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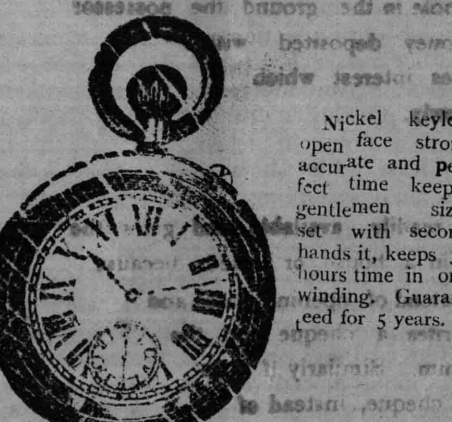
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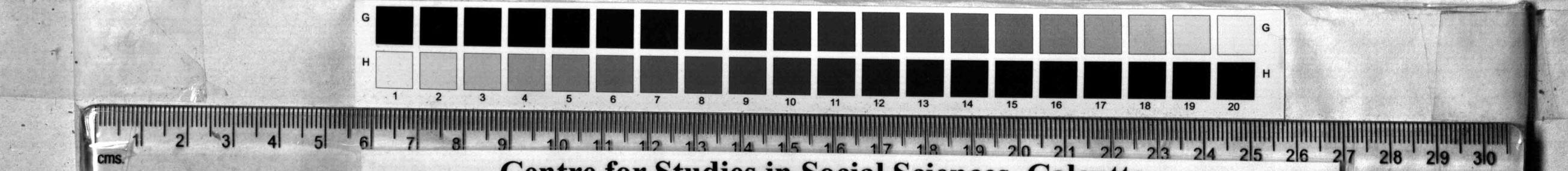
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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, MARCH 20, 1898.

BABU ANANDA MOHUN BOSE
IN ENGLAND.

THERE is no patriotism in India, our friends in England say mournfully. Alas! it is too true that there is a great dearth of patriotism in India. Yet we can make an exception in favour of Babu Ananda Mohun Bose who is doing just now what he can for his country. He is so modest and reticent that but for the services of some of his friends we could not have known much of what he is doing in that country. His doings at Durham, an account of which was published in this paper, were taken from a private letter that he had written to a near relation. In another private letter to a friend, received by the last mail, Babu Ananda Mohun Bose says:—

"My work is growing, and I do not know what I shall do. I need hardly say it is costing me money to stay here and also to meet my travelling and other expenses. The expenses for the meetings themselves are a heavy item; they are, however, I am glad to say, in every case, being borne by those inviting me. During the eight days from the 16th to the 23rd, I have addressed five public meetings, at Cambridge, in Wiltshire, in Wisbech, and in London, travelling in rather bitterly cold weather, and in one case in a snow-fall. I am afraid, I am overtaxing my strength and impeding my health; but when I call to mind all the troubles you all are in the midst of in India, and all the deepening gloom resting on our dear country, I cannot find the heart to refuse invitations, so pressing, and with such kindness addressed to me from many quarters."

His stay and work in England are, indeed, a costly affair to Babu Ananda Mohun. He has left behind him a most lucrative practice and gone to England. He is there working hard, more than his health will permit, and, though not a wealthy man, spending money freely for the accomplishment of his purpose. And what is this purpose? It is, because the "deepening gloom resting on our dear country" so pains him that "he has not the heart to refuse invitations," by which he can be of some service to his mother-land. This being the case, every one must admit that he deserves well of his Maker and fellow-beings.

He has now to attend meetings wherever he is invited. He cannot organize meetings of his own; he cannot select his own centres. And why? Because the expense for a meeting is a heavy item, and he has not the means. The Cambridge papers show that Babu Ananda Mohun had the privilege of attending a meeting at Cambridge and doing splendid service to his country. Says the *Cambridge Independent Press* of February 18th:—

Under the auspices of the Liberal Association, a well-attended meeting took place at the Cambridge Liberal Club on Wednesday evening, when the chairman was Mr. A. I. Tillyard, M.A., and the principal speaker, Mr. A.M. Bose, M.A.

The Cambridge papers, however, only give a meagre account of the proceedings that enthralled the members on that occasion. Luckily, a friend who was present there, gives an account of the meeting, which is exceedingly interesting. Here it is:—

The Cambridge meeting of the 16th instant may be said, in one sense, to have been the most interesting of the five in which Mr. Bose had to address, its success having been many times enhanced by the unexpected but vehement opposition of a retired Anglo-Indian official. This official was Mr. Towers whom you may remember as a Sessions Judge in Bengal, and who, to his pension from India, adds another income, derived from the India Council, as Professor of Bengali to the passed Indian Civil Service students at Cambridge. It was a public meeting, convened by the Cambridge Liberal Association. The meeting was not for discussion, but only to hear an address from Mr. Bose; but when Mr. Towers got up and the Chairman referred him to Mr. Bose who said he would be most glad to have the Anglo-Indian and official side placed before the meeting, Mr. Towers rose to combat, one by one, the propositions laid down by Mr. Bose. This done, he sat. Immediately Mr. Bose sprang to his feet for a reply. Mr. Bose completely annihilated every statement of his opponent, then and there, and produced authority after authority in support of his case. Never was a rout more complete and never was the enthusiasm of an audience greater. After this, Mr. Bose challenged Mr. Towers to a further discussion; but the latter was so demoralised by the defeat, that he declined. Nay, before Mr. Bose had done with him and finished his reply, Mr. Towers had beat a hasty and precipitate retreat, to the infinite enjoyment of the meeting.

The *Cambridge Daily News*, in reference to the discussion noticed above, observes:— He answered all the points attacked by Major Towers with great eloquence, and, at the close, was cheered to the echo, Major Towers having left the room in the middle of Mr. Bose's defence.

The *Cambridge Independent*, which gave a more detailed account of the meeting, observes that when Mr. Towers gave it as his deliberate opinion that "the only Government possible in India was that of an enlightened despotism, there was a laugh-

In reference to the reply of Mr. Bose, the same paper says:— Mr. Bose said he would like to know what authority Major Towers had to speak for the Liberal party, reminding him that in 1880 Mr. Gladstone entirely reversed the Forward policy of the Tories. (Applause.) The speaker then gave lengthy proofs of his statements and extracts from the latest authorities to bear out his contentions as to the internal administration of India—a forcible reply, that was loudly applauded. On Lord Selborne's authority, he said, there was not the slightest justification for any one of the 109 Superior Judgeships being held by Englishmen. There were numbers of cases in which Magistrates had acted as Judge and prosecutor. With regard to education, he also pointed out that Indians had to come to England to pass examinations to qualify for official positions, and this could be done as well in India. (Applause.)

And in another place, the same paper remarks:— The meeting addressed by Mr. A. M. Bose at the Liberal Club on Wednesday, was rendered doubly interesting by the presence of an intelligent and well-informed Opposition. Mr. Towers, an Ex-District Judge from India, criticised Mr. Bose's address. In one matter of detail he showed that his remarks might be misunderstood; but Mr. Bose, in his masterly reply, fairly rolled on his opponent and squeezed him out flat. I trust, the result of the meeting will be a greatly-increased interest in Indian affairs which demand so careful a watch kept on them just now. Lord George Hamilton is as fit to be Secretary of State for India as Mr. Chaplin is to be President of the Local Government Board.

One who was present at the meeting and occupies a leading position, thus wrote to Mr. Bose:—

May I say with what thrilling interest I heard you on Wednesday evening, and how ashamed I feel of the want of magnanimity on the part of England towards India.

Here is another letter which a gentleman of great local influence, who had not been able to attend the meeting, addressed to Mr. Bose on the subject:—

Allow me to close with hearty congratulations on your meeting at the Liberal Club. So many people told me on Saturday of the way in which you annihilated your opponent that I felt almost sorry for him, more sorry for myself to have been debarred by an imperative engagement from enjoying his discomfiture.

Mr. Bhowmuggree is in Parliament; he is not only lost to us, but he is there to do us unmitigated mischief. How immensely might India have benefited if such men as Mr. Ananda Mohun Bose, Mr. Dadabhai Naraoji and Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee could be returned to Parliament! In the S.-E. Durham election, it will be remembered, the Liberal candidate utilized the help of Babu Ananda Mohun Bose and the Conservative candidate that of Mr. Bhowmuggree. But the difference between the worth of the two Indians was so marked that the *Times*, in spite of its hatred of the Bengalee Babu and love for Mr. Bhowmuggree, gave seven lines as an abstract of the speech of Babu Ananda Mohun, while it gave only a line and half to the latter!

THE MUNICIPAL BILL.

THE long-expected Calcutta Municipal Bill is now before the public. The following provisions are made for the future constitution of the Corporation. As at present, it shall consist of an official Chairman and seventy-five Commissioners, sixty of whom shall be elected as follows, namely, (a) fifty at ward elections; (b) four by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; (c) four by the Calcutta Trades Association; (d) and two by the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta. The remaining fifteen Commissioners shall be appointed by the Local Government.

There shall be a General Committee consisting of twelve ordinary members and the Chairman, who shall be the President of the Committee. These twelve members shall be Commissioners and shall be elected and appointed as follows:—

- (a) Four shall be elected by the Commissioners elected at ward elections, voting by the electoral divisions shown in column I of Schedule II, so that the Commissioners elected for each group of wards, shown in column 2 of that Schedule, as comprised in a division, shall elect by an absolute majority one member of the General Committee;
- (b) Two shall be elected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce;
- (c) One shall be elected, by the Calcutta Trades Association;
- (d) One shall be elected, by the Commissioners for the Port of Calcutta; and
- (e) Four shall be appointed by the Local Government.

As all the real power will be centred in the hands of these twelve Commissioners, with an official Chairman, and as the general body of the Commissioners will have no control over their doings, one can easily understand how the interests of the vast majority of the rate-payers will be protected; for, out of the thirteen of fourteen members, (the Chairman having two votes), only four will represent the elected Commissioners.

The condition of the elected Commissioners, as they are now, is pitiful enough. The executive officers of the Corporation are practically the masters, and the Commissioners their servants. The Commissioners have to obey the mandates of their subordinates; and if they do not, they run an imminent risk of getting a lecture from the Government and a threat of annihilation.

They are the elected representatives of the people, who do their work from a sense of pure public spirit. But the head of the Government is not on their side, nor are the members of the Anglo-Indian community. And do you know what are the Commissioners for? It is to keep the European community in comfort and luxury at the

They, the Europeans, must have more water, more gas, wider and cleaner streets, and better conservancy,—all at the cost of the Indian tax-payers. In short, the Commissioners exist not to do duty to their constituents, but to pander to the convenience of the European community.

But Sir Alexander Mackenzie is not yet satisfied. He would reduce them to *dharmadharas* or basket-holders, as the phrase goes; that is, mere cyphers. In days gone by, the Europeans had every thing in their own way. They had the entire resources of the Municipality at their absolute disposal. The Municipal authorities taxed the Indians, and devoted the main portion of their resources to the benefit of the Europeans. Then there was harmony, for, though the Indians grumbled, who cared for their complaints? But now that the people have got their representatives on the Municipal Board, they are only a discordant element in the happy arrangement which made Calcutta a disgrace as a sanitary town, a disgrace which the devoted Commissioners are doing their best to remove with the limited means at their disposal. Yes, limited means, for the Commissioners have first to look to the comforts, nay, to the luxury, of the Europeans. This done, they have to do their duty to the rate-payers.

When the representatives came to be entrusted with some control over the Municipality, they had to see that some measure of justice was done to the general body of rate-payers. But this was a departure, according to the executive, who, under the previous arrangement, had been trained to live only for the Europeans. Hence the unpopularity of the elected Commissioners, hence the talk that the present Corporation has no constitution, and hence the great "reform" which has been sprung upon the citizens of Calcutta.

When the Bill is published, it will, of course, become law in due course. But why this extraordinary hurry? Imagine the nature of the haste: The Bill was published only on Wednesday last. It is not a small measure like the Sedition Bill. It consists of 668 sections and 22 schedules, and occupies 256 pages of the *Calcutta Gazette*. Even the most diligent student cannot possibly go through and study all the sections in less than a month at least. In short, the public knows absolutely nothing about the measure, and yet all rules of business are going to be suspended to-day, and the Bill formally introduced into the Bengal Council! This is a feat which, we believe, was never before performed by any local Legislature in India. Pray, where is the necessity for this unique procedure? Is the Empire in danger? We hope, the mover of the Bill will be pleased to explain the grounds which have led the Government to adopt this unprecedented step. The plea of plague will not do. First, there is no plague in the city; and secondly, if it comes, surely the Bombay constitution which has proved such a stupendous failure and which is going to be introduced into Calcutta, is not competent to cope with it.

The citizens of Calcutta have, however, a duty to perform at this juncture. They have been enjoying some valuable privileges since the last quarter of a century. They have done nothing to deserve the withdrawal of these privileges. Of course, when the Bill has been introduced, it is almost as good as passed. But yet they must make it clear by public protest, that they do not deserve this unjust treatment at the hands of the authorities. On the other hand, what is wanted is a policy of liberality and not of repression; and a greater trust in the Indian element in the Corporation. In short, let them hold meetings in every ward and submit representations to the Government, pointing out that it will not be possible for really representative men of the town to serve as Commissioners, if their chief business be to tax their own people for the benefit of a handful of Europeans and carry out the mandates of the executive.

LORD Sandhurst is now a completely changed man. His Excellency has thoroughly surrendered himself in the hands of the representatives of the people, and he appeals to them to control the excited masses. We have not the slightest doubt that the leaders will do all that is possible under the circumstances; but, first of all, the question ought to be settled whether these plague regulations are really of any use or not. When an experienced and respected expert like Dr. Blaney openly declares that they are of doubtful benefit, is it not proper that a sifting enquiry should be held into the subject and the utility of the measures established beyond all doubt? Nobody can deny the fact that the plague regulations have been enforced with the greatest rigour possible in Bombay without any appreciable advantage. Why then resort to this method again? As for Lord Sandhurst, he is a high-minded Englishman. It is an open secret that he was led to go against Mr. Tilak against his will. We doubt not, this change of attitude on his part will render him popular with his people. We only wish, the change had come over his Excellency before much mischief had been done. But then, perhaps, Lord Sandhurst was quite helpless in the matter.

In presenting the Report of the Select Committee on the Post Office Bill, Sir James Westland made the following state-

A large amount of violent language has been used against section 20 under an utter misapprehension of the sort of seditious and scurrilous matter, the sending of which it was intended to interdict by post. Some person, for instance, desiring to vent his spite on a Native Chief, instead of addressing him by his proper designation, might address him as the Robber Chief, and a lady might be addressed in a manner which may imply disgraceful conduct to her. It was apparent that that sort of thing should not be allowed—and, in fact, was not allowed by the other Post Offices of the world.

