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অনেকে প্রথম হইতে শ্রীশ্রীবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া পত্রিকা চাহিয়া পাঠান; কিন্তু কোন কোন সংখ্যা একেবারে নিঃশেষিত হওয়ায়, আমরা তাঁহাদের অভিলাষ পূরণ করিতে পারি না। সেই জন্য আমরা উক্ত নিঃশেষিত সংখ্যা গুলি পুনর্ম্মুদ্রিত করিতে মনস্থ করিয়াছি। যাঁহারা উক্ত ছয় বর্ষের সমগ্র পত্রিকা কিম্বা উহার কোন বর্ষের পত্রিকা চাহেন, তাঁহারা কৃপা করিয়া অবিলম্বে আমাদিগকে জানাইবেন। যাঁহারা পূর্ব্বে গ্রাহক হইবেন, তাঁহারা প্রতি বর্ষের পত্রিকা দেড় টাকায় পাইবেন। শ্রীকেশব লাল রায়, প্রকাশক অমৃত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিস কলিকাতা।

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ছত্রপতি শিবাজী ১॥০

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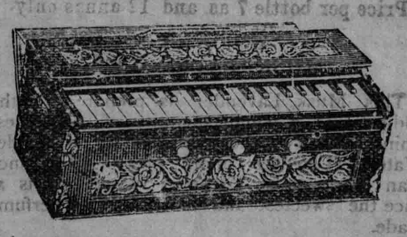

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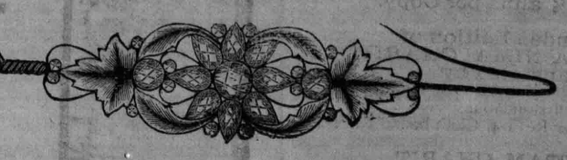

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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, MARCH 17. 1898.

FRONTIER POLICY BLUNDER.

ONE can see, after a careful perusal of the views of the English press, Tory and Liberal, that the Forward policy of Lord George Hamilton has been almost universally condemned. Indeed, the Secretary of State himself admits it when he implores his opponents to let by-gones be by-gones, and comes forward for the purpose of adopting a policy which would be accepted by all. This Forward policy has cost us, the people of India, a fabulous sum,—a sum which is beyond our means. It has cost us in men and cattle. A British soldier is a valuable commodity to the people of India, and a British officer, still more so. In an agricultural country like this where cattle form the chief wealth of the people, one can understand what it is to lose many thousands of them.

A great blunder was committed; but such is the system under which India is ruled, that there is none whom one can hold responsible for it. We said that Lord George Hamilton had been proved to have committed the blunder; yet Parliament supported him. Under the system, he had opportunities of committing the blunder, and he might have committed a greater one, leading to real danger. Yet that system prevails, and there is no intention on the part of British statesmen to change it. If a Secretary of State for India has opportunities of undertaking a ruinous policy, there is nothing to prevent him from undertaking a dangerous one. Is it not necessary for the very safety of the Empire to change the system so as to prevent the possibility of a Secretary of State for India again committing any such blunder in future?

In justice to Lord George Hamilton, we must say that if it was he who was led to commit the blunder, certainly the system is much more responsible for it than himself. It all happened in this wise. The military clique frightened the Viceroy, who was a stranger in India, into the belief that the Empire was in danger. The members of this clique are no statesmen, and from their training, they must find in wars and military expeditions a panacea for all evils. The civilians saw no danger; but then, a responsible official like the Viceroy is naturally led to follow the advice of those who raise the cry of Empire in danger than those who take the opposite view. The way to move a responsible official is to frighten him. The military men frightened the Viceroy, and the civilians did not; and therefore, the former succeeded in winning over the Viceroy to their side. And thus Lord Elgin was persuaded to vote for the Forward movement.

It then rested with the Secretary of State to settle this matter. Now, to act against the wishes of the Viceroy, who is on the spot and who is primarily responsible for the safety of the Empire, is to take serious responsibilities. The safest course is to side with the Viceroy, and Lord George Hamilton did what most men would have done under the circumstances.

The same thing may happen again. Indeed, if the present blunder led to a complication with the Afridies, the next blunder may lead to a complication with a formidable Foreign Power, say, Russia, China or France. Is it not, therefore, urgently necessary that something should be done for the purpose of making such blunders impossible in future?

Those Indians who take interest in public affairs, are often reminded that they are a seditious lot and that they are trying to undermine the Empire. We, however, do not see in the officials any great love for the Empire. It is in the interests of the Empire that rulers here should have the advice of statesmen at home; but they will have no control whatsoever. They will not take any pecuniary help from England, lest that should bring them the dreaded outside control. The member of Parliament who takes any interest in India, is a Paget, M.P. They will have everything in their own way, and what we see is that they commit blunders, and serious ones too. They will thus rather endanger the Empire than allow British statesmen any interference in its management.

NEW CRIMINAL PROCEDURE ACT.

IN spite of the emphatic protests of the nation, uttered through the press, the public bodies and the representative members in the Council, section 108 of the Procedure Code Bill became law last Friday, with merely a slight modification of no importance. Armed with this extraordinary power, the authorities may now play duck and drake with the liberties of the highest men in the country with perfect impunity. When it was found that the Government would not expunge the section, the public, in order to take away a portion of its dangerous character, made two requests, namely, (1) that no prosecution under this section should be instituted without the sanction of the Government; and (2) that there should be an appeal against the order of the Magistrate. All the representative members in the Council pressed the absolute necessity of these two safeguards upon the attention of the Government; but, as they were all "pretentious nobodies," their opinion was, of course, treated with utter contempt. But if Mr. Ananda Charlu, or the Maharajah of Durbhanga, or Mr. Chitnavis, and the like did not represent the country, Sir Griffith Evans did. His amendment with regard to section 108, was, therefore, accepted by Mr. Chalmers on behalf of the Government, to satisfy the clamorous public. The amendment was really a clever piece of jugglery. It runs thus:—

> No proceedings shall be taken under this section against the editor, proprietor, printer or publisher of any publication registered under, or printed or published in conformity with, the rules laid down in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, except by the order or under the authority of the Governor-General in Council or the Local Government or some officer empowered by the Governor-General in Council in this behalf.

Sir Griffith Evans began well, and might have put a full stop after the words, "the Local Government." But that would have been doing some service to the people of this country; so, he was obliged to add the next few words, namely, "or some officer empowered in this behalf," in order to neutralize the effect of the first portion of his amendment. The addition of these words, in short, acted like a drop of rennet in a gallon of milk. If Sir Griffith had demanded that Section 108 shall not be put into force except with the sanction of the Government, he would have earned the thanks of the people, in spite of his numerous acts of disservice to the country. But, by suggesting that proceedings might also be taken by the order or under the authority of any officer authorised by the Government, the section practically remained as it was originally drafted. Nay more. The original section authorised only District Magistrates and Presidency Magistrates to take proceedings; but now, any officer of the Government,—for instance, a District Superintendent of Police,—may be empowered to institute cases under the section.

The Executive Government which has the privilege of making laws in this country, has thus utilized its opportunity sixteen annas to its own advantage. The clear duty of the Government is not only to secure self-preservation and other interests by law; its duty also is to see that its laws do not take away the legitimate rights of the people. Of course, the authorities try to do their duty to the people; but they are placed in a position of extreme delicacy. Any increase of power means an advantage to themselves, and a disadvantage to the people. To serve the people, they have to sacrifice their own interests. This they can not always do; and the result is that authorities are day by day strengthening the hands of their officials at the cost of the rights of the people. The officials are by far stronger now than they were before. The people are by far weaker now than they were before.

The process, however, ought to have been reversed. As the British Government gets older and more and more acclimatized to the soil, the people ought to have been blessed with more and more freedom. The people of India, however, enjoyed greater liberty thirty years ago than they do now. Indeed, the laws have been made so stringent now that the people have been frightened to a degree, of which the authorities have no conception. We have, however, nothing to gain by appealing to the authorities here. We did appeal, and that in the most emphatic manner possible; but all to no purpose. The people of India now must make an effort to disentangle themselves from the meshes which the recent laws have thrown round them. Their only hope lies now in an appeal to England. And the hope is not a delusive one. It is absolutely certain that they can extricate themselves from the present difficulty by an appeal to the English public. But then, the appeal, to be effective, must be preferred in a manner so as to draw their attention and enlist their sympathies. The English people must be made thoroughly acquainted with the dangerous and unjust character of the measures recently introduced. Of course, they, as a rule, do not take any keen interest in the affairs of India. But the present moment is most opportune;—they have come to realize that India needs looking after. Secondly, the Liberals form the majority in England, and we can expect every help from them if we can only rouse them to take action on our behalf. We need money and men for the purpose of carrying out the agitation. Sir A. Mackenzie talks of "self-preservation". Truly, it is the people who now need self-preservation from the laws that have been enacted within the course of the few weeks. Let other matters be stopped for the present: let the Congress be postponed, it necessary. The people must now devote their whole energies to the purpose at hand.

THE BOMBAY RIOT AND ITS LESSONS.

THE riot that took place in Bombay on Wednesday was a serious affair. The feelings of the rioters were directed against English residents of the city and the plague officials,—the former, because of their supposed sympathy with the plague rules. The *Bombay Gazette* now comes forward to declare that it was altogether a local affair, and the excitement was due to an accident, *viz.* the enforcement of the plague rules. The *Englishman* quotes this view with approval. The fact has thus been established beyond doubt that the enforcement of the plague regulations created seething discontent in the minds of the general public,—we mean, the lower classes; for, the higher classes know and can appreciate the benevolent motives upon which they were based. And it was thus Messrs. Rand and Ayerst were murdered, and it was thus that other European residents were killed or roughly handled in Bombay.

The first question that occurs is,—why were then Mr. Tilak and other editors sent to jail? The theory of an organized conspiracy against the Government has been utterly demolished. Why then has the press been gagged? The enforcement of the plague rules shows that Government has now and then to carry out measures which are unpopular. When carrying out an unpopular measure, the Government has to see that its agents do not go beyond a certain limit. How is the Government to guide its movements and keep itself within proper bounds, without the help of the native press? Who is to guide as to how far it should go and how far it should not? It was, therefore, an act of stupendous folly to put out the only light which enabled the authorities to see clearly the innermost wishes of an alien people, the vast majority of whom are ignorant and poor, having very little to lose by committing acts of violence. Short-sighted men should never throw away their spectacles simply because they are a disagreeable burden.

When Messrs. Rand and Ayerst were murdered by assassins, all Englishmen here, especially the authorities in Bombay, very naturally were led to lose their temper. But their anger was directed, not against the lower classes of people who are likely to commit such a foul crime, but against educated men who are likely to be the last party to have anything to do with such a dirty business. Blow after blow in succession, however, came upon the heads of the higher classes for no fault of their own, with the result that they find themselves literally paralyzed. The Bombay riots have proved that the higher classes have nothing to do with violence, nor can they have anything to do with it. They have shown in a distinct manner that there was a cause at work, set in motion by the Government, which led to the bloody scenes, causing, alas! terrible mischief.

We are quite willing to admit that the Government showed a good deal of energy in its attempts to stamp out the plague; that its motives were benevolent; and that it intended to do things smoothly as far as that was possible. But what was the result? The result was that the authorities failed,—there can be no denying the fact. Of course, if they had been able to carry out their rules without in any way causing a breach of the peace, they would have deserved a monument of gold. But the serious riots show that their efforts were not attended with success, but resulted in gigantic failures.

The contention that every Government would have failed under similar circumstances, is untenable. And did not a Magistrate run to the house of the editor of a native newspaper and horsewhip him, because he had criticized his plague measures? When such is the temper of the authorities, they are bound to fail. They did not thank the native editors who commented upon their methods, but sent them to jail because they had used strong language!

The feeling which led the ignorant classes to the commission of riots, moved the higher classes to express themselves through the native press in strong language; for, the feeling was there, and the cause of the feeling was the drastic measure of the Government, though its motive was excellent. But rulers have to take note of popular feeling in guiding their actions, or they are no competent rulers at all.

In a delicate matter like this, the Government ought to have been very much guided by leaders of native opinion. Indeed, they ought to have employed native agency under European supervision, and taken Hindu and Mussalman leaders into their absolute confidence. But they adopted a quite different policy. They deported the two most prominent and public-spirited men of Poona, viz. the Natu brothers; they sent the most prominent citizen of Poona, Mr. Tilak, whose advice and co-operation would have been of the greatest service to the Government, to jail. If they had taken the most prominent citizens and the native newspapers into their confidence, they might have, through them, carried on the plague regulations peacefully. But what the authorities did, was to employ British troops and European agency for the enforcement of the rules and resent the offer of any co-operation and advice from the children of the soil!

Of course, those who break the laws ought to be punished. The Government has a right and duty to punish them; but it has also to take note of its own mistakes and failures. Is it possible that all the misfortunes that have befallen the country one after the other—and they are all serious one—owe their origin primarily to the mistakes of the authorities in ruling position?

SIR JOHN EDGE, the retiring Chief Justice of Allahabad, was complimented by Sir Antony MacDonnell on having "done much during his tenure of office to improve the relation of the Executive and the High Court." What this improvement of the relations between the Executive and the High Court means, was also explained by the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces. In short, Sir John was credited with having protected or treated lightly those Magistrates and Sessions Judges whose high-handed or illegal proceedings were brought to the notice of the Allahabad High Court. The retirring Chief Justice accepted the compliment gratefully and praised Sir Antony, and frankly admitted that as the members of the Civil Service were his countrymen, he was bound to protect them at any cost. In the course of this mutual adoration, both Sir John Edge and the Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. P. forgot one simple fact. The duty of the Chief Justice of a High Court is not to give protection to his erring countrymen, but to the people of this country oppressed by illegalities. A District Magistrate wields almost as much powers in his district as the Czar of all the Russias in his dominions. He has then got the head of the Government to back him, through good or evil report, as a rule. A District Magistrate is thus not in need of any protection. But the High Court is the only protection of the people when they feel themselves aggrieved at the hands of the lords of the districts. The first duty of the Chief of the High Court is thus to save the people from the oppressions of the officials, and this he can do only by taking severe notice of their conduct when the charge of high-handedness or illegality has been proved against them. Sir John Edge, therefore, by his own admission, proves that he has not done his duty to the people. The reason which led the Executive head of the Province to praise Sir J. Edge also led the people of Calcutta to go into hysterics when there was a proposal that he would be sent to Calcutta as Chief Justice of the Bengal High Court. The chief cause of Sir John's undoubted unpopularity in this country is that he sympathised more with the erring Magistrates and Judges than with their unfortunate victims. It is not at all a difficult feat for the head of the judiciary or the Local Government to secure the approbation of his countrymen. We wish as Sir John Edge succeeded in winning the hearts of the officials, he had also won the hearts of the people.

WE regret to announce that that patriotic and smart paper of Lahore, the *Arjuna*, has ceased to exist. The other day we had the painful duty of announcing the demise of that old and respectable vernacular paper the *Sahachar*. This is what the paper says:—

> Under the new law, it is impossible for us to carry on the business of journalist, as it does not clearly define what constitutes an offence or non-offence under it; besides English idioms cannot be translated in the vernacular. Under these circumstances, we bid adieu to the public and the Government, hoping they will excuse us for our faults.

Some time ago, the editor and proprietor of a very intelligent vernacular paper in the N.-W. Provinces, when bidding good-bye to his constituents, said that as he had other means of livelihood, he had no business to place himself at the mercy of a District Magistrate. We understand that there are many other papers which are going to kill themselves. The way of catching a bird is to put salt on its tail. But why would a bird allow its tail to be salted! It would, no doubt, be considerd a very pleasant occupation by good many officials here to find themselves pestered by sedition to be able to catch and kill it. We love the fox though we kill it, says the fox-hunter. Would it not be considered a glorious thing if the native papers committed sedition and allowed the strong officials to haul them up and send them to jail? It seems that the native papers are determined not to allow them this pastime, and are therefore disappearing one by one.

