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Liabilities	£31,019,000
Surplus	£ 4,946,000
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40	11	11	16	9		

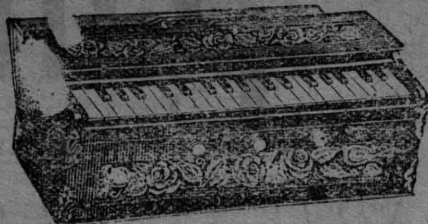
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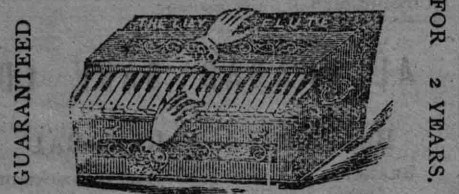
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ছত্রপতি শিবাজী সাহেব

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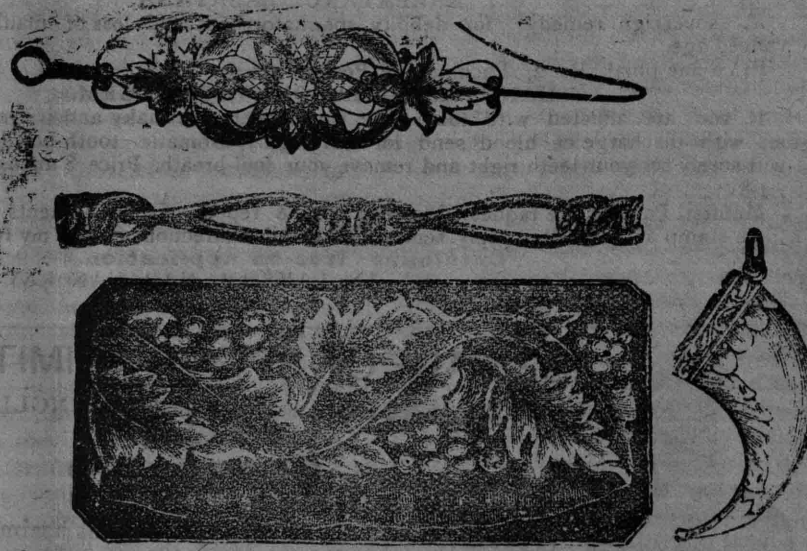
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After years of incessant toil and experiment, I have discovered a medicine which, I can confidently say, will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of Dyspepsia in a short time, effectively and radically. However chronic and long-standing the complaint, however violent its attack, the Acidity Pill will give instant and permanent relief as has been proved in hundreds of cases. Here are a few unsolicited testimonials:—

Babu Hobho Tosh Bannerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date of the 6th March, 1898:—Many thanks for your Acidity Pills. I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pains of the last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief only for a day or two. But since I have been taking your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any attack for a moment even during this time. The Pill is an excellent medicine for is nasty disease which is very painful. Please send me three boxes of the Pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience and oblige.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika says:—Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill has an extraordinary digestive power so that men suffering from Dyspepsia may give a fair trial. It is exclusively prepared from some native herbs and hence is perfectly safe.

Babu Nitrya Gopal Dutt, Zemindar of Moulpore writes:—I have used your Pill and can bear testimony to its marvellous effects. Before I had used your Pill for a week it cured me of acute Acidity which all other remedies failed to cure.

Babu Nilmoni Dey Assistant Settlement Officer prite from Camp Patepur, Dist. Mozafferpur:—I have tried your Acidity Pill and found them to be an excellent remedy in removing acidities immediately. They are a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are valuable in the Mofussil. They should find place every tourist's bag. Please send me two boxes immediately.

Babu P. De, B. A. Head-Master, Shippur, H.C. E. School, writes:—Dr. H. Biswas's Acidity Pill is a sovereign remedy for Acidity and Dyspepsia in general. It is prepared from innocent drugs, and therefore, perfectly harmless. Those that have been suffering from Acidity and Dyspepsia will find in the said Pill a speedy and permanent cure. Dr. Biswas deserves the patronage of the public at large.

Babu Amrita Krishna Mullick, B. L. Pleader, Calcutta Court of Small Causes, writes: I have very great pleasure in stating the efficacy of your Acidity Pills. I have used the above and I can commend the same to others suffering from acidity and dyspepsia.

Babu Hari Pada Mukherjee, Pleader Barasat, writes: I have derived much benefit by the use of your Acidity Pills. Really I did not expect so happy a result. Pleased send me without delay one box per V. P. P.

Pundit Satya Charan Sastri, the well known author of the lives of Pratapaditya and Sivajee writes:—I have hardly seen a more efficacious medicine than Biswas's Acidity Pill. It not only cures acidity and dyspepsia, for which it is a sovereign remedy, but it also proves of great use in colds. I believe every house holder should keep a box by him.

Babu Kalipada Chatterjee, Pleader, Palamou, writes:—Many thanks for the Acidity Pills sent by you. They have so far done much good to my mother-in-law, who has been for the last few years constant sufferer from Acidity and Colic pain. Please send me by V. P. P. one box of the Acidity Pill without delay.

Kumar Hemendra Krishna of the Sovabazar Raj family, writes:—I am glad to state that I have derived much benefit by the use of a box of your Acidity Pills. Really I did not expect so happy a result. Kindly send me two more boxes.

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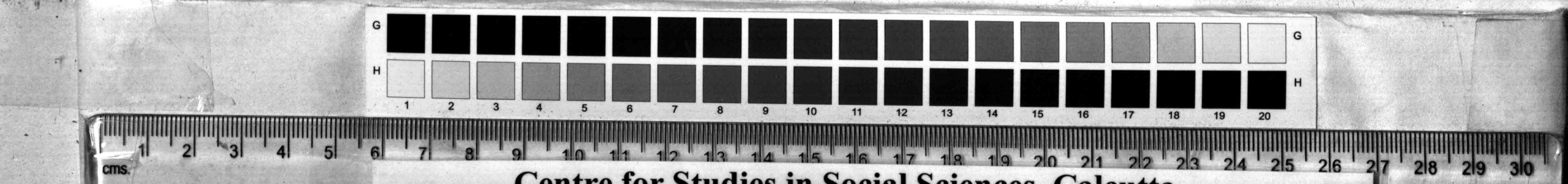
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- This is the only medicine for almost every distressing disease of women on attaining puberty or child-birth. Price Rs. 2 Packing As. 4. SOLE AGENTS IN INDIA: C. C. GHOSH & CO. Surgeons and Chemists—Lucknow.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, APRIL 14, 1898.

DOMESTIC REFORM.

We talked of domestic reform in our last issue; we suggested that our public men and writers had perhaps, in their zeal for political reform, too much neglected it, and that it is quite possible to better our condition by leaving politics alone and putting our own house in order.

They have now lost a good deal of that spiritual feeling which characterized their forefathers. Let them regain it. It will enable them to enjoy more freedom than they can expect by securing political privileges. For, a really free man is not he who can elect a representative, but he who is spiritually free.

As a matter of fact, when the present rulers appeared on the scene the Hindus were the paramount power in India. So, if the Hindus could speculate, they also subsequently learnt to fight.

Now we must say that the Hindus were quite right in their contention that, to quote Professor Max Muller, "the life is an arena, not for gladiatorial strife and combat or as a market for cheating and huckstering, but as a resting-place, a mere waiting-room at a station, on a journey to the permanent home."

SIR A. MACKENZIE AND SIR J. WOODBURN.

In India the officials are to-day a king, and to-morrow a nobody. Sir A. Mackenzie was the absolute master of Bengal. When he left the country on Thursday last and passed through his dominion, he was only a private citizen. The officials in India feel the change very keenly; and it is only natural that they should.

When the end comes, they come to feel that they had been deceived. Tempted by a large salary and unlimited powers, they are persuaded to come out here, leaving everything that man considers dear, and all the joys of life, behind. When they go back, they find that they had sacrificed their health, that they have no home, no country, and they are no longer the important personages they were before.

In England the lot of officials is better. Thus, if one Ministry is driven from power, its members yet continue to enjoy it, as also the pleasures of tormenting their opponents who had dethroned them. They, of course, do not get any salary, but they have the satisfaction of making the lives of those who get it, miserable.

But in India the Viceroy is honoured as a sovereign. He gets used to it. The local ruler is similarly honoured in his own Province, and he too gets used to it. Sir A. Mackenzie was addressed "Your Honour" for the last two or three years. And if he now finds himself addressed as simply "Sir A. Mackenzie," he is likely to feel it as an insult.

Sir John Woodburn accompanied Sir A. Mackenzie all the way from Belvedere to the Howrah Railway station when the latter was leaving the country. Such a spectacle was perhaps never seen before, the "in" accompanying the "out" on his journey home.

Of course, Sir J. Woodburn is not to be blamed for this, and Sir A. Mackenzie is too just-minded a man not to know and acknowledge it. But yet it would not be possible for Sir A. Mackenzie to forget the fact altogether that his difficulty was the opportunity of Sir John Woodburn.

We had, of course, sent a reporter to see if he could gather any information in regard to this departure. He says, he did. Sir A. Mackenzie and Sir John Woodburn had an earnest conversation in the State carriage.

Sir J. Woodburn.—Don't mind it; I shall give my very best thoughts to the measure. Sir A. Mackenzie.—Yes, I know, and that is my great comfort. Pray, don't make any vital change. Of course, you are at liberty to make any verbal alterations you like.

Sir J. Woodburn.—I promise, I will do my best. Sir A. Mackenzie.—(Very earnestly) I must say, this is very vague. I want some more definite assurance. You will do your best for your own sake: what will you do for my sake?

Here our Reporter intervened. He observed, addressing Sir A. Mackenzie: "I must say, Honourable Sir, that is not dealing fairly with Sir J. Woodburn. He has been appointed by his sovereign to rule a fine country. He has, besides, a duty to his conscience and to his Maker. He has first to please his God, his conscience and his sovereign. His friends must come afterwards."

Our Reporter ended by saying that the most notable person he saw on the railway platform was the Hon'ble Babu Narendranath Sen.

When the estimates for the year were passed by the Government of India in March 1897, it was anticipated that Local Funds would be able to contribute Rs. 8,17,000 towards the total outlay on Famine Relief measures, and that of the remainder, Rs. 23,00,000 would be borne by Provincial Funds, this being the sum which those revenues could bear without reducing the Provincial balance below half the minimum of 20 lakhs, prescribed by the Secretary of State as the working balance in ordinary years.

ROAD CESS CONVERTED INTO FAMINE FUND.

The following startling statement appears in the Bengal Financial Statement for 1898-99. When the estimates for the year were passed by the Government of India in March 1897, it was anticipated that Local Funds would be able to contribute Rs. 8,17,000 towards the total outlay on Famine Relief measures, and that of the remainder, Rs. 23,00,000 would be borne by Provincial Funds, this being the sum which those revenues could bear without reducing the Provincial balance below half the minimum of 20 lakhs, prescribed by the Secretary of State as the working balance in ordinary years.

The Local Funds, alluded to above, consist almost wholly of the proceeds of the Road Cess, and which are at the disposal of the District Boards. So, more than eight lakhs of rupees were sought to be taken from these Boards for the purpose of meeting the famine expenses; but, as they had no sufficient money in their hands, so the Government had no help but to remain content with little less than half the estimated amount, namely, Rs. 3,56,000.

The question now is: Has the Government any moral claim upon these Road Cess Funds and can it spend them for purposes of famine, bubonic plague, earthquake, and so forth? We say "moral claim" because ours is a Christian, and therefore, a moral Government. Legally, it can lay claim upon every sacred right we possess; for, it has the power of making any law it likes.

Our new Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn, has no practical experience of the administration of Bengal. It is therefore, not likely that he is thoroughly acquainted with the history of the Road Cess in this Province. Of course, the Hon'ble Mr. Risley is a thorough master of the subject, and we congratulate His Honour on having possessed such an able, well-informed and far-minded Secretary.

When the lands are permanently settled in Bengal, the Road Cess itself is a grievous wrong. It is abundantly clear from the Despatch of the Duke of Argyll that His Grace was seized with qualms of conscience when, as Secretary of State for India in 1871, he sanctioned the imposition of the Cess, in violation of the terms of the Permanent Settlement.

ject, and we congratulate His Honour on having possessed such an able, well-informed and far-minded Secretary. His Honour may get all information from him; but then, Mr. Risley has studied the matter from the official's point of view. There is a popular side to the question; and it is this view which we propose to place before Sir John, in the hope that he may do some measure of justice to the people of Bengal in this connection.

The above promise was coupled with another. It was laid down in para 22 of the Duke's Road Cess Despatch "that it is above all things requisite that the benefits to be derived from the rates should be brought home to the doors of the cess-payers, and that these benefits should be palpable, direct and immediate."

It is perfectly clear from the above that it is purely village roads, village tanks and such other works of public utility as the cess-payer might require, that are properly the objects of the Road Cess. In other words, the proceeds of the cess should be spent upon those roads and water-works only, "the benefits of which are brought home to the doors" of the villagers and which secure "direct, palpable and immediate benefit to them."

But, if there was any ambiguity about the matter, it was removed by the Proclamation of Sir George Campbell. We once published it; we shall re-produce it here for ready reference. Here are the concluding words of this generous Proclamation:—

All persons assessed to the Road Cess, are informed and assured by the Government that every pice, levied under the Act, will be spent in the district in which it is raised, to improve the local roads, canals and rivers in the district for the benefit of the inhabitants. Nothing will be diverted to any other purpose than that which the law directs.

sub-divisions of the district will be arranged and a fair proportion of the proceeds of the tax will be apportioned for the petty roads of that Sub-division. That money will be distributed and spent by local men, trusted by the inhabitants, who will be selected or elected for the purpose. Every tax-payer is encouraged and invited to claim that the tax shall be fairly applied to the village roads and local paths or water-channels in which he is interested.

Acting Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal. We take our stand upon the Duke of Argyll's Despatch and the above Proclamation. The last document makes two things very clear: one is that the proceeds of the cess would be applied only to certain specified purposes; the other is that the Fund was to be placed at the absolute disposal of the people. In short, it was solemnly promised that (1) every pice of the money would be spent in the district in which it is raised; (2) that it would be spent only for the purpose of "improving village roads and local paths or water-channels" in which the cess-payer "is interested"; and thirdly, that "not a pice would be diverted to any other purpose."

From the above, it is clear that the Government has no right to devote the proceeds of the Cess Fund to the feeding of the famished or the construction of other roads than village roads and local paths, or the meeting of the charges connected with earthquake and plague.

In the paragraph quoted above, it is also laid down that the money would be distributed and spent by local men, trusted by the inhabitants, who would be selected or elected for the purpose. From this it is clear that the Government has no right to meddle with the Fund. Indeed, we do not see any loophole even for the Commissioner of a Division to do so.

There is a grim humour in the arrangements made for the disposal of some taxes levied for specific purposes. Thus the proceeds of the Famine Insurance Fund have been diverted to the erection of frontier fortifications; and those of the Road Cess Fund, raised with the object of providing the people with local paths and drinking-water, are utilized for the purpose of feeding the famished!

We shall discuss the legal aspect of the question in a future article.

