

# Amrita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION—PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY.

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CALCUTTA, SUNDAY, JULY 3, 1898.

NO. 53.

### পদক-পতক।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে  
মূল্য ৩০ টাকা।  
পরিশিষ্ট বস্ত্র।  
অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

### অনুরাগবলী।

শ্রীমতের দাস প্রণত।  
এই বালী উপায়ে বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ। ৩ই শত  
বৎসর পূর্বে লিখিত।  
মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাঃ বাঃ এক আনা।  
অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

### শ্রীঅধ্বৈত-প্রকাশ।

শ্রীঅধ্বৈত প্রভুর প্রিয় বহুর ও শিষ্য  
শ্রীউপান মগের কৃত।  
হাতে শ্রীঅধ্বৈতপ্রকাশ লীলা সঙ্গকে অনেক  
নৃতন কথা আছে, এবং শ্রীঅধ্বৈতপ্রভুর সমস্ত  
লালা বিশদরূপে বর্ণিত হইয়াছে।  
মূল্য বার আনা। ডাঃ বাঃ এক আনা।  
অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

### শ্রীত্রিবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া প্রতিকা।

বেকবৎসর স্বাক্ষর প্রথম শ্রেণীর একমাত্র  
মাসিক পত্রিকা। বার্ষিক মূল্য ২, ডাঃ বাঃ ৮।  
শ্রীল শিশির বাবুর তত্ববোধে প্রকাশিত।  
অনেকে প্রথম হইতে শ্রীত্রিবিষ্ণুপ্রিয়া পত্রিক  
চাহিয়া গাঠান; কিন্তু কোন কোন সংখ্যা  
একবারে নিঃশেষিত হওয়ার, আমরা তাঁহাদের  
অভিলাষ পূরণ করিতে পারি না। সেই জন্য  
আমরা উক্ত নিঃশেষিত সংখ্যাগুলি পুনরুদ্ভূত  
করিতে মনস্থ করিয়াছি। বিহারী উক্ত ছয়  
বৎসর সমস্ত পত্রিকা, কিম্বা উহার কোন-বৎসর  
পত্রিকা চাহেন, তাঁহার কৃপা করিয়া অবিলম্বে  
আমাদিগকে জানাইবেন। বিহারী পূর্বে গ্রাহক  
হইবেন, তাঁহার প্রতি বৎসর পত্রিকা দেয়  
টাকার পাইবেন। শ্রীকেশব লাল রায়, প্রকাশক  
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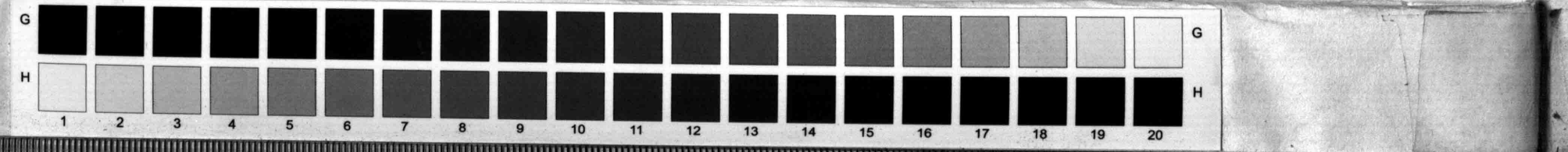
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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 3, 1898.

THE SCHEME OF THE HON'BLE MR. RISLEY.

It was the Hon'ble Mr. Risley who, immediately after the first, and, we hope, the last, Press prosecution in Bengal, sought to inaugurate the—millennium. Perhaps the authorities were ashamed of their proceedings, so unusual in countries governed by Englishmen; perhaps Mr. Risley had a mind to give the policy of confidence a trial in India. And the Press Association was established in Calcutta in 1891.

This Press Association meant peace, everlasting peace, between the ruled and the rulers. What did the people want? Good government and confidence? Here then, in the Press Association, we give you at least confidence,—said the Hon'ble Mr. Risley. You will have all information you want. Knock at the doors of the secret department of the Government, and they would be opened to you. Have you any grievance? Any suggestion? Here you sit together to prefer your charges and communicate your suggestions.

With all the above promises, the Press Association was inaugurated. The institution failed for reasons we need not enumerate here. We must admit, however, that the idea was noble, and does credit to the liberal mind which conceived it.

But the idea may be developed, and developed into really something grand. To begin with the first district in Bengal, the one which has been incorporated with the metropolis itself, namely, the 24 Parganas. The present head of this district is, we believe, Mr. Magistrate Allen. There is, we believe, a People's Association in that district; and if there is none, one can be established at once. Let Mr. Allen be invited to be its President. Let, in this manner, every district have its People's Association, with the Magistrate for its President.

Let all the districts send a representative, to form a Provincial Association in Calcutta, and let Sir John Woodburn take charge of this organization.

We have no need of a Metropolitan Association in the beginning. District and Provincial Associations will do for the present.

The people of India, in their efforts to improve their condition, don't get any support from their all-powerful rulers. But is there any among them who will not like to see the people growing under British rule? We do not believe in the existence of such men. What the officials fear is, too sudden or disproportionate growth of popular influence. Here is a scheme by which they can really nourish the national aspirations of the people and keep them under absolute control.

Thus, for instance, let the District Associations sit once a month. Let them all take stock of the condition of their respective districts. The result will be this: The Magistrates now rule the persons of the people; they will then be able to rule their hearts also. Hitherto the result of British rule has not been the fusion of the races but quite the contrary.

We don't care if these Associations be mere debating clubs. The condition of the country is getting day by day fearful. There is now very little touch between the ruled and the rulers. The rulers have made their own arrangement. From the Viceroy at Simla down to the Choukidar in the obscure village, they form one family. A link of interest binds them all. But the people have been left altogether outside; yet they need to know each other, for mutual benefit. A deep, rather an impassable, gulf now separates the two factors in this Empire,—the ruled and the rulers.