To raise the drooping spirits of the Indians who had been paralyzed by a succession of repressive measures, a friend wrote to us from London that "the country (England) was Liberal to the back bone" and that such a state of things could not continue for ever. The Liberals have wrested another seat from the Conservatives. In the Stepney election, Mr. Steadman, Liberal, defeated the Unionist candidate, Mr. Gordon. During the last election, Stepney had returned a Conservative. Within the course of a few weeks the Liberals have wrested from the Conservatives the Durham, Cricklade and Stepney seats. These successive victories will, no doubt, raise the spirit of the Liberals and the people of India, as they will create consternation in the ranks of the Conservatives and the general body of officials here. There are a good many officials in this country who, we believe, have come to entertain the notion that Lord George Hamilton has a permanent hold of his office and is likely to rule India for ever and ever. This last victory of the Liberals will, no doubt, give a rude shock to this fond hope.

So risky a step have the authorities taken in gagging the press of India that even some of the best friends of the Tory Government were led to disapprove of this policy of repression. This was evident when Mr. Roberts put the matter in the House of Commons for its consideration. This is what Mr. Maclean said. He thought that the projected change in the law would put a stop to all free expression of opinion in India. He further warned the Government that they could not put down disaffection by muzzling the press. If that Tory of Tories, Mr. Maclean, said the above, that Liberal of Liber[illegible] sentiments in effect. Mr. MacNeill wanted to clear a point, which is involved in utter obscurity. He asked Lord George Hamilton to explain who was the author of the sedition measure,—the Secretary of State himself or the Vicoroy? Lord George Hamilton could have given a plain answer to such a plain question. But he did not choose to do it. He gave the curious reply that as all the papers on the subject were on the table, the Hon'ble Member could easily find for himself from them an answer to his question. So the matter remains in obscurity. Is it possible that Lord George Hamilton does not know whether it was he himself or the Viceroy who first moved in the matter? Or, is it possible that he did not choose to take the responsibility upon himself? Or, can it be that the measure suggested itself to both at one and the same time, and that Lord George does not really know who is the author? The *Englishman*, we are glad to see, has borne testimony to the services of the Native Press. Referring to the Bombay riot, our contemporary says: "The theory that the rising was, at least to some extent, planned, is supported by several undoubted warnings given both individually and in the native Press" There is not the least doubt, native papers would have given the fullest warning of the riot if they had not been terrorized over and paralysed by the recent actions of the authorities. We quote the following passage from the private letter of a Bombay friend, written on the day previous to the occurrence of the riot: "Plague measures are causing intense dissatisfaction here, and everybody is anxious about his life and property. There were two scuffles with soldiers, yesterday and to-day; and people are flying from the town. I do not know where the matter will reach if the plague continues for a time."

THE *Pioneer* has the following paragraph on the murder case, tried before the Allahabad High Court, in which a soldier, named Anthony Doyle, was charged with murdering a woman, named Chutwa, at Jubbulpore on January 5th:—

> The case in which a soldier was charged with murdering a woman at Jubbulpore, ended in the Allahabad High Court on Saturday, after a hearing which had lasted the whole week, in the acquittal of the prisoner. The result was not unexpected. A curious feature of the case is that the *alibi*, on the strength of which chiefly the prisoner was acquitted, was made for him by the prosecution witnesses. The average native witness of the poorer class has usually such a vague idea of time that an *alibi*, covering only a portion of the time of an occurrence, can rarely be relied upon; but, in this case, the statements made by the women were so positive and definite that they gave away their case completely. They declared that the *chauki* clock struck ten as the prisoner entered their house, and that it struck eleven immediately after the murder had been committed. Again they asserted with the utmost confidence that they knew the prisoner well because he had been in the military police and was frequently in the bazar in that capacity. But for those statements the case against the prisoner was unquestionably very strong. As it was, he was able to prove, to the satisfaction of every one, that he was in barracks, a mile away from the spot, at 10-15 P. M., and that he had never been in the military police. The jury evidently felt justified, in view of this definite contradiction on material points, in distrusting the evidence of identification altogether.

The *Pioneer* justly remarks that "the result was not unexpected"; for, we do not remember to have ever come across a case in which a European, accused of murdering or committing a gross outrage upon an Indian, man or woman, was convicted by an Allahabad Jury. Only the other day we noticed the case of a villager being shot dead by a soldier, stationed at Lucknow; and, he was let off, against the testimony of eye-withesses, who deposed to have seen him deliberately firing at the unfortunate man, on the bare statement of the prisoner that the gun had gone off during a scuffle and killed the villager accidentally. In the present case, the gun was not used,—the woman was struck dead with a blow—and so there was no accidental explosion which had accounted for so many deaths of natives by the gun-shots of Europeans. "The curious feature of the case" was, however, not, as the *Pioneer* has it, that the *alibi* was proved by the prosecution witnesses, but that native evidence, which has always been rejected as a tissue of lies in gun-shot cases, was accepted with avidity on the present occasion, as, on the strength of what the two women said, however immaterial, the prisoner was acquitted. The case, in short, stands thus. The prisoner was, almost immediately after the murder, caught hold of by a number of pursuers. He, however, pleaded that it was not he but another soldier who had perpetrated the deed; that he and the real culprit were going in the same way; that the latter, when pursued, escaped, and that his pursuers, mistaking him for the murderer, pounced and fastened the guilt upon him. He next produced some of his brother soldiers to prove that he was in the barrack at the time when, according to the two women, the crime was committed. The Government Prosecutor, however, satisfactorily disposed of these grounds, as the following extract for his speech shows:—

> Mr. Ryves, Officiating Government Advocate, said the defence admitted, the deceased woman was killed in the manner described by some soldier. The question was whether the prisoner was the man. The prisoner admitted being caught within a few paces of where the prosecution witnesses said he was seized, and he (Mr. Ryves) contended that it was a physical impossibility that in a race of 200 yards

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—active men like the prosecution witnesses should have been so far behind as to lose sight of the man they were chasing. The prisoner said he was not the man, but that he had seen a man run by just before he was caught. If that was so, where did the man go? It was a perfectly level road, with no trees or shrubs behind which he could hide, and it was a bright moonlight night. He admitted there were discrepancies in the evidence as to the exact way in which the man was arrested, but he had regarded those discrepancies as the very strongest confirmation of the general truth of the story told by the witnesses. It was the men who were lying, who all rolled off a glib story, exact in every detail: different men giving an account of the same occurrence as it appeared to them, were bound to differ as to details. Mr. Ryves called attention to the different statements made by the prisoner, particularly the one before the Magistrate, in which he said he was walking along towards the Sadar Bazar about 10-35 when he was arrested, and that 11 o'clock struck while he was in the chauki. He pointed out that these times were obviously wrong, and suggested prisoner gave them because he knew it was necessary for him to make the time as early as possible. His learned friend had spoken of the discrepancy of time, and that was a question for the jury to decide. The two women were the only persons who were in a position to know the time, and they were anxious to make out that the cause of the quarrel was the long time the prisoner had been at the house. It was for the jury to decide whether the time 10 o'clock was absolutely known to the women, or whether it was a statement made to bear out the story of the cause of the quarrel. There was, it must be remembered, the evidence of the man Saif Ali who declared that he left the house in company with the woman Rahiman at "about 10 o'clock," that they went into the bazaar together, and that he returned in about half an hour. It was not necessary for him to suggest that the evidence for the defence was false. The prisoner might easily have left the barracks at 10-15 and yet have been in the Sadar Bazaar by 10-30. There was in fact no *alibi*. In reply to a remark of his learned friend he contended it was a sheer impossibility for the man to have run 300 yards if he had been very drunk. He must have been sober.

It is surprising that after the above clear statement of the case, the jury "felt justified" in acquitting the prisoner. The Government Prosecutor pointed out that, as the prisoner was caught in a race of only 200 yards, it was impossible for the pursuers of the murderer, in a bright moonlight night, to mistake their man, specially as it was a perfectly level road, with no trees or shrubs to obstruct their view or to serve as hiding-places. As regards the question of time, he explained why the two women were positive as to the particular hour, 10 P. M. He also called special attention to the different statements made by the prisoner before the magistrate, specially with regard to time. Mn the whole, the statement of the Govern-Oent Prosecutor leaves no other impression upon the mind than that it was the prisoner who had committed the deed; but the Allahabad Jury found otherwise. All that we need say is that, whether Doyle was really guilty or not, here is a case in which a woman was murdered and her murderer is roaming at large in the country. So far is certain, that her murderer is a European soldier, and he was one of the three or four soldiers who, it is said, were out at the time when the murder was committed. And yet the authorities failed to catch him, and brought a wrong man on trial! Surely, this is not the way to render the administration of justice popular in this country.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS intends to move for a return, setting out the net charges on the Indian revenues from all extensions of obligations or of territories which have taken place across the North-Western frontier since 1876. The question has been very judiciously framed. If Mr. Roberts succeeds in extorting a proper reply to the above, he will be able to do vast service both to India and England. A correct answer to the above question will show how India has been ruined by the obligations and undertakings in which she had no, or, rarely more than an indirect, interest. We have not the least doubt that the facts likely to be disclosed by the reply, will bring a hue of blush on the cheek of every right-minded Englishman. We are glad to see that Sir Henry Fowler should be so good as to speak a few words in behalf of India. He said:—

The whole expenditure connected with the North-Western Frontier policy, rested on imperial grounds, and, to some extent, on European politics. It was of vital importance to improve and strengthen friendly relations with India, and to make the Indian people believe that the House did fairly look after their interests. He deprecated the refusal of the House to entertain the question whether they should or should not help India in its present crisis. The Indian people were excessively taxed in respect of land revenue; but he held that the salt tax ought to be reduced. He put these matters aside, and he put his contention on the broad basis that this country could afford to give this relief, that it was a matter of justice to the people of India, and that it was wise policy.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, while moving his amendment to the Address in the House of Commons, regarding the pitiable condition of the Indian people, alluded to the extraordinary doings of the Bombay authorities. Said he:—

Among other ways in which clemency might be shown, he suggested that the punitive police force imposed at Poona, which placed a heavy tax upon the people and struck the innocent with the guilty, might be removed, seeing that the murders were an act of solitary fanaticism and the author had been found guilty and sentenced to death; that the sentence on Mr. Tilak, a scholar and a man who had done service as a legislator and educationist, hard-labour part of the sentence; that the Natu brothers, who had now been imprisoned six months without trial, might be released; and, above all, that the noble lord might postpone any change in the criminal law till more quiet times.

Of course, Lord George Hamilton gave a reply, and this is what he said:—

There has been famine in India over an area inhabited by 24 millions of people, and plague has been rife in Bombay. But the hon. baronet's attention is directed only to Poona; and it is not for the people even there that he is concerned. It is for three or four friends of his with whom we have been compelled to deal. And, why? Because they had done everything in their power to thwart and prevent the Government in their efforts to carry out their benevolent designs. (Hear, hear.) There was undoubtedly a dangerous conspiracy at Poona, and the outcome of it unquestiouably was the murder of Mr. Rand.

So, while Sir William Wedderburn dealt with facts and figures and appealed to the sense of justice of the House in moderate and chastened language, Lord George Hamilton only indulged in assertions and personal invectives and expressed deep-rooted antipathy against the helpless people of India! Lord George still talks of the conspiracy of Poona Brahmins as if this bugbear of a conspiracy has not been long since killed. In August last, he also tried to justify the deportation of the Natu brothers by raising the same cry of an organised conspiracy in Poona. The theory of the conspiracy of the Poona Brahmins is, however, as stated above, dead and gone. Lord George Hamilton must now bring forward other grounds to justify the actions of the authorities.

THE proprietors of the Nangalband mela, of Dacca, are just now in great alarm, because they have incurred the displeasure of the District Magistrate. According to our Dacca correspondent, the Magistrate had demanded Rs. 3,000 from the proprietors, to meet the sanitary expenses. The latter expressed their inability to pay so large an amount, adding that on all previous occasions they had paid only Rs. 50 for the same purpose. Upon this, the following letter was addressed to the proprietors:—

No 878.

From—L. P. Shirres Esq., Chairman-Magistrate, Dacca.

To A. and B.—

Dated Dacca, the 18th Feb, 1898.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to inform you that the proprietors of the ground on which the Nangalband mela has hitherto been held, have, in reply to my letter on the subject, refused to contribute the money which I hold to be necessary to make efficient sanitary arrangements.

2. The rough estimate of the requirements amounts to Rs. 2,000 but a margin of 50 per cent. or Rs. 1000 must be allowed for unforeseen contingencies and requirements.

3. If you pay ⅔ of the amount asked from you on receipt of this letter, and promise to pay immediately the remaining ⅓ if called on to do so, I shall accept that as sufficient.

4. If you fail to do so, I shall endeavour to get the money from the proprietors of the opposite bank, and if they pay, I shall hold the mela on their bank. If they will not pay, I shall stop the mela altogether this year.

5. If you do not pay, I shall consider it as a proof that you have failed to fulfil your duty as a landholder, and on any land in which you hold a share being in default for Government revenue in future, I shall sell it without fail in order that it may pass into other hands.

K. MAHOMED YUSUFF.
For Chairman.

The letter speaks for itself and needs little comments at our hands. The Magistrate holds out the threat that if his instructions be not complied with, the zemindaries of the proprietors shall be positively sold out in the event of any default in the payment of Government revenue. Is the Magistrate justified in holding out such a threat? As the lord of the district, he can do anything he likes. It is, therefore, all the more necessary that he should never abuse his powers; and when he seeks to do it, the Government should take severe notice of his conduct. As for the other threat of the Magistrate,—that of holding the mela on the other side of the Brahmaputra, our correspondent says that it only shows ignorance on his part; for, the other side is the *Pandava barjita desha* (the Pandava-forsaken country) and therefore beyond the pale of Hindu religion. So, no attempt on the part of the Magistrate will induce a Hindu to go there for the purpose of having a plunge in the river for his spiritual benefit.

THOSE who live in the plains, are jealous of those who live on the top of the hills. The idea of the former is that India is governed by ladies; that measures are framed during picnics, and wars declared and kingdoms annexed during balls. One of the correspondents of *Truth* describes the present Government of India as a "Government by garden party." Another correspondent goes to the length of styling some of its officers as "the actors and buffoons of Simla." *Truth* itself has the following paragraph to show how feminine influence is potent in governing this country:—

I could cite a dozen significant references to the potency of feminine influence in the councils of the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief. To have an aunt or a cousin at head-quarters, said an officer whose remarks I quoted a few weeks back, is now surer qualification for a staff appointment than a P. S. C; and the remark was unintentionally capped by an officer at the front in a private letter which found its way into *Truth*, who talked amusing parlour tricks of their wives.

The same paper says:—

"Capua," as Simla has been happily termed, brought into full and virulent activity every form of jobbery and favouritism in high places. You may see the consequences in the gross blundering and mis-management that have marked the present campaign. What is wanted in India more than anything else—it is not my opinion alone, but that of every man who knows the change that has come over the Government of India in the last twenty or thirty years—is a peremptory decree from the India Council, requiring every future Viceroy and Commander-in-Chief to take office on the condition that (sickness alone excepted) the head of the Government and the Army shall carry on work permanently in Calcutta or its vicinity—as did their predecessors before Simla was thought of. By these means, constant touch would be established with independent, non-official Anglo-Indian public opinion. Abuses which now sap the vigour and efficiency of Government, would be detected, and, before they took root, exposed in the Press, which is by no means entirely of the "reptile" variety in Calcutta. Last but not least, the Sybaritic luxury of "hill-life" would vanish under the influence of a healthier social atmosphere and a more critical public opinion.