The official members in the Viceregal Council, of course, never use "violent language." It is the representatives of the people alone who deal in abuse—is it not? As usual, Sir James Westland only makes an assertion, without any argument to support it. What the public wanted to know was,—why do you confer this arbitrary power upon the Post Office? The Finance Member has no answer to it. A Postal Officer has simply to carry a letter or a newspaper to its destination; he has no business to act the part of a moral preceptor or a political censor. If a Native Prince is addressed as a robber, or a lady is sought to be insulted by being addressed in an improper way, he or she has his or her remedy in the law.

But it is not section 20 so much as section 26, which has created the greatest alarm possible. Sir James Westland has not, however, got one word to say with regard to the dangerous innovation introduced by this section. Here is the section:—

26. (1) On the occurrence of any public emergency, or in the interest of the public safety or tranquillity, the Governor-General in Council, or a Local Government, or any officer specially authorized in this behalf by the Governor-General in Council, may, by order in writing, direct that any postal article or class or description of postal articles in course of transmission by post, shall be intercepted or detained, or shall be delivered to the Government or to an officer thereof mentioned in the order, to be disposed of in such manner as the Governor-General in Council may direct.

(2) If any doubt arises as to the existence of a public emergency, or as to whether any act done under sub-section (1) was in the interest of the public safety or tranquillity, a certificate, signed by a Secretary to the Government of India or to the Local Government, shall be conclusive proof on the point.

There is no doubt of it that a genius presides over the Viceregal Council. His active brain works,—and that always in the wrong direction! Under section 124A of the Penal Code, there is at least some sort of trial allowed; but, under the provision of section 26 of the Post Office Act, any disagreeable newspaper may be suppressed by an officer of Government without assigning any cause. The power will be exercised "on the occurrence of any public emergency or in the interest of the public safety or tranquillity, and a Secretary to the local Government will decide, in case of doubt, whether or not a public emergency exists." Where will be the safety of the newspapers under these circumstances? In these days of panics, any officer may raise the cry of public interest in danger, and thus the fate of the press may be sealed. Any issue of any newspaper may thus be stopped with impunity at the sweet will of a Postal officer. The wholesale circulation of the Radical papers in England may thus be put a stop to in this country. Indeed, a particular issue of *Justice*, containing an article of Mr. Hyndman, was arbitrarily proscribed, even before the introduction of the present Bill. The beauty of the arrangement is that the newspaper concerned may be suppressed without its ever coming to know the nature of the offence for which it was punished.

THE conviction of M. Zola and the sentence of one year's imprisonment passed on him, have evoked the sympathy of all people outside France. It must, however, be remembered that he was tried by his own countrymen; and if he has been wrongly punished, he has very little to complain of. Most likely he has been sacrificed to please the French Army; but are not sometimes a whole country devastated and its inhabitants slaughtered by a more powerful nation to satisfy the prejudices of a military clique? It is, however, not our object to defend or protest against the trial of M. Zola. What has struck us as curious, is the difference of treatment accorded to political offenders in India and in Europe generally. The other day, we noticed that the man, who had attempted to murder the Czar, was sentenced to imprisonment for one year and a half,—the same punishment which was meted out to Mr. Tilak. Yet, Mr. Tilak did not make an attempt upon the life of the Governor-General of India, or the Governor of Bombay, or Mr. Rand. On the other hand, he did good service as a legislator, an educationist, a scholar, and a helper of the authorities appointed to enforce plague regulations. In Germany, the journalist who caricatured the imperious and over-sensitive Emperor and made him an object of laughter all over Europe, was sentenced to only three months' imprisonment. Judging from the cheers, nay, the yells which followed from all parts of the Court, it would seem that M. Zola, somehow or other, gave unpardonable offence to the bulk of the people in France. Yet the punishment inflicted upon him, is neither degrading nor inhuman in its nature. In England, he would have been treated as a first-class misdemeanant; but in the

much less severity. He will have his suite of rooms and access to books and journals; in short, he will have complete freedom for literary work. Mr. Tilak was, however, made to live with thieves and robbers, and pick oakum like the worst of criminals. He was made to swallow food which was an abomination to him. And the result is that he has thoroughly broken down in health. Lord George Hamilton was pleased to declare in the House of Commons that Mr. Tilak was doing very well; but, our latest information is that he has become so very weak since his incarceration that while walking he fainted away, fell down and got one of his wrists dislocated. He is now in hospital.

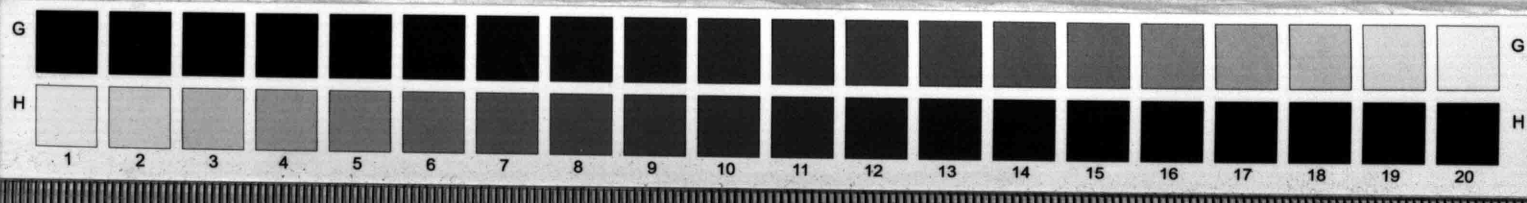
It is interesting to record, says the *Chronicle*, that in 1896 M. Zola, under an assumed name, paid a visit to a somewhat famous clairvoyante, and published in the *Figaro* a three-column account of what took place. He was informed that a terrible scandal would take place in two years time in which he would be involved, and in the end he would no longer be able to remain in France. A Jew, it was further foretold, would be mixed up in this affair, the effects of which would be very lasting.

"THE Indian Panic Law" is the heading of a remarkable article on the repressive measures in India in the *London Daily News*, the most important paper in England next to the *Times*, and the accredited organ of the Liberal party. It was reproduced in our issue of Tuesday last, and should be carefully read by those who were in a hurry to gag the press in India. Be it noted that the *London Daily News* holds no brief for the Hindus, but it represents the views of Englishmen who are intellectually at least the peers of their opponents, and, who, in number, exceed those who support the Government. The *London Daily News* apprehends positive danger from the enactment of this seditious measure, for, it says that "the measure is dangerous in the highest degree to the stability of British rule." The paper does not speak on behalf of the Indians, but of British rule in India. It considers that the measure is so dangerous that it threatens the stability of the Empire.

There are remarks here and there in the article, which show that the great London journal has thoroughly mastered the subject, for, it says, referring to the Criminal Procedure Code Bill, that "nominally it is a Bill for amending the Criminal Procedure Code, but practically it is a Bill for gagging the press." Again, the paper remarks that it is but natural that Lord George Hamilton, a thorough-going Tory, who believes in repression as a sovereign remedy for discontent, should court such measures; but "how Lord Elgin, by training and conviction a Liberal, can have assented to the provisions of the Bill, we cannot imagine." Lord Elgin himself, however, furnishes a reply to the question of the *Daily News*. His Lordship frankly confessed that he had no chief hand in the administration of affairs; he is here to carry out the mandates of the Secretary of State. That Lord Elgin has no real power, would appear from a communication to His Lordship from the Secretary of State, published in the *Blue Book*. Lord Elgin had agreed to the enhancement of the salt duty without the previous sanction of the Secretary of State, for which he was severely rebuked by Lord George Hamilton. It would thus appear that, under Lord George Hamilton, the Viceroy is only a nominal ruler of the Empire. Practically, he is nobody.

But just see how India suffers from a combination of all these circumstances. Lord George Hamilton, as a Tory of Tories, proposes a measure, which is opposed to Liberal principles. The Viceroy, though a Liberal, has to accept it, for, he has to obey mandates. Mr. Roberts, a Liberal, condemns the measure in Parliament. But the Front Opposition Bench, occupied by Sir Henry Fowler and Co., find themselves in a delicate position. If they condemn the measure with Mr. Roberts, they condemn Lord Elgin, a brother Liberal, though Lord Elgin had done himself nothing but carried out a mandate of his Tory master. So the members, occupying the Front Opposition Bench, do not vote at all with Mr. Roberts! Heaven save India from a Liberal Viceroy under a Tory Ministry.

THE last Sedition Resolution of the Bombay Government shows that in spite of the new provisions in the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and the Post Office Act to drive sedition from this country, the authorities have not yet secured their peace of mind, so they are engaged in inventing a new method to kill the monster outright. The Head Master of an aided school in Ahmednuggur made a speech at the anniversary of Sivaji in May last and it was published in a paper called the *Sudarshan*. Of course, nobody except the few friends of the speaker or the readers of the *Sudarshan* knew anything about the speech; and those who had heard or read it, no doubt forgot it immediately after its deliverance or publication. Then, if sedition was really preached in Ahmednuggur, it did not bring down the Empire or create a Damodar Chapekar. There was thus no necessity



ances, specially as Mr. Tilak has already paid sufficient penalty for a similar offence. The authorities, however, could not ignore the speech, though it was one year old and its existence utterly unknown to the public for, did it not conclude with a significant reference to Rama, who single-handedly destroyed the Rakshasas and conquered Ravana with the aid of monkeys only?

The Indian authorities, it would seem, can bear anything but not Rama, Ravana and Rakshasas. The *Bangabasi* was prosecuted for sedition, because it dealt with Rama, Ravana and Rakshasas. The articles for which Mr. Tilak was convicted, also contained an allusion to the same terrible beings. And now we find that grave objection is taken with regard to the speech of the Ahmednagar schoolmaster for the same reasons. The vernacular papers should take warning. If they want to save themselves from being hauled up under the Sedition Law, they should always avoid Rama, Ravana and Rakshasas. Indeed, the best course for them is to forget altogether the "Lanka Kanda of Ramayana" in which the doings of Rama, Ravana and Rakshasas are described. The Government's resolution, alluded to above, ends with these significant words:—

Government cannot allow the occasion to pass without a public expression of the principle that the instruction of youth should be wholly dissociated from politics—a principle which involves as a consequence that teachers and professors should not take a part in political agitation. The observance of this rule must be insisted on, not only in the case of educational institutions under the direct control of Government, but in the case of all institutions which receive aid from the public funds.

As no history can be dissociated from politics, so, we believe, it is the intention of the Government to carry out the excellent suggestion of the *Times*, namely, the prohibition of the study of history in all Indian educational institutions. The Resolution insists that even the teachers and proprietors of aided schools should be compelled to abjure politics. But there are numerous private educational institutions in the country which do not receive any assistance from Government. How to prevent the teachers and professors of these schools and colleges from taking part in politics? We think, this can be done very effectively by a fiat to the effect that no school or college will be affiliated to any University unless its proprietors, professors and teachers give an undertaking to the effect that they will not dabble in politics. By resorting to this method, the Government will complete their scheme of killing sedition in this country.

On the motion of Major Jameson, on the 23 July 1897, a Parliamentary Return, containing the number of British Residents and Agents in India as well as British Officers lent to the Native States in capacities corresponding to that of the Head of a Department, in British Service, and the salaries paid to them each, was published by the House of Commons on 10th February last. It appears that there are nine Residents, seventeen Political Agents, three Political Superintendents and one Agent to the Governor-General attached to the different States in India. The Resident at Indore, who is also Agent to the Governor-General in India, gets Rs. 4,000 per month. The salaries of the Residents at Hyderabad and in Mysore are also the same, that is, Rs. 4,000 per mensem. The pay of the Travancore Resident is Rs. 2,800. The Resident in Kashmir as well as Agent to the Governor-General at Baroda and the Political Agent in Kathiawar draws Rs. 2,500 each. The Residents at Cochin, Jaipur, in the Western States of Rajputana, and in Mewar are paid, respectively, Rs. 2,250, 2,000, 2,000 and 2,000. As regards the Political Agent, two of them, namely, those in Bikaner and in the Eastern States of Rajputana, get Rs. 2,000 each. The rest, namely, Political Agents in Alwar, in Bughelkhand, in Bhopal, in Bhopawar, in Bundelkhand, in Harauti and Tonk, in Jhalawar, at Kalat, in Kotah, in Kohapore and the Southern Maharatta country, in Cutch, in the Mahikantha, in Sikim, and in Manipore are paid, respectively, Rs. 1,200, 1,500, 1,200, 1,200, 1,200, 1,400, 1,500, 500, 1,500, 1,800, 1,400, 1,400, 1,000, and 1,833 per mensem. The monthly salaries of the three Political Superintendents in Sawantwar, in Palanpur, and in Southern Shan States are respectively Rs. 1,200, 1,500, and Rs. 2,000.

Besides the above, many Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, and Collectors under Local Governments and Administrations serve, in addition to their regular duties, as *ex-officio* Political Agents for Native States. They have not been included in the list.

The Return does not state whether the almost sixty thousand Rupees, expended every month for the maintenance of the princely-paid Residents and Political Agents, are contributed by the Native States or the tax-ridden people of British India.

Three Officers whose services were "lent" to Native States, number twenty-five, and their salaries range from Rs. 2,500 to 700 per month. We need hardly say that many of them were "thrust" and not put for, with the exception of a few, these States are managed by the British Government. The 25 Officers consume a sum of nearly forty thousand rupees per month of the Native States. The

amount would have swelled to still higher figures, if the Return had included other British Officers who hold minor appointments in the States. And what are the posts held by these 25 British Officers? One is Director of Land Records in Gwalior, pay Rs. 2,500 per month. Another is Inspector-General of Education in the same State, pay Rs. 1,800. The Engineer-in-Chief of the Ujjain-Bhopal Railway (pay Rs. 1,600), and the Engineer-in-Chief of the Guna-Bara Railway, (pay Rs. 1,000) are also paid by Gwalior. The Inspector-General of Revenue and Settlement Commissioner in Hyderabad, the Comptroller General in Hyderabad, the Inspector General of Police in Hyderabad, the Engineer-in-Chief of the Hyderabad Godavari Valley Railway, the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in Hyderabad are all British officers, who are paid Rs. 2,000, Rs. 2,000, Rs. 1,700, Rs. 2,000, and Rs. 1,500 respectively. The other State where these officers have been thrust in large numbers is Kashmir. There, they hold the posts of the Settlement Officer, the State Engineer, the Conservator of Forests, the Military Secretary to the Kashmir Durbar and the Superintending Surgeon, and draw Rs. 1,300, 1,100, 1,100, 1,200 and 1,450 per mensem respectively. The Settlement Commissioner for Alwar and Bhurtpore, pay Rs. 2,000, the Manager of the Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway, pay Rs. 1,350, the Officers in charge of the Public Works Department in Kotah, in Bharatpur, and in Alwar, pay Rs. 1,000, 700, and 1,000 respectively, are all British. The other British Officers are the Director of Archaeological Researches in Mysore, pay Rs. 1,500, Senior Surgeon in Mysore, pay Rs. 1,700, Officer in charge of the Horse-Breeding establishment of the Bhowmuggar State, pay Rs. 1,500, Superintendent of Surveys in Kathiawar, pay Rs. 1,000, President of the Rajasthan Court in Kathiawar, pay Rs. 1,800, and the Superintendent of Surveys under the Rajasthan Court in Kathiawar, pay Rs. 1,000.