We must refer to the case of Bakshi Ram Labhya, proprietor of the Dost-i-Hind, again. He had incurred the ill-will of the police; and, therefore, of the District Magistrate, Mr. A. E. Elliot, whose ears had been poisoned against him. A relation of the Bakshi was placed before the Magistrate on a charge of committing simple nuisance, and this was the judgment of Mr. Elliot:—

The accused is the son of a cousin of Bakshi Ram Labhya, the fonder of all intrigues. The file amply shows that accused did commit the nuisance, being drunk. His identity is well known to the police and to others, as being under the protection of Ram Labhya, who is the editor of the "Dost-i-Hind" newspaper, and a terror to all in Bhera. I accordingly sentence Abnashi Ram to undergo one week's rigorous imprisonment, under Section 34, Police Act.

The Chief Court was moved; and this is the order of that Court. Accused has simply been convicted of committing a nuisance, by making water, being drunk. The judgment does not state where, as it should. The sentence of a week's imprisonment for such an offence is preposterous. The accused is discharged.

Now in the judgment of Mr. Elliot, that official shows his bias in an unmistakable manner. The case was simply one of drunkenness. But because he was the son of a cousin of Bakshi Ram Labhya, therefore the case assumed gigantic proportions. We are, first of all, told in a case of mere drunkenness, that Ram Labhya, who was not the man charged, but who happened to be only a distant relation of the accused, was the fonder of all intrigues. Of all? So every intrigue in the district of Shapur, which was the kingdom of Mr. Elliot, was due to Ram Labhya? Assuming it were so, what had the "intriguing" habits of Ram Labhya to do with the drunkenness of Abnashi Ram, the accused? Then we are told that Ram Labhya is a terror to all in Bhera. To all? And supposing that Ram Labhya were a dragon, what has that to do with the drunkenness of Abnashi Ram? It seems, however, that according to the judgment of Mr. Elliot, his hallucination that Ram Labhya was the originator of all intrigues and the terror of all people in Bhera, had very much to do with the drunkenness of Abnashi Ram. For, that man was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a week, apparently on the ground that Ram Labhya was the author of all intrigues and a terror to all in Bhera. But what of Ram Labhya? Was he not the author of all intrigues, and besides, the guardian of Abnashi Ram? Abnashi Ram got his deserts; but was Ram Labhya to go scot-free? So he was accused of having obstructed the Police. On the day of the hearing, the Counsel for the accused submitted a certificate from Surgeon-Major Perry, which said that he, the accused, was too ill to attend Court. Upon this the Magistrate recorded the following order:—

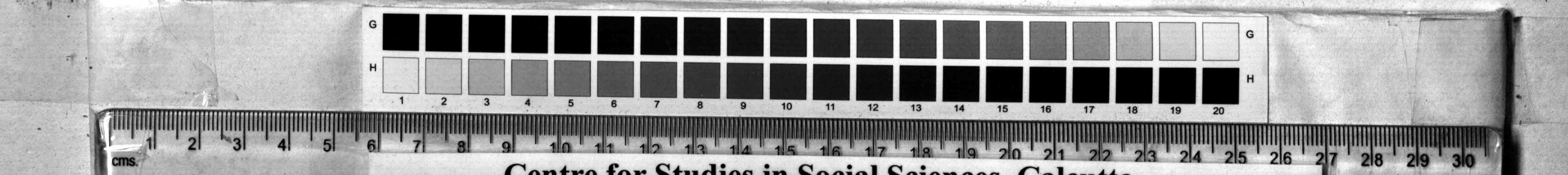
I have very strong doubts as to the genuineness of this certificate. I am compelled to ask the advocate for the accused, to send a telegram to ask if Dr. Perry really gave any certificate. I cannot understand how he got this certificate, as I personally know Dr. Perry. Then another order was passed to the following effect:—

The case will now stand postponed till the 30th November, 1897. In the mean while, there will be issued a warrant for the arrest of the accused that he may not again escape justice. The case remains for my successor.

The successor came, and Bakshi Ram Labhya was acquitted,—the new comer making some severe remarks upon the police.

We have to offer here a few remarks. The Government wishes the newspapers to avoid giving offence, Sir Alexander Mackenzie going to the length of regretting that the law of sedition had not been comprehensive enough to comprise those who criticise officials. Now is it possible for human nature to feel any sincere respect for a Judge who administers justice in this manner? In the interests of the Empire, for the fair fame of the administration and English character, it is absolutely necessary that the officials should be made to do their duties so as ensure respect from the people.

The reader is aware that the execution of Damodar Chapekar has been postponed to Monday the 18th instant. It is no longer a secret that many of those who firmly believed in his guilt, are now doubtful whether he is the real culprit or not. The general impression is that he is a madcap who, from a spirit of braggadocio, had fastened the crime upon his own shoulders. That he is not quite in his right senses, appears from the manner in which he is spending his time in the jail, though he knows that he has been sentenced to be hanged and that his execution is only a question of a few days. Just conceive that he is now learning English in his cell! We think this is a fit case in which the Governor-General in Council can exercise his prerogative of mercy without injury to the interests of justice in any way. We are glad to find that Babu Ambika Charan Maitra, pleader, Pubna, who saved two prisoners from the gallows by interceding on their behalf to two successive Lieutenant-Governors, Sir Stewart Bayley and Sir Charles Elliott, has moved in this matter with his usual energy. He submitted a petition to the Governor of Bombay, and also wired to him several times, praying that His Excellency might be pleased to reduce the sentence of death passed upon Chapekar into one of transportation for life. The correspondence which has passed between Babu Ambika and the Government of Bombay, is published elsewhere. It will be seen that the matter has been placed before the Governor-General in Council, and that the prayer of Babu Ambika, namely, that his application for mercy should be forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen, has not been granted. Let us trust that the reason why Government has not forwarded the application to England, is that it itself wishes to exercise the prerogative of mercy.



in it. Indeed, Lord Elgin will do a very graceful act, on the eve of his departure from this country, by commuting the sentence to one of transportation for life. This arrangement will be satisfactory from all points of view. It will help the Government to find out the real culprit; and if the real culprit be not detected, then Chapekar will be sufficiently punished by being banished from his country and kept a prisoner all his life. The Government will really take a very serious responsibility upon its shoulders by hanging the man. For, if the real culprit were discovered, then those who had a hand in sending the man to the gallows, would ever repent of having been the means of taking the life of an innocent creature of God.

We take the following from the *Morning Post*:-

An unfortunate accident occurred at Messrs. Cooper, Allen and Company's Cawnpore establishment a few days ago, which was attended by fatal results. Mr. Tresham, one of the staff, kicked a native employe, and the latter died very shortly after. Mr. Tresham was fined Rs. 200 by the Joint-Magistrate. This is the second case of the kind that has happened at Cooper, Allen's.

In the absence of the records of the case, it is impossible to say on what grounds the trying Magistrate passed such an extremely light sentence on the accused, so strikingly disproportionate to the gravity of his offence. Mark, this is the second case of the kind that has occurred at Cooper, Allen's,—and the poor man was kicked to death as if he were a dog or a cat. Is there any other country in the world, where, if a man were kicked to death by another, the latter would be let off with a fine of Rs. 200? We must say we are getting sick of these kicking or shooting cases, and we believe every high-minded Englishman will sympathise with us in this matter. We have every hope, the matter will draw the serious attention of His Honour Sir A. P. MacDonnell.

If SIR JAMES WESTLAND took great pains in preparing his Budget, he took greater pains in preparing a statement which is annexed to it. This statement contains a review of the Indian finances for the last 20 years, and seeks to disprove a generally-accepted fact, namely, that India is a very poor country. Indeed, according to Sir James, the financial condition of India was so good that not only did it pay its way but had accumulated a surplus of more than 50 crores of rupees during the last two decades. As was to be expected, the review was subjected to severe criticism, one of the points raised being that Sir James Westland forgot to take into account the new taxes imposed within the last 20 years to increase the revenue. The Finance Minister did not deny this, but answered that in some cases the new taxes were old taxes re-imposed and the enhanced taxes had been lowered; in fine, his argument was that the burden of taxation was not really higher than it was in 1878. This reply, however, does not satisfy the *Pioneer*, who has come down upon Sir James with the following remarks:-

But even if this be granted, what then? If Sir James Westland chose to date his comparison from a year when taxation existed which it was subsequently deemed expedient to repeal, that is his affair. There is no special virtue in the year 1878 as a point from which to begin a financial review. No doubt, if the Finance Minister had shown that the taxation existing in 1878, partially repealed and then re-imposed, were far from exhausting the taxable capacity of the Empire, the point, we raised, would have been one of little importance. Sir James Westland's object was to prove that India can pay her way without any assistance from England; and if there were abundant reserves of taxation still untapped, the mere fact of a balance at the end of twenty years would have been a sufficient proof. It would make no difference to the argument whether we had or had not enhanced old taxes or added new in the interval, so long as it was clear that at the end of the period fresh sources of taxation existed to meet fresh increase in expenditure. But this is precisely what has not been shown. On the contrary, Sir David Barbour told the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure in 1896 that "there is no big tax left now, which is not open either to great objections or which would not excite great discontent. I think we have put on pretty well all the taxation that could be put on without its becoming a very serious matter." Thus at the end of Sir James Westland's selected period, we have virtually tapped every important source of taxation; we have had, if we mistake not, nine deficits in the twenty years; and though we scrape through with a balance, nobody can see where the money would come from in another 20 years to meet an expenditure, increasing at the rate of the last decade. At the same time the currency and credit of India are in such a state that a paltry loan of three crores could not be put on the market to-morrow except at a heavy discount. The true lesson of a review of twenty years is that if expenditure be permitted to increase in the future as it has increased in the last decade, we shall ultimately fail to pay our way and shall again, as in 1880 (a fact, by the way, Sir James Westland omits to note) be driven to accept a subvention from the Imperial Parliament. This is a consummation most devoutly to be deprecated; but depreciation will not pay bills.

The *Madrass Mail* follows in the above strain. Says he:-
It is the opinion, we believe, of those who know Sir James Westland well, that his most striking personal characteristic is an unshakable optimism. And certainly this opinion is amply borne out by the Financial Statement which he presented to the Supreme Legislative Council last week, and by the utterances which he has made in regard to it. One would have expected a certain note of despondency, or at any rate, we may say, a certain note of regret from a Finance Minister who had to acknow-

ledge deficits of 1½ and 5½ crores in two successive years, and whose estimates for the coming year show a surplus of barely a crore, represented by an increase solely attributable to expectations, which may never be realised, of truly bumper harvests. But neither despondency, nor even specific regret, is traceable in the recent pronouncements of Sir James Westland. Instead of one or the other, indeed, we are presented with an almost jaunty statement of present conditions, and with a review of Indian Finance for the last twenty years, which, apart from its irrelevancy and glaring incompleteness, is instinct with the optimism that pervades its author's mind, and is obviously intended to forestall the despondent criticism that the last few years of Indian Finance might reasonably be expected to give rise to in ordinary minds.

The *Times of India* too is not convinced by the figures of Sir James to prove the solvent condition of India. But stranger things are yet to be told. Does the surplus of 50 crores really exist? No, it is almost all gone, leaving a balance of 3½ crores. But what of that?—says Sir James. For, was not all this amount expended for extraordinary purposes? Here is the list:-

- (a) Wars and expeditions, each costing over Rs. 500,000 (net) ... 21,223,424.
 - (b) Famine Relief, excluding years in which expenditure did not exceed Rs. 25,000 ... 8,138,478.
 - (c) Railway construction charged to Revenue ... 13,959,867.
 - (d) Special Defence Works ... 4,589,664.
- And then Sir James, in a tone of exultation, exclaims: "We have, in the twenty years, by this amount, more than paid our way." We see, however, Sir James has forgotten to enter one item on the side of expenditure, which, had he done so, would have converted his surplus into a deficit. We mean the amount of 30 crores of rupees which the Government was bound to pay for famine purposes at the rate of 1½ crore yearly. If we throw the whole charges for famine relief and railway construction on this head, still we find here is some ten crores of rupees wanting to make up the full amount, leaving a deficit of 6½ crores.

"An Indignant Member" of the deputation that waited upon Sir Alexander Mackenzie with the farewell address, writes to us to say:-

We were rightly served,—I mean, I and several others who like me are not "the leading members" of the British Indian Association and personally known to Sir Alexander. We went to honour the retiring Lieutenant-Governor; but just see in what way he honoured us. If you refer to Sir Alexander's reply to the address, you will see what a low opinion he entertains about the zemindars as a class. I shall quote the very words he uttered, for the edification of those zemindars who will, no doubt, be asked to contribute to the memorial fund of the late Lieutenant-Governor. Said Sir Alexander:-

"I have always been on friendly terms with the leading members of your body, (the B. I. Association) ... I believe that I can fairly say that I have always been your friend ... I always said that in my opinion if all landlords were like the good landlords whom I know, there would be no necessity for legislation. The Government does not legislate for good landlords but bad landlords; and I was never able to discover in all my experience anything that I would charge as iniquity in the way of harsh dealing with their tenants against the gentlemen, whom I personally know, of the British Indian Association."

So the law is meant for us,—the bad landlords—and we are bad landlords because we don't hold leading positions in the B. I. Association—and not for the good landlords who consist of the leading members of the Association, these leading members being three or four zemindars of Calcutta and one zemindar of Hooghly. That is to say, with the exception of these half-a-dozen zemindars, all others are a bad lot, in the opinion of the late Lieutenant-Governor. Nay, Sir A. Mackenzie goes further and makes the amazing statement that these good zemindars are so very good that they and their tenants are on the most excellent terms and the latter have never been treated with harshness by their landlords. That is to say, these zemindars never sue their ryots, nor do the latter bring any complaints against them in courts of justice. It is only the bad landlords, that is, those who do not belong to the B. I. Association and hold important positions in that body, that quarrel with and oppress their tenants. The law is for them and them only. We hope, the zemindars of Bengal, minus the leading members of the B. I. Association, will appreciate this compliment paid to them by the late Lieutenant-Governor and contribute largely to the fund which is being raised for his memorial!

When the deputation retired, some of its members strongly resented the remarks of the retiring Lieutenant-Governor. Some of "the leading members" then felt themselves in an awkward position and stammered out that Sir Alexander was always unhappy in his dealings with others and could not make a speech without offending. I may also tell you that several members would not have signed the address or waited in deputation if they were not hard pressed to do so. One of "the leading members" went to almost all the unwilling members and put every sort of pressure upon them. Indeed "the leading members" and their men had to work from morning to mid-night, to secure the signatures.

The author of the above communication does not permit us to publish his name, because, he says he does not choose to expose himself to the ridicule of his countrymen. But he is very anxious to impress the fact upon the zemindars of Bengal and Behar, barring, of course, "the leading members" of the B. I. Association, that it will be an act of folly on their part if they pay anything for the bust or any other memorial of the late Lieutenant-Governor who held them in such utter contempt. It was given out that the cost of the proposed memorial would be paid mainly by the Maharajah of Durbhanga. But we have already contradicted this rumour.

While on this subject, we are astounded to learn from a reliable source that attempts are being made to fleece the estates of Hutwa and Bettiah in connection with the proposed memorial of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. Hutwa is under the management of Government, and Bettiah is heavily involved in debt. Surely, His Honour Sir John Woodburn will never allow such a gross wrong to be perpetrated during his rule. It will be, indeed, a great scandal if the funds of these helpless estates be utilized for the purpose of erecting a statue or bust for the late Lieutenant-Governor, specially when they are practically at the disposal of the Government.

