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DR. BISWAS

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This book may be regarded as a key to the understanding of the various phases of Hinduism on a rational basis.

Regarding the Hindu System of Moral Science, **Hon'ble P. Ananda Charu Rai Bahadur**, C. I. E. Member of the Legislative Council of the Governor General of India, says:

The book deserves to be made a first text book of religious teaching in every school. I will ask every Hindu to read it. I want every young man to be taught it. I cannot do better justice than to proclaim it as a little manual worth its weight in gold deserving to be read by every Hindu parent and by him to be taught to his sons and daughters.

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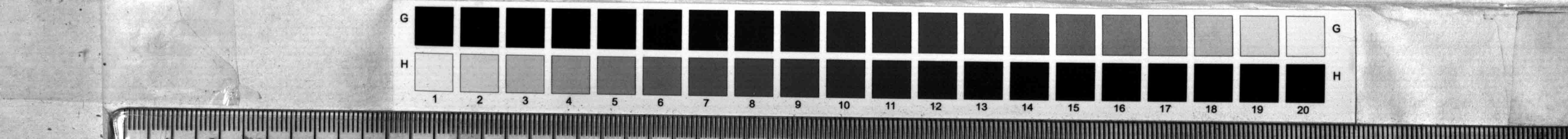
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THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, MARCH 24, 1898.

LORD SANDHURST ASSERTS HIMSELF.

The press has been gagged under the plea that it is now being utilized by the people of India for the purpose of undermining the Government. The press here represents the higher classes. For the vast body of the lower classes are illiterate. By gagging the press, the Government has indirectly brought an accusation against the higher classes that they are hostile to British rule. The lower classes, on the other hand, have given unmistakable proofs of the bitter feeling that they have come to entertain towards the present Administration. The two chief cities in India are Calcutta and Bombay. In Calcutta there was a riot of the lower classes, and they maltreated the Europeans and the Europeans alone. In Bombay there was a riot, and there the same thing happened. "Beat the Europeans" was the cry raised in both the cities. Nay the feeling was displayed not only against European males but also against European females. The rulers themselves testify to the fact that the higher classes of India are opposed to their rule. The lower classes have come forward to show, in an unmistakable manner, by their action that those who just now rule the Empire are not popular with them. So, here is proof complete that the rule of the present Administration is unpopular with all classes of the people, the lower and higher.

So, by gagging the press, the present Administration has proved its own incompetency. Indeed, the administrators whose rule is unpopular with all classes of the people, should either change their methods or should give place to others, willing and capable to show better results.

Of course, we do not at all admit that British rule is unpopular with either the higher or the lower classes. But of that later on. What, however, we would first of all beg to urge, is that indications, which are unmistakable, have proved conclusively that the rulers have made themselves so unpopular by their systems of administration, with at least the lower classes, that even men, who only belonged to their race, were not spared in times of riots and were singled out for assault. What the rioters did in Bombay and Calcutta was this: They saw one white man in a street in the midst of hundreds of Indians and they attacked him, leaving every one else unmolested. Nay, they did not spare even European ladies!

Is this the result of British rule in India? Of course, in Bombay the feeling was due to plague operations; but, was not the same feeling of bitter hostility displayed also in Calcutta? There was no plague here and nothing apparent to work up the passion of the masses. The riot was initiated and deliberately carried on by the Mussalmans, who, we all know, had no cause to entertain any bitter feeling towards the rulers. On the other hand, we all know that in their quarrels with the Hindus they had been warmly supported by the authorities. How was it then that in Calcutta the Mussalmans selected Europeans for their objects of attack?

To attribute sedition to the higher classes is to bring forward an accusation which is not true; at least it cannot be supported by evidence. But it has been established beyond doubt that the present rulers have made themselves unpopular with the lower classes. You cannot say that the native papers excited them to do the riots or in any way influenced the mob. The riots are solely due to the methods of the present Administration. And what is that method? It is want of sympathy. 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.

In the streets of Calcutta and Bombay they raised the cry of *maro gora*. But in the same streets at one time millions gathered to worship a European ruler—it was when Lord Ripon left India. In this city more than a million followed his carriage with words of blessings. When he reached Bombay, the same thing happened. Now we ask all Englishmen which is better—a demonstration like that which followed Lord Ripon, or the one that disgraced Bombay the other day?

The fact is, the sayings and doings of Lord Sandhurst have delighted us. We have at last won him over to our side. He has flung away the policy that he was so long led by evil advisers to follow. Himself a man of noble heart, a Liberal by training, he had hitherto no independence of his own. He suffered himself, on account of his exceeding good nature, to be advised and led. His Lordship at last came to see that if he had hitherto acted on his own commonsense, he might have done infinite times better. We feel now confident that there will be no longer any riot in Bombay, nor any difficulty in the matter of plague operations. But how was this change brought about? Let us imagine a scene.

Lord Sandhurst hears that riots have commenced, and his Lordship sends for all his counsellors.

Lord Sandhurst.—They are rioting, what am I to do?

First Adviser.—Why, what is the difficulty? Despatch troops and quell the disturbance.

Lord Sandhurst.—And then?

Second Adviser.—Arrest them and send them to jail.

Lord Sandhurst.—I think we made a mistake in forming our policy.

First Adviser.—We committed a mistake? Do I hear right? Can that be possible? We commit mistakes!

Second Adviser.—My Lord, we are absolutely certain that we can commit no mistakes: the thing is altogether impossible.

Third Adviser.—The policy that we advised your Lordship to follow, is the best. It is the wisest, it is the only one that your Lordship ought to have followed. No policy can equal it in statesmanship.

Fourth Adviser.—Of course, weak-minded statesmen would advise some sort of concession. But your Lordship is a strong, very strong ruler, and the world knows it. Any deviation from the policy that we have hitherto followed, would be a mistake.

Lord Sandhurst.—I have hitherto followed your advice. Will you now allow me to follow mine?

First Adviser.—Let us discuss the points.

Lord Sandhurst.—But I want to be left alone.

Second Adviser.—Of course, if your Lordship has anything to suggest we are willing to give our best thoughts upon it.

Lord Sandhurst.—The fact is I am, by training, a Liberal. I have more faith in humanity than possibly you have. I would take the people under my charge, into my confidence, and see the result. And in the meantime I would beg of you to help me in carrying out my policy.

And then, Lord Sandhurst convened the meeting and delivered his speech.

SIR A. MACKENZIE AND HIS BILL.

The proposed changes in the constitution of the Calcutta Municipality have created a strong feeling; and this was quite expected. The Government is slow to give; but when it has once parted with a privilege, it is slow also to take it back. That is the rule. Sir Charles Elliott wanted to take back the privilege of trial by jury; and there was a strong protest, and he had at last to give way. Considering that the proposed measure will not in any way serve the interest of the Empire, but that it will be regarded as a cruel wrong by the people and will bring needless trouble upon Sir A. Mackenzie who is unfortunately in delicate health, His Honour's attempt to tamper with a much-valued privilege is one which he ought never to have made. But mysterious are the ways of men when placed in the position of rulers of their fellows.

Sir A. Mackenzie expects support from the European community here; he has already secured the sanction of the Secretary of State, which practically means the consent of Parliament. His Honour is thus sure of success; and the confidence that he will eventually succeed in his attempt is, we believe, leading him on.

But everything is uncertain in this world, and His Honour has no right to be so sure of the ultimate success of his measure. A dissolution of Parliament may put a stop to any further progress of the measure. Of course, it is not likely that Parliament will be dissolved soon; but if Lord Salisbury now resigns to enjoy an well-earned rest, the dissolution may be forced upon the country.

Of course, His Honour is quite confident that there is no prospect of Lord Salisbury's resigning. But is His Honour quite sure of the support of Parliament? The Government majority in the House was reduced by forty votes during the debate on the Forward Policy. The majority was still further reduced, that is, to seventy, when Mr. Roberts subsequently moved in the matter of the Sedition Bill. And who knows that this majority even will not cease to exist altogether when the Municipal measure of Sir A. Mackenzie will come to be discussed in Parliament?

One can see at a glance, by perusing English papers, that they in England have taken alarm at the way the authorities here are introducing one unpopular measure after another. Possibly Lord George Hamilton is yet staunch and is likely to remain so; but there is no ground for supposing that his supporters in Parliament will remain so. A good many of them have already been tired of this way of ruling India.

This is not the first time that repressive measures have been introduced in India. There was the attempt of Sir Charles Elliott to tamper with the system of trial by jury. He was as confident as probably Sir A. Mackenzie is now. But he at last had to admit that it was not he who disposed of the destinies of nations, but somebody else. When the Press Act was introduced during Lord Lytton's rule, Sir A. Eden was so confident of success that in the opening words of his speech in Council he was led to say, "there cannot possibly be two opinions on the subject." Subsequently, however, it was found that there were two opinions, and more than two; indeed, he was left alone by his country to his own opinion. Nay, he himself had at last to give it up, and inter, along with others, the Act of which he was so proud when it was passed.

The Liberals have openly avowed that the first thing that they intend doing on

coming to power, would be to deal with the sedition measure of Lord Elgin, as they had dealt with the Press Act of Lord Lytton. And if Sir A. Mackenzie now succeeds, under the pliant rule of Lord George Hamilton, in withdrawing a valued privilege which the people had been enjoying for the last twenty-two years, the Liberals would repeal it no sooner they would come into power. For the indications are very plain that the more the present Administration is introducing repression, the more the Liberals are trying to befriend the people of India.

On one condition we can promise success to Sir A. Mackenzie; it is, if the rate-payers silently allow the thing to be done without a protest. But it is not likely that they will sit idle. We know the time when Sir Stuart Hogg ruled Calcutta. The rate-payers know full well what it is to have an official Municipality. That they will allow the old order of things to revert without a vigorous protest, we don't believe. It is a measure in which they are directly and vitally interested. And if they do come forward with a will, they will have enough support in England.

No moral law can be outraged with impunity. It is an outrage to thrust a measure which is not wanted. The punishment of the legislators who seek to exercise their privilege of making laws for the people without their sanction, or against their protests, begins from the very beginning. What can be a greater punishment for an intelligent man of cultured mind than to be obliged to talk unreasonably before an intelligent public? He has to conceal his fallacies in a cloud of words and ignore points which are unfavourable to his case. The Hon'ble Mr. Risley finds himself under the necessity of justifying his Municipal Bill. This is how he does it:—

And to say that there must be a change in the constitution of the Municipality does not necessarily imply any reflection on the work done in the past by the Commissioners or their Executive. It means merely this, that the constitution introduced in 1876, and maintained in all essentials in 1888, fails to meet the wants of the present day. Times have changed since then; the municipal constitution must change accordingly.

If the constitution introduced in 1876 and maintained in 1888, have really failed, then, of course, a change is necessary. But has it failed? If so, where are the proofs? An independent Commission of enquiry can alone decide the question. But no such Commission was appointed to prove the allegation that the constitution has failed. Mr. Risley says that the reports of the six medical officers, who were deputed to make a sanitary survey of the town, "disclosed an appalling state of things." But is this a fact? It is quite possible that a few latrines in some places were defective or some houses in some portion of the town and the suburb were over-crowded. Even the best-managed cities in Europe and America are not free from such drawbacks. And because a few scores of latrines amongst thousands were found imperfectly cleaned, therefore the control of the Municipality should be practically made over to the executive entirely! This is the sort of argument advanced to justify a measure which is revolutionary in its character. The beauty of the thing is that the fact is skilfully concealed that "the appalling state of things," referred to above, prevailed not during the time of the elected Commissioners but when the municipal affairs of the town were managed solely by the executive. The Calcutta of to-day is a heaven compared with the Calcutta of 1876 and before, when Sir Stuart Hogg ruled the town and quarrelled with Heera Lal Seal on behalf of the Europeans, at the cost of the Indian rate-payers. Yes, a change in the constitution is necessary, but not in the direction of reducing the Commissioners to mere cyphers but of conferring greater controlling powers upon them. With the limited powers they possess and the limited resources at their disposal, they have given ample evidence of their capacity to manage the affairs of the Municipality with efficiency.

The so-called defect in the constitution is, however, a mere plea. The real reason why the revolutionary measure has been brought forward, is that the Hindu Commissioners outnumber the European. Both Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Mr. Risley admit it in plain language. They cannot, however, object to this arrangement for, Calcutta is a Hindu town; and if you allow an elective system here, a large body of Hindu Commissioners are bound to be elected. These Hindu Commissioners can be, however, discredited and then their powers taken away from them with a pretence of justice. Indeed, before a dog is hanged, it is necessary to give it a bad name. Hence the necessity of such expressions as "an appalling state of things" and "a complete break-down of the conservancy of the town at a critical period." But granting that the town has not been kept as clean as it ought to be, are the Commissioners or the executive officers of the Corporation to be held responsible for it? Of course, the latter; for, it is a fact which cannot be gainsaid that the Commissioners do not interfere with the doings of the executive—for two very good reasons. Firstly, if they do it, they run the imminent risk of provoking the ire of the Government; and secondly, it is not their business but that of the highly-paid executive officers, with an army of subordinates under them, to see whether or not a house has been over-

crowded, or a latrine choked with accumulations of filth, or the scavenging of a road not properly carried out. If anybody failed, it was certainly not the elected Commissioners, but the executive officers, from the Chairman downwards; and because the executive failed, though they were left perfectly free and unfettered, therefore, in the judgment of the present Government, their hands are to be strengthened and the Commissioners to be deprived of the little control they exercised over the departments. What beautiful logic!

Just see the nature of the revolution which the Bill seeks to introduce. The Commissioners now fix the salary of the Chairman. They also appoint the Vice-Chairman and fix his salary. The proposed measure, however, provides that it is the Government which will appoint and fix the salaries of these two important officers. Similarly, the Commissioners are to be deprived of the right of appointing the Health Officer, the Engineer, the Secretary, the Collector and the Assessors which they now possess. Under the present arrangement, all the proceedings of the Executive are subject to the review of the Commissioners. Even the old Justices exercised this privilege in 1863. But the Corporation is to be relieved of this power, which is to be transferred to the Chairman. Even in the Budget, the Corporation will have no voice. In the case of a difference between the Corporation and the General Committee, the voice of the former, as now, will not be supreme, but "the Chairman shall refer the matter to the Local Government, whose decision shall be final." The power of giving contracts is also snatched away from the hands of the Corporation and made over to the Government, the General Committee, and the Chairman. As regards the General Committee, the reader is already aware that it shall consist of only four representatives of the people, and nine European and Government members. It is this General Committee and the Government which, it is proposed, shall manage the affairs of the town.