All the high, higher and highest appointments in British India are in the possession of British Officers, and we now find that at least twenty-five big posts in the Native States are also occupied by them. Where are the natives of the soil to go to, pray? It goes without saying that most of the appointments made over to British Officers in Native States might have been held with credit by the educated men of India. They talk of increasing discontent among the people of this country. But how can they remain contented if they are given no opportunity to utilize and develop their talents and if they are treated as aliens in their own country?

The riots and strike in Bombay have effected a wonderful change in the *Times of India* and the *Pioneer*. Both these papers were out and out supporters of the enforcement of the plague regulations in this country. The *Bombay paper* now curses the folly of these regulations, writes wildly, and complains bitterly in these terms:—

"We are paying dearly for our convictions as to the duty of a civilised administration in the presence of a destroying pestilence amongst a population who apparently prefer to be destroyed. If the conditions under which Bombay has been trying to live land-earn its living during the past two or three days do not quickly abate we shall think that we are paying much too dearly and shall ask whether it would not be well to be satisfied with smaller results at a greatly reduced price. Again: 'To-day for the first time in his memory the Englishman in Bombay is taking his morning ride meets English ladies on their way home from a night's nursing duty, under the escort of an armed guard.' The *Pioneer*, writes in a more dignified style. It says: "While this order must be put down with a strong hand, no reasonable observer can fail to recognise that the measures which it has been found necessary to adopt in Bombay for the purpose of extirpating the plague, involve much that must always be eminently distasteful and vexatious from the native point of view." When the native papers said all this, it was sedition. Indeed, if the advice of the Native Press were listened to, all these bloody riots might have been averted. There was absolutely no necessity for these house-to-house visitations. The leaders of the people should have been taken into the confidence of the Government and through them all information about plague cases gathered. The measures which the Government have at last been obliged to adopt were suggested before; but they were rejected with scorn and indignation.

We are concerned to learn that Mr. Tilak is yet in hospital owing to the accident which happened to him about three weeks ago. The Poona climate is not improving his health, and he is losing weight even there. At present, we are told, he weighs only 106 lbs, which is the weight of a mere boy. When will the authorities relent? Mr. Tilak has secured the deep sympathy of Professor Max Muller in England, but though he is perhaps dying a slow death, his condition excites no feeling of sorrow in the official mind here.

The *Manchester Guardian* makes the following remarks upon the letter of Babu Romesh Chander Dutt, published in its columns:—

Mr. Romesh C. Dutt's long experience as a high official under the Indian Government

and his reputation as a writer on Indian affairs lend weight to his protest against the new Sedition Law, which we print in another column. When Lord George Hamilton was adjuring the House of Commons on Friday night not to discuss the details of the new law "because the effect of such a discussion would obviously be to prejudice the men whose duty was either to assent to or dissent from the measure" it had already been forced through the Legislative Council after a nine-hours sitting. Mr. Dutt therefore seems justified in calling it a hasty act. What is more important is the reason he gives for believing the law to be unworkable. In Friday's debate the Secretary for India made it clear that the law was aimed at the native press, was devised, as he would delicately put it for its "guidance." Now Mr. Dutt shows that the criticisms of the Government are to be found in the Anglo-Indian press quite as much as in the native papers, and that these criticisms, are often quite harsh enough to justify the charge of "bringing the Government into hatred and contempt," while some Anglo-Indian journals indulge in such grossly contemptuous remarks upon the natives as to lay them open to the accusation of promoting feelings of enmity or ill-will between different classes. Is the law, then, to be applied to these Anglo-Indian papers, and, if so, how long will it endure? As to the native press, Mr. Dutt declares that the Indian Government is often misled by extracts made by subordinates into thinking the vernacular papers far worse than they really are. It is obvious that extracts made by ignorant or unscrupulous people and read apart from their context may give a wholly false impression of the journals from which they are taken. But this truism seems to have escaped the mind of the Indian authorities intent upon gagging a press which they do not take the trouble to understand.

Mr. Dutt brings to light in his letter a piece of clever trick which was practised upon the unsuspecting House of Commons. Lord George Hamilton adjured the members not to discuss the details of the Sedition Bill and thus to influence men whose duty was either to assent or dissent from the measure. The real fact, however, was that the Bill had then been passed, and the fact was not placed before the House. This is what happened. It will be remembered that the Sedition Bill was passed into law on Friday the 18th February after a nine hours' sitting, that is, at 8 P.M. It is three P.M. in London when it is eight P.M. in India, so that news should have reached the Secretary of State before the Parliamentary debate began, that the Bill had been passed. But the House was kept in blissful ignorance of the fact that it was no longer a Bill but an Act! Mr. Dutt asks: Would not the Indian Government have benefited if they had waited a day, or two for the debate which they knew was coming, and had considered the weighty arguments of the members who discussed the Bill? Mr. Dutt, however, forgets that sedition was peeping from behind every bush in this country, and thus they were in a hurry to pass the Bill. Who knows but one or two days' delay might have endangered the safety of the Empire. As regards weighty arguments, measures here are passed not by the weight of arguments, but by the weight of the number of official members in the Council.

The centenary of 1878 was celebrated by Irishmen in London about four weeks ago by a demonstration "in honor of Ireland's illustrious dead" at St. James Hall. Among the speakers were Mr. David, Mr. John Dillon, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Redmond and other pillars of the State. They sat to do honour to the "illustrious dead," who had fought against the Queen to free their country from the Crown. This was done in London. In India, Mr. Tilak was sentenced to 18 months' hard labor for having only sanctioned articles and speeches as a publisher (for it is well known that he neither wrote nor delivered them) which contained the praise of a national hero, who had fought with the Mussalmans about four hundred years ago. It must be borne in mind that Ireland and India are both under the same sovereign and ruled by Englishmen. One can easily see at a glance that if Mr. Tilak committed a crime, that committed by the Irish patriots at St. James Hall was a million times more heinous. How was it then that the man, who committed apparently a nominal offence, was sent to jail, and those who honored actual rebels were not molested? We cannot for a moment suggest that the rulers here are capable of committing a blunder, at least the sedition law will not permit any one to make such a suggestion. The blunder, therefore, must have been committed in England, where the Government permitted rank sedition to be preached in the heart of London.

An English friend, who holds a leading position in England, writes to us from London, under date Feb. 25:— I think the recent debates in Parliament have had an excellent effect, and the diminished majorities will tell. It is evident that the Indian Government have had a scare with regard to their frontier policy, and although they may not abandon it altogether we shall see it greatly modified and subdued. Public opinion in India and in this country is so manifestly against the Government that they will not be able to enforce their new Press Act with any vigour, though they may use it a little in terrorism. I expect the debate initiated by Mr. Roberts will have good results in this and several other respects. A great deal, however, depends on the man who is appointed to succeed Lord Elgin. It is interesting to note that public opinion generally is beginning to advocate Lord Balfour of Burleigh. Though a Conservative he is a large-hearted Scotchman. I am afraid that my favourite candidate, Lord

Cromer, is out of the question. His wife's health is poor, and he himself has had such a drive in Egypt that he deserves a complete change of occupation; and there is now a good deal of talk about his relieving Lord Salisbury of the Foreign Secretaryship.

The reader may remember that it was our London correspondent who first suggested the name of Lord Balfour; and we may, therefore, take it that India has a better future, before it if the Indian Viceroyalty is really conferred upon him. Yesterday's *Englishman* also says that "Lord Elgin's most probable successor is Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who, next to the Duke of Argyll, is perhaps the most active and prominent nobleman in Scotland." Under the Tory Ministry we prefer by far a Tory to a Liberal Governor-General. If Lord Elgin had not stuck to his present post, after the overthrow of the Liberal Ministry, the Front Opposition Bench would not have acted in the way they are doing now. They fled in a body when Mr. Roberts moved his amendment! And why? Because, to support the amendment of Mr. Roberts was to condemn the conduct of Lord Elgin; and Lord Elgin is a Liberal and was appointed by the late Liberal Ministry! If, instead of Lord Elgin, we had a Tory Viceroy, the Liberal members in the House would to a man, including even Sir Henry Fowler, have voted with Mr. Roberts, and thus made it almost impossible for the Government here to pass the recent measures as merrily as they did. Similarly, if Lord Sandhurst had not been the Governor of Bombay, the authorities in that Presidency would not have been permitted to commit one blunder after another. When the proceedings of the Bombay Government were brought to the notice of the House by a Liberal member, Lord George Hamilton, taunted the members of the late Liberal Ministry with the statement, that it was one of their own colleagues, namely, Lord Sandhurst, who was responsible for all that had taken place in Poona, and that if they condemned those proceedings they would only pass censure upon the doings of one who possessed their confidence. In short, Lord Hamilton presented Lord Sandhurst to the front and took shelter behind him; and, by this clever device, disarmed the opposition of the Liberal Front Bench. If India has never fared so badly as it has done during the present regime, it is mainly due to the fact that it has a Viceroy and a Governor who are Liberals, while the Ministry is Tory.

The offer of rewards for prompt reports of plague cases are having an excellent effect in many of the plague-stricken villages in the Punjab.

A LAHORE correspondent wires to a contemporary that it is rumoured from native sources that there has been fighting between the Shikharis and the Amer's forces.

The Hon. Mr. H. H. Risley cannot be spared for the Commission of Rajshahye. It is probable that the officiating appointment will go to Mr. Joseph Kennedy, Magistrate of Tipperah.

Two more villages, Kott and Hopewal, in the immediate vicinity of the town of Bungah in the Punjab, have been attacked by the plague, and one case is reported in the town. Bungah is a commercial centre, with a large trade in sugar and wheat.

OWING to the prevalence of plague, the Punjab Government has just issued a regulation, prohibiting persons proceeding to the Jowla, Mukhi, and Khanga fairs. Similar orders are also being issued, preventing persons residing in the infected areas in the Punjab from attending the Varni fair and the Dikhan-tia fair, to be held at Hardwar this and next month.

The Bombay riot has done at least one good. As has been already published in these columns, the rioters burnt the screen which had been put up for the execution of a person convicted of murder, at the common jail, and so it was postponed. On the 13th inst. an order was received by the jail authorities that the sentence of death on the culprit had been commuted to transportation for life.

The rumour which has been circulated about the immediate retirement of Sir Alexander Mackenzie is not without foundation. The whole question depends upon the opinion of the doctors, in whose hands His Honor has placed himself irreservably. But if he does not retire at once, owing to his very indifferent health and the fact that the station suited him so badly last year, it is possible that the stay of the Bengal Government at Darjeeling will be considerably curtailed this season.

It is setting aside the conviction and sentence in the case against the Raja of Narhar, who had been fined Rs. 1000 by the Deputy Commissioner of Bara Banki, on a charge of having had in his possession, without a license, a number of guns, swords, etc. the Sessions Judge of Lucknow observed: "The conclusion I have come to, is that the charge should never have been made against the appellant and that there is no evidence on the record on which his conviction can properly be maintained."

WEDNESDAY'S "Calcutta Gazette" publishes the report of the Commission appointed to consider what amendments are required in the law relating to buildings and streets in Calcutta. Of the two Indian members on the Commission, Babu Kallinath Mitter writes:—"I agree in the main and therefore sign the Report." The other gentleman, Babu Nalin Behari Sarkar, while signing the Report, records an emphatic and well-argued dissent.

EUROPEAN soldiers have been withdrawn from the town of Bombay. On the 17th inst. the *Bombay* patrolled the streets only occasionally. Only a small reserve of native troops have been held for emergency.

The *Tyoti* of Chittagong says that a number of coolies settled in a village called Brojo Binodepur belonging to H. H. the Maharaja of Tipperah. Certain tea-planters of Sylhet, alleging that the coolies had run away from their plantations, demolished their houses and forcibly took them away. The matter was brought to the notice of the Political Agent who advised His Highness to bring a criminal suit against the tea-planters, and accordingly a complaint has been lodged. The case is still under trial.

FROM the Report of the Army Medical Department for 1896, issued on February 17th, we learn that in India there was again a decline in the admission rate, but the ratio of constant inefficiency was fractionally higher than in the previous year. There was more sickness from enteric, other continued fevers, and cholera. Malarial fever, while less prevalent than in 1895, accounted for almost one-fifth of the total number of admissions. The total admissions for contagious diseases accounted for more than one-third of the admissions into hospital.

EFFORTS are being made to suppress plague in the Jullundur and Hoshiarpur districts in Punjab. Besides Hospital Assistants and compounders there are on the spot the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner and five Commissioned Medical Officers. The executive staff consists of five Assistant Commissioners and five Police Officers with a strong body of police. Rewards are being granted for reports of the occurrence of the first case in a village. A further step is now to be taken by the formation of observation parties under Assistant Commissioners and the police. A regulation is being issued empowering the District Magistrates of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur to prohibit the holding of caste gatherings and other collections of persons for social or other purposes. The Civil Courts are to be closed, and witnesses are not to be summoned from infected areas to distant courts. The heads of departments are further being instructed to refuse leave to subordinates wishing to visit their homes or friends in infected places. Every effort is being made to localise the disease.

THE Governor of Bombay has addressed a letter to the Bombay Plague Committee requesting him to issue stringent instructions to all Divisional and Sub-divisional Officers, that there is to be no compulsory search in any house unless the fact is reasonably established, that it is a plague infected house. (1) No patient is to be removed to the plague hospital unless the case is undoubtedly a plague case. (2) No medical certificate shall be accepted as evidence that the case is one of plague, unless it is signed by a fully qualified medical officer. (3) That no plague case which a fully qualified medical officer may pronounce to be hopeless shall be removed to hospital without the consent of relatives. (4) That no inmates of a house are to be removed without intimation being given to the head of the family. (5) That when any damage is caused by the destruction of property (to diminish risk of infection), compensation must in case of the poor be paid on the spot. There should be no destruction of property when disinfection will suffice. The first step towards putting the new regulations into force on Friday when a Committee was formed in Mandvie division, of which Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Wilkins is in charge. A strong rumour prevailed that the Plague Committee has resigned in a body, but it is unconfirmed.