Let the people have an opportunity of speaking out their minds and let the rulers have an opportunity of explaining themselves to those over whom they hold sway. Now no such means. When the object of the plague is simply to murder them, the Government has to bear the insult in silence.

THE POSITION OF THE INDIAN PRESS.

THE impression is that Anglo-Indian papers enjoy greater power than Indian papers, and, of the Anglo-Indian papers, the *Englishman* and the *Pioneer* carry the greatest influence. But the fact is that the Government is very impartial in this respect; it listens to nobody but its own counsels. No outsider has any influence over it. Neither has it any bias in favour of Anglo-Indian papers. The *Indian Daily News* offended, and the Government pounced upon it. It is the custom to say that the two Bombay Anglo-Indian dailies led the Government of their Province by the nose last year, when it inaugurated its policy of repression. That is exactly not it. The Anglo-Indian papers are supposed to enjoy influence, because they support the Government. The *Indian Daily News* did it not; and the Government forsook it, even though it was an Anglo-Indian paper. The Bombay papers supported the Government; so the outside public came to commit the blunder of supposing that they led the Government. The real fact was they were led by the Government, because they agreed to be led.

If the *Patrika* undertakes to support the Government, it becomes at once a power,

that is to say, this change of policy enables it to boast that it leads Lords Elgin and Hamilton. If the *Englishman*, on the other hand, takes upon itself to write in the lines the *Indian Daily News* is doing, it takes upon itself the risk of a Government prosecution. The Anglo-Indian papers force themselves into the Government camp; they are always found there, and hence the mistaken impression that they are factors of the party which rule the Empire. So far from guiding the policy of the Government, the Anglo-Indian papers, which live to support the Government, are scarcely honoured with a perusal by those whom they are pledged to support. For, the authorities know that they have been commended and supported by their own papers. If they peruse any paper at all, they do it only those which speak independently, where they expect to find food for reflection.

Of course, the Anglo-Indian papers are useful to sedition-hunters, as the beaters are to those who are after big games. But we have reasons for believing that the coarse and violent language, used by Anglo-Indian papers in dealing with the people of the soil, is not, generally speaking, liked by higher classes of Englishmen. The *Englishman* said the other day that the *Patrika* is unknown to Englishmen and is not read by higher classes of Indians. The *Capital*, following suit, also echoed that "the *Patrika* is not one of any great influence." That is quite true; but, between ourselves, does any one of us enjoy any? Are not the newspapers in India, European and Indian, like barking and whining dogs, that disturb the equanimity of their masters by the noise they make?

They, the masters, do whatever they like; and neither we nor the lionly *Englishman*, nor its jackal, the *Capital*, nor even the whole Chamber of Commerce, can lead them to yield one inch of ground. All the Indian Chambers, backed by the entire Anglo-Indian press, are shrieking with all their might against the currency policy of the Government. But the Government is treating their prayer with as much contempt as it did that of the entire Hindu nation against the Consent Bill. Some of our Indian papers tried the game of pleasing the powers that be. But they learnt to their horror that they lost all respect of even those, they wanted to serve. Referring to the spiteful remarks of the *Englishman* and the *Capital*, trying to belittle the *Patrika*, the *Indian Messenger* says:—

We are not disposed to say anything in extenuation of the *Patrika*, which is so singularly able to defend itself from all such attacks, just or unjust.

In the above, there is a sly hit; but we forgive our contemporary for what followed the above, which is:—

But to say that the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* which is read throughout the peninsula by all the different races and classes inhabiting it, "is not one of great influence," is to commit the greatest blunder in a paroxysm of rage.

Now here is the testimony of a brother journalist, a rival, and, therefore, not likely to be tainted with any partiality for us. So they wanted to pull down this journal in a "paroxysm of rage." Their idea is that a paper has no right to flourish, which they do not like.

The alacrity and light heart with which the Resolution of raising a loan of thirty lakhs of Rupees at 5 per cent. interest was sanctioned at the last meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta, show the perfunctory manner in which the money of the rate-payers is guarded by the City Fathers. Before a public loan is contracted, the reasons for its necessity are given and discussed. Even Lord George Hamilton, though backed by a standing majority of 150 members, could not violate this rule, when introducing his Indian Loan Bill in the House of Commons. But, what the autocrat of autocrats, the Secretary of State for India, failed to do, was accomplished by the Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, who is said to be a mere servant of the Commissioners. And this is how the thing was done. Mr. Greer demanded that a sum of thirty lakhs of rupees, as recommended by the Loans Committee, was required for the works of a permanent nature. Now, when the motion came from the Chairman, the duty of the elected representatives of the native rate-payers, who will have to find the money, was to ask for information as to the purposes for which such a huge sum was wanted. They, however, all remained silent; and it devolved upon a European Commissioner, Mr. E. N. Baker, to demand for full details. Mr. Baker further stated that, as is the custom, the Chairman should, at the next ordinary meeting, submit a statement, containing all the information on the subject. It was expected that the native Commissioners in a body would, at least now, come forward to support the proposition. But, no. A few, no doubt, saw the reasonableness of Mr. Baker's request, but the majority gave their vote in favour of sanctioning the loan; and all this they did, in spite of the caustic remarks from such European Commissioners as Mr. Braunfield who said that, it was very pleasing to borrow, specially to borrow thirty lakhs, but there would be difficulty in paying interest when the income was fast decreasing on account of plague. Indeed, the present debt of the Corporation is already two crores and twenty-five lakhs, and they are paying nine lakhs for interest! Under these circumstances, it is surprising how the Commissioners could sanction another big loan when full

details were not supplied to them, and without satisfying themselves for what particular works the money was required.