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE posed as a friend of local self-government. The Calcutta Municipal Bill is a proof positive of his ardent love for it. A few days before his departure, he signalized his administration by an act which threatens to knock Muffasil local self-government also on the head. The reader may remember that Mr. R. Ghose, the well-known Barrister of Chupra, was elected Chairman of the local Municipality. The contest lay between him and the Magistrate of the District. Of the 15 Commissioners, 9 voted for Mr. Ghose; and he was thus elected by a majority of three votes. The Divisional Commissioner, however, interfered, and asked Mr. Ghose to resign in favour of the Magistrate; but he could not on principle accede to the request. The result was that the Commissioner placed the case in the hands of the Bengal Government, with a recommendation to have the election cancelled. This was an unprecedented request, which was as unreasonable as it was mischievous; and the majority of the Commissioners who elected Mr. Ghose, strongly protested against it. Indeed, we could never believe that Sir Alexander Mackenzie would agree to sanction the proceedings of the Commissioner and encourage such a death-blow at local self-government. But it appears from the letter of our Chupra correspondent that Sir Alexander actually cancelled the election of Mr. Ghose, and the Magistrate of the District has taken the place of the latter, to teach the people how they should manage their own affairs! There would have been some excuse for this unjustifiable act, if Mr. Ghose were an incompetent person. But he had served the Chupra Municipality as Chairman and Vice-Chairman with conspicuous ability for the past eight years. Then, note the beauty of the arrangement. The District Magistrate is already hampered with numerous heavy responsibilities. To throw upon him the additional duty of administering the affairs of the Municipality, is not only an act of cruelty towards him, but also an act of injustice to the rate-payers whose affairs can never be managed by him, over-worked as he is, as efficiently as by Mr. Ghose. The *Englishman* was astonished when we said that Sir A. Mackenzie had not left one good work to enable the people to remember him with kindness. Not only is this a fact, but it is also true that all his measures are, in some way or other, detrimental to the interest of the country. This we freely admit, that he was a friend of the Europeans. And it is the Europeans and not the members of the B. I. Association who should have given him a farewell address.

We hear that the Chief Engineer to the Corporation of Calcutta has applied for four months' leave. The General Committee, on the recommendation of the Chairman, has sanctioned the leave. There were some voices against the leave being granted now; but the Executive wanted it, and the Commissioners, who, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, are always anxious to oblige the Executive, granted the leave. We hear of strange doings in the Engineer's Department. The Town Hall business is a scandal all round; it began with a modest tender of Rs. 33,000, which was gradually increased to 1,60,000. Of course, we have to thank the earthquake for this; but there are serious charges in connection with these repairs. We shall take only one instance. Architraves over the pillars were charged for at Rs. 15 per running foot; in the final bill, they were charged for at Rs. 15 per running foot and sanctioned by the Engineer. A Sub-Committee sat for the investigation of eccentricities like this; but the Report has not yet been submitted.

But this is only a flea-bite,—there are other matters, involving lacs of rupees. Of course, ours is a wealthy Corporation; otherwise the Local Government would not recommend that it should be made to pay in order that merchants' clerks might be attracted to its work. When the scheme of the new drainage-works was matured by the present and the late Engineers, they set out in detail the quality and nature of the work that would be required, and they based their estimate on this quality; when the tenders were called, the quality and nature were considerably altered and reduced; yet when the tenders came in, the Chief Engineer was pleased to compare them favourably with the original estimates and to report that certain tenders were well within the estimates. We shall give an example to make our meaning clear. The original estimate required that the whole bricking of the sewers should be set in cement; when tenders were called, the Engineer required that the lower half should be in cement and the upper half in lime. One would suppose that this would make the tender less; but such supposition would be vain. The tender in one instance was Rs. 16,000

higher, whereas, according to the original estimate, the tender ought to have been Rs. 50,000 lower at least. We shall take another instance. One estimate was for Rs. 21,41,000 for the construction of the sewer and acquisition of land. The contractor's tender was Rs. 20,64,000. The Engineer actually congratulated the Commissioners on the tendered amount leaving a handsome margin for contingencies. But alas! human hopes are so delusive; the original estimate included a sum of Rs. 4,20,000 for acquisition of land and purchase of machinery, which items were not included in the contractor's tender, and the result is that the tender, instead of being lower than the estimate, is actually higher by 4 lacs! We wish this was all; but, unhappily, the more we examine the matter, the more we find hundreds running into thousands, and thousands into lacs.

We hear of another grave irregularity. Tenders for the supply of pipes for unfiltered water, were asked for both in India and England. There were 9 tenders from England; but somehow 7 only were placed before the Commissioners, the result being that the contract, involving an expenditure of about 9 lacs, was secured by a local firm as the lowest tender. Whereas if the last two tenders from England had not been omitted, the lowest tender would have been one of the omitted tenders.

These are grave irregularities. We are told that a strong Sub-Committee is sitting to investigate these matters. They are serious enough in all conscience; but what is the Sub-Committee doing? Will it justify the charge which the late Local Government sought to fasten upon it,—of playing with the questions referred to it? The public of Calcutta will anxiously watch the result of the Sub-Committee's labours; but, in the meantime the Engineer wants leave. Of course, it is not for the purpose of evading the Sub-Committee, but to recruit failing health. The strength of an Ajax would fail if similarly placed. We hope, however, that the Engineer and the Commissioners will be good enough to see that granting leave to the Engineer now would mean the virtual extinction of the Sub-Committee and the shutting-out of light into the dark corners of Municipal administration—a matter of grave importance in which the rate-payers are vitally interested. We hope, at least, that even if leave be granted, it ought to be postponed until the submission of the Sub-Committee's Report; for, the public of Calcutta have a right to know what the various reports, that are flying all over the city, mean, and they are naturally anxious that the Sub-Committee should send in its Report, while the Engineer is in India and not while he is thousands of miles away. It is also to the interest of the Chief Engineer himself that he should stay and explain matters which, in his absence, might be construed otherwise, and his reputation sought to be damaged. We have not the slightest doubt that he has his explanation, and that his conduct is above reproach; and that is the very reason why he should not leave the country before the labours of the Sub-Committee are brought to a termination.

Of late, there was an attempt on the part of certain interested parties to impugn the Nizam's loyalty and allegiance, by charging him with intrigues with other Mahomedan Powers. The matter has been enquired into by the Government of India, which seems convinced that the imputations were groundless and the outcome of malice, and that they were inspired by those who sought nothing short of mischief.

It is alleged that on Thursday afternoon two soldiers of the Durban Light Infantry drove through the Cantonment, firing an air-gun at the shops as they passed by. They struck a tailor who was standing on the road; and when hearing the barracks, they fired at a woman and a man, hitting both. All three persons were conveyed to the Sassoon Hospital, where bullets were extracted, and they remain under treatment. The men were arrested, and handed over by the regimental authorities to the police.

THE "Tribune" learns that Dr. Grant, the Chemical Examiner of Lahore, who shot a khansama in the leg, has written a letter of apology to Mr. Flynn, and has offered a few rupees as solatium to the injured man. Whether he has offered anything to the old Sikh jamadar whom he had slapped in the face after the shooting incident, is more than the Lahore paper can say. "It is a crying shame," concludes the "Tribune", "that such a thing should have happened within the municipal limits of Lahore itself; but it would be a greater shame if Dr. Grant is allowed to go unpunished, or even without a warning or a reprimand for conduct which, however excusable at first, was wilfully offensive in the end."

SOME persons were charged before the Deputy Magistrate of Jamalpur in Mymensing District for carrying off *khugras* by force. One of the accused was arrested, put on his trial, and fined. Processes were asked for against the other accused. This petition was ordered to be filed; and a few days after, the Deputy Magistrate passed an order, directing the petitioner to have recourse to the Civil Court. A copy of this order was applied for; but the application was refused. Upon this, the District Judge was moved, who called upon the Deputy Magistrate to explain. After some delay, the explanation was submitted; but it did not satisfy the Judge, who this time sent for the papers of the case and wanted further explanation. On receipt of all this, on the 21st March, the District Judge gave it as his opinion that the original petition, as well as the duplicate, had been concealed by the Deputy Magistrate. The Deputy Magistrate, the Bench Clerk and the Registry-Writer have been summoned to appear on the 20th

instant. The District Judge has also written to the District Magistrate to watch that the Deputy Magistrate do not leave the station before that date.

SOMETIME ago the European employe of the Cawnpore Railway station, caused the wife of an Indian gentleman of Ganjam, who was also travelling by the same train, to get down from the second-class compartment reserved for ladies, in obedience to the wishes of a European lady-passenger. The aggrieved thereupon made a representation to the Railway authorities; and the result was the issue of the following order by Colonel Gardner, Agent to the E. I. Railway:—"The Agent wishes it to be very strongly impressed on the European staff that the native passengers are the backbone of the passenger traffic, and that their interests must be as carefully considered as those of the Europeans, and the same efforts made to accommodate them as comfortably as circumstances admit."

THE Municipal Commissioners of Howrah, being desirous of acquiring a piece of land for use as a burial-ground of the Mussalman inhabitants of Howrah, selected a plot of ground in the centre of Bamangachi village. Upon this the Hindu inhabitants of the village memorialised the Magistrate-Chairman, protesting against the selection of the site on various grounds, sanitary and religious. The Magistrate-Chairman held that there was no real ground of objection, except the acquisition of a tank and a sacred peepul tree, and directed them to be spared. This did not satisfy the memorialists, and they sent up a representation to the Government of Bengal, which has forwarded it to the Divisional Commissioner for disposal. The memorialists urge that the tree and the altar being sacred, a Mussalman burial-ground, in close proximity would defile and desecrate them both, and humbly ask the Divisional Commissioner to refer to Pundits for authoritative opinion. We trust, nothing will be done to hurt the religious susceptibilities of the memorialists.

FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

THE force in and around the Khyber Pass will probably be designated the Khyber Force. Ten Afridi native officers belonging to various native regiments remain for a period of one month at Jamrud to assist the political officers and to collect the money fines lent or advanced by them for their duties.

A new site has been decided upon for the Kutta Kushtia Post.

THE Mamani and Gandao posts have been evacuated. The Afridis crowded into the deserted camps, and parties of the Sipah Afridis voluntarily accompanied the troops assisting in protecting the flanks during the march.

A new post is to be constructed at Fort Mandu on the site of the old Fort. The new Fort will be capable of accommodating 35 rifles.

THERE is no news from the frontier, and the fact that not a single telegram reached the Foreign Office on Monday morning from the political officers on the frontier shows how quiet affairs now are.

THE following lines occur in General Lockhart's farewell order:—"The boast of the tribes was that no foreign army,—Moghol, Afghan, Persian or British—had ever penetrated or could ever penetrate, their country; but, after carrying three strong positions and being for weeks subsequently engaged in daily skirmishes, our troops succeeded in visiting every portion of Tirah—a fact which will be kept alive in the minds of future generations by ruined forts and towers in their remotest valleys." Again:—"In no previous campaign on the North-West frontier has the punishment, inflicted on the tribesmen, been more exemplary, or their submission more complete."

FULL reports are now being awaited from the political officers before any further steps will be taken regarding the final action in connection with the future frontier policy. The question of compensation for the tribes for damage to buildings near the Khyber has to be considered and also the return of certain looted property. About 70 rifles are still due from deserters in the Khyber rifles.

THE rumoured cases of plague at Amritsar are now contradicted.

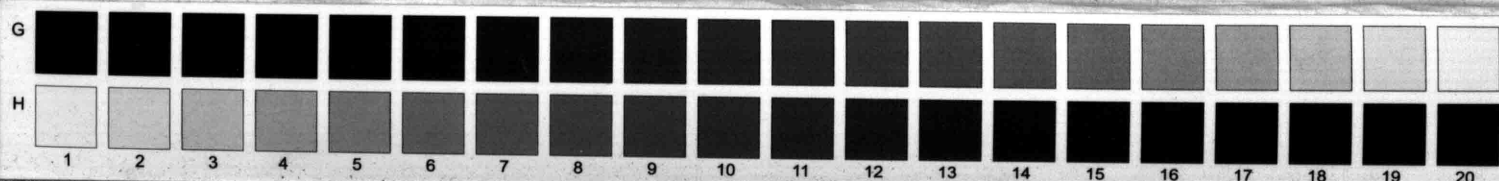
THERE were 60 attacks and 70 deaths reported from plague on Monday at Bombay, the total mortality from all causes being 171. The plague seems to be spreading in Karachi, the latest returns showing eight cases and three deaths. Joria Bazar in the city has been closed, and residents in that locality are being given 24 hours' time to quit their homes.

OWING to the prevalence of plague at Hongkong, Macao and Canton, the Secretary of State for India has recommended that the Venice Convention Regulations should be imposed against these places, at Calcutta, and Chittagong, and the Bengal Government has issued orders accordingly.

A CASE of plague has occurred in a Pathan family in Bombay, but all persuasions of the health authorities to segregate the inmates of the house have proved fruitless. Quite a defiant attitude was taken up by a large number of Pathans, and it was only through the mediation of Sardar Mahomed Yacob Khan that the family eventually consented to be removed to a special segregation camp; but for this timely intervention force would have become necessary with rather disagreeable results.

SMALL-POX is prevalent in Rangoon; there were 74 cases in the hospital on Saturday.

NEWS has been received in Poona that on Sunday a very serious fight took place between some members of the Poona District Police, and a gang of dacoits sun-bering over fifty who were met in the jungle not very far from Rewangan, a large village in the Poona District. The police were accompanied by the mandludar of Baramati who, when the band of dacoits were encountered, was attacked and his skull was smashed. The police fired, killing two of the dacoits. The scene of the struggle is in a dense jungle, situated some 12 miles or more from the town of Baramati. The nearest railway station is Horeball on the G. I. P. between Dhond and Diksal. It is stated that some dacoits have been arrested.



Calcutta and Mofussil.

LORD GAURANGA

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To be had at the Patrika Office, Calcutta.

ACCOUNT OFFICE. Mr. Dawson is posted as Deputy Accountant-General, Bengal, from 21st March.

THE HIGH COURT.—Mr. E. Chapman officiates as Registrar of the Calcutta High Court on the Appellate Side.

THE L. M. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will leave for Darjeeling during the first week of May next instead of the 25th instant, as had been previously arranged.

HEALTH OFFICER'S DEPUTATION TO BOMBAY.—At a meeting of the General Committee of the Calcutta Corporation, held recently, the Chairman submitted for consideration the Health Officer's suggestion that he should be deputed to Bombay to get a practical knowledge of the working of a big plague epidemic. It was resolved that the Health Officer be allowed to leave Calcutta for a period not exceeding a fortnight and that an expenditure not exceeding Rs. 500 be sanctioned.

PLAGUE SCARE.—Our Kundola (Birbhum) correspondent writes under date the 9th instant.—A fisherwoman died here on the noon of the 7th from the effects of the swelling of the throat. The Chowkidar reported the matter to the Sub-Inspector of Mowshwar Thana, who at once telegraphed it to the higher authorities. The District Magistrate, accompanied by the District Superintendent of Police and the Civil Medical Officer, came here yesterday; and, after a most careful enquiry, they came to the conclusion that the case was one of plague, as feared.

