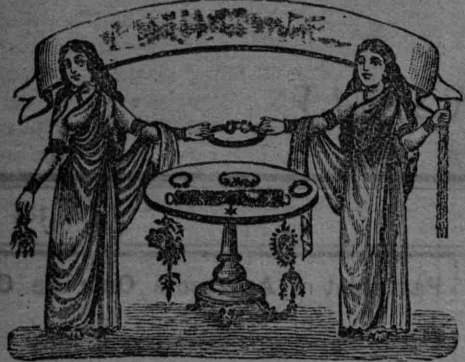






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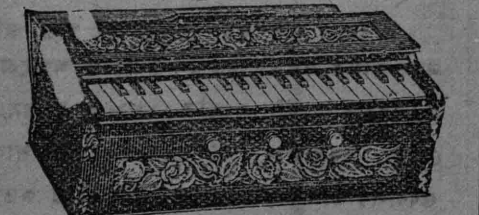
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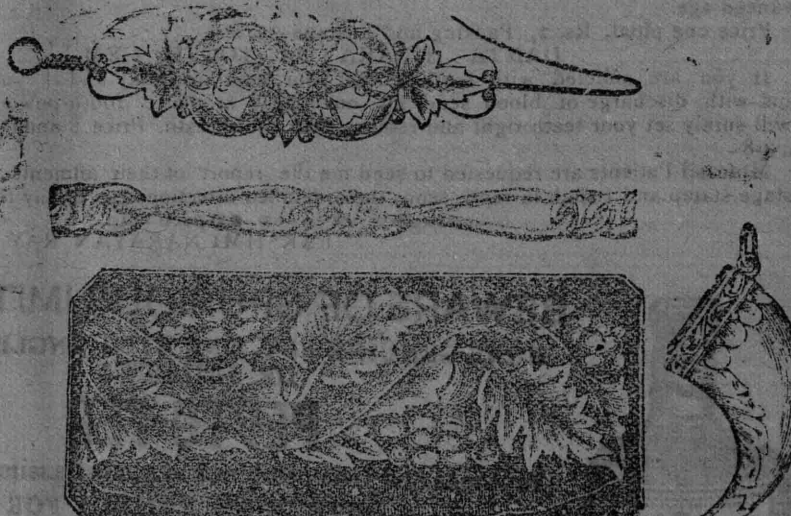
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Babu Bhubo Toshi Banerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date of 6th March, 1898:—Many thanks for your Acidity Pills. I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pain of the last 8 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some of 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 antive herbs and hence is perfectly safe.

Babu Nitrya Gopal Dutt, Zemindar Mozilpur 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.'

Kumar Hemendra Krishna of the Sovabazar Raj family, writes:—'I am glad to state that I 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.'

Babu P. De, B. A., Head-Master, Shibpur, 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 to testify to the efficacy of your Acidity Pills. I have used the above and I can commend the same to others suffering from acidity-dyspepsia.

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Babu Kalipada Chatterjee, Pleader, Palanpur 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.'

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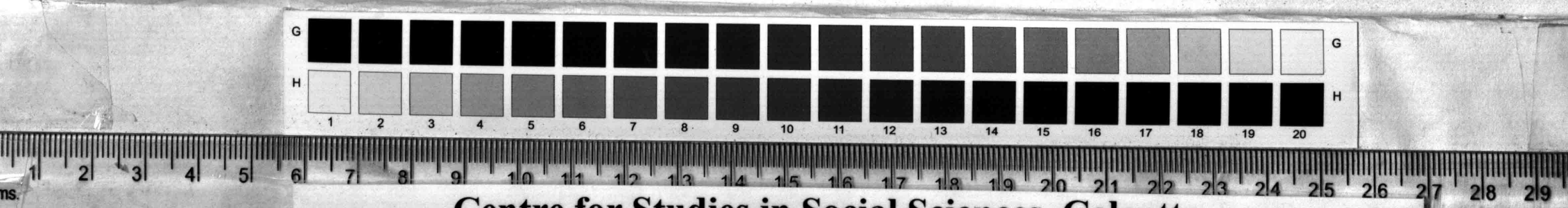
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Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, MAY 5, 1898.

DAWN OF A NEW POLICY.

The Englishman was good enough to advise us that our business was to disparage and not to praise Sir John Woodburn. We were very much obliged to our contemporary for his friendly counsel, and meant to follow it; but, to our shame, we must confess, we are quite helpless in the matter. We have been trying these several days to find an opportunity for pouring out our vial of wrath upon the devoted head of the Lieutenant-Governor; but it seems, His Honour is too clever for us. He will not only create no occasion for us to abuse him; but, on the contrary, as if to spite us, do acts which, in spite of our firm resolve to oblige our contemporary, leave us no option but to speak in terms of praise of his administration. For instance, now can we act up to the advice of the Englishman in the face of the plague policy which His Honour declared on Saturday last?

Perhaps Sir John Woodburn himself is not aware of the amount of gratitude he has evoked in the country by his speech, and the announcement of Government policy. This is perhaps the first time that a ruler of the Province not only took the people into his confidence and showed ardent sympathy for them, but actually placed himself in their position, realized their possible sufferings and framed his policy accordingly. Let us explain what we mean.

The Indian authorities were fully aware of the fact that it was not so much the disease as the prospect of the ruthless separation of families, which the plague measures provide, that the people most dreaded. And the fear was not founded upon mere imagination. Thousands of patients had cruelly been dragged out of the bosom of their dear and near ones, either to die in public hospitals, in the midst of terrible surroundings, or never to return to their families, who had perhaps been compelled to evacuate their houses and migrate to unknown places.

Such is one of the dreadful results of the policy of segregation and isolation. The horrors of the situation were dimmed into the ears of the authorities. They heard, but would not yet lessen the rigours of the method. And why? No doubt, one of the reasons was their benevolent intention, for they honestly believed that the method, though inhuman, was a dire necessity, for the good of the majority; but the other and perhaps the principal reason was that they could never fully realize the position of the Indian sufferer in their heart of hearts.

Sir John, it appears, did realize it, and was thus able to at once understand the real situation. "What would have been the state of my feelings," perhaps thought His Honour, "if one, dear to me, were attacked with the disease, and he or she separated from me? Would not I then go mad? The natives are also God's creatures, and endowed with all human feelings. Under similar circumstances, surely they would feel just like myself. How is it possible for them to bear with equanimity what I cannot do? They are all the more deserving of a considerate treatment, as they are wholly dependent upon us, and they shall have it from me." That some such sentiments overpowered the mind of the Lieutenant-Governor, is evident from the following outburst of his heart:

No wife shall be separated from her husband; no husband from his family, and the better classes will receive every encouragement in the arrangement of private hospitals in their own compounds or in garden houses in the suburb to which they can remove themselves and their families in case of attack.

But His Honour did more. On behalf of the Indian community, we ventured to submit that His Honour should be pleased to give the people the option of choosing either inoculation or segregation; and Sir John has acceded to the request. He says that Government will not force inoculation upon anybody; but, if the members of a family, prior to the occurrence of plague amongst them, get themselves inoculated, they will be exempted from being taken to the segregation camp. No quarantine shall also be enforced. So, Sir John Woodburn has granted us all that was possible for him to give.

Indeed, no Governor has yet agreed to practically give up segregation and isolation as Sir John has done. He has inaugurated a new policy, a policy of hope, reassurance and wisdom. But the gratitude of the people towards him will know no bounds when they come to know that the majority of the Plague Commissioners were for enforcing the policy of isolation and segregation with rigour, but he overruled them and adopted the present policy.

We wish Sir John had taken a round in the native quarters of Calcutta a few hours after the announcement of his policy. He would then have seen an interesting scene in various centres of the town. But we shall let one of our reporters speak for us:

Plague was still the talk of the town yesterday. But the signs of misery and despair which were seen day before yesterday depicted in the countenance of every man, woman and child, had vanished, and those of cheerfulness and contentment taken their place. It seemed to me

as if a heavy load which was pressing upon their breast, had been removed. But what attracted my attention most was the knots of people gathered at several places and listening attentively to the contents of a printed slip of paper which one amongst the crowd was reading out loudly. As soon as the reading was over, they all cried out, "Jai, Chotu Lal Shahabka Jai." Curiosity led me to some of these spots. The piece of paper was no other than the translation of Sir John Woodburn's speech in the vernacular, which was issued from the A. B. Patrika office yesterday and distributed extensively in the town, free of cost. I enquired why were they so pleased with the speech. They said that what they feared the most was the quarantine and segregation. His Honour was pleased to save them from both and they were therefore grateful to him.

We also wish His Honour had been present at the public meeting of the rate-payers, held on Sunday at Sovabazar, to protest against the Calcutta Municipal Bill. The pick of this ward were there. Indeed, there was not an important rate-payer in the ward, except Maharajah Narendra Krishna who never attends such meetings, who did not attend it personally. Two things might have been very clearly demonstrated to His Honour if he could see his way to be present. First, if His Honour has kept his mind open, he might have been convinced that the introduction of the Calcutta Municipal Bill into the Bengal Council was a great mistake. Indeed, we are afraid, if plague does not stand in the way, the whole of Calcutta is likely to be convulsed over this question.

Secondly, it would have gladdened His Honour's heart to see how immensely have the leading and educated Indians been gratified with the declaration of his plague policy. The meeting was convened for the purpose of protesting against the Municipal Bill; but the whole audience thought it their duty to pass a special Resolution, thanking His Honour for the noble policy enunciated by him. The Resolution ran to the following effect:

That this meeting records its grateful thanks to H. H. Sir J. Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, for the policy of benevolence and wisdom inaugurated by His Honour with regard to the outbreak of plague in Calcutta and its heart-felt appreciation of the action taken by him to allay the unprecedented scare caused by the occurrence of a few sporadic cases.

That a Committee be formed for the purpose of co-operating with Government in checking the spread of plague.

The resolution was feelingly moved by Rajah Binoy Krishna and eloquently seconded by Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose. It was unanimously adopted amidst tremendous cheers.

THE PANIC AND ITS LESSONS.

The authorities can learn much from the scene that Calcutta presented during the late panic. They have to learn such a lesson; for, they have taken upon themselves to accomplish a very difficult task, viz., that of governing a vast and alien nation on despotic principles. Let it be borne in mind that the people of India are not given to panics. Brave as the Europeans are in battle-fields, braver the natives of India show themselves during such visitations as cholera, plague and the like. We have great doubt whether plague or cholera is more deadly or more swift in its operation. We are told that a man attacked by plague, is sometime seen to die in eight or ten hours. It is also not an uncommon sight to see cholera doing its work with equal rapidity.

If plague is infectious, so is cholera. If segregation is necessary for plague, it is also necessary for cholera. When cholera invades a village, it sometime commits dreadful havoc, family after family being extinguished in the course of a few days. What do the people do during such visitations? They do not forsake their posts of duty. They tend the affected members of their household, knowing full well that the next turn may be theirs, and that any of them may die even before the one that they were tending. We do not mean any offence when we say that the Indians behave bravely,—perhaps more bravely than others,—when facing calamities like those we are discussing. They will nurse cholera or small-pox patients as unconcernedly as if nothing has occurred.

We, therefore, beg to draw the conclusion that the unprecedented panic that overtook Calcutta, the other day, before the plague policy of the Government was announced, had nothing to do with the dread of death. What was it, then? What is more dreadful than death,—a death in the course of a few hours?

As we said above, the panic was unprecedented in its character. Never before were the vast residents of Calcutta moved in such a powerful manner. Zenana ladies, "whose faces the sun had never seen," were seen flying from the town on foot, and sometimes in tram-cars. And why on foot? Because conveyances were not to be had. Ten rupees per hour for a ticea carriage—that was the fare; and the number of these carriages was but limited. The Bridge could not give passage to the stream of dense crowd that were running to the Howrah Station, and ladies had to pass through them. The boatmen demanded five rupees per hour in place of one pice! You see only people running—men and women, running for lives. Is a tiger after them? No, nothing of the kind. Is the monster of plague coming to swallow them? No; they

have, no doubt, heard of plague patients, but never seen one. They are yet flying, and why? It is to avoid Government policy!

Not that they had any practical experience of this Government policy. For, as there was yet no plague case at all in Calcutta, there could not be a Government policy too. No British troops were visible, neither were any segregation camps and isolation hospitals guarded by grim soldiers without hearts or conscience. Nor had any one of these panic-stricken men seen a shrieking patient being carried to the camp, or a fainting wife separated from a fainting husband. None in Calcutta had come across either the horn or the rangs of this Government policy. But, yet, sure enough, it was this Government policy which was leading hundreds of thousands of men, women and children to leave the city in wild terror. It was because, if they had not come across this Government policy, they had heard of it; the tales of the distress of the victims of this Government policy had reached their ears. This indirect experience about the results of the Government policy was enough to drive them mad and throw them into convulsions.

From the scene which Calcutta presented, the Government can now form a clear conception of the value of its own policy. We mean, the policy that was introduced in Bombay and other parts of India to check the spread of the plague. The feeling that led the citizens of Calcutta to leave the city in wild terror, must be infinite times milder than that which had influenced the people of the Presidency of Bombay. For, the latter had a thorough and practical experience of the Government policy, while Calcutta had none.

Now we come to the point. The natives of the country have been charged with the crime of the murders of Messrs. Rand and Ayerst; editors of newspapers have been sent to jail; men have been deported without a trial; the press of the country gagged, &c. &c. These are only a part of the record of the doings of the Bombay Government for the past year. May we enquire, are the people to be blamed for having lost their head under the influence of the Government policy, or the Government to be blamed for having introduced a policy which leads the people to lose their head? If the Bombay Government is primarily answerable for the black record, referred to above, then, we think, the wisest course for the responsible rulers of the country is to release the editors and the Natu brothers and repeal the sedition measures. For, we dare say, their ambition is to govern the country on despotic principles, and yet to govern it well; and it is, therefore, their duty to profit by experience.

Mr. R. T. Greer, Chairman of the Corporation of Calcutta, has issued the following notice, based upon the principles laid down in the new plague policy of Sir John Woodburn:

1. Quarantine will not be enforced by Government against Calcutta.
2. No segregation will be enforced if the entire household has been inoculated.
3. No one will be declared plague-stricken without being seen by a competent medical officer, male or female, deputed by the Municipality.
4. No one will be separated from his or her family. If necessary, all will go together to a camp, where the purdah will be respected.
5. Compensation will be paid on the spot if any property is destroyed in being disinfected.
6. Encouragement will be given to the public to provide private family hospitals for the treatment of their relatives in their private houses where proper accommodation is obtainable.
7. No person will be removed except on the order of a medical officer. The Police are not authorised to examine or remove any one.

EVERY one, we hope, will read the letter of Dr. Blaney, which is published in another column. We wonder, how the Government can at all think of adopting the policy of segregation and isolation after its condemnation by such a high authority as the Bombay Doctor. As regards Dr. Haffkine's serum, Dr. Blaney says that "there is plenty of reason for giving this serum a full trial." The Government should furnish the public with detailed information about this alleged prophylactic. The Municipality should arrange to bring Dr. Haffkine here and give him every facility to experiment his inoculation preventive.

