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পদকল্পতরু।

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মূল্য ৩॥০ টাকা।

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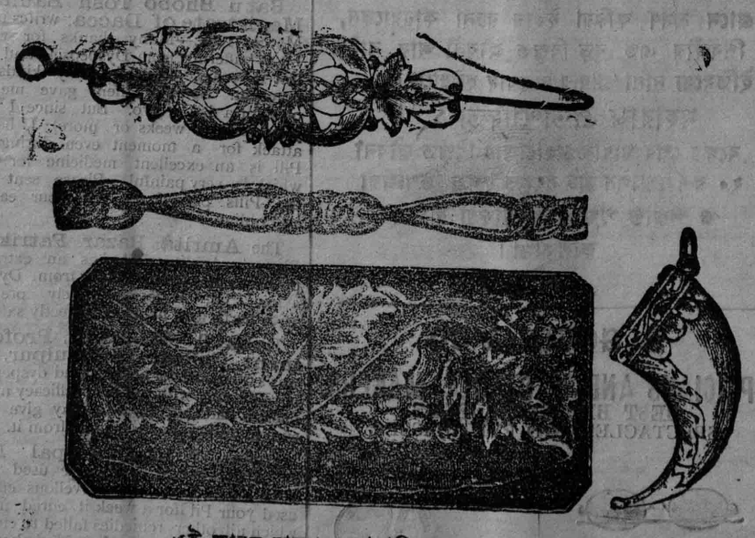

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মূল্য পাঁচ আনা মাত্র। ডাকমাশুল অর্দ্ধ আনা। এই পুস্তক-লিখিত প্রণালী অনুসারে চিকিৎসা করিলে সর্পদষ্ট ব্যক্তি কখনই মরিবে না। ইহার চিকিৎসা প্রণালী এত সহজ এবং পুস্তকের ভাষাও এত সরল, যে স্ত্রীলোকেরা পর্য্যন্তও এই পুস্তক পাঠ করিয়া অনায়াসে চিকিৎসা করিতে পারে। গ্রন্থকার ত্রিশ বৎসর যাবত এই প্রণালী অনুসারে অনেক সর্পদষ্ট ব্যক্তিকে নিজহস্তে চিকিৎসা করিয়া আরাম করিয়াছেন, এবং অপরকেও আরাম করিতে দেখিয়াছেন।

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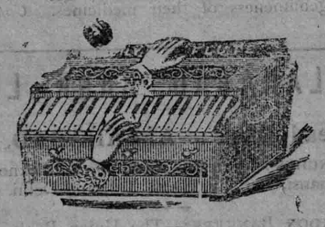
GUARANTEED  FOR 2 YEARS.

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ছত্রপতি শিবাজী ১॥০

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RUSSIAN RAILWAYS IN CENTRAL ASIA.

[SPECIALLY TRANSLATED FOR THE *Pioneer*.]

IN the "Turkestanskiya Viedomosti," received by the last mail, there is a long article regarding the construction of a railway from Tashkent *via* Semirechie and Altai to Siberia. This article is too long to be quoted in full, but we merely extract the most interesting parts of it. It says: "The travels of His Excellency the Minister of Roads and Communications in Central Asia, have brought into prominence a project which has hitherto only been considered in the pages of the local press. In a recent number of the "Novoe Vremya," it is warmly advocated by Engineer N. Michailovsky. The "St. *Petersburgskiya Viedomosti* received a telegram from Moscow of the 5th June, stating that a Director of the Moscow Yaroslav-Archangel Railway, Mr. Mamontoff, with other capitalists, intended to petition for a concession for the construction of a railway from Tomsk to Tashkent. Finally a correspondent in Vierny informed us of the word of the Minister of Roads and Communications, that the provision of a railway, and the uniting by its means of the Siberian provinces with Turkestan *via* Semipalatinsk and Vieray, constitutes a sacred desire for the Emperor, who wished to accomplish it during his reign, and that he, the Minister, fully shared this idea and would assist it as much as possible whenever it depended on him.

"We referred to this subject in many articles, and in particular in 1896 we pointed out, in speaking of the different projects, that one of them, the Tashkent-Orenburg line would join, in the shortest manner, the Turkestan territory with the centre of Russia, and that two others, the Kasnovodsk-Andijan and Tashkent-Semirechie-Altai-Siberia would serve for the strategical preservation of the huge frontiers of our territory, and, finally, the last, the Khiva-Kilif-Hissar, is *in the direction of the probable future expansion of the empire*. (The Italics are the translator's.)

"There is probably no country which is so deprived of natural means of communication as is Central Asia. It has neither good sleigh roads nor tolerably navigable rivers.

"Passing to the importance of a railway from Tashkent *via* Semireche and Altai to Siberia for Turkestan proper, we must repeat the wish expressed in the last number of the *Turkestanskiya Viedomosti*, that the perference should first of all be given to the Orenburg-Tashkent line, with a branch from Orsk to Cheliabinsk and from Chimkent to Vierny. If from the State point of view it is considered more desirable to give the first place to the Tashkent-Tomsk line, we shall certainly not object to the construction of the railway, the advantages of which we demonstrated at the beginning of 1896, and which will also fulfil many of the necessary requirements of our country.

"The completion of the Samarkand-Andijan Railway with a branch to Tashkent will doubtless give a new and strong impulse to the development of the specially southern products of Turkestan, and this circumstance, as we already well know by experience, will be accompanied by a rise in the price of the principal necessaries of life and of manual labour Already, more and more frequently are heard complaints of the dearness of living, far more than formerly, and with the opening of the above-mentioned line these complaints will become common lamentations. Must we then seriously protest against the indispensability of the line from Tashkent to Semirechie at one end of which for a *pood* of wheat one must pay 1½ *roubles*, and at the other end it is sold for 20, 15, and even 8 *kopecks*? (about 1-5th ⅙th and 1-12th of a *rouble*) Is it not apparent that this road will literally load with benefits both countries, to the advantage of the whole Empire? The railway connection of Turkestan with the centre of Siberia will encourage the exchange between them of the products of the south and of the north. Of these productions we will only indicate two. From Siberia undoubtedly a vast quantity of building timber will come, of which Turkestan has none and now orders from the Upper Volga, and from Turkestan garden products, of which Siberia has none.

DR. BISWAS

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ACIDITY and DYSPEPSIA are the two most common disorders of the day, and very few are so fortunate as to declare their immunity from these. In view of the fact that though apparently harmless in the embryonic stage, Acidity and Dyspepsia shatter and undermine the constitution in the end and lead to its total wreckage, it must be held that they are dangerous in their insidiousness.

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

The Hon'ble G. M. Chitnavis C. I. E Member of H. E. the Viceroy's Legislative Council, writes:—"The Acidity Pills are giving satisfaction to all those on whom I tried them.

Babu Bhobo Tosh Bannerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Dacca: writes under date the 6th March, 1898:—Many thanks for your Acidity Pills. I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pain for the last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief only for a day or two. But since I have been taking your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any attack for a moment even during this time, The Pill is an excellent medicine for this nasty disease which is very painful. Please sent 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 digestiv power so hat men suffering from Dyspepsia may give a fair trial. It is exclusively prepared from some ative herbs and hence is perfectly safe.

Babu T. K. Baksi, Professer Government College, Jubbulpur, writes Dr. Biswas's edicine for acidity and dyspepsia has been tried in our family with marked efficacy and I can safely declare that sufferers who may give it a fair ttrial are sure to derive much benefit from it.

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

Kumar Hemendra Krishna of theSovabazar vaj family, writes:—"I am glad to state that have been Red much benefit by the use of a box of your Acidity riills. Really I did no expect so happy a re It Pind.y 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 Evereign remedy for Acidity and Dyspepsia in general. so is prepared from innocent drugs, and therefore, perfectly harmless. Those that have been suffering from Acidity and Dyspeps.a will find in the said Pill a speedy and permanent cure. Dr. Biswas deserves the patronage of the public at large.

P. S. I have recommended your Pills to some of my friends who are similarly suffering.

The Acidity Pill is a vegetable preparation. We guarantee a cure aud

Refund the Price in case of failure.

Price Rupee One per box. V. P. charge annas 4 Do not fail to give it a trial when every other mediicine patent or prescribed, has failed to give you relief. You will realise its worth by a week's use only.

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EUCALYPTUS OIL, A REMEDY FOR MALARIA.

THE *Planter* has the following notes regarding the efficacy of eu alyptus oil in the treatment of malaria:—The efficacious properties of blue gum oil, especially as applied to malarial fever, are well understood and appreciated. The pity is that it is not more generally employed in fever cases. It is recorded that much good resulted from its use in the Australasian Colonies. A Dr. Kesteven, in New South Wales, treated 220 cases of typhoid fever in eighteen months, of which only four cases proved fatal. It will be seen from these results that as an efficacious remedy in malaria, eucalyptus oil stands very high. In his valuable work on "The useful plants of India", Drury remarks that M. Gubler quotes the testimony of several medical practitioners, who say that it produces marvellous results in cases of intermittent fevers, especially obstinate ones, where sulphate of quinine has failed. He also points out that in marshy districts, near to eucalyptus forests, intermittent fevers are unknown, a result that he attributes either to the neutralization of the effluvia by the aromatic emanations from the trees, or else to the sweetening of the stagnant waters by the leaves and pieces of bark that fall into them—such waters, according to travellers, being perfectly potable. Efforts are, therefore, being made to increase the number of eucalyptus plantations in the marshy and insalubrious districts of Corsica and Algeria.

PLANTS THAT EAT MEAT.

SUNDEW is the name of one of the most interesting of the insectivora or plant-eating insects. Sundew, says a writer in *Godey's Magazine*, is the poetic name given it, because of the gleam of the gem-like drops on the leaf surface; but in spite of its beauty, it is a little savage of vegetable life. Most plants absorb nourishment from the soil and atmosphere, but the sundew will drink milk and eat beef and mutton and hard-boiled eggs, if they are fed to it. Each leaf is covered with a number of tiny reddish tentacles, and at the end of each tentacle, is a little gland to which adheres a drop of sticky liquid. While watching the sundew we saw a gay little fly in a gauzy coat draw near. Hovering over the leaf, he lightly poised himself above it and prepared to sip the viscid drops. In a moment his feet were entangled, and he was a prisoner. The second the feet of the insect press over so lightly the glands—the motor impulse, as it is called, flies with unimaginable rapidity down through the tentacles, communicating with all upon the leaf, and they at once bend in the direction of the exciting object—the fly in this case.

As soon as the feet of the fly touched the tentacles, that wonderful change in them, which is called aggregation, began The purplish protoplasm, which flows unceasingly in their cells, separated into tiny masses of purple matter floating in a clear liquid. The fly had alighted on the leaf a little to the left of the centre, and the tentacles nearest him naturally bent first and deposited him upon the next, and so on until he was gradually rolled to the centre.

Meanwhile every gland secreted a digestive fluid which is strongly acid, and is, so far as can be ascertained, identical with the digestive fluid of animals. This fluid poured over the fly, drowning him, the tentacles bent closer, and the leaf hollowed itself like a cup and closed; when, after several days it should expand, all traces of the insect will have disappeared, digesteb and absorbed into the life of the plant.

ANDREE AND THE AIR CURRENTS.

WE were up in a balloon floating over Kent on a beautiful summer's day, at a comfortable height of about 8,000ft, (at 10,000ft. you often get out of sight of earth, and at 15,000 to 20,000 breathing becomes oppressive.)

"Why is so little progress made in ballooning?" I asked my aeronaut, who happened to be Mr. Lithgow.

"Because," he replied at once, "there are so few ascents, and," he added, "the men who go up are as a rule, not scientific enough, and their experiences do not carry weight with the Royal Society. First-class scientific men won't go up, so they know nothing about it; we go up, poor men—with our lives in our hands—and we know something, but our ideas don't count for much."

"How is any progress to be made?"

"By studying the air currents, of course. What does anyone know about the air curents 15,000ft. up? We know a little, but not much; still my opinion is that as there are great fixed *sea* currents, so there are great fixed *air* currents, and that it would be quite possible to map them out, and so get blown with het same security across the Atlantic as we can be now pretty safely blown across the Channel."

"Is that so?"

"Undoubtedly; if you go about 10,000ft. up, or out of sight of earth, you will find a pretty steady current which will land yon safely in France. Map out these currents—by tentative ascents; it will cost money, it will take time, and it may cost life, but until it is done no progress will be made in the science of aerography and balloon navigation."

This remark throws a rather painful light on M. Andree's expedition. He went up to find the North Pole—just as Webb plunged into Niagara—without making a single previous experiment on the ærial Polar currents. Such an expedition should have been preceded by a series of ascents and descents within a prescribed and safe area, testing the direction and stability of air currents in those high latitudes. Whilst we were up floating over Kent we did this with perfect success. At one time it seemed we might come down on the top of London chimneys—we shook out ballast and shot up into a current which carried us quickly over the Thames Valley and out into Kent. We chose our spot, and came down in a gentleman's park. Is it not strange that experiments like this can be made for mere pleasure, but that the War Office sends out balloons with its Army corps, and the scientific world equips M. Andree for the biggest exploration experiment ever undertaken, without the common precaution which suggests itself to the average unscientific but not unskilled aeronaut—of testing the air currents and mapping out the sky?

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Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, SEPTEMBER 1, 1898.

HOW THE MACKENZIE BILL CAN BE PERFECTED.

IT is not absolutely certain that the rulers of the land have secured unalloyed advantages, by excluding the natives of the soil from all responsible work. If the native Indian has now no responsibility, he has this advantage also that he has no anxiety and very little of toil. The Magistrate of the district has to look after everything—from a cyclone to a foreign invasion—and his portion is incessant toil and corroding anxiety. The native Indian is thus free to utter his Harinam in comfort, and take his rest when the rulers of the land are passing sleepless nights. Without, therefore, complaining, the native Indian can be thankfu- to the authorities for having released him of all responsible and toilsome work.

The Municipal Bill of Sir Alexander Mackenzie is, in th same manner, based upon purely benevolent principles. The object is not only to relieve the rate-payers of all responsibility, but also to do them a further service. The Government, as *ma bap*, has laid down how the rate payers, as domestic animals, should live, die, eat, sleep and drink. The main object of Municipal government is the enforcement of the rules of sanitation. Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Bill not only provides for it, but also lays down minute rules how the natives should behave in every condition of life. And though this increased the number of sections, it entailed enormous toil upon the framers, and proved the inexhaustible benevolence of the *ma bap*.

Yet we are proud to declare that our *shastra* makers anticipated Sir A. Mackenzie in this matter. For they too had laid down similar rules for the guidance of the people of this earth. Let us enumerate some of these rules here: they are known to every Hindu. The first duty of man on rising from bed, is to meet the call of nature. For this purpose: (1) he must go to a distance of two arrows' range from his dwelling-house which is something like 7 to 8 hundred yards; (2). He must dig a hole (the measurement of which is accurately given but which we unfortunately do not remember): (3) He then must sit with his face to the west: (4) The call being met, the hole must be covered, &c. &c. But the rules are many, as they are in the Mackenzie Bill.

We must say that though the Mackenzie Bill contains many minute descriptions as to how the citizen should behave in every condition of life, there are yet omissions, which, if supplied, would secure a greater perfection for the Bill.

The point is this. That which secures sanitation, is a duty which must be made binding on the rate-payers by legal provisions. Admitting the above principle, we do not see why the Mackenzie Bill should not contain the provisions suggested below.

Thus, tight shoes stop the circulation of blood in the feet. That means determination of blood to the head. Determination of blood to the head means apoplexy, and apoplexy means death. Why should not a rate-payer be protected from the evil effects of wearing tight shoes by a Municipal provision?