PLAGUE OBSERVATION CAMPS.—The number of persons examined and detained during the week ending the 27th of March at the respective camps of Chakradherpur, Chausa, Mairwa, and Khurda was as follows:—Number of persons examined during the week from Monday to Sunday 1,085, 8,215, 1,106, and 1,280; total 11,686; number of persons examined since the plague observation camp was opened 6,823, 144,953, 15,137, and 30,665; total 105,578; number of suspects detained during the week 45, 259, 37, and 66; total 407; number of suspects detained since the camp was opened 140, 2,651, 541, and 1,781; total 5,093; number of persons detained in camp during the week 245, 259, 37, and 73; total 614. There were no deaths from plague.

POSTAL.—Babu Dwarka Nath Goswami, Superintendent of Post Offices, 4th grade, is appointed to act in the 3rd grade, during the absence, on privilege leave, of Lala Sanwal Das Ramnathi, Superintendent of Post Offices. Mr. Sudarshan Singh Seth, Superintendent of Post Offices, 3rd grade, is granted an extension of leave on medical certificate for three months. Rai Saligram Bahadur, Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, officiating in 2nd grade, is granted privilege leave for three months. Mr. R. J. Hogan is appointed to act as Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, 3rd grade, during the absence, on privilege leave, of Rai Saligram Bahadur.

A SENSATIONAL CASE.—A Ghazipur correspondent writes:—An extraordinary criminal case was tried in the Court of the Joint-Magistrate here, in which two European boys and an Indian figured as accused persons. Walter Williamson and Eugene Fitzgerald are the names of the boys. It is said, that the mother of the former has a sweeper girl in her employ. The case for the prosecution is that this sweeper girl committed nuisance, an offence punishable under Section 34 of the Police Act, for which she was sent up to be tried before a Bench of Honorary Magistrates, that somehow or other she failed to appear on the date fixed for the hearing of the case, the consequence of which was that a warrant was issued for her arrest; that she was arrested and taken towards the Thannab, when, on the way, Williamson and his associate, assisted by the brother of the girl, rescued her, and, in doing so, assaulted the Police constables. A charge was laid, the usual Police investigation held, and the three accused persons were sent up, under Sections 332 and 225, I. P. C. The accused were defended by some of the able pleaders of the local Bar here. After a protracted trial, the Joint-Magistrate convicted and sentenced each of the accused to three months' rigorous imprisonment. An appeal has been preferred before the Sessions Judge, who has ordered the prisoners to be enlarged on bail pending the appeal which has been heard since, but judgment reserved.

CONVICTION OF A ZEMINDAR QUASHED.—On Thursday, at the High Court, before Justices Ameer Ali and Henderson, the rule obtained by Babu Chander Lochan Singh, Zemindar of Madhool, who had been convicted under section 148 I. P. Code by the Deputy Magistrate of Muzafferpore and sentenced to 9 months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of rupees 200, and which conviction and sentence was upheld by the District Judge, came on for hearing before their Lordships. Mr. P. L. Ray, instructed by Babu Harendra Narain Mitter, appears for the petitioner, while Mr. Jackson, instructed by Messrs. Sanderson and Co., appeared in support of the conviction. The facts were these:—One Rushdhar Ray, a tenant of Pabibi, alleged that on the 9th of April of last year, he and several of his co-villagers were tilling the grounds for cultivation appertaining to their own village, and while they were so doing a crowd of 150 men, under the command of the petitioner, came to the fields in question, beat and dispersed them—causing grievous hurt to some of them. The petitioner, in his defence, alleged that so far as he was concerned the case was absolutely false. He had been falsely implicated after

the well-known and usual manner in rioting cases, because he was one of the malliks. Mr. Ray, submitted that the *aboli* should have been accepted. He urged that the petitioner had pleaded that he was not present at the occurrence and had produced and examined 5 witnesses in his defence, one of whom was a Civil Hospital Assistant, two Honorary Magistrates, a neighbouring zemindar whose income exceeded a lakh of rupees and a relative of his, also a zemindar of position and great wealth, who upon oath proved that the petitioner was many miles away from the place of occurrence at the time of the riot and that for some time previous to the date of the riot and for some time after that date he was ill of remittent fever and was under the treatment of a doctor in Government employ. The doctor corroborated this story and proved the bill which he had rendered to the petitioner's father-in-law for his fees. In spite of all this mass of evidence the petitioner had been convicted. Their Lordships after hearing Mr. Ray in support of the rule and Mr. Jackson in support of the conviction, delivered a lengthy judgment acquitting the petitioner directing his bail bonds to be discharged and ordering the fine, if paid, to be refused.

India and England.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MAR. 25.

MR. ROBERTS' QUESTIONS.

THERE has been nothing in the proceedings of Parliament this week, of any great moment to India. Mr. Herbert Roberts put three somewhat searching questions. He asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the trial, by the Bombay High Court, and subsequent acquittal, of a soldier, named Piper, charged with causing the murder, by shooting, of a native villager near Poona; whether he is aware that similar cases are very frequent in other parts of India, in consequence of the practice of allowing soldiers to wander about the country, carrying fire-arms, in search of sport, in ignorance of the customs and prejudices of the villagers; and, whether, in view of the dangerous quarrels frequently resulting from this practice and in view of the general state of unrest of the country, he will consider the desirability of issuing an order that no soldier shall be permitted to carry fire-arms or ammunition in places where he is out of control of his officers.

Lord George Hamilton said, he had seen a newspaper report of the case and much regretted the incident to which it related. He would remind the hon. member that, according to the report, Gunner Piper had no right to be out shooting as he was said to have had no pass. Passes to go out shooting, were only given to men of good character, and under very stringent regulations, and he was not disposed to prohibit this practice.

Lord George Hamilton, by this reply, distinctly censures the verdict given in this notorious and discreditable case. It now appears that Piper was actually breaking the law at the time his unhappy victim was "accidentally shot." It is quite time some very stringent regulation was passed, preventing these shooting expeditions, in which the game bagged is so frequently some poor villager. If soldier Piper had had three months' imprisonment for assault or brawling, it would have acted as a wholesome deterrent to these unhappy episodes, which more than anything else rouse the deplorable prejudice against British soldiers, the great bulk of whom are excellent and well-disciplined fellows enough. It is hard to measure the mischief of such unhappy accidents as these which give the inevitable impression that Tommy Atkins is, to say the least of it, careless about injuring a native.

Mr. Roberts' next question bore upon the continuance of the Poona punitive police force. He asked the Secretary of State for India whether the punitive police force, which was imposed upon the city of Poona after the murders of Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst, has yet been removed; if not, could he state how long it will be continued there; whether he could state what has been the approximate cost of the force to the city of Poona per month; and if it is the intention of the Government of India to relieve that Municipality of the whole or any part of the cost.

The reply given, was that "the punitive police force was imposed upon the city of Poona for a period of two years from June 1897, and the approximate cost, the whole of which was intended to be borne by the Municipality of Poona, is about Rs. 9,600 a month. I have, up to the present, received no information which leads me to suppose that any change is contemplated." This is a most dismally disappointing answer. The Secretary of State thinks that because this punitive police force was imposed for two years therefore it must needs last the whole of that time. Events have proved that the city of Poona, as a whole, was not in the least implicated in, or responsible for, the murders of Messrs. Rand and Ayerst, and the final sentence of death upon Damodar, an appeal, compels the judgment of this terrible punishment of an entire community to come up for review. In view of the desperate strife through which Poona has passed since this force was imposed, and is still passing through, nothing but the clearest evidence of complicity in Damodar's act and proof that the whole city had in some way instigated the murders, can justify this continued blister on the community. How can any reasonable Government expect "affection" from a population, so cruelly afflicted alike by Providence and their governors? If the punitive police force were removed, the Nattu brothers, liberated, Tilak and the other editors relieved of hard labour or released on bail, the necessity of the changes in the law of sedition would vanish. It would be well if Poona Congressmen would get up all the facts about this punitive police force since its imposition, the duties they have performed, as well as the condition of law and order before and since, and whether they have been employed elsewhere than Poona at Poona's cost, sending the information to Mr. Roberts for further interpellation of the Government. Indian reformers are lamentably slack in their efforts to furnish such particulars.

Mr. Roberts then asked the Secretary of State for India, whether he will, at an early date lay

upon the Table of the House papers relating to the proceedings of the Legislative Council at Calcutta in connection with the passage of the Bills dealing with the law of sedition in India, including the amendment of the Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, and the Post Office Act. This he promised to do as soon as he had received and considered them. Mr. Roberts is also pressing for the inclusion of the Debates in the Council with the papers which are to be laid. This blue-book, when it appears, ought to excite a good deal of protest from the Liberal Press of the country, many of whose editors are becoming aware of what is now going forward in India.

AN EXPECTED DEBATE.

AN interesting, though doubtless very technical, debate is expected on Tuesday next, when Mr. Vicary Gibbs has secured the first place for a motion "to call attention to the present unsatisfactory condition of monetary affairs in India; and to move that a Select Committee or a Royal Commission be appointed to consider the monetary condition of India, and the results of closing the Indian mints to silver and to report on the suggested establishment of a gold standard in that country, and to make such recommendations as they may think fit." This is the outcome of those most irresponsible of politicians, the Bi-metallic M.P.s, who held a meeting early in the week to settle the terms of the resolution. It is carefully drafted with a view of making the discussion as wide as possible in its scope and character; and they have secured Mr. J. M. MacLean to second it, he being a mono-metallic. The telegraphic summary of the Budget will lend added interest to the debate. I understand, the Government mean to oppose the motion.

MR. A. M. BOSE'S SPEECHES.

THE political event of the week has been the annual meeting of the National Liberal Federation at Leicester, comprising over one thousand delegates from the Liberal Associations of England and Wales. Various resolutions were carried, bearing on various items of the official Liberal programme, the main interest, however, centring in the one moved by Mr. S. Robson, Q. C. M. P., and seconded by Mr. A. M. Bose, of Calcutta, who was the elected representative of the Cambridge Liberal Association. It was as follows:—"That, as a whole, the foreign, colonial and Indian policy of the Government—a policy of alternately bullying the weak and making 'graceful concessions' to the strong—since the accession of Lord Salisbury to office, has given rise to an unparalleled series of crises and complications, involving an expenditure on armaments beyond all precedent, and seriously compromising the honour and interests of the country." Mr. Robson confined himself to the Foreign and Colonial, leaving Mr. Bose to deal with the Indian aspect of the resolutions. It was the first time an Indian has been elected a delegate of the Federation, and Mr. Bose was greeted with prolonged and hearty applause. In the course of a forcible and eloquent address, all his points being keenly taken up by his audience, he formulated a telling impeachment of the policy of the present Government, which he described as one of aggression beyond the frontier, and oppression within—a policy that had caused panic where contentment and confidence had hitherto prevailed and that had gravely imperilled the interests of Britain in that vast continent which was the brightest jewel of the Empire. In the course of two years, the Government had succeeded in lighting up the fires of a war on the frontier, of vast dimensions, and prejudicial to all the best interests of the country, a policy unchecked by public opinion, unfettered by the voice of a free press and uncontrolled by Parliament. He closed a long, earnest and closely-reasoned speech with an eloquent peroration, which fairly electrified his audience who responded to every sentence with vigorous applause. He appealed to Britons not to adopt a retrograde policy for India. Let "hands off" be the cry of England, when existing privileges were sought to be taken away, and when the people were to be deprived of concessions that had been granted for years. The Tories called themselves the Imperialist party; but they were acting the part, not of the friends, but of the enemies of the Empire. There was a policy that was making rapidly, not for the salvation, but towards the disintegration of the Empire, unless the people of England rise and tell them of the danger of the step they were taking. He trusted the Liberal party could have emblazoned on its banner the motto, "Justice to India"—a country where knowledge lighted her brightest torch and where philosophy and thought found their cradle in ages far back, because if there was glory in rule, if there was pride in Empire, there was one glory still greater, there was one glory still brighter and enduring, written on pages that lived for evermore, and that was the glory to be derived from helping the weak to rest, and by extending the bounds of freedom and liberty in all countries that were under the rule of her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

The resolution was then supported by Mr. Ellis Griffith, M. P., and carried unanimously. It was the universal opinion that Mr. Bose carried off the honours of the day; and the impression made upon the delegates, was profound and will last. It is indeed a pity that the same impression should not be made upon every Liberal Club and Association throughout the United Kingdom by men of the calibre of Mr. Bose. This patriotic Indian gentleman is doing superb work for his countrymen. He addressed a large district meeting at Market Harborough the same evening, and the next day spoke at the annual meeting of the Women's Liberal Federation at Leicester. Mr. Bose is addressing large meetings next week in Liverpool, Manchester and other Lancashire centres, and is doing all this grand work at his own private cost, arranging the details himself. At the great public meeting at Leicester which followed the Conference, Mr. John Morley was the chief speaker. He referred briefly but sympathetically to Indian questions, but propounding nothing new.

Westland's optimistic budget, the particulars of which have been telegraphed this week. His proposal to draw to the extent of sixteen millions sterling for Home Charges next financial year, in the face of the fact that the thirteen millions of the current year had to be cut down to ten, owing to the disorganisation of Exchange, has gravely disturbed the peace of mind of bankers. Financial authorities declare that the proposed rupee-loan of three millions of Rs. must be deferred till the money-market loses its present stringency, and point out that the great increase, proposed in the sterling indebtedness, must inevitably increase the Home Charges and so affect Exchange adversely.

The main features of the Budget appear to be a deficit of close upon six millions, with doubt and hesitation as to the early future. If there existed the confidence which is so roundly expressed in the telegraphic summary, why should such desperate remedies be resorted to, as those of raising a permanent loan of six millions sterling, renewing another six millions of outstanding temporary debt, and the raising of a rupee-loan of 3 millions more? It is also quite clear that the Government are resorting to that most desperate of all resources, a screwing-up of land revenue. When Lord George Hamilton stated on the debate on the Queen's Speech that the Government of India had refused a grant-in-aid for the Imperial Exchequer on the ground that the financial situation "warranted them considering external assistance unnecessary," those who know anything about Indian method of finance were well aware that the dread of Parliamentary interference would drive the Indian Finance Minister to some such desperate measures as he appears to be adopting, and paid but little heed to the sanguine anticipations of the Secretary of State. It is not easy, nor indeed fair, to draw conclusions from a telegraphic summary; but I feel pretty sure that, when full details arrive, it will be found that rack-renting, railway and canal starving have set in strongly, and that the whole fabric of the Budget has been built upon the sandy foundation of "Exchange." If the Budget were honestly attempting to grapple with the crisis, it would show a deficit of at least 17 millions Rs. The impression everywhere prevails that this cabled forecast is more than optimistic, that it is delusive.

For instance, Sir James Westland declares that so far as revenue goes, the Government of India has more than paid its way over a period of 20 years, including all expenditure on war, defence works and famine. He justifies this from a short review of 20 years' finance, particulars of which, however, are not cabled; and we must wait for details. But, of course, we have details to which we can refer. A comparison between the debas as it was in 1875-6 and 1895-6, for instance, shows that the increase of debt has been no less than sixty-four millions sterling in England, and twenty-four millions Rs. in India. A comparison of the revenue between these two years shows an increase of nearly 5 millions Rs. in land revenue, and 15 millions in general taxation. The expenditure on military matters is 5 millions more in the latter than the former year, and 2 millions more in sterling charges. Much curiosity is felt about the details of these remarkable calculations of Sir James Westland. Most of us here are apt to think that even if "way has been paid," it has been a dark and dreary way for the Indian who has had to pay for it, at such a price, that the Ryot is so impoverished by it that he and his family die like flies before periodic famines and can hardly afford a pinch of salt with their scanty meal. To boast that India has "more than paid its way" in face of such facts as these is, to put it plainly, a good round bouncing lie that deludes nobody but Lord George Hamilton. May God send us a strong Viceroy, who will trample out a policy of finance which is hopelessly unsound and unscientific, which rests on the blindest optimism, which grinds the face of the poor, represses private enterprise, depicts the country of capital, and rests on klondyke.