In reply to the question regarding the grant of Rs. 67,000 to Mr. Buskin, late manager of the Hutwa Raj, the Hon'ble Mr. Finucane said:

Mr. Buskin served the late Maharaja of Hutwa for 30 years as Manager, Assistant Manager, and in other capacities. He was the Maharaja's confidential friend and adviser, and highly esteemed by him. It is the custom of the Raj to give pensions to old servants on their retirement, and it is reported that the late Maharaja wished to give Mr. Buskin a liberal pension. The Maharane has, since the Maharaja's death, pressed on the Court of Wards the propriety of giving Mr. Buskin a pension of Rs. 600, and also of leasing him a Raj indigo factory on favourable terms. The Court of Wards agreed to the pension, but refused to lease the factory. Mr. Buskin has been allowed to commute the pension into a

lump sum, according to the rules of Government service for commutation of pensions. The value of the pension, according to the rules, is approximately Rs. 67,000. The Maharane has expressed his regret and disappointment that a more liberal reward for his services has not been given to Mr. Buskin.

The Bengales made an enquiry into the matter and here is the result:

(a) Before Mr. Buskin entered the service of the Raj, he was one of the Tehsildars of circles on a monthly salary of Rs 500 [And under the Hutwa Raj, this gentleman has been entitled to a pension of Rs. 600.]

(b) He was never an Assistant Manager.

(c) He was made Manager in 1893-94 when the estate was released from the Court of Wards. He acted in that capacity only for 2½ years.

(d) He then reverted to his former appointment, Babu Bhubaneshwar taking his place as Manager of the Raj. [This only goes to show that Mr. Buskin's services were not considered very valuable by the Maharaja.] Mr. Buskin continued to hold his office as Tehsildar till he was made Manager by the Court of Wards.

Our contemporary has based his statements upon facts and figures, which admit of no misapprehension. Our own information on the subject, received from a high and independent source, confirms the above statements.

The spectacle of the executive head of a district figuring as a defendant in a criminal suit, is very rare; and no wonder, if Sialkote is much exercised over the prospect of such an event. In short, Mr. Elliott, Deputy Commissioner of Sialkote, and Mr. Stewart, District Superintendent of Police, have been threatened with criminal proceedings by Mr. Singh, a local Barrister. They have brought this trouble upon themselves because they went to the house of Mr. Singh, accompanied by a posse of constables, for the purpose of rescuing an English woman alleged to be wrongfully confined. To enable the reader to understand the significance of their acts in their true colour, we shall enter into some detail, with which the outside public has very little or no concern. Though married, Mr. Singh, while in England, contracted an intimacy with the lady in question. She accompanied him to India. In short, she has been in his keeping for the last 8 years, and he has had several issues by her, she living in the same house with his married wife. Now, the local missionaries tried to prevail upon the lady to leave the protection of Mr. Singh. The latter coming to know of this, forbade them to enter his house. Matters went on smoothly for sometime when differences sprang up between Mr. Singh and the English woman, who wrote to one of the missionaries to say that she wanted to go away, but she thought her movements were watched. Armed with this document, the missionaries went to Mr. Elliott, and succeeded in convincing him that the woman was wrongfully confined against her will. As the Magistrate of the district, he could at once take legal steps to remove the alleged grievance of the woman and bring the alleged offender to book. For instance, he might have taken proceedings at once under section 100 of the I. P. Code and, after enquiry, passed the necessary orders in the case. But he did nothing of the kind. Instead of either issuing a search-warrant or issuing a rule for the production, in court, of the woman alleged to be wrongfully confined, he adopted the extraordinary step of sending for Mr. Singh in court. As soon as he came, the official inquired of him if an English woman was living in his house, and being answered in the affirmative, he made off for his house, in spite of the protests of Mr. Singh, the District Superintendent of Police and some constables following him. Arriving at the house, the District Magistrate had a conversation with the lady, Mr. Singh being not allowed to remain in the room. This was followed by the lady leaving the house with her children in a ticea ghari, the Magistrate accompanying her. Mr. Singh afterwards applied to Mr. Elliott for a copy of his order, which has not been given; and he was told, to his wonder, that no order had been passed and every thing was verbally done! It is needless to say that the above unique incident has caused a good deal of sensation in the locality, and this has been heightened by the prospect of the executive head of district figuring in a criminal suit, if he has not already so figured. We are told by the Tribune that Mr. Elliott will be charged under various sections of the I. P. Code.

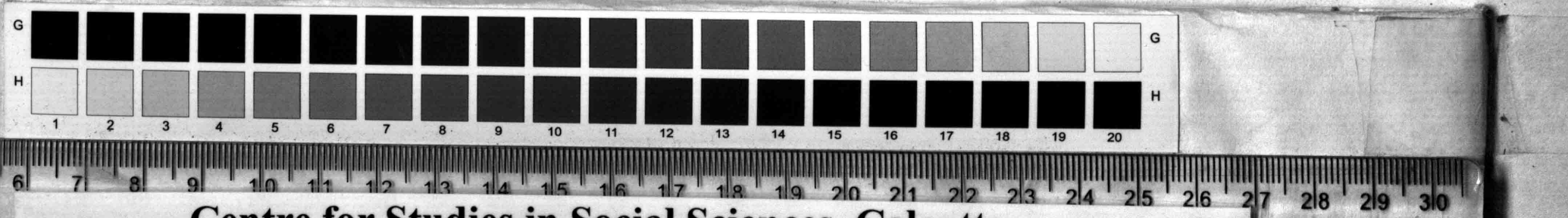
An exceedingly interesting case of murder was heard on appeal by the Appellate Bench, composed of the Chief Justice and Justice Guradas Bannerjee. In the District of Rajshye, four prisoners were found guilty of murder by an unanimous verdict of the jury. But to the credit of Mr. Steinburg, the Sessions Judge, he it said that he disagreed. We say "credit" because such a thing was never heard of in this country,—at least rarely heard. The usual practice is for the jury to acquit and the Judge to convict. But here we see that the jury convicted, and the Judge disagreed with their verdict. The High Court sided with the Judge. The above case proves two points conclusively; one is, that the accusation that the jury in India, in murder cases, ought not to be trusted, is not true; the other is, that there

are British Judges in India who acquit a prisoner even when he has been found guilty by a unanimous jury.

The kindly sentiments and sympathetic utterances of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in regard to plague precautions actually brought tears of joy and relief to the eyes of many. Expecting to be harassed in every way, to be assured that the Government had no such intention whatsoever, was really a most agreeable surprise. But that was not the only beauty of the speech of Sir J. Woodburn. It was so sympathetic and hope-inspiring that the people felt, for the moment at least, that the Government was a true *ma bap*. One is tempted to contrast the attitude of Sir J. Woodburn with that of Lord Sandhurst. But then, such a comparison would be unfair to the Governor of Bombay. It is quite possible that if Sir J. Woodburn had been the first ruler, as Lord Sandhurst was, to deal with the plague, he would have committed at least some of the mistakes which unhappily characterised the Government of Bombay. The authorities want that every one should be inoculated. And, why? It is because, to quote the words of Mr. Risley, "the efficacy of the Haffkine virus has been demonstrated." If that be the fact, we do not see why there should be any objection on the part of any one to be so protected. It was Mr. Tilak who pointed out the way when other prisoners refused to submit to the experiment. It is for this service, if not for anything else, he ought to be rewarded with a release. But what is this inoculation? What is the risk, and where is the serum, and who is to do the thing? The people have absolutely no knowledge on the points, raised above. As we ventured to suggest, Government should circulate printed slips all over the town, giving all necessary information for the prevention and cure of plague.

The value of one of the concessions,—perhaps the most important of all—made by the Government in connection with the plague measures, depends upon the efficacy of the alleged prophylactic, discovered by Professor Haffkine. As we have asked above, is it really as efficacious as it is represented to be? The manner in which the Government has presented it to the public, is not likely to inspire public confidence. Says Mr. Risley: "The Lieutenant-Governor wishes it to be distinctly understood that while, on the faith of the experience in Bombay, he strongly commends the method of inoculation to the people, inoculation will be pressed on no one. Every man will be left entirely free to satisfy himself of its efficacy and of the propriety of asking for it in the circumstances of his own household." To leave the people free in the matter, is, of course, absolutely necessary. It would have been a worst form of despotism if inoculation were forced upon people at the point of the bayonet. But then, how can they satisfy themselves of its efficacy? The Government alone can satisfy the public on the point. At present, the Lieutenant-Governor cannot, however, speak from his own personal experience; and his testimony is, therefore, not of an absolute character. What we think should be done, is to make the experiment upon some Europeans and Indians of high position, and publish their experiences. What the general public fear is, that, lest by the process of inoculation they bring the disease upon themselves. A positive assurance from the Government to the effect that there is no such danger, is needed to induce the people to accept it. If they are assured of the fact that the use of the virus will not produce the real disease, but, say, only a little fever with a slight glandular swelling, which cannot terminate fatally, many will gladly get themselves inoculated. But, very few will agree to resort to this method, if, by so doing, they run the risk of endangering their lives by an attack of real bubonic fever. Why not the members of the Plague Commission, headed by their President, Mr. Risley, show the way in Bengal, as Mr. Tilak did in Bombay? Let them bring Dr. Haffkine here, and get themselves inoculated. Their testimony to the effect that the Haffkine inoculation is at least harmless, will be enough to secure the faith of the educated classes in this treatment. We need hardly point out that unless the efficacy of the alleged prophylactic has been established on a satisfactory basis in some such way, the concession, which the Government has offered, will mean nothing.

THERE is another point which we beg to press upon the attention of the Government. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor was pleased to give the assurance that the better classes would receive every encouragement in the arrangement of private hospitals in their compounds. This concession is really a valuable one; but it can be availed of by only a few. Is it possible to extend the concession to those persons who have got decent houses but not spacious compounds? If His Honour can see his way to do it, then he will earn the gratitude of a very large section of the people. A number of distinguished medical men in the town suggested to Sir Alexander Mackenzie that the open terraces of most of the buildings in Calcutta





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

could be safely converted into private segregation hospitals. The late Lieutenant-Governor was a faddist, did not heed suggestion. Sir John Woodburn may, however, call a Conference of the medical men of the town, and be advised by them on the subject. His Honour has given the undertaking that the members of an affected family will never be separated in a segregation camp; but this would be a Herculean task, should plague break out in an epidemic and virulent form in Calcutta, which Heaven forbid. The permission to convert the terraces of buildings into private hospitals would, however, serve the purpose very well, and, at the same time, save the Government from a ruinous expense.

The Indian Daily News has the following with regard to the plague policy of the Government:—

The declaration, made by the Government on Saturday that they will not segregate families who have been completely inoculated previous to the first outbreak of plague among them, is, in its way, satisfactory; but we still believe that a great mistake was made in not telling people so on Thursday, instead of keeping the secret for promulgation at the Council meeting on Saturday; for, the exodus in the intervening forty-eight hours, which it should have been the chief object of the Government to check, was enormous. Probably, 200,000 people have left Calcutta, including three-fourths of the purdah women of the city; and the premium now put on inoculation, will therefore not be so much appreciated. The inducement has gone. The people have fled in all directions, and those who have nowhere to go to, and found the railways too crowded, have escaped in boats, and are camping wherever they can, down and up the river. The men who are left, are probably now quite indifferent to what happens, and we believe, are already discussing the desirability of having an obnoxious form of poison injected into them. We still think that our suggestion on Saturday was the best solution of this business, and that, attaching conditions to segregation, a system preached for weeks by the "Times of India" in vain in Bombay, is making a great mistake. Sir John Woodburn has lost, we are sorry to think, one of the opportunities of a life-time, in not taking the bold step of emancipating himself from the tyranny of sanitation. It might have been a difficult step; but it would have had, we believe, the sympathy of a great part of the business population, and the whole of the natives, and the results, after all, could not be possibly worse than the results in Bombay.

We perfectly agree with our contemporary that it was a great mistake that the policy was not announced on Thursday. The sufferings of tens of thousands of men might have been averted if the Government had simply declared that no quarantine would be imposed. It is not the wild reports in some vernacular papers, as the Englishman says, that led to the panic and the expedite, but the ominous silence on the part of the authorities. On Wednesday we wrote to the Secretary of the Plague Commission for information about the Government policy; he was good enough to inform us on Friday that we would know all on Saturday. The letter only served to increase the scare; for, the public were naturally led to suppose that if Government had no intention of quarantining the people, they would have at once declared that policy.

The importance of the public meeting, held on the 1st instant in Ward No. 1, Calcutta to protest against the Municipal Bill, cannot be exaggerated. It will be seen that the whole of the Ward was present at the meeting. Indeed, we do not remember to have ever witnessed such an enthusiastic and thoroughly representative meeting at the Sava Bazar nat-m-ndir. That the people, though panic-stricken in an unprecedented manner by the occurrence of plague, should respond by hundreds to the simple invitation contained in a few hand-bills, conclusively proves the genuine character of the movement, and the fact that the Calcutta public have been powerfully moved over this obnoxious Bill. But, we shall deal with the subject in a future issue.

The Hindu is of opinion that as the "yellow race" stands in the way of the European nations who are growing, so all the great Powers in Europe are for the annihilation of the Chinese. And that is the object of the Eastern policy of the Europeans in regard to the East, says the same paper. After giving his views in a plain and business-like manner, the Hindu next refers to "a shocking case of cruelty to a child-wife". It is, no doubt, cruelty to maltreat a child-wife, or a grown-up wife, or even an animal. There is no doubt of it that cruelty in any shape is bad. But can there be any cruelty more shocking than that of several strong nations combining for the destruction of a weaker one? The cruelty to a child-wife gave a shock to the nerves of the Hindu; but while describing the modus operandi of the European Powers in regard to China, that paper did not show any nervousness at all. The real fact is, we have been so accustomed to see the manifestation of higher crimes that they do not now affect us. We have many benevolent institutions in different parts of the globe,—some for the prevention of cruelty to animals, and others for the protection of children from cruelties of their parents and guardians; but real humanity we have not in this world. They divide a country as they divide a cake; they shoot down men who are fighting for their hearths and homes; they mow down thousands of fellow-beings by maxim guns; they drive children and women from their native homes to shift for themselves in the

best way they can; and all this they do openly before the world without eliciting any comment. Nay, some of the very men who are depopulating an African village, are regular church-goers! Such is the idea of morality of the leading nations in the world. Of course, it is wrong to steal, or to speak a lie on oath; and it is a greater wrong to kill a man. We send men, guilty of offences, enumerated above, to jail or to the gallows. But, it is no crime to rob a country or to murder a nation,—it is only glory! And how they lie too! The Americans say that the Spanish loss was heavy during the bombardment of Matanzas. The Spaniards say that they lost only a mule!

The mail to hand brings the sad news of the death of our well-known countryman, Babu Parbatty Charan Roy, who had married an English lady and taken up his residence in London. He was endowed with high intellectual powers, and his heart was as large as his head. Indeed, he was a remarkable man in several respects. Needless to say, his death will be mourned by a large circle of friends in India. We hope to publish a detailed account of his life in due course. He had been ailing for some time, and suddenly died at Glenwood, Boscombe Park, on the morning of the 13th April, from sudden failure of the heart. To us his death is a grievous personal loss, as he was a dear friend.

"ONE of the supporters of the new sedition law" has given Truth "an instructive and amusing object-lesson in opportunism." But it is better to quote the entire para:—

One of the supporters of the new sedition law in the Indian Legislative Council was Sir Griffith Evans, a non-official member, whose record on this question is worth quoting, as an instructive and amusing object-lesson in opportunism. In 1878, during the administration of Lord Lytton, Sir Griffith was a member of the Council which passed the Vernacular Press Act in 1882, when Lord Ripon was Viceroy. Sir Griffith was a member of the Council which repealed that Act. In 1898, under the Viceroyalty of Lord Elgin, he approves of yet another measure for the muzzling of the press all round, Anglo-Indian as well as Native. The Vicar of Bray kept his living; and Sir Griffith Evans retains his seat on the Council, whatever may happen.