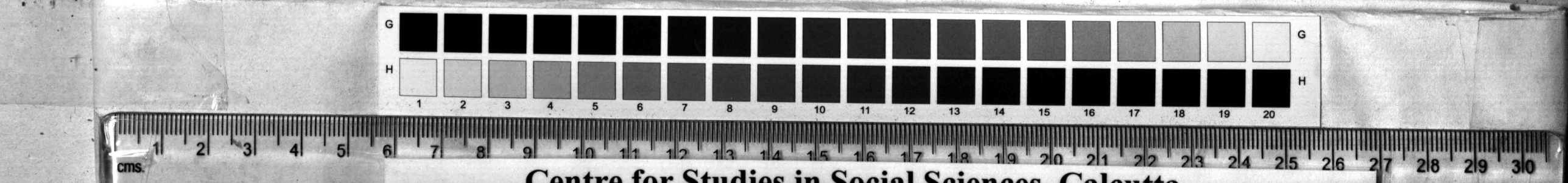
IN his plague speech on Tuesday, Lord Sandhurst mentioned that for some time before the unhappy riots, he had been considering how he might with advantage improve the plague organisations. Indeed, His Excellency is reported to have said, "it was the very irony of fate that when they had, as he thought, settled upon certain plans in conjunction with the native gentlemen that—at that very moment—the riots were commencing." All that we would like to say is that we are on this point at one with Mr. Pugh who, referring to the subject at the last meeting of the Anglo-Indian Defence Association, remarked: "The only regret is that Lord Sandhurst did not take the steps which he has now taken, before the rioting and violent conduct can never be justified, or defended; it may even not be reasonable or prudent to triumph that the riots have forced the concessions from Lord Sandhurst, but His Excellency's own words rather lead to the conclusion that if time had been taken by the forelock, considerable outrage and bloodshed might have been avoided. One thing is, however, certain—the concessions have already been productive of marked results. Speaking at the meeting above referred to, the President, Mr. M. C. Turner, said: "I am glad to say I have received a telegram from Bombay that the labour strike is at an end. I have no doubt that this is the result of the concessions which the Government made."

The examination of candidates for Pleaders in the Court of Sindh, will be held on the 16th of May next.

SITES have been selected for a segregation camp near Lahore, and thatched buildings are to be at once erected.

THE Cawnpur Hindus had joined the Mahomedans in the festivities, and the latter returned cordially on the 10th. The Bareilly Mahomedans freely joined the Hindus in celebrating the 10th and not at a few places embraced each other.

THE famous Kanjar dakaiti trial has closed at last in the Sessions Court at Karnal before Mr. Johnstone, Special Magistrate. The dakaites were tried in batches of 30, 26 and 14, respectively; and the whole 70 were sentenced to transportation for life. The dakaites, which were of a serious nature and date from 1893, were committed in the Karnal, Ferozapore, Delhi, Rohtak and Umballa districts. Seven of the Kanjars turned approvers, but it was considered necessary to examine some 400 witnesses, and it has taken about two years to get the gang convicted.



Calcutta and Hofussil.

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THE STANDING COUNSEL.—It is understood that Mr. Robert Allen will act as Standing Counsel, while Mr. P. O'Kinealy is officiating on the High Court Bench.

GENERAL NAIRNE.—General Nairne will leave Poona for Calcutta to take up the duties of "ad interim" Commander-in-Chief on the 21st. General Duncan, as already announced, will act for him in the Bombay command.

OPIMUM REVENUE.—Opium revenue for Bengal for the present month is Rs. 30,84,450, or more than four lakhs less than the estimate. Bombay for last month returned a revenue of five and-a-half lakhs, which was nearly five lakhs less than the estimate.

CHUPRA LOCAL AND DISTRICT BOARDS.—Rai Tara Prasad Mukerji Bahadur and Mr. J. W. Smith respectively were re-elected as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Chupra Local Board. Mr. J. C. Twidell, C. S., Joint-Magistrate, was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Saran District Board.

MICHAEL MODHUSUDON MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.—The Michael Modhusudon Smriti Medal, has been awarded to Babu Shoshi Bhushan Mozumdar, of Musafapur, in the district of Furriddpur. A poem written by a Hindu lady having occupied the 2nd place in order of merit, the members of the said Committee have awarded a special medal to Sreenmaty Kamakhya Sundari Devi, of Calcutta.

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.—A Comilla correspondent writes:—A great fire broke out in Comilla on the 11th instant, about three hundred houses being burnt. The total loss is estimated at fifty thousand rupees. There was a strong wind blowing at the time, and in less than an hour every hut was reduced to ashes. The suffering of the people, especially of purdasha women and little children, was very great; a number of them ran through the fire to save themselves. Such a destructive fire has not raged here for the last 25 years.

ATTORNEY'S EXAMINATIONS.—The following is the result of the Attorney's Examinations, both intermediate and final, recently held at the High Court:—Final.—Nuffar Lal Mullick, Mohi Lal Sen, Satyanand Nath Sen, Mr. Remfry, and Jogendra Krishna Datta. Intermediate.—Amita Kumar Guha, J. C. Moses, Sarat Chandra Ghose, Jarendro Nath Mitter, Anil Nath Basu, Gonesh Chander Dey, Monomoh Nath Sen, Panna Lal Mullick, Shamachurni Bysack, Satis Chunder Pal Chowdhury, F. H. Westmacott, and Surendro Nath Chowdhury.

A RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A serious accident occurred on March 9th to the down mail train on the Assam-Bihar State Railway between Forbesganj and Araria stations. One of the axles of a wagon broke. The effect of this was that the wheels came off, thus throwing the wagon on the ground. Several other wagons met the same fate, all of them being smashed to pieces. Fortunately the chains connecting these wagons with the remaining carriages were severed by the shock, otherwise the whole train would have come to grief, causing great loss of life. As it was, no passengers were injured, but a few more or less severely shaken.

A STRANGE THEFT CASE.—On the evening of the 4th instant, the station-master of the Luckisera Station, as usual collected the cash, which amounted to Rs. 450 in specie and currency notes, sealed them in a leather bag, and left it in charge of his assistant to despatch to Howrah. This was done, but when the bag was opened, the next morning in the head-office it was found to contain only copper pieces worth Rs. 5 and some ballast. The station-master was instantly wired to on the subject, and the police took up the enquiry. Suspicion fell upon one Bhudeb Chandra Foudar, general assistant, Luckisera station, who went on leave the night the money was despatched. The police have arrested him, and he is now in custody at Monghyr.

A EUROPEAN COOLIE.—A most peculiar story reaches the Malay Mail from Taiping. According to its informant, a European hailing from Liverpool, was, until recently, at work as a coolie on the Prai Parit Bundar section of the railway extension work. It is alleged that this man, who was formerly a circus performer, fell upon evil days in Southern India, and while absolutely starving entered one of the coolie depots at Negapatnam and signed an ordinary coolie agreement. The other coolies nicknamed him Mutho-caruppen. Taking pity upon him or recognising his superior worth, the Assistant Engineer in charge of the section has now promoted him to be time-keeper. This man is reported to have a wife and children at home, but cannot leave owing to his bond.

CAPTURE OF AFRIDS.—Inspector Forsyth charged five Afrids with having committed dacoity in Bombay. It would appear that between the 14th June 1897 and January 1898, several Afrids formed members of a gang of dacoits and looted ornaments to the value of two lakhs belonging to a Parsi merchant at Kolapore in the Bombay Presidency. The authorities traced five of the dacoits to Calcutta and sent a telegraphic message for their arrest. In the meantime, the five Afrids disposed of some of the stolen property to some jewellers here and took a passage to Madras by the S. S. Mombassa. The local police accordingly telegraphed to the police in Madras. On the arrival of the steamer in that port, arrested them and sent them down. The men were this day placed before the Magistrate and his Worship directed that the Afrids, with the recovered ornaments, be sent to Kolapore under police escort to be tried by the Political Agent there.

DEBATE ON MR. HERBERT ROBERTS' AMENDMENT.

The amendment having been seconded by Sir J. Long, Lord G. Hamilton said that the hon. and learned gentleman had in an able and temperate speech called the attention of the House to a matter which was well worthy of their attention. He would endeavour to reply in the course of the day, but he thought he could give conclusive reasons for the action which the Government of India and the Government of Bombay had been compelled to take. The hon. gentleman assumed that the Government of India wished to resort to repression and coercion. There was really no such intention (Hear, hear). It was very easy for gentlemen in the secure atmosphere of the House of Commons to find fault with a Government at the other end of the world, but let them to transplant themselves to Bombay and recognise the conditions with which the Government of Bombay had to deal. One of the best descriptions given of India was that of Sir John Malcolm, who, on being congratulated on having quieted the country said, "Yes India is quiet as gunpowder." Any hon. member who had any acquaintance with India knew that there were "stored up" explosive materials, in the shape of racial hatred and religious animosity, which at any moment might blaze out, and it was essential for the Government of that country to have behind it, for the purpose of dealing with emergencies, some exceptional powers. It was equally necessary that these exceptional powers should be used with the utmost caution and only in exceptional circumstances. (Hear, hear.)

The plague was not yet stamped out. He was not exaggerating when he said that the regulations of the Bombay Government were rendered ineffective by local intrigue or by stirring up discontent and the disease got the upper hand of the authorities, the march of the plague through India would cause more devastation and loss of life than the march of an hostile army. Therefore, the Government had a clear and paramount duty to perform, and if clear and indisputable evidence was placed before them that certain persons, even in high stations, were traitors to the efforts to combat the plague, they were bound to act accordingly. The first point dealt with by the hon. and learned member was the imprisonment of the brothers Nattu. For some time past there had been a great deal of disturbance in the Deccan. The movement was obviously seditious in its character, and in almost every case it could be traced back to Poona, and, ultimately, to a limited section of persons in that town. So long as the Bombay Government had to deal with an ordinary state of affairs, it was not necessary for them to take any special notice of what unquestionably was now proved to be a small but well-organised conspiracy, but when they had to deal with the plague, the situation assumed a different aspect. It was assumed that the brothers Nattu gave great assistance to the Bombay Government, but that was not the opinion of the authorities. The brothers Nattu 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 Ayres, 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 as 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 Nattu, 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 Nattu had adopted in a most assiduous way to induce the police to declare that a woman who had really died from disease had been killed 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 by the Government had a right to prevent such men from being at large. (Cheers.) The Government had only taken this exceptional action with the greatest reluctance. So long as the plague lasted it would not be safe to liberate the brothers Nattu. In reference to the trial of certain gentlemen connected with the Press, he would point out that Tilak's articles were a clear incitement to assassination. As to when his term of imprisonment should terminate he was not prepared to interfere with the discretion of the Bombay Government. With regard to the proposed alterations in the law it had been admitted for eighteen years past by Viceroys and Secretaries of State for India that the particular clause which dealt with sedition should be remodelled. The changes in the law which were now proposed merely put in plain and more vigorous language the interpretation which had recently been given by the House of Commons of the Privy Council to Section 124A of the old Code. He was informed by his legal advisers that the law was practically unaltered, and that in fact the law of sedition in India and in England was almost identical. The only other alterations were those proposed in the Criminal Procedure Bill, which was an amending and consolidating Bill of some 500 or 600 clauses, and in which power is given to magistrates to deal with what he might call seditious newsmen and blackmailers which was very much wanted in India. But in every case there was the safeguard of an appeal to the court above, and the local Government would have to take action before this clause was put into operation. He did not believe from what he heard that the mass of Native gentlemen or educated opinion except those connected with the Press objected to the alterations. On the contrary the Mahomedan Literary Society of Calcutta which represented Mahomedan feeling in its best form both there and throughout India, approved of what was being done. And he knew from conversation with almost every distinguished man who came back from India with long experience that Native gentlemen looked with the utmost regret on the attitude of what was called the foreign writers, because they said in an Oriental community that attitude of tolerance was interpreted by the Natives as an attitude of approval. He could assure the hon. gentleman that there was not the slightest intention, or wish to silence or curb the Native Press. What he really believed was wanted was not so much restraint as guidance—a line given as to what was a proper and legitimate form of criticism—and he believed that this alteration of the law would in every sense be beneficial and he could guarantee that so long as he had anything to do with it it should be carried out with the utmost leniency. This law was now under the consideration of the Legislative Council who had certain duties to perform, and he thought it was inadvisable that they should, in these circumstances, discuss its details, because it was obvious that the effect of that discussion would influence and perhaps prejudice the men whose duty it was either to assent or dissent. When their opinions came before the Secretary of State, if it was desired that they should be published he would do so, and that would form a legitimate and proper opportunity for discussing the matter.

Mr. Maclean asked the noble lord if he would do that before giving his assent to the Bill. Lord G. Hamilton said that would be transferring a responsibility which rested now upon the Secretary of State to the House of Commons, and he thought that would be most unwise. He could assure the hon. member who moved the motion that he expressed no regret as to the severe criticism which India was passing, and he hoped they were approaching an epoch of comparative quiet and prosperity. The Bombay Government had shown great courage in facing the dangers which confronted them. Upon them rested the paramount duty of devoting all their energies to the extirpation of this horrible disease, and so long as the House knew they were honestly and courageously performing that duty, and utilizing every means at their disposal with propriety and caution he did not think they would be disposed to censure that Government. (Cheers.)

Mr. Macneil said that the English Government in India was, on the noble lord's own confession, a corrupt Government. He reviewed the circumstances attending the deportation of the brothers Nattu and the prosecution of Tilak and declared his belief that the prosecution in the latter case was instigated by the Government at home. Lord G. Hamilton denied this was so; the prosecution was instigated by the Bombay Government. Mr. Macneil said it was in July that in giving an answer in the House the noble lord condemned the newspaper articles as calculated to excite disturbances and Tilak was not tried till September 15; the man was prejudged long before his arrest. The whole proceedings illustrated the corrupt judicial system with which both Ireland and India were familiar.

Mr. J. M. Maclean said he should be extremely reluctant to say anything which would add in the slightest degree to the many anxieties and responsibilities which must have weighed down the Secretary of State for India during the last twelve months. He certainly did not intend to follow the hon. member opposite into a discussion as to the general merits of British rule in India. Of British rule in India he had always been a great admirer. He believed it had conferred inestimable benefits on the people of India. When the hon. member denounced British rule in India he would like to have asked him what kind of rule he would substitute for it if it were taken away. (Hear, hear.) He was himself connected for many years with the Press in India, and he thought he ought not to allow a debate on a question of this kind to pass without taking part in it. The noble lord had said that they wanted exceptional powers in India. His opinion was that they had enough exceptional powers already. As a general rule, he did not believe that the Press of India was extremely violent or unfair in the comments it made upon the Government of the country. But, of course, the Native Press was an immature press, directed by men of small means, and very often of small intelligence. It might do very idle and vicious things from time to time but the Government possessed very ample power for dealing with offences of that kind. (Hear, hear.) The sentences passed upon recent offenders had been severe, enough not only to punish these men, but to frighten others from committing similar offences. Some of the sentences had been so severe that they had shocked public opinion in this country. (Opposition cheers.) And yet we were going to have more repressive legislation directed against these native newspapers. Lord Lytton had tried this repressive method and it had failed. It was said that these repressive measures were only to give a guiding influence to the Native Press, to guide it in the right direction. He thought that newspapers which were "directed" into their proper course, and not allowed to express their own opinions became absolutely worthless. The only object of a newspaper was to express free opinion. (Hear, hear.) Naturally, that law of Lord Lytton's fell into great contempt and was discontinued by general consent. We were going to make the law more repressive than it was, and we were saying to-day to the Native Press: "You must not only obey the laws of the country but you must be affectionate in your disposition towards the Government." He thought it wise Government ought to be satisfied with demanding obedience from the people, without trying to control their secret thoughts. (Hear, hear.)