If the Bill be passed as it is, then adieu to local self-government in the capital city of the Empire. In short, what is proposed is to practically revive the old days of Sir Stuart Hogg and place the Municipal funds at the absolute disposal of thirteen men, of whom only four are to be the representatives of the people. It is for the rate-payers of Calcutta to decide whether they prefer the proposed arrangement to the present one. They have now got fifty of their representatives with some powers to watch their interests on the Municipal Board. They can now appoint their own Vice-Chairman, Health Officer, Collector &c; and control the budget. They can now check the high-handedness of the executive subordinates through their respective Ward Commissioners. But under the proposed law, all this will be changed. Their representatives, if they return any will be mere cyphers. They will not possess the power of even a Municipal peon. If the money of the rate-payers is wasted away before their eyes, they will not be able to check it. The rate-payers can now compel their representatives to get their grievances redressed; but under the proposed Act, they will be at the absolute mercy of the executive who will have every thing in their own way. If they consider the Bill a retrograde one, and we cannot conceive how it can be regarded otherwise, they must be up and doing. They must let the Government know, in firm but respectful language, that they don't want the measure; if the Government heeds them not, let them then ask the rulers to do away with the farce of the elective system altogether and convert the Municipal administration of Calcutta into a department of Government.

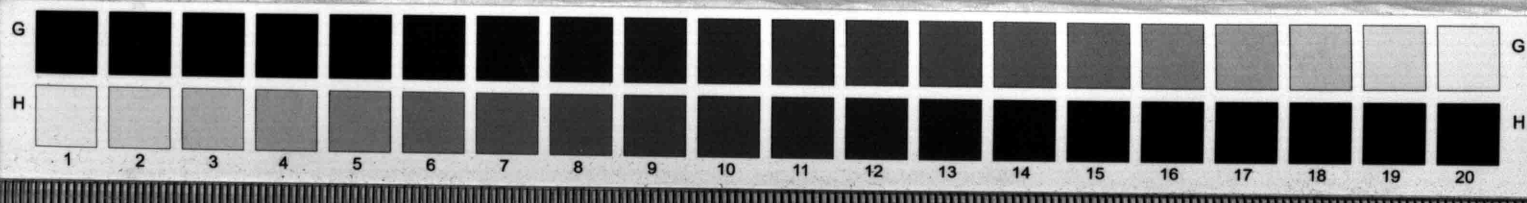
EVERY country in the world is vitally interested in the condition of its national finance, except perhaps India. For, what is it to the Indians whether there is a surplus or a deficit? If there is a surplus, there is no abolition or remission of any tax; if there is a deficit, the affairs of the country would be managed somehow or other. The Budget Statement therefore, concerns us very little. As expected, famine and war have made a terrible havoc upon the Exchequer of the Government. The revised estimates of 1897-98 shew a deficit of over five crores of rupees. This means that a permanent burden about Rs. 20 lakhs per annum has been fastened upon the country. The deficit, in fact, is the largest that was ever known since India came under the Crown. The amount would have been still higher but for an accident, namely, there was a steady improvement in Exchange. The Finance Member takes comfort in the thought that, "if we had no famine expenditure to meet, our ordinary revenue would have been sufficient to meet our war expenditure and to leave a small surplus." But what brought about this famine? Why are other countries free from this calamity? The fact is, if these profitless wars had not been undertaken, there would have been no famine. A Commission was appointed to devise means for averting this scourge of India. They provided that the one and half crores, raised annually from the proceeds of the famine tax, should be solely devoted to the agricultural and other improvements of the country. If their suggestions had been carried out,

famine would have been a thing of the past. But the huge sums, swallowed up by military expeditions beyond the frontier, left nothing or very little to carry out the reforms suggested by the Commission, and the result was the famine. Sir James Westland possesses a sanguine temperament and naturally sees "a brighter side" of the dismal prospect before us. He says that the harvests of 1897 have been very bountiful and "the recovery from the effects of famine and scarcity promises to be a very rapid one." Yes, but for these bumper crops India would have simply been ruined. It is, however, a mere hyperbole to say that people will rapidly recover from the effects of the famine, the like of which was never before witnessed in this country, because of the last year's harvests. The real fact is, it will take years before the general body of the population will be restored to their normal condition. Then, because the riots gathered a good harvest in 1897, that is no reason why crops may not fail the next year. The authorities should be less exacting than they had hitherto been; otherwise the goose will die and lay no golden eggs again.

We learn with amazement that the Calcutta municipal Bill is proposed to be referred to the Select Committee next Saturday. It was published for the first time in the *Calcutta Gazette* on Wednesday before last. Scarcely had four days passed away, when it was introduced formally into the Council. And not even a full week's time is to be given before it is read a second time. Even an American railway express cannot move with greater speed. The Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerjee represented the views of the entire Indian community of Calcutta and Howrah, when he begged of Sir Alexander Mackenzie not to suspend the rules of business and introduce the Bill. His Honour, we submit, might have acceded to the request without endangering the safety of the Empire. But he thought otherwise. He challenged the Hon'ble members to speak on the measure to their hearts' content when the Bill would be referred to the Select Committee. But how could they come prepared unless they were allowed sufficient time to study the various sections of the Bill, which, when passed, would be the biggest of all Acts in this country? His Honour possesses absolute powers; but, it is desirable that he should exercise them judiciously and not against the wishes of the people. Three-fourths of the population of Calcutta and Howrah do not know English. For their information the Bill should be translated into Bengalee, Urdu, and Hindi. We believe no important measure was ever made over to the Select Committee before it had been published in the English and the Vernacular *Gazettes* for three successive weeks. Why should Sir Alexander Mackenzie deviate from this long-established custom and create unnecessary discontent in the country?

The tide in favour of Liberal principles has naturally created consternation in the ranks of the Tories. The *Pioneer* attributes this change to some unpopular local measures. But our London correspondent, who is on the spot and who has other certain and better means of divining the cause of this change in popular feeling, attributes it to the policy of the Indian Government. There is no doubt of it that the Forward Policy of Government and its repressive measures and acts, which have caused so much commotion in India, are mainly responsible for the present unpopularity of the Tory Administration in England. As a matter of fact, in the elections lately held, Indian questions had to be brought forward for the purpose of discrediting the Government. Nay, in some of them, the services of Babus Romesh Chandra Dutt and Ananda Mohan Bose were availed of for that purpose. There is no manner of doubt that the Indian administration of the Government has created an uneasy feeling throughout England in the ranks of both the Tories and Liberals. If there are, however, some Tory papers, which are yet giving a faint support to the Government, there is a likelihood of a complete change in their views, as soon as they come to know the particulars of the Bombay riot. The Bombay riot is likely to bring serious discredit upon the Administration. This last riot will very much affect the prestige of the present Government in England. The authorities here demanded repressive measures on account of the "unrest" that, they declared, prevailed in India. But, it will be now made clear that though the unrest prevails, it is solely due to the mistakes of the Government, and is thus of its own making.

REFERRING to the threat of Mr. Stead that if the Indian papers have been gagged he would supply their place and create as much hatred and contempt for the Government as he possibly could in England, the *Englishman* observes: "we can quite believe Mr. Stead means it." Yes, Mr. Stead does what he promises; he usually does more. If he sees a woman in distress, he secures the sympathy of the world for her. He undertook to provide a bridge, so as to open a communication between those who are living and those who are dead! Such is the determination of the man. The fact is, the love which Mr. Stead has for humanity is genuine and is not bounded by considerations of race and locality. The result is he belongs to neither the Liberal nor!



Conservative party, but is respected by both. As for his doing what he says, he never takes up a case under an impulse. He, however sticks to it to the last when he has once taken one in hand.

WHEN Mr. Herbert Roberts asked why the brothers Natu had been deported, Lord George Hamilton gave a most astounding reply. His Lordship always makes astounding statements; but the one in reference to the brothers Natu, beat hollow all his previous sensational statements. It will be remembered that, on a former occasion his Lordship had solemnly assured the House that the unfortunate brothers had been arrested because of their connection with the murder of Mr. Rand. Of course, his Lordship had then no notion that a Damodar Chapekar would come forward and place him in an awkward position. But Lord George was equal to the occasion. So, if he had previously sought to justify the deportation of the brothers on the plea of "unravelling" the mystery of the Poona murders, he now came forward to assure the House in equally emphatic terms that the Natus were imprisoned and their estates confiscated because they played some tricks! And what were these tricks? Trick No 1 was this: one of the plague nurses at Poona, we quote Lord George Hamilton,

made a deposition that she had received a letter purporting to be signed by one of the brothers Natu, stating that it would be greatly to her detriment if she worked with the search party. Since receiving this letter she persisted in working in the search operations, and she had not had a midwifery case in the city in consequence. 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.

Let us analyse the above. The two brothers were deported because one of them intimidated a nurse! Has not the brother, who did not thus intimidate, a grave cause of complaint for being punished for the fault of another? Then, is intimidation such a grave offence as to justify deportation and confiscation of property under the Regulation? But the alleged intimidation was no criminal intimidation at all. It is criminal intimidation when one "threatens another with any injury to his person, reputation or property." But the nurse was not threatened in that way. She only got a letter, purporting to be signed by one of the brothers, stating that "it would be greatly to her detriment, &c." Now this is no offence at all. And then, where are the proofs that one of the Natus actually wrote such a letter? Where is the wonder if one of their enemies did it? Various other questions suggest themselves. Was any investigation held? Were the Natus asked an explanation? Supposing one of them really wrote such a letter, did it justify the Government to put the Regulation into force and convulse the whole of India in a manner it was never done before?

THE other trick of the brothers, according to Lord George Hamilton, is "still more serious." It was this: "One of the brothers Natu had attempted in a most assiduous way to induce the police to declare that a woman who had really died from disease had been violated by a British soldier and had died in consequence." In this case also, one Natu played the trick, but both were arrested! And did one of the Natus really make the attempt attributed to him? Supposing he did, what was the harm? The police were the servants of the Government; and owed not allegiance to him. They were not bound to listen to his evil counsel. Above all, where is the evidence that he tried to induce the police to make this false statement? We wonder, Lord George Hamilton was allowed to ramble in this way in the House of Commons. Indeed, it seems, it occurred to nobody that the Secretary of State for India was only treating the members to nursery tales which might suit the fancy of little children but certainly not the good sense of the august representatives of the English nation. The Chronicle characterises these utterances of Lord George Hamilton as "new and revised allegations," and proceeds to say: "The only thing which seems to emerge clearly from a mass of contradictions is that the suspects were hastily arrested under a groundless assumption and are detained under fresh allegations—the result of after-thought."

In fairness to Lord George it must be stated that he acted only the part of a parrot. He uttered what he was asked to utter by the authorities in Bombay. Mr. Roberts, we hope, will find his way to interpellate the Secretary of State on this subject again and ask him to publish all the official papers in this connection, including the letter purporting to be signed by one of the Natus. We had always been under the impression that the Regulation was meant for those conspirators who wanted the subversion of the Government. Lord George Hamilton, however, comes forward and assures the world that the people in India, —subjects of Her Majesty the Queen,—are liable to be deported and forfeit their properties for playing some supposed tricks! And Lord George is the Secretary of State for India!

THE speech which the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis delivered on the Central Provinces Tenancy Bill at the last Supreme Legislative Council is a masterly one in its way, and ought to be read carefully by the Zemindars of Bengal; for, the Bill in question, though now meant for the Central Provinces, practically affects landed interests in all parts of India. The reply of Sir John Woodburn to Mr. Chitnavis is gratifying. He promised to consider the objections of Mr. Chitnavis with "the greatest possible respect," and assured him that the Select Committee would make such changes in the Bill as would remove all popular anxiety on this score. The Government has further promised to give the people of the Central Provinces the retrospective effect of the Bill. This will save from ruin thousands who have already invested their money in land mortgages. The Malguzars and ryots of the Central Provinces may well be proud of their representative in the Supreme Council.

JUSTICES AMIR ALI and Hill, in setting aside the death-sentence passed upon Hajja Khan by the Sessions Judge of Backergunj, observed:— The Sessions Judge had, however, placed reliance on the evidence of the fourth man, Bholye. The ground upon which he proceeded to discuss why that evidence was reliable, was more or less of a speculative character. He was of opinion that there must have been a dispute between the accused and the deceased. Bholye's story was, however, different. Mark the circumstances under which the prisoner was adjudged to be hanged. He was convicted on the strength of the uncorroborated evidence of one witness Bholye—the only witness out of four produced by the prosecution in whom the Sessions Judge put faith. But the strange part of the affair is yet to be told. Though the Sessions Judge believed the evidence of this man, he did not accept his story in toto. He formed a theory of his own as to why the murder was committed, which was not supported by the story of the witness!

THE Jail Superintendent of the Yerrowda Central Jail has written to the Editor of the Champion, intimating that the copy of the Rig Veda sent by Professor Max Muller has been given over to Mr. Tilak.

If we are to credit to Times of India, the recent riots in Bombay have been the indirect cause of saving the life of a convict, who was under the sentence of death. The mob having burnt the screen which had been put up for the execution of the man, previous to the day of his execution, it was postponed. The next day an order came, commuting the death sentence to transportation for life.

SINCE Saturday last, there has been an appreciable decrease in the plague mortality in Bombay. There were 195 deaths from plague on Thursday, while the mortality came down to 150 on Saturday and 124 on Sunday. The fact is significant that this satisfactory change has come in when the plague measures have been relaxed; for, it proves that stringent measures can have very little effect in arresting its progress.

THE Poona correspondent of the Advocate of India telegraphed under date the 18th March: "The execution of Damodar Hurry Chapekar which was fixed to take place at Yerrowda Jail, this morning, has been postponed. The authorities here are extremely reticent, but I hear on good authority that it is probable the capital sentence will be commuted into one of transportation for life. I learn that Government are sending two medical men to the jail to examine Damodar to see whether he is mad or not." The Advocate made the following remarks in regard to the above: "No information is obtainable from Government regarding the above statement. All that can be gleaned is that Damodar's petition is still under consideration."

HIS Highness the Maharajah of Rewah, on his return to his State from Calcutta, convened a large durbar to celebrate with his people the dignity conferred on him by the Government. The durbar was a brilliant success. A good many influential gentlemen had been invited from other provinces, and rejoicings prevailed throughout the State for many days. The Maharajah was presented with addresses in the durbar; and a good many deserving officials were rewarded handsomely for their services. The address from the People's Association was the most important, and it touched upon every public act of the Maharajah. In the two years the young Maharajah has been on the throne, he has achieved many practical results, among which may be mentioned the establishment of a High School and an Eye Hospital, the opening of a railway line and Orphanages and the creation of a Representative Council.

THE plague has now reached Kaldagi, a station half way between Sholapur and Gadag Junction of the Southern Mahratta Railway.

THE Kuki Khels and Kambur Khels have sent in 72 hostages, and have thus practically complied in full with the terms imposed on them.

THE Government of Madras has accepted the recommendation of the Judge of the High Court in regard to the establishment of four new District Munsiffs' Courts in that Presidency.

AN amusing story comes from Jamrud, where Sir William Lockhart was interviewing the Jirgahs of Zakka Khels. Sir William complimented them on their late fighting and their excellent workmanship. The Zakka headman then spoke and thanked Sir William and said how much they (the Zakkas) regretted having detained Sir William so long in their country, and had they only known that he wanted to sail on the 12th, they would have come in long ago!