The moral, drawn by Truth, is that Sir G. Evans, like the Vicar of Bray, retains his place. We hope, however, Sir G. Evans will stick to the methods, and will be the colleague of the next Viceroy who repeals this sedition law.

SAID Dr. Weir, Health Officer of Bombay in his recent lecture: "The policy pursued against plague, is placing the whole people in opposition to Government; and I would ask: Has it been seriously considered what the effect must be throughout the country, of the humiliating sight of officials chased for their lives by excited mobs?" The evils of this unsympathetic and short-sighted policy are now getting apparent even to the dullest apprehension. It has effected a complete estrangement between the ruled and the rulers. But how can they live in peace and amity with one another when the relations between them are getting so strained? Of course, the Government has nothing to fear from the educated Indians; but, how to convince the masses that the intention of the authorities is always good, though they may commit blunders now and then? The two incidents, which occurred in rapid succession in Calcutta within the last three days, show the respective attitude of the literate and illiterate classes in India towards the Government. On Sunday last, above one thousand educated men assembled at a public meeting at Sava Bazar to thank Sir John Woodburn for his generous plague policy. But the same policy, or rather a part of it, led not only a large number of Municipal scavengers to strike, and thousands of people to leave the city, but hundreds of men to commit serious riots in different parts of the town. Indeed, the whole town was kept in a state of dreadful excitement for many hours by the riotous conduct of these men. You can't call them badmashes; for, most of them are peaceful citizens,—husbands and fathers—who are never known to have ever broken the public peace. And what made them so furious? Well, they were firmly convinced that the object of this plague inoculation was nothing but to instil poison into their system and make them die a horrible death! They were assured by many educated men that Government had left the matter of inoculation absolutely optional with them; that the authorities would never force it upon them; and that, inoculation was meant for their good. But had they not seen a small-pox vaccinator vaccinating a child? So they were absolutely sure, people were being forcibly inoculated! The fact is, the repressive measures have made them lose all confidence in the Government officials and look upon all their actions with suspicion; so they could never be persuaded to believe in the good intention of the Sarkar. Now, if the masses are apt to lose their head over an innocent and benevolent measure like the Haffkine inoculation, how will it be possible to enforce segregation and similar rigorous measures upon them without moving them violently? The riot is, however, not the most dangerous form of popular outburst in this country. Indeed, the authorities are too strong for any amount of rioting here. It is passive resistance—the instrument of the weak—which is

most to be dreaded. If the carters, coolies and others take it into their head to strike, as they did in Bombay, they may do serious injury to trade and commerce, and the community in general. Then, the health of the town is not in the keeping of the Health Officer, but, in that of the mehters, scavengers and sweepers. What, if they all go out on strike, as a large number of conservancy coolies have already done? Would not then the town be converted into a pandemonium, if they were to give up all work for three or four days together? The fact is, the policy of ruling the country with an iron rod in hand should be changed and the people made to feel that that they have got really a ma bap in Government, by a more humane treatment. Otherwise these mishaps will occur and make the task of ruling this country a really difficult affair.

CALCUTTA has been shocked at the news of the violent death of Babu Suresh Chandra Sarkar, a well-known medical practitioner of Barrackpore and late Vice-Chairman of the South Barrackpore Municipality. We made inquiries in the matter; and the following information has been supplied to us by an esteemed and reliable correspondent:—

The tragic event took place on Friday last between 9 and 9-30 P.M. The carriage of the deceased gentleman was waiting in front of this dispensary on the Station Road, Barrackpore, when three soldiers came, got into it, and told the coachman to drive. The latter declined, upon which a quarrel ensued, and the coachman was beaten. The soldiers then alighted, began to throw bricks at the carriage, and the horses were let loose. The information of all this having reached Babu Suresh, who was at the dispensary at the time, he remonstrated with the soldiers. This, however, was not heeded. The deceased then came out into the street, when one of the soldiers advanced towards him and gave him a blow which stunned him. He fell down senseless, and the three soldiers began to kick him mercilessly. The head of the deceased was fractured, and there was profuse bleeding. Some people then collected on the spot, and arrested one of the soldiers; another, who had taken shelter in a neighbouring masjid, was also arrested and made over to the Police. The third was subsequently identified by his helmet and stick, which he had left behind. The deceased was immediately removed to the Station Hospital where he received every attention at the hands of the Civil Surgeon and the Military Assistant Surgeon attached to the hospital. The deceased never regained his consciousness except for a few minutes only, when he wanted to see his son and his relations. He expired at 5 P.M. on Saturday. The death is mourned by a large circle of friends of the deceased, who was very well connected.

These outrages by soldiers were hitherto confined to simple villagers; it appears now that even educated Indians are not respected by them. We hope, Sir J. Woodburn will see that the culprits are punished according to the enormity of their crime. The incident, we doubt not, will create the profoundest sensation all over the country.

We have received the following letter from Babu Dwarka Nath Ganguli, Secretary to the Sadharan Brahma Samaj, dated the 3rd, on the subject of the Haffkine inoculation:—

It was on the 28th ultimo, full two days before plague was declared by the Government, that I wrote to Dr. Cook, our Health Officer, expressing my willingness to be inoculated; and if my case prove successful, I also offered my whole family for inoculation. On Sunday the 1st instant, Dr. Cook came to my house at 13, Cornwallis Street, at about 5 P.M., with Dr. J. N. Dutt and Dr. S. M. Das and another of his assistants. Almost all the members of my family and several respectable members of our community, with their wives and children above the age of 3 years, have been inoculated, and all of them are doing well. From yesterday morning, numerous inquiries are being made as to the state of our health; and as it is not possible to answer all of them, we hope to be able to publish a full statement of these cases in the course of a day or two.

Our own information on the subject is exactly similar. All those who have had recourse to the Haffkine inoculation, are doing well. The temperature rose to between 102 and 103 degrees in all these cases.

The following telegram was sent to the London Daily News by the public meeting, held on Sunday last at the Sava Bazar Natmandir, to protest against the Calcutta Municipal Bill:—

Despite plague panic grand meeting yesterday protesting Municipal Bill which depriving elected Commissioners powers vests them in official Chairman and Committee of twelve where elected Commissioners hopeless minority. President Rajah Binaykrishna, 22 years' self-government doomed. Bill strongly condemned. Speakers appealed English help. Sir Woodburn thanked for generous plague policy.

The Champion has done a great public service by publishing the correspondence that passed between the Government and the Natu brothers, which is reproduced elsewhere. It will be seen that though the Natus were deprived of the help of friends and legal advisers, one of them was quite competent to hold his own, and to represent his case in a most effective manner. Indeed, the Government was non-plussed on more than one

occasion. When cornered, the Government had the usual reply to extricate itself out of the difficulty, namely, "we decline to hear you." "Why were we arrested at all?" The reply was that they had committed some internal commotion. "But where did we commit it?"—rejoined they. No answer from the Government! They asked the Government that as State prisoners, why should they be treated as ordinary convicts? No answer again from the Government. Of course, the Natus are yet in jail; but the correspondence shows that they have got a moral victory over the Government. They cannot be kept long in custody; indeed, the Bombay Government would do well to release them and thus remove one of the monuments of its great blunder from the constant gaze of the public.

THE PLAGUE.

THERE were no fresh plague cases in Calcutta on 3rd and 4th May, but only two deaths on the 4th.

QUARANTINE has been imposed from May 1st at all Burma ports on all arrivals from all Indian ports.

IN connection with the averted plague riot in village Bhangal, in Nawashar Tahsil, in the Jullundur District, the facts of which were published the other day, some Landholders of the village have been arrested, who had concealed the fact that plague was in their village.

M. Hanotaux, French Foreign Minister, has telegraphed to the French Consul-General, Calcutta, that the regulations decreed on the 4th of January, 1896, and the 15th of April, 1897 have been put into force at all French ports against Calcutta.

The Englishman has received the following telegram from Sirchar: "As plague has appeared in Calcutta, emigrants for Assam should be made to pass via Naihati, and not allowed to touch Calcutta. The emigration of Calcutta coolies should also be stopped for some time. To this proprietors of tea gardens will not object, as a single batch bringing plague to a garden may endanger the lives of thousands."

The Government of India have ordered that no person who was residing in, or passed through, Sind, since March 25th, shall be permitted to embark at any port in British India with the object of proceeding abroad as an emigrant or labourer. This is on account of the outbreak of plague at Karachi. The Government have also forbidden the sale of railway tickets in the Bombay Presidency or Hyderabad State to pilgrims wishing to proceed to Narasimha Swami car festival at Penna-hobalam in the Anantapur District of Madras. This prohibition will extend to May 10th.

The plague is continually decreasing in Bombay, there having been 42 attacks and 23 deaths on Tuesday. It is, however, increasing in virulence in Karachi, and is claiming even a greater number of victims than it did last year. Tuesday's returns show 78 cases and 76 deaths. The Plague Committee have offered certain concessions to all persons who consent to be inoculated. The case of the suspected plague in Jullundur city in the Punjab being diagnosed, the sufferer and his family have been isolated.

PLAGUE broke out on the British India steamer Patna, and Captain Packham reports an exciting passage. The steamer left Bombay on March 24 for Busrah, calling at Kurrachee on the 26th, where it was found, on a medical examination of the crew by the Port authorities, that one of them was suffering from high fever. He was taken ashore for treatment, and undoubted plague symptoms developed. The vessel then proceeded on her voyage, calling at all the ports, en route to Linga. After leaving Linga a lascar died at sea, but there was nothing to indicate that death was due to plague. On arrival at Busrah the authorities there, having learned that the Patna had landed a plague case at Kurrachee, refused absolutely to have anything to do with the ship, and only allowed the mails to be sent ashore. Here the Patna was unavoidably delayed for a day.

The plague figures for the Bombay Presidency for the week ending April 28, show a considerable falling-off. In Bombay there were 454 cases and 343 deaths; Kurrachee, 311 cases and 216 deaths; Poona, two cases and one death. In the Districts, Kaira had one case and no deaths; Broach, three cases and three deaths; Surat, 15 cases and 15 deaths; Thana, 100 cases and 83 deaths; Khandeish, one case and one death; Satara, 27 cases and 25 deaths; Sholapore, one case and no deaths; Kolaba, 15 cases and 13 deaths; Ratnagiri, 23 cases and 21 deaths; Belgaum, 44 cases and 32 deaths; Dharwar, four cases and four deaths; Kurrachee 67 cases and 35 deaths. In the Territories, Baroda recorded 43 cases and 37 deaths; Akalkot, one case and one death; Kolhapore, 33 cases and 26 deaths; Cutch, four cases and two deaths; Rewa Kantha, five cases and six deaths; Palanpur, four cases and four deaths; Sachin, two cases and one death; Bhor, three cases and two deaths; total, 1,173 cases and 871 deaths. The total deaths up to date have been 85,398.

ANOTHER serious plague riot occurred on the morning of 28th ultimo at Gar Shankar, a town of about six thousand inhabitants in Hoshiarpur district in the Punjab. According to the official version, the obstruction offered by the townsmen to the plague measures was almost of a criminal nature, the people concealing the cases, refusing to segregate the sick or to give any information about the progress of the disease. Orders were issued on the 27th ultimo for the evacuation of the town, and the next morning the plague officers went to enforce the order with a posse of police, a number of them being armed with sniders and backshot. A crowd collected, and as a party of about 50 Police were advancing up a narrow lane, they were assailed with brickbats, on which the police guard are said to have been exasperated beyond the control of the officers and fired upon the people without orders. When the firing was stopped, it was found that 9 persons were killed and 27 wounded, while on the side of the plague party three British officers were hit and three constables severely hurt. There was no further opposition. All the male inhabitants were either arrested or turned out, and the town was quickly cleared.

MUKTEARSHIP EXAMINATION.—Wednesday's Calcutta Gazette publishes the results of the last Muktearship Examination, 211 candidates having passed out of more than 1500.

A BRANCH RAILWAY.—The Secretary of State has sanctioned the construction by the India General Steam Navigation Company of a branch railway from Mymensingh to Tagernathganj.

THE ECONOMIC REPORTER.—Dr. George Watt, Economic Reporter to the Government of India, has been granted leave for eight months. Mr. D. Hooper, Curator of the Indian Museum, Economic and Art Section, officiates.

HOWRAH-AMTA TRAMWAY.—The following is the approximate return of traffic and mileage for the week ended the 23rd of April on 16 1/2 miles open:—Total traffic for the week, Rs. 157; for previous 15 weeks of half year Rs. 38, 401 total; for 16 weeks Rs. 41,053.

CROP PROSPECTS IN BENGAL.—There was rain in Jalpaiguri and Darjiling and in parts of Mymensingh during the week. Rain is generally required, and in some parts the cultivation of early rice and jute is being retarded for want of moisture. Young sugarcane, indigo and China millet are doing well. The harvesting of spring rice continues. Prices remain steady. Cattle-disease continues in Lohardaga, but is abating in Angul. Cases are reported from Hughli, the 24-Parganas, Khulna, Shahabad, Monghyr, Phagalpur, and Purnea. Insufficiency of fodder-supply is reported from places in Nadia, Jessore, Bogra, and Noakhali, and of water-supply in these places and also in places in the 24-Parganas, Rangpur, Dacca, Mymensingh, and Tippera.

A COW-KILLING RIOT.—On Monday last a serious riot took place at Gofa, near Jalpaiguri Railway Station, in Thanna Tallyganje, between Hindus and Mahomedans under the following circumstances. It appears that the Mahomedans of the locality in order to celebrate the Bakrid festival, attempted to kill a cow at a place within sight of the Hindu community and which was never before used for such purpose. The Hindus objected to the sacrifice at that spot and tried to snatch away the intended victim. The Mahomedans, about two hundred in number, were all armed with dangerous weapons. A fire fight ensued, in the course of which several persons were more or less seriously injured on both sides. The Sub-Inspector, Babu S. K. Boral, of Tallyganje Thanna, on getting information, proceeded to the spot with a large number of armed Reserve Force and with great pluck and energy succeeded in dispersing the riotous mob, who at one time threatened his life. Some of the rioters were arrested and will shortly be placed before the Magistrate of Alipur.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. Hallifax is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magt. and Coll. of Jessore.

Babu Surendra Nath Chakravarti, Offg. Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., is posted to Comillah.

Babu Jyotis Chandra Acheryya, Offg. Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., is posted to Dumka.

Babu Srinath Sen, Offg. Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., Howrah, is transferred to Noakhali.

Babu Sasi Bhusan Dutta, Offg. Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., Siliguri, Darjeeling, is posted to Bhagalpur.

Kumar Grindra Narayan Deb, Joint-Mate. and Dy. Coll., 24-Parganas, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the Sonthal Parganas district.

Babu Bangshi Dhar Banerjee, Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., is posted to the head-quarters station of the district of Muzaffarpur.

Babu Mokunda Deb Mookerjee, Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., is allowed furlough for one year.

Mr. R. H. S. Hutchinson, Asstt Superintendent of Police, is appointed to have charge of the Singhbhum District Police.

Mr. G. H. P. Livesay, District Superintendent of Police, Dinajpur, is allowed special leave for six months.

Babu Ras Behari Biswas, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Noakhali, is appointed to act as District Superintendent of Police, Dinajpur.

Mr. W. Y. Reilly, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Muzaffarpur, is appointed, until further orders, to have charge of the Noakhali District Police.

Babu Brij Bansi Sahai, substantive pro tempore Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., employed as Personal Assistant to the Inspector General of Registration, Bengal, is allowed leave for two months.