THE INDIAN BUDGET. SCEPTICISM and incredulity are the main features of the press criticism of Sir James

Westland's optimistic budget, the particulars of which have been telegraphed this week. His proposal to draw to the extent of sixteen millions sterling for Home Charges next financial year, in the face of the fact that the thirteen millions of the current year had to be cut down to ten, owing to the disorganisation of Exchange, has gravely disturbed the peace of mind of bankers. Financial authorities declare that the proposed rupee-loan of three millions of Rs. must be deferred till the money-market loses its present stringency, and point out that the great increase, proposed in the sterling indebtedness, must inevitably increase the Home Charges and so affect Exchange adversely.

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THE WELBY COMMISSION.

I MET Lord Welby a day or two back and asked him when the Indian Finance Commission was likely to meet again. He spoke very feelingly of the magnitude of the task which has devolved upon him in the preparation of the Report, and he told me he intended to divide the Report up into sections, taking one at a time with intervals between each. The Commission will probably be called together about the middle of April for the consideration of evidence relating to control and audit of expenditure, and I think we may fairly expect the Report to be completed and issued in time for discussion before Parliament prorogues. Lord Welby was properly reticent about the contents of the Report.

AGRICULTURAL BANKS.

ON Friday, at the weekly meeting of the East India Association, under the presidency of Sir Raymond West, Sir William Wedderburn read a valuable and interesting paper entitled "Agricultural Banks for India—practical experiments wanted." He propounded a scheme of local banks, to be worked out by the people themselves under Government authority, which might eventually displace the exorbitant usury of the money-lender. He trusted that recent utterances of Lord George Hamilton indicated that the Government of India was contemplating some practical experiment in this direction. Sir Lepel Griffin and Mr. Samuel Smith, M. P., both gave their hearty support with other members of the Association, to Sir William's scheme, Sir Lepel declaring that in his judgment it was vital to the future prosperity of India.

NATIONAL BANK OF INDIA.

INDIAN Banks appear but little affected by the troubles India is passing through. The National Bank of India has just held its ordinary general meeting in London, and has distributed the excellent dividend of 8 per cent to its share-holders, added £50,000 to its reserve fund and carried £23,000 forward to the next account as undivided balance. The Chairman assured the share-holders that the assets of the Bank were thoroughly liquid, and that altogether the affairs of the Bank could not well be in a more satisfactory position than they were at the present time, and that he looked forward with hope and confidence to the future.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

SURAT, APRIL 9. Mr. Atmaran Surayaram, the new weaving master of the Jafarallee Mill, came from Baroda this morning to take charge of his duties, with three certificates for having stayed one month in the health camp there. The authorities here asked him to stay in quarantine and rejected all conditions offered. He appealed to Mr. Mead with the certificates. The latter replied by telling him to see the Civil Surgeon, and late in the evening at six, the camp Civil Surgeon granted the relief, after taking a deposit of hundred rupees.

KUMBHAKUNAM, APRIL 9. The Madras Provincial Conference 1898, was held at Kumbhakunam on the 8th and the 9th, under the presidency of Mr. John Adam. About 200 delegates from the different parts of the Presidency attended. Mr. S. A. Saminadaiyee, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the delegates observed that recent political troubles were merely a temporary aberration and hoped that a government of trust and peace would soon revive. He entreated his audience to conduct the proceedings of the Conference in a spirit of loyalty to Government and confidence in them. Mr. Adam remarked that political activity in this Presidency had been lagging of late, and that every effort should be made to revive and foster it. He said that of all questions affecting the Provincial Government, none were more important than the present Provincial Contract, the land revenue settlement, technical education and separation of Executive from Judicial functions. The Conference then proceeded to adopt resolutions which, amongst others, related to the following topics: The permanency of land revenue settlement; neglect of irrigation works by Government; separation of Judicial from Executive functions; introduction and increase of the elective element in the Taluka and District Boards; expansion of technical education; modification of the system of Provincial Contracts; employment of Indians in higher ranks of the postal service. The Conference closed with three cheers to the Queen-Empress.

LAHORE SERAI, APRIL 10. Mr. Manickton Pandolf, belonging to a factory in Durbhanga, committed a severe assault on the Assistant Station Master on the night of 4th April, alleging insolence. It appears that while two trains were crossing at the station money was thrown for ticket. In the struggle, the amirah was disturbed, and lamps were broken. Blows were continued till the Station Master fell senseless in office building. A doctor examined the wound which was serious.

An accident of two crossing trains was averted by the Station Master having promptly taken out point keys and adjusted them. A telegram was sent to the Railway Police at Durbhanga, Samastipur and the District Magistrate, Durbhanga. The wounded Station Master has been suspended summarily by the traffic officer on a complaint from Mr. Manickton. Permission was solicited by the Assistant, to prosecute his assailant, but with no result. The Sub-divisional Magistrate, Madhubani, arrived at Sakri on the evening of 5th and recorded statements of the railway employes.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, APRIL 7. The Russian Press in discussing the cession of Wei-Hai-Wei, are most violent against the British. The "Novoe Vremya" demands the abrogation of the Afghan Treaty of 1895.

Reuter wires from Yokohama that a deputation of both Houses of the Diet to the Premier has urged the Government to protest against the action of Russia and Germany in the north of China, and to retain Japanese troops at Wei-Hai-Wei. The Premier, in reply, declined to divulge the policy of the Government. It is believed that England will occupy Wei-Hai-Wei under an agreement with Japan.

LONDON, APRIL 8. Sirdar Kitchener, with the whole force, attacked Emir Mahmud's zereba at dawn today and rushed the trenches most gallantly. The Dervishes stood their ground well, and lost heavily. Emir Mahmud was taken prisoner.

PARIS, APRIL 8. The Esterhazy Court-Martial has decided to prosecute M. Zola afresh, and also demands his removal from the Legion of Honour list.

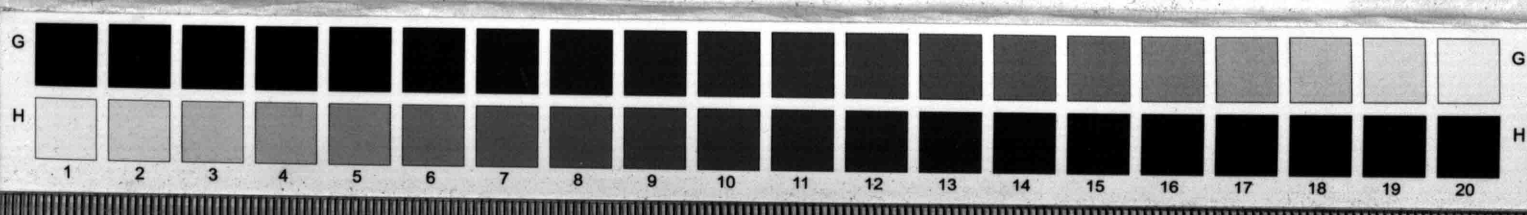
LONDON, APRIL 9. In the attack on Emir Mahmud's zereba, the British Brigade lost ten privates killed and ninety wounded, and the Egyptians had 51 killed, and 14 officers and 319 men wounded.

Two thousand Dervish corpses were counted in Emir Mahmud's zereba, and fully one thousand more perished. The execution done by the artillery fire was terrible, and the trenches and rifle pits were choked with the dead. Osman Digna escaped early in the battle, and all the other important Emirs were killed.

Captain Findlay has died of his wounds. Sirdar Kitchener is returning to the Nile. The fourteen officers of the Egyptian army wounded were all native officers.

LONDON, APRIL 9. Reuter wires from Peking that the Chinese will open Woomung as a treaty port. China has notified to Great Britain her intention to revise the tariff at the end of the year according to the Treaty of Tientsin of 1858.

LONDON, APRIL 10. Sirdar Kitchener read out in the British camp to-day, congratulatory telegrams from the Queen, the Khedive and Mr. Balfour. The men cheered loudly.



Yesterday after prolonged conferences of Spanish Ministers and members of the Corps Diplomatique at Madrid the Cabinet assembled and afterwards announced officially that Spain, yielding to the counsels of the Pope and Foreign Powers what she would not yield to America, had cabled to Marshal Blanco to proclaim an armistice in Cuba to-day. The Spanish Military Party bitterly resent the decision of the Government which they regard as tantamount to disgrace.

LONDON, APRIL 11.

The Emperor William has telegraphed to Sir Frank Lascelles, British Ambassador at Berlin, his pleasure at hearing of the British victory over the Dervishes in the Sudan. His Majesty has also sent his congratulations to Lord Salisbury and Sirdar Kitchener. The British press is much gratified at this expression of cordial friendship.

LONDON, APRIL 11.

Two salvage steamers are working at the stranded steamer China at Perim, and hope to float her.

LONDON, APRIL 11.

The Russian Bank at Seoul is about to close. M. Pavloff is proceeding to Port Arthur.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 11.

President McKinley in his message to Congress expatiates on the barbarities of the warfare in Cuba, and the serious effects of a perpetual revolution to America. The war, he says, must finish, and he asks Congress to authorize the use of any force he deems necessary to carry out that object. The President deprecates the recognition of the independence of Cuba until a stable Government is established. He adds that since the message was written he had been informed that Spain had proclaimed an armistice in Cuba, and he urges Congress to carefully consider this. Both houses have referred the message to their respective committees.

DURING the month of February, 1908, 209,000 cwt. of wheat were shipped ports first in Sind.

MR. S. S. THORNBURN has been appointed to succeed Mr. Kitaz as first Financial Commissioner, Punjab.

A KABULI fakir, who was recently reported as striving to stir up fresh trouble in Bajaur, has himself come to grief. He was detected in trying to pass forged currency notes. He has been put in stocks until he makes good the amount.

SCIENTISTS say that the whole human body is full of microbes, and that a person is healthy so long as the microbes are in good condition.

CLOTH is now being successfully made from wood. Strips of fine-grained wood are boiled and crushed between rollers, and the filaments having been carded into parallel lines are spun into threads, from which cloth can be woven in the usual way.

A NOVEL flower has been found at the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. It has a faculty of changing its colour during the day. In the morning it is white when the sun is at its zenith it is red and at night it is blue. Only at noon does it give out any perfume.

THE Committee of the Howard Association, London, has adopted a resolution to the effect that infringement of the press laws in India ought to be regarded as being of a political rather than a criminal nature, and that the punishment should be differentiated accordingly.

Sir Edward Buck has issued a note on the cultivation, in the Himalayas, of the Spanish chestnut, which, in the opinion of many agricultural experts, might furnish a staple-food for the poorer classes of hill-people in years of scarcity and famine.

The Judges of the Punjab Chief Court have found it necessary to point out to the Divisional District and Subordinate Courts throughout the province, that when an application for transfer of a case is made by any party thereto it is neither proper nor expedient to reject it summarily in the first instance, and subsequently, when the matter has gone to a higher Court, to grant it without further inquiry, on the ground that the mere fact that a transfer has been applied for, is likely to prejudice the Court against the applicant. Litigants are to be made to clearly understand that an allegation of facts in support of an application for transfer is a very serious matter; that when made, it will be fully inquired into; and that, if it be found to be false, not only will the application be rejected, but the person, making the allegation, will be liable to prosecution under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code.

PHOTOGRAPHS of the sea bottom have been recently taken by M. Benant with an apparatus described in "Comptes Rendus." Except in shallow water, not exceeding 2 m, the method requires that a diver should place and hold the camera. Instantaneous pictures were taken by means of a flash light consisting of a spirit lamp, through the flame of which magnesium powder was projected by pressing an India-rubber ball. In the case of the deep-sea photographs taken by the Prime of Monaco, no diver was required, nor in fact could one have existed at the pressures penetrated. To prevent the camera-box being crushed in by the weight of water an inflated balloon was let down with it, connected by an air passage. The gradually increasing pressure drove the air out of the balloon into the box, thereby increasing the internal in proportion to the external pressure.

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 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 Cholera, and is for sale everywhere. Price 1/6. Sole Agents—SMITH STANISTREET & CO., AND B. K. PAUL & CO., Calcutta.

INDIAN IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, March 13.

RUSSIA AND CHINA.—Mr. O'Kelly asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it was true that her Majesty's Government had protested against the granting by China of a lease of Port Arthur to Russia.

Mr. Curzon: I am unable to answer the hon. member's question; and may I add that though the Government have no desire to withhold information which can properly be given, I hope that hon. members on both sides of the House will show some little reserve while negotiations proceeding in putting questions to which I cannot from the nature of the case reply. (Ministerial cheers.)

Monday, March 24.

THE FAR EAST.

Sir C. Dilke: I wish to ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Government are aware that there exists at Port Arthur a naval dock, 410 feet long by seventy-two feet wide, which is uninjured; and whether the forts by which the place is defended were, at the request of China, left virtually intact at the time of the evacuation by Japan.

Mr. Curzon: The naval dock is believed to be undamaged and intact, except for some machinery which was removed by the Japanese. The forts have not been much damaged, but all the interior buildings, comprising magazines and accommodation for troops, have been destroyed. All the guns, with their mountings, were removed by the Japanese.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: Are we to take that answer as a contradiction of the previous statement that there were no forts at Port Arthur?

Mr. Curzon: No, sir; there is no contradiction between the two statements. (Hear, hear.)

Sir C. Dilke: May I ask whether the West River, which was to be opened last year, is as a fact open through all its navigable course, or has the opening been restricted to about one-fourth of the navigable course; whether this restriction of the promised trade facilities has been accepted by the Government; and in what sense the opening of inland navigation generally throughout China is now understood by this country?

Mr. Curzon: By the agreement between Great Britain and China of February 1897, certain ports on the West River—namely, Wuchow, Samsui, and Kong Kun—were opened as treaty ports, and four other places as ports of call. We have not heard of any restriction of the trade facilities promised in the agreement. Regulations with reference to the recent opening of all inland navigation are being drawn up by the Inspector-General of Maritime Customs at Peking, and will be communicated to Parliament as soon as they are received.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: I beg to ask whether the attention of the Under-Secretary has been called to the statement of a newspaper correspondent that he himself had recently seen large numbers of Russian troops in Manchuria, and especially 3,000 Russian soldiers at Krim, the capital, whether similar statements have been made by other English travellers in Manchuria; and whether, in view of these facts, her Majesty's Government will ask their Minister at Peking to obtain definite information as to the numbers and position of the Russian troops in Manchuria, the object of their presence in that province, and the period of their duration.

Mr. Curzon: I have not myself seen any statement upon the subject, except that of a newspaper correspondent recently. Inquiries have been addressed to her Majesty's Minister in Peking.

Colonial Officials and the Press.—Sir J. Colomb asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention had been called to statements alleged to have been made by Sir W. Robinson, the late Governor of Hong Kong, relative to the defences of that place; whether Sir W. Robinson did make such statements; and whether Colonial Office regulations prohibited ex-Governors communicating to the public Press information relating to the defences of colonies acquired during their tenure of office.