WE hear a report from native sources, remarks the Civil and Military Gazette, that a few days ago a Kabul fakir arrived in Buner and gave out to the people there that he was sent to preach jehad against the Angrez by the hukum of Pir Baba, who is a highly respected Mullah in Afghanistan. But the Bunerwals would have nothing to do with the fakir, and expelled him from their country on the 7th instant. He is now reported to have taken refuge at a place called Chugra.

Calcutta and Mofussil. LORD GAURANGA OR SALVATION FOR ALL. BY BABU SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSE. Paper cover ... Rs. 1-12 Cloth bound ... Rs. 2-4 Postage extra. To be had at the Patrika Office, Calcutta.

RETIREMENT.—Mr. Justice Trevelyan retires from the service on the 10th May.

STANDING COUNSEL.—Mr. L. P. Pugh has been appointed Standing Counsel in Bengal during the time that Mr. P. O'Kinealy officiates as Judge in the High Court, Calcutta.

POSTAL.—Consequent on Mr. Cornwall having been appointed to act as Postmaster-General in the North-West Provinces, Mr. E. C. O'Brien officiates as Inspector-General of the Railway Mail Service, Mr. Doran as first Assistant and Mr. Bennett as second Assistant Director-General.

THE VICEROY'S TOUR.—His Excellency the Viceroy will leave Calcutta for Simla on Tuesday, the 29th March, by special train starting from Howrah at 6-35 P. M. (Calcutta time.) His Excellency's departure from Calcutta will be private. His Excellency will proceed to Pathankote by rail and march from thence through the hills to Simla, arriving there on Monday, the 25th April. His Excellency's arrival at and departure from Pathankote will be private, and His Excellency's arrival at Simla will also be private.

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.—Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel G. Bonford vacates his appointment of President of the Faculty of Medicine, and its first representative on the University Syndicate, in May next. Dr. Soorjee Coomar Sarbadhikari was elected in his place for the year 1898-99, at a meeting of the Faculty, held on Friday. Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. Joubert has been appointed as second representative of the Faculty in the place of Dr. S. P. Sarbadhikari, whose term of appointment expires on the 30th April next.

DAUGHTY IN POLICE UNIFORM.—On the night of the 19th instant, two men dressed as Police Sub-Inspector and head-constable respectively, went to the house of one Chander Nath Sadrhukhan, of Maheshstolla, with the pretext of carrying in a criminal investigation. The owner of the house believing this story, admitted them. No sooner they entered than a gang of thirty or forty, who remained concealed in the vicinity of the house rushed into and joined the sham police Inspector and head-constable, and brutally assaulted the inmate of the house and carried away cash and jewellery worth about three thousand rupees. The inmates of the house, recognised the daemons as Peshwaries.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT. Thursday, February 24.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. DEATHS FROM STARVATION.

MR. MENDEL asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he would give the figures as to the mortality in India, consequent on the recent famine in that country.

LORD G. HAMILTON: Papers are now being printed for presentation to Parliament, which contain the death-rates month by month for each famine-district in India from the beginning of the famine down to the end of November, 1897. The papers have been with the printers for some time, and I hope they may be distributed during March.

WAS DAMODAR CHAPEKAR BRIBED TO CONFESS.

MR. DAVITT asked the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention had been drawn to a statement to the effect that Damodar Chapekar, now under sentence of death for the Poona murders, declared, on his trial that a police superintendent had promised him a sum of 20,000 rupees and employment for his brother in the police;

AND, whether any information upon this matter had been received from the Indian Government; and, if not, whether an inquiry would be made to ascertain if such a declaration was made at any time by the condemned man.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have received no information from the Government of India as to the trial of Damodar Chapekar, but I have seen a newspaper report of it, from which I gather that he did make the statement referred to in the question. I also gather that no credit was attached to it; and, as at present advised, I see no reason for making any special inquiry upon the subject.

INDIA AND THE NEW ARMY PROPOSALS.

MR. BUCHANAN asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he could state to the House what increased Military expenditure would be entailed upon the Indian exchequer in the event of the Military reforms proposed by the Government being carried into Law;

AND, whether the Government of India was consulted before these proposals were made, and gave its assent thereto.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have been and am still in communication with the Government of India regarding the proposals of the War Office, but I have not yet received their final reply.

THE INDIAN TROOPS FOR MOMBASA.

MR. MACLEAN asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs who was to pay the expenses of the Indian troops sent from Bombay to Mombasa for service in Uganda.

MR. CURZON: The Imperial Government will bear all charges.

"BARBAROUS" BULLETS.

MR. HEDDERWICK asked the Secretary of State for India, whether Dum-dum or explosive bullets had been employed against Her Majesty's troops in the North-West frontier campaign;

Whether the use of such missiles was opposed to the cannons of International Law; And, whether the Government were taking any steps to trace the source of supply of such bullets if they had been used in the campaign as stated.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The so-called Dum-dum bullets, which are not explosive bullets, have been used against the troops in the recent frontier campaigns, and are probably part of a large quantity of ammunition captured from a convoy by the Afridis at the advance on Maida.

THE use of these bullets is not opposed to any international law or to the customs of war. Mr. Dillon: Would the right hon. gentleman say whether these bullets were supplied to the British troops to be used against these tribes?

LORD G. HAMILTON: Yes, certainly. The Dum-dum bullets were part of the equipment of the troops.

MR. DILLON: It is most barbarous. (Nationalist cheers.)

LORD G. HAMILTON: The hon. gentleman assumes that they are explosive bullets.

MR. DILLON: No, I know perfectly well what they are. They are bullets—

THE SPEAKER: Order, order.

LORD G. HAMILTON: They are not explosive bullets, and, as I stated before, they are not opposed to international law or the customs of war. (Hear.)

MR. DILLON: They are most barbarous. (Nationalist cheers.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS. THE COST OF THE WAR BEYOND THE FRONTIER.

MR. BUCHANAN asked the Secretary of India whether he would lay upon the Table the despatches, telegrams, and correspondence between the India Office and the Government of India on the subject of the expenses of the frontier war.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The official telegrams relating to this subject are few, and I read out their substance in the debate last Tuesday. I will readily publish them if the hon. member wishes it.

THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON INDIAN EXPENDITURE.

MR. HERBERT LEWIS asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that it was now seven months since the evidence before the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure was closed.

AND if there was any probability that the Commission would report before the Indian Budget was discussed by the House.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I understand that it is the case that the oral evidence before the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure was closed in August last.

WITH regard to the second part of the question I am unable to add anything to the answer I gave to the hon. member for the Eastern Division of North Hants on the 14th ultimo.

"BARBAROUS" BULLETS.

MR. DILLON asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government had received any medical reports as to the effect of Dum-dum bullets on men or animals in the recent military engagements on the North-West frontier of India.

MR. MACNEILL asked the Secretary of State for India whether the specific quality of the Dum-dum bullets supplied to British troops to be used against the Afridis consisted in crushing and pulverising the bone so as to defy all surgical skill employed in setting it.

IN what respects were the Dum-dum bullets less calculated, than explosive bullets, to inflict incurable injury?

AND, what was the authority for the statement that the Dum-dum bullets were consonant with internal law on the usages of civilised warfare.

LORD G. HAMILTON: As questions No. 45 and No. 72 relate to the same subject, I may perhaps be allowed to answer them together.

ACCORDING to the informations supplied to me the effects of this bullet are not more serious (indeed I believe they are less serious) than those of the old Snider bullet; nor than those of the Martini-Henri bullet. But on the other hand, as was clearly shown during the Chitral expedition the Lee-Netford bullet, frequently failed to attain the object with which all missiles are discharged in war, namely that of disabling the enemy with the least possible suffering. The Dum-dum bullet fulfils this purpose, as did the bullets previously used by the British army and fulfils it in the same way.

THAT the use of the Dum-dum bullet is consonant with international law, as set forth in the terms of the St. Petersburg Convention of 1868, is perfectly clear, inasmuch as what the Convention forbids is the use of any explosive projectile, below a certain weight, "charged with fulminating or inflammable matter."

I have received, as yet no medical reports from India on the effects of the Dum-dum bullets in the recent engagements, but I have asked the Government of India to expedite this information.

MR. MACNEILL: As I expected the noble lord promised what he has not performed. (Ministerial cries of "Order.") He said he would answer my question.

THE SPEAKER: If the question has not been fully answered the hon. member can, without preface, ask for a fuller answer.

MR. MACNEILL: Very well. I wish to know whether the specific quality of the Dum-dum bullet supplied to British troops to be used against the Afridis consists in crushing and pulverising the bone so as to defy all surgical skill employed in setting. Secondly, in what respects are the Dum-dum bullets less calculated than explosive bullets to inflict incurable injury.

LORD G. HAMILTON: There is no doubt that the so-called Dum-dum bullet inflicts a more serious wound than a bullet from the Lee-Netford rifle. But I believe any one can convert that bullet into a Dum-dum bullet by simply flattening its head.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Has the noble lord any information as to whether Dum-dum bullets have been used by the Afridis against British troops?

LORD G. HAMILTON: I have already answered that question. It is assumed that what ammunition they got they took from our transport or convoy.

LONG HOURS IN THE JUTE INDUSTRY.

SIR JOHN LENG asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he was aware that in the jute manufacturing industry of India, which gave employment to nearly 100,000 persons, increasing complaints were made of the long hours of working, day and night, under the electric light; and that the Jute Association of Calcutta were almost unanimously in favour of closing the mills early on Saturday and giving the European employees their Sunday rest which was only presented by the refusal of one or two employers;

And whether he would recommend legislation by the Government of Bengal to carry out the views of the large majority of employers as recommended by the special Inspector of Factories.

LORD G. HAMILTON: (1) My information on the subject is contained in the following extract of a letter from the Government of India dated the 16th December last which, with permission of the House, I will read—"The Government of India say on the report (that is the Factory Inspector's report) for 1895, the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal expressed a hope that the members of the Jute Association and other employers would take into their serious consideration the question of closing mills early on Saturday for purposes of cleaning and repairs, so as to give the European employees their Sunday rest. The matter was discussed by the Jute Association, but not with beneficial effect; as although all but one of the mills were in favour of closing at 3 o'clock on Saturday, the agents in Dundee of that mill refuse to consent to the measure. Thus all the mills are kept working as before. The Government of Bengal intends to bring the matter to the notice of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. We are awaiting the result of that reference before deciding what action should be taken in the matter."

(2) In these circumstances I do not propose to take any step until I hear further from India.

Thursday, March 3.

THE POST OFFICE BILL. MR. MACNEILL asked the Secretary of State for India whether it was by the advice and with the sanction of the Home Government that the Post Office Bill had been introduced into the Legislative Council of India;

Whether, under the provisions of that Bill, any postal officer could stop in transit, and ultimately destroy, any letter, newspaper, packet, parcel, etc., which he suspected to contain anything which in his opinion was defamatory or seditious;

AND, on what grounds had this Bill been introduced.

LORD G. HAMILTON: The Post Office Bill, which is a consolidating and amending Bill, was not submitted to me before its introduction, but in the ordinary course a copy was sent home shortly afterwards, and was received by me in November last.

SO far as defamatory and seditious matter is concerned, the powers referred to, can only be exercised in respect of postal articles which have on them, or on their covers, words, or marks of seditious defamatory, or grossly offensive character. There is no power to act on suspicion in such cases.

THE OBJECT of the Bill generally is to consolidate the laws relating to the Post Office, to supply omissions and defects in it, and to adapt it to modern requirements.

THE DETENTION OF THE NATU BROTHERS.

MR. MACNEILL asked the Secretary of State for India, whether the property of the Natus, both real and personal, which was of very considerable value, had been attached by the Government, and the only provision made for their support and maintenance had been an allowance of Rs. 250 per month in one case and Rs. 200 per month in the other.

Whether, under the provisions of the Regulation of 1827, under which the Natu brothers were arrested, the seizure of personal property was not authorised;

AND, whether the Government will make any reparation to the brothers Natu for acting in excess of the powers conferred upon them by this Regulation.

MR. MACNEILL also asked the Secretary for India, whether he was aware that repeated applications on the part of the brothers Natu, who were arrested at Poona on 20th July last, and had since been detained in gaol with no charge formulated against them, for liberty to be granted to their legal advisers to see them had been refused, and that the enquiries of these gentlemen as to the matter charged against them, and the evidence on which the proceedings against them were founded, had remained unanswered by the Government;

AND, whether, having regard to the fact that the Natu brothers had now been in the close imprisonment without having been charged with any offence or brought to trial for upwards of seven months, they would be either immediately brought to trial or discharged.

LORD G. HAMILTON: It will be convenient if I answer together the two sets of questions of which the hon. and learned member for South Donegal has given no notice.

THE provision made for the elder Natu during his detention is Rs. 300 a month, and for the younger Rs. 200 a month. The whole revenue derived from their immovable property is applied to the maintenance of the several members of the Natu families.

THE attachment of personal property is not authorised by the Regulation cited. Such movable property as was inadvertently attached by the local officers has been or is being restored, and no question of reparation has yet arisen.

THE Natus have been informed of the reasons for their arrest in the terms of the Regulation, but access to their legal advisers has not been granted. I am aware that they have made one application on this subject which was answered; whether they have made more than one I do not know.

THE detention of the Natus under personal restraint must continue until the Government of India and Bombay are satisfied that their release will not endanger the public tranquility.

THE NEW ARMY SCHEME.

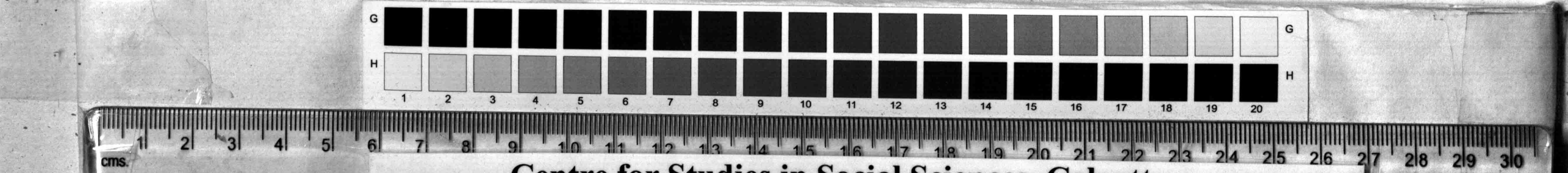
MR. SAMUEL SMITH asked the Secretary of State for India, whether the Government intended to throw upon India the increased charge caused by their proposal to raise the pay of the soldier in the British Army, and how much this would come to;

Whether the British soldier serving in India would receive this increased pay at an exchange of is. 4d the rupee, thus giving him an advantage over the Native soldier, whose pay calculated in rupees was not affected by the rate of exchange;

Whether the British soldier on a shilling a day would in such case receive Rs. 23 per month, while the Native soldier received Rs. 8 a month and had to feed himself;

AND, whether, under these circumstances, the Government would consent that this increased charge should be borne by this country.

LORD G. HAMILTON: I am in communication with the Government of India on the subject of the increased charges which will be caused by



the proposals of her Majesty's Government with regard to the pay of the British Army. The question to be settled is very complicated, the grocery ration in India being on quite a different basis from that adopted in this country, and I am not yet in a position to say what the effects of the change will be. In any case, the cost of the British Army in India will continue to be borne, as it has always been borne, by India.