The services of Babu Jnan Saran Chakravarti, Professor, Hooghly College, are placed at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

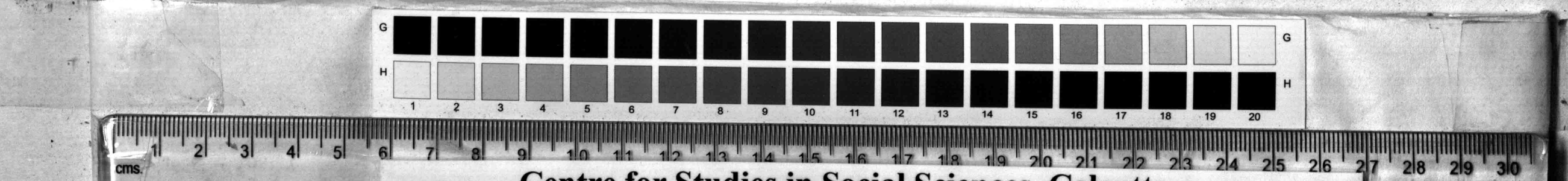
Babu Kumard Bandhu Bose, Assistant Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Division, is allowed leave for three months, Babu Baikuntha Nath Ray, Second Master, Dacca Collegiate School acting for him.

Babu Tara Prasanna Dass, Munif of Habiganj, in the district of Sylhet, has obtained leave of absence for one month.

Babu Mati Lal Haldar, Additional Munif, in the district of Mymensingh, and Officiating Subordinate Judge of Tippera, is appointed substantive pro tempore Additional Subordinate Judge in the district of Sylhet, but will act, until further orders, in his present appointment as Officiating Subordinate Judge of Tippera.

Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose, Officiating Munif of Ghatil, in the district of Midnapore, is appointed to act as a Munif in the same district, to be ordinarily stationed at Tamluk.

Babu Sasi Bhusan Banerjee, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munif in the district of Chittagong, to be ordinarily stationed at Patiya.





Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

THE CURRENCY DESPATCH.

BOMBAY, MAY 2.

The London correspondent of the "Bombay Gazette" publishes the substance of the Government of India's despatch on currency question. The despatch asserts that the value of rupees is to be determined by the amount of coin in circulation. The rupee value is to be raised by the gold reserve and by removing the redundancy of the silver currency. Twenty millions sterling is to be borrowed in England and shipped to India in sovereigns. Five millions will be shipped immediately. Ten crores of rupees will be melted and sold as bullion. Sovereign is to be used in India as current coin. Mr. Lindsay's and Mr. Probyn's schemes have been rejected. The Government of India's proposals are condemned in England.

SIMLA, MAY 4.

A Gazette of India extraordinary announces currency proposal. Government despatch describes experience since 1893 and argues the necessity of taking active measure to secure stability in exchange. Government suggests effective introduction of gold standard and says it will be welcomed by all, puts forward Messrs Lindsay's and Probyn's proposals, stress being laid on Mr. Lindsay's as it is supplemented by the Minute of Sir J. Westland.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

The news of the Plague breaking out in Calcutta has paralyzed the bazar here. On Saturday opium dealings were at a standstill, as the Calcutta agents stopped it.

EXPORTATION OF NURSES AND DOCTORS.

Two Nurses, Miss Chick and Miss Fry, and two doctors, Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Justice, left for Calcutta on Saturday. The Bengal Government has asked for 25 doctors who follow.

PLAGUE IN BOMBAY.

Plague is decreasing in Bombay and throughout the presidency. The Plague Committee have wound up business. Future arrangements have not been announced.

FOOTBALL MATCH.

BRAHMANBARIA, MAY 3.

Yesterday an Association football match between Sarail Sporting and Brahmanbaria Athletic Club, the latter scored one goal within four minutes. The former left the field abruptly though requested to play by the "gentry" present.

A MUNICIPAL QUESTION.

BARRACKPORE, MAY 3.

A crowded meeting of the ratepayers representing all sections of the community, was held at the Sodepore School premises and strongly protested against the Municipal Commissioners' resolution, excluding some wards from the South Barrackpore Municipality. Great enthusiasm prevailed.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

LONDON, APRIL 29.

This morning the American monitor Terror captured the large Spanish steamer Guido, with a valuable cargo on board, after an exciting chase.

The Spanish official account of the bombardment of Matanzas states that only one mule was killed.

Portugal has proclaimed her neutrality. American has chartered eight large steamers as transports, and rumours are current that a despatch of troops to Cuba is impending. The Spanish squadron has left St. Vincent in Cape Verde Islands, but its destination is kept a secret.

The British steamer Esmeralda has been chartered by the banks, and has left Hongkong for Manila to bring away specie from there, and hopes to succeed in doing so before the American attack takes place.

Simultaneously with the bombardment of Matanzas, the insurgents advanced on the town, but were repulsed with a loss of twenty killed. This indicates that the Americans and insurgents are already co-operating.

LONDON, APRIL 30.

The American fear that Key West will be the first port the Spanish will attack.

The American flying squadron has been despatched to meet the Spanish squadron, which has already sailed from St. Vincent.

The American squadron has been sighted off Bolinao in the Philippines, where the rebellion took place last February. The Americans have been unable to communicate with rebels there owing to the weather being too stormy.

The German cruiser "Irene" has left Nagasaki for Manila.

The "Queen," who is returning home from the Riviera, is weather bound at Cherbourg.

NEW YORK, APRIL 30.

The Washington House of Representatives have passed a Bill creating a war revenue, including the increase in tonnage dues.

The British, French and German representatives at Washington are protesting against the increase in American tonnage dues, and hopes are entertained that some modifications will be made; otherwise their trade will be transferred to Canadian and Mexican ports.

LONDON, MAY 2.

Telegraphic advices received at Madrid state that the American Squadron appeared in Manila Bay on Sunday-morning at five o'clock, and at once opened a hot cannonade against the Spanish Squadron and shore forts. The Spanish cruiser Don Juan de Austria was severely damaged and another vessel was burned. The American Squadron retired, also badly damaged. The engagement was afterwards renewed, when the Americans again suffered considerable loss and the Spanish warships Mindanao and Ulloa were slightly damaged. The Spaniards admit that their losses were numerous.

Later official despatches received at Madrid from Manila indicate a complete Spanish defeat. The Maria Christina, Don Juan de Austria, and Castillo have been destroyed and the other ships retired, some being sunk to prevent capture. Presumably no American ships have been destroyed as the despatches are silent on this point.

The United States warships Oregon and Mariatta have arrived at Rio, and sail northward to-morrow, accompanied by the Brazilian warship Nictkero, which has been purchased by America from the Brazilian Government.

Madrid is greatly excited at the news of the Spanish defeat in the Philippines, and the people are openly lamenting the state of unpreparedness at Manila, which led to the defeat. Mounted civic guards are preserving order in the streets.

In the naval engagement at Manila one American ship was disabled, and the Spanish squadron was utterly destroyed. Cavite has been razed to the ground, and part of Manila is ablaze. Consequent on the bombardment the American Admiral, through the British Consul, demanded the surrender of all torpedoes and guns in the possession of the Spaniards, besides cable officers, otherwise the bombardment of the town would ensue. The Governor refused to comply with these demands, and cut the cable.

Six American and eight Spanish ships were engaged in the battle on Sunday, but the American ships were of far heavier armament and of more modern class than the Spanish ships.

The victory of the Americans at Manila has produced a buoyancy on the European Bourses, it being construed as the beginning of the end of the war.

LONDON, MAY 3.

Martial law has been proclaimed in Madrid owing to ominous indications. The mob yesterday tried to break into Apollo Theatre for the purpose of making a demonstration, but were prevented from doing so.

The German warship Gefion has left Shanghai for Philippines.

The Washington Senate Committee has decided to suppress increased tonnage dues.

Owing to the rise in the price of wheat France has suspended the corn duties until the 1st of July.

The British gunboat Linnet has gone to Manila and the cruiser Immortalite has also been ordered to proceed thither and watch British interests. The British cruiser Talbot has arrived at Havana.

The United States Treasury estimate that the war will increase the expenditure by 50,000,000 dollars for the next two months, completely exhausting the currency in the Treasury; hence Congress will be asked immediately to authorize a bond issue.

London writes in reply to enquiries from Bombay that no details beyond what have already been sent have been received of the Manila battle.

THE CHINA QUESTION.

LONDON, APRIL 29.

Mr. Balfour, replying to questions in the House of Commons, said the Government had spontaneously informed Germany that the occupation of Wei-hai-Wei was no directed against German rights at Shantung, and that it was not intended to construct a railway to the interior, which, he believed, was impracticable.

A debate took place in the House of Commons to-night on the China question. Sir William Harcourt severely criticised the policy of the Government in recognising Shantung as within the German sphere of influence, as a violation of the treaty of Tientsin. He also condemned the withdrawal of our warships from Port Arthur.

Mr. Balfour in reply to the attack, denied that there had been any violation of the treaty of Tientsin. He only admitted spheres of "interest," not "influence." They would always maintain equal commercial rights in China. The taking of Wei-hai-Wei he said, was solely diplomatic, without reference to the trade of Shantung, and hence he failed to see the objection to conciliating German opinion. Government, he said, was not justified in going to war over Port Arthur, the occupation of which had been in defiance of Russia. The occupation of Wei-hai-Wei was no humiliation. Russia had no reason for permanently strained relations.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

LONDON, APRIL 30.

The following are the names of the Committee appointed to enquire into the Indian Currency question:—Sir Henry Fowler, Chairman, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir John Muir, Sir Francis Mowat, Sir David Barbour, Sir Charles Crosthwaite, Sir Alfred Dent, Messrs. F. C. Lemarchant, Hambro, Holland (President) of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Robert Campbell, Chief Manager of the National Bank of India, with Mr. Robert Chalmers, of the Treasury as Secretary.

Lord George Hamilton, writing to Sir Henry Fowler to announce the names of the Committee, urges a speedy decision, and says it will be the duty of the Committee to examine the proposals of the Indian Government and any other matter which is strictly relevant thereto, including the probable effect of any of the proposed changes in the monetary system upon the internal trade of India and taxation, and to submit any suggestions which they may think advisable for the establishing of a satisfactory currency system and securing stable exchange.

On the night of 22nd April last at about 8 o'clock at Rangpur, a splendid meteor was seen to travel from east to west.

It is notified that His Excellency the Viceroy will hold the Birthday Levee at the Viceregal Lodge, Simla, at 9-45 P. M. on May 24th.

COLONEL BARR, Agent to the Governor-General, Central India, proceeds on three months' leave in July. Mr. C. S. Bayley, Superintendent of the Thaghi Department, will officiate. Captain S. Bayley, now officiating as Assistant Secretary, Foreign Office, goes to Rawal as Political Agent when Mr. Bosanquet returns from leave immediately.

THE Kashmir Durbar have prohibited the removal from nests and the sale of eggs of water-hens, grebes, etc. Thousands of eggs used to be taken by boatmen from reed beds in the lakes and sold in the bazar. As this practice is now stopped, these species of wild fowl should be found in very large numbers in the Kashmir lakes. A fine serai, costing about Rs. 40,000 has been built by the State at Srinagar. It is open to ekkas and carts and has got comfortable accommodation for travellers and private rooms. It has been fitted with pipe water, and its sanitary arrangements are satisfactory. The rent is moderate.

THE RIOT IN CALCUTTA.

APRIL 3.

FROM early morning yesterday there were indications of a general outbreak throughout the city. Groups of excited persons could be seen collected along the sides of Circular Road, Cornwallis Street, Machooa Bazar, Chitpore Road, etc., as if waiting for a signal for any riot that might break out in the city. Some of these men were armed with bamboo sticks, which they were flourishing, and at times aiming blows against imaginary inoculators. At 9 o'clock a rumour was circulated hurriedly that an Eurasian inoculator and his native assistant had been severely assaulted in Sova Bazar, and that another party of inoculators had been roughly handled at Nickaripara, Sbambar. This news spread like wild fire and the lower classes of people leaving their daily avocations ran to join the excited mob who had already collected on the roadsides. In an hour's time the gathering increased in proportion and a large body of people were up in arms, principally in Cornwallis Street and Chitpore Road. The crowd was so enormous and the excitement was so great that all traffic had to be stopped. The train service in Cornwallis Street and Chitpore Road had to be suspended from ten o'clock to 1 o'clock. It is at 1 o'clock that assistants in mercantile and Government offices generally go by tram and the rioters made it a point to compel the "office Babus" to leave the car and go home. By 1 o'clock the rank of the rioters was swelled by carters and ghariwallahs who struck work in a body. Not a single hackney carriage could be had for money or for love after 11 o'clock. The coolies of Hindus and Mussalman in a body struck work. The business throughout the day was in a standstill. Most of the shops in Cornwallis Street and Chitpore were kept closed yesterday. What with the heavy exodus of the last few days, what with the closing of shops and what with the absence of carriages and carts the streets of Calcutta presented a deserted appearance yesterday. The strikers expressed a determination to hold out till the Sircar withdrew its order of compulsory inoculation. No amount of argument or eloquence could convince them that there was no such order and that inoculation was optional and not compulsory. As to the cause of the riot there are different versions. The following is the police version of the cause:—

A sweet-meat-seller, named Sewlal, as usual went to the Sulkeah Salt Golah day before yesterday to sell sweet-meat. Two European lads to make a fun put some red ink mark in the neck of Sewlal with a pen-knife and told him that he was inoculated with plague virus. Keeping the sweet-meat basket in the salt golah, Sewlal ran as fast as he could and cried aloud that he had been forcibly inoculated by two sahibs. The people who heard him believed it, the rumour spread and there were many to confirm the false rumour to the effect that they had seen people inoculated who met with almost instantaneous death. This was the cause how the illiterate people got infected with inoculation scare and lost their sense. The people's version is, however, different. We understand that the Corporation have appointed a number of travelling inoculators who have been instructed for the convenience of the people to inoculate them in their houses. It is rumoured that some of these men in their zeal for the work, entrusted to them forcibly inoculated several persons who died instantly. This rumour was circulated widely throughout the town on Monday night and the result was the yesterday's outbreak.

INCIDENTS OF THE RIOT.

The illiterate people were in search of plague inoculators. They found some vaccinators whom they mistook for inoculators. Yesterday morning, one was found in Sham-pooker, another in Chitpore and the third in Bencatolla. They were roughly handled and severely wounded by the infuriated mob. The news spread like lightning, and even little boys and girls were heard telling aloud, "there the inoculator comes," though none saw one. Mischievous and foolish people ran as they heard the news to have a glance at the inoculators, with the cry of *mar mar*. The wounded men were removed to the *thana*. In Chitpore Road at Grey Street crossing inspector Aldridge was driving at about 3 A. M. when he was attacked by a mob who threw bricks at him and struck him with *lathis*. But he turned his carriage and drove away as fast as he could. A constable of the Sukeas Street Thana has received some injuries. Five arrests were made in Comertolly.

In Cornwallis Street a Mr. R. R. Bose, a native Christian, was severely beaten by a mob and was removed to hospital. A tram-car driver in Chitpore had also received some injuries at the time when the mob attacked a European passenger in the car, who escaped unhurt. Two Europeans were severely assaulted in front of the Medical College in Arpuli Lane. They and a Bengalee gentleman went there to hire a carriage. The ghariwallah refused to go. They then called a constable and demanded from the ghariwallah the number of the carriage. On this the mob who assembled in Arpuli Lane attacked them. The Bengalee Babu escaped, and all the fury of the mob was directed against the two Europeans. They were wounded. An Assistant Surgeon being wounded was admitted in the Medical College Hospital.

DISPERSION OF THE MOB.