And then, how could they sanction such high rate of interest as 5 per cent? At one time, they could borrow at 3½ per cent. Will not this offer of increased rate go to show that there is something wrong in the administration of the Corporation? Like the Calcutta Municipality, the Corporation of Bombay is also going to borrow 3¼ lakhs for plague expenditure. Are the Commissioners of Calcutta aware that they of Bombay have managed this loan at 4 per cent? Surely, the credit of Bombay is not higher than that of the metropolis of India!

Needless to say, this thirty lakhs loan will add permanently to the burden of the rate-payers. Indeed, many rate-payers are perhaps not aware that this loan will require an annual payment, from the revenues of the Corporation, of a sum of Rs. 2,10,000, calculating at 5 per cent interest, and 2 p. c. contribution to the Sinking Fund, which means 1½ p. c. of our rates and taxes.

The amount raised by the loan, can only be spent on works of permanent improvement; and we know there are several drainage and water-pipe works contracts. We ask: have the Commissioners satisfied themselves that the estimates, originally passed by them, have not been exceeded, and that the loan, raised at such a high rate of interest at such a crisis, will not be spent in meeting the excess expenditure incurred, without the sanction and knowledge of the Corporation? Why should not a tabular statement, as asked for at the meeting, showing the original sanction, the amount expended, and the amount required under each heading of the contract, be submitted, to enable the Commissioners and their constituents know whether the spending Departments are under proper check, and that the money required is within the sanctioned estimate?

We are glad that public attention has now been directed to the finances of the Corporation. The plague has caused additional expenditure, which is beyond the control of the Corporation. The Engineer's Department has a free hand in the expenditure, with the sanction of the Chairman only. We do not know whether the Chairman has time enough to scrutinize all estimates and bills before he passes them; but the public and the Government, we dare say, will hold him responsible for the amount spent. For our part, we must say, many things are said about the Engineer's Department, which is far from enjoying absolute public confidence. All this points to the necessity of increasing vigilance on the part of the Commissioners over their spending Departments; and every rupee spent, should be scrutinized before it is paid.

THE question of Babu Satis Chunder Ghose, put to the Chairman of the Corporation at its last meeting, may appear unimportant to the superficial observer, but it has great significance. He asked to know from the Chairman and the Health Officer whether those, who have left the town, may now safely return here or not. The Chairman replied: "The Health Officer considers this question to be a matter for private judgment. In my opinion, people may be advised to return and to bring back their families and children. The statistics of plague cases show that there is no increase." The Health Officer, it will be observed, disposed of the question in the usual manner; but we are thankful to Mr. Greer for his frank reply. Dr. Cook, we think, had no right to treat the question in the way he did. The question is, whether those who are now staying away should return to the town. This pre-supposes another question, namely, is Calcutta really plague-stricken or not? If it is plague-stricken, then those who are now living in non-plague districts, should never be advised to return here. But if there is no plague in Calcutta, then, of course, they could be asked, with a free conscience, to come back. Now whether the monster of plague is really amongst us or not, is known only to one individual, that is, Dr. Cook. He is, therefore, the only person who can advise people, whether they should remain in Calcutta or not. Babu Satis Chunder thus fingered the right man, who could help us in this matter; and Dr. Cook only shirked his duty when he said that the subject was one for private judgment. No; it is not a question for private judgment. If clinical reports of the cases were published, or the alleged plague patients were not removed to the hospital before they were examined by independent medical men, then, of course, the private individuals might have formed their own opinion. But the Health Officer, having withheld all information regarding the nature of the disease, the responsibility rests on him and him alone to state whether real plague is raging here or not. But then, he was confronted with two difficulties. First, if he admitted the appearance of the plague, how could he advise people, who are now residing in healthy places, to come here and run the risk of catching it? Secondly, if he said that there was no plague and the people might return, then how would he justify the measures which he and the Bombay Doctors are carrying with so much zeal? So, the best course for him was to say neither yea nor nay, but answer in the way he did! The reply of the Chairman is, however, quite clear. When he advises the people to come back, he admits that there is practically no plague, in its real sense, in the town.

THE *Mahratta* learns that Mr. Rowcraft, who assaulted Mr. Sohoni, was suddenly transferred, a few days ago, by a telegraphic order. The *Satara* correspondent of the same paper also gave it as a report that Mr. Rowcraft's allowance on account of plague duty was to be cut off from the date of the assault, under Government orders. The question now is, whether this punishment is meted out to the officer really for his unprovoked assault on Mr. Sohoni, or for some other offence. The matter should be made clear. If Mr. Rowcraft has been really punished for the assault, then, in spite of the trivial nature of the punishment, the Government has done an act which will evoke good feelings generally on its behalf. The Government has thus no reason to keep the fact a secret, if it is really a fact.

We said that Mr. Caine has accepted a most cordial invitation to contest the Kilmarnock Borough, Scotland. The *North British Daily Mail* gives some further particulars of his candidature in a leading article which is reproduced in another column. So, one of the difficulties of Mr. Caine is that he is an Englishman! The *Mail*, which is a Scotch paper, however, appeals to his countrymen to forget the nationality of the candidate, and elect him for his distinguished services to the cause of Liberalism.

A DESCRIPTION of Mr. Steven's kiln method for destroying plague infection, is published in another column. It reminds us of the fly-killing powder in "Japhet in search of his father." The quack doctor not only staked his honour, but agreed to return the price of the powder, which he had prepared for sale, if it failed to destroy flies. But then, his directions, he insisted, must be observed strictly, which were as follows:—Catch a fly and open its mouth as widely as possible. Then stuff it up with the powder, and the winged insect would immediately die! The heated kiln may destroy the germ; but the question of cost apart, would it not be a herculean task to apply it in the way described in the memorandum? The simpler and speedier, and, at the same time, the cheaper, method is to burn the infected house.