Mr. Chamberlain: My attention has been called to the statements attributed to Sir W. Robinson by a Press representative. I do not know whether the report is correct or not, but I may say generally that I entirely disapprove of the practice, which has become common of officials in the Colonial Service allowing themselves to be interviewed. (Hear, hear.) On leaving or arriving in England, and giving their opinion on debatable questions of public policy affecting the defence and military resources of British possessions, and I have caused a circular to this effect to be addressed to officers in the Colonial Service. (Cheers.)

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: Is it not a fact that the defenceless position of Hong Kong, as referred to—(cries of "Order.")

The Speaker: Order, order.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: I do not think you heard my question, sir. (An hon. member: "Ask it to-morrow.") I wish to ask whether it is not true that the statements alleged to have been made by Sir W. Robinson simply embrace facts known to the whole world. (Cries of "Order.")

The Speaker: Order, order. That does not arise out of the question.

Indian Frontier.—Mr. A. O'Connor inquired whether the brigade now being organised for service in the Tochi Valley district of Waziristan was to be permanently maintained in that region, and if that territory was regarded as within British, when, how and by what authority was the transfer effected; what had been the outlay since 1893 on land, forts and cantonments needed for such location of British Indian troops; and what was the esti-

mated amount required for maintenance of such troops beyond the frontier of British India; and from what funds was the cost of this occupation and maintenance of forces in Waziristan since 1893 to be defrayed.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am unable, so long as the pending negotiations and arrangements with the tribes are incomplete, to give any information as to the disposition of forces which may be thought necessary hereafter. As to the expenditure which has been already incurred for the purposes mentioned, I have asked for information, but have not yet received it. In any case, the cost of such measures as may be adopted for the defence of the frontiers of India and for the maintenance of peace and order upon those borders will be defrayed in the future, as in the past, from Indian revenues.

Tuesday, March 22.

Land Settlements in India.—Mr. S. Smith asked the Secretary for India whether there was any special reason for departing from the old rule of making land settlements for thirty years in the Central Provinces of India, which rule was observed in most of those parts in 1863-70; whether the reduction in the term of settlement to twenty years was made with the view of making a fresh assessment after this shorter period; whether, in view of the recent severe famine, the Government would adhere to the old rule, and declare the present settlement good for thirty years; and whether he could state what was the land revenue of the Central Province as actually fixed by the revised assessments.

Lord G. Hamilton said twenty years instead of thirty were made the term for recent settlements in the Central Provinces on the general grounds that the quantity and value of agricultural produce in those tracts had increased so greatly that it was not possible to assess upon the crops at a single settlement reasonably adequate rents, and that a term of thirty years was not required to secure the further progress of the people during the coming settlement. It would depend upon the view taken of the then circumstances whether a fresh assessment would be made in the Central Provinces twenty years hence. He saw no sufficient reason for directing an alteration of the term of settlement at the present time. He had already explained to the hon. member how difficulties caused by the famine were being met. When all the settlements were concluded he would be able to furnish a statement of the total land revenue of the Central Provinces before and after the settlements.

Indian Finances.—Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India whether the deficit for the year 1897-98, announced in the Indian Budget, 5,208,000 rs. included or excluded the 4,000,000 sterling equivalent, say, to 6,000,000 rs. borrowed in England and applied in part payment of the home charges for the year; and what were the total net amounts of the actual additions to the debt of India in 1897-98, and estimated to be added in 1898-99, without reckoning capital raised for expenditure on reproductive public works.

Lord G. Hamilton: The deficit of 5,208,000 rs. in 1897-98 is the excess of expenditure chargeable against revenue over the revenue of the year in respect of sterling debt incurred, but in arriving at the amount of the deficit the money raised by borrowing in the year is not reckoned as part of the revenue of the year. It is, however, included in the way and means out of which the deficit and capital expenditure have been met. The total net additions to the debt of India in 1897-98 and 1898-99 are estimated as follows:—In England, 11,112,000 rs.; in India, 5,424,900 rs.; but I am at present unable to say how much of this has been or will be applied to expenditure on reproductive public works.

India and the Increased Cost of the Army.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Secretary of State for India whether the additional expenditure of 200,000 rs. which was announced by the Indian Finance Minister, would be annually entailed on the Indian revenues by the military changes being introduced in this country, was a provisional estimate for the year, or did it represent the result finally arrived at and agreed to by the Home and Indian Governments.

Lord G. Hamilton: The sum of 200,000 rs. entered in the Estimates for 1898-99 can only be a provisional and approximate estimate of the charge falling on this particular financial year. No decision has yet been arrived at on the application to India of the changes in the pay of British troops.

The Study of Eastern Languages.—Mr. Verburgh asked the First Lord of the Treasury in what manner and to what extent the Government encourage the study of Chinese and other Eastern languages; and whether he will order a report to be issued setting forth the facilities given by Germany, Russia, and France for the study of the above languages.

Mr. Balfour: In answer to my hon. friend I have to say that the study of Oriental languages is encouraged by the Government under the following conditions:—In China, Japan, and Siam student interpreters in the Consular service, after being selected by open competitive examination in England, devote two years to the study of those languages; and their subsequent position in the service depends on the result of the examination held at the end of this probationary period. In the Diplomatic service, a special allowance of 100% a year is allowed for a knowledge of Oriental languages. The India Office and the War Office also offer pecuniary rewards to officers who qualify in Chinese. The conditions in the other countries named in the question are so different that it is doubtful whether any advantage would be gained from such a report as is asked for being granted.

Tuesday, March 22.

The Compressed Fodder Press at Umbala.—Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether the press or presses erected by the Government of India at Umbala for the pressing of husa or

compressed fodder, have broken down after pressing altogether about 1,250 bales.

What has been the cost of the press or presses at Umbala including cost of maintenance and working?

Whether other presses have been erected or are in course of erection by the Government?

Whether large quantities of husa have been pressed at presses erected by private enterprise to the satisfaction of the Government of India?

And whether under the above circumstances it is the intention of the Government of India to continue to erect further presses or to maintain those already erected by Government.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have no information on the subject to which my hon. friend's question refers. A press for compressing fodder was sent to the Government of India at their request six years ago; but it was regarded at the time as an experiment, and since then no demands for presses have been received.

France and China.—Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could inform the House as to the conditions of the demands made by the French Government upon China.

Mr. Curzon: No, Sir, I cannot. May I say that this question seems to fall into the category of questions which a few days ago, I asked hon. members to exercise some reserve in putting? (Ministerial cheers.)

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: May I point out to my right hon. friend that this is a question of fact and not of policy?

Port Arthur.—Mr. Verburgh asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Port Arthur was the naval base of defence of Peking; whether it commanded the treaty ports of Chefoo, Tientsin, and Neuchwang, whether it was the only port in China with a dock capable of taking modern warships of considerable burden; and whether the harbour of Ta-lien-wan was as good as that of Port Arthur, and how far Ta-lien-wan was from Port Arthur and from the sea on the west.

Mr. Curzon: The questions of my hon. friend appear to relate either to matters of fact which can be ascertained from other sources, or to matters of opinion upon which, in the present circumstances, I must decline to pronounce.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: I rise to order. I wish to ask you, Mr. Speaker, whether a Minister is justified in this House in referring a member, in answer to a question, to "other sources," and whether we have not a right to ask a Minister for definite replies on matters of fact.

The Speaker: The right hon. gentleman is perfectly entitled to give such an answer. It is frequently done by Ministers in reply to questions which merely refer to matters which can be ascertained from other sources without consulting Ministers. (Ministerial cheers.)

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: Will the right hon. gentleman be so good as to refer us to sources from which we can obtain the information asked for in the question?

The Speaker: Order, order.

Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett: I do not know where the sources are.

Sedition in India.—Sir W. Wedderburn asked the Secretary for India whether his attention had been drawn to the petition of the Calcutta bar against the new legislation regarding sedition, and the contention therein contained that any native Indian subject of her Majesty who petitioned Parliament against alleged oppression, and thereby excited any feeling of enmity against the Government of India would now be liable to transportation for life; and whether, looking to the provisions of Section 22 of the Indian Councils Act of 1861, he would take care that the privileges of Parliament were not infringed.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have seen a letter purporting to be written on behalf of the Calcutta bar, and containing the contention to which the hon. Baronet refers, and which on the face of it is absurd. I see no necessity for any special precautions to protect the privileges of Parliament.

Sir W. Wedderburn also asked the Secretary for India whether he proposed to bring under the review of Parliament the effect upon the liberty of the Press of the recent Acts passed by the Government of India dealing with the law of sedition.

Lord G. Hamilton: I intend, as I have more than once stated, to lay the Acts upon the Table of the House as soon as I have received them, but I do not propose to take any other steps in connection with them.

The Reported Rebellion in China.—Mr. Verburgh asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether it was the case, as had been stated, that the Viceroys of Nanking and Hubei and the Governor of Hunan had agreed to direct the affairs of the Yang-tze Valley from Nanking irrespective of the Emperor's orders, and not to allow the Emperor any voice in the affairs of the government of the Central and Western Provinces; whether Russia had been giving assistance to the Korean Government in the form of the palace guard, army instructors, and financial adviser; and whether she had now withdrawn such assistance.

Mr. Curzon: We have no confirmation of the report mentioned in the first paragraph, and in a telegram dated March 22 Sir Claude Macdonald informs us that nothing was known at Peking of the imminence of extensive rebellion, as reported from Shanghai. The answer to the second and third questions is in the affirmative.

The New Indian Currency Proposals.—Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India if he would explain the nature of the new Indian currency proposals which the Viceroy Government had submitted for his consideration.

Lord G. Hamilton: It would be inconvenient to attempt to explain the nature of the currency proposals which have just been received from India within the limits of a Par-

liamentary answer; but I may state that they will form the subject of an inquiry, which will be instituted forthwith, and that the despatch of the Government of India, in which these proposals are contained, will be published. No action would be taken by her Majesty's Government upon these proposals until the enquiry in connection with them is concluded.

Mr. Maclean: Will the right hon. gentleman submit the proposals to Parliament before action is taken.

Lord George Hamilton: That will depend on the time at our disposal. Of course, my desire and wish are to elicit as far as we can, opinions from all those interested in the question.

NOTICES OF MOTION, &c.

Mr. Vicary Gibbs.—East India (Monetary Conditions).—To call attention to the present unsatisfactory condition of monetary affairs in India and to move: That a Select Committee or a Royal Commission be appointed to consider the monetary condition of India and the results of closing the Indian mints to silver, and to report on the suggested establishment of a gold standard in that country, and to make such recommendations as they may think fit. [March 29.] Mr. Maclean has undertaken to second Mr. Vicary Gibbs's motion.

Mr. Moon.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is now able to state what aid the Government of India are willing to give towards constituting and maintaining a nursing staff at the Aden Hospital, in respect of house accommodation and in respect of maintenance. [March 25.]

Mr. Arthur Morison.—To ask the First Lord of the Treasury: Whether, as an immediate encouragement to the study of Chinese, the Government will consider the advisability of making that language an obligatory subject for Indian civil servants proceeding to Burma, and an optional subject for the Indian Civil Service, the Straits Settlements and Hong Kong services, and the China Consular service; and whether the Government would consider the question of offering suitable rewards to young officers for proficiency in the colloquial and in the written language. [March 25.]

Dr. Farquharson.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: If he could state to the House how often during the years from 1890 to 1898 corporal punishment has been inflicted for breaches of prison discipline in military prisons in India.

Mr. Tomlinson.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether he can say what amount of capital are Indian railway companies expected to raise in London this year under guarantee from the Government and without such guarantees. [March 25.]

Sir Joseph Pease.—East India (Opium).—Address for return of recent correspondence between the Government of India and the Secretary of State in Council (including reports by the Home Government in India) as to the measures adopted to give effect to the recommendation of the Royal Commission the subjects of the evils connected with opium smoking in India, and the use of rooms as opium smoking saloons. [March 25.]

Mr. Herbert Roberts.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been drawn to the reported speech of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, made in the Viceroy's Council on the occasion of the passing new Sedition Law on Feb. 18, and particularly to the comparison of certain classes of the Indian people to the carrion dog and jay; and whether, in view of the present state of public opinion in India in reference to the new Press Law, he will take note of language used under such circumstances by a responsible ruler of an Indian province. [March 28.]

The Khan of Khelat has had no return of fever, and is now doing well.

At the meeting of the new Bombay Corporation, the Hon. Dr. Bhal Chandra Krishna has been appointed President for the ensuing year.

The increase in the fall population in the affected districts in the Presidency of Madras for the months, from November 1866 to December 1897, as compared with the three preceding years is 7.26 or 71 per cent.

Lieutenant Knox, Political Agent and Political Officer with the Mekran field force, arrived at Quetta on 9th inst.

It is stated that Mr. Pherozeshah Mehta will be again elected a member of the Supreme Legislative Council.

The Government of India has so far received no information regarding the probable constitution of the committee on the currency question at home. The Government of India despatch, which went to England early in March, will not be published till the committee assemble.

The "Times" discussing the cessation of Port Arthur and Tientsin says: "We have now to review the whole position and decide by what means we can secure the objects which have been described as of commanding importance by every responsible statesman in the United Kingdom. There are very few Englishmen who are ready to admit that we ought to allow ourselves to be squeezed out of the position we have fairly won in the Far East either by diplomatic pressure or by still less legitimate methods."

TOMATOES have been grafted upon potatoes by a French experimenter, whose hybrid plant produces tubers underground, and tomatoes above.

A BUSHIRI telegram says that a very influential man called Ali Dohash, who was created, rightly or wrongly, with fomenting many of the disturbances which have been taking place there of late, has been practically expelled from the town, and has left for parts unknown.

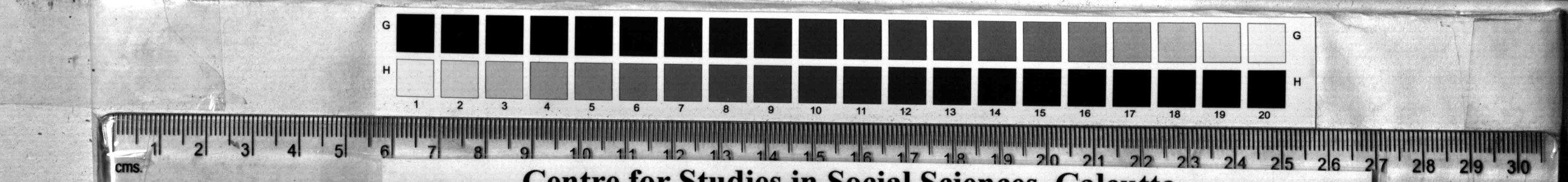
PREPARATORY to writing their report, Sir James Lyall and the other members of the Famine Commission will proceed to consider the evidence collected. It is expected that they will be occupied at least another two months.

The Madras Standard says:—When Sir Arthur Havelock left Madras for the hills about this time last year, it was understood that such of the officials as did not choose to comply with the formal invitation issued through the medium of the "Fort St. George Gazette" to see his Excellency off, incurred the displeasure of the Governor. Perhaps, this accounts for the unusually large attendants of heads of departments and other public officers on the occasion of Sir Arthur's departure.

Recommended by A Medical Friend

THIS is how MR. T. SHARL, the well-known Manager of LAUREN'S HOTEL, AGRA, commenced to use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Says he: "About six months ago I was suffering severely from a bad cough and cold, and a medical friend recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy on me. I bought one bottle and it effected a complete cure. Since that time, whenever I have the least cough, I procure Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and the results are always satisfactory." CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is sold every where. Price 1/6, and 2/6.