And again:—

From all sides comes the complaint that the life of the place is demoralising, that administrative work becomes slack there, that both military and civil affairs are ruled by cliques "or gangs," that jobbery and favouritism are rampant and unchecked and the whole atmosphere corrupt. Such influences are reflected only too plainly in the military fiasco we have just witnessed in the incapacity of those at the head of affairs, in the composition of the staff, in the break-down of the transport and the medical departments described in last week's *Truth*.

Like *Truth*, all the Anglo-Indian journals, excepting the *Pioneer*, attribute the miseries of the Anglo-Indians and the Indians mainly to the location of the Government at Simla. India is the only country in the world which has to spend lakhs and lakhs of rupees for the purpose of keeping its rulers in celestial heights for nearly eight months in the year. The arrangement is unnatural, and therefore fraught with mischief.

THE plague strike in Bombay still continues, and business is at a stand-still.

WE hear that the Calcutta Municipal Bill will be introduced by the Hon'ble Mr. Risley at next Saturday's meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council.

THE *Morning Post's* Hazaribagh correspondent writes that Mr. Lotteri accidentally shot a boy dead at Odaria, while out on shikar. The case is under inquiry.

WE greatly regret to learn that there was a big fire in Poona on Monday afternoon in the building where the "Mahratta" and the "Kisari" are now published, resulting in the total destruction of the press. The fire gradually spread and burned several shops in the neighbourhood, and the damage caused being estimated at one lakh of rupees.

PLAGUE seems to be spreading in the Punjab. The number of affected villages in the Jullunder District is now seventeen, and in the Hoshiarpore District, seven. One of the new villages attacked, Masain, is in the Phillour Tahsil. The police guard on plague duty at one village have lost one man from the disease and a second has been attacked.

MR. P. NOLAN, Commissioner, Rajshahye Division, acts as member in the Board of Revenue, when the Hon. Mr. Grimley takes leave. It is probable that the Hon. Mr. H. H Risley, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Financial Department will act for Mr. Nolan, Mr. E. W. Collier, Land Revenue Secretary, in the Board of Revenue, acting for Mr. Risley.

IT is said that, since matters quieted down in Bombay after Wednesday's riot, the cartmen and labourers have struck work. Many of the strikers who refuse work on account of the Plague regulations, have declared their willingness to resume work "if the Sirkar would tell on which days their houses would be visited by search parties, so that they might remain at home and look after their belongings."

ON Tuesday, the day preceding the Bombay riot, the *Times of India* was ridiculing "Hindu and Mahomedan gentlemen" for complaining of the employment of soldiers for house-to-house visitation "Will Hindu and Mahomedan gentlemen of standing," the *Times* asked, "form themselves into parties for doing the work which soldiers have been deputed to perform? The leaders of native society might see the soldiers sent back to Poona in a weak if they would be half as eager in doing the work which has been entrusted to military parties as in complaining of it."

MR. M. D. BELL, Sessions Judge of Godavery, convicted a woman, named Mangamma, and sentenced her to be hanged for the murder of a girl, aged about eleven years, for the sake of her ornaments. The Sessions Judge based his judgment, not upon direct evidence but upon probabilities suggested by the evidence of witnesses, and by the confession and the subsequent retractation of the accused. The case came on before the High Court; and their Lordships the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Shephard reversed the conviction and directed the discharge of the woman.

A VERNACULAR paper published in the Tanjore District, brings to light the existence of a very curious order which has been in force for a very long time, but nobody seems to know when, why and by whom it was made. There is a well-kept road to Vallam, which is the seat of the Collector of Tanjore, over which country carts are prohibited from travelling and are thereby put to the necessity of taking to the only other road to Pudukottai, which is ciruitous and besides notoriously infested with robbers. Surely, says the *Hindu*, the sacredness of a road which leads to a town which is the residence of the District magnate, can be no valid excuse to forbid the use of it to country

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THE BISHOP OF CALCUTTA.—Acting upon urgent medical advice, the Bishop of Calcutta is about to resign his See.

THE ACCOUNTS OFFICE.—Mr. W. H. Dawson, from Burma, succeeds Mr. F. Atkinson as Deputy Accountant General in Calcutta.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The appointments of Mr. W. B. Oldham and Mr. R. B. Buckley as members of the Bengal Legislative Council have been gazetted.

PROMOTION.—Mr. Apjohn, Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners, has been promoted to the rank of Chief Engineer in the Public Works Department.

OFF TO SIMLA.—Sir Arthur Trevor proceeds direct to Simla at the end of the month. Sir E. Collen will probably visit Lahore, and Sir James Westland will pay a flying visit to Kashmir before reaching the hills.

THE MILITARY SECRETARY.—Colonel A. G. A. Durand C B., C.I.E., Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, left Calcutta on Saturday night for Simla. Captain Grimston has taken over charge as officiating Military Secretary.

THE QUEEN'S STATUE.—H. H. the Maharaja of Travancore has subscribed Rs. 1,000 to the fund now being raised for the erection in Calcutta of a statue of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of her reign.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.—At a meeting of the Faculty of Law, held on Friday, Moulvi Mahammud Yusuff was elected President in the place of Mr. Justice Sale, who is going on leave. The other name proposed, was that of Mr. Justice Rampini. The Moulvi was proposed by Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee.

ALIPORE DISTRICT JUDGE.—On Monday Mr. Handley, District and Sessions Judge of Alipore, made over charge to Mr B. L. Gupta, who was officiating as the Ligal Remambrancer during the absence of Mr Pratt on eave. Mr. Handley is going on six months' leave.

SIR W. LOCKHART.—The "Indian Daily News" says: The remarks made by the Lahore paper to the effect that Sir William Lockhart will probably not succeed to the Chief Command of the Forces of India, owing to ill-health, is quite without foundation. It is understood that Sir Willam has every intention of returning to India, on the expiration of his leave, to take up the appointment.

RECORD MISSING FROM THE COURT.—Babu Hem Chandra Ray Chowdhury, a zemindar of Barisa, and another, who were charged with having forged a deed of relinquishment purporting to be executed on behalf of the first accused by a tenant of his, were placed on their trial before Babu D. C. Roy, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore. During the course of the trial it transpired that certain record containing the the confession of the second accused was missing from the file. The Bench-clerk of the Court and the Record-keeper have been suspended on suspicion and further enquires are being made by the police.

CURIOUS REGISTRATION CASE.—The *Behar Herald's* Hajipur correspondent writes: A curious case of registration was very recently disposed of by the Rural Sub-Registrar of Lalgunge, in the Hajipore Sub-Division. One Monghi Rout of the village Gopalpore Palwaiy executed a *Sudh-bharna* deed in favour of one Udit Narain Sing of the same village, giving a girl of 12 years age in *bharna* lease to the latter for the consideration of Rs. 25, the time of repayment being fixed for 9 years. The *bharna* deed was presented for registration to the Sub-Registrar, who, as he could not refuse registration, got the name registered, and immediately brought the fact to the notice of the Sub-divisional Magistrate, with the result that warrant has been issued for the arrest of both the parties under sec. 370 of the I P. Code.

SEGREGATION OF MORIBUND PLAGUE CASES.—Some time ago, we reproduced in these columns Dr. Blaney's letter to the *Times of India* on this subject. Commenting on this Dr. Sircar writes in the *Calcutta Journal of Medicine*:—"We should like to know if what he so bitterly complains of is a fact, and if so, who is responsible for such a state of things? If such is the actual treatment which human beings are receiving at the hands of human beings, we cannot blame the victims of such treament if, in the anguish of their hearts, they curse the stars whose malefic influence affected their nativity—the hour and place of their birth, and if they curse also the science or sciences falsely so-called which could turn the hearts of men into stone. It is a puzzle to us that the whole medical profession in Bombay should not have raised an emphatic protest against a procedure which is at once inhuman and unscientific. No wonder that the deaths from the disease should have been increasing so alarmingly of late. It is not so much the disease then as the treatment, we do not mean the medical, but the preliminary rough treatment of removal to which its victims are subjected, that is responsible for the high death-rate which has thrown the whole country

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT CRIMINAL BENCH.

MARCH 14.

(*Before Justices Ameer Ali and Hill.*)

A DEATH SENTENCE SET ASIDE.

THIS was an appeal by one Hujjath Khan from the decision of Mr. C. W. E. Pittar, Sessions Judge of Backergunj, who convicted him of committing wilful murder of one Sobhandi by blows of a spear with the intention of charging his, (appellant's) brother with the murder. On the 28th of July the appellant lodged information at the thana that he had been getting his land ploughed by the deceased, his ploughman, and that while so engaged, his brother Ali Azim Khan, with whom he and his another brother had longstanding disputes as to their respective shares in the paternal property, came with a number of men armed with spears and ordered the appellant to desist from ploughing. The parties then abused each other and blows were exchanged, Ali Azim finally spearing Sobhandi with his "leza." Sobhandi fell down and appellant fearing further violence to himself ran away. This is the substance of the first information lodged by the appellant on the day of the murder. A police enquiry followed, and after an investigation of two or three days the Sub-Inspector in charge of the enquiry reported that the appellant was the real murderer, his object being to implicate his brother with the murder for the purpose of wreaking vengeance on him. The appellant was accordingly arrested and charged with the murder. The case for the prosecution was that while the deceased was peaceably ploughing, Hujjath suddenly speared him with a leza and raising a cry that Ali Azim had committed the murder, ran off to fetch the Chowkidar. There were four alleged eye-witnesses of the murder put forward. The Sessions Judge, however, could place no reliance on the evidence of two of them. As regards the evidence of the third who is a girl of ten and who unobserved herself, is said to have witnessed the occurrence, he was "not inclined to place much reliance on it as there are some improbabilities in it, and experience teaches us to receive the evidence of young children in this country with great caution." The last eye-witness was one Bholaye Fakir who had been mentioned as one of the witnesses in the appellant's information against his brother. He said he was ploughing some distance off, and Sobhandi engaged in ploughing and the accused Hujjath Khan came to the place with materials for smoking. He did not notice what happened then until he heard a cry of "o ma" and saw Hujjath giving Sobhandi, who had fallen down, several thrusts. Bholaye further said that one Imanuddi was with him at the time, but Imanuddi denied this. Upon this evidence though it was contradicted by two other witnesses on some of the points, the Sessions Judge relied. It was, however, pointed out on behalf of the defence that it was absurd to suppose that the appellant, unless he were an unaccountable lunatic which no one thought fit of suggesting, would have committed such a murder only with a view to charging his brother with the crime. "Unfortunately", the Sessions Judge observed in reply "the annals of crime in this country and particularly in this district do not render it beyond belief that a man should in a sudden access of fury cause the death of an inoffensive person and even of near and dear relations in order to avenge himself on his enemy. One cannot refuse to credit the evidence in this case for the mere reason that the crime is one that the imagination can scarcely grasp." Wholly and entirely on the evidence of Bholaye the Sessions Judge convicted the man and sentenced him to undergo the extreme penalty of the law. The assessors agreed with him.

Mr P. L. Roy with Babu Chandra Kant Sen appeared for the appellant and Mr. Leith for the Crown.

Their Lordships in delivering judgment after stating the facts of the case, observed that four eye-witnesses were produced three of whom were discredited by the Sessions Judge and the circumstances referred to inclined them to think that he very properly refused to believe them. The Sessions Judge had however placed reliance on the evidence of the fourth man, Bholaye. The ground upon which he proceeded to discuss why that evidence was reliable was more or less of a speculative character. He was of opinion that there must have been a dispute between the accused and the deceased. Bholaye's story was however different. He said that the accused came and kept his hookha on the ground and struck the deceased several blows with a "leza." This witness had also said that there was another man Animuddin with him. Animuddin however denied that. Bholaye's statement before the Magistrate was also different from what he stated in the Sessions Court. Under the circumstances it seemed to their Lordships that it was impossible for them to uphold the conviction. The conviction and sentence were accordingly set aside and the prisoner was ordered to be released at once.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN JUDGE AND JURY.

VERDIET OE THE JURY UPHELD.

THEIR Lordships had before them this morning the reference made by Mr. Casperz, Additional Sessions Judge of the 24-Pargunahs, against the unanimous verdict of acquittal returned by the jury in the case of Empress vs Ganesh Sardar. Mr. Leith, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, appeared in support of the reference, while Babu Sasi Sekhar Bose appeared to oppose it. After hearing both sides their Lordships delivered the following judgment: The accused in this case was prosecuted under section 211 I. P. C. before the Sessions Judge of the 24-Pergunnahs and was tried with a Jury who found an unanimous verdict of "not guilty" in respect of the charge brought against him. The Judge, however, considered the verdict not reasonable and made a reference to this Court for reasons stated in his letter of reference dated the 8th February. We have heard the learned counsel for the Crown and the pleader for the accused and have gone through the evidence given in this case on behalf of the prosecution. The case for the prosecution is that on the 21st July, 1897, the accused laid information at the thana, charging four persons (Umesh, Haran and others) all residents of the village with having set fire to his hut and [illegible] other mischief. The complaint

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

made by him was enquired by the police who reported it to be a false case and a prosecution resulted from the report so made. Before the Sessions Judge several witnesses have been examined in order to show that the charge which the accused laid was in fact false to the knowledge of the accused inasmuch as he himself had set fire to the hut and demolished the fishing net in the *khal* with the help of his nephew. It is alleged that he had done this in order to avoid the consequence of having resisted an attachment effected by the Najir's peon in execution of a decree obtained by one Gourmahan, father of Umesh, whom he had charged as having been concerned in setting fire to the hut. It is noticeable that the report of the peon concerned as to what took place in connection with the attachment has not been put in in this case, nor has the peon been examined. The witnesses who gave evidence against the accused in support of the case for the prosecution, that the accused himself had set fire to the hut, are persons whom it is not necessary for us to refer specifically, but they may be classed under two heads, viz., (1) those who say that they did not notice the occurrence and (2) those who alleged that they saw it. Most of the persons who say that they saw the accused setting fire to the hut are persons who are admittedly at feud with the accused." The strained relations between the witnesses and the accused were then pointed out and also the discrepancies in their depositions. After which their Lordships said: "Giving the case our best consideration it does not seem to us that the case is quite free from difficulty, and in that view it is difficult to say that the view taken by the jury is altogether unreasonable. On the whole, therefore, it seems to us that the evidence in the case is not sufficient to warrant the conviction of the accused under section 211 and accordingly we direct that he be discharged."

THE AHINKERGACHI COLLISON CASE

MR. MAHMUD moved on behalf of Jogendra Nath Adhicari, Assistant Station Master, Jhikergachi, on the Central Bengal Railway, to set aside the judgment of the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Bongong, sentencing him to a year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 100 on a conviction under section 304A of causing deaths by negligent act. On appeal to the Sessions Judge of Jessore the fine was remitted but the conviction was upheld. The petitioner was in duty from 6 in the evening to 6 in the morning of the 4th of January last. About 4-30 A. M. the 6 down passenger left the station without a proper line-clear message and the result was that it collided with a goods train coming from the next station Nabbaran. It was the duty of the petitioner to obtain "a line clear" message before the down passenger started, but as this was not done he was held responsible for the collision. Counsel pleaded for reduction of sentence on the ground that the accused was a mere lad.

Their Lordships did not think that the sentence was at all severe and accordingly rejected the application.