WHEN the cow-riots assumed gigantic proportions in the North-West, and the Hindus found themselves in a deplorable condition, Mr. Dar, Barrister-at-Law, Lucknow, came to their rescue. He lost nothing by his patriotism and boldness. He exposed the proceedings of the authorities in scathing language. Those men in power, who had been taking an active interest in these cow-riots and sending batch after batch of Hindus to jail, came to perceive that they had gone a little too far. In the same manner, the services of some bold spirits were needed to raise the drooping spirits of the people of Bombay. The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta has begun his work; and we hope he will be able to finish it. Bombay now is quite different from Bombay two years ago. The life of Bombay has been crushed out of it, and the people must either sink, or make a struggle to regain their previous position. It is neither better in Bengal. We were surprised to learn that a People's Association had been established in Bhagalpore. In Bengal, each district had its People's Association, but they are all now practically dead. The leading men in the districts felt the serious responsibility of their position. They took part in all the public movements of the country. But they have now ceased to take any interest in such matters. In Calcutta, the condition of things is worse. Sir A. Mackenzie has left a legacy to the citizens in the shape of a Municipal Bill. It means a death-blow to the only semi-representative institution that we have in the country. But there is no Mehta here to move in the matter. It was the *Bengalee* which first gave the alarm and announced the intention of Sir A. Mackenzie as regards the Municipality. We could not credit the news at first, as we had a notion that the Government would never care to withdraw a privilege, once granted. But the suspicions of the citizens were lulled by the speech of Sir A. Mackenzie, who said that "the *Bengalee* had told a lie." Thus whether in the metropolis or in the Mofussil, the people are all sleeping profoundly without a thought of the future. It is quite true there is plague in the country; but it is only a plea for indolence—that is all.

THE reader is, no doubt, aware that a sensational case recently cropped up in Bombay, in which a highly respectable firm like that of Messrs. Thacker and Co., was implicated. The manager of the firm was charged with the grave offence of having been in possession of obscene books and pictures for sale. The accused was caught red-handed, and he had no option but to acknowledge his guilt. The Magistrate considered his offence as "a serious one", and yet let him off with only a fine of Rs. 500, which, of course, means nothing, as some of these books were advertised for sale for Rs. 300 per copy. If we remember aright, some publishers of obscene books in Bengal were given several months by a Police Magistrate of Calcutta. We are, however, not concerned with the punishment meted out to the prisoner; for, being a European,

he has his privileges. What astonished us most was the absence of any mention about this case in any of the two morning papers of Bombay, namely, the *Times of India* and the *Bombay Gazette*. As the reader is aware, our reports, relating to this case, were all taken from the *Advocate of India*, the evening paper of Bombay. We, however, sought in vain for a fuller report in the other two dailies. We wondered why such an important case was not noticed in the columns of the two dailies which, for dearth of matter, often fill up their columns with the minutest details of what transpires even in the Standing Committee of the Bombay Corporation. Was it because they did not choose to sully their columns with the particulars of a case which savoured of obscenity? The *Advocate of India* has, however, sought to clear the mystery. Says our contemporary:—

The accused in this case came to us, and offered to fill our columns with the advertisements of his firm if we would consent to suppress all mention of the case, as, he told us, the *Bombay Gazette* and the *Times of India* had already done. We asked him to leave our office; and for our own part, we had very little doubt that he had deceived himself with regard to the assurances he thought he had obtained from our contemporaries. It was not so, however. With the exception of a small paragraph in the local intelligence of the *Times of India* this morning, the case has been kept out of the two morning dailies.

Of course, we cannot believe that such respectable papers, as the *Times of India* and the *Bombay Times*, were bribed into silence by the promise of advertisements, but that is the charge preferred against them. We hope, they are in a position to give a satisfactory explanation of their conduct.

The above reminds us of an interesting, nay, amusing, question, asked in Parliament, by Mr. Bradlaugh in June, 1890, relating to the *Times of India*. Here it is:—

Mr. Bradlaugh asked the Under-Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India had made any payments and for what purposes, to, and which of, the Anglo-Indian newspapers published in India; whether it was with the knowledge or approval of the Secretary of State that an offer was made to the *Times of India*, a newspaper published at Bombay, as stated in a leading article in that journal, "to become the official organ of the Government of India;" whether the proprietor of the *Times of India* was correct in saying that in answer to such offer he gave so clear and distinct a negative as to admit of no misconception; and whether the Secretary of State would lay upon the table the correspondence relating to this matter.

To the above, the following answer was given:—

Sir J. Gorst.—Except payment for advertisements, the Secretary of State is not aware of any payments being made by the Government to Anglo-Indian newspapers. The Secretary of State is not aware of any such occurrence arising, or statement being made. There is no correspondence.

Then occurred the following conversation:—

Mr. Bradlaugh.—Do I understand the right hon. gentleman to say that the statement in the *Times of India* is inaccurate?

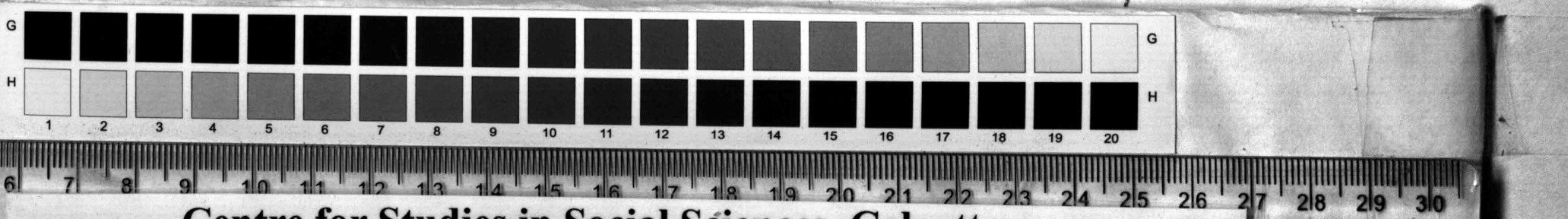
Sir J. Gorst.—The Secretary of State is not aware that the *Times of India* ever made such a statement.