BOMBAY JUSTICES AND THE PLAGUE MEASURES.

We give below the full text of the speech delivered by His Excellency the Governor of Bombay to the Justices of the Peace at the meeting held at the Town Hall.

His Excellency said:—Justices of the Peace of Bombay, you will recollect that about a year ago I called upon you all to come and assist us in the great trouble in which the city of Bombay found itself at that time. I for one did not anticipate that I should be obliged to make another appeal to your public spirit this year to extend the action which so many of you took at my invitation to aid us in the matter of plague. Seeing the ready response that so many of you made and the spontaneous way in which you at once came forward, I had no hesitation whatever in applying to you in a state of circumstances not less terrible than presented themselves last year. You recognised last year that, being the representatives of the people, and of the influential classes in Bombay, it was your duty to come forward at the call of the Governor and to lend us such assistance as you could. Now some time before the unhappy riots, which are fresh in our mind, I had been considering how we might, with advantage improve the plague organisation—(Applause)—because be an organisation ever so good there are always lines in which it may be improved, and notwithstanding the efforts that have been made, we find the plague to-day as bad if not worse, than it was four or five weeks ago. Some of you will remember that I invited a certain number of gentlemen three weeks ago to come and confer with me as to certain measures that might be adopted—measures of a conciliatory nature, but which should be effective—and which at a second meeting were concurred in by those whose assistance I sought. Indeed, it was by the very irony of fate that when we had, as I thought, and as I think we have settled upon a certain plan in conjunction with these native gentlemen that at that very moment these riots were commencing. As regards the riots, I will only say one word as to that most unhappy circumstance. Riots as you will be the first to admit, must be met by determined action, and those who have participated in this one will be dealt with by the Courts. (Applause.) But do not suppose that because of the riot or passionate action of a certain number of individuals Government for one moment would be deterred from making alterations or from taking into consideration any action that they may think right, of a truly sympathetic and conciliatory nature. Indeed, I am perfectly certain of this, that the sympathy of Government and of all concerned is as true and deep for the suffering populace in Bombay as it was upon this day week, and I will go further, and I will undertake to say that in regard to that suffering and helpless population the European population are not less ardent in their sympathies.

Many of us will long remember the gallant action of many Mahomedan ghariswallas to whom many Europeans certainly owe, if not their lives, at least their escape from injuries. I also observed with very great pleasure, but no surprise, the heroic conduct of one or two Mahomedans who did their best to shield Europeans from assault. I will also say this, that if the Government had considered that they ought to be deterred from conciliatory action or from making necessary changes by anything which may have occurred within the last few days they would not be entitled to the epithet of a strong Government but of a weak Government. (Applause.)

Now, gentlemen, in regard to these plague measures, you are most of you aware on what lines they have been carried out. They have been carried out on lines which had been found to be very successful indeed in Poona and in Kurrachee, in both of which places they have been worked with the entire concurrence of the population. I may say parenthetically that whatever any one may think of the success of the plague measures in a time of extreme difficulty, I do not think that there is any one in Bombay who will deny that no more energetic public-spirited and ceaselessly energetic worker exists than the Chairman of the Plague Committee, Sir James Campbell, whose long knowledge and experience of Bombay must have aided him in the enormous responsibility he so bravely undertook. (Applause.) I know very well that in Bombay the measures that have been taken have been very distasteful to a very large number of the population. Also every one connected with the Government will admit that it is their duty to remove obnoxious measures, if measures less obnoxious and not less efficient can be found to take their place. But the question, gentlemen, is what are those measures to be and how is this problem to be solved? Well now, the answer that I can give to the question which I put to you and which I have often put to myself, is that we must make one more determined effort to get the mass of people on our side in Bombay. (Applause.)

Now, to enable us to do this, I must ask the leaders of communities and castes to exert their influence not only with their cases, but with the headmen of various sections, and get them to enlist themselves in the cause of our efforts against plague. The scheme, if so, it may be called, I shall explain in a moment. In its general principles it is the scheme of Government, but the details and the management and the carrying out I must rely upon you gentlemen who have influence to execute for us, for yourselves, and for your city. Not only must you endeavour to exercise influence over those of your own class and of those with whom you mix, and not only with those with whom I may term the headmen—I do not know that it is the proper term but it is sufficiently explicit—but I want this influence of self-help, self-reliance and mutual confidence not to be only on the surface of your society but to permeate through every class of it. (Applause.)

It has been ascertained that the house-to-house search has not produced the effects and the results that it was hoped would accrue from it from former experience, and therefore

to replace general searching I am prepared to substitute as an experiment an undertaking from the various communities through their leaders that they will enable the headmen of the various communities to give notice of suspicious cases of illness, for I believe that by this means, with your hearty co-operation, we shall obtain as accurate information of plague cases as heretofore: indeed, I hope greater accuracy. It has been decided to confine the evacuation of houses, and their disinfection, to those houses where a case of plague is discovered or a death has occurred which is not known to be due to a cause other than plague. (Applause.) You are aware that the British soldiers have been withdrawn from searching operations since the 5th March. I have been assured, because I have constantly made inquiries, by many native gentlemen, that the behaviour of these soldiers has been very good indeed, but, seeing the dissatisfaction, or if I may use the word, the hysterical dissatisfaction that their presence created, it did behoove us to consider whether, on looking at the results, these were not outweighed by the disadvantages.

Our scheme briefly is to ascertain the address of that house where deaths of any kind occur, and I beg you to lay this to your minds because on this particular point there has been a vast amount of, perhaps, misrepresentation, but at any rate, misapprehension. There will be no corpse inspection, there will be no measure which will entail delay in the performance of funeral rites, but our main object is to ascertain the place where a death has occurred, and on reliable information being received as to the fact that the death must have been due to some cause other than plague, that house will be left undisturbed. I think the advantage of this will be that it will minimize the chances of error. But here again it is a matter on which I have not only asked, but I shall have to presuppose that I have your co-operation and determined effort. I think that we can look for success in this matter provided that you, gentlemen, who have influence amongst your compatriots and with your various communities, will put your shoulders to the wheel, and also insure the early removal of plague cases to your various caste hospitals, because experience teaches us that in cases of this terrible disease early removal is the safest way of saving the lives of those persons who may be dear to you. I am encouraged in this advice, because I have been told that the figures at the Khoja Hospital do show some 80 per cent. of recoveries amongst those who go in time and are treated in the earlier stages of the disease.

Now it comes to this, that whether it is the Governor-in-Council or the Plague Committee, or whether it is the Justices of the Peace, or whether it is the whole mass of the population of this great city, we all wish to arrive at the same goal, namely, to expel the plague, and the only way in which it can be done is by travelling on the same road in perfect union one with another. (Applause.) I have endeavoured to ascertain on what particular point, or in which particular direction, in regard to plague matters, the shoe actually pinches. That it does pinch there, I am afraid, no doubt, but I am especially anxious that all grievances and all complaints should be thoroughly ventilated and explained for very often a complaint is exaggerated owing to there being misunderstanding. I therefore propose that at the office of the Commissioner of Police a certain number of gentlemen from amongst the Mahomedans, the Hindus, and the Parsees shall form what we call in England a "roster," and one of each of these communities, together with a Government officer, shall attend at this office from 3 to 5 o'clock every day for the purpose of hearing and ventilating these complaints. (Applause.) The idea is a very simple one, and it cannot but relieve the Plague Committee. It is, at any rate, an attempt to clear the air and in the proceedings of that Committee and in its results I shall take the very greatest interest. (Applause.) Then again, to pass to another point of detail. From what I am able to observe there is something wanting in the way in which passes are issued. The object of passes is not to put people to inconvenience, but to prevent the spread of the plague. It is a large business no doubt, and to my mind there should be a special bureau for this particular work. I may say here that as regards the piece-goods and grain merchants' instructions have been given that "bonafide" business men are to be allowed exemption from detention and buyers coming from up-country, who may desire to come to Bombay to purchase, will be passed back over the railway lines, free of detention, provided they bring a pass from the Collector or Political Agent, or some other duly authorised officers. (Applause.) To pass for one moment to another detail. Camps have been established at some considerable distance from Bombay for the housing of those who are anxious to leave Bombay for a time. Then, again an emigration bureau—I believe, one has been established—will greatly facilitate the convenience of everyone concerned, and a bureau can do much useful service there. I have had one or two communications from Mussulman gentlemen forwarding a variety of suggestions, and, with the exception of one or two, I can find nothing with which I can personally disagree. Now you have heard the few words I have had to say. I ask you to remember what I said at first, that while the principles of organisation are ours, the details and the management are yours, and the powers lies with you to put a stop to the plague, to regenerate your city, and to give Bombay an aspect of prosperity.

As I said at the Council Hall, I have been an observer of the generous efforts made by all concerned to render assistance to the suffering poor, and I would there include the body of nurses, who may well be imagined to have been terrorized by the late proceedings. But notwithstanding the violence that occurred, they courageously stuck to the work of love on which they had embarked. While we have admired the courage with which those who have aided their fellow creatures have persevered, we have no less admired the sublime patience of the helpless and the afflicted. Now as regards the riot, I would say this one word more. Let us endeavour to cherish no ill feeling whatever in regard to it. (Applause.) There is only one way in which we could hope to vanquish plague, but before we can hope to do that, the first thing we must do is to keep our heads cool, as we call it in England. The only way to accomplish that to which I have just alluded is to maintain an attitude of the greatest patience, forbearance and courage, and, above all, mutual confidence

in one another before we can hope to repel the most stubborn and insidious foe that has ever invaded Bombay (Loud applause). Sir George Cotton, in proposing a vote of thanks to His Excellency for his speech remarked that the presence of the Governor upon that occasion showed that he was in deep sympathy with them all in this fresh crisis, and was an indication of the fact that any representation they might make would be listened to and acted upon in a sympathetic manner. They might say that at no period in the history of Bombay had any Governor such evils to contend with, and he might add, no Governor could have kept his head cooler than Lord Sandhurst. And His Excellency had invited their co-operation; let them all join with him in doing what was necessary to get rid of the plague, and he felt quite satisfied that any representations they might make in regard to the great hardship and great inconvenience from which all classes were suffering would have his Lordship's most patient care and attention, and would, so far as possible, be remedied. His Excellency's speech before the Justices would show to the mass of the population that they had in Lord Sandhurst a sympathetic Governor to whom they could go with open minds and open hearts, and say what their grievances were. (Applause.) H. E. the Governor in reply said:—Gentlemen, I thank you for your vote of thanks, and the best way in which you can show your gratitude is by carrying out the proposals I have suggested to you. I have only one word to say which I omitted to say just now. I referred to the advisability of having what I called a "roster" from the various gentlemen of the various communities to inquire into the various complaints. Those of you who are desirous of assisting will be so good as to send your names to the Secretary, General Department, Mr. Wingate, and there arrangements will be made. Gentlemen, I thank you.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. R. R. Pope, District and Sessions Judge, Dinajpur, is allowed furlough for seven months.

The services of Mr. E. P. Chapman, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Shahabad, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice.

Mr. J. D. Cargill, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Buxar, Shahabad, is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of that district.

Mr. F. P. Dixon, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Buxar sub-division of the Shahabad district.

Babu Nowrungi Lal, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Darbhanga, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Buxar sub-division of the Shahabad district.

Mr. J. A. Cave-Browne, Assistant Superintendent Police, is appointed to act, as Assistant Commissioner of the Chittagong Hill Tracts sub-division.

Mr. N. Bonham-Carter, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge of Noakhali.

Mr. T. W. Richardson, Registrar, High Court, Calcutta, is appointed to act as District and Sessions Judge, Dinajpur.

Babu Jadu Nath Chatterjee, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is allowed leave for ten days.

Babu Jnanendra Nath Chowdhuri, Deputy Collector, Noakhali, is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act I of 1894 in that district.

Mr. H. W. P. Scroope, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gobindpur, Manbhum, is appointed to have charge of the Madhubani sub-division of the district of Darbhanga.

Mr. A. Garrett, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gopalganj, Saran, is appointed to have charge of the Gobindpur sub-division of the district of Manbhum.

Mr. R. G. Kilby, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Champaran, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Gopalganj sub-division of the district of Saran.

Mr. M. Smither, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Patna, is appointed to have charge of the Hajipur sub-division of the district of Muzaffarpur.

Mr. H. L. Stephenson, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Bihar, Patna, is transferred to the head-quarters station of that district. Mr. Stephenson is also placed in charge of the Patna City sub-division.

Mr. E. F. Forrester, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Jalpaiguri, is appointed to have charge of the Bihar sub-division of the district of Patna.

Mr. B. Allen, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Backergunge, is appointed to have charge of the Jhenida sub-division of the district of Jessore.

The order of the 15th March 1898, appointing Mr. E. L. Hammond, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bahadur, to have charge of the Jhenida sub-division of the district of Jessore, is cancelled.

Babu Grish Chander Dutt, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Midnapore, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. R. Sheepshanks, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Madhubani, Darbhanga, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. J. F. Gruning, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Hajipur, Muzaffarpur, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. E. H. Kealy, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Bhagalpur, is transferred temporarily to the head-quarters station of the Darjeeling district.

Mr. A. Earle, J. C. S.; who lost lien on his appointment, is appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the second grade.

Babu Monmotho Coomar Bose, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Tippera, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Charn Chander Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Kishanganj, Purnea, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Romani Mohun Das, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Purnea, is appointed to have charge of the Kishanganj sub-division of that district.

Mr. A. J. Ollenbach, Officiating Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is posted to the head-quarters station of the district of Purnea.

Mr. T. M. Browne, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Shahabad, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. C. E. Gouldsbury, District Superintendent of India on furlough, reported his departure from India on furlough, on the 7th March 1898.

Babu Nirmal Chander Singha, Munsif, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Faridpur to be ordinarily stationed at Chikandi, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes.

Babu Jogendra Nath Chuckerbutty, Officiating Deputy Magistrate, Contai, Midnapore, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Babu Makhani Lal Chatterjee, substantive pro tempore Deputy Magistrate, Balasore, is vested with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babu Kali Sanker Sen, Deputy Magistrate, Tippera, is vested with the power to try summarily the offences mentioned in section 260 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Babu Kali Kumar Bose, Subordinate Judge, Dacca, is appointed to act as Small Cause Court Judge of Dacca and Munshiganj.

Babu Shyam Kishore Bose, Munsif of Dacca, on leave, is appointed to act as Subordinate Judge of that district.

Babu Mohur Lal De, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Dacca to be ordinarily stationed at the Sadar station.

Maulvi Aminul Islam, Officiating Deputy Magistrate, Backergunge, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the first class.

Mr. A. J. Ollenbach, Officiating Deputy Magistrate, who is, under the order of this date, posted to the head-quarters station of the district of Purnea, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class.

Babu Mohendra Nath Dass, Munsif of Purnea, is allowed leave for three months in extension of the leave granted to him on the 22nd November 1897.