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

THE Zakka Jirga, which recently met in Bazar to discuss terms after the Ramazan, were agreed upon the question of playing the fine in rifles and money, but not as to the restoration of the Government property looted in the Khyber, which they consider the legitimate gains of war. Accordingly the collection of money and rifles was going on without reference to their Maliks, on whom they depended for assistance in this matter, but who never gave them anything more than mere promises. The Maliks appear to be now depending entirely on the Ameer for protection and they are likely to remain permanent exiles in His Highness's territory. Everything appears to point to the probability that no further coercion will actually take place, though the settlement of tribal relations in the Khyber will probably delay the withdrawal of the troops in that quarter for some considerable time. After the terms have been fully complied with, the most important points to be settled will be the recognition by Government of the future Maliks of the Khyber and our method of holding that Pass.

THE remaining Afridi sections to submit are the Zakka Khels of the Khyber and Bazar Valley, the Khambar Khels, the Kukis of Rajgul, and the Aka Khels of Bara. The Maliks of the Khyber Zakkas appear to have left their clansmen to do as they please, now that the occupation of their country has been made alternative. Should they still refuse to comply, it has been considered expedient not to strictly enforce the condition as to the time allowed to bring in their rifles and fines, provided they show a disposition to submit as soon as possible. Allowance has to be made for the people of the Khyber and Bazar Valley, who have been placed in a very difficult position by the fact of the recent movement of our troops in their country, having rendered them practically homeless and impoverished. As long as the troops occupied position which a hostile movement could be at once carried out again, they had to await the issue of pending negotiations with their Maliks, whom they believed to be endeavouring to obtain better terms.

A SMALL party of marauders, believed to be Zakka Khels, attacked a British picquet, covering the road makers near Suikot, on Saturday, but were easily repulsed. Our casualties were Lieutenant Condemine, D C. L. I., slightly, and one man severely wounded.

THE Government of Madras will probably move to the hills on the 5th proximo.

ABOUT 150 employes, consisting of temporary draughtsmen and clerks of the Madras Survey Department, have been served with notices stating that their services wouldnot be required after the 9th proximo.

Never Knew It To Fail

MR. R. JOHNSTON, Rawalpindi, says: "I have personally tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy, and have given it to travellers who were passing through a hotel I managed, and I must say I never knew it to fail, and is all it is supposed to be in its effects. It is a medicine I can recommend, and one that everybody should keep.

CHAMBERLAIN'S Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea remedy is the most successful medicine in use for Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, Cholera-Morbus and Colera, and is for sale everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Maulvi Mahiuddin Ahmed, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Aurangabad, Gaya, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the district of Mymensingh.

Babu Chandra Sekhar Kar, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is appointed to have charge of the Aurangabad subdivision of the district of Gaya.

Babu Doorga Das Mookerjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed furlough for one and half months.

Mr. A. H. Clayton, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Backergunge, is appointed to have charge of the Narayanganj subdivision of the district of Dacca.

The order of the 22nd February 1898, appointing Mr. Kiran Chandra De, Offig. Jt-Magt. and Dy. Coll. on leave to have charge of the Jhenida subdivision of the district of Jessore, is cancelled.

Babu Lachhmi Narayan Singh, Dy. Magte and Dy Collr. is allowed leave for six months.

Babu Bhuban Mohum Gupta, Sub-Dy Coll, Bagerhat, Khulna, is transferred to the Satkhira subdivision of that district.

Babu Mathura Nath Banerjee, substantive pro tempore Sub-Dy Coll., Satkhira, Khulna, is transferred to the Bagerhat subdivision of that district.

Babu Onil Chandra Dutt, B.L., Artorney-at-Law, is appointed to act as an Addl. Munsif of Bankura.

Babu Bhuban Mohan Ghose, Munsif of Bogra, is transferred to Alipore.

Babu Chandi Charan Sen, Munsif of Alipore, is transferred to Brahmanbaria, but to continue to act in his present appointment as Sub-Judge of Midnapore.

Babu Narendra Krishna Dutt, Munsif of Brahmanbaria, is transferred to Bankipore.

Mr. Latifur Rahman, Munsif of Patna, on leave, is transferred to Faridpur and Madaripur.

Babu Sarat Chander Roy, B. L., is appointed to act as an Additional Munsif of Faridpore, during the absence, on leave of Mr. Latifur Rahman.

Babu Chunder Bhushan Bannerjee, Addl. Munsif of Faridpur and Madaripur, is transferred to Manikganj.

Babu Prasanna Coomar Bose, Munsif, under orders of transfer to Manikgunj, is transferred to Burdwan.

Babu Har Kumar Roy, Munsif of Burdwan, is transferred to Munshigunj.

Babu Aghore Chandra Hazra, Munsif of Munshigunj, is transferred to Ranaghat.

Babu Mohendra Lal Goswami, Munsif of Ranaghat, is transferred to Kandi.

Babu Kali Dhon Chatterjee, Munsif of Kandi, is transferred to Bogra.

Babu Sukumar Bhattacharjee, Munsif of Netrakona, is transferred to Contai.

Babu Dekendra Mohan Sen, Munsif of Contai, is transferred to Pingna.

Babu Okhoy Coomar Mitra, Munsif of Pingua, is transferred to Katihar.

Babu Jadav Chandra Sen, Munsif of Katihar, is transferred to Bhanga.

Babu Nogendra Nath Chatterjee, Munsif of Bhanga, is transferred to Kotalpur.

Babu Lal Singh, Munsif of Kotalpur, is transferred to Buxar.

Babu Mati Lal Haldar, Munsif of Buxar, is transferred to Mymensingh, but to continue to act in his present appointment as Sub-Judge of Tippera.

Babu Durga Kant Roy, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Natrokona.

The services of Babu Jogendra Nath Chukerburty, Munsif of Chikandi, are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.

Babu Gagan Behary Chowdhry, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Kendrapara.

Babu Nogendra Nath Dhur, Munsif of Patuakhali, is allowed leave for two months under article 389 of the Civil Service Regulations.

THE ENGLISH PRESS ON THE SEDITION LAW.

AN AMAZING LEGISLATION.

THE *Daily Chronicle*, of February 21, after remarking that the Sedition Law "was hurried through the Viceroy's Council on Friday" observes that "it is difficult for Englishmen to realise that their countrymen in India have made themselves responsible for this amazing legislation."

ITS SCOPE: THIS OR THAT!

Lord George Hamilton and Sir Richard Webster took great pains on Friday to minimise the scope of the new Bills. Their purpose, we are asked to believe, is merely to put in plain and unambiguous language the existing law. There is "not the slightest intention or wish to silence or curb the native Press"—but only to give it "guidance." The contrast between this language and the language which was, by a curious coincidence, being used at the same time in the Viceroy's Council in support of the measures is marked and instructive. Sir E. H. Collen said that the utterences of the Press in India directly tended to sap the discipline of the native army. Sir James Westland dismissed the recent great meeting at Calcutta with the remark that it was "composed of lawyers and native editors"—the very last people, it will be seen at once, who should express an opinion upon a new law for the Press. And Mr. Mackenzie dotted the i's and crossed the t's of the previous speeches with a 'strong condemnation" of the present noxious system of education in India, and a genial observation that "we have carried our cautious passiveness and official negativeness already beyond the limits of prudence." It was "cautious passiveness," one must suppose which provoked the recent sentence of transportation for life at Satara. It was "official negativeness" which defined disaffection as the absence of affection.

ANTITHESIS OF ENGLISH LAW.

The Government's catchword throughout is that it is endeavouring to make the law regarding sedition in India identical with the law regarding sedition in England. Now, sedition in England, as Mr. Asquith pointed out in his recent speech on behalf of Mr. Tilak before the Judicial Committee, means "disloyalty in act." That is to say, an essential ingredient in the offence is that it contemplates, and is calculated to excite, public disorder. The new law of sedition in India will be the antithesis of this. It deals not with acts but with words, not with consequences, but with a state of mind. To comment upon a Government measure in such a way as to excite "contempt" will be a penal offence. The law accepts and extends the interpretation adopted by Mr. Justice Strachey.

THE WORST YET TO BE TOLD.

But that is not all, nor the worst. The law of sedition in England is administered by English judges on the verdict of English juries. But the Government of India proposes to empower all first-class magistrates to try cases of sedition, which are now heard only by Sessions Judges and the High Courts. That is to say, the District Magistrate whose acts are criticised by an Indian journalist will himself be able to try and imprison the offender. This is the gist of the new law, though it is accompanied also by a series of vexatious provisions, one of which classes editors with "vagrants and suspected persons." Once this new law is enacted, no writer in India will be safe who fails to speak of the authorities and their acts in terms of downright approval.

OPPOSITION WITHOUT A PARALLEL.

Lord G. Hamilton belittles the indignation which the Government's proposals have provoked in India. We say, on the contrary, after continuous reading of scores of Indian and Anglo-Indian journals, that the new law has excited a storm of resentment to which we remember no parallel. Observe that the Anglo-Indian press deplores the action of the Government. The "Times of India" says the proposals are "unnecessary and ill-advised." The "Englishman" says that the Anglo-Indian Defence Association condemns the new measure at every point as a "useless and perilous innovation." Not less significant is the speech which Mr. J. M. Maclean—a former editor of the "Bombay Gazette"—delivered on Friday. The Government of India, he said, had exceptional powers enough already. "They were going to have a suppression of all kinds of free expression of opinion in India." Anything more fatuous, anything more perilous, in the peculiar circumstances of British rule in India it would be difficult to conceive.

PLAINER AND MORE EMPHATIC SUPPRESSION.

The *Manchester Guardian*, of Feb. 19, says:—

The new Press Law wasdefended by Lord George Hamilton last night on the ground that it merely put plainly the existing interpretation—that is to say, Mr. Justice Strachey's interpretation—of the present law. It is true enough that under the interpretation which secured a verdict against Mr. Tilak any criticism of any Government measure containing a disparaging epithet or phrase might be construed as seditious. But what most Englishmen felt when they read the summing up and verdict in the Tilak case was, that if this were the law it was high time for it to be altered. The Indian Government agree, but they alter it in the direction of plainer and more emphatic suppression. For the future all adverse comment, English or native, on the actions of the Indian Government will be published on sufferance. At any moment, anyone, English or native, who ventures to expose, say, such repressive measures as the present in anything like suitable terms may find himself in prison with two years' leisure for reflecting on those blessings of freedom which follow our flag whithersoever it goes.

PROSECUTOR AND JUDGE IN THE SAME PERSON.

Nor is this all. If he dares to expose the incompetence of any young magistrate with a few years Indian experience to eke out the wisdom acquired at Oxford or Cambridge, he may find himself pleading for his liberty before the very man whom he has criticised, and will experience all the benefits of a simplified criminal proceduce in which prosecutor and judge are untied in one person.

"GUIDANCE" OR WRITE TO ORDER!

Lord George Hamilton explained, indeed, that the whole law was conceived in the most paternal spirit. "Guidance," it appears, is what the Indian press requires. Well, all men need guidance, but unfortunately not all men are competent to give it; and with regard to the press, a ruler of India, one might think, would recognise that the very errors and extravagances of the native newspapers give unintentional but valuable guidance to those who really wish to know the mind of the people they are set over. Mr. Maclean's retort was conclusive that guidance as conceived in the spirit of the new law makes the press worthless. A writer who does not express his own sincere conviction can write to no end but that of making himself contemptible, and if the Indian press is only to write to order it had better cease to exist.

"PUTTING DOWN" OR CRUSHING OUT?

The *Manchester East News*, of February 19, after referring to Mr. Maclean's speech in the House of Commons, in which he declared that no exceptional powers were needed by the Government of India, says:—

Most unprejudiced Englishmen hold the same opinion, and cannot but recall the unhappy and futile coercion policy adopted towards Ireland as they learn how the Imperial Government, and not only the Indian Government, is bent upon "putting down" that is the convenient but ominous phrase cru hing out would be more true to the facts, the freely-expressed views of the majority of our Hindoo fellow-subjects upon questions which, as living under the sway of the Sovereign of Great Britain, they have as good a right to hold and publish as any man in any country or borough in England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland. Mr. Michael Davitt aptly said that the manly sentiments of Mr. Maclean would, if put into legislative forms, be more beneficial to British rule in India and be better every way for this nation than the pro-Russian opinions and proclivities of Lord George Hamilton and his colleagues.

RUSSIAN THEORY OF RULE.

The *Western Mercury*, of Feb. 21, says:

The theory of repression is that Government is easier when there is hardly any criticism. That is the Russian theory of rule entirely. Last century, to be honest, it was partly the British theory. We have outgrown this childishness at home. Is it sedition to criticise the present Government and to accuse it of mismanaging Imperial affairs? If so, every independent Liberal, Conservative, or Irish editor is in danger of being sent to prison. But it is said that in India the Press is more scurrilous, more suggestive, and more powerful. The natives are more likely to be influenced by it, and they have their own papers in their own language—small sheets little bigger, and some not so big, as a company prospectus. The effort to choke the Press is now being made under certain plausible disguises. It is a mistake. The plotting which preceded the Mutiny was not a Press affair. It was a secret affair—a matter of letters and messages. The Press represents a newer state of things. A second illustration of internal rule by different theories is that of the treatment of the educated natives. Lord Lytton left them as they had been. Lord Ripon tried to equalise their opportunities, and was condemned for his liberality. The true theory, based on the Queen's Proclamation, is to utilise native talent in every branch of administration. But the moral of the whole matter is that India ought to be governed on settled lines of policy, not changing with politics at home. Every sensible Imperialist must admit that this is the ideal of good government for India. We ought to aim at it in every thing we do. We shall lose India if we do not. The Russian bogey outside beyond the Hindu Koosh and beyond the Oxus is not half so formidable as the disturbed, persecuted, and harassed Hindu within, who is being treated in different humours by successive Governments, and who may fairly exclaim: "A plague o' both the Houses!" with wounded Mercutio.

SITTING ON THE SAFETY VALVE.

The *Star* of Feb, 19, says:—

The new Press-gagging Act for India was rushed through the Viceroy's Council yesterday after a nine hours' sitting and in spite of the unanimous protests of the native members. It is difficult to conceive, and impossible to exaggerate, the mischievousness of this measure, and of the Criminal Procedure Bill, which is part and parcel of the same panic-stricken scheme. Mr. Pickersgill, in his masterly speech in the House of Commons yesterday, dissected the proposals of the Government of India with admirable clearness, and Mr. Maclean—a former editor of the *Bombay Gazette*—earnestly exhorted Lord George Hamilton to refrain from an impossible task. The new law will put every native journalist in India under the heel of the administraton whose acts it is his duty to criticise. The district magistrate, in his judicial capacity, will punish the critics of the acts which he performs in his executive capacity. Of course the result of this fatuous system must be either (*a*) endless prosecutions or (*b*) hypocritical writing. The probable result will, we take it, be hypocrisy. But how will that help the Government of India? It will simply add to its difficulties, for, as Mr. Maclean emphatically insisted, you cannot put down disaffection in that great whispering gallery India, by gagging the press.

ONLY SMASHING THE SEISMOGRAPH.

After quoting some important passages from Mr. Maclean's speech, the "Westminster Gazette" of Feb. 19, says:—

That is precisely what we have often pointed out ourselves—that the native Press is really useful as a barometer of public opinion, which, with it, or without it, will continue to form itself. You do not get rid of earthquakes by smashing the seismograph; and you will not get rid of disaffection, if it exists, by stifling the native Press.

CONSERVATIVE OPINION.

Nor is it the British Liberal papers alone which do not approve of the new Sedition Law in India. Of course, the *St. James's Gazette* opines that "the Government has done very well to pay no attention whatever to the protests of educated Bengalees and native newspaper editors in India"—as if, it was *these alone* and *none else* who protested against the measure; and the *Pall Mall Gazette*, while thinking that Mr. Maclean "ordinarily talks uncommonly good common sense," says that "even he was carried away by his feeling of loyalty to old colleagues". This is, however, what the *Daily Graphic* says, along with its approval of the measure:

On the other hand, it must be admitted that some of the changes proposed by the Indian Government do not appear to have been very wisely drafted. They have excited in their present form an amount of agitation in Calcutta which is probably altogether disproportionate to the real danger they contain, but which nevertheless ought to be taken account of by a prudent Government. It is probable that on these points considerable modifications will be accepted by the Indian Government before the Bill passes the Legislative Council.