Mr. Bradlaugh.—I will supply the right hon. gentleman with it.

Mr. Bradlaugh had a copy of the *Times of India* in hand; and he showed it to Sir John Gorst. It contained the following statement: "The Government had offered us terms to become its organs, &c." Sir John promised the member for Northampton all information on the subject.

THE nominated Mussalman member of the Madras Council is not popular with those whom he is expected to represent. The Mussalmans, therefore, met to enter a protest, two of whom being officials. These latter, however, took no part, but only listened to the debate. But anyhow they were present, when the plot was being formed. We have now the pleasure to announce, to the wondering world, that these two culprits have been spotted by the lynx-eyed Government of Madras. It is such brilliant achievements that create Empires! We dare say, some one has earned the V. C. The offence was not only very serious but impudent. What business have Mussalmans, who have accepted service, to seek the welfare of their community? But we must do them no injustice. They did nothing; they were only present. Well, what business had they to be present? When they saw that members of their community were trying to better their condition, they ought to have fled from the spot. To the credit of the Madras Government, be it said, that these two public servants have been let off only with a censure, this being their first offence. In future, let them beware how, as Government servants, they witness any proceedings, the object of which is the amelioration of the condition of their community. We take the facts of the case from the *Hindu*.

It is understood that Babu Khirode Chander Rai Choudry has been gazetted to officiate as Principal of the Hoogly College during Mr. Billings' three months' privilege leave shortly. The arrangement has naturally caused much heart-burning; for, this is the first instance of a Head-Master being appointed to act as Principal in supercession of the College Professors. There is no question about the abilities of Babu Khirode Chander. Indeed, he is



the best educationists in the country. But then, it is a great injustice to the Professors, who are in no way inferior to him, to be thus superseded by a Head-Master.

THE plague policy, inaugurated by the Madras Government, is even more liberal than that of the Government of Bengal. The Government of Madras has made it as clear as possible that the feelings of the people should be scrupulously respected when enforcing the measures. Segregation is considered absolutely necessary, but the wishes of the people are to be consulted in all the arrangements. Medical treatment is not to be forced upon unwilling patients; and women are, under no circumstances, to be examined by men. Inoculation is to be perfectly optional. Quarantine is set aside in favour of observation—that is to say, travellers, entering Madras, will not be detained, wherever they may come from, unless actually suffering from plague; but those coming from known infected areas, will be kept under observation for ten days, being free, however, in the meantime, to go where they please. What a world of misery would have been avoided if the plague rules had been introduced in this spirit in the Bombay Presidency! But such is the conceit of those who rule this country, generally speaking, that they will not listen to anybody else except their own counsels. It was pointed out to the authorities, over and over again, by the Indian press that, in spite of their benevolent intentions, they were doing what was most obnoxious to the cherished notions of the people of this country. Nay, even in Europe, where domestic tie is not so strong as in India, no one would agree to the arrangement of separating wives from husbands, or invading the sacred precincts of their houses by search-parties, composed of illiterate and unsympathetic soldiers, or getting the female members of their families examined by the latter. All this was, however, not only enforced upon the inhabitants of Bombay, Poona and other places, but their leaders were sent to jail or deported on the charge of sedition, while the whole of India was punished with a series of repressive laws, and the progress of the country thrown back half a century behind, because a fanatic caused the murder of an unpopular officer. What is still more surprising is that the Government of Bombay shows yet no signs of penitence. It should have acknowledged its blunders frankly and tried its best to make amends for the grievous wrong which it was led to do to the people in a state of panic. But though it has regained its sense, it is not at all willing to undo the mischief which attended its ill-advised acts and measures of the past one and half year. Why are Mr. Tilak and other editors yet in jail? Why are the Natus not liberated? Why is the punitive police at Poona not yet discharged and the inhabitants exempted from all pecuniary liabilities in this connection? The Government of Bombay cannot justify any of these measures; but yet they will not remove them, though they are a standing monument of its folly, unwisdom and injustice. But more. The authorities in Bombay apparently are not only not ashamed of their previous proceedings, but are even now startling the public with similar acts. The Press Committees, established under the direction of the Bombay Government, will make it impossible for independent journalism to exist in that Presidency. Then, it appears, its craving for press prosecutions has not yet been satisfied. Here is a paragraph which is going round the press—

By order of the Assistant Commissioner, On Plague duty, Garshankar.

TAHSILDAR SAHIB, GARSHANKAR.

You are hereby directed in writing (*galmi hat*) to notify thoroughly (*bakhubi*) to the inhabitants of Garshankar that to-morrow morning all the people in the city should get outside the city. And they will have to go to that place outside the city that we shall tell them (to go to) after fixing. And to-morrow night no one will sleep or stay in the city, all will have to sleep outside the city. This order should be circulated (*mushkatar kiya jae*) immediately, as soon as possible, among the inhabitants of the city. And this order should be announced by beat of drum. Written on the 27th April, 1898.