Then the rate-payers are most of them ignorant. They sleep without any method, some with their legs stretched towards the south, some to the north, nay, some even to the east! Now a man must sleep with his head to the south, in order to keep himself in agreement with the electric current that is created by the turning of the earth on its axis. *Why* should the rate-payer not sleep with his head towards the south? Why *should* not the paternal Government so provide as to compel the rate-payers to do it? We think, therefore, the unscientific way of going to bed must be provided against by a Municipal section.

As we proceed, many ideas rush into our minds. As exposure to the rains gives cold why should a rate-payer expose himself? He has no right to do it, and endanger public health. Let it be provided that everyone going out during the rains, should be prosecuted. Of course if one has any urgent need, he can easily take out a license from the Municipality. Let men who have to go out during the rains without a Municipal license, be prosecuted, and the danger certainly will die of itself.

The beard protects the throat. This is a scientific fact, and an indiscriminate shaving of the beard should be prohibited. If any one has any urgent need to do away with his beard, (as in the case of mourning,) let him also have a license for the purpose, before going to a barber. If this is considered a hardship, let the man, who is in need of shaving his beard, go to a nominated Municipal Commissioner for the purpose. Of course, this suggests that no one should be nominated by the Government as a Municipal Commissioner who does not know how to shave. A barber may as well do the duty; but then, there will be no check, hence the duty of shaving must be entrusted to the Commissioners who are nominated, the elected Commissioners being debarred from the privilege by their being independent of the Government.

The provision, restricting the rate-payers to the free use of water,—a privilege they enjoy now,—is an exceedingly wise one. Who knows not that, too much use of water brings on dropsy? And then, strict surveillance, to which the new Bill, if passed, will subject the medical men, will compel those meddlesome folk to leave the town and ply their trade elsewhere. This will save the citizens the charge of fees paid to Doctors, and, at the same time, protect the rate-payers from being over-drugged by poison.

With all the labour bestowed upon the Bill, we can't yet consider it a perfect specimen of legislation. Thus, for instance, it is not laid down how many meals the rate-payers ought to have every day for the purpose of health. Nor are we told what they ought to have on Mondays and what on Tuesdays. All these necessary duties of the rate-payers should be laid down by the *ma bap* Government for its children. All these done, even to the minutest details, the control of the Municipality should be absolutely taken out of the hands of the people; and then the happy citizens will have what is called the millennium.

STORIES AND METAPHORS.

Those who are capable of forming an intelligent opinion on the subject are so much of one mind about the urgent need of Sir A. Mackenzie's scheme for placing Calcutta Municipal affairs more under European control, etc. etc.

The above is taken from the *Englishman*, an organ of the Europeans! So, the organ of the Europeans says that the control of the Municipality should be placed in the hands of the Europeans. This is very nice. The situation is this. The affairs of one million of citizens must be put in the hands of a few thousand Europeans,—a community who have no abiding interest in the country. And we are told that every intelligent man will be able to see the beneficence of this arrangement! The *Englishman* consoles the Indians with the assurance that the elective principle will not be interfered with. The rate-payers will have the opportunity of electing as many representatives as they like, only these representatives will enjoy no power! Have your representatives, but let us have all the power, says the Mackenzie Bill. One story will illustrate the situation very distinctly. Two brothers had one milch cow, and when they were dividing their property, they did not know how to divide the animal. It was at last done in this way. The younger,—the shrewder,—proposed that the elder should take the first half, *i. e.* the front, and the younger, the other half. By this division, the duty of feeding the cow fell upon the elder, and the younger got all the milk and the calf. The Municipal Bill proposes a similar division. The Municipal cow is to be fed by the Indian rate-payers, but the milk is to be drawn by the Europeans!

During festival days, the Hindus worship images of Gods and Goddesses. Sometimes they are compelled to do it against their will. We shall explain how the unwilling are so compelled. A mischievous person buys an image, say, of *Saraswati*, of a potter, and then stealthily puts it, at dead of night, in the outer house of a neighbour. This latter, on rising from his bed, finds the image in his house. Under the custom of the country, as also in obedience to the religious belief that he holds, he is obliged to worship the image in regular form, which, of course, means expense of money.

In the above account, we have three elements, *viz*, the image, the mischievous neighbour, and the victimized neighbour. The Municipality may be taken for the image, Sir Alexander Mackenzie for the mischievous neighbour, and Sir John Woodburn for the other. The mischievous neighbour places the image in the house of his victim, and flies away. In the same manner, Sir Alexander Mackenzie has left a legacy to Sir John Woodburn behind him and fled to a distant country. And the victimized Sir J. Woodburn has now to do the Puja!

We have thus likened the European community to the younger brother, and Sir J. Woodburn to the victimized neighbour. How is one to explain the situation of the Hon'ble Mr. Risley? Here is a story for that purpose. A mother-in-law very much oppressed her submissive and dutiful daughter-in-law. The mother-in-law was, on account of her growing age, day by day losing strength, sleep, and appetite; and her temper continued to grow sourer and sourer with her increasing infirmities. During her fits of ill-humour, she soothed herself by oppressing the dutiful daughter-in-law. The old woman at last found herself on her death bed. She felt that her death meant the deliverance of her victim, the daughter-in-law. She formed a plan, however, of tormenting her daughter-in-law even when she was gone. What she did was to hang up a pair of spectacles that she was accustomed to wear, and to let her daughter-in-law know that if she was going to die, she was leaving her eyes behind. She said to her, "don't you think you will be free when I am gone. There I leave my eyes", and with her finger she shewed the hanging spectacles to the gaze of the affrighted daughter-in-law. Sir A Mackenzie is gone, but he has left his spectacles behind in the person of the Hon'ble Mr. Risley, to frighten the citizens!

A FEW MORE STORIES.

WE have tried to take this Municipal "reform" of Sir A Mackenzie with great seriousness, but without success. Whenever we make an attempt in that direction, the story of the Brahmin and the forty Khyra fishes, which is a true one, occurs to our mind, and our efforts are frustrated. This Brahmin, a priest, prayed to one of his flock, a Sudra, to treat him with Khyra fish, as they were both going on their way to a shrine. The Brahmin further said that he would cook for both. The Sudra was, of course, agreeable to the proposal, and he purchased forty fishes. The Brahmin cooked and ate, and the Sudra followed him to break his fast. On sitting to his dinner, he found that the Brahmin had eaten thirty-nine of the forty fishes!

He cursed the selfish meanness of the priest, and sought what consolation he could from the one single fish left for him. But alas! even this consolation was denied to him. For, on handling with the fish, he found that the Brahmin had eaten one-half of it, and placed it in such a manner on the plate as to conceal the fact from him.

The only gift which is not alloyed by selfish considerations, granted to the devoted people of India, after two hundred years of rule, by the enlightened rulers of India, is some slight control over the Municipality of Calcutta. This is the only gift which is based upon pure good-feeling. And have you, O ye noble rulers of the land, no compunction to take this small gift away from them after they had enjoyed possession these 25 years!

Yes, power is sweet, but the rulers are immersed "in an ocean of power." Will nothing satisfy this insatiable thirst? Jews love gold inordinately, and they are justly the objects of ridicule. Why should not those who love power inordinately be objects of ridicule too? Sir Walter Scott has made the world laugh at the love of gold displayed by Isaac the Jew. Ivanhoe sent him one hundred pieces of gold as a payment for goods received. The Jew never expected the gold and was therefore so overjoyed at his good luck that he made the resolve of paying the bearer something. But how much? He thought it ought to be five at least; for, even then he would have ninety-five pieces of gold left when he had expected nothing. In counting the pieces he arrived at the number ninety-five, and then he felt how hard it would be for him to part with such a large sum as five pieces of gold. So he went on counting,—ninety-five — ninety-six— ninety-seven, and in this manner he at last managed to arrive at the number ninety-nine! Then there remained one to be counted. And the Jew saw that there was no help for it, he must part with it. But the piece seemed so bright that he could not resist the temptation, and put that one also into his pocket!

On opening the book, Ivanhoe, however, we find that we made some mis akes in giving the above account. So, to make it strictly correct, we quote the following from the book itself, the payment made being eighty and not one hundred pieces:—

"Seventy-one—seventy-two; thy master is a good youth—seventy-three, an excellent youth—seventy-four—that piece hath been clipt within the ring seventy-five—and that looketh light of weight—seventy-six—when thy master wants money, let him come to Isaac of York—seventy-seven—that is, with reasonable security." Here he made a considerable pause, and Gurth had good hope that the last three pieces might escape the fate of their comrades; but the enumeration proceeded.—"Seventy-eight—thou art a good fellow—seventy-nine—and deservest something for thyself——"

Here the Jew paused again, and looked at the last zecchin, intending, doubtless, to bestow it upon Gurth. He weighed it upon the tip of his finger, and made it ring by dropping it upon the table. Had it rung too flat, or had it felt a hair's breadth too light, generosity had carried the day; but, unhappily for Gurth, the chime was full and true, the zecchin plump, newly coined, and a grain above weight. Isaac could not find in his heart to part with it, so dropt it into his purse as if in absence of mind, with the words, "Eighty completes the tale, and I trust thy master will reward thee handsomely.—Surely," he added, looking earnestly at the bag, "thou hast more coins in that pouch?"

What we mean is that, the people of this country ought to have some little remembrance of the fact that they live under the rule of a nation, which is governed under representative principles. To our humble thinking, the Government ought to have given local self-government to the people of this country long ago. But, instead of giving them that privilege, enjoyed by every country under British rule, it is exceedingly cruel to attempt to deprive them of the little of self-government that they enjoy in the city of Calcutta regarding Municipal affairs.

It is alleged that the British Indian Association is in favour of the reform. We allude to this bare-faced mis-statement to remind Sir J. Woodburn of one fact. It is that when the elective principle was granted by Sir R. Temple, the British Indian Association opposed it tooth and nail! And not only the British Indian Association, but the Trades Association, and the Association of the Justices.

The gift was thus made over to the rate-payers, inspite of the active and violent opposition of the British Indian Association and the European residents of the city.

We think it is but proper that Sir J. Woodburn, who has to decide this question of Municipal "reform," thrust upon his unwilling shoulders by his predecessor, ought to study the history of this measure.

Sir Richard Temple ruled Bengal and Sir Stuart Hogg ruled Calcutta. The administration of the latter created such a scandal that Mr. Black and other European Justices were led to resign on the ground, that no one had any voice in the administration of the Municipality. The way things were then managed so disgusted all classes of the community that even the *Englishman* was led to advocate the elective system! But it was the *Indian Daily News* which took more active part in this matter. Thus the two Anglo-Indian dailies demanded the elective franchise from the Government. The editor of the *Indian Daily News*, Mr. Wilson, wrote a very able pamphlet, pointing out the short-comings of the Calcutta Municipality and advocating the elective system. Indeed, when the first meeting was held, under the auspices of the Indian League, to pray for the elective franchise, it was presided over by Mr. James Wilson himself.

There was thus an open breach between Sir Stuart Hogg, who was the Municipality, and all classes of the community, the Europeans included. The latter were led by Mr. Roberts, and the scandals were exposed mainly in the columns of the *Indian Daily News* and occasionally in those of the *Englishman*. The attacks made upon the Municipal administration and Sir Stuart Hogg by the *Indian Daily News* were so violent that the former was provoked to bring a criminal suit against the latter in the High Court of Calcutta. The jury, which was composed mainly of Englishmen, however, gave a verdict in favour of Mr. Wilson.

We said of the violent opposition of the British Indian Association and Trades Association. Not that they opposed the elective principle,—they dared not do it. What they urged was that the privilege, which was given, was quite insufficient; and they demanded more representatives and greater powers than were conferred by Sir Richard Temple. All these are facts, and Sir John Woodburn can ascertain them for himself. Thus, you see, the indirect support that is alleged to have been given to the "reform" of Sir A. Mackenzie by the European community and the British Indian Association, does not mean anything particular. To be consistent, these men should pray for more privileges, and not the withdrawal of those which were granted.

The fact is there is no law, divine or human, under which the proposal of Sir A. Mackenzie can be supported. Is it fair or just to deprive half a million of rate-payers of the privilege of managing their own affairs and put them absolutely at the disposal of a few officials and Government-nominated members? It is alleged that Indian representatives cannot manage the Municipality properly. If that be so let the Government teach them to do their duty. It would be monstrous to deprive them of what they have been enjoying during the past twenty-two years.

THE recent Allahabad railway outrage case reminds us of a similar but a far graver one that was tried last year at Ranaghat. In the Allahabad case, the culprit, James Walter Davies, entered the compartment of Mrs. Victoria Grant, a young lady, no doubt, with the felonious object of committing an outrage upon her; but, beyond frightening her, failed to do her any further harm. The accused and Mrs. Victoria Grant, however, belonged to the same race and were intimate friends; and the former pleaded that beyond giving her a fright, which he had often done before in a jocular spirit, he meant no injury to her. He was, however, given seven years' penal servitude. Now to the facts of the other case. The culprits were two Europeans, Lawson and Collins, who were apprentices in the Eastern Bengal Railway locomotive work-shop. They got into a night train at Kanchapara and pretended themselves to be railway servants; and what they did on that occasion, is thus described by the Joint Magistrate of Ranaghat who tried the case:—"In this wise they came to a third-class carriage, reserved for the exclusive use of females. In a compartment were two women, Larna Bibi and Sowdamini Dassee, travelling with two children belonging to the former woman. The accused checked their tickets and passed on, and soon came back to them. Then Lawson entered the carriage, while Collins from outside lowered the gas. Lawson outraged the modesty of these women by assaulting them He first seized Larna Bibi, pulling her cloth off, and tried to have intercourse with her. Foiled, he passed to Sowdamini with whom he went so far as to unbutton his pant and insert——her clothes. The train approaching Ranaghat station, they went back and hid in the bath-room of a second-class carriage, from which they were brought out and arrested, on complaint made by the women." And what was the punishment awarded to the culprits? Upon the above facts, the Joint-Magistrate sentenced Lawson to one month's rigorous imprisonment, and acquitted Collins! The Government moved in the matter, and the High Court enhanced the sentence from one to eighteen months. As regards the other man, he bolted, and he has not yet been arrested. They have thus one law when Europeans and Europeans are concerned, and another law when Europeans and natives are concerned. It goes without saying that if Lawson had committed the same offence on two European females, he would have been given the highest punishment the law provides.

THE telegram from Puri, published elsewhere, will, we doubt not, give a rude shock to the entire Hindu community. Who are these "go-a-head" Commissioners of the Puri Municipality who advocated the killing of monkeys in a Hindu shrine like Puri? Are they Hindus? We hope, they are not; for, we cannot imagine that there are Hindus who can sanction the slaughter of monkeys, which are only one remove lower than the human species. And then, these animals are as sacred to the Hindu as kine; and we wonder that such a gross outrage was allowed to be committed in one of the first sacred cities of the Hindus. The other outrage is equally atrocious. It is the building of a public latrine by the side of the Temple of Juggennath. We do not know if these "go-a-head" Commissioners were elected or nominated. If they were elected, those who voted for them ought to pass a severe censure upon their conduct and ask them to vacate their seats. If they were nominated, they should be hurled down from their position by the Government; for, they have apparently betrayed the trust reposed in them. It is fortunate that such outrages were committed among a timid people like the Ooryas. If they were attempted in any other city of India, the result would have been very serious. All honour to the District Magistrate and Dr. Gillman for the support they gave to the Hindu party.