What would happen supposing this regulation was introduced in the House of Commons? (Laughter.) Everyone knew they all in that House looked with extreme reverence at the right hon. gentlemen who occupied the two Front Benches. (Renewed laughter.) It was an idea of Plato's that in some regions or other the perfection of wisdom was to be found. He had always thought Plato must have had some promotion of the two Front Benches of the British House of Commons. (Great laughter.) Supposing these right hon. gentlemen on these two Front Benches were to content with making their followers go into the lobby at the crack of the party whip, but were to tell hon. members that they were not to express their own views in the House or out of it? Then hon. gentlemen would soon feel that their presence in Parliament was not of much value either to the public or themselves. (Hear, hear.) We were attempting to stifle free opinion in India. Did the Government imagine that by muzzling the Press they would be able to put down public opinion? Why, India was one great whispering gallery, where everything was passed from mouth to mouth with wonderful celerity. To succeed they must stop universities, stop the running of railway trains and cut the telegraph wires (Loud opposition cheers). The task was a government impossible one. (Hear, hear.) Let the Government have a little more courage and a little more belief in the power and resource of the English people to put down any seditious or traitorous influence. He urged them not to legislate in a panic or to try to put down sedition by means which would never avail in any country. The hon. gentleman concluded. You can govern India by your justice, by your generosity and in case of need by force. You must, but you will never do it by preventing the free expression of opinion amongst that great community. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. Pickersgill strongly condemned the incident haste with which the Bills were being forced through the Legislative Council in spite of the protest of the Native members. The Secretary for India had stated the proposals had been for four months under public consideration. This statement was most misleading. It was true that the Criminal Procedure Code Bill was introduced on the 14th October, but the most obnoxious provisions were not contained in the original Bill, and no one knew anything about them until the 21st December, when Mr. Chamberlain stated in the Legislative Council the intention of the Government to insert them in the Bill. He denied that the new Section 124A of the Penal Code represented the actual current law of this country on the subject. It was idle at this time of day to set forth the language of Lord Kenyon more than one hundred years ago, and to pretend that that was the existing law on sedition in England. The charges of Mr. Justice Cave in R. v. Burns and of Mr. Justice Fitzgerald in R. v. Sullivan showed that in England and even in Ireland at the present day the gist of the offence of sedition was incitement to public disorder or to resist the lawful authority of the Government. But the law of sedition in England what is meant the real safeguards here for freedom of speech were the force of public opinion and the institution of the jury. (Cheers.) Since the close of the great controversy which culminated in the passing of Fox's famous Libel Act in 1792 it had been the province of the jury in England to pronounce upon the seditious intention as well as upon every other ingredient of the offence. But in India public opinion or sense of the words did not exist; and it was now proposed that magistrates should be empowered to

try cases of sedition. That was a peculiarly odious extension of the system already for many years condemned by all unprejudiced minds alike in England and in India, under which administrative and judicial functions were united in the same person. (Cheers.) The very officer whose policy had been criticised and perhaps (with perfect justice and propriety) severely handled was to be judge in his own cause. They had been told across the floor by the Attorney-General that there was an appeal. He was going to hear that, but that appeal was not to a jury but only to another Court, and even if the decision given by the magistrate were eventually reversed, they had to consider the alarm and harassment which would be caused by the original proceeding in connexion with this part of the case, he was not at all reassured by the observations made by Mr. Chamberlain in the Legislative Council. Mr. Chamberlain said: "In most cases no prosecution will be required. It will be sufficient to give them an effective warning to discontinue their evil practices, and we think that the machinery we have devised will operate as an effective warning." He admitted the irony of Mr. Chamberlain's observations, he had no doubt that the machinery would be effective, but effective for what? To destroy the freedom and spontaneity of the Native Press, and thus to deprive the administrators of India of the one means which they now possess to ascertain the real feelings and dispositions of the people. The Government had the power to sanction this obnoxious legislation just as a former Conservative Government had sanctioned the Vernacular Press Act; but in like manner as one of the first acts of Lord Ripon's administration had been to repeal that measure, so it would be the duty of the noble lord's successor to repeal the obnoxious laws which were now proposed. (Cheers.)

Dr. Clark expressed the greatest astonishment at the reasons given by the noble lord for the imprisonment of the brothers Nattu and contended that the action of the Bombay Government was illegal. The noble lord said there was a great deal of unrest in India owing to growing fanaticism, but he was doing his best to give his policy and by his speech the previous night to increase that unrest. The noble lord also attacked the Indian Congress which was composed of the educated natives of India on which he believed unanimously rally for loyalty to the Throne. He would say nothing about Tilak who had been tried and condemned. He might be a martyr, if so, when he was released he would be in a favourable position with his fellow-countrymen just as some Irish members of Parliament who had been in prison in the past were now getting the benefit of their actions in the past. (Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. Davitt: "No no," followed by great laughter.)

Mr. Davitt said the statement of the hon. member illustrated the saying about his countrymen, that they were not capable of seeing a joke. (Laughter.) Irish members never thought they were being rewarded by being members of Parliament in consequence of having dwelt elsewhere in years gone by. (Laughter.) He took a different view of it and looked upon it as the continuation of a punishment not too richly deserved. (Laughter.) He frequently sighed while seated helpless on those benches for the days when instead of vainly trying to make laws he built up a lasting reputation in North Devonshire as a stone-breaker. (Laughter.) The many sentiments expressed by Mr. Maclean in that debate would, if given effect to in India, be more beneficial to their rule in India and better for the people of this country than the pro-Russian views of the noble lord, and that would, he believed, be the opinion of the country. He maintained that when the proceedings connected with these prosecutions in India were published, the consensus of opinion in this country would be in favour of the views of the hon. member for Cardiff and against those of the Government. The policy now being carried out in India was more worthy of the despotic views of Russia than the boasted love of constitutional liberty cherished by the English people. The noble lord had declared against the violence of the Native Press in India, but he had been well answered by the hon. member for Cardiff. The chief offence of the Native Press seemed to be that it was not too full of affection for the noble lord. In his opinion no language he had read in any Native newspaper had been so inoffensive as the language used in this House by the noble lord. Last night apropos of nothing at all the noble lord went out of his way to attack a man who was known in India as having been the most popular Governor-General.

Lord G. Hamilton did not attack him. I only said I did not agree with the eulogies expressed by Sir W. Wedderburn. Mr. Davitt said that if the noble lord had not been Secretary for India his remarks might not have been noticed but they were. The Speaker: It is not in order to deal in a lengthy manner with a previous debate on a previous question in the same Session.

Mr. Davitt said he admitted the fighting qualities of the noble lord which came from the race to which he belonged. (Laughter.) and who became intemperate through having too much authority. (Laughter.) He would bound to say the noble lord knew how to fight his corner as well as any man in the House. (Laughter.) At the same time he must add that he utterly disapproved the noble lord's policy. He asked the Government to say whether or not there was any foundation for the statement in the Westminster Gazette of the 3rd February, that the man who confessed to the murders was offered a large sum to confess. He sincerely hoped for the benefit of the people of India and the credit of the Government there that the noble lord would take the manly advice of the hon. member for Cardiff. (Cheers.)

The Attorney-General (Sir Richard Webster) said that the Secretary for India had not seen the statement, and knew nothing about the charge. He could not take the view of the member for Cardiff, that the action against the Nattu brothers was illegal. There was a terrible scourge and plague raging in Bombay. It was an important matter to Native feeling, and therefore it would require possibly stern, but certainly calm and steady, measures in order to carry it into effect. It was thought before the attention of her Majesty's representatives on the spot, rightly or wrongly, that there was an organisation to prevent these precautionary measures being taken. He could not conceive anything more likely to promote internal commotion than friction between the authorities and those poor persons who for their own good were going to be subjected to supervision or treatment. It was of the essence of the jurisdiction exercised under the orders that it must be exercised in cases in which you could not in many instances bring the person to trial—the jurisdiction ought to be most sparingly used and therefore it was no argument against the action of the Government to say they had not dared to bring those persons to trial. As strongly corroborated by the view that the action of the authorities was justified his noble friend permitted him to mention that since the arrest of the Nattus the opposition had diminished in a remarkable degree, and that there was now very little difficulty in carrying out the sanitary regulations essential to the staying of the plague.

Dr. Clark asked whether it was not the case that within the last few weeks there had been riots and officers murdered. The Attorney-General said he had merely in answer to appeals made to him, to give specific answers to specific questions. He had no particular knowledge on the point just put, but he submitted that it had been clearly shown that the authorities acted with a full sense of their responsibility and they were thankful that their action had been successful in so far as the agitation had declined. At the hearing of the appeal against the judgment of Mr.

Justice Strachey, Lord Davey, Lord Hobhouse and Sir Richard Couch were present so that there could be no ground for the suggestion which had been made in some quarters that the decision was not based simply on sound legal principles. As to the Press prosecutions the only case brought forward had been the Tilak case. He had read the whole of Mr. Justice Strachey's summing up, in that case, and he found nothing new in it, but a reasonable and sensible exposition of the law and its application. He must traverse entirely the view of the hon. member for Cardiff that the object and effect of the proposed alterations of the law were the muzzling of the Press. No one could deny the authority with which the hon. member spoke; but if the hon. member had had an opportunity of studying the proposed alterations he could not have come to the conclusion which he had stated. The amendments were only intended to make clear that which had been the law ever since the Penal Code was passed. They might or might not be desirable, but they certainly had not the intention nor would they have the effect of curtailing or interfering with the liberty of the Press. Though he had not seen the whole of the amended Code, he was informed that it contained some 600 clauses. The hon. member who moved the amendment seemed to think that the proposed alteration with respect to appeals had a special reference to the law of sedition. This was entirely a mistake. The change would have a general application and not any special application whatever to the law of sedition. These proposed alterations were still under consideration, and it would be very wrong if the House, on the materials now before it, should attempt to influence the judgment of those who had the responsibility of deciding in the first place, what amendments in the law were desirable. If the changes were not thought desirable, the present Secretary of State or his successor could disapprove of them; but the consideration must, in the first place, rest with the Legislative Council in India; and the great majority hon. members would admit that it was not desirable that the House should engage in a preliminary discussion of proposals which were still being considered, by those who had the greatest experience and the greatest responsibility. The House had not the materials on which to base a decision as to what amendments in the law should be made. He could not agree that according to the present law of sedition there must be incitement to disturbance of the peace. That great man Sir James Fitzjames Stephen who knew as much of the Indian law as he did of the English described sedition as "inciting any person to commit by crime in disturbance of the peace or to raise discontent or disaffection among her Majesty's subjects or to promote ill-will and hostility between different classes of her Majesty's subjects. Remembering the different creeds and races in India, no one who had ever studied the question would contend that there was less necessity for such a law in India than in England; and yet that was the law in England to-day. The discussion had shown that the changes suggested across the floor of the House last year by hon. members, and referred to again with pride that day, were not likely to facilitate the task of the Indian Government. He would not refer to the attack made in a Committee room and afterwards apologised for.

Sir W. Wedderburn: If the Attorney-General says that I suggested any change of that sort, I must state that it is quite untrue. Professor Gokhale had stated that certain charges had been made in Poona and we said that they ought to be investigated. To say that I made any charge whatever is to say what is false.

The Attorney-General said that he was not referring to any charges made by the hon. baronet. He was referring to the changes suggested in questions by other hon. members and referred to again in this debate. He hoped he had shown to the House that neither the Indian Government nor her Majesty's Government had infringed any of these rules of conduct by which they ought to be actuated.

The House then divided, when the numbers were—

For the amendment	109
Against	182
Majority against	73

EXAMINATION OF COMPOUNDERS.—The next half-yearly examination of Compounders will be held on the 25th April next at the Temple Medic School, Bankipore.

THE result of the voting in the election of Fellows in the Allahabad University was as follows:—Babu Sarat Chandra Mukerji 35 votes; W. K. Johnson Esq. M.A. (Benares) 10; Rev. J. M. Chaffin 18; M. B. Cameron Esq. 15; Rev. Cottlewaite 11.

A BAND of cattle-lifters raided Kyonkara in the Pegoo District, on Wednesday, successfully carrying off between twenty and thirty head of cattle. The police turned out in force, killing one rider, but the remainder escaped.

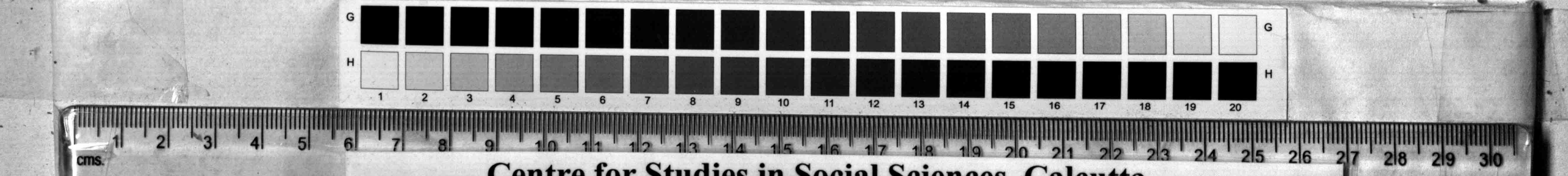
THE Bombay Art Exhibition opened on Wednesday evening. The Governor's prize for the best picture in the exhibition fell to Mr. J. W. Young, and among other prize winners were Ravi Varma, Miss Abercrombie, Mrs. Whitworth, Mrs. Ker, Mrs. Chitty and Professor Sharp.

EXTRA pensions of £100 a year each have been awarded to Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel D. D. Cunningham, Bengal Establishment; F. H. Blinksop, Madras Establishment; and J. Amott, Bombay Establishment.

LIEUTENANT KNOX, Political Officer with Colonel Mayne's column, held a durbar of the local Baluch chiefs at Turbat on the 13th instant. He announced that a fine of Rs. 50,000 would be levied upon the tribesmen who had had a share in the outbreak. Its collection will be spread over three years.

DETAILS have just been received regarding a daktari at the Kywebwe, near Tongoo, on Saturday. Six armed Burmans, dressed in uniforms of the Karri police, attacked the house of a rich Burman near the railway station. The Burman and his wife were tortured by having kerosine oil poured over them and fired until they disclosed the hiding place of their treasure. The daktaris succeeded in carrying safely away Rs. 500.

THE following resolution has been adopted at a special meeting of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association for transmission to Government:—It being currently reported in business circles that Government have in contemplation an early introduction of legislative measures in connection with the currency, a portion of which will be the imposition of further duty on imports of silver, the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association beg respectfully to state that they concur in the views expressed by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in its representation on the 2nd of March, and would emphatically support the recommendation made by that body, that before any decision on the matter of such vital importance to the commerce of this country is arrived at, the whole question of the Indian currency finance should be made subject to another full exhaustive enquiry of the same nature as that instituted by the Herschell Committee.