The qualifying remarks of the *Daily Mail* are perhaps more significant. It says:—

All the same, it is worth considering if any notable change in the Press law is necessary, when both the Bombay and Supreme Governments have surmounted their difficulties so triumphantly with the law as it is.

IHAD the rheumatism so badly that I could not get my hand to my head. I tried the doctor's medicine without the least benefit. At last I thought of Chamberlain's Pain Balm; the first bottle relieved all of the pain, and one half of the second bottle effected a complete cure.—W. J. HOLLAND, Holland, Va. Chamberlain's Pain Balm is equally good for sprains, swellings and lameness, as well as burns, cuts and bruises, for sale at all drug store. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

Gen Agents—SMITH STANISTREET & CO., AND B. K. PAUL & CO., Calcutta.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.].

NOALHALI, MAR. 12.

Babu Rajkumar Dutt, Zemindar, Chamarkhola, has been formally invested with the title of Rai Bahadur by Mr. Agasti, the District Magistrate, at a Durbar, held in the local Town Hall, at 4-30 P. M. yesterday. The spacious hall was full, and the ceremonial a complate success. It was followed by an evening party and fireworks.

NARAYANGUNGE, MAR. 14.

About one hundred principal Pandits of the East Bengal Saraswat Samaj, headed by the President, Pandit Adwaitachandra Nyayaratna, waited at the Narayangunge railway station this evening to receive Dr. Martin on his way to Dacca. An address of welcome, both in English and Sanskrit, was read, to which Dr. Martin gave a suitable reply. The Pandits blessed him and expressed their gratefulness to him for the justice he had done them by pronouncing their Samaj as the real original and legitimate East Bengal Saraswat Samaj. Dr. Martin while thanking the Pandits for the reception they gave him, said that he had merely done his duty and that after going through the mass of evidence produced by both the parties in support of their respective contentions, he could arrive at no other conclusion than he had arrived at.

BOMBAY, MAR. 16

ON invitation of His Excellency the Governor Justices and other leading citizens of Bombay, several hundreds in number, assembled at the Town Hall yesterday. The Governor delivered a very sympathetic and conciliatory address. After recognising the services rendered by the Justices last year, His Excellency the Governor, said:—"I know very well that in Bombay the measures that have been taken, have been very distasteful to a very large number of the population, also to everyone connected with the Government. I will admit, it is their duty to remove obnoxious measures, if measures, less obnoxious but not less efficient, can be found to take their place. But the problem is,—what are these measures to be? How is this problem to be solved? The only answer is that we must make one more determined effort to get the mass of the people on our side in Bombay. To enable us to do this, I must ask all leaders of communities and castes to exert their influence, not only with their own castes but with the headmen of the various sections, and get them to exert themselves to help our efforts against the plague. In its general principles it is a scheme of the Government; but for the details aud management and carrying-out, I must rely upon you who have influence to execute it for us. It has been ascertained that the house to house search has not produced the effects and results that, it was hoped from former experience, would accrue from it. I am prepared to substitute, as an experiment, an undertaking from the various communities through their leaders, who will have to communicate with the head men in various communities, to give notice of those who will inform them of suspicious cases of illness. It has been decided to confine the vacation of houses and their disinfection to those houses where a case of plague is discovered or death has occurred, which is not known to have occurred from any cause other than plague. You are aware that British soldiers have been withdrawn from searching occupation since the 5th March. I have been assured, because I constantly made inquiries, by many native gentlemen that the behaviour of these soldiers ave been very good, indeed; but seeing the dissatisfaction, or if I may use the wora 'hysterical dissatisfaction," that their presence created, it did become us to consider whether, on looking at the results, these were outborne by disadvantages. The scheme briefly is to ascertain the address ofthat house where deaths of any kind occur. I beg you to lay to your minds this, because on this particular point, there has been a vast amount of perhaps misrepresentations, but at any rate, misapprehension. There will be no corpse inspection. There will be no measure which will entail delay in the performance of funeral rites. Our main object is to ascertain the place where death has occurred; and on reliable information being received as to the fact that death could have been due to some cause other than plague, that house will be left undisturbed. I think the advantage of this will be that it will minimize the chances of error. I think that we can look for success in this matter, provided that you, who have influence, will put your shoulders to the wheel, and also insure early removal of plague cases to your various caste hospitals, because experience teaches us that in cases of this terrible disease early removal is the safest way of saving lives of those persons who may be dear to you. We all wish to arrive at the same goal, namely to expel plague; and the only way in which it can be done is by travelling on the same road in perfect union one with another.

"I am also very anxious that all grievances and complaints should be thoroughly ventilated and explained, and therefore I propose that a committee of native gentlemen with a British officer should attend at the Police Commissioner's office for the purpose of hearing these complaints. As to the question of passes, I think there should be a special bureau for this particular work, but I mention that piece goods and grain merchants would be allowed exemption from detention, and buyers from up-country would be passed over railway lines free of detention provided they bring a pass from the Collector or the Political Agent.

After mentioning one or two other details and eulogizing the behaviour of the nurses and the sublime patience of the helpless and afflicted His Excellency concluded: There is only one way in which we could hope to vanquish the plague, but before we can hope to do that the first thing we must do is to keep our heads cool as we call it in England. The only way to accomplish that which I have just alluded is to maintain an attitude of the greatest patience, forbearance and courage, and above all mutual confidence, in one another before we can hope to repel the most stubborn and insidious foe that ever has invaded Bombay."

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, MAR. 11.

The Prince of Wales, on laying the foundation-stone of the new jetty at Cannes, said he hoped the ceremony would prove a fresh pledge of cordial relations between France and Britain, for the good of humanity.

Reuter wires from Peking that Sir Claude Macdonald has strongly protested against the leasing of Port Arthur and Talienwan to Russia. thus destroying the balance of power. China has transferred the negotiations to St. Petersburg to gain time.

LONDON, MAR. 12.

A keen struggle is proceeding in the Corea between the partisans and opponents of Russia There are indications of growing hostility between Turkey and Bulgaria.

LONDON, MAR. 11.

The issue of the Chinese loan has been postponed until the 21st instant, owing to the regulations of the Berlin Bourse.

LONDON, MAR. 12.

There was a renewed semi-panic on the New York Bourse to-day, owing to apprehensions of a crisis in the relations with Spain, due to the renewed reports that the blowing up of the Maine was due to treachery. Active warlike preparations are being made by both countries.

The march of the British Brigade to Berber in four days and three nights is regarded as a remarkable feat. Numbers of the men wore out their boots and arrived at their destination bare-footed.

The Corean Cabinet has notified to the Russian Minister its intention to dismiss the Russian financial adviser and drill instructors.

The doctors have ordered Lord Salisbury to the Riviera in a week's time. Mr. Balfour will conduct the current business of the Foreign Office during his Lordship's absence.

Mr. Woolf Joel, head of Messrs. Barnato Brothers, has been shot dead in his office at Johannesburg by a man who demanded a sum of two thousand five hundred pounds from him.

The United States Customs have ordered a evry of countervailing duties on French sugars.

The Commons have adopted a grant of a hundred and twenty thousand pounds towards the relief of the necessitous West Indian Colonies.

Mr. Curzon, in reply to a question in the House of Commons, said that the steps required for the proper securing of Hongkong had been occupying the Government for some time.

LONDON, MAR. 13.

It is officially declared at Washington that the Government has no knowledge of the cause of the Maine disaster and has received no report regarding the same.

The Cavendish expedition to Lake Rudolph and the Nile has been postponed after consultation with the Foreign Office.

Reuter wires from Pekin that France intends to occupy Leichow in the Kwantung Peninsula as a naval base, and that German has obtained permission to construct Ichow Railway, and will thus tap the [illegible]

Recommended by A Medical Friend

THIS is how MR. J. SHAIL, the well-known Manager of LAURIE'S HOTEL, AGRA, commenced to use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Says he: "About six months ago I was suffering severely from a bad cough and cold, and a medical friend recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to me. I bought one bottle and it effected a complete cure. Since that time, whenever I have the least cough, I procure Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and he results are always satisfactory."

CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is sold everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

India and England.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT].

LONDON, FEB. 25.

PARLIAMENTARY.

MY letter last week was closed and posted just as Mr. Herbert Roberts finished his very able indictment of the Poona policy and press prosecutions of the Indian Government, a speech as fine in temper as it was in sympathy for the victims of this most mistaken and dangerous policy. I sent full particulars in my last letter. His amendment to the Address, was seconded formally by Sir John Leng, the oldest and most respected journalist in the House, the proprietor of the *Peoples' Journal*, a paper with a weekly circulation of 200,000 copies, and also of the *Dundee Advertiser*, a Scottish daily paper.

Lord George Hamilton rose at once to reply. He began with a well-earned compliment to Mr. Roberts, who, he said, had, in an able and temperate speech, called the attention of the House to a matter well worthy of its consideration, and to which he would endeavour to reply in the same tone. He proceeded to do this by describing India as a country which was "stored up with explosive materials, in the shape of racial hatred and religious animosity, which at any moment might blaze out," and for the dealing with which the exceptional powers used in the Natu *lettre-de-cachet* was absolutely necessary, though to be used only with the utmost caution. He declared that the Bombay Government had clear and indisputable evidence that the Natus had rendered the plague regulations ineffective by local intrigue, were traitors to the excellent efforts made to combat a scourge worse than the march of a hostile army, and the Indian Government were bound to act as they did. The Deccan was full of sedition and disturbance, and in almost every case it could be traced to Poona and the brothers Natu. Lord George, however, only condescended to two detailed instances, which were received by the House with some derision, brought forward, as they were to justify such high-handed proceedings as secret arrest and deportation. I will give them in Lord George's own words :—

It was assumed that the brothers Natu gave great assistance to the Bombay Government, but that was not the opinion of the authorities. The brothers Natu did everything in their power to stir up unrest, and they worked against the regulations, the enforcement of which could alone save the people. After the murder of Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst, the Government were put in possession of evidence of a serious plot. If there was an idea among the native population that under the British regulations their women would be subjected to any indignity, a storm would have arisen, which would have made it hopeless to apply the regulations. It was necessary, therefore, to secure a number of lady nurses and doctors to assist in the search operations. There was a great difficulty in getting the nurses, but at last the Government secured a sufficient number. One of these nurses made a deposition that she had received a letter purporting to be signed by one of the brothers Natu, stating that it would be greatly to her detriment if she worked with the search-party. Since receiving this letter, she persisted in working in the search operations, and she had not had a midwifery case in the city in consequence, although previously she frequently was called in. The difficulty the Indian Government had to contend with, was the subtlety of these malign influences, and there was no law at their disposal to stop intimidation of that character. There was a still more serious case, in which one of the brothers Natu had attempted in a most assiduous way to induce the police to declare that a woman, who had really died from disease, had been violated by a British soldier, and had died in consequence. In dealing with a crisis of such magnitude as the plague, if they found these tricks played the Government had a right to prevent such men from being at large.

Lord George then declared that so long as the plague lasted, it would not be safe to liberate the brothers Natu ; I venture, however, to prophesy that they will be out long before that happens. Lord George did not make the slightest attempt to associate the Natus with the murders. The "serious plot" to which he referred, was a suspected attempt on the part of one of them to boycott or intimidate a nurse. If the letter referred to was really written by the Natus (and Lord George is careful only to say that it "purported to be") it was a serious offence worthy of punishment *after conviction*. But the Natus have never had any opportunity of defending themselves against this unsupported deposition of a nurse, and even if genuine, instead of intimidation it may only have been intended as a friendly warning that participation in the unpopular plague administration would lose her midwifery custom among the native community. Then there comes the "still more serious case" of the dead woman. But suppose the Natus had honestly believed the story? A public investigation, an inquest on the body, would have at once dispelled it. What was the investigation made, if any? Who was the policeman whom the Natus tried to corrupt? The Indian police have not so spotless a reputation that any statement against men like the Natus are to be accepted without careful enquiry. The Natus may, for all we know, be the greatest villains unhung ; but also, for all we know, they may be the victims of cruel misrepresentation. Both the only two cases given by Lord George were capable of prompt investigation, and ought to have been investigated there and then. We are none of us concerned in any defence of these two imprisoned Sirdars. Our quarrel is that they have had no opportunity of defending themselves, like every other citizen arrested, by being placed on trial. The more one turns and examines the Natu affair, the more clear and certain it becomes that the lamentable Poona murders utterly demoralized the Bombay Government, that for the time they completely lost their heads, and that now the panic is over, they have not the grace and good sense to admit the fact. Lord George slid through the rest of Mr. Roberts' indictment with a few tawdry platitudes, having secured the services of the Attorney-General to deal with the matter of the new Press Act.

After a speech from Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. Maclean, the Conservative member for Cardiff, made a brief but very weighty speech on behalf of Mr. Roberts amendment. Mr. Maclean has now greater weight with regard to India on the Tory benches, than any other member, due not only to his ability and clear sound common sense, but to the fact that he was long Editor and proprietor of the *Bombay Gazette*, Chairman of Bombay Town Council, and a Fellow of the Bombay University. His speech is worth quoting intact.

Mr. Maclean said he had not intended to take part in the debate, and would be extremely sorry to say anything which might add in the slightest degree to the anxiety and responsibility which must have weighed heavily on the Secretary of State for India during the last 12 months. Certainly he did not intend to follow the hon. gentleman opposite into the general merits of British rule in India. Of British rule in India he had hearty admiration, and he believed it had conferred inestimable benefits on the country. When the hon. member denounced it he would like to ask him what kind of rule he would substitute if British rule were removed?

He was himself for many years connected with the Press of India, and he thought it would be unworthy of him if, when a question of this sort was brought up, he did not express his own opinion upon it. The noble lord had told them they wanted exceptional powers in India. His own opinion was that they had exceptional powers enough already. It should be remembered that there was no kind of representative Government in India. The Press was the only outlet by which any kind of public opinion could find expression, and, as a general rule, he did not believe that the Press was extremely violent or unfair in the comments it made on the Government of the country. Of course, extravagant things were said from time to time. The native Press was an immature Press directed by men of small means and often of small intelligence, and sometimes did vicious things. But the Government possessed ample power for dealing with offences of that kind. Was it not the fact that sentences lately passed on offenders connected with the Press had been sufficiently severe in themselves to punish any offences that had been committed, and frighten others from a repetition of such offences? He thought some of the sentences had been so severe that they had shocked public opinion in this country. They were now going to have repressive legislation again, directed against Indian newspapers. Lord Lytton tried an experiment of that kind, though not of so severe a class as was now intended. As the noble lord had said, Lord Lytton's experiment was only to give a guiding influence, to lead the native newspapers into the right direction; but that law had broken down, because newspapers which were directed into the proper course, which were not allowed to express their own opinions, became utterly worthless. The only object of the existence of a newspaper was to express free opinion, and naturally that law of Lord Lytton fell into great contempt and was discontinued with the general assent of the whole community. But now what was intended was a very different matter indeed. They were going to make the law much more repressive than it was at the present moment. They were going to crystallize into law the opinion expressed by Mr. Justice Strachey as to the meaning of a clause in the public Code. That Judge said, "You must not only obey the laws of the country, but you must also be well affected towards the Government and affectionate in your disposition." A wise Government ought to be satisfied with commanding the obedience of hundreds of millions of people without trying to control their secret thoughts. What would be thought of many of them in this country if they were compelled to be affectionate towards those in authority? They were going to have a suppression of all kinds of free expression of opinion in India. Did the Government imagine for one moment that by muzzling the Press they could put down disaffection? India was one great whispering gallery, in which everything was communicated from mouth to mouth with the utmost celerity. Did they think they would repress public opinion there by muzzling the newspapers? Why, they would have to abolish their Universities, stop the running of their trains, cut the telegraph wires, and prevent people communicating their opinions to one another in languages of which they were themselves utterly ignorant. The task was an impossible one. Let the Government have a little more courage, a little more belief in the powers and resources of the English people to put down any disaffection that might arise. Do not let them have this legislation in a panic; this attempt to repress public opinion by means which would never prevail in any country. They could govern India by their justice and generosity, and, in case of need, by force of arms, but they would never govern it by repressing the free expression of opinion among that great community.