SASI PATNI, a young man of Chandberia (Hooghly), married at Salkea and used to live with her wife, aged 13, at his father-in-law's. He stole an ornament belonging to the girl and the result was a quarrel between him and his wife. He then removed to the house of a relation in the village, but continued to come and sleep with her. One night he was refused admission by the wife into her room unless he restored to her the stolen property. She also taunted him for being a worthless sluggard. The following day at 7 P. M, he returned with a *katari*, and struck the wife with it, inflicting severe injuries, which ultimately resulted in her death. The accused after the commission of the crime, became frantic with grief. He began to strike himself with the *katari* and inflicted some severe injuries on his person, exclaiming at the same time "I have murdered Mukta. I am going to follow her." In due course the young man was put on his trial, and the Sessions Judge of Howrah, differing from the jurors, convicted him under second part of Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code, of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and referred the case to the High Court under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Their Lordships, however, found the prisoner guilty of murder and sentenced him to death. Now there is no doubt of it that Sasi Patni committed a most diabolical offence; but then there is no doubt of it that he acted under provocation; and, though misguided, he loved his wife, as his subsequent conduct and utterance, after striking her, unmistakeably shewed. Such being the case, their Lordships might have tempered justice with mercy in his case, without detriment to the interests of society. While on this subject it will not be out of place to refer to "an appeal for public subscription" that is being made in West Ham on behalf of Mrs Hobbard who was sentenced to six years' penal servitude four years ago, for murdering her husband. Here are the circumstances under which the murder was committed. Mr. Hobband was addicted to drink and did not care for the support of his family. One night, he was discovered by Mrs. Hobbard in company of women of ill-fame. She begged him to return home; and, for this, she was roughly treated. Maddened, she left the house, but came back with a knife and stabbed him; and for this she got 6 years.

The following points are worthy of notice in the Howrah case: (1) The jury found in one way; (2) the Sessions Judge in another; (3) the High Court agreed neither with the one nor the other but chalked out a different path for itself.

A COMMUNICATION has reached us from up-country to the following effect:

An officer of the district of Benares is contemplating a prosecution of the Lucknow *Advocate*. He has applied to his official superiors for permission. The officer himself is too good for this revenge on the paper; but it is said that he has been forced by his friends to take this step on account of repeated misrepresentations of his motives by the paper.

Now we hate these libel suits. They serve no useful purpose; on the other hand, they rouse the worst of passions. We think, these cases can be always avoided by a little mutual forbearance. A newspaper can't help committing a libel now and then. The first impulse of the libelled party is to sue the editor and teach him a lesson. Before going to Court, however, his best course is to ask an explanation. In nine out of ten cases, the editor, if he finds he has done a wrong, will agree to make the necessary reparation by retractation and apology. This should satisfy the maligned person Of course the above rule can not always apply in gross cases, in which individuals are libelled for the brutal pleasure of giving them pain, and not for any public good. But, such cases are very rare in this country. As regards the threatened libel suit against the *Advocate*, we trust, matters will not be allowed to proceed to the bitter end.

ON Chapter XXII of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, Babu Nobeen Krishna Sircar writes:—

The chief requirements under Chapter XXII of the Municipal Bill are provisions for securing the free circulation of air around all buildings, whether dwelling-houses for owner's or renters's use, or public houses for purposes of religion, administration of justice, education, treatment of the sick, or godowns for the storage of goods, or manufactories for th

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preparation of articles, or markets for the sale of goods imported or exported.

In their solicitude for minute details about building regulations, the legislators appear to have inadvertently omitted necessary provisions to prevent future law suits between next-door neighbours for the free exercise of the rights of light and air under Part IV of the Supreme Council's Act XV of 1877.

For putting a stop to such harassing litigation, and at the same time to promote good feelings amongst neighbours by removing the necessity for the least interference with each other's buildings, all houses, hereafter to be built or re-built' should be directed to be raised with at least strips of land not less th n two feet wide on all sides of each building, being part of the site on which it is erected.

The idea of continuity of buildings, which is sanatorily unsuited for dwelling purposes, should be abandoned likewise in respect of all other classes of buildings. It is short-sighted policy to compel the construction of a dwelling-house, abutting on a public road on its north side, according to rules of sanitation, and simultaneously to permit the erection of three continuous ranges of godowns, abutting on the same road on its south side, obstructing the circulation of air over three hundred feet. If however the three ranges of godowns be apart from each other with intervals of open space at least four feet wide between them; there would be sufficient ventilation to prevent the block from becoming insalutary.

The alignment of public roads and streets being at many places meandering, it is incon, sistent to direct that the side boundaries of building sites should be at right angles to the road or street alignment under Section 361 (1). Under such a provision several houses on the new Harrison Road ought to be pulled down.

In this country during winter the wind ordinarily blows from the north and during the other seasons, ordinarily from the south. Eastern and western gales are comparatively rare here. It is not so in countries bounded by the Vindhya ranges, where the wind from the west is salubrious. Therefore in this country houses should be so built that they may have the rays of the rising sun on the east, which keep dry the building site, as required under section 361 (2) (a), with some screen on the west to keep out the influence of the rays of the setting sun, exposure to which makes one unhealthy, with open space on the south for the salubrious sea breeze, and with the north enclosed to prevent the chilling blasts from the Himalyan range from contracting the muscles and nerves.

The provision of section 363 (1) for the sale by the Chairman of sites disapproved for building purposes on account of their shape, situation or size, cannot but interfere with private rights of individuals, which can never be expected to be acquiesced in without secret rancorous feelings for dread of authority. Such unnecessary interference with private property can be wisely avoided by insisting only on the construction of detached buildings, as hereinbefore noticed, whatever might be the area of the site.

The idea of proportionate elevation and construction of the frontage of all masonry buildings in respect of their architectural features under section 365 (1) (f), apparently imbibed perhaps from inspection of the small town of Joypore in Central India, can not now be introduced in a large town like Calcutta, already filled up with buildings in every direction within the Mahratta Ditch.

Under Section 370 the erection, re-erection or material alteration of buildings is directed to be made only by builders, licensed by the Engineer of the General Committee. Such a provision cannot but tell against the purse of men with ordinary commonsense who are poor and therefore personally superintend the construction of their own plain houses. If permission be refused to such private individuals to undertake the erection of their own houses, then the owners of such houses must be driven out of the town. I cannot help recording here that to economize expenditure the Local Committee of Public Instruction at Bancoorah entrusted to me the construction of extensive additions to, and material alterations in, the Government School building, which I succeeded in completing at half the rates for building-works then allowed by the Public Works Department in that district, and which after close examination by the Executive Engineer of the Burdwan Division were pronounced to be as strong as works made by his Departmental asssistants, though I was no licensed builder.

Provisions contained in Section 372 (3) about durable materials impervious to moisture, and such other provisions display indeed professional experience in the selection of building materials, but I venture not to trouble the legislators' heads with any remarks on them, when perhaps four-fiftis of the houses in Calcutta are *kaccha-pucca* houses, *i. e.*, built with ordinarily burnt bricks set in mud for mortar.

THE requisition to the Sheriff, requesting him to convene a public meeting to protest against the Calcutta Municipal Bill, has two special features. As a rule, the Mussalman and Marwari residents of the city keep themselves aloof from such political movements. The requisition, however, bristles with the names of the leading members of both these communities. This proves conclusively the objectionable character of the measure; for, otherwise, these non-political classes would have not been so powerfully moved as to take a leading part in the matter. It also shews the genuineness of the demonstration; for, the Marwaris and the Mussalmans have never played into the hands of the "professional agitators". We very much wish that some of the so-called professional agitators had not put their signatures to the requisition, and thus given no opportunity to the opponents of the process of the country to belittle the demonstration, though, we must say, that as citizens it would have been a dereliction of duty on their part not to have joined the movement. The other feature of the requisition is the absence of the names of the leading members of the British Indian Association from that document. There are two main reasons for this. One is despair; the other, party-feeling. We have had a talk with some of these members. They said that they were as much opposed to the principles and details of the Bill as any other citizen; but they were assured by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, and after his departure, by Mr. Risley, that the Government would not re-open the question of principles, and hence they thought it useless to make any protest. Of course, the attitude taken by them is, neither patriotic nor sensible, specially as Sir Alexander Mackenzie is no longer the ruler of Bengal, and Mr. Risley is only his spectacles [vide the leading article.] The Government, however, must be acquainted with the reasons which have prevented the British Indian Association party from joining the movement. They are, however, only half-a-dozen against several lakhs. When the elective system was sought to be introduced into Calcutta, the members of the B. I. Association, backed by the Trades Association and the Justices of the Peace, opposed the reform. They were, however, silenced by Sir Richard Temple with the statement that they represented the interests of only a handful of men, and that their voice was drowned by that of the fifty thousand ratepayers who had prayed to Government for the boon. We trust, Sir John Woodburn will see his way to follow the noble example of his illustrious predecessor, Sir Richard Temple, if the few members of the B. I. Association take it into their head to support the Mackenzie measure which, however, we think, they will not do. All that they are likely to do, is not to say anything against the principles of the Bill but to protest against many of its details. The requisition would have been signed by the representatives of all important houses in the city, except a few belonging to the B. I. Association party, if the promoters of the meeting could have waited only a week or two more. This we know as a positive fact. The promoters, we think, have committed a blunder by convening the meeting before other signatures were secured. And may we inquire, why did they not wait at least till the arrival of Babu Ananda Mohun Bose? However, the meeting ought to be very numerously attended; for, the vital interests of the country are involved in the question of this Municipal Bill.

WE are sorry to say that Babu Ananda Mohun Bose was not enjoying good health when the last mail left England. Indeed, on the eve of his departure for that country he could not keep his engagements with many,—amongst others, with Lord George Hamilton. We regret this mishap very sincerely. Lord George Hamilton's policy towards India is based upon the supposition that the Indians are a race of savages. The sight of and a talk with Babu Ananda Mohun would have at once dispelled this illusion. Lord George Hamilton is not wholly to blame for entertaining such a low opinion of the Indians. The policy of a class of Anglo-Indians has ever been to depict the Indians in the blackest colour possible. Even in their representations they make the Indians look like hideous savages, and as black as the Negroes. The last mail brings us the following letter from Babu Ananda Mohun Bose:—

73, ALBERT, STREET LONDON, N. W.

12TH AUGUST, 1898.

I have very little time, but must send a few hurried lines to you my last from England. How solemn to think that, God willing, within a week of this reaching you, I shall at length, after these many months, be at home!

I have not heard from you for some time, but this was, no doubt, due to your thinking that I had left before this. Next Wednesday the 17th will be my last in this country. On the 18th I embark at Marseilles on the P. & O. "Oriental", and changing at Aden into the mail steamer "Bengal" (and not the "Clyde" as was the original arrangement), I hope to reach Calcutta by train from Bombay on the 5th of September.

I am very sorry to inform you that I have been unwell and confined to the house since a week past, due possibly to overwork. What makes me specially sorry is that this should have happened just now, when I had so very *much* to do on the eve of my departure. I have had of course to give up many appointments,—amongst others, one I had with Lord George Hamilton on Monday last. I had to write to him, expressing my regret at not being able to come and see him. I am much better now, but still a prisoner in the house, but hope I shall be all right in a day or two. Many whom I had intended to see and some other little work I had thought of doing, will remain unseen and undone. But God teaches us resignation to His will by such bars to our own ways and wishes.

P. S. I am receiving so many and so kind letters from English friends, speaking so much of any little work I may have done here! Possibly some day I may show them to you! And so soon I shall be with you! May our Heavenly Father bless us all!

So Babu Ananda Mohan Bose will be in our midst in the course of a week. The Municipal meeting might have been thus easily postponed till his arrival. As the Municipal Commissioners will not take part in the proceedings of the meeting, there will be a dearth of speakers If the promoters had waited only one week more, they might have had the advantage of the fervid eloquence of Babu Ananda Mohun, which moved England recently so powerfully. A good many people have asked us to know why the meeting was hurried with such indecent haste. We have no satisfactory reply to give to the question. Of course, Babu Surendra Nath has. Indeed, we had not the least notion that the matter would be hurried in this fashion.

THE London *Daily News* has the following beautiful editorial comments on the result of the debate on the Indian Sedition Law:—

The amendment, moved by Mr. Herbert Roberts on the Indian Budget last night against the new Press Law, was rejected by sixty-six votes against thirty. The numbers are not complimentary to India. But the time at which the Indian Budget is discussed, does not lend itself to much expression of opinion either in debate or in the lobby. The new Press Law is the offspring of panic. Editors of newspapers can now be imprisoned in India for twelve months without a trial, which is not encouraging to the profession of journalism. The Solicitor-General who, from his profound acquaintance with Indian subjects, undertook to reply for the Treasury Bench, delivered himself of a remark able sentence: "We have given liberty to India," he said, "and it is to be regretted that a limited section of the community should use that liberty to attack their benefactors" the British Philistine never concocted a purer specimen of the quality for which he is justly and universally famous. Sir Robert Finlay is indignant at the notion that the Indian Government wish to restrict in any way the freedom of the Press. The Indian newspapers are perfectly free to praise the Government, to flatter the Government, and to thank the Government for giving them freedom. They may even criticise the Government if the Government think the criticism fair. But, of course, if the Government think the criticism unfair, they must, for the sake of social order, be allowed to imprison the critics without a trial for a reasonable time. Otherwise nobody would be safe. The Solicitor-General is convinced, from the plenitude of his knowledge, that the people of India have no sympathy with these articles. No general statement is true about the people of India, many of whom do not know what a newspaper is. But if the Solicitor-General were accurate, the inference would be that the articles could do no possible harm, not that the writers ought to be put in gaol. The fact is that Lord Elgin was carried away by the apprehension which seized the official class after the murders at Poona, and the new Viceroy could not begin his career better than by repealing the Press Law.

WE have more than once adverted in these columns to the stupid and mischievous opinion, freely circulated by a certain interested clique, that the principles of the Calcutta Municipal Bill have been settled once for all and will not be reconsidered by the authorities; it is only the dry details of the Bill that are open to the public to criticise. We need hardly mention that such a view of the case is absolutely without any foundation whatever. On the contrary, Government, as usual, have invited a full and unrestricted expression of opinion on the whole Bill, and it would be dealing unfairly with Government if the various public bodies do not express their opinion fully, fearlessly and without reservation. In this connection we would draw the attention of the public of Calcutta, and particularly of those gentlemen who will take an active part in the proceedings of to-day's meeting at the Town Hall, to the following extract from the letter of the Government of India to the Government of Bengal, dated 16th March, 1898, conveying the sanction of the Governor-General in Council to the introduction of the Bill into the Bengal Legislative Council:—

The Bill is of a most important character and introduces wide and far-reaching changes in the law under which the Municipal affairs of Calcutta are at present managed; and after giving anxious consideration to them, the Government of India have determined to give their general approval to Sir A. Mackenzie's proposals. The proposal to revise the law has also received the approval of the Secretary of State. The Governor-General in Council observes with satisfaction that the Lieutenant-Governor is inviting the fullest discussion of the measure, and is assured that His Honor will carry out the proposed legislation in as conciliatory a manner as possible. His Excellency in council does not propose at the present stage to examine the details of the Bill, but he will watch with interest the discussion of the measure by the Select Committee and the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor, and feels confident that the views of the Corporation and the leading Associations, which are being invited by the Lieutenant-Governor, will receive careful and attentive consideration at their hands.

So the Government of India have given only "general approval" to the Mackenzie Bill. It is also evident that "the fullest discussion" of the measure is required, and how can this be unless the principles are touched? Besides, many of the details are interwoven with important principles. It is hopeful and reassuring to know that in March last, when this letter was addressed to the Government of Bengal by the Government of India, the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir John Woodburn, was the Home Member of His Excellency's Council.

SIR J. B. LYALL, President of the Famine Commission, arrives in Simla from the interior on the 11th of September, when the report of the Commission will be finally passed.