MEETING OF THE BOMBAY TRADERS.

On Tuesday afternoon, a large and representative meeting, representing the various trades of the city, was held at Messrs. Greaves Cotton and Company's Office, Fort.

Sir George Cotton and Mr. Vincent, the Commissioner of Police, convened the meeting at which over 500 representatives of the various trades met. The object of the organisers was to induce the strikers to return to their work and to hear and make a representation of their grievances to Government.

The grain bunders, the cotton merchants of the Colaba Green, the mill industry of Bombay, the cartmen, coolies and the various trades and industries of the city were all represented.

The meeting was called for twelve o'clock, but half an hour before the time fixed the leaders of the Hindu and Mahomedan communities put in their appearance and among themselves began to discuss the present situation and the causes which had led to it.

Sirdar Oomar Jamal and Sirdar Khan Bahadur Cassam Mitha led those present to understand that there was nothing of inconvenience in the rules promulgated by Government for furnishing certificates of death and the names of the Justices published in the local papers were sufficient to assure the people that the fears they had entertained at first were founded on mistaken premises.

Mr. R. H. Vincent, the Commissioner of Police, entered the hall and was most cordially received by those present. He was followed by Mr. Govindjee Thakarsey Muljee, with a large number of cotton and piece-goods merchants.

Sir George Cotton, who was voted to the chair, addressed the gathering and, in doing so prefaced his remarks by thanking those who had suggested to him the holding of the meeting. Having dwelt briefly on the state of things at present existing in the city, he read the following resolutions, which was translated into the vernacular by Mr. Bezonji Nanaboy.

"That the members of the various communities here represented do undertake to at once induce the re-opening of shops, resumption of business and work at the Docks and Colaba.

"That a Committee be appointed to make a representation to His Excellency the Governor setting forth the hardships and inconveniences all classes are now experiencing owing to the measures adopted to free the city from the plague and praying that His Excellency will be pleased to order such modifications in the existing arrangements as, without causing any relaxation in the efforts to eradicate the disease shall reduce as far as possible any hardship or inconvenience in the operation."

Sir George said that the first of the resolutions dealt with the re-opening of shops and the resumption of business at once. The stoppage of trade was doing them immense harm and no good. He strongly advised them all for the sake of themselves and for the sake of the city to do all they could to restore matters to their normal state. They had already suffered immensely from the plague and if they persisted in paralysing business, some at least of the trade of Bombay would be diverted to Calcutta, Karachi and other shipping centres. If some parts of the trade of the city was lost to them, it would be bad for them and they would be in no way gainers but losers.

Sir George said he well knew that they all had experienced a great deal of hardship but he also knew that the present Government was kind and sympathetic towards the people and he was sure that the Government would be willing to hear all they had to say in the matter. He suggested that a committee be appointed representing the various trades and industries of the city and a couple or three from each of them would be sufficient to represent their grievances. The various representatives, Sir George suggested, would meet to-morrow or the next day and prepare the petitions for the trades they represented, which would be laid before His Excellency the Governor. He was informed that their friends, the cartmen and coolies, had prepared a Gujarati petition and that, he suggested, would form part of the Committee's work. The object of appointing the Committee was that the various representatives appointed would carefully consider the hardships and inconveniences they all had and prepare a proper petition. He reminded them that they could not discuss the matter there as there were so many to speak on behalf of the various sections. What he wanted was that it should be a thoroughly representative Committee and that it should not be said hereafter that it did not represent the various trades. If the Committee, as proposed by him, was appointed, Sir George Cotton was assured that they could get on with the work more satisfactorily. In conclusion he exhorted them all to re-open their business as soon as they left the meeting. He further advised his friends, the cotton merchants of the Colaba Green and the cartmen and coolies who had assembled there, to start work at once.

He added that the people of the city had suffered very patiently all the hardships from the terrible ravages of the plague and had conducted themselves most loyally, and they should not now do anything to spoil the good name they had up to now borne.

Sir George concluded by expressing a hope that with the change of weather the plague would soon disappear from the city.

Before the proposition was seconded, a petition in Gujarati was presented by Mr. Mancherjee of Messrs. Mancherjee and Wadialal, carting agents of the B.B. and C.I. Railway, on behalf of the cartmen and coolies, a large number of whom were present in the office premises.

The chairman said that he would have the petition read after the proposition was seconded by Mr. Vincent, who had to say something on the question in hand.

Mr. Vincent in seconding the proposition said that the Government had done all that was possible in the circumstance. From His Excellency the Governor to the poorest coolie all had suffered from the plague, but he would assure them all that in the person of His Excellency they had a sympathetic gentleman who felt for them all, and who was sure to do his best to minimise the hardships and inconveniences they suffered. But his Excellency, Mr. Vincent said, had a duty to perform. He had to do all in his power to save the people from the terrible ravages of the plague now raging in their midst. The custom of *hadial* (strike) was an ancient one in Hindustan, and they all knew what it was. It had done more harm than good to the people. The best policy for them all to pursue in the emergency was to resume work and not to attempt to force the hands of Government as the strikers had intended. The one desire of Government was to get rid of the plague, and if the people did not now try to help them in that behalf the plague would get rid of them all. The Governor, Mr. Vincent said, loved the city and its people, and would hear all their grievances with pleasure. He had nothing to say in regard to the occurrence of the last week except that it was a most unfortunate occurrence, and he was sure that none of them had a hand in it. They were all peaceful citizens, and as such they had all assembled to-day. In conclusion, Mr. Vincent said that if the state of things continued the *abrao* of Bombay would go, and therefore he exhorted them all to stand man to man to stamp out the plague and instruct their people to resume work at once.

The petition of the certain and coolies was then read.

Two of the representatives of the cartmen and coolies ventilated their grievances before the meeting, and they persisted that their grievances should be first redressed; they then should be asked not to continue in the strike.

Several native merchants, however, made them see the position in a calmer spirit, and ultimately they yielded and consented, amidst cheers, to follow the line suggested by Sir George Cotton.

The Hon. Dr. Bhalchandra then addressed the meeting in Marathi and exhorted them all to resume their business, as did the Hon. Mr. Vijbhukhandas Atmaram, Mr. Govindjee Thakarsey Muljee, the leader of the Bhatia community, and one of the most influential gentlemen in the native mercantile community.

After hearing the various speakers the proposition was put to the vote, and carried with acclamation.

The names of representatives to form the Committee having been taken, the proceedings terminated.

A LESSON FOR THE WEAK.

Do you see that locomotive engine standing on the side-track? Something has broken down about it. It is still not a hiss of steam from its valves; it is still and cold as a dead whale on a beach; it can't draw a train; it can't even move itself. Now, tell me, do you believe that any amount of tinkering and hammering at it would make it go? Not a bit. Nothing on earth will make it go except steam in the boiler, and even that won't unless the engine is in order. Everybody knows that, you say. Do they? Then why don't they act on this principle in every case where it applies?

Here is such a case. Writing concerning his wife, a gentleman says: "In the autumn of 1880 my wife fell into a low, desponding state through family bereavement. Her appetite was poor, and no food, however light, agreed with her. After eating she had pain and tightness at the chest, and a sense of fullness as if swollen around the waist. She was much troubled with flatulence, and had pain at the heart and palpitation. At times she was so prostrated that she was confined to her room for days together and had barely strength to move."

"At first she consulted a doctor at Ferry Hill, but getting worse, she went to see a physician at Newcastle. The latter gave her some relief, but still *she did not gather strength up* and after being under his treatment for six months she discontinued going to him. Better and worse, she continued to suffer for over a year, when she heard of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup. She began taking it, and soon her appetite revived and her food gave her strength. In a short time she was quite a new woman. Since that time (now nearly twelve years ago) I have always kept this medicine in the house, and if any of my family all anything a few doses puts us right Yours truly, (Signed) George Walker, Grocer, &c., Ferry Hill, near Durham, October 25th, 1893."

We call attention especially to those words in Mr. Walker's letter which are printed in italics. You can pick them out at a glance. They show how fully he understands where human strength comes from—that it comes from digested food and not from any medicines the doctor or any one else can give us. Let us have no mistake or confusion of mind on this important point.

For example, Mrs. Walker was ill with indigestion and dyspepsia. Her symptoms, and how she suffered, her husband tells us. The disease destroyed her power to obtain any strength from food, and Nature suspended her appetite in order that she might not make bad worse by eating what could only ferment in the stomach and fill her blood with the resulting poisons. The only outcome of such a state of things must be pain and weakness—weakness which, continued long enough, must end in absolute prostration and certain death.

Well, then, she failed to get up her strength under the treatment of either doctor. Why? Simply because the medicines they gave her—whatever they may have been—did not cure the torpid and inflamed stomach. If they had cured it then she would have got up her strength exactly as she afterwards did when she took Seigel's Syrup. But the trouble is this: Medicines that will do this are rare. If the doctors possess them they would use them, and cure people with them, of course. Mother Seigel's is one of these rare and effective medicines. If there is another as good the public has not yet been made acquainted with the fact. But even the Syrup does not impart strength; it is not a so-called "tonic"; there is no such thing. It (the Syrup) *cures the disease*, drives out the poison, repairs the machine.

Then comes the appetite (all of itself) and digestion and strength. You see the order—the sequence, Yes. Well, please bear it in mind. The mechanics set the engine in order; then the stoker gets up the steam.

And of the human body—the noblest of all machines—Mother Seigel's Syrup is the skilled mechanic.

I HAD 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 stores. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

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

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 the results are always satisfactory."

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

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

THE recent and still continued war on and beyond the north-west frontier of British India has excited a good deal of healthy public opinion in this country. Even Sir Henry Fowler protested in the House of Commons the other day against the dangerous predominance of the military element in the Government of India. But it is not, we fear, sufficiently realised at home that the "high military mandarins" who are responsible for the disastrous and useless war beyond the frontiers, are no less the authors of the present retrograde and repressive policy within the frontiers of India. This deplorable policy, which is advancing by leaps and bounds without exciting much notice here, has so far crystallised at three separate points. First of all, (1) one saw the Government of India resorting last summer to an almost obsolete Regulation of the year 1827 in order to arrest and detain the brothers Natu, of Poona, without trial. As to the expediency of reviving to-day powers which were brought into existence to cope with the troublous times of the beginning of the century, there is room, no doubt, for difference of opinion. But the sturdiest apologists of the *lettre de cachet* system will admit that each instance of its application must be judged independently on its merits.

What are the merits of this particular case? Lord George Hamilton made his intention perfectly clear in the House of Commons on Aug. 5 last. Lieutenant Ayerst and Mr. Rand, two officials engaged in the operations against the plague, were foully assassinated at Poona on Jubilee Day. The brothers Natu were deported in the hope, as Lord George Hamilton put it, that "the result would be to unravel the plot that had been formed."

The murders, said Lord George, "were coldblooded murders, carefully thought-out, and deliberately planned. They were not the deeds of a fanatic smarting under some sense of supposed wrong. That is to say, the Regulation was being used to aid in the detection of crime—a purpose for which it was certainly never intended. Incidentally, as is now admitted, and as we suggested at the time, the Bombay Government was guilty of the illegality of attaching the moveable, as well as the immovable property of the suspects. That mistake had peculiarly oppressive consequences under the joint arrangements of the Hindu family. But what is of infinitely more importance is the explosion of the whole hasty theory under which Lord G. Hamilton acted. Not many days ago a mendicant Marathi singer—one Damodar Chapekar—was sentenced to death for the Poona assassinations, to which he had confessed, and neither during his trial, nor during any other of the recent State prosecutions in India, was a title of evidence adduced to connect either of the Natus with the crime. Lord G. Hamilton's assumption turned out to be curiously the reverse of the truth. The murders, it is proved, were "the deeds of a fanatic smarting under some sense of supposed wrong."

Strange to say, there was not a word of all this in Lord G. Hamilton's speech in the House last Friday. He has now, it seems, completely shifted his ground. He no longer seeks to associate the Natus with the Poona murders. But he suggests that they were "traitors to the efforts to combat the plague"; that they "did everything in their power to stir up unrest," that they "worked against the regulations," and that so long as the plague lasts it will not be safe to liberate them.

Now, we say nothing of the scraps of tittle-tattle by which alone Lord G. Hamilton supports this new and revised allegation. The point is that it is new and revised. The part taken by the elder Natu in combating the plague has been disclosed in the published correspondence between himself and the Collector of Poona, and Lord G. Hamilton, in reply to Sir W. Wedderburn, stated recently that the grounds on which the Natus were detained had "no relevancy whatever" to this correspondence. The only thing which seems to emerge clearly from a mass of contradiction is that the suspects were hastily arrested under a groundless assumption, and are now detained under fresh allegations the result of afterthought. If that should really be the case, one can only say that it is a characteristic example of repression inspired by panic, and is all of a piece with (2) the recent series of Press prosecutions in India, and (3) the new Press Law, part of which was hurried through the Viceroy's Council on Friday.

It is difficult for Englishmen to realise that their countrymen in India have made themselves responsible for this amazing legislation. 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. Colleen said that the utterances 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.

And how does the Government of India propose to offer "guidance" to its clients, the

Indian Press? There are two sets of proposals. One relates to changes in the substantive law. The other relates to the law of procedure. The first set of proposals was, as we have seen, rushed through the Viceroy's Council on Friday. But in order to estimate the new legislation fairly one must examine it as a whole. The Government's catchword throughout is that it is endeavouring to make the law regarding seditious in India identical with the law regarding seditious in England. Now, seditious 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 seditious 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.

But that is not all, nor the worst. The law of seditious 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 seditious 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 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. Lord G. Hamilton'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.—*Chronicle.*

THE Maharaja of Panna died of paralysis on the night of the 9th.

A SHARP shock of earthquake was experienced at 3-33 A. M. at Shwegyeen, in Burma, on the 4th.

THE strike in Bombay is at an end. Cartmen labourers and others have resumed work everywhere.

THE annual budget of the Madras Legislative Council will be held on Monday, the 4th of April. As usual, Sir Henry Bliss will explain the annual financial statement for the year 1898-99. There will be the debate on the budget.

THE Secretariat offices of the Government of the North-West Provinces and Oudh will open at Naiin Tal on April 1st—somewhat earlier than usual. Sir Antony MacDonnell will leave for the hills as soon as the meetings of the Famine Commission, which assembles at Lucknow next week, are over.

A TELEGRAM from Rangoon says that news received from China announces that the rebellion has again broken out in the Philippines. The rebels hold all the northern provinces, and all the land telegraph lines have been destroyed. Her Majesty's ship Edgar has left Hongkong for the Philippines to protect British property.

A KANGOOON telegram says:—News received from China announces that the rebellion has again broken out in the Philippines. The rebels hold all the northern provinces, and all the land telegraph lines have been destroyed. Her Majesty's ship Edgar has left Hongkong for the Philippines to protect British property.