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SAMADHI, A STATE OF STABLE EQUILIBRIUM.

In the thoughtful article by Mr. Narain Rai Varma of Bombay, which follows, you will see that he compares the condition of the Yogi while in Samadhi to "resting seeds" which the experiments of Messrs. Brown and Escombe, as detailed in their paper recently read before the Royal Society, show to be capable of germinating after having been subjected for more than 100 hours to such low temperatures as -18° C. and 190° C.; and since the Yogi exists in a state of voluntary coma with a perfect absence of the signs of life, he is inclined to regard him as "a living human organism in absolutely stable equilibrium, inasmuch as all chemical processes seem to be arrested. There is, I may point out, one fact that militates against this hypothesis of Mr. Varma. In the description of the condition of the Yogi, Haridas, given by the then resident at the Court of Ranjit Singh, Sir Claude Wade, and recorded by Dr. Braid in his work "Observations on Trance or Human Hibernation" (1850), it is stated that when taken out of his hibernaculum, although the rest of the body was found to be stiff, shriveled and corpse-like, there was "a heat about the region of the brain which no other part of the body exhibited." But when there is heat, there must be chemical action going on, in other words, there must be that "continuous adjustment of internal relations to external relations, to use Mr. Herbert Spencer's phrase, which is the very opposite of a state of perfect passivity or "absolutely stable equilibrium." Moreover, it is this warmth of the head which distinguishes the self-induced coma of the Yogi from ordinary sleep and from the hibernating condition of the lower animals; for, in sleep and hibernation, the head, from being in an anemic condition is, comparatively speaking, cold. Whether, however, deep trance is identical with Samadhi or not, is a question which, in the present state of our knowledge of the latter, we cannot answer. Trance, as it occurs in the West, is mostly involuntary, although individuals have very rarely been met with, like Col. Townsend, in the time of Charles II., who could bring it on at will. But note what Mr. Varma says in the "Pioneer":

"On the 18th November last, was read before the Royal Society of London, a paper by Messrs. Horace T. Crown, F. R. S., and F. Escombe, on "The influence of very low temperatures on the germinative power of seeds." That paper - or rather "Notes," as the authors correctly and modestly call it - has been reproduced in *Nature* of 9th December. In my humble judgment the facts brought out by Messrs. Brown and Escombe appear to be of such far-reaching importance, that I venture to trouble you a little by setting out the main points of their Note, and pointing out some valuable corollaries. Possibly it might be urged that this contribution ought better to have been addressed to a technical journal. But it is as well that a layman should address a lay journal; and as the "Pioneer" has been so often noticed in "Nature," if this letter finds an insertion in the "Pioneer" it will have been given all the publicity it can venture to hope for. We all know the definition of "life" given by Mr. Herbert Spencer: "A continuous adjustment of internal relations to external relations." A continuous adjustment implies an unceasing chemical activity. During hibernation the chemical processes in animals are believed to be slackened, not arrested. And in "resting" seeds, it is believed by many biologists - that what is called "intra-molecular respiration" always goes on; that is to say, the resting seeds go on having a chemical relationship with their surroundings, go on having a gaseous exchange; or at the least there are molecular interchanges in the protoplasm itself. This metabolic activity, others contend, could not go on in all temperatures. Experimental evidence has proved that all chemical action is annihilated at minus 100° C. And yet seeds exposed to that low temperature retain their germinative power, as was found by C. de Condolle. Recently, Messrs. Brown and Escombe took up this question for definitive settlement. Since the liquefaction of air was effected by Professor Dewar very low temperatures are available for experimental purposes. At the request of Messrs. Brown and Escombe, Professor Dewar recently conducted experiments, exposing seeds to the very low temperatures of from -18° C. to -192° C., - temperatures produced by the evaporation of liquid air. Most of the seeds so exposed, however, were found to retain "life" - were capable of germination; thus proving that "life" is possible side by side with complete chemical inertness.

The possibility of this fact was not contemplated by Mr. Herbert Spencer. When he constructed his definition of "life" Mr. Spencer had not anticipated "the possibility of a living organism attaining a state of absolutely stable equilibrium." In the first principles (Section 25) he says: "All vital actions, considered not separately but in their ensemble, have for their final purpose the balancing of certain outer processes by certain inner processes. There are unceasing external forces tending to bring the matter of which organic bodies consist, into that state of stable equilibrium displayed by inorganic bodies; there are internal forces by which this tendency is constantly antagonised, and the perpetual changes which constitute life may be regarded as incidental to the maintenance of the antagonism," all which is perfectly true. All vital actions, "considered not separately but in their ensemble," do seem to have for their final purpose, the balancing of certain outer processes by certain inner processes." But after this purpose has been served, though these vital actions cease, yet life seems to exist. "It appears to us," say Messrs. Brown and Escombe, "that the occurrence of a state of complete chemical inertness in protoplasm without a necessary destruction of its potential activity, must necessitate some modification in the current ideas of the nature of life, for this state can scarcely be included in Mr. Herbert Spencer's well-known definition, which implies a continuous adjustment of internal and external relations. The definition doubtless holds good for the ordinary kinetic state of protoplasm, but it is not sufficiently comprehensive to include protoplasm in the static condition in which it undoubtedly exists in resting seeds and spores. The definition becomes in fact one of "vital activity rather than of life." And they further say, "As it is inconceivable that the maintenance of potential vitality in seeds during the exposure of more than 100 hours to a temperature of 180° C. to 190° C. can be in any way conditioned by, or correlated with, even the feeblest continuance of metabolic activity, it becomes difficult to see why there should be any time-limit to the present stability of protoplasm when once it has attained the resting state, provided the low temperature is maintained; in other words an immortality of the individual protoplasm is conceivable."

One more quotation, and we have cleared our ground. "In 1871, Lord Kelvin, in his Presidential address to the British Association, threw out the suggestion that the origin of life, as we know it, may have been extraterrestrial and due to the "moss-grown fragments from the ruins of another world" which reached the earth as meteorites. That such fragments might circulate in the intense cold of space for a perfectly indefinite period, without prejudice to their freight of seeds or spores, is almost certain from the facts we know about the maintenance of life by "resting" protoplasm; the difficulties in the way of accepting such a hypothesis certainly do not lie in this direction."

Now if life in resting seeds can exist side by side with complete chemical inactivity, it can probably do so even in its higher forms. When in winter the

circulation of sap in trees ceases, there is life left, or else spring could not renew it. Possibly the state of the plants during that period corresponds to the hibernation of animals when chemical activity does not cease but "slows down." Corresponding however, to the potential vitality of resting seeds, "exposed to temperatures when chemical activity completely ceases, I have heard of but one analogue in the animal kingdom; and that is - the trance of the Indian Yogi. During his period of "penance" the Yogi is supposed to be practically dead. Not unusually he remains buried. As long as he is in this state of trance, he is supposed to be "impervious to death." As soon as he comes to his usual consciousness, however, he becomes mortal. "It is difficult to see why there should be any time-limit to the perfect stability of protoplasm (under certain conditions) when once it has attained the resting state," say Messrs. Brown and Escombe. Can it be, then, that those traditions with which we Hindus are so familiar, and which we are all apt to consider mythological, are rigidly correct? Can it be that the Yogi knows the art of consciously attaining a state of absolutely stable equilibrium, in which side by side with a complete cessation of chemical activity, there is life with consciousness? The one main difference between plant-life and animal-life is that of consciousness. And if, as Professor Dewar's experiments have proved, "unconscious life" exists, as in resting seeds, under conditions when all metabolic activity is arrested, it may not be unnatural to reason by analogy that perhaps even "conscious life" can exist side by side with an arrest of all chemical processes. I understand that Lord Rayleigh, the co-discoverer of argon, is already a guest of our Viceroy. And Sir Norman Lockyer, the Darwin of the inorganic world, we shall soon have in our midst. Lord Rayleigh, as a specialist, is a chemist; and Sir Norman has made astronomy his own. But all chemists are interested in biology, and astronomers, though they have mainly to do with physics, cannot be indifferent to biology. It is possible that... these leading men of science may like to see a little more of India. And it is possible that during their excursions to the Himalayas, or to Benares or Hardwar, or Allahabad, they might hear of an Indian Yogi "gone into his trance," and resting in some sacred spot. Backed by Anglo-Indian officials and the Indian Civil Service is manned by very intelligent men, some of whom would do anything to promote the interests of science our travellers might get a "patient peep" at the only human beings in the world who seem to correspond to "resting seeds" very holy men who are apparently dead and yet very much alive. If it is once proved that such Indian Yogis are a reality and not a myth, biology will have received a fact of incalculable importance; the mystery of life will be so very much less dark than it has been.

Only a little more evidence in that direction, and I close. You know that contemporary science recognises that the infallible test of death is putrefaction. The stoppage of the circulation of the blood, and the stoppage of respiration are not held to be conclusive evidences of death. Authentic cases of coma have been known in which there existed a complete arrest of circulation and breathing, and yet in which life "returned after a prolonged period. If life can exist in an involuntary coma, along with a perfect absence of the "signs" of life, possibly it might exist also in a voluntary coma. May not an Indian Yogi in trance be truly "a living human organism in absolutely stable equilibrium"?

As for Mr. Varma's suggestion about scientific examination of the Yogi, one cannot but regard it with some uneasiness when he remembers the fate of the Yogi brought into Calcutta many years ago from the Sunderbunds, who succumbed to the devices of the experimentalists (vide "Theosophist" Vol. 1, p. 120); and Dr. Esdaile, in his work on mesmerism, complains that when he mesmerised one of his Bengalee subjects into a state of trance, and requested some of his visitors to test his insensibility by pricking him with a pin, the invitation was so liberally responded to that in a short time the unfortunate victim presented the appearance of a pin cushion. Fortunately for him, in the majority of cases, the Yogi is safe from such experiments, as he is usually placed in a closed "ghara" or hibernaculum, and carefully guarded by his "chelas" who would consider it nothing short of sacrilege to disturb him.

P. J. G. in the Theosophist.

THE QUEEN AND THE SPIRIT-WORLD.

THE Queen, as is well-known, is a strong believer in the reality and near presence of the spirit-world. A writer in the current number of the "Quiver" states that Mrs. Oliphant's "Little Pilgrim in the Unseen" was of great interest to the Queen, who, since the death of the Prince Consort, has had a special liking for writings dealing with the mystic and unseen. She believes that it is given to our departed loved ones to watch over those who still struggle with the temptations and sorrows of the earthly life. It has been the great consolation of her bereaved years that she felt that the Prince was watching over the events of her life. During her retirement at Osborne, immediately after the Prince Consort's death, the Queen found "her only comfort in the belief that her husband's spirit was close beside her - for he had promised that it should be so." This was told to Dean Stanley by the Queen's half-sister, the Princess Hohenlohe. The belief that the spirits of the dead are hovering about those whom they loved on earth may be the reason for her Majesty's dislike to second marriages, especially the re-marriage of widows. It might have been added that belief of this kind in the spiritual world was one of the links which bound together her Majesty and the late Poet Laureate in affectionate sympathy. In one of his published letters to the Queen the poet wrote: "If the dead, as I have often felt, though silent, be more living than the living, - and linger about the planet in which their earth-life was passed - then they, while we are lamenting that they are not at our side, may still be with us; and the husband, the daughter, and the son, lost by your Majesty, may rejoice when the people shout the name of their Queen." Sentiments such as these were sure of arousing an echo in the heart of the Queen. Writing to Lord Tennyson on one of the anniversaries of her wedding day, the Queen described it as a day which she can never allow to be considered sad; "The reflected light of the sun which has set still remains! It is full of pathos, but also full of joyful gratitude, and he, who has left me nearly 30 years ago, surely blesses me still!" The writer in the "Quiver" referred to above tells a story of another kind in connection with her Majesty's favourite poet: Sir Theodore Martin had been requested by her Majesty to read aloud from "The Ring and the Book." Sir Theodore was courteous enough to make a cautious study beforehand of the poem, and he placed marginal notes as danger signals against passages of doubtful propriety. The marked copy came to the hands of a rather thoughtless Court lady. "I have so enjoyed

this wonderful work," she said to a friend, "and it has been such an advantage to read it after the Queen, for she has placed marks against the most beautiful parts; and oh, what exquisite taste the dear Queen has!" She added pointing to the danger signals of Sir Theodore Martin.

THE OLDEST PAPER IN INDIA.

To the April number of the "Calcutta Review" Mr. R. P. Karkaria contributes an article in the Bombay "Samachar," under the title of "The Oldest Paper in India." Mr. Karkaria points out that the beginning of the Indian journalism dates from the year 1780, on the 29th January of which appeared the first number of the first newspaper in India, the well-known, but infamous, "Bengal Gazette," a weekly political and commercial paper open to all parties, but influenced by none, published by the notorious Hickey, by whose name it is now chiefly remembered. Many English journals followed in the wake of this pioneer, though none fortunately imitated its grossness and obscenity; but they were all only a little longer-lived than Hickey's. From a Parliamentary Return of 1830 we find that in 1814 there was only one paper in Bengal, the Calcutta Government Gazette. Bombay was more enterprising in this matter, and we find the first English paper coming into existence there as early as 1790, and the second paper a year later, in 1791. Both these papers were respectable and had long careers. The first, the Gazette, came to an end in July 1842, after a life of 53 years and is not to be confounded with the existing Bombay Gazette, which grew out of the "Gentleman's Gazette," which grew out of the "The Courier" and was for a long time the organ of the Government. This paper also lived for a long time, till in 1860, it merged into the "Bombay Times," which had been started in 1838. Bengal has the honour of having started the first newspaper in a vernacular of India. This was the "Samachar Durpan" started by the famous Serampore missionaries and edited by the renowned divine J. Marshman. This paper existed for 21 years; but, strictly speaking, it cannot be called a "native" paper, as it was conducted by Europeans. The second paper was the "Sungbad Kaumudi," which was edited by Babu Tara Chand and Babu Babani Charan Bandopadhyay, and commenced in December, 1821. This paper may be called the first real native paper in India, as it was, unlike the "Samachar Durpan," conducted by native editors. The "Sungbad Kaumudi" had a long life of over thirty years, and came to a close about 1852, after a very useful career.

Seven months after the "Sungbad" was started, Bombay made her debut in native journalism with the "Bombay Samachar." Unlike the "Sungbad" and the "Samachar Durpan," it exists to the present day in the most thriving condition. It has, indeed, outlived all its contemporaries, Native and English, and to-day occupies the venerable position of the oldest newspaper in India, being in its 76th year. Its first number appeared on July 1st, 1822, and the paper continued to appear every week regularly till 1832; when the experiment was tried of making it a daily. During the whole of that year, 1832, the "Samachar" appeared every day, the first daily native paper, we believe, in India. But the next year it discontinued this, and compromised the matter by appearing as a bi-weekly, on Sundays and Thursdays. This arrangement, continued for more than twenty years, till it became a daily in 1855, and as a daily it has continued ever since. The very first number of the paper consists of three small quarto sheets, ten inches by eight, and a supplement of another half sheet, in all making fourteen pages of printed matter.

HUNTING WITH THE CHEETAH.