THE Police investigation into the murder of the witnesses in the Punjab bribery case has resulted in the arrest of three Mahomedans in Bhawalpur territory. The names of these three persons are Haidari, Bhodri and Sikandar. It appears there was very great jealousy between the family of the deceased and that of the accused, about the betrothal of a girl, and this led to the murder. According to the investigation made by the police, there is ample evidence of eye-witnesses of the murder, and of those who heard the deceased in his last moments saying he had been attacked by the persons implicated. No other motive than that mentioned is alleged or suggested The accused are still in custody in Bhawalpur territory, and a requisition for their surrender has been made. They will, it is believed, be put on their trial on arrival in British territory.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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THE FOREIGN OFFICE.—It is probable that Captain Mc Mahon, Political Agent at Gilgit, will officiate as Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

THE B. E. EXAMINATION.—The following candidates have passed the B. E. Examination—all in the second division: Haridas Das, Ashutosh Bosu, Surendranath Sarkar and Janendranath Chatterjee.

EXAMINATION OF COMPOUNDERS.—The next half-yearly examination of compounders will be held at the Champbell Medical School, Calcutta, and the Temple Medical School, Bankipore, on the 12th and 14th October next respectively.

CONSTRUCTION OF SLUICE.—The Lieutenant-Governor has sanctioued the revised plans and estimate of cost, amounting to Rs. 1,23,457 for the construction of a six-vented sluice at Satpukur, in the Diamond Harbour Subdivision.

THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.—It is understood that the officers of the Indian Medical Service will, under the new rule, be known as Generals, Colonels, Majors, etc, of the Indian Medical Department.

EARTHQUAKES IN RANGPUR.—The *Englishman's* correspondent sends the following description:—The earthquake shock felt here at 2-20 A. M. on the morning of the 24th, was the severest felt for some time, lasting about a minute. Many persons ran out of their houses, but I have not heard of any actual damage done. As I write (11-10 A.M., 26th August) there has just been another shock, lasting 30 seconds. We have excellent warning always, as there is invariably that low rumbling sound, like a ticca gari driving up before each shock.

THE BARISAL GUNS.—A correspondent writes to the *Englishman*:—Most people are unware of the fact that these so-called guns are also heard in Orissa on the big rivers. At a place called Aknapada they are often to be heard on the still evenings during the rains. The "bore" of the Megna cannot be held responsible for these. They are, I believe, bores up the Damra, but why should these guns only be heard in the evening. Bores are not confined to those hours. In my opinion these "guns" are, as they were—unexplained.

INDIA IN THE QUEEN'S SPEECH.—The following paragraph occurs in the Queen's Speech on the occasion of the prorogation of Parliament:—"In certain portions of Western India and in a small district of the Punjab the plague, though it has abated during the hot weather, still exists, and a few cases have occurred in other parts of the country. My officers have done all that lies in their power to relieve the victims of the epidemic and to arrest its growth. I am thankful that bountiful harvests have been gathered throughout the greater part of India and that the internal and external trade of the country is rapidly recovering from the depression caused by the famine of the preceding year."

EXCHANGE COMPENSATION ALLOWANCE.—The following Resolution by the Government of India (Financial Department) deals with the revised rules for the grant of Exchange Compensation Allowance:—Clause B. Rule 5 is as follows:—"Exchange compensation is not admissible to persons serving under a contract in which their allowances are definitely fixed, which is not preliminary to employment in one of the regular services of the Government, and five years of service under which have not elapsed." With reference to the recent Despatch from the Secretary of State, the Governor-General is pleased to direct the following note to be inserted after this clause:—"This clause relates only to persons appointed under a written contract in India. A European so appointed in England will (under paragraph 3 of the Resolution publishing the rules) be entitled to exchange compensation allowance, if his salary is not fixed in sterling and there is nothing in his agreement to exclude him from the allowance.

MONETARY.—Yesterday's quotations were 1-3-15-16 for demand and 1-4-3-16 for six months.

THE L. G. AT SERAMPORE.—His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, accompanied by Mr. Gayer, the Private Secretary, the Hon'ble Mr. Turner and Messrs. Lyall, Atkinson and Ritchie, visited the India Jute Mills at Serampore at noon on Tuesday and was received by the Manager, Mr. D. Cochrane, who showed him all over the premises. His Honor spent an hour and-a-half at the mills and took a great interest in almost everything he saw. Sir John Woodburn next visited the Serampore College, where he was received by the Officiating Principal, the Rev. Mr. Norledge. His Honour inspected the College Library and had a few words of instruction to the theological students. Sir John seemed to have been interested in the photo of the late Mr. Carey. The college was kept closed yesterday Wednesday) in honour of his visit.

CROP AND WEATHER.—There was rain in all parts of the Province during the week, ending August 29, and in Eastern Bengal the fall was very heavy, and some damage to the crops is reported from Tippera, Noakhali and Chittagong, Barh, Muughyr, and Pakour. The transplantation of winter rice is being rapidly completed, but in Uluberia, Diamond Harbour, Jalpaiguri, Bettiah, Sitamarhi, Madhubani, Purnea, more rain is required. The *bhadoi* crops are promising except where they have been damaged by floods in Patna, Monghyr, and the Sonthal Parganas. Grass-hoppers are still doing damage to the paddy plants in several thanas in Midnapore. The harvesting of early rice and the cutting and washing of jute are in progress. There was a slight fall in the price of rice in some districts. Cattle-disea se is still reported from places, but the fodder supply is everywhere sufficient.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

OFFICIAL REPORT.

FROM Friday the 26th ultimo to Tuesday the 30th ultimo there were two fresh cases and one death. The total of "true cases" up to the 30th ultimo was 219 and deaths 180.

THERE were 32 attacks and 26 deaths in Bombay on Tuesday.

SIXTY-five cases and 52 deaths were recorded in Hubli town on the 26th, and 44 cases and 39 deaths on the 27th.

PLAGUE in Vinchur, of Nasik District, is bad, about 12 cases occurring daily.

TWENTY-four cases and 13 deaths were recorded in Bhor on Monday. Plague in Dharwar is bad. Nearly 8,000 people have left the place. The Brahmins are erecting a hospital.

THE returns in Karachi for the 30th show 1 case and 1 death.

OWING to the influx of persons from infected plague places into Poona, the following rules are brought into force:—Bedding, clothing, all servants of officials, and all followers of visitors to Poona will be detained at the rails way station and disinfected. All servants of officials will be placed under surveillance for ten days. For the convenience of person-owning horses entered for the Poona race meeting, a hospital assistant will attend the race stand for the medical examination of stable servants and jockeys.

IT is formally notified by the local agent of the P. and O. Company that commencing on the 1st September all passengers leaving India for European ports must under the provisions of the Venice Convention, be medically inspected by the health officers on shore before embarkation. Passengers leaving by English mail steamers will be examined at Ballard Pier and taken off in the P. and O. Company's launches to the mail steamer in stream. Passengers who attempt to reach the mail steamer by any other means will not be admitted on board. Friends of passengers cannot go on board the steamer under the new regulations, but must leave them at Ballard Pier, as they will not to be allowed on the tenders. Passengers are warned to present themsives at Ballard Pier at the time appointed for examinaticn, so as to avoid delay and possible detention to themselves.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. C. H. J. Craven, Offig. Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Meherpur subdivision of the Nadia district.

Babu Promada Nath Mukerjee, Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., Khulna, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Abhilas Chandra Mukerjee, Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., employed as Insp. of Excise, Western Circle, is allowed leave for one month and fifteen days.

Mr. L. C. Adami, Asst. Magt. and Coll., Dacca, is allowed furlough for three months.

Maulvi Mohummud Abdullah, Dy Magt, and Dy. Coll., Kushtia, Nadia, is allowed leave for one month and fifteen days.

Babu Ashutosh Chatterjee, Offig. Dy. Magt. and Dy. Coll., Nadia, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Kushtia subdivision of that district.

Mr. A. P. Pennell, Offig. Dist. and Sess. Judge, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for twenty-two days.

Mr. Ambica Charan Sen, Offig. Addl. Dist. and Sessions Judge, Dacca, Jessore with Khulna, Backergunge, and Mymensingh, is appointed to act for him, in addition to his own duties.

Mr. H. F. E. B Foster, Offig. Jt-Magte and Dy. Collr., Meherpur, Nadia, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. A. Pedler is appointed to act until further orders as Inspr of European Schools, Lower Provinces.

Mirza Bedar Bakht, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Chittagong, to be ordinarily stationed at Cox's Bazar.

Babu Kali Kisor Taluqdar, Offig. Dy. Magte. on excise duty, Purnea, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Kali Kumar Bose, Sub-Judge of Dacca, is allowed leave for fifteen days.

Babus Sasi Bhusan Chowdhuri, Jadu Nath Ghosh, and Bhuban Mohan Ghosh, Munsifs of Alipore, in the district of 24-Parganas, are each vested with powers of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 100 within the local limits of that portion of the Alipore Munsifi which lies outside the limits of the jurisdiction of the Small Court at Sealdah.

Dr. J. A. Fink, Officiating Civil Medl. Officer of Bhagalpur, is appointed temporarily to act as Civil Medl. Officer of Midnapore.

Babu Balmukund Kanungo, sub pro tem, Sub-Dy. Collr, Orissa Division, is posted to the head-quarters station of the district of Cuttack.

Babu Ashutosh Mookerjee, sub pro tem Sub-Dy. Collr., Burdwan Division, is posted to the head quarters station of the district of Midnapore.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

India and England.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, AUG. 12.

THE VICEROY-ELECT.

LORD SALISBURY has prepared a surprise for everyone interested in Indian politics. To the astonishment of everybody, the Right Hon. George Nathaniel Curzon, M. P., Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed to the Viceroyalty of India. This is quite a bolt from the blue, as it had become quite an understood thing in political circles that Lord Balfour of Burleigh was to receive the appointment. During the last two or three days I have discussed the appointment of Mr. Curzon with a great variety of persons, and no one seems able to make up their mind whether it is a wise or a foolish choice. Mr. Curzon is the youngest Viceroy, who has been appointed under the British Crown. He was born in 1859, and is, therefore, only 39 years of age. Lord Lansdowne was 43. The Earl of Elgin 44, the Earl of Lytton 45, both the Earl of Mayo and the Earl of Northbook were 46, Lord Lawrence was 52, Lord Ripon 53 and Lord Dufferin 58. It will thus be seen that Mr. Curzon in only a few years younger than the age at which the appointment is usually made. Youth is on his side, and, to my mind, at any rate, forms no objection. Most men are at their best at 40 years.

No one doubts Mr. Curzon's great abilities. For so young a man, few politicians have had such a brilliant career. Educated at Eton and Balliol College, he took a distinguished degree, and was elected a Fellow of All Souls, which is quite the blue ribbon of all the Oxford fellowships. After having spent some time in travel, he became Assistant Private Secretary to Lord Salisbury in 1885, having already unsuccessfully contested South Derbyshire. In 1886, he was returned for the Southport division of Lancashire, which constituency he has represented until now. In 1891, he became Under-Secretary of State for India. During the 1892-95 Parliament, when he was out of office, he travelled extensively in Central Asia, Persia, Afghanistan, the Pamirs, Siam, Indo-China, Corea and Japan, receiving the gold medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1895. Mr. Curzon's books on "Russia and Central Asia", "Persia and the Persian Question" and "Problems of the Far East", are authorities on the countries treated upon, and are recognised as such by politicians on all sides. At one time, Mr. Curzon was a foremost advocate of the forward frontier policy; but from personal conversations with him, I know that he is not so strong in this direction as he was, and its recent development has made him still more conservative with regard to this question.

Mr. Curzon is the eldest son of Baron Scarsdale who is himself not more than 65 years of age; so in all probability, he will have a barony conferred upon himself before he comes out to India. His wife was a dashing American beauty—Miss Mary Leiter, whose father is reputed to be worth seven or eight millions sterling, and who gave a splendid dowry to his daughter on her marriage with Mr. Curzon. Her brother is the Joseph Leiter who has recently earned a somewhat unenviable notoriety by making a corner in wheat, the price of which he raised artificially, by some 50 per cent, to the great inconvenience of poor people all over the world who have to live on bread. I am glad to say, he is reputed to have lost between two and three millions sterling in the operation. Mrs. Curzon has made for herself a strong position in London society, and is somewhat notable for her successful entertainments. So far as the smart *coteries* of Anglo-Indians at Calcutta and Simla are concerned, I have no doubt, she will make herself very popular and be quite a success. But considerations of this kind do not greatly affect the 300 millions of natives of India.

Mr. Curzon has a good conceit of himself He has every confidence in his own powers, has a strong will, and will stand no dictation from anybody. He is man of quick judgment and colossal industry. He has a great reputation for the quick mastery of subjects and full confidence in his own capacity to judge. So far as his ability and general record are concerned, he is no mean successor to the brilliant men who have occupied this distinguished office before. Some surprise is felt by many of us that he should be willing to accept the office at all. His extraordinary talents, his magnificent debating powers, his great intellectual grasp of any subject he takes in hand, have long since marked him out for a great political career. The taking of this great office removes him for some time to come, from the arena of politics at home; and any Indian Viceroy who realises his position and is equal to it, has no time and no inclination to keep up the study of political questions in England, or to care for any other part of the Empire than the great dependency placed under his charge. I believe, the real secret of it is that his health has not been very good of late, and that he is always well in tropical countries. It is curious that the fatigue of Parliament often breaks him down, while in his extensive journeys in Persia and all over the frontier, where he has had to face great and peculiar physical strain, he has always enjoyed perfect health. It is quite understood that there is nothing in his physical condition in the least degree unfavourable to the full discharge of his duties in the Viceroyalty. Gossip has it that he and Lord George Hamilton are not too fond of each other. However, twelve or eighteen months will probably see the end of that connection, and Mr. Curzon will find himself the representative of a strong Liberal Administration. With that in view, the appointment is perhaps a good one, as he is one of the most democratic members of the Tory party, and thoroughly realizes the fact that democracy, and not aristocracy, is now the ruling power in the British Empire. That he will take a very distinct line of his own when he gets to India, no one who knows him can doubt; and what that line will be, no one who knows him will venture to predict. One thing is certain: he will either "make a spoon or spoil a horn." He is pretty sure to have ructions with the permanent officials, and will take a strong line of his own on everything. There is no fear of his prejudging any question he considers. His reputation at the Foreign Office is that he never comes to any decision until he has worked the whole question out for himself, however knotty and difficult it may be, and when that is done, he takes his own line and sticks to it.

One thing about the appointment is, to my mind, very satisfactory. Mr. Curzon knows absolutely nothing of currency and finance. He may be depended upon to work the question out for himself, as vigorously and as thoroughly as he would work out the Persian question the position of Russia in Central Asia, or any other of these concrete questions on which he is so accepted and undoubted an authority. This is all to the good. Nothing could have been more fatal at the present crisis on Indian currency than the appointment of a pronounced Bi-metallist, or, indeed, a pronounced man on any other phase of this great controversy. A strong, clear, fresh brain is what s wanted, and that Mr. Curzon undoubtedly possesses. He has plenty of faults. They are small, and on the surface; and that is his chief drawback. He is apt to take and give offence, and there have been occasions when this weakness of his has gone rather close to spoiling his career. He has, however, been much better in this respect since he got married, and his character has considerably ripened during the last three or four years. He is a man who may easily give offence to some important native prince, or to some civil servant, high up in the Government. He is not a man who will get through his Viceroyalty without a violent quarrel or two with some of the men with whom he comes in closest contact.

One advantage about the appointment is that Mr. Curzon is understood to be a *persona grata* with the Ameer of Afghanistan. He has visited him at Cabul, was very condially received; and it is well-known that he made a very favourable impression upon the Ameer. I have already said that he is a man of democratic convictions; and it is curious that a very influential Conservative journal, commenting on the appointment, expresses the opinion that "he is quite as likely to take his line from Lord Ripon as from any other of his predecessors." With regard to this, time alone will show.