At noon yesterday the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent in Davis and Millard with a number of European constables went round the places where the mob had collected and explained to them that no one was to be forcibly inoculated and inoculation was optional with them. At the sight of the Police the mob dispersed. The Police behaved admirably well throughout the day. By the order of the Commissioner of Police a notice was circulated widely by beat of tomlion that inoculation was not compulsory but optional and that any person who would be found to approach the people for inoculating them forcibly should be arrested and every arrest of such persons would be rewarded with Rs. 50. It does not seem that the circulation of the notice totally allayed the feeling. People say that if inoculation is so prophylactic against plague why do not the big *sahibs* set the example first, instead of inoculating the poor people?

Some Military Police have been posted in the plague and segregation camps as a precautionary measure. The District Reserve

Police and the Military Police have been placed in various parts of the town.

One Nafar Chandra Das, a petty school master, and one Jitu have been arrested in Taltola and Fenwick Bazar respectively on the alleged charge of falsely representing them before the people as plague inoculators appointed by the Municipality and for blackmailing them. They will be shortly placed before the Chief Presidency Magistrate for trial.

RIOT AT HOWRAH.

News of a serious riot was reported yesterday from Howrah. An excited mob composed principally of the employes of Messrs. Burn and Co, Messrs. John King and Co, etc, was collected in front of the workshop of Messrs. Burn and Co and was loudly expressing their intention of executing lynch law on the first inoculator they would come across. A well-known pleader of the Howrah Court went to explain to them that the Government had no intention to inoculate people compulsorily. He was not believed and seeing that the mob was getting more and more excited, and thinking that discretion was the better part, valour, he promptly withdrew. The Police, headed by the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police, then arrived at the scene and promptly dispersed the crowd.

FEELING OF THE PEOPLE.

The feeling of the lower classes of people was in feverish excitement yesterday. No amount of reasoning could convince them that they had entirely misapprehended the intention of the Government. Did they not read the notice issued by the Patrika office stating clearly the intentions of Government that inoculation would be entirely optional? Oh yes, they did, many would say, they read the notice in the vernacular and at first believed what was said in it, but now they had found out that the Patrika and they themselves were all duped.

"How was that?" "Oh, that was merely a ruse on the part of Government to stop the exodus. Haven't you heard, Babu Sahib, of forcible inoculation by Sircar's men and immediate death of the people?"

"This is all rubbish. Government never intends to inoculate compulsorily. Don't believe in all these rumours."

The old man gave a shake of the head—an ominous shake. It is hard to make him understand that no forcible inoculation was going on. Although he had not seen it with his own eyes, others who had seen a Sikh-looking man and a Eurasian seizing people and inoculating them invariably with fatal results had told him so. Such was the state of feeling among the lower class of people in Calcutta yesterday. The continued exodus among better class of people had also contributed to the intensity of the feeling.

India and England.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, APRIL 15.

SPAIN AND AMERICA.

No one this week can talk or think of anything but the impending war between the United States and Spain, which is now, I fear, quite inevitable. The President of the United States and the Queen of Spain, with their respective Cabinets, have honestly striven to arrive at some compromise that might eventually bring a final settlement of the Cuban difficulty; but the popular passions of the people in both countries, have snatched the negotiations out of their hands, and nothing but a miracle can now stop the coming conflict. Spain is waiting for America to make the first move, and this week, or early next week, there can be little doubt that war will be declared. The President's long-delayed message to Congress was presented on Monday. It was as moderate in tone as the circumstances and the just indignation of the American people would allow, and its only blot was the declaration that the Spanish Government were responsible for the blowing-up of the "Maine" in Havana harbour, for which there may be suspicion, but for which there is not a shred of evidence. Congress consists of two Chambers, the Senate and the House of Representatives. In both of these assemblies, the feeling for war and impatience of the President's delay have been steadily increasing all last week. The constitutional process of the United States provides that war cannot be declared against another Power, until a message, asking for powers, has been sent by the President, and until Congress has replied to the message by passing Resolutions, instructing him how to proceed. The President's message will reach you in detail in this week's file of English papers. On Wednesday, a Committee of the two Houses drew up Resolutions to be submitted to their respective bodies. The following is the one submitted to the House of Representatives, which they carried at once by the overwhelming majority of 322 votes to 19:—

"Resolved, that the President is hereby authorised and directed to intervene at once to stop the war in Cuba to the end and with the purpose of securing permanent peace and order there and establishing by the free action of the people thereof a stable and independent Government of their own in the island of Cuba, and the President is hereby authorised and empowered to use the land and naval forces of the United States to execute the purpose of this Resolution."

The Resolution, drafted by the Committee of the Senate, goes further even than that of the Congress. It is as follows:—

"Whereas the abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States, and have been a disgrace to Christian civilisation, and, culminating, as they have, in the destruction of a United States Battleship with 266 of its officers and crew while on a friendly visit to the harbour of Havana, cannot longer be endured, as has been set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress on April 11, 1898, upon which the action of Congress was requested. It was therefore resolved,

(1) That the people of the island of Cuba are of right, and ought to be, free and independent.

(2) That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States does hereby demand, that the Government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and

withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

(3) That the President of the United States be, and hereby is, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such an extent as may be necessary to carry these Resolutions into effect."

The Senate as befits a more Conservative Upper Chamber, declined to discuss the Resolutions at the sitting at which it was presented to them and adjourned on Wednesday without arriving at any decision. These Resolutions, as will be seen at a glance, differ in substance as well as in form; and they will have to be reconciled by a Conference between the two Houses, before they can become operative. I do not know if I shall hear the decision of the Senate before the mail closes; but no one doubts that the Resolutions will be carried by an overwhelming majority. The passions of two nations are fairly aroused, and no one expresses the faintest hope that hostilities can be averted.

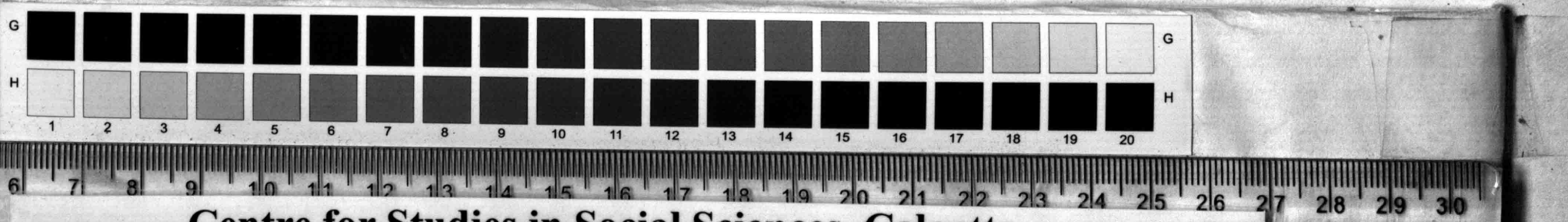
There can, of course, be little doubt of the eventual result of the war. The overwhelming wealth and population of the United States must prevail in the long run. But in the meantime, the States, which has to be the attacking power, is ill prepared for her worth. Her task is simply that of invading Cuba, subduing its capital, Havana, strongly fortified and defended by an army of 150,000 regular troops and a navy of equal, if not superior, strength to her own. The Regular Army of the United States is only 25,000; but there is behind it an organised militia, imperfect and ill-trained, with a nominal strength of about 1,000,000 more. It will, no doubt, require all this and more to subdue the Spanish forces in Cuba, even with the aid of the Cuban rebels, and it will be no small task to get them collected, transported to the island, and communications kept open for supplies and Commissariat generally; for, the island itself is a howling wilderness, as the result of years of savage civil war, and cannot feed its own people, to say nothing of a foreign army and its followers. The more I consider the relative strength and preparedness for war of the two nations, more deeply I sympathise with the manifest reluctance of the President, who is also Commander-in-chief of Army and Navy, to make the final declaration of war. That the States will eventually win and drive the Spaniards out of Cuba, no one in his senses can doubt; but the American people will have some better experiences to go through before it is accomplished, and the legacy of victory will be a big standing army and a huge costly navy, besides a war loss of hundreds of million dollars, which they can never hope to recover from a bankrupt Spain, to say nothing of the worry and responsibility of establishing a decently settled Government in Cuba. Then, unfortunately for the United States, she has never entered the Geneva Convention, and therefore, Spain, which has little or no shipping for reprisal, can fit out any number of privateers to prey upon American commerce; and with the great advantage Spain possesses in cruisers over the American Navy, she ought, if she plays her hand well, to sweep the high seas clean of American merchant-shipping, even if she is not able, as she may be, to leave the defence of Havana from the sea in the hands of her very competent torpedo flotilla, and to send her 7 armoured cruisers to ravage the coast towns of the United States. When one remembers the utter destruction of America's merchant fleets during the Civil War, by a single privateer, the Alabama, slipped out of a neutral port, there is no limit to the mischief possible to the United States commerce at the hands of Spanish cruisers. Spain is very strong in such craft. She possesses 16 modern cruisers of the first and second class against 18, owned by the U. S. Navy, all of which have a speed of not less than 14 knots, able to catch any merchant steamer not a mail packet. But then, she has 31 more, with a speed of not less than 12 knots, as compared with 12 only in the U. S. Navy. Then, the United States will require the whole of her naval forces for coast defence, and to maintain her route to Cuba after she has successfully invaded the island. The defence of Havana from the sea may easily be managed by the few fleet of Torpedo craft which Spain has now got safely across the Atlantic, and which, once on Havana harbour, could defend it from a fleet twice as powerful as that of the United States, which has only 3 Torpedo boats with which to repel Spanish cruisers carrying her immense sea-board. It is clear, therefore, that America, war once declared, is in for a big job, and must suffer considerably before the final, and no doubt, certain, conquest of Cuba can be effected. It is hard to see where or how a crushing or decisive victory can be secured by the United States; and although the Monroe policy of the United States is viewed with much distrust by all European Powers, there is no likelihood of any of them intervening in the quarrel.

A SIMLA telegram to the *Englishman* says that there is a growing belief that Lord Balfour of Burleigh will succeed Lord Elgin as Viceroy of India.

OVER 3,000 workmen in the Perambore Railway Workshops of the Madras Railway, struck work on Monday in consequence of the railway authorities giving effect to an order of the Board of Directors of the Madras Railway to reduce expenditure. The Military and Police have been summoned to prevent any disturbance.

REPORTS from Chumba which have reached the Meteorological Department at Simla, state that there is practically no accumulation of snow up to ten thousand feet elevation, and on the Passes the snow depth is unusually small. The Pach Pass 14,300 feet high was open a month earlier than usual. The winter, also, in Chumba, has been the mildest for twenty-six years. All this points strongly to an early setting in of the monsoon this year.

THE military works have now been all completed at Bagmare, Jehangiri, Forts Maude, Sam Browne, and Ali Musjid. General Symons on Friday saw the headmen and elders of the Pakki section of the Khyber Zakka Khels and the Farid Khel section of the Khyber Kuki Khels of Lala China. They were told that orders had been received from Government that pending the final settlement of the Khyber no towers or walled defences were to be built in or near the Khyber Pass. They quietly acquiesced.





THE NATU BROTHERS.

NATU ASKS FOR MAINTENANCE.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY, 30th July, 1897.

SIR, I beg to lay before Government the following lines for their favourable consideration:-

I and my brother Mr. Hari Ramchandra Natu were arrested by Mr. Kennedy, the Police Superintendent of Poona, very early in the morning of the 28th instant at our house, and were taken away in a separate carriage and kept separately in the bungalow situated near the Sassoon Hospital, where the European Punitive Police constables are living.

I asked Mr. Kennedy the reason at the time of arrest, but he informed me that he received a warrant from Government and gave no reason. When we were arrested, I requested Mr. Kennedy at my house at the time of arrest, that he should allow us to obey the call of nature and to take bath, &c., but my request was rejected, and gave me in charge of Mr. Moore, the Bombay Police Inspector, and he brought me to the above-mentioned bungalow.

At about 10 a.m. Messrs. Brewin and Kennedy came there and told me that I must tell something about the murders, and Mr. Kennedy abused me then and there. I told him that I knew nothing about the matter, and also I was out of Poona since the 18th June till the 30th of June last.

As it is mentioned in the preamble of the said Regulation, I don't think that I have acted in such a way that Government should make me a State prisoner, and therefore I humbly request that I should be informed the reasons for making me a State prisoner, so that I may be able to satisfy and request the Government for cancelling the warrant which is issued by the Government.

Under Section 2 of the said Regulation, Government has to fix such allowance for my support as State prisoner as may seem to them expedient in reference to my habits and rank in society.

I have been given one of the rooms of a juvenile ward, but that place is not suitable to my health, habits, and customs, and as the Superintendent has not received any order from Government, and the Superintendent is not in a position to make adequate supply of my wants in all respects, I am liable to injure my health. I have no clothing, bedding, sofa, chairs, domestic utensils, servants, and no Dekkani Brahmin servant of my caste to prepare food.

My English knowledge is very poor and therefore I want to write this petition in Marathi, but the Superintendent told me that I must write in English, and only for this reason I have written this application in English hoping that you will excuse me for not writing it properly.

In conclusion, I request you to move Government to cancel the warrant which is issued, if not the reasons may be kindly given to enable me to put my case before Government to support my contentions and give orders to the Superintendent to make the necessary and adequate provisions for my lodging, boarding, clothing, exercise and driving according to my habits and rank in society to preserve my health in a place like prison.

I have &c., (Sd.) B. R. NATU, and Class Sirdar and Inamdar.

THE GOVERNMENT'S REASONS FOR IMPRISONING THE NATUS.

Copy of the orders of the Government, dated 2nd September 1897, passed upon the representations made by State Prisoner Balwant Ramchandra Natu in his application dated 30th July 1897.

"The State prisoner may be informed that, as he, doubtless, is already aware from the arrangements since made by the Jail authorities, the majority of the requests submitted by him on that and subsequent occasions have been met; he may be further informed that the reason for his arrest is that Government thought it necessary to place him under personal restraint for the better security of a part of Her Majesty's dominions from internal commotion."

Statement of Sirdar B. R. Natu before the Superintendent, Ahmedabad Central Jail Prison, on 4th September 1897.

I was informed by the Superintendent, some days ago that he had been authorized to provide a Mahatma Brahmin cook for the purpose of cooking my food, but that the food was to be cooked outside the prison and brought inside to me by the cook at meal times, the cook not being available for my service inside the prison at any other time. I told the Superintendent that a cook on such terms would be of no use, and that I would not eat food cooked outside, and hence no cook has been supplied up to the present. At the request of the Superintendent I now give my reasons in detail for refusing the services of a cook on the above terms.

1. That it is against the tenets of the Hindu religion to eat food which has been cooked in a house or building other than that in which it is to be eaten. 2. That food being brought along a road or path used by all castes of people is liable to pollution. In fact, according to our religion, the food ought not to be looked upon by a person of another caste. 3. That food brought from outside would be cold and unpalatable by the time it reached me. 4. That a Brahmin cook, in addition to his services as a cook, is required to wash *digpis*, to carry water, to clean utensils used for worship (Sandhya, &c.), and to perform other domestic duties which can only be performed by a Brahmin.

5. That in accordance with the rules of our religion, two meals should not be eaten in the day time, the second meal being always eaten at night. I have always used to having my second meal between 9 and 9 p.m., and at that hour the jail closed for the night. Being an orthodox Brahmin, I am bound to maintain the rules of my religion and not to change my hours of taking food.

I have, for the above reasons, not availed myself the services of a Mahatma Brahmin cook, and most do so unless he is permitted to cook in the house where I am confined and to perform the duties I have pointed out.