I do not think it possible for any one to put in a clearer or more concise language the true position of this important controversy, than this short, pungent speech by a distinguished supporter of the Government.

Mr. Pickersgill, Dr. Clark, Mr. Michael Davitt and the Attorney-General took part in the debate, and the House divided. For the amendment 109, against 182, majority for the Government 73, or just half their full majority. The division would have been even more disastrous to Lord George Hamilton and the Indian Government, if the Front Opposition Bench had done their duty. Sir Henry Fowler never came to the House at all. He ought to have been there on an important Indian debate like this, as etiquette demands that Front Opposition Leaders vote as their departmental chiefs advise. Sir Henry was sought all over the House, at his own lodgings, at the Reform Club, but he was invisible. In despair, Sir William Harcourt sent one of the whips to find Lord Kimberley, as Sir Henry's predecessor at the India Office, and the advice he gave was the tepid policy of abstention, least it should appear that they were "censuring old colleagues" in the Viceroy and Lord Sandhurst ; so they all walked out of the House before the division was taken, to the anger and disgust of all their followers, who were only too ready and eager to censure Ex-Liberal leaders recreant to Liberal principles. I understand Mr. John Morley and Mr. Asquith were very anxious to vote for Mr. Roberts' amendments, but Front Bench etiquette is inexorable, and they had to go out with the rest. This episode is only another instance of the inaptitude of Leaders who, with the country strongly Liberal, cannot give effect to its wishes by a vigorous and intelligent opposition. They will fall away thus from the rank and file once too often, some day.

On Tuesday evening the House of Commons decided by a majority of 92 that the entire cost of the Frontier Campaign is to fall on Indian finances. Alarmed by the bad divisions their party have given them on Indian questions, especially on Mr. Roberts' amendment, the Government whips were rigorous with regard to pairs, and managed to get within fifty of their majority, and so, once more, this Government has inflicted a serious blow to the prestige of the British Empire by an act of contemptible meanness, transcending that of the Soudan expedition incident.

Mr. Samuel Smith moved a resolution, calling attention to the extreme poverty of the mass of the people of India, to the serious condition of the Indian finances, and to the need of a more effective control over Indian expenditure ; and to move that, in the opinion of this House, the expenditure, involved in the recent operations beyond the frontier of India, ought not to be charged entirely upon the revenues of India.

He gave a graphic and pathetic description of the extreme poverty of the great mass of the Indian people, quoting Lord Lawrence and Lord Cromer, in support of his estimation that the average income in India was only £2 per head or one-tenth of that of the United Kingdom. This chronic condition, he urged, had been greatly aggravated by pestilence and famine, which had left millions of cultivators absolutely penniless. He protested against the refusal of the Viceroy in Council to delay the operations of the additional land assessment, and to relax altogether for another year the assessment in the famine-stricken districts, for, he could not believe that any solid prosperity among Indian peasants would arrive until the land-tax was largely remitted. He believed that the forthcoming Budget, if the optimism prevailed which appeared to inspire the Viceroy and the India Office, would be a dishonest and fallacious one. With the gain in exchange and every other gain added, no honest Budget for the current year ought to show a less deficit than Rx. 5,000,000. The people had lost all faith in the permanence of a one and four penny rupee, and the Indian Government was steadily piling up its gold debt in London,—the very worst possible kind of debt India could incur. India, judged by European standards, was verging on bankruptcy. More taxation would risk rebellion. It was absolutely important that India should begin to reduce taxation by lowering the land assessment and the cruel salt tax. The secret of all our trouble in India was, that the Government was far too expensive. The country's substance was wasted on costly wars and costly European administration; while they sat dreaming about impossible Russian invasions, the resources of India were being drained and the people's minds poisoned against British rule. Mr. Smith then made a very eloquent and impassioned appeal to the Government to make a grant of at least five millions sterling, and no better investment could be made of our national wealth, for, it would touch the feelings of the Indian people, with whom such kindness counted more than people think. The entire Government of India needed overhauling from top to bottom. A first-class financier a strong man, able to resist official pressure and empowered to cut down expenditure, ought to be sent out to India at once, to put the finances of the country on a sound basis.

I have never heard Mr. Samuel Smith so effective. His warm heart was touched to its very centre, and his speech made a profound impression on the somewhat thin House. Mr. Robinson Souttar seconded the resolution in a brief speech, declaring that no voice in the Empire would be raised against the adoption of the motion by the Government. Mr. Souttar is a new member in this Parliament, and is a valuable addition to the little group of members who, having been in India, take a "Congress" view of its politics. He may be still remembered in Calcutta as the Engineer who laid the whole of the Calcutta tramways. He retired from active business in 1888, at 40 years of age, went to Oxford University as a non-collegiate student and took a B. C. L. in the first class. He contested Oxford unsuccessfully for Parliament in 1892.

Sir Henry King strongly deprecated the proposal for a grant-in-aid as introducing a most mischievous principle and weakening the restrictions put upon the military party by the Finance Minister. He advocated a staple rupee and a staple exchange, as the panacea for India's woes, and that could only be obtained by putting the currency on a gold basis, which, if England united her credit to that of India, could be done easily enough.

Sir W. Wedderburn did not think the nation would allow the Government to place the whole of the burden of this war upon the people of India. What the people of India wanted was not charity but fair play in order to develop the almost boundless resources of their country. It was impossible for them to develop the resources of their country unless they had administrative economy in India, and he did not believe they would ever have that administrative economy until they got a more stringent control over Indian finances by the House of Commons.

He thought it hardly suitable to go into the financial question, but he felt strongly that instead of merely helping India from time to time by doles we could exercise such control over her finances as would enable her to stand alone, and he felt convinced this would enable her to meet all necessary expenditure and be a source of strength and advantage to this country. The people of India were mainly aguicultural and were a skilful race; they had a rich soil and a fine climate. There was abundance of cheap skilled labour, and with reasonable capital and good irrigation works, India would become a garden of wealth. At this critical time, when broken down by want of capital, this country should step in to the aid of India. Let the people of this country and the Government recognize this.

Lord George Hamilton then replied. He admitted the great poverty of India, but contended emphatically that the condition of the agricultural population of India was improving. He did not say so, but I suppose he bases his comparison on the Famine year, for, under no other hypothesis could he justify such a view. He wisely evaded the debateable ground of currency reform, as outside the resolution, and then propounded his quack remedy in competition with all the others. Capital, he cried, Capital! that is what India wants to cure all her evils and a flow of capital into the country can only be got by a staple exchange. He flatly refused to accept the resolution, sheltering himself behind Sir James Westland, whom he described as an "exceptionally strong Finance Minister." I hope he will be able to say so this time next year. Lord George gave as the main reason why he is desirous that assistance should not be given, is because he is conscious that once it is granted on the ground of sympathy and benevolence—because the case is not argued on the grounds of justice, but simply on the grounds of humanity, benevolence, and sympathy—if once this House gets into the practice of giving doles to India on these grounds, the control of the Finance Minister would be gone, so far as expenditure was concerned. Turning from the point of view of sympathy, let us examine the proposition from the point of view of justice. I can understand this House wishing to assist India in defraying some of the military expenditure which has been connected with an expedition which is perhaps more Imperial than Indian, but no one for a moment contends that there was anything Imperial connected with the recent operations on the frontier, which were purely Indian. The late Government sanctioned the expedition to Chitral, and nobody ever suggested that that expenditure should be defrayed by the Imperial Parliament. I hope I have given to the House good reasons why we should not accept this motion, but at the same time, I can assure the hon. gentleman that it is with reluctance that I speak against any motion which is prompted by a sympathetic impulse, and which would in any way help India. While I feel that I cannot assent to his proposition, I can assure him and hon. gentlemen on the other side that any practical proposals which can make for the amelioration of the condition of the population of India or for the improvement of the financial position of that country will always meet from me with an appreciative hearing.

Sir Henry Fowler followed, and made some amends for his absence on Mr. Roberts' motion, but supporting Mr. Smith's resolution heartily. He expressed himself as much disappointed at the definite decision arrived at by the Government, as he fully expected they would have regarded the resolution in a more favourable spirit, and at any rate, have deferred their final decision until all the figures were known. He protested against the attitude assumed by Lord George Hamilton that this was not an Imperial question. The decision of the present Cabinet, which had led up to the war, had been defended by them last week by Imperial reasons. He considered it of vital importance at present to strengthen friendly feelings and cordial relations with the Indian people, and he heartily agreed in the wisdom and sound policy declared by the resolution. Mr. Maclean closed the debate with one of his short crisp speeches, pregnant with commonsense. He declared that the House of Commons had sanctioned the war, and that it was most unjust to ask the people of India to pay for it. Not a colony in the Empire would be treated in this way, and why should India be excepted? He sympathised with the demands made upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer from the Soudan, East Africa, Uganda and the West Indies, but India is worth more to us than all these places, and we must beware lest we sacrifice the oldest and best market of the Empire. The House then divided. For Mr. Smith's motion 96 against 188.

So a patriotic Conservative Government, with its big mechanical majority, treats our greatest dependency, and every thoughtful Englishman is thoroughly ashamed of such contemptible and disgraceful meanness. This corrupt Government throws millions of sovereigns to rich landlords and the wealthy Church of England at home, and to West India sugar-planters in the colonies, able to lend ten millions to China at low interest, and then throws upon the famine and plague-stricken millions of India the cost of a war which they themselves declare to be Imperial, with hard labour in prison for any who dare to grumble. In the meantime, it is seven months since the Expenditure Commission last met, and there is no sign of any draft report from the Chairman. Mr. Smith's debate will do good. At any rate it has committed the Front Opposition Bench once more to the principle that expenditure beyond the Frontier of India comes within the category of Imperial Expenditure, which ought to be borne by Imperial revenues. One thing is clear: if it had not been for Sir James Westland's optimism in declaring any grant to be unnecessary, the House of Commons would have been in the humour to vote at least two millions sterling towards the cost of the Frontier wars. But it is hardly in human nature to expect that in face of Sir James Westland's protests, that revenue is increasing so rapidly as to cover both normal and extraordinary expenditure, that the House of Commons should cram its millions down his very unwilling throat. But the true secret of this reluctance lies in the rooted aversion of the Indian Government to all sorts of Parliamentary interference. Once begin to take grants from Parliament, and close supervision of expenditure by Parliament must follow, and Sir James Westland will lose his own control over it. It is about time he and his successors came under the control of Parliament in some way or other. Into what has Sir James' control led us? Did he give financial consent to the mobilising of the unnecessary and unwieldy army, which has been defeated by its own unmanageable strength, or did he not? Did he consent to the occupation of Chitral and the fortification of the road? He may be, as Lord George describes him, "an exceptionally strong Finance Minister." To me, he seems a Finance Minister in whose pocket the Commander-in-Chief sits permanently. But in this matter India asks no "dole." She does not sit as a beggar at our door-step, asking alms. She comes as a suitor with a just cause, asking that the Empire shall pay for Imperial policy, not a province of the Empire.

But for the present Government to be shocked at the idea of a "dole," is indeed Satan rebuking Sin. It is a veritable Government of doles, doles to Ireland, doles to the West Indias, doles to Egypt, doles to Landlords, doles to Church Schools, doles to everybody everywhere, except to the one claimant who only asks for a dole because justice is denied. It is a shameful and discreditable position, and it is little wonder that the Democracy of the country declares its disgust in each successive bye-election.

In the division on Mr. Herbert Roberts' motion three members of the late Government had the courage to break through party discipline, and refuse the cowardly course of abstention pursued by Lord Kimberley's advice, viz. Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Seale Hayne, and Mr. Hemphill. Mr. Maclean had not the courage of his speech, and actually voted with the Government against the motion which he had supported with so able an argument. Such is the power of the party whip. I am glad he did, as it emphasises like nothing else could have done the fact that the party screw was put tightly down, and that the majority of 73 was the very best the Government could accomplish in favour of the Poona policy of repression. Considering the absence and coldness of the Opposition leaders, this is the severest rebuke the Government has had since the election, in Parliament at any rate. On Mr. Smith's motion the Opposition leaders voted all right, and among them were Messrs. Asquith, Campbell-Bannerman, Foster, Sir Henry Fowler, Hemphill, and John Morley, all of whom now stand committed with their colleagues to the principle of paying for Imperial enterprise on the Indian Frontier from Imperial revenues, to which they will have to stand when they return to power, illustrating, what I have often called attention to in these letters, the value of being in opposition that Liberal leaders may be committed on great principles which they would probably have resisted had they been in power. Nothing has taken place for a long time in Parliament of such importance to India as these divisions, and the Indian Government will probably be clever enough to take warning from them. I do not think there will a reckless administration of the new press law in face of these divisions.

THE PRESS ON MR. SMITH'S MOTION.

MANY of the Tory journals condemn the action of the Government in refusing any financial help to India over the Frontier expenditure. I cannot quote at length from them, as I have already exceeded my allotted space in your columns ; but as an instance I may quote from the "Pall Mall Gazette", which is one of the most uncompromising party papers devoted to the present Administration. The Editor writes :—

We cannot say that Lord George Hamilton's speech in the House yesterday is altogether convincing. His statement that no one contends that the frontier operations are an Imperial matter, almost staggers us, seeing that we have contended that from the first, and contend it again now. No doubt it is not desirable to encourage the Indian Government to rely too much upon British aid, and the Viceroy's announcement that it is not necessary just now is a strong argument. The principles of doles in aid is not a particularly good one. But India has had such an exceptional and unhappy year that no reasonable person would have objected to an exception in this case, especially for a matter which, as we say, is Imperial, and was dealt with by Mr. Curzon for one as such.

The most influential and widest-circulated Tory journal of the metropolis, the *Daily Mail*, says :—

The Government seems to have missed the point in the matter of assisting India financially. The argument for doing so is not that so brilliant a financier as Sir James Westland is unable, without help, to make both ends meet, but that a volunteered contribution would be just on abstract principles, and have the happiest results politically. Great Britain is as conspicuously rich as India is notoriously poor, and a grant would be a graceful mark of sympathy at this time of acute strain and distress.

Every Liberal journal, without exception, supports the resolutions generally, and their editors do much to clear up the confusion which might otherwise have prevailed in the public mind, by the disposition which the House displayed, to treat Mr. Smith's motion as though it were proposing "a charitable subscription" to India. Of course, it proposed nothing of the sort. The real question before the House was, whether the expenditure on the North-West Frontier was incurred on Imperial or Indian interests. It was not a question of generosity which had to be decided, but justice. Lord George, with his usual overreaching smartness, insisted on the fact that the Indian Government did not wish for assistance. Of course, it does not for the reason I have already stated, that assistance means control and the present Indian administration shouts, "Perish India!—but no Parliamentary control!!!"

FORTHCOMING FRONTIER DEBATE IN THE LORDS.