Babu Harmohan Bose, Additional Munsif of Dacca, is allowed leave up to the 26th March 1898, in extension of the leave granted to him on the 12th January 1898.

Babu Giandra Mohan Chuckerbutty, Munsif of Lakhimpur, in the district of Noakhali, is allowed furlough for three months.

Babu Amulya Chandra Ghose, Munsif of Kuriganj, in the district of Raugpur, is allowed leave for two months, in extension of the leave granted to him on the 5th February 1898.

Maulvi Syed Ali Mazhar, substantive pro tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, is appointed to be Superintendent of the Distillery at Gaya.

EARTHQUAKE EFFECTS IN ASSAM.

THE effects of the earthquake on the drainage levels of Assam and the banks of the river Daiphong according to the official report are tremendous. The Assam North Trunk Road has sunk on both sides and the road has been submerged to a depth of four feet. The land has sunk considerably on the east side of the river for nearly half a mile. The bed of the Dhansiri river, the largest in the Mangaldai division, has been raised by the earthquake and the channel changed from the left bank to the right. The banks of the Kullung river below Kariamukh to the junction with the Sitamarhi channel had sunk more or less throughout and in consequence have caused much damage to the crops of the district. The left bank of the Trunk road crossing has sunk five feet and the flood of waters consequently reached almost level to the windows of the inspection bungalow situated on the banks of the river. There has been no general subsidence of the country, but the hills round Raha have tilted up. The banks of the Titamari to the junction with Kopli Chappermukh have slipped in on both sides. The river was wide at the bottom before the earthquake but is now much reduced owing to the slipping of the banks. Just after the earthquake, men could walk along the dry bed country from Chappermukh, Gauhati does not appear to have sunk. The flooding of the lands near Dharantuli, is due to the high banks of the Kopli slipping in and many breaches of the embankment occurring. It is expected that some startling information will be received regarding the Brahmaputra at Gauhati, but the Captains of cargo and mail boats aver that there is not much change except in shallowness of water. In parts below Hatimura, the banks have sunk about 15 feet. In consequence the waters have submerged a large tract of country. It is considered that the river is temporarily disturbed, but no danger is apprehended to navigation, as the Brahmaputra can soon scour a new channel of its own. The chur lands have sunk in many places as is shown by the dead trees standing near the Kholabandha bank which has sunk about six feet.

The floods traversed the country hereabouts to the extent of six miles, but there was not much change in the rivers. The south bank of the Brahmaputra reaches a level much the same as former years. For Kamrup district in Barpeta the banks of the Noakhanda were ten feet high before the earthquake, but they are only three feet now. The river is more than 2,000 feet across, whereas formerly it was only 200 feet. To protect the country round about, it is proposed to construct a bund about ten miles long, protecting an area of thirty square miles and save the Government Rs. 5,000 annually. The bungalows at Barpeta have been almost completely submerged.

THE Secretariat offices of the Government of the North-West Provinces and Oudh will open at Naini 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 assemblies at Lucknow next week, are over. TWENTY-FIVE estates were taken under Government management in the Central Provinces during 1896, bringing up the total to 157. The gross aggregate income represented over sixteen lacs of rupees, and the area over 3,622 square miles. Of the new estates brought under management, no less than seventeen were taken over on account of the indebtedness of the proprietors.

WHEN Mr. T. A. Stoker goes on six and a half 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. SIRDAR GURDIAL SINGH the Divisional Judge of Sialkote, who has been suspended and will shortly be tried for charges of bribery and corruption, joined the Punjab Commission as a statutory native Civilian in 1880. After serving as Assistant Commissioner and District Judge in Hushiarpor, Shahpur, Amritsar, Ludhiana, Multan, and Dera Gazi Khan the Sardar was appointed to officiate as Deputy Commissioner of Mozaffargarh in 1889, and this appointment he held until March 1893, when he was transferred to the judicial line and appointed Divisional Judge, 3rd grade, a post in which he was confirmed 3 years later. At the time of his suspension the Sardar was acting in the 2nd grade. The prosecution in the trial about to begin will be conducted by the Government Advocate, assisted by Mr. J. P. Warburton of the Railway Police, and the accused will be defended by Sir William Rattigan, Q. C., and Lala Lal Chand and Iswar Dass, pleaders. Sardar Gurdial Singh, it may be noted, is the first member of the Punjab Commission, European or native, who has ever been accused and publicly tried for charges of bribery and corruption.

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 all it is supposed to be in its effects. It is a medicine I can recommend, and one that everybody should keep. CHAMBERLAIN'S Colic, Cholera, and Diarrhoea Remedy is the most successful medicine in use for Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Colic, Cholera-Morbis and Colera, and is for sale everywhere. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Gen Agents—SMITH STANISTREET & CO., AND B. K. PAUL & CO., Calcutta.

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Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

BOMBAY, MAR. 19. Yesterday two rioters were sentenced to one year each and 60 to four months' imprisonment each and one was discharged. The Plague Committee has not resigned; its duties are somewhat altered.

GORAKHPORE, MAR. 22.

The Gorakhpore Poisoning Case, under the order of transfer by the High Court, came up before Mr. Reynolds, the District Magistrate. Mr. Reid, Government Advocate, prosecuted, while Mr. Nundy and Mr. Shurufuddin, Barristers-at-law, defended. The Magistrate discharged the accused widow of Karim Khan, holding that it was doubtful that the deceased was poisoned. The evidence for the prosecution, the Magistrate considered, absolutely worthless, proving nothing against the accused. There appeared to him no motive for the crime.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, MAR. 19.

A Bill has been introduced into the American Congress to increase the army to 103,000 men.

LONDON, MAR. 19.

The Japanese elections show a small majority for the Government.

LONDON, MAR. 19.

The Chinese Loan has been issued in London and Berlin.

LONDON, MAR. 19.

The statement that China had complied with the French demands is premature, as up to the present China has refused. A semi-official note issued in Paris denies that the French Charges d' Affaires at Peking has used threats in connection with the French demands. The note adds that the negotiations in connection with the demands are proceeding at Paris between M. Hanotaux and the Chinese Minister.

LONDON, MAR. 19.

Yielding to the Sultan's direct appeal, the Tsar has agreed to abandon the Russian claim to be paid the arrears of the Russo-Turkish war indemnity from the Greek indemnity. It is believed that Russia hopes thereby to facilitate the candidacy of Prince George for the Governorship of Crete. Turkey is moving large bodies of troops to the Bulgarian frontier. The Bulgarians are in consequence much excited.

LONDON, MAR. 20.

The Chinese have offered to lease Talienswan to Russia, and to allow a railway there, provided Port Arthur remains Chinese.

The latest news from Uganda states that there has been no fresh fighting, and that the mutineers have gone to Unyoro, where Major Macdonald has gone to intercept them. Some Indian troops have already reached Mengo and others are nearing the lake.

LONDON, MAR. 21.

Lord George Hamilton, in reply to a question, said he could not give any information as to the future disposition of the troops on the frontier, but that anyhow India would continue to defray the cost of the defence of the frontier.

The Kassala levies have thrice defeated Ali Digna, Osman Digna's brother, who attacked Adarama. Forty Dervishes were killed.

Mr. Curzon, replying to a question by Sir Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, said he had enquired of Sir Claude MacDonald regarding the truth of the press reports that Russian troops were in Manchuria.

ADEN, MAR. 21.

The P. and O. steamer Oriental, with the English mails of the 11th instant, left here for Bombay at 5 P. M. to-day.

SIR K. SESHADRI Iyer has resumed charge of his office from Mr. Thumba Chetty.

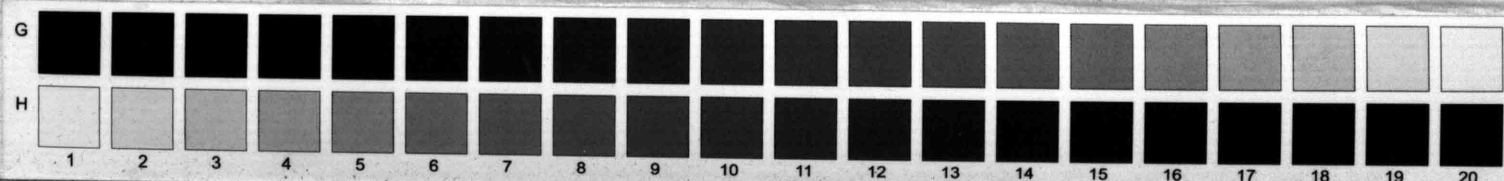
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I HAD the rheumatism so badly that I could not get my hand to my head. I tried the doctor's medicine without the least benefit. At last I thought of Chamberlain's Pain Balm; the first bottle relieved all the pain, and one half of the second bottle effected a complete cure.—W. J. HOLLAND, Hol land, 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 B. K. PAUL & CO., Calcutta.

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India and England.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, MARCH 24

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

LORD ROSEBERY made his first public appearance as a party politician this week, in connection with a St James' Hall demonstration in favour of the progressive candidates for the London County Council. The Hall was crammed to suffocation, and literally thousands went away, unable to obtain admittance. The vast audience gave him a tremendous ovation, and he made one of the most brilliant speeches he ever delivered. "I do not suppose that his masterly consideration of London municipal politics will greatly interest you in their details; but the fact that the Moderates, as the Tories call themselves, are fighting all the elections for the great London County Council on strict party lines, with all their great party leaders, from Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain downwards, throwing themselves into the hottest of the fray, is evidence of the keen anxiety of the Tory party to retrieve in some way or other the lamentable and dispiriting party defeats at all the recent Parliamentary elections. The contest is turning on the declared intention of the Tory party in Parliament to cut London up into ten or twelve separate Municipalities, with their own mayors and corporations, which would have the effect of practically destroying the power of its present great County Council, which rules the whole area and which is distinctly and persistently Liberal. The progressive (or Liberal) candidates have done their best to prevent the contest degenerating into a fight in which the National rather than Metropolitan party politics should dominate, but without success. Lord Salisbury, Mr. Chamberlain, Lord George Hamilton, the Earl of Onslow, Mr. A. Balfour, and a score of other great Tory leaders have thrown themselves into the fray with a thousand or two of aristocratic Primrose League dames who personally canvass all the voters. At the last moment Lord Rosebery, the first Chairman of the County Council, has been called upon to reply once and for all to these noble and Right Honourable canvassers; and he did so in a speech that beat his record, no mean a one. Lord Rosebery was exceedingly neat in his well-merited rebuke of the Earl of Onslow, the obscure nobleman who fills the position of Under-Secretary for India. This personage has just issued a party manifesto to the electors, dated from the India Office. "There has," said Lord Rosebery, "been placed in my hands a circular, dated from the India Office, signed by one of the responsible Ministers of that Office, inviting each of the Conservative members for London—and the Conservative members for London are 87 per cent. of the whole—inviting each of them to write on his own private note-paper,—there is a delicate difference here between the India Office and the Parliamentary members, which I will not attempt to explain,—to influence any prominent person that he knows of, to come and vote, not for the Moderate, but for the Unionist candidate. I, in my youth and innocence, was under the impression that the India Office had its hands pretty full already. I did not contemplate the full extent of its eagerness and its ambition; I did not understand that it was anxious to add to the occupation of Chitral the administration of London. But, in all solemnity and in all seriousness I think that the India Office would be better employed with India in that office, in looking after the 200 millions of people, who are committed to its charge, and leaving the five millions of London to look after themselves."

LORD ROSEBERY, LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

There can be no doubt that there is a steadily increasing desire on the part of the great bulk of the rank and file of the Liberal party that Lord Rosebery should once more return to his old position as the recognized leader of the Liberal party, with the reversion of the Prime Ministership, if the Liberals return to power. Sir William Harcourt is quite out of the question now. He has never got the grip on the people's imagination and affection, which Lord Rosebery possesses. If the Liberal party were called upon to form a Government, he would undoubtedly obtain any of the most important posts he chose to ask for, short of the Premiership; but the party is looking to its younger and more democratic men to take the lead. However, it is a far cry yet to a general election; and as the old proverb says, first catch your hare and then cook it.

FRONTIER QUESTION IN THE LORDS.

There is a great deal of interest and expectation excited by Lord Roberts' notice of motion for Monday next, and the gilded chamber of the House of Lords will be crowded out to hear him. I am glad I say I have secured a place myself. The terms of the notice are:—"To call attention to the papers recently presented to Parliament relating to British relations with the neighbouring tribes on the North-West frontier of India, and the military operations undertaken against them during the year 1897-8."

A good many excellent Conservatives are rightly indignant that Lord Roberts, who is Commander-in-Chief in Ireland, drawing £3000 a year as salary, and therefore an important individuality in the military administration of the Government, should take it upon himself to criticise any portion of that administration,—an indignation that, I need not say, is not shared by the Liberals who are looking forward with intense and amused interest to the attack on the methods and conduct of the campaign, which, rumour says, is to be a fierce and direct one. Certainly, no man is better able to make it than our most distinguished General; and if it should lead to a tournament between him and his great rival, Lord Wolseley, the Commander-in-Chief of the Empire, it will be one of the most fascinating debates ever carried out in the House of Lords. The Marquis of Lansdowne will, of course, speak on behalf of the War Office, and the retired Viceroys, Lords Dufferin, Northbrook and Ripon, with Lord Kimberley, are sure to take part.

MR. ROBERTS' MOTION.

On Tuesday this week, Mr. Herbert Roberts had the following notice of motion on the order book:—"East India (North West Frontier Expenses). Address for return setting out the net

charges on Indian Revenues from all extensions of obligations or of territories which have taken place across the North-West Frontier since 1876."

Mr. Roberts could not get the motion accepted by Lord George Hamilton, which is necessary to get it accepted without a division; and as he hopes to get the important information he seeks in some modified form, he postponed dividing the House, but still keeps it on the order-book. The explanation of Lord George Hamilton's refusal to undertake to present the return asked for, is in substance this: He thinks that the effect on Indian revenues of "extensions of obligations or of territories" must necessarily be a matter of opinion, as to which it is hardly too much to say that no two officers, who might be called on to report, would agree. No doubt, obligations and territories have been extended, and expenditure increased; but how much of this increase is owing to the "extensions, and how much could have been incurred if no such extensions had taken place, is a question which the Secretary of State feels it is impossible to decide.

A FRONTIER COMMISSION.