At present, I am put to great inconvenience and diship, as I have to perform all domestic offices myself, which I have never been accustomed to, and to cook my own food with no knowledge of cooking.

(Sd.) B. R. NATU.

THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT FURTHER CONSIDER NATU'S PROPOSALS.

Copy of the Orders passed by Government on representations made by the State Prisoner, Balwant Ramchandra Natu, in his application, dated 1st September 1897.

The questions raised by him have all been already disposed of by orders which Government are not at present prepared to further consider. If the State prisoner prefers to cook his own food rather than accept the arrangements sanctioned, there is no reason to object to his doing so. Should he at any time change his mind, the arrangements sanctioned can be brought into operation.

NATU DECLARES HE HAS NOT DISTURBED THE PEACE.

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY, 23rd September 1897.

SIR, I beg to state that I was told verbally by the Superintendent of Ahmedabad Central Jail the reply of my three applications, and also a reply in regard to the report of the District Magistrate, Ahmedabad, in respect of my arrangements.

The reason given by Government in report of my arrest is as follows: "Government thought it necessary to place him under personal restraint for the better security of a part of Her Majesty's dominions from internal commotion."

I have been arrested and made a State prisoner for the above reason, which is one of the reasons given in the preamble of the Regulation 25 of 1827, but I think the above reason is not a clear one, as I have not acted at any time in any way in my whole life for disturbing the public and making internal commotion in Her Majesty's dominions. I did not at any time give seditious speeches or lectures and had no connection with the vernacular paper as seditious correspondent. But if Government have sufficient evidence that I have acted otherwise and that is the reason of my arrest, I beg that evidence may be kindly mentioned to me so that I will satisfy Government in the matter.

In regard to my personal arrangements as a State prisoner I gave a list to the District Magistrate of Ahmedabad for 12 items (whose list is already forwarded to Government) in which he himself gave order to the Superintendent for Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 11 and 12, and from that list Nos. 6, 8, 9 and 4 were referred by him to Government for orders. The Superintendent informed me verbally that Government do not think proper to make arrangements for those items for the present. But as Government sanctioned Rs. 300 per month for my expense, I think Government indirectly sanction all the items, on this condition that the amount of expense should not be increased more than Rs. 300 per month. According to the present arrangement the feeding charges per month will come to Rs. 20 to 30 utmost, and there was no necessity for making an allowance of Rs. 300 a month. But according to (the State Prisoner's) my habit and rank in society under the said Regulation, and therefore that amount is sanctioned by Government which will be quite necessary for me in regard to my habit and rank in society. Whereas Government had not sanctioned those items but rejected from that, namely, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10, and 12 for the present. Item 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10, and 12 for the present. Item 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10, and 12 for the present. Item 4, 6, 8, 9 and 10, and 12 for the present.

From the above you will come to know that out of 12 items most important items are not sanctioned by Government, which things I am entitled to get all of them after my arrest under the said Regulation. Government made me a State prisoner, but I have to suffer rigorous imprisonment in respect of cooking and other domestic work. Ordinary convicts such as murderers, etc., are allowed to see their family members and their pleaders, whereas that concession is not given to me.

In conclusion I request you to lay before Government this application for their favourable consideration, and if Government are satisfied that I have not acted illegally I request that may be communicated to me that I may explain to the Government for releasing me. Lastly, all the items which are asked by me to the District Magistrate should be given to me as those are wanted badly in accordance with my habits and rank in society. I have always taken drive or walk daily, and if I do not get proper exercise my health will fall bad. I have never done cooking or other household duties, and always had plenty servants, and it is great hardship for me now with no Maratha cook or servant of any sort. In accordance with the Regulation, Government are bound to take into account my habit and rank in society but sorry to inform you that this has not been done.

I have &c., (Sd.) B. R. NATU, No. 3459 of 1897.

BALWANT RAMCHANDRA NATU Esq., Ahmedabad, 24th September, 1897.

SIR, In reply to your letter of 23rd instant, I have the honour to inform you that I do not think any letter from your brother has been sent to me and not forwarded to you. 2. As regards requests Nos. 6, 8, 9 and 10, to the Government orders are as follows:- His Excellency the Governor-in-Council, I am to say, regrets that none of these requests can at present be entertained, and I am to request that the State prisoner may be informed accordingly.

I have &c., (Sd.) M. C. GIBBE, District Magistrate.

NATU APPEALS TO THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

Yadi from Balwant Ramchandra Natu, Sirdar and Inamdar, to the Secretary in the Political Department to His Excellency the Right Hon'ble the Governor and President in Council Bombay.

This Yadi is written to the effect that my brother, Hari Ramchandra Natu, and myself have been made State prisoners under Regulation 25 of 1827.

Under Section 2 of the said Regulation the Superintendents of Ahmedabad Central Prison and the House of Correction of Byculla will submit their reports about us to Government on January 1st, 1898. While the reports are under consideration Government should know also what we both brothers have to say. This Yadi is written for both, which, I pray, you will kindly place before Government for disposal along with the said reports.

2. Since the time we were State prisoners my paternal grand uncle, Keshav Pandurang Natu, and myself submitted petitions on behalf of both of us to Government, and the answers received were that they could not be taken into consideration at that time. As considerable time has since been elapsed I write this Yadi.

3. On 20th December, 1897, the Hon'ble Mr. Chandawarkar asked for the Hon'ble Mr. Parake three questions in respect of us in the Legislative Council. The answers which are—"First," Natu has been made State prisoners and kept in custody to prevent internal commotion in some parts of Her Majesty's dominions. "Second," They will not be tried in a Court of Justice, as such a trial is prohibited by the Regulation under which they are made State prisoners. "Third," As to when they are to be released Government have not yet thought about it. It is still to be decided. These answers were read by me in the Times of India. But according to the said Regulation the time for either releasing or making changes in the manner of keeping in custody the State prisoners, comes when the Superintendents submit their reports on 1st January, 1898, and although a trial in a Court of Justice is prohibited yet there is the liberty of making a petition reserved; and under it I beg to submit the following representations.

4. The complaint of the complainant being taken on oath all the evidence being taken on oath and in parties and the Court have the right to examine them (witness). This right being not open under the Regulation to the State prisoners, they are at a great disadvantage in obtaining justice. Still a State prisoner is given an opportunity of submitting his representations in a petition. This is somewhat facility of which I pray benefit will be given to us.

5. If Government are of opinion that there is no reason to make even a departmental enquiry we being State prisoners and the affair being a Political one, the cases of Shriman Maharaj Rava Sahab Chhatrapati of Satara, who was charged with rebellion of Shriman Maharaj Gaikwar of Baroda State who was charged with poisoning the Resident, and of Gangananga Apte of Sayagram, and many others who were arrested being suspected of being concerned in the great Mutiny of 1857, were tried and decided according to laws of justice. Our case also is a political one, and looking at it from that point of view it is just that there should be an inquiry into it. Nay even Government will undoubtedly think it necessary, and so we pray that we should be given a detailed information of the charges against us.

6. We have not committed, nor attempted to commit, any offence under Regulation 25 of 1827, July, 1897. But if Government consider that we have committed an offence there, we should be given the information, of the offence committed by us and for which we are made State prisoners. The information given by him, his written complaint or report, or, if the information was oral, then the internal disturbance has been caused, the part in which it was caused, the time, the persons among whom it was connected with it, in what way we were connected in it. All the oral and documentary evidence Government may have in their possession and the Resolution passed making us State prisoners. And unless we are informed of the charge against us, we can not meet it in detail by petition, and Government also not having before them complete information on both sides cannot do justice. For this reason the time for arriving at a decision on hearing our representations, after supplying us with full information, had come ever since complaints on our behalf came before Government. At least it is necessary to decide this at the time of considering the reports of the Superintendents, whether we should be released or detained under the Regulation. It will not escape the attention of Government also. So I pray that they should be furnished with full particulars and our answer should be heard and their decision should be arrived at.

7. Government have informed us that we are made State prisoners to prevent internal disturbances in some parts of Her Majesty's dominions. It is plain that such disturbances have not risen from us. If we are under such accusation of disturbances, many persons must be involved in this affair. Government must have got our letters and oral evidence, etc., for their satisfaction of our complicity in it. We have remained in custody for full five months, and when the reports of the Superintendent will be submitted in January, 1898, according to law, it will not escape the attention of Government that there is no reason now at least, or assuming stating the offence, the law, its nature or subsection under which a person is accused, whose offence is to be tried in a Court of Justice, in his presence. The Court and he can examine the evidence of the complainant. This taken, considers that there is no objection to frame a charge against him, it frames a charge and it is read out to him. As no such thing could be done in the case of State prisoners, it is necessary to furnish him with the information, i.e., description of his offence; place, time, measures he took, his complicity, and names of persons who have up to now been made State prisoners &c. This will occur to Government themselves, because the offence supposed we have committed is against Her Majesty so great as to cause disturbances in some parts of Her Majesty's dominions. So the above-mentioned full particulars should be supplied.

8. One of the Chapekars who shot Messrs. Rand and Lt. Ayerst on 22nd June, 1897, is now under trial before the District Magistrate of Poona, and has made a confession. After that date we were made State prisoners on 28th July, 1897. A day or two after 22nd June, 1897, a detective post was established near our house. I went to Khed on 18th June, 1897, because the date of my complaint for breach of trust against the Patil and Kulkarnis of Kadus was fixed before the 2nd Class Subordinate Judge and first Class Magistrate. It was finally decided on 30th June, 1897. Up to that time I was at Kadus Khed Peta and other villages; inquiries were being made about me from village to village by Khed Police and some of the Bombay Police sent for making inquiries about the death of the Sahes to see whether the Mang and Rawshoes of Kadus were in the village on 22nd June, 1897. Their Muster Rolls were taken to the Taluka and they were found to be all present. And on 30th June, 1897, the Khed Jamadar followed my carriage to Poona. After I came to Poona, Hari Ramchandra Natu and I were asked by Mr. Brewin about the murder of the said European officers, and up to 28th July, 1897, whenever we both or any one of us went out even in Poona, some one out of the detective post near our house followed to make inquiries. Nay, even after we were arrested on 28th July, 1897, Messrs. Kennedy and Brewin asked us questions in that respect and lately the Hon'ble Lord George Hamilton in the speech of the Hon'ble President at the meeting of the Legislative Council on 20th December, 1897, is given above. From that it is plain that we are not concerned in the murders of the said officers. I thank the Hon'ble

President in Council. Those utterances confirm whatever we have been stating to the Police from the beginning. I have not read or even seen that there has been internal disturbances in any parts of Her Majesty's dominions. Nay, the charge is that we have caused internal disturbances in some parts of Her Majesty's dominions. So this is not the work of us two brothers alone, but of some villages and many people thereof. This is plain from the accusation. Looking at it from that point of view, I have not read of any other persons being detained in custody during these five months. Form this action of the Government officials there is the plain reason. We are informed through the Collector of Poona that the attachment on our movable estates has been raised. For, supposing that Government is being convinced that the suspicion against us is groundless, still there would remain suspicion against us among the Princes and Chiefs in India, European and Native Officers, and the people in England. Nay, the bad opinion created about us, both from Her Majesty to all people downwards, should be removed. We pray Government to give us the detailed information to enable us to submit our representations and to remove the doubts of Government and people and clear ourselves.

9. My brother Hari Ramchandra Natu and I have never committed any offence of which we are suspected. I am stating what could be stated in respect of an undefined charge. But granting for argument's sake that an offence was committed, and I am confident that Government will now consider that we should be released. The reasons are:- (1) We have remained in custody for 5 months. (2) Government informed me that they have, according to their own views, sanctioned Rs. 300 and Rs. 200 per month, according to my family position and respect among people, to me and to Hari Ramchandra Natu for our expenses, according to section 25 of Regulation 27 of 1827. But I regret that when I asked for certain necessary things which could be granted within the sum, an answer was given that they would not be given for the time. The informant has created hatred against us even in minds of Government. Those things could be legally given to State prisoners, and there was not the slightest reason to suspect that there would be internal disturbance from us remaining in prison, if they were granted. They not being given, to save life, I was obliged to undergo hard physical labour.

(3) Charges against editors whose writings and the hints of Government were calculated to create disaffection among people against Government were tried and they were punished by the High Court and other Courts. Nay, in the case of the "Protoda," the Advocate-General informed the High Court, on behalf of Government that Government thought of reducing the severe punishment passed by the Sessions Court of Satara did not do so as an appeal was preferred on behalf of the "Protoda." In this case sentence has been greatly reduced, and the Poona "Vaibhav" has been discharged on apology. These papers are circulated throughout India and are read by all people. Looking at their punishment, Government relying upon solely one-sided information about us of the complainant, whoever he may be, have not asked for any explanation up to now from us. Nay, although we asked Government by petitions several times, why we were made State prisoners, we were vaguely told that we were made State prisoners, to prevent internal disturbances in some parts of Her Majesty's Dominions. Suspicion is about an offence. We are not informed of the particular nature of offence, of time, of the nature of offence, of the arrest of persons involved in it, nor have I read in the newspapers of such offence being committed in any place. Considering all these facts, Government will no doubt consider the punishment we have suffered very great.

(4) We two being made State prisoners, our mother died of the pain of separation and loss of her sons. The rest of the members of the family have been separated and will remain so till we are released. We are undergoing the miseries above-mentioned. When all the reasons are taken into consideration, Government will no doubt consider that we have not committed any offence of which we were suspected, and granting for argument's sake, the punishment undergone is very great. Our family rose through the favour of Government while we have been acting towards Her Majesty and Her officials, according to the advice of those authorities who and whose conduct raised us, this should not have happened. But as our words were not heard in this respect this has come to pass. Taking all these facts into consideration, Government should release us and raise the attachment on our immovable property. With this view I send this yadi to you. I am sure it will be placed before Government for disposal. It is plain from the speech of Lord George Hamilton that there is a bad opinion about us in England and India. Even if we are released we should be given all the information, oral and documentary evidence asked for should also be given in order to clear ourselves of this suspicion and show that that opinion is wrong. So thereby the want of confidence of Government in us and the consequent loss besides the custody up to now and probable loss in future will be removed and to remove the misunderstandings between the people of both the countries the detailed facts will be given. After this was written the brother who is at Poona house informed me that a cart and bullocks in Pachwad, Taluka Wai, District Satara, in spite of his having informed the Collector of Satara and the Mamdar of Wai not to sell them, have been sold by auction. The Collector of Poona has informed me that Government have passed a Resolution that the movable estates have been released from attachment and has asked me into whose charge they are to be given. So orders should be issued to give the movable estate of Pachwad and the illegally sold cart and bullocks should be given into the possession of Sadasbhi Ramchandra alias Anna Sahab Natu or anybody who is present on his behalf before the Mamdar of Wai. Let it be known to Meherban, 29th December 1897.

(Sd.) BALWANT RAMCHANDRA NATU, Sirdar and Inamdar.

THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL'S REPLY. "State Prisoner Balwant Ramchandra Natu may be informed in reply to his petition of the 29th December last that His Excellency the Governor in Council is not prepared at present to order his or his brother's release, or to supply information as to the cause of his detention, beyond that already given, and that the Collector of Poona has been informed of his request that his moveable property which may have been attached should be handed over to Mr. Sadasbhi R."

TO THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, BOMBAY.

SIR, I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1672, dated 15th March 1898, in reply to my communication dated 29th December 1897 on the 17th idem, through the Superintendent of the Ahmedabad Central Prison. In your letter you declined to give the reasons of our misconduct or crime. But I read in the Bombay Gazette of 21st March, 1898, the two reasons of the Bombay Government which the Secretary of State gave in answer to questions in the House regarding ourselves, and I beg to submit the following statement in respect of them.