So the inhabitants of the entire town were compelled to evacuate it, though there was no place for them to go to! Just imagine the situation. Some ten thousand people were asked in the evening of the 27th April to leave their homes the next morning, and no place of residence prepared for them! Would the inhabitants of any English town have tolerated such an arrangement for a moment? We are assured by the *Tribune* that there was absolutely no shelter for them; and after the riot, they were turned out into the fields, and kept huddled together, cordoned round by the Police! The Madras Government has ruled that no plague measures are to be enforced without consulting the wishes of the people. In the case of Garshankar, the wishes of its inhabitants seem to have been simply trampled down. Indeed, we cannot believe that it was not possible for the authorities to make the people evacuate the town without a riot or blood-shed. Why was the notice not given a week before the evacuation day was fixed? Why were not houses built previously, and then the people were asked to leave their houses? And why was not the evacuation effected gradually, instead of, in one day? We deeply deplore these massacres of the innocents; and we know, the authorities themselves are deeply sorry for them. Strict orders should, therefore, be given to the police never again to use their guns without orders from the Magistrate or other responsible officers; and, whenever they violate this salutary rule, they should be severely punished.

In his letter to the *Times*, Sir A. Mackenzie, while putting down his name, has to explain that he was "the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal." Six months ago, he was the absolute master of seventy millions; but now he is an ordinary individual,—one amongst the thirty millions in England. In Bengal, if he left his house, Sowars preceded him to proclaim his movement. Millions scrutinized the words that he uttered, whether they meant war or peace, blessing or curse. But now he has to live unnoticed: his words carry no more weight than they deserve. He was himself in doubt whether his name alone in the *Times* would enable the British public to recognize him. When the Emperor of Brazil had to leave his throne, he turned towards his beloved town from the ship which carried him away, and burst into tears. Sir A. Eden actually wept when he had to part with office;

and we commend it to the attention of those authorities in this country, who are unduly severe upon Indian rioters. The murderous assaults which the Orangemen repeatedly committed upon the police, were due to no provocation whatever. The Police had every right to fire upon their ferocious assailants, but they did it not. Constable Torens was knocked from his horse with a stone, and savagely beaten while down. The fallen man was rescued by the aid of Head Constable Hussay, who stood over him with a loaded revolver, and that of a passer-by, unknown, who gallantly risked his own life; and though the latter was seriously wounded, Head Constable Hussay did not discharge his revolver to defend him. Indeed, all that the police did was to draw their batons and charge the mob. Even the military, when they were called in, were not permitted to fire a single shot. The result was that the mob over-powered the policemen, 103 of whom were severely injured, the lives of many of them being despaired of. Compare the conduct of the police in Ireland with that of the Punjab who fired upon the inhabitants of Garshankar and killed and wounded dozens of them, simply because a few brick-bats were thrown at them. But while no provocation whatever had been given to the Orangemen, the people of Garshankar acted under most provoking circumstances. Much credit is due to the *Lahore Tribune* for having unearthed an official notice which shows how these men were thrown into a state of delirious excitement and made to lose all control over themselves before the disturbance. But let our contemporary speak:—

Riots are not the exclusive property of the Indians. They happen in England and Ireland also. Elsewhere is published their account of the rioting in Belfast,

and Sir A. Mackenzie had to express the anguish of his soul on a similar occasion. So it is clear that the system, which makes a king of an ordinary individual and then forcibly deprives him of power, is not really advantageous even to those who are apparently gainers by it. The officials here enjoy more powers than their brethren do in other countries. Yet they ask for more. Power, and 'more power' is the ceaseless cry of the officials. They are trained to love power; and when they have been thoroughly enslaved by that passion, they are told to give up all vestige of power, and live unnoticed and uncared-for. This is, we sincerely think, sheer cruelty. Why should not an official consider it a great relief when he finds, after he has been able to make his pile, an opportunity of spending the rest of his days in peace, retirement and spiritual culture? It is because he has been trained to love power, to be always in evidence, obeyed and respected by all who surround him. The condition of high officials, suddenly divested of all power, is best illustrated in the account given of the "Sleeper Awakened." In the morning, he finds himself the Padisha; and after twenty-four hours of enjoyment of supreme power, he is again hurled back to his original position of a common man! The best arrangement is to protect the officials from temptation; to give them as much power as is only necessary for the due discharge of the duties,—only as much power as will lead them to think that they are the servants of the public, but not their masters. Let not officials think that we envy their lot. We do not, and this we say sincerely. Power is absolutely of no value when one has to part with it in the latter days of his life against his own will. His enjoyment of power is a delusion, a snare.

When a petty Indian potentate asked, the other day, help of the Imperial Government, to enable him to pacify some of his subjects who had become contumacious, the Government took a severe notice of the incapacity of the Prince and declared him unfit to rule. Why does not the Government, in the same manner, consider a District Magistrate unfit, when he seeks the help of a punitive police force to be able to crush the refractory spirit of a village or a small town in his jurisdiction? To such a Magistrate the Government has the right to say that he ought to be able, with the extensive resources at his disposal, to enforce law and authority without additional reinforcement. A Magistrate, who needs a punitive police force to maintain peace and order in his district, confesses himself to be incompetent. The Government which accedes to such a request, encourages incompetence and indolence. Will the British Government ever agree to the arrangement of leaving all the fighting to the Gurkhas and Sikhs? No, because such an arrangement will demoralize the British soldier, and deteriorate the fighting power of the ruling race. When the Government, in this manner, accedes to the requests of Magistrates for strengthening their hands with additional force, when they have got enough for the purposes of enforcing their authority, it indirectly undermines British strength of character, and adopts a policy which has the likely effect of deteriorating the governing powers of Englishmen. To put punitive police in a pacified and civilized district to enforce law, is to make the art of governing exceedingly simple. A coolie can enforce order by this method—a method which emasculates both the ruled and the rulers. But more. How unjust to punish both guilty and innocent! Such methods are only excusable in countries newly conquered. During the Hindu-Mussalman riots in 1893-94, a punitive police force was quartered in the unfortunate city of Yeola. The Bombay Government is determined now to extend its operations for six months more. If the Government wishes to stop so-called sedition, let it put a stop to such violent methods. These methods produce the worst feeling in the mind. Only let Englishmen place themselves in the position of these Yeola people,—who have been put for years and years in a state of siege,—and they will readily realize the effect of such a policy upon the public mind. This unfortunate town, like Poona, has our heartiest sympathy.