THE cheetah, when wild, lives by preying upon deer and antelope, and, in catching these timid animals, is, of course, compelled to exercise great agility and craft. The natives of India long ago discovered that the cheetah was capable of being tamed, and his peculiar qualities were made use of for purposes of sport. Most native princes have tame cheetahs with which they hunt antelope, deer, and similar game. The animal is caught when nearly full-grown and then tamed, for, curiously enough, cubs cannot be tamed for sport. Unless the animal has had some actual experience in hunting game for food it cannot be induced to provide sport for its masters. A cheetah, brought up in captivity from a cub, will calmly survey a herd of deer without making any attempt to stalk it. When a cheetah is about to be used to hunt game his head is enveloped in a hood, and his keepers take him to the desired spot in a light native car. When a herd of game is sighted the cheetah's head is turned towards it, the hood removed, and the creature, being very sharp-sighted, soon perceives the game. His bonds are then loosened, and he slips stealthily to the ground and begins to stalk his prey, exercising marvellous cunning, and rarely, if ever, fails to surprise his victim and bring it to the ground. The keepers then hurry up, entice the cheetah away from its prey, replace the hood over its head, and a move is made to fresh hunting ground, where the same process is repeated. When the animal has made its spring and alighted upon its victim it begins to feed at once, and the keepers often have some difficulty in rescuing the carcass. Should it be allowed to eat its fill it is of no use for further hunting that day. The cheetah is found in many parts of Asia, including India, Persia, and Sumatra, while it is also an inhabitant of some parts of Africa, and it is said it can be tamed until it becomes as domesticated as the ordinary cat or dog. British sportsmen do not speak very highly of hunting with the cheetah, considered as a sport. To the man who likes to do the hunting himself, and to pit his own intelligence or courage against that of the quarry, it is a little tame to sit still and watch one animal stalking another. It is a sport, however, which appeals strongly to the oriental, who prefers his excitement to be intellectual, and not accompanied by too much physical exertion. Even British sportsmen, however, admit that the sport is worth witnessing once, if only to see the more than human intelligence displayed by the cheetah and the speed at which the animal can run for short distances.

SIR William Lockhart has left for England. There were 92 attacks and 87 deaths from plague in Bombay on Sunday.

MACHINERY for the manufacture of paraffin and candles is exempted from import duty.

The Commission to inquire into the charges of bribery against Sardar Gurdial Singh, will commence its sittings about the 26th. Mr. Tweedy, of the N.-W. Provinces, has been appointed one of the Commissioners.

HOW GLADSTONE'S ANCESTORS FIRST WENT TO WAR.

"WHEN I was a boy," said William Ewart Gladstone in one of his speeches, "I was particularly proud of a certain youthful ancestor of mine, who ran away from home to fight at the battle of Neville's Cross. The manner in which he eluded parental vigilance and escaped to the wars, does as much credit to his ingenuity as to his courage." (Speech of Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone to the pupils, Chester Schools, 1886.)

The writer has been at some pains to discover who this particular ancestor was, and has finally succeeded in identifying him as William Gladstone (such was the ancient form of the Gladstone family name), who dwelt at Manitow in the Scottish borders, where his father held lands from the first Earl of Douglas. No book has ever been published on the former William Gladstone, but through the courtesy of Miss Florence Gladstone and of Sir William Fraser, author of "The Douglas Book," enough family and local tradition has been gathered to make plain the story of this remarkable boy.

For Will Gladstone was only a boy when in 1346 his father, Gladstone of Manitow, was called upon by their over-lord, Earl Douglas, to march against the English.

Now little Will was very anxious to go forth by his father's side and fight in the Scottish army; but, as the boy was of small size and slender stature, the old laird of Manitow decided that it was far better for him to wait awhile before exposing himself to the English spears. Battle to a knight's son in those days meant very much the same as a successful entry into college does to a boy in our own time. So Will Gladstone was bitterly disappointed when his rough but loving parent said that it was better for him to postpone his entry into the ranks of war.

But little Will like his illustrious descendant the ex-Premier of England, was not of the kind that can easily be turned aside. In his lonely little room, high up in one of the turrets of Manitow peel, he set about thinking of some way in which he could elude his father's vigilance and go to the wars in spite of all. But for a long time no idea occurred to him, and it seemed as though he must remain behind after all, when the Gladstones were forced across the border.

Now it happened that King David II. of Scotland, desiring to conciliate Earl Douglas, had commissioned Gladstone of Manitow to present to that famous warrior a superb cuirass of polished Milanese armor. This gorgeous piece of ironwork arrived at Manitow on the day before Gladstone's troop began its march.

Little Will Gladstone was eager to examine this cuirass, and during the night preceding the departure of his father he crept down the winding stair of the castle and stole on tiptoe into the armoury. There in the moon-light lay the armor. It was an enormous cuirass - for the Douglas was a giant in size, so large indeed that a small boy like Will Gladstone would have no difficulty in bestowing himself comfortably in its leather-lined interior.

Hearing his father's step on the stairs, Will hastily crawled into the cuirass to escape the parental displeasure. Hardly was he enconced in this novel hiding place when the old laird sounded his bugle, and bade his merry men make ready. Warned by a dream he had resolved to set out under cover of darkness instead of waiting until morning.

Afraid to stir, Will Gladstone heard the men at arms bustling about the armoury, and presently a horse hide was wrapped about the cuirass intended for Earl Douglas, and the King's gift (with the boy still crouched inside) was lifted from its place and deposited in one of the wagons which were to accompany the forces. Little Will, finding himself thus trapped, felt rather pleased than otherwise. To cry out at that juncture would brand him as a coward, and (so he argued) his father, while he might pardon him for disobedience in going to the wars, would never forgive him for crying caven.

Drawing his dagger from his belt, the boy succeeded in cutting a deep gash in the horsehide. By this means he admitted sufficient air into the interior of the cuirass to save himself from suffocation.

III

When the laird of Manitow reached his over-lord's camp near Hawick, he ordered the horsehide removed from King David's splendid present. What was the astonishment of all, and a stout little warrior he proved.

People who know the stout-hearted "grand old man" of England will find it easy to trace in this historic episode the source of the strength of character and purpose which has made William Ewart Gladstone a leader among men and a controlling power in the great nation of which he is so influential a member. - "Inter Ocean."

HERE is a typical example of how the principles of relaxation of quarantine rules for the sake of "business" actually works in practice. A certain member of the higher legal profession of Bombay, who has never had in his family, or his house, a single case of plague, had the misfortune of losing a female relative in the mofussil. His wife and aunt thought it so important to pay a visit of condolence to the bereaved family that they determined to take all the risks of medical examination and quarantine, rather than not go. The gentleman then went to Mr. Du Boulay with a pass from the District Medical Officer, giving his family his place and its neighbouring houses a clean bill of health. Mr. Du Boulay said he would allow one of the two ladies to go, for, said he, he thought two were not needed for the purpose, and that one ought to suffice, and asked the gentleman to make this choice between his wife and aunt. This is funny indeed. But funnier still is the fact that when the same gentleman took with him another, who was better known to the certifying authority, and the two jointly explained matters, the necessary pass for both the ladies was given. This pass will exempt the ladies from detention at Bandora, but there is the express condition that they must stay in quarantine for ten days at N. where they are going to. We suppose the beauties of this little story, as given to us, are so unique, that we would be spoiling it by making any comments. - Indian Spectator.

THE waterfalls of Switzerland are being rapidly utilized for the driving of electric dynamos. Nearly every town is now supplied with power from this source.

It has been found in Natal that the only successful way of exterminating locusts is with arsenic, which is mixed with brown sugar or treacle, and splashed with a brush on vegetation which the insects eat.

No fewer than 12,000,000 acres of land have been made fruitful in the Sahara Desert, an enterprise representing perhaps the most remarkable example of irrigation by means of artesian wells which can anywhere be found.

THE CASE OF DAMODAR CHAPEKAR.

PRAYER FOR MERCY.

BABU Ambica Charan Moitra, B.L., Pubna, submitted the following petition to the India Government, praying for mercy on behalf of Chapekar:

His Excellency the Governor-General of India in Council.

Through The Governor of Bombay.

May it please Your Excellency in Council. The humble petition of Ambica Charan Moitra, B.L., Vakil, High Court, Calcutta, at present of the Pubna bar, Bengal, most respectfully sheweth: -

1. That the prisoner Damodar Hari Chapekar has been convicted of murder and sentenced to death by the Sessions Court of Pooona, which sentence has been confirmed by the highest judicial authority in the land; the date of execution of the said sentence being the 18th day of March, 1898.

2. That having regard to the circumstances of Chapekar's case and the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (Indian Council Act X of 1882) Secs. 401 and 402, this appears to be a case where the prerogative of mercy might be with good grace shown to the condemned man without offending any sense of British justice, which always respects scrupulously even the remotest chance of carrying into execution an irrevocable sentence even on a murderer, when the facts of the case may reasonably be construed in throwing some doubts in unbiased minds.

3. That by sparing the life of the condemned man some further clue might be obtained in future to disclose the real culprits of the diabolical murder.

4. That in view of the importance of the case, the sentence of death might justly be suspended and kept in abeyance in the hope of obtaining further practical and substantial corroboration of the confession, as it is rather unsafe to carry out capital sentence in almost uncorroborated confession.

5. That looking into the nature of the confession in a catholic spirit, it throws some reasonable doubt as to its genuineness, which belief is further confirmed when the conduct of the prisoner and the Police during trial in both the Courts is also considered therewith; and that having regard to all the circumstances of the case, transportation for life would be a safer sentence in Damodar Hari Chapekar's case, the verdict of the jury being even an abatement of murder only which shews that even the jurors prompted, as they were by a high sense of British justice, did not think it safe to convict the accused of murder.

Here is the reply of the Bombay Government to the above.

No. 2506 of 1898. Judicial Department. Bombay Castle, 2nd April, 1898. To Mr. Ambica Charan Moitra, Vakil, High Court, Calcutta, Pubna, Bengal.

Memorandum. Mr. Ambica Charan Moitra is informed that his petition, dated the 9th March, 1898 (on behalf of the prisoner Damodar Hari Chapekar) which is addressed to Her Majesty the Queen-Emress and has been forwarded to this Government for transmission, has been withheld under Rule XII (9) of the rules for the submission of petitions to Her Majesty the Queen-Emress and that his petition to the Government of India, dated the 11th March, 1898, has been transmitted to that Government for disposal.

Under-Secretary to Government of Bombay.

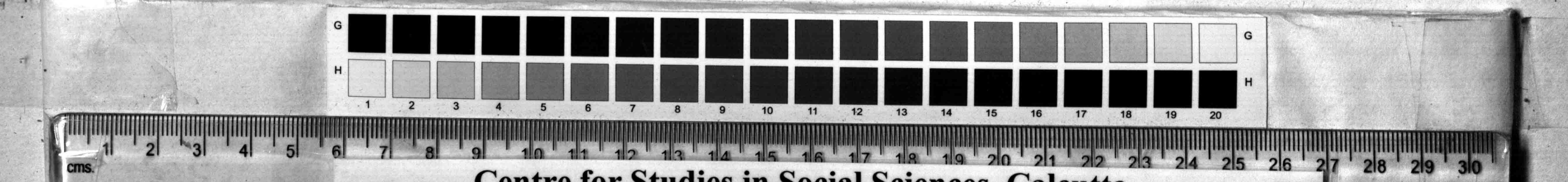
XII.—Governments and Administrations in India are vested with discretionary power to withhold the transmission of memorial addressed to Her Majesty or to the Secretary of State in the following cases:

9. When a memorial is a mere appeal against the non-exercise by one of the Governments or Administrations in India of a discretionary discretion vested in such Government or Administration by law or rule.

THE "Rural World" says:—"The Japanese are ruthless in their tampering with Nature. If they decide, that they want a bird or an animal of certain shape or color, they set about manufacturing the article, so to speak, by the exercise of exceedingly clever ingenuity and untiring patience. Here, for example, is how the white sparrows are produced. They select a pair of greyish birds, and keep them in a white cage in a white room, where they are attended by a person, dressed in white. The mental effect on a series of generations of birds results in completely white birds.

RESEARCHES have shown that when in sleep the surface of the brain becomes pale indicating the withdrawal of blood, and that awaking is accompanied by a return of colour. The ingenious experiments of Professor Mosso, the Italian physiologist, prove the same thing in another way. He constructed a couch so arranged that it could be accurately balanced in the middle, when the slightest change of weight would make either end incline. A man was laid upon it, balanced in a horizontal position. As he went to sleep his head rose and his feet sank; as he awoke the opposite occurred, proving that the blood left the head in the one condition and returned to it in the other.

THE earliest recorded history we might say prehistoric, the hieroglyphical - that has come down to us has been in carvings on ivory and bone. Long before metallurgy was known among the prehistoric races, carvings on reindeer horn and mammoth tusk evidence the antiquity of the art. Fragments of horn and ivory, engraved with excellent pictures of animals, have been found in caves and beds of rivers and lakes. There are specimens in the British Museum, also in the Louvre, of the Egyptian skill in ivory carving attributed to the age of Moses. In the later collection are chairs or seats of the sixteenth century B. C. inlaid with ivory, and other pieces of the eleventh century B. C. Carving of the "precious substance" was extensively carried on at Constantinople during the Middle Ages. Combs, caskets, horns, boxes, etc. of carved ivory and bone often set in precious stones, of the old Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, are frequently found in tombs. Crucifixes and images of the Virgin and saints made in that age are often graceful and beautiful. - N. B. Nelson in "Appleton's Popular Science Monthly."





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It diminishes the secretion of mucus in the bronchial tubes and lessens the irritation of the respiratory centre. It increases longevity and renders the organs strong. It sharpens the memory and intelligence and gives vitality to the old and debilitated tissues. It restores the body to beauty and the bloom of early youth and supplies physical strength and power or endurance to it. It stimulates appetite and induces activity in the flow of the secretions. It is of great service to the young, old, and the weak. It is infinitely better than Codliver Oil. For proving its superiority to Codliver Oil, one need only use it for a short while. The condition is that it was with this medicine that the Avarias, the essential physicians, restored the Rishi Chyavan, emaciated and weak with age and penances, to the bloom and beauty of youth.

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Specific for Diabetes. The regular use of the above medicine is sure to cure Diabetes. It entirely removes general debility, burning of the palms and soles, weakness of the brain, excessive thirst, semi-indebility, resulting from excessive urination, discharge of saccharine matter with the urine, and acid eructations, aching pains in the limbs, slight oedema of the legs, drowsiness, loss of sleep, &c.

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Granted by H. E. The Viceroy and Governor-General in Council. Vide Gazette of India dated 6th September 1884, Part 1 page 320.

Charmed with the infallible virtues of this wonderful specific, the Honorable Sir Augustus Rivers Thompson, the Lieutenant-Governor condescended to favor the patentee with instructions to Dr. B. Simpson, the then Surgeon General, Bengal to put it to trial in any of the hospitals under his direct supervision. Pursuant to the said instructions it was placed in the hands of Dr. Cone Mackenzie, the Superintendent, Cambel Hospital in order to judge the merits of the specific.

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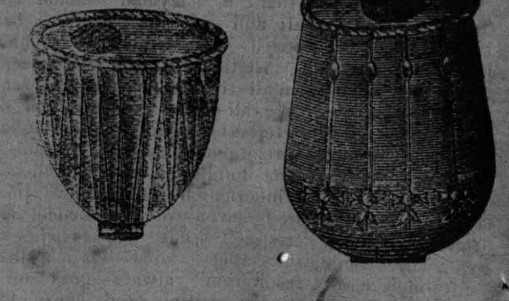
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