The *Times* which, two or three years ago, was Mr. Curzon's strongest and friendliest backer, has, during the last year or two, rather taken a line against him. This confirms the impression in my own mind, to which I have already referred that Mr. Curzon is taking a much more moderate view than he did about frontier questions, and the danger of Russian aggression, as the *Times* for the last twelve months has been simply insane on this subject. The *Times* is bound to speak well of his abilities as he has frequently contributed special correspondence to their columns from his various journeys. In the long leader which they write on his appointment, they say that "in his recent speeches and replies on the Chinese question, he has laid himself open to very serious criticism. The policy of which he has been the mouth-piece, has disappointed us, as have sometimes Mr. Curzon's tactics in the exposition of it." The article throughout is anything but enthusiastic, and rather "damns with faint praise." But no greater misfortune could happen to India than to have a Viceroy who received the enthusiastic support of the Editor of the *Times*.

One thing is certain. Mr. Curzon has—with perhaps the exception of Sir Edward Grey, his predecessor—been quite the most brilliant Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs that we have had in my time. He has been Lord Salisbury's interpreter in the House of Commons, and carrying out that difficult and onerous part, he has won the confidence and esteem of Parliament generally; and his reputation is probably greater than that of any man under 50 on either side of the House. It is considered a great point in an engineer that he should not be afraid of the machine he has to handle, but should know how to drive it to the utmost of its power and capacity. This will undoubtedly be a leading characteristic of Mr. Curzon's term of office in India. He has no fear, and absolute confidence in himself; and the whole administration may expect to be kept up to the mark throughout. I will venture to make no forecast about his policy. All that is hidden in the future He is an old personal friend of my own; and on that score I wish him all suceess and trust that he may realize the tremendous responsibility that rests upon him, and show himself, according to his lights, at any rate, a true friend of the Indian people. It is a great experiment that Lord Salisbury is making by his appointment; and I think everyone hopes for the best, the hope being qualified by a good deal of inward quaking.

PERSONAL.

DURING the next two months I shall probably be a little irregular in my contributions to your columns. I am going over to the United States for about 8 weeks. It is some time since I visited that country, and this will be my fourth visit to the United States and Canada. To a student of democracy, as I profess to be, an occasional visit to the States is of great importance; and this will be a very interesting and favourable time for a political visit to that country, as the acquisition of new and foreign territory, as a reeult of the successful war with Spain, opens up an entirely new era in American history. As political affairs in this country are always very slack during the months of August and September, I dare say your readers will find it a pleasant change if I send them a few letters from the United States, instead of from this country; and this I will endeavour to do at frequent intervals. I shall return before the end of October when I shall resume my political communications to your columns.

INDIAN BUDGET DEBATE.

The debate on the Indian Budget took place last night. The main feature was Mr. Robert's resolution which was as follows:—"That, in the opinion of this House, the recent alterations made in the law relating to sedition and the control of the press in India, being a distinct departure from the traditiona policy of the Indian Government in regard to the Press and to public criticism, demand the immediate attention of Parliament; and that, having regard to the conditions of British rule in India and to the exceptional part played by the Indian Press as the only medium for expressing the opinion of the people as to Government measures, and to the fact that such a policy of restriction and intimidation must, if persisted in, result in producing elements of danger to the Government of India, it is desirable that the legislation in question should be repealed at the earliest opportunity.'

Mr. Roberts rose to move his resolution in a very thin House, not more than 13 members being present at the time; but as he spoke, the members gradually drifted in, and at one time there were quite 25 present. The heat was excessive, and even loyal members of the Indian Parliamentary Committee succumbed to the temptation, and fled to their country quarters before the debate came on. I send you herewith a verbatim report of Mr. Roberts' speech which was one of the most important deliveries that we have had on Indian questions during the present Parliament. It is a great pity that Mr. Roberts has had no opportunity of making his speech earlier in the session when there was a larger attendance of members. I send you the *Times* report of the debate, which is unusually full.

Mr. Roberts' motion was seconded by Sir William Wedderburn, and the defence of the Indian Government was entrusted to Sir Andrew Scoble and the Solicitor-General. The most important incident of the debate was an important speech by Mr. Haldane, a young and very capable lawyer who is indicated on all hands as the Home Secretary in the next Liberal Administration. Indian politicians should read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the interesting and powerful speech—though very short,—which Mr. Haldane delivered. After Mr. Pickersgill had spoken in favour of the resolution, Lord George Hamilton gave a somewhat elaborate explanation of the reasons which had induced the Government to make these alterations in the law. The discussion mainly turned upon the alterations of section 124 of the Penal Code. He said, he had come to the conclusion he had after the fullest consultation with the ablest legal authorities in this country, who informed him that the present section merely confirmed the old law judicially interpreted, and that it absolutely went no further. He indulged in the usual platitudes about the undesirability of ignoring the various attempts that had been and were being made, to undermine the foundations of our rule in India; and he believed that the alterations in the Code would be sufficiently effective to enable the Indian Government to deal with this evil, while leaving untouched that freedom of speech and liberty of action which our Indian fellow-subjects enjoyed under British rule and which were absolutely unknown in every other part of the vast continent of Asia. But Lord George Hamilton did not state, what is equally true, that the sedition and press legislation, which he was praising, would lead to rebellion in any other part of the British Empire.

Mr. Roberts very sensibly took a division. and his amendment was negatived by 66 to 30, giving a majority of only 36 to the Government—I think the smallest majority that they have obtained during the present session.

Sir M. Bhownuggree made an extremely foolish and ridiculous speech against higher education in India, and was promptly answered by Mr. Souttar in a very able and instructive speech. Mr. Vicary Gibbs meandered for a little on the everlasting currency question, and Mr. Steuart and Mr. H. J. Wilson condemned the practical re-establishment of the Contagious Diseases Act for the British Army in India. The debate then closed. and the East India Revenue Accounts were formally agreed to. To-day at 10·30, the House met for the last time this session and Parliament was formally prorogued.

MR. DUTT'S LECTURES.

Mr. Romesh Chander Dutt, C. I. E., is reopening his course of lectures at the University College, London, on the 26th of October, The course of 15 lectures will be devoted to the "History of the Civilization, General and Literary, of the Ancient Hindus." In the second term of the Session, Mr. Dutt will deal with Mahommedan Rule in India, and during the third term, his subject will be "British Rule in India".

BULLION MARKET.

CALCUTTA, August 31.

GOLD—				
Eng..sn P r—(100 ouch) per tollah	Rs.	24	3	0
Do Sm.. portion	,,	,, 24	4	0
Australian Par (100 touch)	,,	,, 24	3	6
China ...—3 Brand ...	,,	,, 24	14	0
o ? do ...	,,	,, 24	13	0
Ch na Bar ...	,,	,, Nsmiua		
Calcutta Bar (100 touch Mint Assay) ...	,,	,, 24	2	0
Sovereign—Victoria Sheild per piece		, 15	5	0
Do Jubilee ...	,,	,, 15	4	0
SILVER—				
English (Silver) Bar of 17½ dwt. better per 100 tollah	,,	,, 74	14	0
Do small portion	,,	,, 75	2	0

PROSAD DAS BORAL.
Bullion & Stock Dealer.
(Sonapnty) New Chida Bazar

THE Secretary of State has replied to the despatch of the Government of India, which went home about the end of June, on the proposals regarding the future control of the Khyber. It is understood that any differences which now remain to be cleared up are minor ones, and that there is no direct collision of opinion between the Secretary of State and the Government on this important question. At the same time it will probably be some weeks before any information on the subject can be made public. Though the Government is still reticent on the matter, there is a growing feeling in official circles that the Khyber will eventually be taken over by the Government of India.—*Englishman.*

MR. James E. Ferrell, of Burnt House W. Va.' has discarded all other diarrhœa medicines and now handles only Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy. He has used it in his family and sold it to his customers for years, and has no hesitation in saying that it is the best remedy for colic and diarrhœa, he has ever known. It not only gives relief, but effects a permanent cure. It is also pleasant and safe to take, making it an ideal remedy for bowel complaints. For sale by *

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
B. K. PAUL & CO., Chemists.

J. W. Baggett, of Oak Grove, Fla., had an attack of the measles, nearly three years ago, and the desease left him with very severe pains in the chest. "I thought I would die," he writes; "but to my great joy I was saved by Chamberlain's Pain Balm." Pains in the chest nearly always indicate the approach of pneumonia, and by promptly applying this liniment on a flannel cloth, which should be bound on the chest, an attack of pneumonia may be prevented. It is always prompt and effectual. For sale at 25 and 50 cents per bottle by*

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
B. K. PAUL & CO., Chemists.

Teleg rams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

SIMLA, AUG. 28

The Secretary of the State has called for a detailed report of the Barrackpore murder case from the Government of India.

Mr. Ross, Superintendent of the Government Central Press, will be shortly deputed to Burma to overhaul the Burma Government Press, Mr. Saunderson, Deputy Superintendent, will officiate for him.

PURI, AUG. 28.

Under the order of the Municipality, monkeys were being killed all over the sacred city o Puri Some 500 Hindus memorialised the Municipality to stop the sacrilege. The Commissioners met and the monkey-killing question was mooted. Babu Bidhu Bhusan Banerjee strongly opposed the measure. Dr. Gillman hearing it was against the Hindu *shastras*, also disapproved it. Some go-ahead Commissioners proposed for continuing the killing. The matter was adjourned for a final decision, pending the receipt of opinion of Pandits from different parts of India. All is gratitude due to Dr. Gillman. The killing has been suspended for a month. The Municipality was erecting a public latrine, attached to the south wall of the Jagannath Temple. Respectable Hindus memorialised the District Magistrate to demolish the latrine, which the Hindus viewed as a great sacrilege. The Magistrate patiently weighed the seriousness of the matter and verbally ordered the Municipality to stop building, the Hindu world owes grateful thanks to the Magistrate. We are anxiously waiting for the complete demolition of the latrine.

SIMLA, AUG. 29.

The Select Committees on the Central Provinces Tenancy and Land Revenue Bills commenced their sittings to-day. The Hon'ble Messrs. Fuller and Chitnavis have joined the Committes.

The Government of India is still undecided whether to take full or camp offices to Calcutta in view of the plague there.

DACCA, AUG. 29.

The Taluqdars of Bhowal, who from a strong and respectable body of dependant landholders, met at a grand meeting held at Joydebpur on 26th August, and presented an address to Rai Kaliprasanna Ghosh Bahadur, with a gold watch and chain for his varied and valuable services to the inhabitants of Bhowal during the last 22 years of his management. The meeting was presided over by Rajendra Narayan Bahadur, the Rajah of Bhowal, and attended by all classes of people. The representatives of the press at Dacca were one and all present. The meeting was altogether a grand sight and a grand success.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, AUG. 27.

M. Pavloff, Russian Charge de Affaires at Pekin, has been appointed Minister to the Corea.

LONDON, AUG. 27.

The reported loss of the French ironclad Bruix proves to be untrue.

LONDON, AUG 27.

Baron Direnzis has been appointed Italian Ambassador in London.

LONDON, AUG. 26.

The Hon. Mr. Day, ex-Secretary of State, and Senators Davis, Frye, Justice White, Whitelaw, and Reid have been appointed American Commissioners at the forthcoming Peace Conference in Paris.

LONDON. AUG. 26.

The order assimilating the ranks of the Indian Medical Service with the ranks of the Army, has been gazetted.

LONDON, AUG. 27.

The bulk of the British Squadron in China has assembled at Wei-hai-Wei to support Sir Claude Macdonald, who is strenuously insisting upon China observing her engagements to the British Syndicates, and is demanding satisfaction concerning the Pekin-Hankau Railway. The situation between Great Britain and China is acute. In the meanwhlle Sir Charles Scott's negociations at St. Petersburgh for defining the respective spheres of Great Britain and Russia in China are proceeding in a friendly spirit.

LONDON, AUG. 28.

By order of the Tsar, Court Mouravieff handed on the 24th instant to the Foreign Diplomats at St. Petersburgh a note declaring that the maintenance of peace and the reduction of excessive armaments now crushing all nations, is an ideal for which al Governments ought to strive. The Tsar considers the present moment favourable, and invites an international conference to discuss means by which this object may be attained, thus assuring a real and lasting peace, and the termination of the progressive increase of armaments.

LONDON, AUG. 28.

The conference between the South Wales coal strikers and the masters was held yesterday and proved abortive.

LONDON, AUG. 28.

The death is announced of Mr. Arthur Pease, Unionist member of Parliament for Darlington.

LONDON, AUG. 28.

General Gordon's nephew has gained the distinction of being the first man in the present expedition to sight Omdurman at a distance of thirty miles from Jebelroyan Hill. The Khalifa is concentrating his forces for a final desperate resi ance.

LONDON, AUG. 28.

The committees appoined by the Welsh miners and masters at the meeting held late tonight concluded an agreement for the termination of the strike, the terms being subject to ratification by the men.

LONDON, AUG. 29.

The concentration of the Nile Expedition at Jebelroyan is now complete. The next camp will be eight miles nearer Omdurman.

LONDON, AUG. 29.

The Tsar's proposal for the reduction of armaments in Europe was entirely unexpected. The Press extols the motives inspiring his Majesty, but dwells upon the practical difficulties of attaining the desired end. The *Times* believes that Germany was consulted before the Tsar's note was issued, and probably France.

LONDON, AUG. 29.

It is believed that the Powers will accept the Tsar's invitation for an International Conference to consider means far reducing the armaments, but much parleying to define a basis of discussion is probable. The French press is almost unanimous in declaring that the restoration of Alsace and Lorraine must precede any disarmament by France. The German semi-official papers greet the Tsar's proposals with guarded language, and other German journals discuss the question in a similar way. The Austrian papers extol the noble aims of His Majesty, though they doubt their present realisation.

LONDON, AUG. 30.

Further successes in the general elections at the Cape make a small majority for the Africander Bond certain.

LONDON, AUG. 30,

It now appears certain that the Tsar did not consult any Power before issuing the note in favour of the reduction of armaments and a feeling of irritation is expressed in France through not having been consulted on such a question by her ally, and is calculated to prejudice the prospect of the assembling of an international conference. It is generally believed that the Tsar personally initiated the proposal.

LONDON, AUG. 30.

Reuter telegraphing from Pekin says that owing to the ratification by the Chinese of the Pekin-Haukan railway contract, Great Britain is demanding certain railway concessions, and it is believed probable that the Chinese Government will yield.

LONDON, AUG. 31.

President Faure and his Ministers are hastily returning to Paris to deliberate on the Tsar's manifesto. The enthusiasm of German official papers regarding the proposal for reduced armaments has further exasperated France.

LONDON, AUG. 31.

France has been startled by the arrest of Colonel Henry, Chief of the Intelligence Department, who has confessed to writing the paper incriminating M. Dreyfus by name. This paper, purported to emanate from a Foreign Attache, was lately read in the Chamber of Deputies by M Cavaignac, Minister of War, as a positive proof of the guilt of Dreyfus.

IT may be of interest to learn that between the 3rd July and 10th August, 32,733 rats, 8,750 bandicoots, and 9,460 mice were slaughtered in Madras, the cost being paid for by the Municipality at the rate of six pies per rat or bandicoot, and three pies per mouse. As rodents are supposed to convey plague, the slaughter is being continued and the dead rats are being cremated.

THE present tendency of opinion of the Currency Commission may be stated thus: The question of re-opening the Mints is considered absolutely extinct. Government must proceed to the effective establishment of a gold standard with a rate of sixteen pence; accumulating a gold reserve and ensuring convertibility immediately success is assured Temporary measures should be adopted during the transition period to meet the present prolonged monetary stringency, and close attention should be given to the maintenance of a sound financial position. The Committee, it is thought, will probably recommend a plan which, while not identical with any yet suggested, yet aim at containing the best elements of each.