THE case of alleged suspected plague, which occurred in Ward No. 1 on the 1st instant created considerable commotion, as hitherto not a single case has been reported from that ward. Indeed, the ward hospital was surrounded by hundreds of people, many of whom appeared to be overtaken by something like panic. We had a long talk on the subject with Dr. Kar who treated the patient; and from what we heard from him, it was evident that it might be as much a case of malarial fever or some other disease as that of septicemic plague. Doctor Kar, was, however, absolutely certain that it was not a case of bubonic plague. In the beginning he suspected that the patient was troubled with worms and therefore gave her santonine with purgative which acted upon her bowels. But as the temperature began to rise rapidly, he suspected it to be a case of a virulent type of malarial fever. Indeed, the Docthor said that he had previously come across some cases of this sort which he considered as malarial fever. The patient had come to Calcutta, only three or four days ago, from a malarial

district, and the probability is that she had brought the poison from there. Dr. Kar has never seen a case of real plague, so he could not positively say whether the patient suffered from that disease or not. All that he could say was that some of the published symptoms of the septicemic plague, which are also common to malarial fever and several other diseases, were present in her. She was returned to the Health Officer as a case of "suspected plague," as she was admitted into the hospital of the ward, where, it is understood, persons suffering from other maladies are not to be taken in. The patient should have been removed to the Medical College, and not to the ward plague hospital.

THE incorrigible *Indian Daily News* is again at it. That paper says:—

There was one seizure on Sunday. We were quite prepared for this diminution; for, we noticed there was a great diminution the Sunday before, and therefore we rather looked forward to the statistics. After all, everyone should have a day of rest, and we do not grudge it to the poor fellows.

It is not clear what the writer means: so far, however, is clear that he is sarcastic. On last Sunday, there was only one seizure as it was on Sunday before. From this the writer draws the conclusion that "Sunday is a day of rest and we do not grudge it to the poor fellows." Now who are these poor fellows? The plague officers or the plague patients or the plague hacilli? The question to be solved is, why there is only one seizure on Sunday and more than one on other days? The *Indian Daily News* solves the problem by the suggestion that Sunday is a day of rest when the poor fellows take rest. We again ask who are these poor fellows? These poor fellows can be either the people who refuse to fall ill on a day of rest, or the plague officers who refuse to do their full amount of work on a holiday, or the bacilli who respect Sunday as a day ordained by God as one of rest, and therefore leave their victims alone.

OF course, the Anglo-Indian papers pose as authorities, high in favour with the Government. But incidents crop up now and then, to show that they are as much objects of contempt as the native papers. Did not Mr. Stevens, when Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, charged the *Englishman* with the same offence, which was brought against the *Indian Daily News* the other day, and for which that paper was threatened with a prosecution? During the debate on Colonel Hutchinson's lecture at Simla, Sir J. Westland was pleased to say:—

Sir James went on to refer to the ignorant and foolish criticism, especially newspaper criticism, which had been poured out upon the Government of India in connection with this Frontier trouble. As an example of the kind of criticism, based upon an absolute misconception of fact, to which the Government had been subjected, he read an article which appeared in the *Calcutta Englishman* the very day the Afridis steamed into the Khyber and attacked the British forts there, in which that journal declared that the Afridis and the Orakzais had made no sign, and that we were upon the point of witnessing a fizzle out of the frontier scare. Thus at a time when the editor ought to have been in possession of actual news of the outbreak, he was engaged in charging the Government with having created a false alarm.

Sir James added that it was characteristic thereafter whenever it was shown how false had been these criticisms, no apology was made in any issue for the unfounded charge which had practically amounted to saying that the Government had forged the whole affair.

So, the criticism was "ignorant," "foolish" and "false." And the Government was charged with having "forged the whole affair!"

most exclusive and caste-restricted regiments, there are always a few men who come from the wrong districts. Commanding Officers should be allowed to recruit the likeliest men from whatever district they offer. As matters stand at present, old sepoys who have their homes outside the recruiting districts, find a difficulty, indeed, at times find it impossible to get their sons on into the army. This is not as it should be.

FOR some time past, Portugal has been pushing forward her commercial interests without much noise in Africa. It is now understood that the Portuguese are contemplating to construct a railway from Quilimane to Ruao on the frontier of British Central Africa. This course is likely to greatly benefit the Lake Nyassa district and to considerably shorten the route into British territory.

IT is said, there is now no doubt whatever that the "raiders" from across the Burma-Chinese frontier were not mere banditti, but soldiers belonging to the Mongla Sawbwa, assisted by Chinese regulars. Moreover, these men are said to have themselves admitted or asserted that they had orders from the Chinese authorities to erect stockades; and according to the *Pioneer*, "there is little doubt that the Chinese Boundary Commissioner, General Liu, was implicated." All this is serious news, no doubt, in view of the forthcoming frontier demarcation operations.

WITH reference to the paragraph that appeared in the "Morning Post" of Delhi, to the effect that one Mr. Treshman kicked a native employe who died very shortly after, and that the former was fined Rs. 250 by the Magistrate for the "offence," the *Clarion* of London remarks in its issue of the 4th June:—"Rather an expensive luxury, considering the present value of the rupee,—isn't it? Natives ought to be very much cheaper, considering their numbers. Besides, a native provides very poor sport, and a theory is advanced by some of the kicking Anglo-Indians—it has been brought forward in courts of justice to the effect that an *Indian is too costly killed by a kick*. So, of course, if one of these is settled by British purring, it only serves him right for being born a native and a heathen—a shocking crime in the eyes of the white-skinned, blue-blooded, Christian Anglo-Indian."