One of us wrote a letter to a lady-doctor with a view to persuade her from accompanying plague search parties, and since then she has suffered in the practice of her profession. Also, one of us did his best to induce a policeman to say that a woman who had died of plague owed her death to the outrage which a soldier committed on her person. For such obstruction to plague measures the Bombay Government was compelled to make the Natu State prisoners.

With reference to the above, I only state that whoever may have communicated the above stories to Government, they are totally false, and I and my brother Hari Ramchandra had absolutely no connection with them whatever, and neither of us has written the letter to the lady-doctor.

When the above two stories came before Government, had Government communicated to us their suspicions with regard to those and any other crimes which may have been laid at our doors, and had they heard our say in the matter, and then, after full investigation, had our crimes been proved against us, and had Government considered it just to put us in prison according to Regulation 25 of 1827, I would not have troubled you to enumerate the crime or crimes for which we are undergoing imprisonment.

If an insignificant fault is committed, Government bears the statements on both the sides, and then justice is given. Government would, therefore, think it necessary that those who levelled false charges against us in times made troublesome by the plague must be tried and the truth or otherwise of their statements investigated.

In the affair of the lady-doctor, there is the letter alleged to have been written by one of us for evidence, and in the other incident a policeman is the complainant. I therefore pray that Government will at least now investigate these two charges and give us justice.

As to my brother Hari Ramchandra Natu, he had nothing whatever to do with plague measures, either as volunteer or as anything else, and I emphatically say that he bore no part in any one of the above two charges.

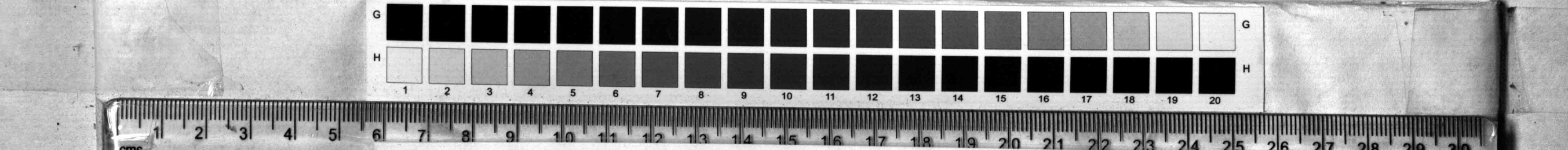
I served as a volunteer since the appearance of the plague and before the Plague Committee was constituted, down to the time of my arrest and imprisonment, and during all that time I have helped the Plague authorities; and instead of simply saying that I did not obstruct plague measures, I beg to point out the correspondence which at different times passed between me and the Poona Municipality, the Poona Plague Committee, and the District Magistrate. This correspondence, if Government were to go over it, would convince them about the truth of my statement that I have helped plague measures with all my strength. I promised the Municipality to give my land rent free for a segregation camp, and the promise was also fulfilled. As to what help I render as a volunteer my letters to the District Magistrate will bear testimony. I helped the Hindu Hospital from the first till I lost my liberty in all matters, from looking for a suitable plot of ground onwards. This I hope will convince the Government that instead of obstructing plague measures I always helped them forward. If the above-mentioned reasons are taken into consideration Government will think with me that it is most urgent that those who have brought false charges against us must be put of their trial and their statements thoroughly investigated. The Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State, as mentioned in the House of Commons that as long as the plague lasted the Natu will not be released. It was our misfortune that brought the plague, but I learn from the Bombay Gazette that since March there is no plague in Poona. I therefore pray that Government may be pleased to liberate us and also that the charges brought against us may be investigated. I beg leave to state here that all complaints regarding inspection, &c., which came before me, were passed on to the District Magistrate by written yadis. If therefore such a complaint as the death of a woman, through the misconduct of a soldier had come before me it might have been incorporated in one of my yadis (letters). I, however, know as a fact that no such complaint was mentioned by me in any of my letters to the District Magistrate, and looking at it from any side I don't think the policeman mentioned above had any reason to complain against us, nor had we any cause to do our best in the matter.

If the Government have still no intention of releasing us, I beg to state that according to Regulation 25 of 1827, Government is bound to look to the position and habits of its State prisoners, and that it will therefore think it reasonable to make suitable provisions for us. For the climate of Ahmedabad is very hot and does not at all agree with me. I get headaches every now and then. My eyes are also sore, and I am generally feverish. The building which is assigned to me for residence, runs from east to west and has five rooms and a verandah on each side. The rooms measure approximately 10' x 8', and have no ceiling. There is no tree in the compound large enough to give shade. In the morning the east side is unbearably heated by the sun, and the sun also beats inside. I live in the four rooms to the west, which in the evening is also equally heated and made unbearable till 8 or 9, so that till that hour I have been slowly roasted. I therefore pray that until the end of the hot weather I may be located in a colder place and a suitable house; and also those things which are not allowed to us now may be given. I allude to such as were asked for in my letter of 23rd September last, to which Government replied through the District Magistrate, No. 3459, dated 24th September 1897. Government, I hope, will not now object to allow those things to me and my brother, but taking into consideration our position and habits, grant our prayer. If it is decided to grant my prayer regarding change, I may be first informed as to the locality and the house accommodation, &c.; so that I may know beforehand whether the place would offer me any advantage over my present residence. And if I thought it did I may be transferred to it. Kindly place his letter before the Government for consideration, and whatever decision they come to, be good enough to communicate to me at once, for I suffer much on account of the heat of the place.

(Sd.) BALWANT RAMCHANDRA NATU, Central Prison, Sirdar and Inamdar. Ahmedabad, 22nd March, 1898.

MAULVI MAHOMED YUSUF ALI, who, as the reader is aware, stands charged with seditious preaching at Agra, stated in his defence that he did not suggest any opposition to lawful authority, but exhorted the Hindus and Mahomedans to make common cause and employ constitutional means to obtain their wishes from Government. Seven witnesses were produced in support of this statement. The Magistrate altered the charge from section 124A of the Indian Penal Code to section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The prosecution then applied for permission to offer further evidence in support of the original charge, which was granted. The Maulvi thereupon urged that similar permission should be given to him as he had 10 other witnesses. After some discussion this application also was granted. The accused is an itinerant preacher, who has lately arrived from Allahabad.

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PLAGUE MEASURES IN CALCUTTA AND ELSEWHERE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES OF INDIA." Sir,—Dr. Nield Cook, the Health Officer of Calcutta, has given publicity to his views regarding plague measures in this country, and in doing so has conferred an immense benefit on the people. I say an immense benefit, because the views he has expressed will surely be the guide in all future measures for dealing with plagues in large towns and cities in India. I do not know Dr. Nield Cook personally, but I know him by repute and by his published writings. Now what is it that gives Dr. Cook a claim to be heard on the question of plague measures? There are three special reasons why he should be heard: (1) His practical training in sanitation has been acquired in this country in the two Presidency cities of Madras and Calcutta, hence he knows the people, their customs, the chief local diseases and the climate well. (2) He has always been a careful observer in matters sanitary, and, perhaps, I may add, a man devoted to his work. This devotion means more than drawing pay and getting furlough, and (3) he has been a careful and watchful observer of all or most of the plague measures that have been adopted in this country. My chief reason for telling the world what all sanitarians already know about Dr. Cook is because one of the reasons recently given in Bombay for not holding a Congress in this city to consider the subject of plague measures in December next, was that every competent person had already written and published all he had to say on the subject. Now this public notification by Dr. Cook about plague measures, which was published in your journal on Tuesday last, shows that every one who can write with knowledge and authority about plague measures has not yet been heard. Apart from that fact I look upon Dr. Cook's notification as a most opportune contribution to a subject of immense importance to the people of this country, because it moves on the two safe lines of common sense and experience and avoids all harsh measures.

I trust I am infringing no rule either of propriety or etiquette if I venture to point out that it was Lord Sandhurst who first broke the neck of the gross sanitarianism involved in coercive segregation, by officially pointing out the uselessness of the measure after a six months' experience of it, and at a time when it was being carried out in the most heroic manner. The pronouncement then made by his Excellency was everywhere concurred in, and it will remain an official record for all times, seeing that it cannot be gainsaid.

Dr. Cook's paper opens by noticing how Euro-heat works on public health, and recommends that epidemic diseases should be dealt with. The authorities, in addition to ordinary sanitary measures, recommend a trust in three special sanitary measures, viz., notification, isolation, and disinfection. But they have had no experience of plague epidemics. As a consequence of this sanitary teaching the epidemic plague visitations in this country have been treated on what may be called book knowledge or book principles, and the discovery has now been made that plague epidemics differ a great deal from all other epidemic diseases, and are not so easily controlled (if controllable) at all when they have assumed epidemic dimensions, as are the other epidemic diseases. Dr. Cook says, and every careful and unbiased observer who is not already engaged in running a plague suppression show, agrees with him that Indian experience teaches that notification, isolation, and disinfection have proved failures; notification, because the people refuse to aid in it, for fear of isolation, and its consequences; isolation, because no removal of stricken persons from their houses can possibly diminish a plague when the plague infection keeps hold of the premises; and disinfection, because it has been found impossible to kill a plague with disinfectants.

In Bombay we have had the same experience of the worthlessness of these measures, an experience extending over two epidemic visitations. Our second experience more than confirmed our first experience, because in that second visitation we doubled our staff, quadrupled our expenditure and added tenfold to the rigour of the rules. Then, and did then, only did we learn what might have been learned during the first visitation. The worst part of the failure of these book measures was that they exercised not the slightest influence in preventing the recrudescence of the disease, or ameliorating it when it appeared.

Dr. Nield Cook has observed this failure, and he appears to have studied it carefully, in view of the possible use of an epidemic in Calcutta, and perhaps in Lower Bengal. As Health Officer of the metropolitan city in India he feels himself confronted with a tremendous responsibility, a responsibility of a double kind: (1) the responsibility of guiding a great city through a great sanitary crisis with as little damage to health as possible, and (2) the responsibility of preventing sanitary intentions and sanitary measures becoming measures of oppression to the people. He has discovered that troops, and military arm, and rattle and bayonet, and no part of a sanitary armament, believing that unaided plague kills human beings quite as enough without being aided by overpowering, fright, and he proposes to treat any plague visitation that may occur in Calcutta by other and less violent means. As one alternative means he proposes prophylactic vaccination with the Haffkine serum. There is plenty of reason for giving this serum a full trial. Though the other alternatives of Dr. Cook's measures for dealing with a plague are not set forth in the paper, I am now considering it is plain from his remarks that segregation is neither to be trusted to nor enforced.

In this resolve he will have all the people of India on his side. It was this separation of families by ruthless dragging out of their houses persons suffering with plague that raised the discontent in Bombay, in Poona and in Kurrachee, and elsewhere. The grounds of the fear of the people may have been questionable, but the fear itself was real and attended with very great danger, and worst of all, the people rich and poor, gentle and simple, were fully convinced that they were being forcibly dragged out of their houses to serve the purposes of an experiment based in sanitary error. The error consisted in supposing that all the plague infection in a stricken city existed inside and outside the bodies of infected persons, and nowhere else. Hence persons infected were removed from houses, and persons not yet infected were permitted to remain in occupation of the premises. In the active pursuance of coercive segregation about ten or fifteen thousand plague infected persons were removed from their houses to segregation hospitals. It is true the bodies and blood of these patients contained the plague poison, and they were declared to be highly infective centres. But alas! for this theory! These thousands of persons lived or died in the segregation hospitals without infecting the hundreds or the thousands of healthy persons who lived amongst and attended them, except in the minutest proportions. The number thirty would probably cover all the persons who were infected in the public hospitals. Dr. Choksey, all his nurses, all his staff, and all the friends who attended his 3,000 patients should nearly all have been killed off if the 3,000 plague patients he treated had any considerable infective power. To be in the very midst of these supposed infective centres in the segregation hospitals was apparently the safest place in Bombay during the height of the epidemic, and to be wrestling with naked delirious patients supposed to be filled with infection was perfectly safe for the friends and attendants. No one was infected by contact with a plague patient. While the people were carried away the premises in which the poison was produced and multiplied were left to be treated

by absolutely useless disinfectants. The consequences were that both our Bombay plague lived out their time and died in the fulness of age—the plague did not suffer, but the people suffered all the horrors of separation and killing fright. If we in Bombay have given Dr. Nield Cook a sound foundation for his new sanitarian belief—I say new sanitary belief—because Dr. Cook, like all the rest of us, has learned a great deal about plague measures which he did not know before—we are glad that the teaching from Bombay has reached the Health Officer of Calcutta, for assuredly it will confirm him in the newest and most modern views of dealing with a plague, for we may be assured that should occasion arise in the future for dealing with a plague epidemic either in Calcutta or elsewhere in India, the former and now exploded system of coercion and oppression will find no place in the sanitary measures of the future. This city, and this presidency, have furnished the experiment that was required to convince all mankind that notification segregation and disinfection are useless measures of plague suppression, and we make the whole of India a free present of this dear bought experience. Up to the present we have gained some knowledge about plague and plague measures which we had not before, but the most confident amongst us will probably be willing to confess that we have something yet to learn. I look forward with much expectation to the assembly of a congress of the profession to help us out of our ignorance, and to clear the way for any possible future contingency. Meanwhile many thousands of people will thank Dr. Cook for the aid he has already given in making clear the errors of our past plague policy, and foreshadowing a benign and a benevolent future sanitary rule.—Yours, &c., THOMAS BLANEY.

Grant Road, April 26.

THE PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA. DECLARATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY.

MEETING OF THE BENGAL COUNCIL. INTERPELLATIONS.

AT a meeting of the Bengal Council held on Saturday 30th April the following questions were asked:—

The Hon'ble Babu Surendranath Banerjee:—Will the Government be pleased to make a statement with regard to the suspicious cases of plague which have recently appeared in Calcutta? Are they cases of true bubonic plague? Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table the Report of Dr. Haffkine on the subject?

Hon'ble Norendra Nath Sen.—In view of the panic and alarm caused in Calcutta by the reports of several cases of plague in the City and of the exodus that has already commenced, I have the honour to enquire to what extent the Government will be prepared to mitigate the stringency of the rules in regard to the arrangements required to be made for segregation and disinfection, in the case of respectable people, especially as regards purdah women and children, in the event of an outbreak of the plague.

(a) Have any cases occurring in Calcutta been reported to Government as cases of plague?

(b) Has Government taken any steps to ascertain if there are or were real cases of plague? If so, what are those steps?

(c) Has Dr. Haffkine pronounced any opinion as to the nature of the bacilli he may have found in the blood and fluid of the glands of patients that were sent to him? Is Government aware that there are differences of medical opinion as regards the bacteriological diagnosis of plague; that the true bacillus of plague, if there is any, has not yet been positively determined; that some say it is Kitasato's bacillus, others that it is Yersin's, which is the true plague bacillus? Others again have said that there is a third variety which is found in plague cases, and that it is yet uncertain which is the real pathogenic bacillus. Under these circumstances, would it not be premature to declare Calcutta to be a plague-stricken city? If Government had acted on the opinion of the late Health Officer of the Calcutta Corporation, Dr. Simpson, Calcutta would long ago have been declared as such. Would it have been proper to do so?

The Hon'ble Mr. Turner.—Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the alleged cases of plague in Calcutta during the past week, or cases of disease resembling plague, and will the Government be pleased to state the result of the enquiries made in connection with the said cases?