SATURDAY'S *Gazette of India* publishes a Resolution regarding the future position and prospects of Civil Assistant Surgeons. It abolishes the unemployed pay, except as a punishment; and the cadre of Assistant Surgeon is divided into four grades, *viz*, Rs. 100, 150, 200 and 300 a month. It provides that nineteen Civil Surgeoncies shall be reserved to be held by Assistant Surgeons; and it is hoped to increase this number to twenty-eight. Hereafter, Assistant-Surgeons, posted to the charge of civil surgeoncies, will receive pay commencing at Rs. 350, and rising, when made permanent, by annual increments of thirty rupees, to a maximnm of Rs. 500. The number of senior Assistant Surgeons on Rs. 300 is not to exceed ten per cent. of the total strength in each province, the number actually appointed up to this proportion being left to the discretion of the Local Government concerned. Promotion to the Rs. 300 grade will be entirely by selecting and without examination or qualificatory service; that to the Rs. 200 grade will go to officers of not less than fourteen years' service, i. e., seven years in each of the two lower grades, who have passed the second examination; that to the Rs. 150 grade goes to officers who have served seven years and passed the first examination. The proviso is added that future entrants to the service will only be allowed to appear at the second examination when the Inspector General, Civil Hospitals, considers them fit for promotion beyond the Rs. 150 grade. The Civil Surgeoncies reserved for Assistant Surgeons are distributed—five in Madras, two in Bombay, five in Bengal, two in the North-West Provinces, three in the Punjab, and two in Burma. The new arrangement comes into force at once, except in Madras and Bombay, where steps are to be taken to gradually assimilate the pay and position of Assistant Surgeons to the general scheme. The introduction of the new arrangements is subject to the express condition that Municipal and Local Funds shall pay in full measure for the services of Government Assistant Surgeons attached to Municipal and Local Fund hospitals. Contributions payable to Government by those local bodies for the cost of the services of an Assistant Surgeon must, therefore, be raised in provinces where such contribution are calculated with reference to pay only, and do not include the consideration of leave allowances and pensions.

To Wh m It May Concern:

I have been in the drug business for twelve years, and during that time, have sold nearly all the cough medicines manufactured; and from my personal knowledge of such remedies, I say that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy gives better satisfaction than any other on the market.—W. M. Terry, Elkton, Ky. Sold by*

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and
B. K PAUL & CO., Chemists.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE DATE OF KALIDAS.

(By Mr. Trikumdas Dharmasee.)

OUR countrymen believe that 1,954 years ago, Kalidas was one of the courtiers of the king Vikramaditya, or in the tenth century he lived as a remembrancer and a learned man in the court of the King Bhoj. But the modern scholars show in their ancient researches and discoveries that he decidedly lived in the sixth century. Below I quote the places where the name of Kalidas or those of his books are mentioned.

(1) In the ninth century, the Jain poet Jinsen has caught hold of Meghaduta in his "Purshwabhydaya" in explaining the winks.

(2) Gandvadh or Gaudvaha, a prakrit poem, written in the eighth century, speaks about the Raghubansha. Vocabular Khsirswami, who lived in the eighth century, has taken in his own compilations sentences from Raghubansha, Kumarsambhava and Meghaduta.

(3) The great poet Banbhutta thus refers to Kalidas in his Harshacharita :

निगतासु नवा कस्य कालिदासस्य सूक्तिषु ।
प्रीति मंधु रदाद्राषु मञ्जरिष्विव जायते ॥

"Who will not feel pleasured in the sweet writings of Kalidas, as in a soft melodious garland?." Bana poet was a courtier of Harshadeva, king of Kanyakubja, The famous Chinese traveller Hewensing saw our Harshadeva, reigning in the seventh century.

(4) Kalidas himself says in his Meghduta—

प्राप्यावन्ती नुदयनकथा कोविद ग्राम वृद्धान् ।

"Go in that Avanti where the old villagers are expert in reciting the story of Udavana." I guess in Kalidas' time there should have been no work about the story of Udavana. Ratnavali and Kathasaritsagar contain the account of Vatsaraj Udavana. Both the books are probably written in or after the seventh century.

(5) In the copper plate engraved by Chalukya, King Pulkeshi, the names of Kalidas and Bharavi are seen. It is also called the epistle of Ahiol :—

येना योजित वेश्म स्थिर मर्थ विधौ
विवेकिना वेश्म: ॥
सविजयतां रवि कीर्त्तिः कविताश्रित-
कालिदास-भारविकीर्त्तिः ॥

The same copper-plate says :—

त्रिशतसु त्रिसहस्रेषु भारतादाहः वादित ।
समाब्द्शतयुतेषु ततव्वब्दे पचग्रुषु ॥
पंचा शतसु कलौ काले षट्सु पंचशताषुचा ।
समासु समतीतासु शकानामपि भूभुजाम् ॥

It means that the plate was engraved in 3735 Kalyabda or 556 Shakabda. Thus Kalidas' poems were popular in India in or about 556-Shakabda or 633 A D.

(6) Kumarilswami has prepared a commentary on Sankhyakarika, which was translated in the Chniese language between 557 to 583 A. D. Kumaril admires the author of Shakuntala.

The above extracts show that Kalidas was a renonwed poet in the ninth, eighth, seventh and the sixth centuries. I am of opinion that our poet lived before 550 A.D. The following proofs support the opinion of modern scholars to the effect that Kalidas lived in the beginning of the sixth century.

(1) Kumardas, King of Ceylon, reigned in 515 A. D. There is a rumour that he and Kalidas were both friends.

(2) As a prevailing stanza says :—

धन्वंतरी चपणकोऽमरसिंह शकु वेतालभट्ट
घटखपर कालिदासाः ।
ख्याती वराहमिहिरो नृपतेः सभायां रत्नानि
वै वररुचि र्नव विक्रमस्य ॥

"Dhanvantari, Kshapanaka, Amarsinha, Shunku, Vetalbhutt, Ghutkarpar, Kalidas, the famous Varahmihir and Vararuchi, were the nine gems in the court of the king Vikramaditya.'

This stanza is on its very face absurd; but if I am to believe its contents that Varahamihir and Kalidas lived in the same age, I may simply add that they lived in the sixth century. The great astronomer has compiled the remarkable astronomy, Brihatasanhita :

साम्प्रत मथनं नवितुः कर्टककाद्य मृगादि
त स्त्वन्यत

So, Varahamihir was compiling his Brihatsanhita when the sun's southern and northern courses were in Kartak and Makar rashis respectively. Astronomers say it was twenty-one tropical circles ago that this book was compiled. Counting sixty-six years and eight months for each circle as customary, we get Varahamihir an astronomer of 1,400 years back. Dr. Bhoudajee of Bombay qnotes the following from a book called Khandakhadya of Brahmagupta:

नवाधिकः पंचत संख्य शाके वराहमिहिरा-
चार्यो दिवं गतः ॥

"Varahamihir died in 509 Shakabada or 587 A. D." The Panchatantra, the venerable work of giving good advice to young children, contains his name. It was translated in Persian 1300 years ago. Professor Colebrooke and other astronomers of Ujayani are of opinion that Varahamihir appeared in the same age (i. e. beginning of the sixth century) Had Kalidas been in his time he would have been certainly in the commencement of the sixth century.

(3). It is significant from Kalidas' books that he knew about the astronomy of the mlechhas. After the invasion of Alexander the Great, several Greek soldiers substituted their sciences with ours, i. e., they learnt many things from the Aryas and gave them their astronomy in return, which is still called "Romeka". Kalidas was acquainted with this "Yavana" astronomy through the books of Aryabhutta, the greatest Hindu astronomer, whe lived in Patliputra, or the modern Patna, in 476 A. D.

By the above three proofs I guess that Kalidas lived in the beginning of the sixth contury. Since I have shown that Kumarilswami has mentioned him in 550 A. D., and Kalidas is indebted to Aryabhutta of 476 A.D knowledge of the Western astronomy, you can easily conclude that he lived before Kumaril and after Aryabhutta *i. e.* between 476 to 550 A. D. In support of this demonstration I may as well mention that a remarkable poem—Budhacharita, of Ashwagoshl, of which a revised edition is at present pub ished by Professor Cowell, was translated into Chinese in the fifth century, some hundred years after its compilation. The books of Kalidas agree with Budhacharita in many respects; and it is not impossible that our poet might have borrowed some of his views from the work of an equally admirable poet.

As we have seen, Kalidas was born and celebrated as a poet from 475 to 550 A.D., and it is not far from truth that his elevation to thte high rank of a poet, took place in the begsnning of the sixth century. My decision is rorongly supported by a somewhat clearer proof which I represens below :—

The great poet Kalidas says in stanzas 66, 67 and 68 of the fourth canto of Raghuvansha about the victory of Raghu.

ततः प्रतस्थे कौवेरीं भास्वानिव रघुर्दिशम् ।
शरैरुस्रै रिवो दिच्यानु द्धरिष्यन् रसानिव ॥ ६६
विनिताध्वश्रमास्तस्य सिन्धुतीर विचेष्टनैः ।
दुधुवुर्वाजिनः स्कन्धा ँल्लग्नकुंकुम केसरान् ६७
तत्र हूणावरोधानां भर्तृषु व्यक्त विक्रमम् ।
कपोल पाटलादेशि बभूव रघुचेष्टितम् ॥ ६८

"Then as the sun adopts its northern course to suck up water (vapour from the earth) by his rays, so Raghu proceeded to the (North) direction, protected by Kuvera, with a view to exterpate the northern kings by his arrows. His horses began to put off the fatigue of their journey by reposing on the banks of the Indus and shook their bodies stuck with the dust of saffron and the pollen of kunkum flowers. There the valorous deeds of Raghu, well displayed in conquering the Kshatriyas of the Huna kingdom, proclaimed his victory by turning the cheeks of the Huna females into a reddish colour, (on account of their striking them with their hands in grief of their husband's defeats.)"

Among the great Sanskrit poets Kalidas is the only one who speaks about saffron. This tree grows in the western parts of Kashmere, hence it is named Kashmeraj in Sanskrit. I fancy from the third stanza quoted above that in Kalidas' times the Hunas reigned in Kashmere on the banks of the Indus. The sweetest and the easiest, the origin of all Sanskrit poems, Ramayan, does not contain the account of Raghu's invasion in the north over the Huna Kings. This fact supports my imagination that the Hunas were powerful monarchs when Raghuvansa was being composed. Had it not been so, no one would have understood in Kalidas' times, who the Hunas were.

From history, I learn that the Hunas exercised a vast power over the country fertiled by the Indus. The famous Chinese traveller Hewensing gives a detailed account of the Huna dynesty, hence it is clear that they reigned before his arrival in India in the seventh century. The history of Kashmere, Rajtarangini, contains some references to the Huna kings. In this race, Turman and his son, Mihirkul, were the most powerful kings and they both were opposed to the faith of the great religious preacher—Buddha. From a document relating to the Gupta dynasty it appears that Turman and Mihirkul were their mighty rivals and they envied Skanda Gupta very much. Dr. Fulit says that in 457-58 A. D. i. e. in the fifth century Turman was the sole ruler of all northern India. Subsequently, the Huna authority extended in middle India. A Gwaliar copper-plate contains the statement that in 532-533 A. D. the Huna King Mihirkul was defeated by Yashodharma. This Mihirkul reigned in 515 A. D., and was famous among the learned men all over the country. No doubt, in that period, in the beginning of the sixth century Kalidas has caused the defeat—at east a poetical defeat—of the powerful Hunas hrough Raghu, in order to increase the magnitude of the hero of his poem.

VERBATIM REPORT OF MR. J. HERBERT ROBERTS' SPEECH ON THE INDIAN BUDGET.

HE asked leave to move the motion standing in his name, in order to call attention to the important changes which had recently been made to the law relating to sedition in India. What were the Parliamentary facts leading up to the present petition? In July last year a number of questions had been addressed to the Secretary of State for India in reference to the changes which the Indian Government proposed to make in the Press Law, and, in reply to a question put by the Leader of the Opposition, the noble Lord opposite had intimated that there would not be an opportunity of discussing these amendments before they became law; but that they would be subject to review afterwards. In February last he (Mr. Roberts) had moved an amendment to the Queen's Speech raising the question of this new press legislation in India, and, in his reply, the Secretary of State for India had stated that the sole responsibility of allowing or disallowing changes in the law in India rested with him, but that the documents, if desired, should be made public, and that would constitute a proper and legitimate opportunity for discussing the subject. These papers had been presented before the Whitsuntide Recess, but the Hon. Member for the Partick Division had placed a blocking motion on the paper which prevented any debate being raised upon that subject until the expiring hours of the Session. He would not make any comment upon the action of the Hon. Member, but he greatly regretted it, not only for the sake of India, but also because it seemed to be a violation of the spirit, at all events, of the satement made by the Secretary of State for India before alluded to. The relegation of the discussion of Indian affairs to the last moments of the Session was, he thought, becoming a public scandal, having regard to the important interests involved. It was a strange condition of Parliamentary history that the Budget of an Empire greater in extent than that of the first Napoleon should from the annual despair and annoyance of the House of Commons. One of the main lessons taught by that recently published remarkable book on India, written by Sir Courtenay Ilbert, was the clear fact that their Indian Empire, in regard to its territories, law, and constitution, was built up by the will of the British Parliament, upon whose authority the whole fabric rested. And what was required in the best interests of India was not a perpetual friction and conflict between the Government of India and any section of Parliament; but that the conscience of the House of Commons, as a whole, should be awakened in regard to its responsibility and obligation towards India. There was no one in the House who was more proud of the splendid achievement which had resulted in the present system of Government in India than himself. He was moreover fully conscious of the great difficulties which had, especially of late, surrounded the Indian Administration, difficulties which had been met with a courage and an untiring devotion worthy of the best traditions of the Indian service. But they would be false to their duty as Members of the House of Commons, which as he had said was ultimatety responsible for the government of that vast continent of India, if believing as they did that the Government were making a perilous mistake in their policy as regards the Press, they did not lay their views before the House. The action of the Indian Executive in making these amendments in the law of sedition involves important principles; and, whether they were right or wrong in the view they entertained as to these amendments, Parliament had a right to know the circumstances under which they had been initiated and the effect they had produced and were likely to produce on different classes in India. There was only one further preliminary remark which he desired to make, it was that nothing, he thought, could be worse for India than any development which would make her vital interests the sport of political parties in the House. Parliament as regards India should be a just and impartial tribunal or Court of Appeal and not an arena for the display of partisan and sectional opinions. Before referring briefly to some of the most impoitant changes brought about in the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code by recent legislation he wished to make one or two general observations as to the nature of the legislation, and the circumstances under which it had been carried out. The two amending Acts referred to, as he had said, were the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code and the changes made had the effect of seriously restricting the liberty of the Press and of public criticism of the Government in India. One or two facts in reference to this would hardly be disputed. First, that such a restriction was opposed to the policy of the Government of India during the last half century. Again that the previous attempt to restrict the Vernacular Press in India, made in 1878, had been repealed in 1881 and futher he thought it would be admitted that it was generally unwise in India to repress the expression of public opinon, as that would inevitably lead to disaffection and its consequent dangers. But it might be said that, in this case, the circumstances of India called for exceptional treatment; that the usual axioms as to the liberty of the Press did not hold good, because the native dress of India had been the exciting element in the recent disturbances, which they all deplored. Let them examine that statement for a moment. He believed that a careful consideration of the facts of the case would prove that there was in this statement as to the native press of India being the irritant in these disturbances, a confusion of cause and effect. For what were the facts? All who knew anything of India knew that the papers both English and Native, were not written or circulated for the masses. The Indian people, as a whole, were not newspaper readers, and what was written did not influence, and was not intended to influence the masses. What was written was intended to place before the Government the feelings of the people with regard to Government measures. When and where measures caused dissatisfaction the papers considered it their duty to say so, to the ruling powers. What therefore would be the obvious result of the suppression of the native Press? It would not cure the evil to keep the Government ignorant of what the people thought. The hon. Member for Cardiff the other day, speaking with his exceptional knowledge of India, pointed out the folly of thinking that by suppressing the Press, the Government would suppress disaffection, for India, as he graphically put it, was "one huge whispering gallery", and it was not only foolish but dangerous in India, when the wisest administrators were trying to understand the motives, and to know the inner working of the mind of the people, to deliberately destroy the only channel through which light could come. These facts had a significant bearing upon the unfortunate disturbances in Poona and Bombay, which had led to the initiation of the legislation to which his motion referred. About a year ago the plague, with its attendant horrors, was raging in this place, the Government took vigorous measures to deal with it. Some of these measures, though conceived for the best ends, aroused the deepest indignation among the native population, and the native press wrote strongly and even violently against them, and especially against the measures adopted for instituting search for plague patients by European soldiers. That was condemned as sedition. All that could be doue to suppress the expression of native opinion through the papers was done, and the reult was, though the Press was intimidated, disaffection remained, and found expression in disturbances and even in murder. Such was the origin and justification of the amending Act referred to. He submitted that the Government of India made a fatal mistake in regarding the action of the native Press upon that occasion in protesting against those particular plague measures, as an irritant, when it was clear that if they had listened to the protests when they were uttered, the deplorable riots, and much friction which ensued would have been avoided; and if any further proof of the correctness of this representation of the facts was required, they had it in the fact that modifications were made subsequently by the Government of Bombay, and repeated at Calcutta, in the methods of search for plague patients, which virtually conceded all that was asked for by the native Press. He was glad of this, but he regretted that such action should appear to teach India the lesson that reform was only to be won by outrage and violence. There were a great many important changes made by the two amending Acts referred to, but he only intended to call the attention of the House to two of the principal changes made in each of the codes. Taking, first, the Indian Penal Code, the first change which he noted was that carried out in the addition made to Section 4 of the Code (See papers page 7), namely that the provisions of this code apply also to any native Indian subject of Her Majesty in any place without or beyond British India. He observed first that it had been the principle of the law of India for almost half a century, that Indian Magistrates had jurisdiction for acts committed in India and not elsewhere. That was a general principle enforced in all British Colonies, and he asked why India was to be made an exception to the rule. The net result of the alteration of that section was that the provisions of the Code would, in future, apply not, as before, only to servants of the Queen, in States in alliance with the Government of India, but to all Native Indian subjects anywhere outside India—a very wide extension of the sphere of the Code, and so far as he could make out, absolutely uncalled for. The inevitable effect of that change in the law, would be to create the impression in India, that convictions might be obtained in India, for acts for which convictions could not be obtained in this country, and for which prosecutions in this country could not be initiated. The second principal change made in the PenalCode to which he wished to draw attention was the alteration introduced in regard to the extension attached to Section 124A. The original section and extension, were drafted by the late Sir Fits James Stephen and were as follows:—"Whoeover by words either spoken or intended to be read or by signs or by possible representation or otherwise, excites or attempts to excite feelings of dissatisfaction, to the Government established by law in British India shall be punished with transportation for life or for any term to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment for a term which may extend for three years to which fine may be added or without fine."