SHRIMANT Sadashiv Ramachandra, alias Anna Sahib Natu, second brother of the Natu brothers, at present under restraint at Belgaum, has, says the "Maharatta," presented a petition to H. E. the Governor, praying for the release of the brothers and the removal of the attachment over the joint family immovable property. The petition is well written and sets forth the facts of the Natu case, and the attachment and partial release of the joint family property. It argues the obligation resting upon Government to give reasons for their arrest, the illegality of keeping them under restraint by imposing conditions on them and making their release dependent upon their good conduct, when they have never been convicted in a judicial trial the anomaly of attaching the entire family property, moveable and immovable, without making a partition and allotting petitioner his share, and, lastly, the illegality of making the Natu estates pay for the maintenance of the two brothers while in confinement. Considering that this Natu affair a dark spot of Lord Sandhurst's administration, his Lordship, we hope, will avail of this opportunity of mending matters.

ELSEWHERE will be found a new plague Order, issued by the Government of Madras, in which the scope of the regulations for city and Muffussil is explained. The Order throughout bears evidence of sympathy and kindness; and the direction that "women will under no circumstances be examined by men" ought at once to be adopted by all other Local Governments. Home segregation is permitted only in exceptional cases where the house is in the midst of a spacious compound and no sanitary objections exist. We wish this privilege had been extended as far as possible, to the advantage of the upper middle-class as well.

WE are glad that the authorities of the Calcutta High Court have made a favourable response to the appeal of the plucked candidates at the last Mukhtesharship Examination. The *Calcutta Gazette* publishes the following High Court Notice: Insert the following proviso: Sub-Rule 6 of Rule 1, Chapter VII at page of the High Court's General Rules and Orders (Civil), as amended by paragraph Rule No. 6, dated the 23rd April, 1898, provided that, in the case of all candidates who were admitted to the examination on the 28th February and 1st and 2nd March, 1898, the production of a certificate of having passed the Middle Vernacular or Middle English Scholarship Examination or some other examination certified by the Director of Public Instruction to be equivalent thereto, shall, in the case of such candidates only and no others, be deemed sufficient to qualify them to be admitted to the Mukhtesharship Examination to be held in February—March, 1899.

IT is of passing interest to note that the mining leases in Kolar for the eight months ending 28th February, 1898, brought in an increased revenue of more than one and three quarter lakhs of rupees, the figures being Rs. 8,25,000 against Rs. 6,50,000 in the previous year.

PROFESSOR RAMSAY has violated the traditions of the Royal Society by sending an account of the discovery of Krypton to the French Academy first. He was bitterly taunted with this by Sir William Crookes and Professor Dewar, and he had a very poor excuse to make. He said that in doing so "he had been actuated by a desire to let the ladies see the new spectrum at the Conversazione on the previous day." The old story, Adam and Eve at the Royal Society. Then it was an apple, now it is the spectrum-line of "Krypton." Both rather indigestible and avoidable desiderata.

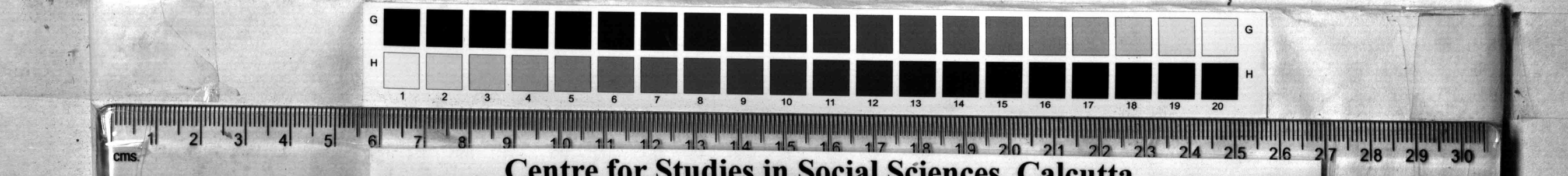
THE London *Star* says:—An instance of rapidity of promotion is that of Lord Edward H. Cecil, who was promoted captain a few weeks ago for Soudan services, and is now made major for similar reasons. He is the Marquess of Salisbury's fourth son.

THE *Englishman*, speaking about the native regiments, thus writes: In the

As the Allahabad High Court Vacation lasts from August 13th until November 29th, the Chief Justice proposes to utilize this period for a visit to England, and thus there is no need for a medical certificate.

ACCORDING to a Bombay Magistrate, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ought to take cognisance of the practice of harnessing little ponies to carriages that they are barely able to drag.

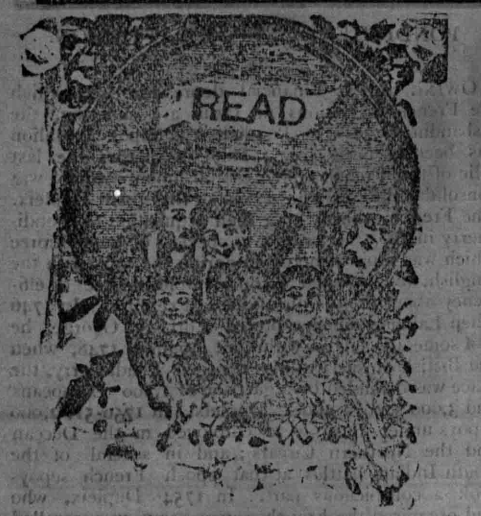
WE understand that the Government of India is to address another despatch to the Secretary of State regarding the North-West frontier, which will deal with questions connected with the Tochi Valley and the Kohat-Kurram line.











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