Kanta, fear of English in the Raven- acts for him.

ing accounts of the Kings grim tales every day from a been looted, who clothless and de- mothers and sis- n Patna City, several cases of rring death rred, though, fortunately no loss es on. T. been reported.

whether our remarks about supply in Patna have come to District authorities. The coun- are however as loud as ever ells for immediate action.

onal case against certain hanbad for alleged assault on stant Superintendent of Police, h a colliery bund dispute, e Yunus is appearing for the

WE learn that an informal meeting of the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council will be held on the 13th. September next to discuss the Reforms Scheme. This is very good, but we do not understand why the meeting should be informal. If there is no legislative business why should not questions be permitted? The regular session, it has been announced, will open on the 25th November.

WE are glad that our repeated efforts to draw the attention of the authorities to the scandalous state of the burning ghats in Patna have at last met with success, and a committee of several Municipal Commissioners has been appointed to consider the whole question. The city area practically stretches for ten miles along the river within which there are only three ghats, one at Jujra, one at Sultangaj, and the third near Khaja Kalan. The approaches to these ghats are almost impassable while the ghats itself are mere apologies for the same. The table that living was dearer in Calcutta than in Patna was long since exploded, while the fact remains that dying is much more costly in Patna than it is in Calcutta where any one could have a decent funeral on payment of only Rs. 3-8. In Patna, even on the lowest scale, a funeral costs no less than Rs. 10. These and other things should be looked into by the committee.

WE believe that though Government makes out a list of the newspapers to which official advertisements may be sent, every officer has however the discretion for reasons of economy to limit the advertisement to a selected number of papers. In practice, however, economy is probably the last consideration which guides the selections. We have seen a post on Rs. 30 per month being advertised for in several provincial newspapers, known and unknown, the matter actually covering nearly a column space. The charge for each insertion of the advertisement in question cannot be less than Rs. 20 for which sum, with a little discretion, the post could have been advertised for in four other papers at least. Will the Hon'ble Mr. LeMesurier kindly look into this?

A SERIOUS warning to the Bihar Indigo industry is contained in a further article on the "Future of Natural Indigo in India" which is contributed by Mr. W. A. Davis, Indigo Research Chemist to Government, to the current number of the "Agricultural Journal of India." Mr. Davis once more emphasises the consideration that the most important factor of the indigo problem is that the deterioration of Bihar soils which has followed on the neglect of proper manuring in the past should be remedied. On the promptitude of the adoption of remedial measures, he affirms, will largely depend the possibility of natural indigo being produced in Bihar at a sufficiently low price to compete with the synthetic article in the immediate future. Unless," he adds, "estate manorial trials be started immediately it appears to me certain that the next

KARAMAT OIL.

It is by experience a wonderful remedy for deafness and all ear troubles. Price per phial Rs. 1-4.

KESHAVA KISHORE OIL.

It causes the hair to be smooth, soft and curling with unparalleled fragrance, restores mental power and cools the brain

BALLABHA & Co., PILIBHIT U.P.

few years will witness a very large falling off in the output of natural indigo. This will happen at the time when competition with the synthetic is most severe and it is most important to have a large outside order to be able to sell at a low price to compete. Unless proper phosphate manuring is adopted and that rapidly the natural dye will be seriously handicapped in the next few years and its final extinction rendered certain." Mr. Davis declares that eighteen months ago he pointed out the relationship between the phosphate deficiency of the soil and the wilt disease of indigo in Bihar, and he has since been constantly advocating the use of super-phosphate as a manure. But it appears that with few exceptions planters have not made up their minds to carry out manurial trials on their own estates. "Each one apparently is waiting to see what his neighbour does."—*The Pioneer*.

HIS Honour the Lieutenant Governor of Bihar and Orissa is going on a tour in the Tirhut Districts during the first fortnight of next month.

THE Commissioner of Patna has called on the 6th September a conference of a select number of Hindu and Mahomedans to devise measures for averting disturbances during the next Bakr-Id.

AT the next municipal elections of Puri, a candidate has appeared who is for having all the proceedings of the Municipality in Oriya. The course of this love for the vernacular does not however run smooth for we hear that Police aid has been requisitioned near several polling stations.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

Applications are invited for the appointment of Assistant Registrar, Patna University, for 6 months on a salary of Rs. 300/- a month. If the appointment is made permanent there is a prospect of the salary being fixed at Rs. 300/- to Rs. 500/- a month rising by annual increments of Rs. 20/-. No one need apply who is not a graduate of an Indian University. Applications with copies of Testimonials should reach the undersigned on or before the 5th of September, 1918.

PATNA, R. SHAW,
The 28th of Aug. 1918. Registrar, Patna University,
(1) Patna P. O.

IN MANY WAYS

the world has changed and is changing. Most of us live quite differently to our fore fathers many of our present day occupations were unheard of, undreamt of even a generation or two back whether the "Good Old Times" were actually as good as they are pictured is perhaps an open question, but if we have gained much—gained in wealth, luxury, refinement, art and science, modern conveniences modern travel, and much else—yet there is no doubt that we have lost something. Life is no longer so quiet, steady and easy going as formerly. These are days of rush, strenuous work and often of equally strenuous amusement. Life now a days, tends to become more wearing. Our digestive systems specially, are very liable to get upset by hurry and worry and as so many distressing ailments follow upon a disturbed and neglected condition of the organs of digestion it is well to have recourse to

Immediately warning symptoms of indigestion, biliousness, constipation, and similar ailments are best relieved by the use of Beecham's Pills, which are of inestimable value to women during three generations. If you feel dull and heavy, easily tired, or if you are suffering from some form of digestive disturbance, to put yourself right you should take a dose of this world famous medicine. You will certainly find that it

**WILL DO YOU GOOD
Beechams
Pills**

Prepared only by
THOMAS BEECHAM, St. Helen's Lane
Sold everywhere in boxes at
As. 8. As. 12. and Rs. 2 each.
Sole Agents for India, Burma & Ceylon
C. ATHERTON & Co.
8, CLIVE STREET, CALCUTTA.

NOTICE.

We beg to inform our kind constituents the Public, that our Aerated Water factory at No. 71 quarters near Freemasons Lodge in Dinapore Cantt. is under Medical supervision. Our water is Manufactured with the greatest care for cleanliness, and with filtered water from the Station Hospital's well. Our rates are moderate.

We solicit the kind support of our friends and to those who have not used our Water respectfully solicit a trial. We supply the Station Hospital, Club Officers, Messes, Dinapur Cantt. as well as to the Messes of Gentlemen &c., of Bankipore.

Soda large	@	Rs. 1
Soda small	"	" 1/2
Lemonade	"	" 1/2
Gingerade	"	" 1/2
Tonic	"	" 1/2
Coloured (all)	"	" 1/2

We have inspected the Soda Water of Messrs Baluck Ram & Co., today and find that all the possible care is taken in the preparation of the Aerated Water being pure. The bottles supplied from tap specially laid on from the supply, the empty bottles are washed with a ganate solution before being re-filled.

(Sd.) F. P. MAYNARD, M.A.,
Civil Surgeon.
BALUCK RAM & Co.
Bankipore.
In quarter of the Behar N. P. S. near the old Hospital.