The explanation of that section ran as follows:—

"Such a disapprobation of the measures of the Government as is compatible with the disposition to render obedience to the lawful authority of Government and to support the lawful authority of the Government against unlawful demands to subvert or resist that authority is not disaffection. Therefore the making of comments on the measures of the Government with the intention of exciting only this species of disapprobation, is not offence with this clause."

That was perfectly clear and put the case in a nut-shell. Any disapprobation of Government measures which was compatible with the rendering of obedience to the lawful authority was not disaffection. What were the changes introduced by recent legislation? First in regard to the section itself the words "to bring into hatred or contempt" were added, which had the effect of bringing under the powers of the section not only those charged with exciting feelings of disaffection against the Government, but also anyone who did anything calculated to bring the Government into hatred or contempt. It also omitted the salutary explanation provided by Sir Fitz James Stephen and attached another which, in his opinion, was very unsatisfactory. What were these explanations? They were, first, "that the expression 'disaffection' includes disloyalty and all other feelings of enmity". The obvious query upon that explanation was the question what else beside disloyalty &c, was included in the offence of disaffection! The second explanation ran as follows:—"That comments expressing disapprobation of the measures of Government, without exciting or attempting to excite hatred, contempt or disaffection, do not constitute an offence." He put it to the House whether the offence disaffection was not left under these circumstances in a dangerously vague condition; for how could any hostile comment be made upon any measure of the Government without incurring the risk of exciting contempt for that Government? How would such a law operate in this country, where it is the acknowledged business of half the House of Commons to bring into contempt the measures of the Government which were opposed to the principles which they hold? He had one further remark to make upon the alteration made in this section, and that was to draw the attention of the House to the fact, revealed in Para. 5, Page 6, of the papers containing a statement of the views of the Government of India and addressed to the Secretary of State upon the whole question, that the Government of India distinctly stated that it was not necessary to amend this section 124A. of the Penal Code. He would read one sentence only from the paragraph. "Since then two of the highest courts of India have laid it down that Section 124A. of the Indian Penal Code does in substance reproduce the Law of Sedition in force in the United Kingdom, we consider that it is not necessary or desirable to amend the Section. It might indeed be possible by redrafting it to make its meaning more clear, but we think it unwise to undertake any revision of it so long as the interpretation hitherto placed upon it by the Courts in India is maintained." It was clear from the umistakable language of that paragraph that the Government of India, the authority responsible for the peace of the country, considered Section 124A. as it stood, sufficient to deal with all cases of sedition. They did not ask for any change; how came it about then? A perusal of the public papers drove them to the conclusion that the change was dictated to the Government of India by the noble Lord opposite. If any member would read paragraphs 3 and 4 in the letter of the Secretary of State to the Government of India, conveying his views to them (Page 4 of Papers) they would see this very clearly. He would refer to one extract only from the letter of the noble Lord. It was in paragraph 3 of his letter and to this effect:—"Your Government, however, admits that the Section is somewhat intricate and perplexing, and that its meaning may be elucidated by better drafting. It is therefore desirable that the definition of the offence may be made as simple and clear as possible and I (note the personal pronoun) have come to the conclusion that the section should be revised, and, this being so, it seems better to make the necessary alteration simultaneously with a change of jurisdiction. As to the exact form which such an alteration should take, I should be glad to receive by telegraph the views of your Lordship's Government, but I request that you would consider the draft which I enclose." That draft which, despite the opinion of the Government of India, that no change was required in the section, was in substance adopted, and it was therefore clear that this important change in a vital section of the Code had been carried out at the instance of the noble Lord, and contrary to the views of the responsible authority in India. So much for the Penal Code. He would now turn to refer very briefly to two of the principal changes made in the Criminal Procedure Code. The fisrt of these was the alteration made in Section 108 of that Code. Previously Indian magistrates had possessed powers to require substantial security for good behaviour from vagabonds, intending criminals, and bad characters, and upon their failure to give such security they had the power to imprison for twelve months with hard labour. This power rested obviously upon the exceptional character of the offenders and was given to them in order to enable them to deal with the worst elements in Indian society. By thus alteration in the law, newspaper editors were to be henceforth classed with those previously considered the dregs of society in India. These editors were let it be noted to be tried in future by District Magistrates. Let them consider the position. A District Magistrate in India was the head of the police of his district; he therefore must virtually be the prosecutor in such cases. He, as head of the police, would hear that an editor of a newspaper had been attempting to disseminate seditious matter, and when this had been done, he himself would be empowered to try the case, and if the editor was unable to find sufficient bail to satisfy the magistrate, he would be empowered by Section 122 to decline the security offered, and by Section 123 to imprison him with hard labour. The liberty of the Press under such a law as this was an utter sham. The last change, he could refer to, in the Criminal Procedure Code, was carried out in Schedule 2 (page 31 of the Papers), where it was indicated that sedition cases, hitherto triable only by a Court of Session, would have be triable by District Magistrates and by Magistrates of the first class specially empowered. In India, any man, after a few years' experience became District Magistrate, and combined in his office, as had been noted, judicial and executive powers. He submitted that it was manifestly unfair to give such men, under such circumstances, jurisdiction over sedition cases involving delicate points of law, and which should only be dealt with by men possessing long experience and an intimate knowledge of the law and who were not in any way connected with the local circumstances involved. Referring in conclusion to the effect of these changes in the law upon the mind of India, the strength and extent of the protests made against the lagislation was well-known to all who had read recent Indian newspapers. In the remarks which he had made to the House at the beginning of the Session, he had quoted at some length the opinions of leading English newspapers in India as to these amendments. He had, amongst many other statements, referred to a statement made by "The Statesman" to the effect that the extension of Section 109 in the Criminal Procedure Code to editors of newspapers would place in the hands of the executive an engine for the control of the Press of the most formidable description, and one which, in many cases, might be so used as to stifle free discussion. There was no need to refer to the protests of the native papers, which were equally emphatic. But it was not only the Press which showed the opinion of India upon the question; there was further the strongly expressed opinions of the native members of the Viceroy's Council during the passing of the Bills. Having given short extracts of the opinions expressed by two distinguished native members of the Council at Calcutta as to the amendments, he referred again to the view expressed by the HighCourts of Bombay and Calcutta and by the Anglo-Indian Defence Association, and a number of other public bodies in India, all of which clearly proved that the legislation had aroused in every quarter feelings of the strongest resentment against the policy of the Government. Summing up the position, he said that he had endeavoured to show that, under the circumstances, when such meterial changes were made in the law of India, it was the clear duty of the House or Commons to consider whether the changes were required or were in the real interests of the Indian Government. He had attempted to show that the important and very exceptional part played by the Press in India rendered it imperative that the greatest caution should be exercised in interfering with the free discharge by the Press of its functions in providing the Government with information as to the feelings and opinions of the people in regard to administration. Further, he had expressed the opinion that the Government had made a fatal mistake in regarding the native press, during the recent troubles as an irritant, instead of recognising in its expression of the feelings of the people, a guide to aid them in shaping their plague policy. Had they done this they would, at any rate, have avoided wounding feelings dearer to the Indian however unreasonable—than life itself. The thought of Russia had of late loomed large on the Indian horizon and had apparently influenced not a little the policy of the Government. He was no alarmist, but he submitted to the House of Commons that that occasion, to say the least of it, was a most unfortunate time for the Government to take up restrictive legislation and an antagonistic attitude to those whom they governed, when the shadow of both the famine and plague still hung over the country and when a feeling of general unrest pervaded Indian society. He trusted that the time was not far distant when the Government of India would itself see the expediency and wisdom of repealing those restrictive measures, and would, whilst upholding to the uttermost the rights due to them as the paramount power in India, embark upon and pursue the policy of conciliation and mutual trust towards the masses of the people, upon whose good-will and confidence the whole fabric of their Government in India rested. However that might be, they, on that side of the House, holding the views they did and pledged as they were by immemorial convictions as a party as to the defence of the full liberty of the Press in all portions of their dominions, could not but strongly protest against such changes in the law of India and express the hope, nay, more the demand, that they should be repealed at the earliest possible opportunity.

LEAVE to Civilians has been stopped in Madras until it is seen whether the plague is likely to spread.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

A MEETING of the senate of the Calcutta University was held on Saturday the 27th instant at, 3 P. M. Sir Francis Maclean, the newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor of the University, presided, and there was a good attendance.

Raja Peary Mohun Mookerjee welcomed the new Vice-Chancellor, and said they must all congratulate themselves on having Sir Francis Maclean as their Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Lal Madhub Mookerjee said they must thank, not only the Chancellor for having selected Sir Francis Maclean as their Vice-Chancellor, but also Sir Francis himself for having accepted the appointment. The University was to be congratulated on having Sir Francis as its Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor expressed his thanks for the kind manner in which the members of the Senate had received him, and said he would do all that lay in his power to further the interests of the University.

TAGORE LAW PROFESSOR.

Mr. F. Peacock was elected Tagore Law Professor for the year 1898-99, the subject of his lectures to be "The Law of Easements in British India."

THE RECENT EXAMINATIONS.

Babu Lal Behary Mitra moved the following resolution:—"That a Committee of the Senate be appointed to report on the following points: (i)—The very great dealy that has taken place in the publication of the results of the last examinations; (ii) the unusually low percentage of candidates passed in the B. A. examination held during the last three years; (iii) the circumstances under which questions were set outside the prescribed courses in the different Arts Examinations held during the present year; and that the Committee be requested to submit their report at their earliest convenience."

Babu Mohendoro Nath Roy seceonded the motion.

Babu Herambo Chandra Moitra moved the following three amendments:—(1) That the Syndicate be requested to provide against such delay in the publication of the results of the examinations as there has been this year; (2) that the Syndicate be requested to provide against questions being set outside the prescribed coures; and (3) that the Syndicate be requested to consider and report as to the causes of the unnsually low percentage of candidates passed in the B. A. examination in recent years, and to make a statement as to whether any step should be taken to prevent such disastrous results.

Rai Jotindro Nath Chowdhury seconded these amendments.

With reference to this matter the Syndicate submitted a statement which dealt with the points raised in Babu Golap Chandra Sarkar's letter on which a motion was made, that statement is as follows:—

1. With reference to the first point raised in Babu Golap Chandra Sarkar's letter *viz.*, "the very great delay that has taken place in the publication of the results of the last examinations," the Syndicate would note these facts:—(*a*) The Entrance Examination commenced on the 7th March, and the F. A. and B. A. Examinations, on the 21st March. The latest dates fixed for the submission of marks by examiners were—forEntrance Sub-examiners 7th May; for Entrance head-examiners, 14th May; for F. A. examiners, 9th May; for B. A. examiners 15th May. The Entrance results were gazetted on the 25th June; the F. A. on the 29th June; the B. A. on the 13th July. Provisional lists, however, were issued for the Entrance on the 2nd June; for the F. A., on the 22nd June; for the B. A., on the 23rd June. (*b*) One of the examiners died, and five were taken ill, at different stages, for whose work, in whole or in part, fresh arrangements had to be made, with the result that the regular course of tabulation was interrupted. (*c*) Exception having been taken to certain questions in some of the examination papers, the Syndicate had to issue instructions for obviating, possible, any hardship to candidates likely to result therefrom, and these instructions necessitated so far a revision of answer papers. (*d*) Having regard to the unsatisfactory results of the Entrance and F. A Examinations, the moderators had to meet more than once, to secure that justice was done to the examinees, and a final adjustment was not found possible until the 27th May. The Entrance re-examination lists were sent out on the 4th June, and the F. A. on the 10th June. The B. A re-examination lists were sent out on the 18th June. The Board of Examiners met on the 2nd July, and found it necessary to provide for a considerable modification of the results. It took some time to give effect to these provisions.

2. With reference to the second point raised in the letter, *viz.*, "the unusually low percentage of candidates passed in the B.A. Examination held during the last three years," the Syndicate would subjoin the following table of percentage:—

		A. Course.	B. Course.
1890	...	43·06	56·08
1891	...	25·38	38·65
1892	...	20·68	42·79
1893	...	21·02	39·67
1894	...	37·19	34·37
1895	...	28·31	40·46
1896	...	23·8	29·02
1897	...	26·35	24·31
1898	...	27·43	22·82

3. With reference to the third point raised in the letter, *viz.*, "the circumstances under which questions were set outside the prescribed courses in the different Arts examinations held during the present year," the Syndicate have no "circumstances" to note. The Syndicate had their attention called to the fact, and they did what they could to provide that the examinees were not prejudiced by it. Provision has been made for moderating some of the papers in the Entrance and F. A. examinations.