ALREADY there are signs that with the termination of the war old quarrels among the tribesmen of the frontier will be revived. The Shinwaris have not scrupled to plunder Afridis returning from Kabul to their own country, while Khwas Khan and Wali Mahomed, refugees in Afghanistan, have done their best to create trouble between sections of the tribe generally. When peace is eventually proclaimed there is certain to be strife among the Afridis, and hence the weaker clans have shown the greatest anxiety that a fair adjustment should be made by our Political Officers in the matter of the surrender of arms. They dread attacks from sections better armed than themselves, and the Zakka Khel are most feared of all. They have always had a large number of breech-loaders and their central position gave them an advantage over the clans on their borders. Their disinclination to give up any rifles has been most marked, and even now the collection of arms is proceeding very slowly. Sir William Lockhart, however, has refused to modify the terms imposed, or to accept the submission of one section while the others are holding back. So far as we can judge every care has been taken to apportion the fine of rifles and cash impartially, no clan being favoured at the expense of its neighbours. The Government cannot be accused of undue harshness in the payment of Rs. 50,000. The Afridis can afford to fulfil these terms, and will still, after compliance, have arms to defend themselves against their neighbours.—"Pioneer."

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

MYMENSING, MAR. 16. An address of welcome was given to Maharaja Surja Kanta Acharjya yesterday by the representative body of Chota and Bara Bazar and Amarvati in the town of Mymensing, including Mahomedans, Hindus and up-country gentlemen, resident traders and merchants numbering several thousands, under a big shamiana. The whole length of Bara Bazar road was tastefully decorated and lined with plantain trees, festoons, etc. The shops in the town were also decorated and many were closed on the afternoon of the Maharaja's arrival. The Maharajah was hailed with series of bonfires and general cry of *aboo*. The proceedings were commenced with music and songs composed for the occasion, when the address was read. There were deafening cheers for some minutes, in which the District Judge heartily joined. The Maharaja replied shortly but gracefully. He thanked the meeting for the kind reception. He said that meetings of this kind certainly help to foster the feelings of sympathy, devotion, good-will and affection between the parties concerned. He further said that the year 1304 B.S. was a year of great disaster, famine, plague and pestilence, and swept away innumerable lives. Though he was obliged to remain far away, he did not forget his tenants and his responsibility, having constantly communicated with his manager and other officers to help the tenants. He expressed his satisfaction in finding that his instructions were acted to up by them. He concluded his reply as follows:—"The bond that unites us is a holy one, I pray to God that we may always remember that the relationship between you and myself is such as I have already said. I will part with you now by saying a last sentence—a sentence which I say from my heart, and I hope you will take it in the same spirit. What I wish to say is: You are mine and I am yours." There was another outburst of feeling from the crowd; and after some more music the meeting, which was certainly the biggest ever seen in Mymensing, separated.

BOMBAY, MAR. 18. Chapekar's execution has been postponed. No reply has yet been received to his petition. He is considered mad. The Government is sending two doctors to examine him. Commutation of the sentence to transportation for life is spoken of as likely.

THE Mahomedans of Hulbi held a meeting and resolved to oppose the plague measures on the 11th instant. Mr. Capell, the Collector bound the principal Mahomedans for good behaviour. The Southern Mahratta Railway volunteers were kept in a readiness, and troops were called out from Belgaum. No disturbance, however, took place. Another meeting was held yesterday when Sir Charles Ollivan, explained the Government policy and heard complaints.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, MAR. 16. There are strong indications that the Transvaal is prepared to profit by British entanglements in Europe to repudiate British Suzerainty. President Kruger speaking in the Volksraad, said the Burgers must stand together, for, nobody knew what might happen. He said he had replied to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch concerning the Suzerainty question, and the reply would show whether they were a Government.

LONDON, MAR. 16. The Egyptians had a skirmish on Sunday with the Dervishes and routed them, besides killing thirty-eight. Major Sitwell was severely wounded.

Spain has made friendly representations at Washington stating that war, considering the circumstances, would be a crime against humanity. Meanwhile preparations for war continue to be made by the United States.

LONDON, MAR. 17. Emir Mahoud is advancing steadily northwards in battle formation. The Seaforth Highlanders have reached the front, and everything is in readiness for battle.

LONDON, MAR. 17. The American Medical Mission at Chungking has been attacked by a mob. The native medical assistants were maltreated, and one was murdered.

LONDON, MAR. 17. Germany has finally withdrawn her force from Crete, objecting to the nomination of Prince George of Greece, which Russia is still pressing.

LONDON, MAR. 17. At the banquet in London of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Ritchie, president of the Board of Trade, admitted that there was considerable ground for anxiety regarding the foreign situation, but he believed that all matters, both in China and West Africa, would be settled amicably.

LONDON, MAR. 17. The report of the American Commissioners appointed to enquire into the loss of the Maine is expected to be presented to the United States Government to-morrow, but President Mc. Kinley is determined to keep it secret until he considers it opportune to publish the report. It is semi-officially intimated that Spain will repudiate the theory that the explosion was externally caused.

Mr. Curzon, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said the Government had no knowledge of any special privileges accorded to Russia at Port Arthur.

THE six officers belonging to the new Sikh regiment to be despatched to Uganda are at present in Lahore, and are about to start for Bombay to collect their men, taking ten from each regiment in that presidency.

WHEN Mr. T. A. Stoker goes on 6½ months' leave, his place as officiating Chief Secretary to the Government of the North-West Provinces and Oudh will be taken by Mr. V. A. Smith, at present Judge of Gorakhpur.

THE first caravan, consisting of 150 camels with salt, cloth and iron, arrived at Landikota on Wednesday for Cabul. The O'fords, the Gurkha scouts, four guns of No. 3, Mountain Battery and Section No. 5 B. F. H. are held in readiness to march to Ali Musjid. The weather is still unsettled.

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 colic, Diarrhoea, Colic, Cholera-Morbis and is for sale everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

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

I HAD 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 stores. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2.

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

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 the results are always satisfactory."

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

MR. PUGH ON SEDITION LAW.

SPEAKING at the annual meeting of the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association on Wednesday on the Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill, Mr. Pugh said:—Now it may be said 'Why have you taken so much time and trouble and pains in making known the views of this Association to the Government with regard to the two measures, the Sedition Bill and the Criminal Procedure Code Bill. As regards the Sedition Bill I am bound to say that for my part I look upon it as a Bill which according to the statement of the members of the Council, was not required here and from what they have told us I cannot help coming to the conclusion that this Bill was sent out to them from England to pass here. This is a state of things which ought not to exist, because if the law was sufficient as it stood before, why create this ferment in the country in order to get what has been described as a declaratory Bill to make more clear what was sufficiently clear before? We, therefore, represented our views with regard to this Bill. We also went at great length and care into the Criminal Procedure Code Bill. Looking at the number of members we have got in the mofussil, it is quite obvious that any Bill like that ought to be scanned very closely by this Association. We were formed in the first instance for the defence of European and Anglo-Indian interests, and this Bill is vitally connected with these interests, both directly and indirectly. Where you put more power in the hands of Magistrates and diminish the power of revision by the High Court, as is done in this Bill, it is a thing we ought to protest against in the interests of the Anglo-Indian community and the country at large in which their interests are, to my mind, inseparably bound up. We cannot expect, supposing that this Bill does not directly affect us now, that it will always be so because Governments change and the views of Governments change, and we may have a time when the views of Government of the time may be similar to those views of Government when this Association was started. Therefore, we have taken considerable trouble with the Bills, and the results of our labours are here on record, and I shall look forward with interest to see how far our views have been justified.

OPENING OF AGRICULTURAL CLASS AT SIBPUR.

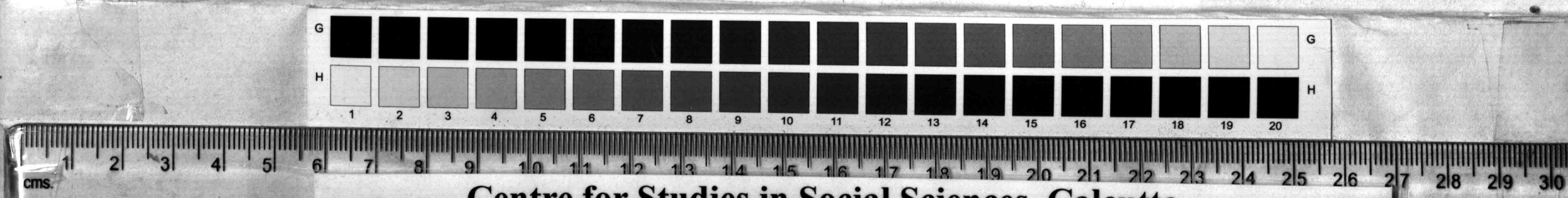
THE following is the full text of the Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the subject of the opening of Agricultural Classes in the Sibpur Engineering College:—
Proposals for the establishment of Agricultural Classes in the Sibpur Engineering College were made in 1888 by the then Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Bengal, in connection with the enquiries of the Committee which was appointed in 1887 to report on the working of the Sibpur Engineering College. The Director's recommendations were endorsed by the committee, and were further developed in 1892 in consultation with Mr. J. Slater, Principal of the Sibpur College. No orders were passed by Government on these proposals, however, pending consideration of the Report of Dr. J. A. Voelcker, who had been deputed by the Secretary of State for India to advise on the best course to be adopted in order to apply the teachings of Agricultural Chemistry, and in order to effect improvements in Indian Agriculture.
2. In considering the need for and the advantages of providing higher education in agriculture, Dr. Voelcker expressed the opinion that it is not advisable, at present to establish special Agriculture Colleges, but that it will be better to utilize existing colleges of science and to add agriculture to the subjects, taught in such colleges. He recommended also that Universities should encourage the study of agriculture by making it an optional subject in the course for a degree, and that the claims of men who have passed examinations in agriculture should be fully recognized for appointments in the Revenue and cognate Departments. These conclusions were discussed at a general conference of officers of the Agricultural Departments convened at Simla in October 1893, and were held to be included in the Resolutions previously passed at the fifth meeting of an Agricultural Conference held at Simla in 1890. The four Resolutions of the Simla Conference of 1893, which had a direct bearing on the proposal to open classes at Sibpur for the teaching of agriculture and allied subjects, were as follows:—
"That as a general rule, instruction in agriculture should be combined with the existing course of education, and not depend exclusively on separate special institutions. That it is highly desirable that the claims of men trained in scientific agriculture to appointments in the Revenue and cognate Departments should be as freely recognised as those of men trained in Law, Art, and Engineering.
That where appointments in the Revenue and cognate Departments are made on the result of the competitive examinations, scientific agriculture should be included as an optional or necessary subject in the examination course.
That in any province in which it may be determined to introduce a scheme for higher agricultural education, no arrangements will be satisfactory which do not provide (1) for a thorough practical training of the student in the field and laboratory, as distinct from theory or practice, as taught in the lecture, and (2) for examination tests of a special and searching nature in the above branches of work."
Before issuing orders on the proposals and recommendations of the Agricultural Conference of 1893, the Government of India decided that the views and wishes of the Local Governments should be more definitely ascertained, and for this purpose, Sir Edward Buck, Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, was placed on special duty, and met the delegates of the Bengal Government in January 1896 at Calcutta. At this Conference, the scheme of 1892 for the establishment of an Agricultural College was accepted, with some slight modifications; and in paragraph 17 of this Government's letter No. 630 T.R. of the 24th June, 1896, the sanction of the Government of India was solicited to the early formation of agricultural classes of Sibpur, and to the appointment of an Agricultural Lecturer. The sanction of Her

Majesty's Secretary of State for India to the appointment of an Agricultural Lecturer at Sibpur College was communicated to this Government with the endorsement Nos. 1131-487, dated 24th July, 1897, from the Government of India. It has been decided that the agricultural classes will be opened at Sibpur from June 1898.
3. The scheme of agricultural education to be provided at Sibpur includes two classes. The Course of study to be followed by students in the upper class, qualifying for the higher diploma, is intended to train students for employment in the higher branches of the Revenue and cognate services, or for employment as managers and sub-managers of estates, or as tahsildars and land stewards. The course of study for the lower class will be suitable for candidates for the office of kanungo and other subordinate posts in the Revenue service. The theoretical course for both classes will be limited to 14 months, including vacations, from June of one year to August of the next. During the eight months from November of the second year to the following June, it is contemplated that the students of both classes will receive practical instruction on the Sibpur farm, as probationers on Government and Court of Wards' estates, and that they will make excursions to the Budwan and Dumraon experimental farms. Dr. Leather, who is recently Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India has also suggested that the students should visit the Allahabad and Cawnpore Farms, and Mr. Keventer's Dairy Farm at Aligarh.
The higher course of study will be open to students of the Engineering College who have passed the F. E. examination at the end of their third year, who will already have studied chemistry, physics, mathematics, surveying, levelling and drawing. It may be also arranged, so far as the available accommodation will permit, to admit to this class B. A.'s nominated by Government who have passed by the B course or other students of sufficient educational attainments so nominated. The subjects to be taught in the upper class during the 14 months' course of agricultural study are agriculture, organic and agricultural chemistry and laboratory work, botany, physiology, geology, meteorology, hydraulics, book-keeping and zamindari accounts. Arrangements may be made for students to attend lectures in veterinary science at the Veterinary College, and special lectures will be given on the culture of lac, indigo, sugar, &c., as shown in Appendix A to this Resolution.
The syllabus of lectures prepared by Mr. Mukherji and revised by Dr. Leather, late Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India, which is printed as Appendix A to this Resolution, is provisionally approved, but will be subject to such modification as may be found necessary. The lower course of study will be open to students of the College who have completed their second year in the apprentice department, and to teachers sent from training schools with the sanction of the Director of Public Instruction. The course will include agriculture, surveying, workshop practice, botany, and zamindari accounts. At the close of their terms of theoretical study, the student of both classes will be examined in the subjects prescribed in their course, and successful students will receive from the Principal of the College, in the higher class, a diploma; in the lower, certificate of proficiency. On the conclusion of the further term of practical training, and after further examination, the diplomas and certificates of those students who satisfy the examiners will be countersigned by the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, and will then qualify the holders for employment in the higher or lower grades of the Revenue and cognate services.
4. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is prepared to assign one appointment annually in the Provincial Executive Service, and one in the Subordinate Executive Service to such of the holders of agricultural diplomas as he may think most deserving of a suitable for these appointments, and will also consider favourably applications for nominations to be given to such students, authorizing them to compete at the examinations for candidates for admission to the Provincial, Executive and Opium Services, provided the applicants are, in other respects, considered by him to be suitable for admission to these services. Students who hold certificates of proficiency in agriculture will be eligible for employment in the subordinate services as Kanungos in the Canal Department, and under the Court of Wards, and as normal school teachers. But it is not possible, at present, to state how many such appointments can be given each year to the holders of agricultural certificates.
5. For the present, students in the agricultural classes will not be required to pay tuition fees, but board, lodging and lighting must be paid for at the ordinary rate; accommodation for students will be provided in the hostel attached to the College.
Senior scholarships held by students when passing the F. E. examination will continue to be tenable in the agricultural classes during the fourth year; the number of such scholarships at present open to all the senior students of the Sibpur College is 10, viz, 1 of Rs. 20 a month, 3 of Rs. 15 a month, 6 of Rs. 10 a month. In addition to these scholarships one graduate scholarship of Rs. 30 a month, tenable in the fifth year, will be awarded on the result of the fourth-year examination. To students of the apprentice department who join the agricultural classes, ten reduced feeships of Rs. 2 a month will be allotted, tenable during the 14 months of their theoretical training. During the final year of training, four stipends of Rs. 10 a month will be awarded on the results of the final agricultural examination.
6. The initial expenditure on apparatus necessary for the opening of the classes will be Rs. 7,000.
7. The whole control of the teaching staff and establishment will be with the Principal of the Sibpur College, but the nomination of the Agricultural Lecturer will be left to the Director of Land Records, who will also be Official Visitor of the agricultural classes. The Agricultural Lecturer will, on this occasion, be taken from the staff of Deputy Collectors, and will draw his grade pay plus a special allowance of Rs. 100 a month, and to fill the vacancy caused by his deputation, a new appointment will be added in the Rs. 300 grade. The Lieutenant-Governor has appointed Mr. Nitya Gopal Mukherji, a graduate of Cirenester, and at present, Assistant Director of the Bengal