The House and the country were alike a little stunned and confused by the rapidity with which the three Indian debates and divisions, forming the substance of my last week's letter, followed each other; and public opinion has naturally taken a few days to pull itself together. I find now a general consensus of opinion, both in political circles and the press, that these attacks on the Indian policy of the Government, with their commentary in the Cricklade and Pembroke by-elections, have done more to lower the prestige of the Government than anything else that has happened to it. It is becoming evident that they will inevitably produce a gradual change of front in both their Frontier and domestic policy. It is confidently stated that the Cabinet favour the creation of a Frontier Commissionship, to the head of which a very strong and competent civilian shall be appointed, which should have for its direct object the control and management of the entire border land between our frontier and that of Russia and Afghanistan. This will be with the intention of removing the Frontier policy of the future from the malign influence of the Military element, which has led the Indian Government into this dreadful *impasse*. This Commission would keep itself in touch with all the tribal chiefs by means of outlying agents, who would, as far as possible, be trained Mahomedan civilians. This matter is now the subject of correspondence between the India Office and the Viceroy, and will probably take effect before the time comes for the renewal of hostilities. It may be quite possible that a military man may receive the appointment of Chief Commissioner, though in that case it would be a purely civil appointment, and he would not be permitted to retain any military status. The man who would give most confidence in the position as far as this country is concerned, would be Colonel Warburton who, with the exception of a short military service in 1897, has been employed on the Frontier for 35 years, obtaining an absolutely unique experience. Next to him, Sir Richard Udny would be the best appointment that could be made. Either of these two, with Sir G. S. Robertson as his first lieutenant, ought to keep us out of trouble in the future. However, it is quite manifest that the Forward policy is in disgrace, and that the spirited political campaign last autumn on the part of the Liberal opposition, combined with its marked influence on the by-elections, has inflicted what I trust is a death-blow to a policy which has brought India to the very verge of ruin.

GOOD RESULTS OF MR. ROBERTS' MOTION.

Mr. Herbert Roberts' motion, with the debate and damaging division that followed, will bear good fruit. It is never wise to take an optimistic view of what the Indian Government may do with regard to anything; but I venture to predict that the strenuous severity which followed the tragic Poona murders, will be gradually and perhaps speedily relaxed. I find a significant indication of this in the "Times of India" of February 12th, in which the Editor publishes in leading type a letter signed "Olive Branch," calling for the prompt release of Mr. Tilak, as a wise step towards the restoration of good feeling between the ruling class and the ruled. I may be over-sanguine; but I venture to predict that the execution of Danodar will be the occasion for the release of all the imprisoned Deccan editors and the Nau brothers on their own and perhaps other surties for good behaviour. The Government of India has shown its iron hand in all its naked severity; they can now very well afford to cover it with the velvet glove. The punitive police force at Poona is already melting and will gradually disappear.

THE SEDITION ACT.

The Government have now secured their precious Sedition Act. I have carefully studied it, and I see no reason why any editor who knows his business properly, need be much hampered by it. I don't believe, in face of the defection of 70 Tory votes, in Parliament on a division proposing to censure it, that it will be strictly interpreted or very harshly administered. If it were, nothing could save its immediate repeal if a Liberal Administration came into power. It is a piece of stupid, reactionary legislation, calculated to do nothing but mischief; it has been condemned alike by Parliament and public opinion in this country, and is without a friend anywhere in India outside the Viceroy's Council. I have read nearly every one of your daily issues for the last four years, and I do not believe there has ever appeared a paragraph in their columns under which a prosecution could lie; and certainly you have been sufficiently outspoken on every act of the Government. It is the little vernacular papers, edited without tact or ability, that have need to fear its operation; but I doubt if there will be half-a-dozen prosecutions under its provisions, before a Liberal Government repeals it. I should say that the general opinion of experts in this country is that the Legislative Member of the Viceroy's Council demanded a short and easy way with Indian editors, and believes he has got it. But the successful administration of such a law depends far less upon its clauses, than upon the support of public opinion. It is always fatal to legislate in advance of public opinion; and in a free country any Act of that character is doomed to certain repeal. The difficulty of discriminating between press articles which come under the operation of this insane piece of legislation, will be very serious; and the extension of jurisdiction will inevitably increase this diffi-

culty enormously. But you have yourself so ably shown up the weakness of the Act in your own columns that I need not dwell upon them over again: I only wish to say that the Act finds no defender in this country, either among legal experts or in the press, and the general opinion is that its only effect will be, not to raise the character of the Indian Press, but to degrade it, and that the man in all India, who is, no doubt unconsciously, most guilty of the offence of bringing the Government of India into hatred and contempt is the legislative member of Council.

THE PRESS ON MR. SMITH'S MOTION.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH'S motion has perhaps wider results, as its consequence, than either of the other two, from the fact of its having committed the entire Front Opposition Bench to the principle that war beyond the Indian Frontier must be paid for by Imperial aid and not Indian revenues. The deep impression this division has made on the political mind of the country, will bear good fruit in the future, and the first crop ought to be gathered in from the Report of the Indian Expenditure Commission.

The press generally has devoted much attention to the debate on Mr. Smith's motion. My last letter was so occupied with the subject matter of the debate itself that I could not find space for press comments; so I will fill up the deficiency now and give you the gist of the views generally taken by the press.

The "Speaker" devotes a long leader to Mr. Smith's motion, and declares that the debate and division was not creditable either to the Government or to the House of Commons. Lord George Hamilton played his only strong card when he quoted the telegraphic despatch from the Indian Government to the effect that they considered external assistance unnecessary. Sir James Westland is undoubtedly a man of great ability and his opinion ought to carry much weight; but this is really not a matter to be decided by expert testimony or financial forecasts. Justice requires that when a war is undertaken for Imperial purposes in what the people of India have no direct interest, and about which they cannot be consulted, the expense should fall upon the authors of the campaign. The "Forward policy" is now justly and almost universally discredited. It would receive its final stroke if the tax-payers of the United Kingdom had to bear the burden of its results. The Editor put his finger on the weak spot of the debate when he points out that hardly any speaker except Sir Henry Fowler regarded the question in its true light. Most of them argued as if the motion involved a mere grant-in-aid for which the present Government seems to have a passion and which are one of the worst features of its policy. The Editor finds it impossible to separate the question of liability from the question of justice, and he is quite right. Lord George Hamilton proved too much in his speech. It cannot be true that a very poor and a very lightly-taxed community yields a large surplus in a period of war, pestilence and famine. If India were lightly taxed, the Indian Government would be bankrupt. The real danger of the whole of the Indian situation is that whatever happens, the taxation of India cannot be increased. Sir Henry Fowler is the last man to under-rate the official view; but in his speech he showed that he sees clearly enough that India is passing through a perilous crisis, and that, in these circumstances, a wise Statesman would seek rather to allay than to embitter such feelings of injury and annoyance as exist.

The Provincial Press is almost unanimous in its support of Mr. Smith's motion and its condemnation of Lord George Hamilton's defence; and after all it is the Provincial Press, far more than the London press, that influences the final decision of the great electorate of the United Kingdom.

The *Newcastle Leader* declares that the result of the division on Mr. Smith's motion was creditable neither to our national generosity nor our national sense of justice. The Editor points out and emphasises that Mr. Smith and those who supported him did not propose a charitable subscription to the people of India. It was a matter of abstract justice, on which there could be no quibbling; and the whole question resolves itself into whether the expenditure was incurred upon Imperial or solely upon Indian grounds. Lord George Hamilton's speech was quite beside the point. The surplus which the Government expects to realise, is a surplus obtained from the taxation of the Indian people; and it is grossly unjust, as it is incredibly mean, to squander it in payment for a useless war in which the people have no interest, and over which they have not the shadow of control.

The *Western Times* strongly censures the optimistic views of Lord George Hamilton and Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, and points out that the past year has been full of grave surprises; and asks—who can say that this year will be exempt? Yet, on this basis, the British Government are quite content to rest their case for charging nothing in the coming Budget for the late melancholy disastrous war. It is true that the Government have assured the Indian Government of assistance if it was really needed. But that in itself is an intimation that India ought to provide the money. The Home Government is certainly as much responsible for the late costly and untoward events as that of India. There is no justice in this wealthy country embarking in wars incidental to a forward policy, and then pretending not to be liable for the bill, but ready, as an act of generosity, to bear a share of the cost if India cannot do it; yet even then expecting that India will not make a demand but carry over the debt to be paid out of a speculative surplus in a succeeding year. This is indeed a shabby policy coupled with a shoddy Imperialism.

The *Bradford Observer* ridicules the spectacle of the present Government "virtuously drawing back from the principle of doles. The British farmer is sweetened, the Irish landlord squared; the West Indian sugar-planter kept quiet; the ecclesiastical proselyte encouraged with sums of money which are styled "grants-in-aid;" but let the Indian ryot, with his dish of rice and his irreducible waist cloth beg that his pinch of salt may not be diminished, because he has been visited by calamities over which he had no control, and a war which was not of his making, and straightway this modest request is stigmatised as a conspiracy for a "dole." No act could be more distinctly Imperial in its motive and purpose than the frontier war. We hold India because we believe it to be worth a great deal to us, and we take

security against attack because we do not want to lose it on our own account. From which it follows that we ought to pay for operations ensuing purely from our masterfulness. It is not Imperialism, it is mean and cruel tyranny not only to force our rule upon India, but to make the impoverished population coin the very means of our lordship out of their scanty pittance.

The *Saturday Review* says: No one expected for a moment that the cost of the recent campaign on the N.W. frontier of India would be considered an Imperial charge, though no one has a doubt that in its origin and in its conduct it is the result of Imperial adventure. But Mr. Samuel Smith's resolution suggested that the operations on the frontier ought not to be charged entirely upon the revenues of India. Lord George Hamilton thereupon made it clear that the Hindu peasant would have to pay for our attempt to spread the blessings of civilisation amongst the Afridis, the Bunerwals and other frontier tribes. After a feeble panegyric, in his customary manner, of British rule in India, he gave a reason for this unfair decision of the Indian Government. The additional expenditure could, he informed the House, be met without additional taxation or undue increase of deficit. It would be interesting to know what significance our intelligent Secretary of State for India attaches to the word "undue." Is it that large deficits are so much a commonplace of Indian budgets as to make an extra charge of £4,000,000 sterling a matter of no importance one way or the other?

The *Western Morning News*, one of the most important Liberal-Unionist papers in the provinces, says it would be surprising that Mr. S. Smith received such scanty support for his motion, were it not remembered that many of the Unionists did not care to vote against their party in a division which could have no effect upon the policy of the Government.

The *Weekly News and Echo*, a paper with an enormous circulation among the working classes both in London and the provinces, speaks very strongly indeed. The Editor says that fair-minded Tories like Mr. Maclean speak the simple truth when they declare that if England had to pay for these costly and stupid Indian Frontier wars, the Indian Jingo would not be permitted to make them. Lord George Hamilton made another exhibition of himself in defending the monstrous injustice of making India pay the whole cost of the frontier war. The policy of the Government is cowardly, mean and dishonest, and it will lose us India one day. It goes out to the world this week that a Government which has taken the money of the English workers by millions to put into the pockets of Irish and English landlords, has neither a crust nor a penny to spare for the starving millions of India, but insists that they shall pay for a war which is only to be defended on the ground that it was undertaken for Imperial purposes. Every anna taken from the native of India is wrong from his absolutely necessary expenditure on food. He has no luxuries upon which he can economise when taxation is heavy and food dear. They are simply half-starved, and then when famine and disease come, they die off like flies. Is it any wonder that we are hated in India?

Mr. Maclean's paper, the *Western Mail*, the most influential Tory paper in the West of England, naturally takes the same line as Mr. Maclean took in his speech, which I need not report again.

Sir John Leng's paper, the *Dundee Advertiser*, says that such a message as the division on Mr. Smith's motion from a country which is extraordinarily rich to one which is miserably poor, does not make a Briton proud of himself. John Bull with his magnificent notions and distended pockets cuts a poor figure in this business. Lord George Hamilton's reason for evading the just course of conduct indicated by the motion, was pure pedantry. We have engaged in many questionable proceedings that on the most liberal interpretations confer no benefit on the Indian populations, and it is needlessly mean on our part to compel the dumb millions to pay for our adventures and our blunders.

I might continue this summary *ad infinitum*, but it is enough to show you that the Liberal press as a whole, with a good many worthy additions from the Tory press, condemn the action of the Government with regard to frontier expenditure as mean and indefensible. The ordinary jog-trot Tory partisan journal has almost nothing to say, and in almost every instance contents itself with a mere Parliamentary summary, making no editorial comments whatever. Lord George is practically without an active defender anywhere in the press of the United Kingdom.

THE WELBY COMMISSION.

There is much surprise expressed everywhere at the unreasonable delay on the part of Lord Welby on the completion of the task of formulating conclusions and suggesting recommendations upon the evidence furnished before the Royal Commission on the Military and Civil expenditure of India. I understand, however, on the best authority, it will not be very long now before a draft report will be circulated to members of the Commission as a preliminary to re-assembling them for the report stage of their enquiry. Lord Welby has certainly been an unconscionable time over his work, which was no formidable task to a man who has had forty years' service in the British Treasury. I expect he has been a good deal absorbed in London County Council work; he is an alderman and chairman of its Finance Committee. I hope the Commission will report in good time to enable a careful consideration of its recommendations by members of Parliament before the debate on the Indian Budget.

INTERESTING STATISTICS.

Dr. Dawson Burns, the eminent statistician who has for many years past presented every year, through the columns of the *Times*, to the British public, the details of the annual National Drink bill, has this week furnished the bill for 1897 which reaches the enormous total of £152,281,723. The population of the United Kingdom being 39,824,563, there was an average expenditure of no less than £3-16-6 per head of the population, equal to 57 Rupees at one and four pence. These figures bring home a powerful illustration of the comparative wealth of Britain and India, this country being able to spend upon a single article of useless luxury for each living soul just twice the entire income per head of the population of India. It may perhaps interest some of your readers to see how the

Table with 2 columns: Quantities, Cost. Spirit in gallons 41,003,092 £42,973,615. Beer in barrels 3,475,905 £3,548,944. Wine in gallons 30,863,071 £15,567,794. Now there are in this country over seven millions of total abstainers from all intoxicating liquors; so that deducting these from the total population, every other man, woman and child in the country has drunk more than a barrel of beer, a gallon of wine, and a gallon of spirits during the year. England drank the value per head of £4-1-9, Scotland £3-1-9 and Ireland £2-14-2.

But if one measures up the cost to the country of all the by-products of this foolish expenditure,—poverty, pauperism, crime, vice, disease, insanity and premature death, the result of drinking and drunkenness,—the Drink Bill would mount to £3 or 400,000,000 or even more. India doubles her drink bill every ten or twelve years; the same mischief follows there as here.

LONDON COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The triennial elections for the London County Council came off yesterday, and resulted in a sweeping Progressive majority. The Council has now been in existence nine years. During the first six years there was a large preponderance of Progressive members and the government of the metropolis was carried on on broad and liberal principles. Three years ago, however, the Tories made a desperate effort to reverse the position of parties, and the result of the election then was a tie—59 Progressives and 59 Moderates having been returned. Notwithstanding this, the Progressive party have managed to keep an ascendant position in the direction of affairs and there has been good steady progress made even during the last three years. This year, however, the Moderates (which is another name for Tories) have made a superhuman attempt to secure a majority, and they have spared no means to bring about their object. Disregarding the Municipal issues at stake they have done their best to make the election a purely party affair, and frantic appeals have been made to the Tory and Unionist voters to go to the poll on behalf of the Moderate candidates; and London gave its answer yesterday by returning a sweeping Progressive majority. There are 58 constituencies, each returning two members, with the exception of the City which returns four. The votes have been counted in 53 of these constituencies and the result is as follows:

Progressives 66. Moderates 40. Progressive majority 26.