I am glad to say that there will be yet another Parliamentary debate on the Frontier policy. Lord Roberts has given notice that, on March 7th he will call attention in the House of Lords to the papers recently presented in regard to our relations with the tribes, and to the military operations undertaken against them during the year 1897-8. I don't know that the country, or India either, will be much moved by any decisions which may be arrived at by the House of Lords, but a debate initiated by Lord Roberts is sure to be full of interest to the public, especially as Lord Dufferin, Lord Ripon and Lord Lansdowne will be sure to take part. This debate will supply the deficiency of the House of Commons debates, by raising a direct discussion upon the methods on which the campaign has been carried out and generalled, and there can be little doubt it will be a "full dress" affair, with a crowded House.

THE BY-ELECTIONS.

Two elections have been decided in the last few days. The vacancy in Pembrokeshire was filled last week by the election of Mr. Phillips, the Liberal candidate, by a majority of 1664, over the Hon'ble Mr. Campbell, the heir to the Earl of Cawdor, the argest landed proprietor in the county, and son of Lord Emlyn, the Tory cannidate for the Cricklade division of Wilts. This is the largest Liberal majority ever recorded in Pembrokishire and is the Welsh rebuke to the Frontier policy of this Government.

The Cricklade election took place yesterday. The result is,—

Lord E. Fitzmaurice	Liberal	5624
Lord Emlyn	Tory	5135
Liberal majority		489

In 1895 the figures were

Hopkinson	Tory	4679
Fitzmaurice	Liberal	4560
Tory majority		99

This is the English rebuke to the Frontier policy of the Government. At Cricklade India was brought well to the front by repeated speeches from Mr. A. M. Bose, and R. C. Dutt, C. I. E, who have done grand service in all the recent by-elections. Another vacancy has occurred in London in a working-men's district at the East End. The Tory majority was over 500 at the General Election. It will certainly be fought by the Liberal party. It is now abundantly clear that the country is more and more veering round to the Liberal party. If we had a dissolution now, the figures of the by-election carried out through all the constituencies would give the Liberals almost as solid a majority as that now possessed by the Government. Whether during the two years that still intervene Lord Salisbury can invent a policy that will retrieve his fallen fortunes remains to be seen, but there is no prospect of it at present.

IN a recent issue of the *East*, was noticed a case of assault upon Babu Govindo Chandra Bysak, Sub-Divisional Officer of Tangail, by a prisoner of the local Sub-Jail. The man, we hear, has been sentenced to suffer rigorous imprisonment for five months by the Sub-Deputy of the sub-divison.

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

IMPERIAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE BILL.

FURTHER debate on the amendments of the Select Committee's report of the Criminal Procedure Bill was resumed at 11 A. M. on Saturday. There were altogether 65 amendments on the notice paper, of which 21 have been disposed of on Friday and the rest were taken up and considered on Saturday. One noticeable feature in Saturday's debate was that what is most unexpectedly happened, viz. that the Government were defeated on an amendment brought forward by the Hon'ble Pundit Bishembher Nath in connection with the clause of the Bill regarding transfer of cases. Pundit Bishumbher Nath's another amendment, that Chief Presidency Magistrates and District Magistrates may not be empowered with hearing sedition cases, was negatived while that of Mr. Chalmers that "Magistrates of the first class specially empowered be entrusted with that trial of such cases" was adopted. Mr. Charlu's important amendment that "in cases under Section 124A the accused shall be committed to the Sessions if he claims to be tried by such a Court or he be tried with the help of a jury, if he claims so to be tried" was negatived by the Government majority. Another important amendment of which Pundit Bishumber Nath had given notice, viz., "that in Chapter XXIII-L.—*Special Provisions for High Courts*—of the Bill as amended by the Select Committe, it should be provided that 'in a trial by jury before the High Court in a Presidency-town of a person not being an European or an American a majority of the jury shall, if he so desires, consist of persons who are neither Europeans nor Americans,'" was withdrawn by him. The Hon Pundit Bishumbher Nath moved that in the proviso to clause 162, sub-clause (1) of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the words and figures "in manner provided by the Indian Evidence Act. 872" be omitted, and that in clause 172, sub-clause (2) of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, the words "but to aid it in such enquiry or trial" be omitted. He said: Whether it is a question of discovery or evidence, the sections 162 and 172 have formed a theme for much discussion, and are, as they stand, calculated to deprive the accused of the right which he now possesses of calling for and inspecting statements made previously by witnesses to police officers and reduced into writing by them. I am aware that generally no previous statement can be used to impeach the credit of a witness subsequently examined, without proving such previous statement in manner provided by the Indian Evidence Act. But "the right of an accused person to cross-examine the witnesses for the prosecution on their previous statements, is one to which he is in fairness entitled, and it is essential in the interests of justice." The Calcutta Bar, in their note, dated the 24th February last, have, I think, observed rightly that the statements under section 161 ought to be, and, as a matter of fact, are, altogether separately recorded from those under section 172, and no clue is conveyed by them, as the Select Committee would seem to imagine, as to the names of informers or detectives, or the nature of their information. They are nothing more than the statements of witnesses who depose as to their knowledge of the occurrence.

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers opposed both these amendments on the ground that the first one proposed to give these statements a weight which they should not have, and that the second one proposed to deprive an accused person of a most valuable safeguard.

The amendments were put, and lost.

The Hon. Sir Griffith Evans moved that for sub-clause (2) of clause 222 of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, the following be substituted, namely: "When the accused is charged with criminal breach of trust or dishonest misappropriation of money it shall be sufficient to specify the gross sum in respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed without specifying particular items or exact dates, and the charge so framed shall be deemed to be a charge of one offence within the meaning of Section 233, provided that the time included between the first and last of such dates shall not exceed one year." He pointed out that the object of this amendment was to amend this clause as it now stood in the Bill. As the clause at present stood in the Bill it was not necessary to specify the different amounts misappropriated, and this amendment was intended to remedy that defect.

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers said the matter was one for the Council to determine.

The amendment was put and carried

The Lieutenant-Governor moved that in clause 254 of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, after the wards "taken and made" the words "or at any previous stage of the case" be inserted. In doing so he said, the amendment which he proposed in Section 254 was most important. It was admitted on all hands that the privilege of recalling witnesses for the prosecution now freely accorded to the defence was constantly abused in the mofussil Courts, that it affords opportunities of tampering with witnesses and bringing the pressure of inconvenience to bear upon them, and that it ought to be restricted. The section as amended did something to remedy this evil, but he ventured to think that a suggestion thrown out in the letter of the Bengal Government offered a further and reasonable safeguard. It seemed to him perfectly reasonable that the Magistrate should frame the charge as soon as he sees what the nature of the offence imputed to the accused is, and he proposed to empower him to do so, just as under Section 253 (2) he can discharge the accused at any stage. The amendments in Section 256 were merely consequencial.

Mr. Chalmers said that in England the curious procedure adopted by Section 21 was unknown. If a Magistrate was going to try a man himself, the man was charged as soon as he was put into the dock. In fact, the charge was explained to the man as soon as he was placed in the dock. The information given shows the nature of the offence the man is going to be tried for, and he did not see why a distinction should be drawn in India between a summons case and a warrant case in this respect. The distinction was an arbitrary one. In all summons cases the man was told when he was brought into the dock what he was charged with. The amendment proposed by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor seemed to him to be a reasonable compromise. He had no doubt that various honourable members who have experience of Indian matters would be able to throw light on the matter.

Mr. Ananda Charlu said: I have several doubts about the soundness of the amendment. The following are my reasons. It is a principle of criminal law that no accused person shall be called upon to state what is his defence before he is charged. But it is the duty of the accused to indicate his defence by the line of his cross-examination. To call upon him to finish his cross-examination before charged, as he must do if the amendment is accepted, is virtually to take away his right not to divulge his defence, if possible, to get rid of the prosecution. The difficulty is removed by his being allowed to conduct so much of his cross-examination as is directed to show the prosecution is unsustainable on its own merits. Thus there is really a great saving of time. This is my experience. Very often many Magistrates have heard the defence even when the prosecution is rotten to avoid revision by the High Cout and remand. Thus there is often a considerable waste of time and needless expense to the parties. I can give a number of cases which I know of, but I think it is unnecessary.

The Hon. Mr. James strongly supported the amendment.

The Hon. Sir Henry Prinsep remarked that he had, in the course of his long judicial experience, known of the annoyance and harassment that witnesses were put to and the injurious effect it must have on the administration of justice. He had made this a special point in the drafting of this Bill. He was very much in favour of the Lieutenant-Governor's amendment, but he thought there were difficulties in the way of putting it into practice, and he wished the Council to consider these difficulties and see whether they could be surmounted. If some course could be devised by which these difficulties could be overcome, he would heartily welcome the amendment of the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Hon. Pundit Bishumbher Nath opposed the amendment.

The amendment was put and carried.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ananda Charlu moved that to clause 255 of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee the following proviso be added, namely:—"Provided that in cases under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code the accused shall be committed to the Sessions if he claims to be tried by such a Court or he be tried with the help of a jury, if he claims so to be tried."

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers, in dealing with the amendment, said that on behalf of the Government he opposed it. If the honourable mover of it had carried his argument to its logical conclusion, his contention would be that no class of cases could be tried by a Magistrate only—every criminal case must be tried by jury associated with a Magistrate. The object of the Government was to ensure the quick despatch of magisterial work, especially in regard to petty cases. He would not follow the honourable mover of the amendment in his excellent panegyric of the jury system. As a Judge in England he had tried hundreds of cases with juries, and he had been deeply impressed with the enormous advantages of the jury system in that country. He had also tried jury cases outside of England, and he had been struck by the dismal failure of the system. There must be a homogenous people independent, though law-abiding, in their instincts, who make their own laws. With those qualifications are abiding, no system could be better upheld and without them it must fail.

The Hon. Mr. Sayani supported the amendment. If it was accepted it would make the law equally applicable to Europeans and natives. The amendment was a compromise between both contentions—between the old and new eras.

The Hon. Sir James Westland said that he decidedly joined issue with the honourable mover of the amendment when he contended that human nature in the East and the West were alike. Englishmen were born to respect the law because it was law and long traditions had made them hold in high esteem the tribunals in which justice is administered. What was the attitude of the people of this country towards the law and its administrators, judged from their public prints? Especially during the past six months had the Native Press poured out streams of the grossest invectives against the Government and its Europ an officials, not only in this country, but even in England. The speaker dwelt at considerable length upon some specimens of the writings of Indian editors, who wilfully distorted the matters they dealt with. In conclusion he strongly protested against the passing of the amendment.

The Lieutenant-Governor objected to the amendment, on the ground that, if it was passed, it would neither give effect to the desires of the mover nor would it be workable. If it was desired that all cases before Magistrates should be tried with juries, then the Code would have to be very considerably enlarged; in fact, would have to be recast almost. It was true that a European, when charged before a Magistrate in the mofussil, might demand to be tried by a jury. This was one of the most unsatisfactory features of the results of the Ilbert Bill. It sometimes retarded magisterial work in most trivial cases. The speaker had never been against jury trials in certain classes of trials, and after expression of that opinion he would most emphatically oppose their extention to certain other cases. He for one did not think it desirable that Indian juries should be converted into political tribunals.

The amendment was then put to the meeting and lost.

The Hon. Mr. Chitnavis moved that offences under Sections 451, 456, and 457 of the Penal Code be included in the list of summarily triable offences, as enumerated in Section 260 of the Criminal Procedure Code. To make such petty offences summarily triable would save much valuable time of the Courts.

The Hon. Mr Chalmers said that he had no objection to the amendment.

The Hon. Messrs. Nicholson, Ananda Charlu, James, and Sir Griffith Evans accorded assent to the spirit of the motion.

The Hon. Sir H. Prinsep objected to it, but the Hon. Mr. Stevens and the Lieutenant-Governor supported it. On being put to the Council the amendment was passed.

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers moved:—"That in clause 408 (c) of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, the word 'District' be omitted."

The Hon. Pundit Bishumbher Nath, opposed the amendment, on the ground that no officer under the rank of a District Magistrate should try offences under Section 124A—for that matter it was further most desirable that such cases should be tried by a Sessions Judge with a jury, composed of gentlemen thoroughly conversant with the vernacular language in which the alleged seditious language was used.

The amendment was carried.

The Hon. Pundit Bishumbher Nath moved that in clause 526, sub-clause (8), of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, the words "unless it is of opinion that the application is made for the purpose of delay or otherwise prejudicing the cause of justice" be omitted.

The amendment was put and declared to be lost. A division was asked and taken, with the result that ten voted for it and nine against it.

The amendment was accordingly carried.

The Hon. Mr. Chitnavis moved "that in the *Explanation* to clause 556 of the Bill as amended, the words 'or otherwise concerned therein in a public capacity' be omitted. He said: I beg to propose that the words 'or otherwise concerned therein in a public capacity' be omitted from the explanation to section 556." There is nothing to prevent a Magistrate who had acted as the President or responsible head of a Municipality from ordering the prosecution of a person and trying the person himself. Again, a Magistrate who had acted in a particular case in his executive capacity as head of the police, may safely try the case as a Judge a proceeding which cannot be too strongly condemned.

The amendment was put and lost.

The Hon. Mr. Stevens moved that for clause 557 of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, the following clause be substituted, namely:—"557. No pleader who practises in the Court of any Magistrate in a Presidency town or district shall sit as a Magistrate in such Court or in any Court within the jurisdiction of such Court."

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers said this was a matter for the Council to decide.

The Hon. Mr. La Touche stated that the amendment would be of practical benefit.

The Hon. Sir Griffith Evans said there were some attorneys of the High Court who had sat as Honorary Magistrates—one for about twenty years—and had done a great deal of work, and done it well. So far as their being attorneys of the High Court was concerned and their practising there, it might be inconsistent with their sitting as Magistrates in Presidency Court, but as a matter of fact these gentlemen did occasionally practice before the stipendiary Magistrate. These gentlemen consulted the Advocate-General some time ago, there being no law in the matter, and they got advice from him to the effect that they would be within the spirit of the rule if they abstained from ever appearing before any bench of Magistrates and appeared before the stipendiary Magistrate. This these gentlemen had done.

The Hon. Pundit Bishumbher Nath said:—Clause 557 as amended by the Select Committee, is, I submit, open to a practical objection. In the N.-W. Provinces and Oudh distinguished practising Vakils or Pleaders are generally appointed as Honorary Magistrates in "Districts," within the local limits of which they are respectively engaged in carrying on their work without any restraint or limitation. Such Legal Practitioners must now be prepared either to give up their practice or cease to aspire to the distinction of being selected as Honorary Magistrates. It is desirable, therefore, that the amendment moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Stevens should be adopted and carried. The clause as amended by the Select Committee and as I did point out to it, would also interfere with the free exercise of a patronage in the gift of the Local Government.

The Lieutenant-Governor remarked that local Governments and the Government of Bengal especially were very much indebted to the large number of gentlemen who had served as Honorary Magistrates here and in the mofussil. Though these gentlemen were persons who were practising in the criminal courts, yet in a few cases anonymous communications were received in which aspersions were cast on their character. It was, however, a sound principle that gentlemen should not shift between the Bench and the Bar. His Honor was well acquained with the cases Sir Griffith Evans had mentioned. These gentlemen had done a large amount of good work on the Bench, and he would be sorry to lose their services; but on the other hand, it had been pressed upon him from influencial quarters that, considerable scandal had been caused in Calcutta by gentlemen shifting about from the Bench to Bar.

The amendment was put and carried.

The next two amendments standing in the names of the Hon. Messrs. Bishumbher Nath and Sayani respectively were indentically worded, and the latter's was withdrawn in favour of the former's. It ran: "That in Schedule II to the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, column 8, opposite the entry relating to Section 124A, the words 'Chief Presidency Magistrate or District Magistrate' be omitted."