ANSWER BY THE HON'BLE MR. H. H. RISLEY.

I will answer all the questions relating to plague together. The facts are as follows:—On the night of the 16th April a sudden death from fever, accompanied by swelling of the glands of the left groin, occurred in Kapalitola, a crowded locality near Bow Bazar. The post mortem examination showed symptoms which were regarded by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, the Sanitary Commissioner and the Health Officer of Calcutta as suspicious.

On the other hand an experienced local practitioner considered the case to be one of septicæmic fever of a type known to him as not uncommon in Calcutta. The deceased was a native of Eastern Bengal, resident in Calcutta and there was no evidence whatever of his having had any communication with persons coming from the areas in Bombay and the Panjab which are infected with plague. The house in which he died was thoroughly disinfected; all persons who had been in contact with him were removed to a segregation camp in Narkoldanga; and all clothes which might convey infection were burned, compensation being at once paid to their owners. Cultures were made from the important organs and were sent to Monsieur Haffkine at Bombay for bacteriological examination.

On the following day three other persons in Kapalitola were found to be suffering from somewhat similar symptoms. One of these, a boy two years and a-half old, has since died, and the other two are under observation. Seven other persons who had been in contact with the deceased were discharged after detention for ten days, during which time they showed no suspicious symptoms.

A Dom who assisted at the post-mortem examination got accidentally pricked in the finger, and has been dangerously ill, but is now reported to be recovering.

On the 27th April three more cases occurred in the neighbourhood of Kapalitola, one of which was fatal.

On the 24th April four cases, of which three were fatal, occurred in Market Street and Municipal Office Street, and on the same day a man died with suspicious symptoms at 39 Ezra Street. On the 27th four more cases occurred in the same locality, two of which have proved fatal. There were three cases, one fatal, on the 28th; and

two more, one of which died, occurred yesterday (29th April).

On the 25th April a bearer in the employ of Messrs. Kiburn and Company died suddenly at 4, Fairlie Place, and on the following day a second bearer of the same firm died in Jaun Bazar.

On the morning of the 28th a man employed in Clive Street was admitted into the contagious ward of the Campbell Hospital with suspicious symptoms, and died the same evening.

On the 27th April four cases were admitted into the Medical College Hospital from Phear's Lane, Chunan Gully and Champatola.

Owing to the admitted existence in Calcutta at all times of the year of a form of fever accompanied by bubonic swellings, which on occasions proves fatal, and in view of the fact that the general death-rate of the town for the week ending the 23rd April was only 31.3 per thousand per annum as compared with 38.9, the mean death-rate of the corresponding period for the last five years, there seemed until yesterday morning to be room for doubt as to the character of the suspicious deaths which have occurred during the last fortnight. That, I fear, can now no longer be said. Monsieur Haffkine, whose authority on the subject of plague is undoubted, now reports by telegram: "Cultivation sent from Calcutta produced typical plague involution forms. Identity with plague microbe undoubted." The Lieutenant-Governor has conferred with all the Medical Officers of Government who have seen the suspicious cases, and they are unanimous in pronouncing them to be true plague. As I have already stated, no connexion can be traced between the persons affected, all of whom are residents of Calcutta, and any travellers who have arrived from the areas now infected in the Bombay Presidency and the Panjab. All such travellers are most carefully inspected at Chausa and at Chakradhatpur. Their railway tickets are punched with a peculiar mark before they leave the infected area, and persons holding such tickets are kept under observation throughout the journey and for ten days after their arrival in Calcutta. No suspicious cases have been discovered among the persons from Bombay and the Panjab who are now under observation here, and the Health Officer, after making special inquiry into the point, has been unable to trace any connection between the local cases and the arrivals from infected areas. Rats, however, have been found dead in considerable numbers in the press-room of the East Indian Railway and in godowns connected with the coasting trade with Bombay, and it is possible that the infection has been imported by these animals.

The fact already mentioned, that the general death-rate of the town is exceptionally low, affords grounds for believing that the cases which have now been reported are the first which have occurred, and that if the people co-operate cordially with the Government it may be possible to prevent the disease from gaining a firm footing in the town. The possibility of plague appearing in Calcutta has long been foreseen, and a scheme for dealing with it was prepared by the Chairman of the Corporation in consultation with the Government some months ago. As part of that scheme twenty-five doctors and as many nurses were procured from England, and it was arranged that until their services were required in Calcutta they should be employed and paid by the Bombay Government. The Bombay Government has now been asked by telegram to send two doctors and two nurses at once for duty in Calcutta, and more will be called for as occasion may demand. Meanwhile from the very first as ample precautions have been taken as if the first case had been known to be a case of plague. A plague hospital and a segregation camp had already been prepared; the suspected cases were removed to the hospital, and the contact cases isolated at the camp. All houses believed to be contaminated have been disinfected as thoroughly as possible, and places in which dead rats have been found have been thoroughly cleaned.

The measures to be adopted in dealing with an outbreak of plague are stated briefly in Chapter XVI, Report on the Plague in India, 1896, 1897, recently published by the Government of India. They are the following:—

(a) The prompt detection of cases by carefully enforced death registration, house-to-house visitation, and such other means as are found practicable.

(b) The segregation of the sick and their careful nursing and treatment in well-ventilated and sanitary hospitals.

(c) The segregation, after disinfection of clothing, bedding, &c., under medical supervision and in sanitary surroundings, of the persons who, by association with the sick, have been especially exposed to the risk of infection.

(d) The evacuation of infected houses and localities, the inmates being lodged in carefully supervised health camps.

(e) The thorough cleansing and disinfection of infected houses and localities before the inmates are permitted to return.

(f) The enforcement of general sanitary precautions, such as extensive cleansing of dwellings, freer admissions of light and air, destruction or modification of insanitary buildings, improvement of drainage and conservancy, abatement of overcrowding, and opening out of congested localities.

Plague Regulation No. 9 of the 10th November 1897 gives effect to these principles in Calcutta, but mitigates them in the case of the upper classes by providing in rule 46 for the formation of private hospitals and segregation camps subject to the necessary precautions.

To these must now be added inoculation with the prophylactic virus prepared by Monsieur Haffkine in his Laboratory at Bombay. Monsieur Haffkine asserts that inoculation by this material "prevents from 80 to 90 per cent of deaths from plague and reduces the plague from an epidemic form to the position of a sporadic disease." Surgeon-Major-General Harvey was

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THIS is how MR. J. SHAIL, the well-known Manager of LAURIE'S HOTEL, AGRA, commenced to use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Says he: "About six months ago I was suffering severely from a bad cough and cold, and a medical friend recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy 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 he results are always satisfactory." CHAMBERLAIN'S COUGH REMEDY is sold everywhere. Price Re. and Rs. 2.

deputed by the Government of India last month to Bombay specially to examine the results of M. Haffkine's inoculations. This Government asked to be informed of Dr. Harvey's conclusions, and enquired further whether, if those results were favourable, the Government of India would agree to any modification of the segregation system. The Government of India have replied that Surgeon-Major-General Harvey's report is being forwarded by post. It is stated to be generally favourable to the system of inoculation; but the Government of India consider that the inoculation of the inmates of an infected house cannot take the place of the evacuation of the house, which is essential for the purpose of disinfection. They hold that the inmates of an infected house may be given the option of being inoculated instead of being removed to an observation camp for the full period of incubation; but after inoculation it will be necessary to keep them in a segregation camp during the course of the incubation in order that they may be properly sheltered and kept under medical surveillance. As soon as the process of inoculation is over they may be released from segregation. The Government of India also consider that the inmates of houses round an infected house may, if they submit to inoculation, be exempted from both evacuation of the houses and segregation of their inmates. These concessions do not affect the treatment of persons actually suffering from plague in uninoculated households, who must be segregated either in public or private hospitals.

But now that the efficacy of the Haffkine virus has been demonstrated, the experiment will be tried of exempting all families, which have been entirely inoculated prior to the occurrence of any case of plague among them, from liability to segregation. That is to say, if a member of a completely inoculated family is attacked by plague, neither he nor his family will be liable to removal to a segregation camp. This privilege will be subject to the strict proviso that any case that may occur in the family must be reported to the Health Officer within twelve hours of the patient falling ill, and that the directions of the Health Officer as to the isolation of the patient within the house and the daily disinfection of all parts of it are faithfully carried out. The Lieutenant-Governor wishes it to be distinctly understood that while on the faith of the experience in Bombay he strongly commends the method of inoculation to the people, inoculation will be pressed on no one. Every man will be left entirely free to satisfy himself of its efficacy and of the propriety of asking for it in the circumstances of his own household. Every assistance will be given to those who do apply, but the matter is left absolutely and entirely to the discretion of the people themselves.

This Government has already recognised and given effect to the principle that all hospitals, whether Government hospitals or private caste hospitals, should be so arranged as to provide accommodation for the immediate family of the patients. It is of the first importance that the sick people should not be separated from their families. In the plans that have been drawn up for the plague hospitals now under construction the unit is the family block, which is divided into parts communicating with each other—one for the patients and the other for the members of the family who accompany them. Each such block will be self-contained and secluded, and will be so arranged that female patients can be admitted without any violation of their purdah. The physicians of the family will be admitted at all times, and any method of treatment that is desired may be resorted to. There can be no question that the most dangerous place for the members of an uninoculated family is the house or room in which the plague-stricken person was attacked, and that they will be far safer in the hut in which he is being treated because it is open to light and air.

Finally, I may explain that the third question asked by the Hon'ble Babu Narendranath Sen is based upon a misapprehension of the scientific aspects of the subject. Only one plague bacillus is known. It was discovered almost simultaneously and independently by Kitasato and Yersin during the Hong-Kong epidemic of 1894. Their discovery has been verified during the present epidemic in India by Monsieur Haffkine, Mr. Hankin, various Medical Officers of the Government of India, the members of the scientific missions sent to Bombay by the Governments of Germany, Austria, Russia and Egypt, and by other foreign scientific authorities. But this bacillus produces three different forms of plague—simple, septicæmic and pneumonic—according as it attacks different parts of the human system. The bacilli discovered by Dr. Simpson were not plague bacilli at all. They were common atmospheric bacilli, and Dr. Cunningham showed conclusively that they did not come from the blood of the persons supposed to be suffering from plague, but were the result of contamination by the air.

SPEECH BY HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR.

To the very clear and calm statement which has been read to you by Mr. Risley, I think it is desirable that I should, on an occasion so important, add a few words of my own.

You have heard that not till yesterday were we able to say whether the dropping cases which have occurred during the last ten days were or were not plague. It is, alas, now certain that they were plague, and, as was our duty, we have told you frankly and at once.

But I want you to take courage, and to give courage to those whom you represent and influence.

You know now that in a population of 800,000 people there has been only the absolutely infinitesimal occurrence of a couple of dozen cases in ten days. They are few and sporadic, and every one has been dealt with as it occurred, with the entire precautions

Never Knew It To Fail

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

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that the plague rules require. We think, therefore, we may assume that the plague has been taken firmly and in time. We have had the immense advantage over Bombay in 1896 that we were on our guard, and that the plague had not established itself before it was recognised. It has come at a time of year which is the least advantageous to the spread of it, and in a season which, as Mr. Risley has shown to you, is exceptionally healthy. There is therefore every reason to hope and believe that we shall succeed in preventing the plague from assuming an epidemic form; and in all the encouraging features of the case no sensible person will feel the smallest grounds for alarm. I am sure you will all join with me in circulating to your constituents this consoling and reassuring character of the case.

In another and very important matter I will ask you to give your aid in reassuring the people. Whenever segregation is necessary, it will be carried out with the strictest regard to the feelings of human nature. No wife shall be separated from her husband, no husband from his family, and the better classes will receive every encouragement in the arrangement of private hospitals in their own compounds or in garden houses in the suburbs to which they can remove themselves and their families in case of attack. But in addition to all this mitigation of the Bombay rules, we have announced to you to-day the success of a new method. Inoculation, I repeat, will be pressed on nobody, but in this method, when once you have assured yourselves of its efficacy, lies, I am satisfied, the assurance of safety to our city. I have made a great experiment. We have intimated to you that when families have been completely inoculated, we will leave them alone, even if plague attacks a member of it. It is a risk, but a risk worth running. We accept it because we believe the inoculated patient will have the very mildest form of attack, and he will not be a material danger to his family or his neighbours.

The policy of segregation is a painful necessity; the policy of inoculation we suggest to you is, at last, and for the first time in the great battle with plague in India, a policy of hope.

Therefore it is, gentlemen, that I bid you be of good cheer. Our plague is meanwhile a mere tiny business, for which we have made the most careful preparations, and which we hope to keep a tiny business. But should it be otherwise, we start our battle under conditions and with methods which give us assured hopes of such a victory as has not yet been won in India.

I am told that large numbers of people are leaving Calcutta under the apprehension that quarantine is about to be established. They may be reassured. There is no such intention whatever.

MR. MCPHERSON, Government Examiner of Accounts, E. I. Railway, officiates as Examiner of Telegraph Accounts, during the absence of Mr. S. G. Wood on privilege leave.

LIEUTENANT WILKINSON, R. C., has been appointed Deputy Consulting Engineer to Government for Railways, Calcutta. Mr. Savory on return from furlough has been appointed in a similar capacity at Lucknow.

MR. T. BIGGS, Comptroller of India Treasuries, has been appointed Accountant-General, Burma, but will continue to officiate as Accountant-General, Madras. Mr. Hart, on special leave, to be Comptroller, India Treasuries, and Mr. Rivett, Carnac to officiate as Accountant-General, Burma.

AN association, called the Urdu Defence Association, has been formed in Allahabad. The object of the Association is to take practical steps to preserve the Urdu language and character in the N. W. Province and Oudh.

CAPTAIN CHENEVIX TRENCH, who has been again appointed Assistant to the Resident in Kashmir, will proceed to Leh, where he did so much a year or two ago to promote trade with Chinese Turkistan.

MR. V. BOSANQUET, Under-Secretary Foreign Department, returned from privilege leave in a few days, when Mr. John Lang reverts to the post of Assistant Secretary, and Captain Bayley goes as Political Officer to Bundelkhand.

MR. STEPHEN JACOB, who acts for Mr. Finlay as Secretary to the Government of India, in the Financial Department, arrived at Simla on Thursday evening and is staying with Sir James Westland. Mr. Jacob took over charge from Mr. Finlay the next day.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL YATE officiates as Resident of the Western States, Rajputana, during the absence, on furlough, of Lieutenant-Colonel Abbott. Major Temple on return from furlough, officiates as Additional Resident to the Governor-General in Khorassan, during the absence of Colonel Yate. Surgeon-Major Pank is gazetted Residency Surgeon at Jaipur, vice Brigade-Surgeon Lieutenant-Colonel Hendley, vacated.

On Saturday evening, at the request of the Municipal Commissioners of the City of Madras, Colonel Sir George Moor, President of the Municipal Commission, laid the foundation-stone of the New Market now being erected in the People's Park. The market will be named after Sir George Moore, and is estimated to cost one lakh of rupees. This will remove a long-felt want in Madras, which had been discussed at intervals during the last century.

The following proclamation appears in the Calcutta Gazette:—Under section 15 of Act V. of 1861 (as amended by Act VIII of 1895), the Lieutenant-Governor declares that the conduct of the inhabitants of the villages of Jahanabad, Hasnabad and Bhatari in the jurisdiction of police station Kumira, in the district of Chittagong, has rendered it expedient to increase the number of the police force by the appointment of an additional force to be quartered therein at the cost of the inhabitants of the said villages. This proclamation shall remain in force for a period of six months from this date.

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

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