This is better than the most sanguine Progressive ventured to anticipate, and is undoubtedly a severe blow to the present Government, part of whose policy is to split London up into several large Municipalities and thereby cripple and nullify the work of the London County Council. This policy has been one of the chief issues before the electors, and their reply ought to be sufficiently emphatic to prove to the Government that they can't do as they like in London, if they can in India.

We learn that Dr. Martin, Director of Public Instruction, has deprived the Rajchandra College of Barisal, of the privilege of competing for Government scholarships at the First Examination in Arts in 1899, on account of the unsatisfactory management of the Institution.

MAJIK TIGAR has armed about 200 of his men with Martini, seized in the late raid, and has sent ten to protect the house of each European in the district. But many of the Armenians and natives have left the country in alarm, and are living in the town. Trade is rather slack at present, especially with the interior. Mules and horses are scarce for carrying purposes, owing to the difficulty and expense of obtaining fodder and to the insecurity of the roads. Further outrages continue to be reported from different directions and scarcely a day passes without some one being either killed or wounded. H. M. S. Sphinx, which is now in port, has been anchored off the telegraph buildings, presumably to let outlaws know that protection is near in case of any more outbreaks taking place near the telegraph stations.

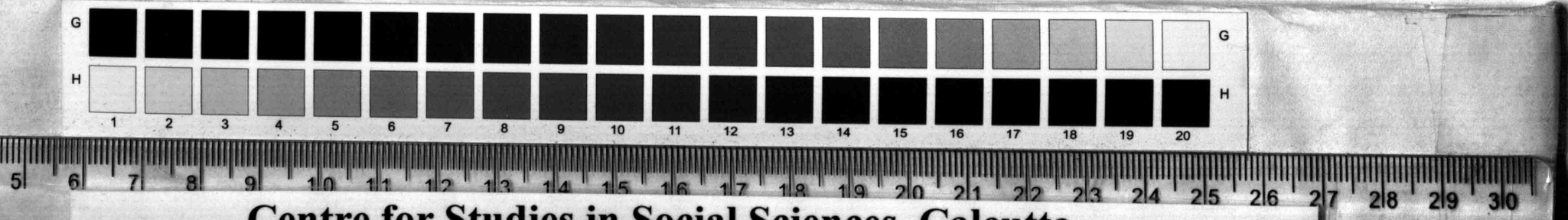
The position on the Frontier may be briefly summarised as follows:—The Rajgul Kuki Khels have paid up 60 out of 118 rifles, the Kambar Khels 64 of 154, and the Zakka Khels 20 of 154 rifles. At the earnest request of the sections that more time might be allowed the Zakka Khels to collect their fine General Lockhart gave the Kuki Khels and Kambar Khels up to last evening to either produce their rifles or hostages, who might be kept at Attock until the fines were produced. Failing their compliance in one of these respects he said he would advance on the 19th, and the blockade would be reimposed on the tribal sections who have already submitted. A havildar and three sepoy deserters of the Khyber Rifles, who recently came into Lundi Kotah bringing their rifles, reported that the Zakka Khels were doing their utmost to collect their share of the fine.—*Pioneer*.

NEWS received on Friday from Jamrud stated that the Rajgul Kuki Khel have handed in 60 out of 118 rifles demanded; the Kambar Khel 64 out of 154; and the Zakka Khel 20 out of 154. Sir William Lockhart had a final meeting with their *jirga* on Thursday evening when he announced that an advance would be made on the 19th, if the complement of rifles were not forthcoming then, or if hostages for the fulfilment of the terms were not given. The blockade against the sections which submitted would also be temporarily renewed. This announcement had a marked effect upon the maliks, who were most submissive in their attitude, their apprehension regarding fresh invasion being very real. The Kuki and Kambar Khel offered to expel the Zakka Khel if they refused to comply with terms and handed in fifteen more rifles, while the interview with Sir William Lockhart was taking place.

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OFF TO THE NORTH POLE ONCE MORE!

THE WELLMAN AND PEARY EXPEDITIONS.

WHEN I crossed the Atlantic, last summer, I had as my fellow-passengers not only Mr. Croker and General Peary, but also Mr. Walter Wellman, the American journalist, who is to start for the North Pole on July 1st. Mr. Wellman, who was accompanied by his young and charming wife, was full of his proposed excursion to the North Pole, nor were his fellow passengers able to divert him from his quest, not even when they protested that it was a sin and a shame to leave such a wife for such a hazardous enterprise. Since then Mr. Wellman has completed his preparations, and in the American "Review of Reviews" for July he describes exactly what he proposes to do. The following are the salient passages in Mr. Wellman's interesting article:—

No fewer than five Arctic efforts are planned for the near future. Of these, two have as their objective point the North Pole.

In July, this year, Lieutenant Peary will steam up the west coast of Greenland in the Windward, taking on board at Cape York the Eskimaux men, women, children and dogs, whose services he engaged last summer. He will then push as far north as possible in his steamer. If the condition of the ice is favourable to navigation he hopes to get the ship as far as Petermann Fjord, latitude 81, or possibly to Newman Bay, latitude 82. At the ship's farthest north he will establish a station and his Eskimaux colony. As soon as possible he will throw out an advance post at or near Cape York, and when that is done, will in the spring or favourable season for Arctic sledging, attempt a dash to the Pole with dog sledges. The distance from Cape We shington to the Pole is about 450 statute miles. Lieutenant Peary proposes to remain in North Greenland as long as may be necessary to achieve his purpose, using the Eskimaux colony as a base of operations. He has taken leave of absence for five years, but hopes to be back in much less time. His plan involves not only an effort to reach the Pole, but incidental exploration of unknown lands to the north of Greenland, with scientific work of the usual character. He will be accompanied by but one white man, a physician. The Wellman's plan is quite similar to that of Lieutenant Peary, except that it uses Franz Josef Land as a base of operations and employ Norwegian seal and walrus hunters instead of Eskimaux. On July 1st the Arctic steamer Laura, which has been secured for the expedition, will leave Tromsø, and after taking on board at Archangel, in the White Sea, a large pack of the best Siberian draft dogs, will steam to Cape Flora, where she will probably arrive between August 1st and 15th. Establishing there a supply station, with scientific investigators left in charge, the geographical party of six men will at once push northward, hoping to winter at or about Cape Fligely, which Peary reached in 1874. The following spring a dash will be made for the Pole. From Fligely to the Pole the distance is 550 statute miles.

Discussing the chances of success, Mr. Wellman writes:—

And how can the Pole be reached? By a sledging expedition over the ice which covers the Polar Sea, made from a base station upon the land as far north as we can establish it. It is only by sledging that any one now proposes to reach the Pole. The open Polar Sea and the possibility of sailing to the top of the earth in a ship are dreams of the past. Balloons are extra hazardous, mere toys for the winds and offering no opportunities for scientific observation. Drifting with the current which flows lazily through the Arctic Sea is a slower but more certain method, though Dr. Nansen's experience indicates that the current falls several degrees short of the Pole. Dr. Nansen left his ship and sought the Pole by sledging over the ocean ice.

This base station should be established upon some land which extends far to the north, which is accessible by steamer in the summer season, and which contains animal life sufficient for the support of explorers in case of need. The favourable season—the period in which most rapid progress may be made, and for which the plan should be laid that all of it may be utilised and yet no superfluous work be carried—is about one hundred days, from February 15 to May 25. In this one hundred days' campaign the party should make its northerly advance and its return to land, though of course, if still out when June 1st comes, it will be able to proceed at a diminished rate of speed.

What is the length of this journey for which we must plan? From Cape Fligely to the Pole in a direct line is 475 geographical miles. If we say that, on account of deviation from a straight course made necessary by hummocks, leads, the drift etc., the total distance to the Pole and back is 1,050 geographical miles, we shall be within bounds. The road to be travelled is the frozen surface of the Polar Sea.

With a party of six hardy men, with fifty draft dogs from Siberia with a rubber pneumatic boat, which has no rigid surface to receive injurious blows in ice, with specially built sledges that are drawn each by one dog and that may capsize without injury or the need of righting so that the dogs go along practically without attention or driving; with light weights constantly becoming lighter, with man-power and dog-power enough to keep moving straight ahead all the time with all the loads without the need of "doubling up"—that is, to divide the load into two parts, and thus go three times over the road—with careful attention guided by experience to every minute detail of food and equipment, it is possible to travel an average of from thirteen to seventeen miles per day.

At an average progress of only twelve miles per day the Pole could be reached and returned from in eighty-eight days. Ample time would remain for the party to make its way back to the station on the southern coast to meet the steamer sent out after it.

THE Governor-General in Council directs that no tickets to travel by railway to any station between Saharanpur and Lhaksar Junction on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway shall be sold within the Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind) and in the Punjab at any railway station, between Bias and Ludhiana from the 15th to the 22nd of March, 1898, and from the 1st to the 13th of April, 1898, to any pilgrim intending to go on pilgrimage to the Varanasi or Dikhati fairs.

SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1898-99.

A MEETING of the Council was held on Monday at the Government House. His Excellency the Viceroy presided, and there were present: The Hon'ble Sir J. Westland, the Hon'ble Sir J. Woodburn, the Hon'ble M. D. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. Collett, the Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon'ble Rahimtulla Muhammad Sayani, the Hon'ble Pandit Bishambar Nath, the Hon'ble Joy Gobind Law, the Hon'ble C. C. Stevens, the Hon'ble Sir H. T. Prinsep, the Hon'ble H. E. M. James, the Hon'ble M. R. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble J. J. D. La Touche, the Hon'ble F. A. Nicholson, the Hon'ble Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Gangaadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis and the Hon'ble Allan Arthur.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland introduced and explained the Financial Statement for 1898-99. A summary of the Statement is given elsewhere.

MEMOR COMMUNITY BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn presented the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to render it permissive to the members of the Memon community to declare themselves subject to Mahomedan law.

CENTRAL PROVINCES TENANCY BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir John Woodburn moved that the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Agricultural Tenancies in the Central Provinces be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Trevor, the Hon'ble Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis and the mover. The Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis made a lengthy speech, pointing out that the people of the Central Provinces did not want the Bill. The motion was put and agreed to. The Hon'ble member moved that the Bill to further amend the Central Provinces Land Revenue Act, 1881, be referred to a Select Committee, consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Chalmers, the Hon'ble Sir Arthur Trevor, the Hon'ble Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis and the mover. The motion was agreed to.

POST OFFICE BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the Post Office in India be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Ananda Charlu moved that in clause 26(1) of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, for the words "to be disposed of in such manner as the Governor-General in Council may direct" in the last two lines, the words "to be returned to the sender or the addressee, with the words 'opened by authority' written on the cover," be substituted.

The Hon'ble member said:—As Macaulay has said, the sole purpose—I may add, the sole justification—of the monopoly given to the Post Office of carrying letters is their safe transmission. Either this object must be carried out, or the sender and the addressee must be told that the Post Office declines to be a party to the transmission of this objectionable thing or that. To smother or to spirit away what is entrusted to the post office, leaving the sender and the addressee in the lurch, can find no warrant in reason. The object of my amendment is to give the Post Office the full power to decline and no more.

Sir James Westland opposed the amendment on behalf of Government. He said he would give one or two illustrations to explain why the amendment could not be accepted. Every one of them knew that there was a disturbance on the frontier. If Hada Mulla or Mad Mulla addressed some inflammatory documents to his friends in India, would it be expedient to return those documents to him? In the same way, if a bag of cartridge was posted, should that be sent back to the sender?

The Hon'ble Bishambar Nath spoke in favour of the amendment, which being put to the vote, was lost.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu also moved that to the same sub-clause the following proviso be added, namely:—

"Provided that, prior to the issue of any order under this section, a statement shall be prepared under the hand of a Secretary to the Government of India or to a Local Government and placed on record, setting forth the grounds for believing that a public emergency has arisen or that the act is required in the interest of public safety or tranquillity."

The Hon'ble member said:—I venture to think that it is not altogether beyond the range of possibility to conceive of instances of bad Governments, exhibiting an abnormal propensity to misuse the power if possessed. Possession of power, like the possession of abundance of everything else, creates the temptation to use it, and such a temptation often leads one to fancy occasions for its exercise, where there is none or none adequate. I may say at once that this is not a mere ideal fear. Instances are not wanting of bubbles, ominous at first, showing a mere vacuum of reasons or a ridiculous paucity of reasons which they burst. This risk is one of besetting moral dangers of enacting unnecessary laws or laws which admit of being evoked into action with impunity or on an impulse of panic or temper. On such a risk and on persons, liable to a proneness to go astray or to lead astray, the anticipation of publicity and of possible judicial scrutiny will operate as a sobering influence. A strong and just Government, above all others, must not shrink from day-light. The power in question is one which, it seems to me, must be as abhorrent to good Governments as to the public; and good Governments should themselves provide effectual checks and safeguards to render it impossible for bad Governments, that might come after them, to readily resort to arbitrary or high-handed proceedings. They might also need some such preventive to guard themselves against the passion of the moment running away with their judgments, leaving them to repent of their conduct when cooler times return. I know that responsible Governments would put forth a power, such as this, very very seldom indeed. But I know also that instances of the Government being challenged would be rarer still. There is this best guarantee, viz, the guilty conscience of the wrong-doer as his accused and as making cowards of them, such wrong-doer would find it to their own interest to hold their tongue and he only too glad to have their wickedness hushed up and not exposed to the open glare. There may nevertheless be an occasional instance to the contrary, but as the saying goes, one swallow makes not

summer. As I remarked in my minute of dissent, the Government would be absolutely impregnable with a bona fide case. The Government is fully armed to initiate proceedings. Before it takes action there must surely be some degree of deliberation and some materials to work upon. Where is the difficulty in embodying those materials and the result of that deliberation in a statement and placing it on record? Such a course will be highly reassuring and go a long way in enlisting the sympathy of the public and allaying irritating suspicion of all sorts. A mutual confidence, such as this, is an inestimable advantage to the people and Government alike, and it should be secured, I venture to think, at all lost of personal feeling or personal importance.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland opposed the amendment. He said that the Government wanted to take the power on an emergency only. Referring to the recent Bombay riot the Hon'ble member said that that was a time of emergency and the Government could not sit down to record and publish a minute before calling out the military. It was not the first time that the Government was to be vested with such power, but that by a statute passed in 1780, the then Government of the country was empowered with such authority.

The Hon'ble Mr. Charlu in reply said: I do not want prior publication, but only a prior record of such information as the Government acts upon. This must be clear from the opening lines in my minute of dissent: "As to the power taken section 26 (1) I recognize the necessity for it to meet an emergency in the first instance, but I do not see why, after the action shall have been taken, the grounds for it should not be seen the light or the action itself should not to run the gauntlet of a judicial investigation, if necessary." Thus it strikes me that the whole of the attempted refutation fails.

OTHER BILLS.