In moving the amendment the Hon. Pundit Bishumbher Nath said: It is highly desirable in the ends of justice that offences following under Section 124A, should be made triable by the Court of Sessions with the aid of a jury or Assessors. The alteration made in column VIII Schedule II, whereby such offences are made triable by District Magistrates as well, is open to objection on the grounds stated in my Note of Dissent.

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers opposed the motion. The section dealt with petty cases only, and persons convicted of such should be promptly dealt with by the nearest Magistrate.

The amendment was put and lost.

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers next moved that in Schedule II to the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, column 8, opposite the entry relating to Section 124A, the words "or Magistrate of the first-class specially empowered by the Local Government in that behalf" be added. He said that the Select Committee had conferred upon District Magistrates the power to exercise jurisdiction in cases arising out of Section 124A. That exercise was safeguarded by Section 196. It provides that no prosecution under Section 124A can be instituted without the sanction of the Local or Supreme Government. Now the person who would be responsible to inquire and report to Government and see to the prosecution would be the District Magistrate. He would have to interfere at an early stage. Therefore it was desirable that he should not first report on the case and afterwards try it himself. Hence the proposed admendment. There was no discussion on the motion which was carried.

The Hon Mr. Chalmers followed up the above amendment with the motion that in Schedule IV to the Bill as amended by the Select Committee, page 235, after clause No. (14) the following be added, namely: "(15) power to try cases under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code." He said this amendment was merely consequential on the previous one. It authorised the Government to say who shall try cases arising out of Section 124A.

The amendment was put and carried.

The Hon. Mr. Chalmers moved that the Bill as amended be passed.

Sir Henry Prinsep in the course of a long speech declared that it was considered in some quarters that he was responsible for the Bill. He took this opportunity of repudiating that idea. He merely collected materials and gave advice in the drafting.

His Excellency the Viceroy congratulated the Council on finishing this very long Bill, and added that in doing so, he would only say, with Sir Henry Prinsep and Mr. Chalmers, that much advantage would accrue to the public. On behalf of the members of Council and himself, His Excellency expressed his admiration of the marked ability which Sir Henry Prinsep had displayed in conducting the heavy task which had fallen upon him in conducting this Bill.

The motion that the Bill as amended be passed was put and carried.

The Council then adjourned till the 21st instant when the Financial Statement will be presented.

THE INDIAN PANIC LAW.

(Daily News).

THE Secretary of State for India gave a very curt and wholly inadequate reply to Sir William Wederburn's question in the House of Commons yesterday (17th Feb.) afternoon. The subject, a very important one, is the proposed change in the Indian law of sedition, which comes brfore the Council of the Viceroy to-day. Sir William asked whether thirty public bodies, including the Bar of Calcutta, which consists chiefly of Englishmen, had not protested against the Bill and whether the Government would postpone the measure until the House of Commons had an opportunity of expressing an opinion upon it. Lord George Hamilton briefly answered that he was not aware of the fact alleged; that he thought the opposition to the Bill came from a very small class, and that he could not interfere with the Government of India. Lord George is a thoroughgoing Tory who honestly believes in repression as the sovereign remedy for discontent. But how Lord Elgin, by training and conviction a Liberal, can have assented to the provisions of this Bill, we cannot imagine. There is no doubt whatever that the statements contained in Sir William Wedderburn's question are substantially accurate. Whether the public bodies which have protested be more or less than thirty, the protest has been influential, and gentlemen of wide legal experience have taken part in it. The Government of India are legislating in a panic, and legistation in a panic is almost always bad. They have allowed themselves to be frightened by the Vernacular Press, and even the ruling of Mr. Justice Strachey, that every editor of a newspaper is bound to regard the Executive with affection, does not satisfy their requirements. Tilak, who was convicted and imprisoned under the present law, would almost certainly have been acquitted in England. It was acknowledged by Mr. Justice Strachey himself that the articles in Tilak's paper could have had nothing to do with the murders at Poona, and there was no other act of violence with which to connect them. Yet the prisoner was found guilty by the English jurymen, and sent to gaol for eighteen months by an English Judge. One might have thought that this was enough. But it is not enough for the Viceroy or for Mr. Chalmers, the Legal Member of Council. His Bill puts the Indian Press under disabilities from which it has been entirely free since the repeal of Lord Lytton's Vernacular Press Act, and which are in some respects worse even than that odious statute. Mr. Chalmers is not content with making incitement to disloyalty a crime. Those who preach the duty or desirability of resisting the Government by force do so in all countries at their own risk, and are liable to prosecution. But "disaffection" is a dangerously loose word, and Mr. Chalmers proposes to make it looser still by removing the safeguard inserted by his predecessor, Sir James Stephen.

As the law at present stands in India, it is a crime punishable with penal servitude for life, to excite disaffection against the Government or enmity between different classes of her Majesty's subjects. But the official explanation of these words in the Penal Code declares disapproval of Government measures to be lawful if so expressed as to be compatible with obedience to lawful authority. This explanation Mr. Chalmers would repeal, substituting for it a proviso far more ambiguous, and in the general opinion of lawyers far less favourable to the accused. But there are more serious matters in the Bill than any mere change of definition, important as a change of definition in the criminal law may be. The Bill adds largely to the powers of the police. Thus, for instance, "the Local Government may direct that the provisions of this Code relating to arrests without warrant "shall apply to village policemen." Now, village policemen in India, commonly called Chaukidars, are not exactly the sort of persons to be entrusted with delicate duties involving a nice sense of discretion. They are illiterate, they are badly paid, and they are apt to take sides in village disputes. It appears that two High Courts in India—the High Court at Calcutta and the High Court at Allahabad—have pronounced opposite decisions on a grave point of criminal procedure. At Calcutta the Judges ruled that a prisoner was entitled to see the statements made against him to the police. The Judges at Allahabad held that he was not, and the Bill adopts the ruling of the Judges at Allahabad. The increased jurisdiction conferred upon Magistrates is also exciting much uneasiness and alarm. The Indian Association says that a new terror has been created "for those who take part in public affairs in the Mofussil." A subordinate magistrate may require sureties for good behaviour, and may keep the suspected person in gaol for three years unless in the meantime he procures them. It must be remembered that in India the same civilian often combines executive with judicial functions, so that a Magistrate may be at once prosecutor and judge. The smallest details have not escaped the keen scrutiny of Mr. Chalmers formerly County Court Judge of Birmingham. He actually seeks to provide by law that every witness for the Crown must be cross-examined immediately after his examination in chief. That this is a convenient rule nobody will deny. But every English lawyer who has practised in criminal court must have known many cases in which an exception was properly made in the interests of justice as well as of the prisoner by the presiding Judge.

The Bill seriously restricts the rights of natives. It provides that there shall be no appeal from the Mofussil Court to the High Court, which is a grave constitutional change. We doubt whether the British public realise that if this Bill passes, as it may pass to-day, editors of newspapers and other public writers in India may be convicted of sedition without a jury. Mr. Chalmers talks of re-drafting the Code so as to bring it into accordance with English law. It is not admitted that he has done so. But even if he has, the presence or absence of a jury makes all the difference in the world. Professor Sidgwick, who is certainly not a Radical, says in his "Elements of Politics" that "there is a special kind of criminal trial in which the jury system has been regarded with approval even by thinkers who were fully alive to its defects as an instrument for the ordinary administration of justice, viz.—trials for political offences, i.e., for acts whether otherwise criminal or not of which the alleged design is to overthrow or weaken the authority of the existing Government with a view to the possible substitution of some other government." Yet this is just the class of cases in which the Government of India propose in the plenitude of their wisdom to abrogate trial by jury. When Sir Charles Elliott was Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, he attempted to interfere with the claims of accused persons to juries in ordinary prosecutions. But Lord Kimberley, who was certainly not prone to needless intervention, put his foot down and stopped the thing at once. There is no use in applying to Lord George Hamilton, who probably regrets that the measure is not still more repressive. In this country, whose example Mr. Chalmers professes to follow, political offences must come before a Court independent of the Government, and a jury independent of the Court. Under Mr. Chalmers's Bill there need be no jury at all, and the Judge may be an officer of the Government. The Bill practically enables a Magistrate to punish the author or publisher of any article he does not like. Nominally it is a Bill for amending criminal procedure. Practically it is a Bill for gagging the Press. Such a policy appears to us most unwise, most ill timed, and dangerous in the highest degree to the stability of British rule. India has recently been visited by terrible calamites, and impoverished by a wanton war. The Secretary of State has entirely failed to curb the military party, whose rashness he now himself perceives. It will not be long before he repents of having permitted this panic legislation to be hurried without proper criticism through the Council of the Governor-General.

THE MAD MULLAH.

THE "Mad Mullah" in Swat has been so much before the public during the last six months that any details regarding his history and personality are of interest. When the Mad Fakir appeared at Landaki, in Swat, Major Dean, was somewhat puzzled to know who he was or whence he came, but his story is told in a letter from the Political Officer in the Khyber dated August 2nd, 1897. "The Swat Fakir, known as 'Mad Mullah,' is a native of Boner. In the late Umbeyla campaign, in which the Akhund of Swat took prominent part, the said Fakir, with his brother Zardad, *alias* 'Pahlwan,' had also joined. 'Pahlwan' met his death in the fighting, but the Fakir escaped, and wandered from place to place. Afterwards he had a trip to Baghdad *via* Bombay, whence, after a time, he proceeded to Mazar-i-Sharif in Turkistan. After passing some time there, he appeared at Kabul some three years ago, and interviewed His Highness the Amir, expressing himself as a *ghazi*. At Kabul he was known as Diwana Baba. His Highness, thinking him mad, dismissed him from Kabul with a charity of a few rupees. Thence he came to Mullah Najm-ud-din, Akhundzada of Adda, and, after passing some days with him, went to Boner and became custodian of the shrine of Pir Baba. He is an old man, can read and write, and is known in Boner under the name of Sartor Fakir, the bareheaded Fakir." Reports of his presence in Swat first reached Major Deane on the 18th July, and between that date and the 26th, when the attack on the Malakand took place, he devoted himself to working on the credulity and superstition of the tribesmen: professing that one small pot of rice which he had with him was sufficient to feed multitudes, that the heavenly hosts were with him, and that he had no need of human assistance, declaring also that his mission was to turn the British off the Malakand and out of Peshawar, as our rule of 60 years was up there; and finally claiming to have visited all the deceased Fakirs, who told him that the mouths of the British guns and rifles would be closed, that our bullets would be turned to water, and that every stone he threw into the Swat river would have the effect of a gun. Even the Nawab of Dir was inclined to believe that the Fakir could render himself invisible if he chose, as he had a misgiving that "by not joining against us he would risk being visited by the invisible Fakir and killed." The only force he had with him when he actually set out early on the morning of the 26th consisted of another Mullah and some boys of 13 or 14 years of age, one of whom he crowned with a *puggri*, stating that he was the heir to the throne of Delhi. This apparent confidence in his own miraculous power had the desired effect, the people were convinced that he had arisen as a *buzurg*, and before he reached Malakand his party was 1,000 strong. Major Deane notes that the leading companion of the Fakir killed at the Malakand was generally believed to have come from India.—*Pioneer.*

SIR ANTONY MACDONNELL AND THE SEDITION BILL.

OUR enterprising contemporary of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has rendered a valuable public service and has set many uneasy speculations at rest by publishing the letter of Sir Antony MacDonnell to the Government of India on the Sedition Bill. There can no longer be any doubt that somebody played an ill-conditioned hoax upon *Truth*, and this letter furnishes us with the reason. The Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces is not a favourite of the Anglo-Indian community, and his letter on the Sedition Bill seems to have given great offence, and this jest was the retort. Sir Antony MacDonnell supports the Bill, but there is nothing of the venom and bitterness of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's letter. He objected to the phrase 'all feelings of ill-will' and it was eliminated at his suggestion. The illustraiton that Sir Antony MacDonnell selected of ill-will was a characteristic one, and the officials under him must have winced as they read it. "For example at the time of the so-called Ilbert Bill controversy, the hostile criticisms of a section of the Press and of the public did produce among certain classes of the community a marked degree of dissatisfaction or disapprobation, which was not distinguishable from ill-will against the Government of India of that time. . . . If, therefore, all kinds of ill-will are classed as disaffection, which is punishable under this Section, there is, it might be argued, a danger that some useful and legitimate criticism may be suppressed." In the above the section of the public and the Press referred to is not Indian. Indian papers and speakers have repeatedly recalled the incidents connected with the Ilbert Bill, but no Lieutenant-Governor has done so, and Sir Antony MacDonnell's humorous reference to the Anglo-Indian Press and public during the memorable days of the Ilbert Bill controversy must have made the average Anglo-Indian wild, and he must have derived a grim satisfaction in informing *Truth* that the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces was suggesting and fomenting the Sedition Bill.—*Tribune.*

THE Palutra Fair has been abandoned by the Marwar Durbar to avoid the risk of plague.

THE following notification has been published in the Fort St. George Gazette:—His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the designation of "the Cumbum Division" in the Kurnool district be altered to "Murkapur Division.'

THE motion against the order of the City Magistrate of Patna convicting Ramprashad *alias* Rishiji, a correspondent of the Hindi *Bangabasi* for defamation, was heard by the Sessions Judge of Patna on Saturday last. A recommendation for setting aside the order will be made to the HighCourt.—*Behar Herald.*

THE Hon'ble Sir Henry Bliss has been asked to take charge of the Madras City Police Act Amendment Bill which has undergone the requisite revision and corrections by the Hon'ble the Acting Advocate-General. The publication of the Bill in the *Fort St. George Gazette* has also been directed.

NEWS from Yatung states that the snow fall towards Tibet has been very heavy of late. The Jalap Pass has been blocked to traffic for over a month owing to heavy drifts. The mean fall in that direction has been 44 inches, but the weather is now improving. Strong westerly breezes prevail.

THE annual Burhua Mangal or River Carnival, peculiar to Benares, begins this night and promises this year to be on a grand scale. Thousands of craft of all descriptions are collecting from all the neighbouring riparian towns and villages. Wednesday will be the gala night of the fair when His Highness the Maharaja of Benares entertains the station on his pinnace.

THE Settlement Officer of Sewan has issued an order that no pleaders will be permitted to appear before any attesting officers. The local bar have applied for a certified copy of this order.

DANGER frequently threatens us from unlooked for quarters. It is now shrewdly suspected that danger of an infection similar to that of the plague might lurk among the batches of horses landed in Madras from Australia by Messrs. Kreroose and Madden and other Australian horse-dealers, and the Government of India has directed the Madras Government to beware. The Bovine Tick fever is now said to be such a terrible cattle plague just now prevailing in a certain tract in Queensland that the Colonial authorities do not allow stock from within it to cross its border, and the Government of India also observe in their despatch to the local Government on the subject that "early measures will be taken to obtain the necessary legislative authority to prohibit or control the importation of live stock from infected areas." Pending the promised legislation from the Government of India, the Government of Madras have, under the advice of the Board of Revenue, directed the selection of a suitable site for a segregation camp wherein some 150 horses imported from suspected tracts could be given shelter. The site will be selected by the Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department, in communication with the President of the Municipality.—*Hindu.*

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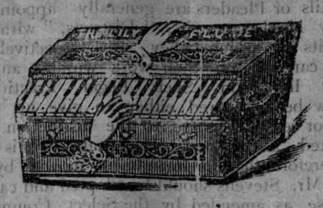

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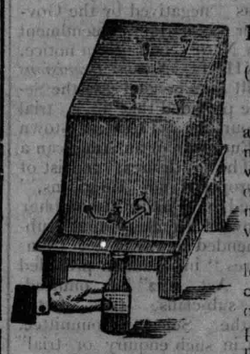

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