Agricultural Department, to the post of Agricultural Lecturer.
8. The Lieutenant-Governor has much pleasure in sanctioning the opening of these agricultural classes at Sibpur College. They will complete a scheme which Sir Alexander Mackenzie has had much at heart, viz., the expansion of that institution into a thoroughly equipped School of Technical Instruction, where young men can be trained to take part in the development of the resources of Bengal, whether as Civil Engineers, Mechanical Engineers, Mining Engineers, Electrical Engineers, or Agricultural experts.
SPIRIT ARMIES.
STORIES OF PHANTOM FIGHTERS.
MANY strange rumours passed over the country with regard to spirit armies after the Civil War of Charles I's time. Battles were seen to be fought in the clouds, the absence of the noise alone proving that the eye was deluded. Later on, in 1650, it is alleged that a spectre drummer-boy was seen going along beating the Scottish and English marches by turns and is said to have been summoned to a conference of spirits at Edinburgh Castle. It seems strange, however, that just afterwards Colonel Dundas surrendered the castle to Cromwell on being bribed with gold. At the same period, too, the hum of cannon shot is said to have been heard in the air.
A curious case was that which is recorded as having taken place during the last century in the north of Scotland, when a toll-keeper swore before his judges that a regiment had passed through his gates during the silent watches of night. Inquiry was made on foot but failed to elicit any information to justify the report. Some said that the spirits of those who fell at Culloden fought only a few years previously—haunted the place, and even to this day some believe that another battle is destined to take place on that spot.
Again, we have journalistic evidence, the Regimental notes, that prior to the great war with France, which marked the close of the eighteenth century, argued shadows of men haunted Stockton, Forest in Yorkshire, and at the same time no small sensation was created by the appearance of a spirit army in the neighbourhood of Leeds. At the outbreak of the war these antecedent events were, of course, supposed to have been sent as a warning to the nation to arm Bonaparte, in Egypt, saw his army reflected in the sky, and this so terrified some of the men that they refused to proceed believing that disaster awaited them.
In 1745 a phantom army appeared in the clouds at Souter Fell, in Cumberland, and was seen by all the inhabitants of the village of Knott. For two hours the ghostly regiment marched across the sky, until it disappeared behind the mountains.
"SOLDIERS ARE BAD ADVISERS."
LORD ROBERTS, who has been preserving a discreet silence during the frontier controversy, has at last come forward in the House of Lords to defend the policy which must be always associated with his name. "He pointed out," says Reuter, "that the policy of non-interference had utterly failed, and it was essential that we should gradually and judiciously obtain control over the whole borderland. He then instanced the quietude which reigned in Chitral and British Baluchistan during the recent troubles as a proof of the success of the forward policy." There is one very simple and obvious answer to all Lord Roberts has to say—non passimus. Nobody will deny that it would be a very fine thing if the whole frontier were under our direct control with Colonel Warburton as Deputy Commissioner of Tirah and Major Deane a District Officer in Swat and Bajaur, but as Lord Onslow pointed out, the enormous cost that would be entailed by Lord Roberts' proposals would impede the internal progress of India. We might indeed go further than this and say the subjugation of the entire frontier, judging from the cost of recent attempts to coerce a mere fraction of the tribesmen, would not merely impede internal progress. It would lead to financial disaster. It is on this account that those who are not blinded by that military instinct which ever seeks to enlarge the boundaries of the empire without counting the cost, have in season and out of season protested against the annexation or practical annexation of territories which have hereafter to be defended at the cost of blood and treasure the country can ill afford. "Soldiers," said Bacon, "make good servants but bad advisers." Lord Roberts instanced as a proof of the success of the forward policy the fact that Chitral and Beluchistan remained perfectly quiet during the recent disturbances, yet in the case of Chitral it is not three years since a costly expedition was despatched to the rescue of the troops attacked by Umra Khan and Sher Afzul. As for Beluchistan the tribesmen are organised upon an aristocratic system lending itself to what is known as the Sandeman policy, which, however, as we know by practical experience, is utterly unsuited to the more democratic clans situated further north. The only way then in which we could hold all the country between the Tochi and Buner would be by force of arms, and we absolutely have not the money or the men to spare.—*Englishman.*
"A CURIOUS SORT OF SPEECH."
LORD SANDHURST seems to have made a curious sort of speech to the Justices of Bombay on Tuesday. Having expasperated every one beyond endurance, having tried to do without native advice, and carry through everything by force, it is now proposed to carry everything through with native advice and assistance. In consequence of not taking native and non-official advice, the new rules were brought in and led to a riot. Lord Sandhurst now admits that the house-to-house search has failed, as anyone who exercised his common sense must have known from the start that it would; he admits that it is his duty to remove obnoxious measures, and to try and get the people on his side. He has very wisely given way, as we alone of the Anglo-Indian press suggested last Thursday that he must, and he has thrown himself as much as possible on native goodwill and assistance. There are to be no soldiers with the searchers, no death certificates and contact segregation is to be modified, and to some extent given up. That is the right direction, and it cannot be less successful than the absurd inadequate measures which, as Dr. Simpson points out, were being carried out in Bombay. What we have to say about all this is that climbing down is solely due to climbing up without advice, or taking the advice of men quite out of touch with the country, as the Civil Service now are. The

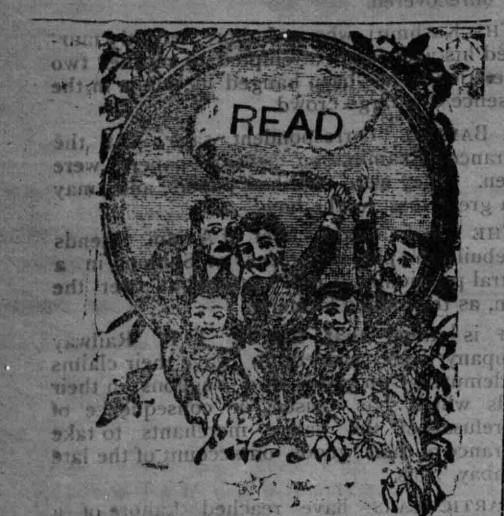
secret of General Gatacre's success was his talking with the natives and consulting them and making friends with them, which the present Bombay Plague Committee cannot bring themselves to do. Some months ago there appeared a letter in the Pioneer from a former member of the Civil Service in which he stated that he had ascertained as a fact that the only portion of the British ruling race in India now in touch with the people were the officers of the Staff Corps regiments. This may not be altogether true, but there is a sympathy in many regiments with the men which is magnetic. It is this magnetism that has enabled Englishmen to rule India, and there is very little of it now. Lord Sandhurst should, however, make a clean and entire repudiation of the plague rules, and he would thus find a reaction in his favour which would neutralise any idea of concessions being wrung by force. It is no good giving way a little. In India you must astonish by your generosity. Nothing could possibly fail more than the efforts of the present Plague Committee.—*Indian Daily News.*
ON THE INDIAN JUGGLER.
A CORRESPONDENT, writing from India regarding the theory that the jugglers perform their tricks by "will power," says:—"During the course of the Indian Mutiny I made the acquaintance of one of these gentlemen of India, who tried to instruct me how to perform these tricks. He said it was all imaginary on the part of the spectators, as he simply willed that they should see those things. Yet I, in common with Western nations, was too animalised, sensual, and materialised by flesh eating and consumption of alcohol to retain or accept any deep spiritual teaching. The most exciting performance that he gave for my amusement was the converting of a bamboo-stick into a native servant, who waited at table and supplied our wants. Afterwards—in his absence—I tried it on, and to my surprise the same man was before me asking for instructions. I directed him to fill the chatties in the verandah with water from the well in the compound. This he proceeded to do. When he had filled them all to overflowing I requested him to stop. He, however, took no notice of me and went on stolidly bringing in the water, until in my excited imagination it seemed that the bungalow would be washed away. Finding that I could not arrest or stop his movements, he passing through me as though I did not exist, I drew my sword and lay in wait for him, making a slash, I apparently cut him in twain, when, lo! there were two men bringing in the water, neither of whom could I restrain or prevent from doing so. I was completely out of my depth, when I heard a quiet laugh behind me, and on turning I found it was my instructor, who held up his right hand, and the two men disappeared, the stick resuming its place in the verandah, and to crown all there was not the slightest sign of any water having been brought in. I excitedly appealed to him for an explanation. He said that he had been present all the time having willed that he should be invisible to me and that I should imagine myself to see and do what I thought had taken place. In order to prove it, he asked me to step out into the compound and directed my attention to a huge cavern, which I knew was not there before. As I entered, a number of huge elephants and camels issued from it in a continuous stream, yet I could not touch one of them. They apparently passed over me as though I did not exist. He again raised his hand and the cavern and animals disappeared, and there was no indication of any exodus of any kind."—*Scottish Nights.*
"I FEAR very much," said the President of the Anglo-Indian Defence Association, referring to the frequent riots of late, "that this is a result of our forcing western civilisation upon those who do not wish for it." "These plague measures," continued he, "must be enforced with every care and consideration for the people's inherited and fixed ideas of privacy and the purdah." In quite a similar vein, Mr. Pugh remarked: "It seems to me impossible to carry out plague regulations unless you have sympathy with the people you have to deal with, and adopt the conciliatory attitude in regard to them."
OPERATIONS in connection with the Plague Committee in Bombay were practically at a standstill on Wednesday in the face of the Governor's announcement that house-to-house visitation has been abandoned. A notification to the following effect has been posted throughout the city. His Excellency the Governor in Council desires that all people may understand that the object of all plague measures in Bombay is the benefit of the people. As long as the plague lasts, there will be death and sickness, grief and suffering for many, there will also be less trade and less work to do and less wages to earn. It is these evils that Government wish to do away with. It is false and absurd to suppose that they wish to oppress the people or to cause their suffering or to make them discontented. Much suffering there must be as long as the plague lasts, but the Government do not wish to make the cure of the plague a cause of suffering for the people. The great object of the Government is to alleviate suffering. They desire the greatest kindness and sympathy to be shown to all. For the last fourteen days a new plan is being devised, but the recent disturbances have delayed its introduction. General searching for plague cases can, it is hoped, be almost wholly given up, provided the people cordially assist to make this new plan effective. To take the place of general searching, arrangements will be made for ascertaining the house where a death occurs. The headmen must help in this. The people should bring cases of plague to notice in order that the sick may be cared for in their own case hospitals and that those suffering from other sickness than plague may not be taken to hospital. The headmen must help in this also. Where it is necessary to vacate houses the leaders and headmen will be expected to impress on the people the necessity for complete ventilation and temporary removal, as this is the best way of saving life. Careful inquiries will be made to find out whether a death is or is not due to plague, but there will be no inspection of corpses and no delay of funerals. If the plague authorities are satisfied that death is not due to plague, the house where it takes place will not be further troubled. Arrangements will be made for the hearing of complaints, and people should aid Government by exposing attempted extortion.

THE Burma Government is calling for a return of all the firearms reported as lost or stolen during the last seven years which are still unrecovered.
THE Kashmiri, who in Lahore recently murdered his wife and attempted to murder two male friends, has been hanged in public in the presence of a large crowd.
A BARISAL correspondent says:—At the Entrance Examination several papers were stolen. They were finished papers, and may be a great loss to the boys.
THE Chief Commissioner of Assam intends to rebuild the public offices at Shillong in a central position, and not scattered all over the town, as they stood formerly.
It is stated that the G. I. P. Railway Company have agreed to waive their claims for demurrage on goods and waggons in their yards which has arisen in consequence of the refusal of the native merchants to take clearance of their goods on account of the late Bombay riots.
PARTICULARS have reached Lahore of a storm in Kashmir, the like of which has been unknown there or twenty years at least. Thatched houses and unfinished buildings have suffered much and a great number of trees have been blown down, many boats were swamped and several others are missing with all their crews. Five bodies were found washed ashore on the banks of the Moolar Lake.
WHEN the Hon. Mr. Rivaz rejoins his appointment as Financial Commissioner, Punjab, Mr. Thorburn reverts to his substantive appointment as Commissioner of the Rawalpindi Division, displacing Mr. Cunningham, who is officiating there. Mr. Cunningham goes to Peshawar as Commissioner. Mr. Merks, at present officiating as Commissioner of Peshawar reverts to Deputy Commissioner, Hazara.
THE Ghazi who assassinated Colonel Gaisford was executed at Singawi at 7 o'clock, on Wednesday morning. It appears that some years ago he was employed in the Zhoob Levy Corps, but left intending to commit ghaza. It is reported that he had been watching Colonel Gaisford's bungalow for a considerable time. He managed to enter the house at midnight, and attacked his victim in the dressing room from behind.
TRANS-FRONTIER reports state that the Afridis, who in the late disturbances took refuge in Afghanistan, have now been expelled by order of the Amir from Afghan territory and are on their way towards Tirah. A section of the Zakka Khel Khybers are, however, still with Maliks Khawas Khan, Wali Muhammad Khan, and Feroz Khan, to whom the Amir has given a furnished house near Jellalabad together with property and land equal to what was confiscated by Government in the Peshawar district.
DR. BISWAS
ACIDITY PILL
ACIDITY and DYSPEPSIA are the two most common disorders of the day, and very few are so fortunate as to declare their immunity from these. In view of the fact that though apparently harmless in the embryonic stage, Acidity and Dyspepsia shatter and undermine the constitution in the end and lead to its total wreckage, it must be held that they are dangerous in their insidiousness.
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