The consideration of the Bill to further amend the Presidency Small Cause Courts Act was postponed. A Bill to amend the Indian contract Act and a Bill to make provision for certain matters connected with Insolvency were introduced.

The Council adjourned to Monday next when the discussion on the Budget will take place.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1898-99.

SUMMARY.

THE following is the telegraphic summary sent to England, of the Financial Statement submitted at yesterday's meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council.

The accounts of the year 1896-97 have, as already announced, been closed with a deficit of Rs. 1,700,000 being Rs. 280,000 better than the estimates made in March 1897.

The rate of exchange realised on the remittances made 1897-98 taking account of loss on re-remittance of Rs. 1,000,000 is about 15½ pence; and the Revised Estimates of 1897-98 are accordingly made up at this rate of exchange. The same rate is as usual, taken for the Budget Estimate of 1898-99.

The result of the Revised Estimate is that after meeting Rs. 5,390,000 charges for famine relief, Rs. 3,820,000 war charges total Rs. 9,210,000, the accounts are expected to close with a deficit of Rs. 5,280,000. The improvement as compared with Rs. 6,630,000 estimated in December is Rs. 710,000 by reason of better exchange, Rs. 170,000 under Army, Rs. 200,000 by postponement of Railway expenditure, and small sums under other heads. Land Revenue is better than Budget by Rs. 290,000, Railways better by Rs. 480,000, and Irrigation better by Rs. 470,000. Against this there is a falling-off of Rs. 570,000 under Opium, due to lower prices in China. There are savings on most of the estimates for expenditure, especially on ordinary Army charges, but there has been excess expenditure under Jails, Police and Medical, famine relief has cost Rs. 5,390,000 against a Budget Estimate of Rs. 3,640,000, and the War charges were not provided for in the Budget Estimate at all.

The Budget Estimates for 1898-99 provide for the full amount Rs. 1,500,000 of the famine grant and allow Rs. 1,490,000 for continuance of war expenditure and Rs. 200,000 for new pay conditions of British soldiers. After meeting these charges the estimates show a surplus of Rs. 890,000.

No changes in taxation are proposed, but a general bounteous harvest enables Government to realise considerable arrears, estimated at about Rs. 800,000, of suspended Land Revenue and warrants expectations of favourable Railway earnings, the country having already shown signs of rapid recovery. Opium Revenue is taken Rs. 490,000 below last year's estimate.

The expenditure on Railway construction in 1897-98 fell considerably short of the programme set out in the Budget Estimate, partly because of the demands on the Treasury caused by war and famine and partly by reason of strikes in England. The total expenditure of all kinds, both State and Companies' Railways, was Rs. 10,570,000 and Rs. 13,200,000 are estimated for 1898-99; total of two years Rs. 23,770,000.

The Secretary of State intends to raise £6,000,000 Permanent Debt, of which £3,380,000 is required for discharge of debentures. He will also renew £6,000,000 outstanding Temporary Debt, and he will draw for £16,000,000 Council Bills. In India it is intended to raise a rupee loan of Rs. 3,000,000.

The Statement examines the result of the famine. The amount spent on relief in the two financial years has been Rs. 7,470,000, the number of units relieved being 833 millions: a unit is one person relieved for one day. The daily number on relief in May and June was over 3½ millions. Including this Rs. 7,470,000 spent on famine relief, the cost of the famine in actual outlay and loss of revenue is put down at Rs. 14,240,000 besides Rs. 1,850,000 revenue suspended and about Rs. 1,370,000 lent to cultivators. Besides all this the Charitable Fund has spent Rs. 1,640,000, and reports 1¼ millions heads of families relieved by grants of cattle, seed, and implements; a million respectable persons fed, 1¼ millions relief workers assisted, and four thousand orphans provided for.

The cost of plague is estimated at Rs. 420,000, and the loss by earthquake at Rs. 530,000, total Rs. 950,000 of which Rs. 390,000 falls on next year's estimates.

The Statement closes with a short review of twenty years' finance which is summarised as follows:—

"So far as Revenue goes, we have, even

after charging off Rs. 13,660,000 spent from Revenue account on Railway construction, more than paid our way, including all expenditure on special defences, and famine. So far as capital transactions go, we have raised under various conditions and spent upon Railways, Irrigation, Harbour Works and Docks, Municipal projects, and Agricultural Improvements a sum equal (at 16 pence the rupee) to Rs. 198,820,000; and we are after all this expenditure better off by Rs. 500,000 a year than before we undertook it. I am dealing, it must be remembered, with direct financial returns only; the effect of all this expenditure on development of Revenue and its economic and administrative aspects lie outside my present purposes."

These results and the signs of early recovery from the disasters of famine, plague, and war are used to repeat and enforce Sir J. Strachey's deprecation of assistance from the English Exchequer.

The question of currency, policy is not discussed.

AN AFRIDI'S VERSION.

HE was the most presentable out of the ragged crew, which the political officers chose to call the representative jirga. He wore the same State colour, a shawl and dirty pyjamas; but he had a new Khyber Rifle "loong" on, three medals dangled from a piece of cord round his neck. He had been a Havildar in a Punjab Infantry regiment, and spoke Hindustani better than do most Afridis, so I separated him from the crowd and tried conversation with him. You may take his side of the question for what it is worth, but it is interesting.

"Well Sahib, I don't know more than this, but that I was on my way to Maidan last spring, and I passed through Chora. There I met Yar Mahomed, and he told me that if I wanted to get service with the Ameer Sahib that now was my chance, since all the Mullahs had been summoned to Cabul, and that Mullah Indrej was going. Wishing to see Cabul, I changed my plans and went to Chena instead of Maidan, and I found in Chena four Maidan Mullahs in Indrej's house, so I went with them to Cabul, and at Jellalabad we found many Mullahs, and the Waziri Mullah told us of the object of the Ameer Sahib's call. That envoys had come from the Sultan giving the date for jehad, and that the Ameer Sahib would give the date, and so we all went to Cabul and sat there several days, and there were Mullahs from all the Sunnis, even Mullahs of Hindustan. And after we had sat there some days some of the Ameer Sahib's men told us that as jehad was good for all Mahomedans we should all make jehad against the white Kaffirs when a date should be given. Moreover, the Mullah from the land of the Sultan told us that all the white Kaffirs, from over the sea had combined against the Sultan, and that the Sultan had prevailed and slain them in tens of thousands—and we were then all told to go and to make ready against the date that should be given. And so we dispersed, and returned to our homes, not knowing what was in store, for though we had been told to prepare for jehad, yet there was no definite date fixed, and from that time men gathered in knots in their homes and talked of our relations with the British Raj, and with the Mullahs' mouths full of jehad, men soon remembered all grievances, and by daily conversation these grievances grew greater and greater, until there was not a man, Afridi or Orakzai, who did not believe that nothing but jehad could save our independence. And when blood was in the air there was nothing that could stay the young men. And then we were told of Swat-Bonair, and then in a week and ten days more news came to Maidan from Jarobi that Shabkadar was to be looted, and the Mohmand Mullah asked the Afridis to join him in the sacking of Peshawar, as he had seen in a dream Peshawar City given to the flames."

"But I want to know," I asked, "if you had direct help from the Ameer?"

"I never heard it with my own ears, but I know that many were for months allowed to buy ammunition along the border posts. It was said that it was old ammunition which the Ameer Sahib wished to be quit of, ammunition which he had brought from the Kaffirs, or had been given by them—old ammunition but inferior to his own manufacture."

"And did you fight against us?"

"Without a doubt. What could I do? My house is in the centre of Tirah, and if I had not joined the lashkars what chance would there have been for me and mine?"

"Well, where were you, which of the big fights?"

"I was at them all from the Khyber to the last fight in the Bara Valley."

"Tell me about the Khyber?"

"There is little to tell, Sahib. We were for some days in Bazar, and then we came across. Some said that help was coming from Landi Khana, so we went to Landi Kotal, and then they told us that the pultans were coming up the Khyber, so we attacked Landi Kotal more hastily than we had intended, for we were determined to be gone before the pultans arrived and we lost some men at Landi Kotal, because we were in this hurry, but after the first day news came that there was no movement from Jamrood, so we talked with the defenders of Landi Kotal, and after that it was all right. It took some time to get the men together after the fighting of the Khyber, and I was sent with a letter to the Kuki Khels to tell of our successes, and to threaten them if they did not send their lashkar to the Samana. And at first we had not thought much of the fighting, but by now we had tasted blood and had been successful, and we believed that all was true that was said by the Mullahs, and that the strength of the Kaffirs was gone. Then came the long wait, and the gathering of the pultans at Kohat, and the Mullahs still said that the Sirkar was only trying to frighten us, that they had sent an army to the Mohmands which had been eaten up by the Mamunds at Kamali, and that the Sirkar, never daring to continue to fight with us, would make terms at Shinowari, and that we should get the Khyber money doubled, and our salt free. So the Akka Khel Mullah sent a letter to Cabul chronicling our successes, promising to be able to pay homage to Afghanistan for the whole of the British territory down to Jhelum. But the roads crept slowly up the Samana, and the jirgas at Khanki and Kharappa thought that it would be well to mass in front of the Samana, for at that time we were many."

"And that resulted in Dargai. Tell me about Dargai?"

"Sahib, we are but poor folk at the best, and we have no magazines or arsenals. We fought as

long as we had ammunition, we did all that we could, the Sirkar was too strong for us, it has thousands of miles with ammunition, and we have to refill our cartridge cases. And then the guns, a Mullah at Dargai said that he would count the number of rounds fired by the guns, and that we should kill a man for each round; but he gave up counting, they were too many. We were not beaten at Dargai, but our confidence was gone. The lashkar broke up that night, for it was evident that we could not keep you out, so men went to remove their goods and families to a place of safety."

"And your losses?"

"Who can say, Sahib? Dead men were surely carried away, but they were not great."

"Why did you not defend the Passes into Maidan more stoutly?"

"Because we have no Malikis, and as soon as we knew that you were really coming, it became each man for himself, for we were afraid of each other as much as we were afraid of you."

"Then no one designed those rearguards attacks?"

"No, you have but to fire a pistol in Maidan to have a gathering of fighting men; how much more when you fire guns! As soon as the watchman saw that you were coming, we took our people to a place of safety, and then returned to fight in the evening."

"And down the Bara Valley—were you there?"

"Yes, I got there for the last two days. We did not believe that you would go down that way, because you had made friends with the Malikids. We thought that you would just go to Dwatol while the other half went to the Arhanga, and that you at Dwatol having deduced us into the belief that you had gone, would return, and have it between the two forces in the Maidan plain. But when the news came that you had really gone down the Bara Valley, we, who were refugees there, took all our families into safety and then returned joyfully for the Mullahs had prophesied that a Kaffir army would be destroyed by us in the Bara Valley."

"Well are you satisfied?"

"Yes, we are satisfied. We have suffered great losses, and we do not wish to suffer more, or we should not be here. We are not afraid but we are too poor to fight against a kingdom."

"What was the real cause?"

"Sahib, ask the Mullahs and those who taught them. I only fought because I had to, Saladin."

And he stalked off to join the rest of his wild brotherhood.—A correspondent in the Times of India.

Mofussil News.

RUNGPORE, MAR. 17.

The district was visited by a cattle plague of a bad type which, after having raged for some months, has only lately disappeared. The havoc among the cattle has been great. The calamity has embarrassed the cultivators and has inconvenienced us by the creation of a scarcity of milk for the present.—We have got accustomed to earth-quake shocks and do not therefore much concern ourselves about them. On the 6th instant, we felt a pretty sharp shock at 7:30 P.M.—The officiating

KUSHIA, MAR. 16.

Two persons who murdered Krishna Biswas of Barokhata, a village two miles off the town, during a quarrel about a Jamma, have been sentenced to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment each, at the last Sessions of Nadia. Two or three cases of cholera are reported. This part of the country has a good return of 'rabi' crops. 'Mator' sells at 1 Rs. 10 anas a pucca maund. Other pulses also are selling at moderate prices. No train for a good many days. It is much wanted especially for the cultivation of early paddy. We are heartily sorry to say that Syed Wali Ullah (commonly known as Wali Miah) breathed his last on the 4th instant.

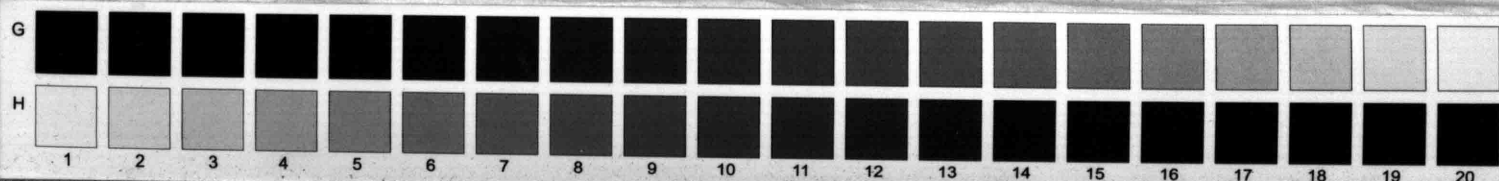
BRAHMANBARIA, MAR. 17.

RAI MAHENDRA NATH GUPTA BAHADUR, the Sub-divisional Officer, has left this on one year's furlough; and we are all sorry, for he was liked by all. The last we saw him here was the occasion of the prize distribution of the local school.—The annual fair—Bhagaban Mela—met as usual this year, and is now over. There were jatra and other performances during the mela.—Babu Jyotish Chandra Sen Gupta, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, is in temporary charge of our Sub-division.—The health of the town is good. The Municipality has resolved to excavate a large tank in the open maidan, east of the Jail.

BENARES, MAR. 18.

SOME patriotic gentlemen are going to launch a scheme here for the foundation of an Orphanage. A Hindu Orphanage in good condition is a crying want in this sacred city. It is a matter for pleasure that Mr. Dasabhai Naoroji has allowed his name to be associated with the project, and let us hope that there will be no lack of energy to make the scheme a success. The news of Sir Antony MacDonnell's going on leave has cast a gloom over the spirits of the people. Sir Antony has become so popular that he is without exaggeration regarded with the tenderness of feelings by his subjects, and they cannot think of parting with him even for a short time. Mr. LaTouche's appointment was well conceived. He belongs to our Province and is well known to us.—The news of Mr. Straight's going on leave is without foundation. He goes from his post of District Superintendent of Police to the Personal Assistantship of the Inspector-General of Police. We have had no reason to find fault with his administration; and in these days people who do us no harm, are good.—In Mr. Greaves we have got a good and active District and Sessions Judge. Mr. Greaves was here during the riots of 1891, as Assistant Magistrate, and with Mr. Nicholls, he succeeded in establishing a reign of terror at that time. But he has now changed, and changed immensely. We are glad of the change, and hope the higher he rises, the better will he become for humanity and the greater of use to the people.

THE Hindi's Mysore correspondent writes:—In the middle of last month the British Resident went to Calcutta to get the question of the future Government of Mysore settled. It is expected that in the course of this week the decision of the Government of India as to whether the country is to be governed under the present Council of Regency or whether the Council is to be modified, will be settled.





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