After some discussion Babu Herambo Chandra Moitra's amendments were put to the vote. The first amendment was lost, the second amendment carried by one vote, and the third amendment lost.

The original motion was then put to the vote and was lost by a large majority.

COMPLAINS TO THE SYNDICATE.

Babu Lal Behary Mitra moved that the following letter, of no date, addressed to the Registrar of the Calcutta University, by Babu Golap Chandra Sarkar and ten others, for the consideration of the Syndicate, be considered by the Senate:—Sir, we the undersigned members of the Senate, beg to submit the following suggestion for the consideration of the Vice-Chancellor and the emembers of the Syndicate, namely, that th following papers should be printed and published in *extenso* in the Minutes for the information of the members of the Senate, *viz*:—(1) All complaints made to the Syndicate against question papers, mode of examination, examiners, and the like; (2) all complaints made to the Syndicate relating to loss of answer papers of candidates; (3) the rules framed by head-examiners in consultation with the other examiners in the Entrance Examination for the purpose of securing uniformity in allotting marks; (4) all directions which the Syndicate may issue to examiners; and (5) the proceedings of the moderators and the Board of Examiners, in giving grace marks. As the principal duty of the University is to conduct the examinations, we consider it desirable that the members of the Senate should be kept informed of every important matter relating to the same. Besides, the record of the above matters will establish a regular practice, and serve for future guidance.

(N. B.—The resolution of the Syndicate on the letter was as follows:—"That the Syndicate regret that they do not see their way to adopt the suggestions in the above letter.")

As nobody seconded this motion, it fell through.

The remainder of the business disposed of was formal, and the meeting separated.

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

Friday, August 5.

IMPRESSMENT IN INDIA.—Mr. Pickersgill asked the Secretary of State for India whether his attention had been drawn to the statement made by Mr. Thorburn, Financial Commissioner in the Punjab, that 100,000 animals and 25,000 owners were impressed in the Punjab for the recent frontier operations, and that impressment was practised in the Punjab without discrimination, without system, and without organisation; and would he state under what authority the impressment of the men for the transport service was purported to be made?

Lord G. Hamilton: My attention has been drawn to the statement referred to by the hon. member, and I am now in communication with the Viceroy on the subject.

RUSSIA, GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA.—Mr. Drage asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the loan which the Persian Government had been negotiating with the ImperialBank of Persia on the security of the revenue of the Customs at the ports on the Persian Gulf had fallen through owing to representations made by, or on on behalf of, the Russian Government; whether the Imperial Bank was the only British institution in Persia; and whether her Majesty's Government would communicate to the Persian Government a promise of support in such case similar to that made on July 22 to the Chinese Government.

Mr. Curzon: The main reasons for which the recent negotiations for a loan between the Persian Government and the Imperial Bank of Persia have fallen through are the fact that a larger sum has been asked for than the bank are prepared to find, and a change of government in Persian,accompanied by a strong opposition to anything in the shape of a control of the Customs revenues as security for the loan. The Imperial Back of Persia is the only British institution of the nature in Persia.Her Majesty's Government have gone as far as possible in supporting the bank throughout the negotiations but they have received no information that the Persian Government desire any such promise of support as is suggested, nor that any threats have been used which would call for such a promise.

Mr. Drage asked the Under-Secretary whether any official information had reached the Foreign Office of a desire on the part of one of the Great Powers to acquire, by lease or otherwise,a port on the Persian Gulf;whether eighty per cent. of the trade of Bushire, the largest port on the Persian Gulf, and seventy-three per cent. of the whole trade of the Gulf was in the hands of British subjects; and whether the Persian Gulf was considered as constituting a sphere of British interest.

Mr. Curzon: Rumours of such a desire as is referred to in the first question have from time to time reached her Majesty's Government, but I cannot say whether any weight should be attached to them. The figures published in the latest Consular report show that two-thirds of the trade of the Persian Gulf is with the United Kingdom and British possessions. The political and commercial responsibilities of Great Britain in the Persian Gulf are undoubtedly of such magnitude as to give to her Majesty's Government a special interest in those waters.

Monday, August 8.

IMPRESSMENT FOR COMMISSARIAT SERVICE IN INDIA.—Mr. Pickersgill asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been drawn to the statement made by Mr. Therburn, financial Commissioner in the Punjab, that 100,000 animals and 25,000 owners were impressed in the Punjab for the recent frontier operations, and that impressment was practised in thePunjab without discrimination, without system, and without organisation; and will he state under what authority the impressment of the men for transport service was purported to be made.

Lord G. Hamilton: The right to impress for purpose of war throughout India is based upon immemorial usage and custom, and has been invariably resorted to in the Punjab, as elsewhere, whenever the circumstances seemed to require it.

WEI-HAI-WEI.—Sir E. Gourley asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he was aware that the main portion of the anchorage at Wel-hai-wei was dangerous and exposed to the northerly winds, which blew almost continuously with considerable fury during winter, while Port Arthur was almost landlocked; whether large sums of money would have to be expended over a breakwater and the deepening of the channels and harbours, as well as in the construction of docks and fortifications before Wei-hai-wei could be utilised efficiently as a naval base; whether that, in the opinion of experts, it would need a garrison of about 20,000 men to hold it against a land attack; and was it the intention of the Government to ask Parliament for the money needed, or negotiate with China for an exchange from Wei-hai-wei to some place (say Chusan or the Woosung forts) in the neighbourhood of the Yang-tse Valley.

Mr. Balfour: The latest information that we h ve from the officers of her Majesty's Government at Wei-hai-wei does not confirm in any particular the impression suggested by the hon. member's question. Until a completed survey has been made by the officers sent out for the purpose no definite statement can be made to Parliament on the subject. No exchange of Wei-hai-wei for any other place is contemplated, that position being exceedingly well suited for the purpose for which it was acquired. (Opposition laughter.)

Tuesday, August 9.

INDIAN IMPORT DUTIES.—Sir H. Vincent asked the Secretary of State for India whether he would commend to the consideration of the Indian Government the example set on Aug. 1, 1898, by the Dominion of Canada in the admission of imports from the United Kingdom and India, or containing twenty-five per cent. of British labour, at a reduction of one-fourth the duty leviable upon foreign goods.

Lord G. Hamilton: In view of the circumstances under which the import duties now in force in India were imposed, and of the relatively small proportion which they bear to the value of the articles imported, I am not prepated to recommend the reduction of them suggested by the hon. member.

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.—Sir W. Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware that on April 28 last the Assistant Commissioner on plague duty ordered the 6,000 inhabitants of Garshankar to leave the city within twenty-four hours; that no sufficient number of huts had been erected outside the city to shelter these people from the excessive heat; that a disturbance arose in carrying out those orders; and that the police fired upon the people without orders, killing nine and wounding forty-eight; whether forty-eight of the survivors were prosecuted and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment; and whether he would cause inquiry to be made by some impartial authority into all the circumstances of the case. He said he wished to supplement the question by asking whether it was the fact that the police refused to stop firing when ordered to do so by their European officers.

Lord G. Hamilton: It is rather inconvenient that the question on the paper should be extended without notice, but I think I am acquainted with the facts of the case. As soon as it became clear that the plague had established itself inGarshankar,every form of persuation and inducement was used in order to bring about the voluntary evacuation of the town; but, as these means failed, it became necessary at the end of a month to issue positive orders. As to the number of huts provided, I have seen no allegation that it was insufficient. A body of police, on entering the town to enforce these orders, was violently attacked by rioters, and twenty-six of them were more or less seriously injured; they fired in return, with the result that nine rioters were killed and twenty-seven wounded. I have received no information as yet as to the number of rioters who were prosecuted or the nature of their sentences; but, as at present advised, though I deeply regret the loss of life which occurred, I see no reason to order a special inquiry. As to the supplemental question, the police were subjected to a most violent assault, and they did fire without orders, but in a very few seconds, I may say, their officers were able to control them. I do not think they were in any way to blame for firing under great provocation.

INDIAN EXPENDITURE.—Mr. Cohen asked theSecretary of State forIndia whether he could state if the report of the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure, appointed in May 1895, would be presented to Parliament before the opening of the next session of Parliament.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have no authority whatever over the Commission. I understand that they adjourned a year ago in order that the chairman might prepare and circulate his report for the consideration of his colleagues, and I am informed that up to now no report has been circulated.

IMPRESSMENT FORTRANSPORT PURPOSES IN INDIA.—Sir W. Wedderburn asked the Secretary of State for India whether there was any law or usage in force in the Punjab which authorised impressment of men and animals for service outside British India; whether section 374 of the Indian Penal Code provided punishment for unlawful compulsory labour; and who were the authorities responsible for the recent impressment of Punjab villagers for service in the war beyond the frontier.

Lord G. Hamilton: As regards the first part of the hon. member's question I must refer him to the reply given i n the House on Aug. 8. The right to impress therein mentioned would extend to service within or beyond the frontier of India, and that right would not be affected by section 374 of the Penal Code. The impressment was carried out by the district officers acting under the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor of the province, who had the sanction of the Governor-General in Council for the steps he was taking.

MR. THORBURN AND THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.—Sir C. Dilke asked the Secretary of State for India whether the recent apology by Mr. Thorburn for discussing in public the acts of the Government which he served related to his account of the desertion of the Khyber as well as to his statements on the impressment of men and beasts; whether Mr. Thorburn, in apologising for having made his speech, withdrew any of the statements which it contained; whether the Secretary of State continued to believe that the withdrawal of Captain Barton from his men in the Khyber Pass was only ordered after the military authorities on the spot had decided that troops could not be pushed up the Khyber to their support; who were the military authorities on the spot referred to; and whether he had taken the opportunity, as promised in March, of laying down for the future the action to be taken at times of emergency in such cases, and, if so, in what terms.

Lord G. Hamilton: The apology made by Mr. Thorburn is an expression of regret for his infraction of the universal rule by which public officials in permanent employ are forbidden to criticise publicly the policy of the Government whom they are serving. The accuracy or inaccuracy of remarks so made does not enter into any such apology. The military authority on the spot was the Brigadier General commanding the Peshwar district, and the opinion he arrived at that, after providing for the safety of the Peshawar Valley, he was not in command of sufficient strength to force the pass was confirmed by the Commander-in-Chief in India. I am in correspondence with the Government of India as to the future arrangements for safeguarding the Khyber Pass,and an integral part of such arrangements will be a definition of the relations between local corps and any British officers who may be appointed to them.

THE DISTURBANCE AT GARSHANKAR.—In answer to Sir W. Wedderburn, Lord G. Hamilton said: After a month spent, as I have already stated, in persuation and warning, a proclamation was issued on April 27, requiring the inhabitants of Grashankar to evacuate the town and giving them till the following day to comply. Next morning, accordingly, a force of 250 police was marched into the town in order to arrange for the evacuation, by persuasion, if possible, or, falling that, by force. The results I described in my answer to the hon. member's question on Tuesday last. The police,being violently assailed by brickbats and other missiles, which wounded many of them, fired without orders, and their officers were at first unable to check them, but soon succeeded. The summing up of the Lieutenant-Governor was that "though some of the police, when attacked by the crowd, (which consisted exclusively of men) committed the mistake of firing without orders, they showed no want of discipline in other respects, and worked well and loyally. As to the provision of huts, I have seen no evidence to the effect mentioned in the question; but the inhabitants had been informed that all possible help would be given to them by the provision of huts and otherwise. I expect to receive further information on certain points, but at present I see to reason to change my opinion as to the ruggestion of a special inquiry.

A BACTERIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR INDIA.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India whether he was aware of the proposal to found a bacteriological institute in India; whether he would state whether the Government of India had sanctioned the project; and, if so, to what extent were they committed; whether the funds for this project were being raised by subscripdions from Indian Princes,and to what extent had this been done; whother he would state whether it was intended that experiments on animals should be carried on under this project; whether the institute was designed as a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen; and whether, having regard to the divergence of views in reference to such an institution, he was in a position to recommend, as a memorial of her Majesty's Jubilee in India, some work of benevolence commanding general support.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am aware that the Government of India have had before them proposals for the foundation of a Pasteur Institute, to which a bacteriological laboratory would be attached. Such institutions have to be almost entirely supported by private subscription. Independently of this project the Government of India have had under their consideration the advisability of establishing an institution for the bacteriological investigation of certain diseases spe ially prevalent in tropical climates. No information has reached me which justifies the assumptions and suggestions of the last three questions.

DEBATE ON THE INDIAN SEDITION LAW

ON the motion to go into Committee on the Eas India revenue accounts,

Mr. Herbert Roberts proposed, as an amendment, "That, in the opinion of this House, the recent alterations made in the law relating to sedition and the control of the Press in India, being a distinct departure from the traditional policy of the Indian Government in regard to the Press and to public criticism, demand the immediate attention of Parliament; and that, having regard to the conditions of British rule in India and to the exceptional part played by the Indian Press as the only medium for expressing the opinion of the people as to Government measures, and to the fact that such a policy of restriction and intimidation must, if persisted in, result in producing elements of danger to the Government of India, it is desirable that the legislation in question should be repealed at the earliest opportunity." The hon. member took the opportunity of saying that he was only expressing the general opinion of the House when he congratulated Mr. Curzon on his appointment as Viceroy of India. He regretted the loss—from some period at all events—from that assembly of one of the most distinguished members of the House. He hoped that Mr. Curzon's career in that responsible position would not only be marked by his great ability and special knowledge of Eastern affairs and Indian problems, but that he would also be remembered as a wise, successful sympathetic and peaceful Viceroy. It seemed to him foolish, if not dangerous, that when the wisest administrators in India were doing their utmost to understand the motives and the inner minds of the people, the Government should step in and deliberately destroy the one channel through which knowledge on that subject could be derived. He wished to ask by whose authority this vital change was made in the Penal Code, though it seemed to him the inevitable conclusion was that the change was brought about by the Secreta y for India himself. He particularly objected to the extension of section 108 of the Criminal Procedure Code of India to editors of newspapers, giving power under certain circumstances to imprison any of them without trial for a period of twelve months. This placed a very dangerous weapon in the hands of the magistrates of India.

Sir W. Wedderburn congratulated Mr. Curzon, though absent, on his appointment to the Viceroyalty of India and expressed the hope that he would govern that country in sympathy with the views of the inhabitants generally. (Hear, hear.) Turning to the subject brought forward by Mr. Roberts, Sir W. Wedderburn maintained that the Russianisation of Government methods in India was not only a departure form the path of safety, but had already been disastrous, politically and financially. Did the Secretary for India propose to take proceedings against the Anglo-Indian papers for their attacks upon the Government? It might, of course, be doubted if the noble lord would tackle such formidable adversaries. Yet what was sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander, and the terrors of the law ought not to be reserved for the weak and defenceless. The forward policy having resulted in so much poverty and misery among the people, why, in the name of humanity and common-sense, did not the Government return to the old system that produced general content? The true policy was a policy of trust in the people. The police in India was a broken reed that would pierce the hand that leant upon it

Sir A. Scoble said "the recent alterations" in the law relating to sedition and the control of the Press in India, so far from being "a distinct departure," involved no new elements and introduced no greater punishments. The Press was permitted liberty to express disapprobation of the Government, provided it did not bring, or attempt to bring, the Government into hatred, contempt, or disaffection. In wishing Mr. Curzon God-speed, he took that opportunity of expressing his high appreciation of Lord Elgin, who had shown great firmness of mind during a period of war, famine, pestilence, and unexampled financial difficulties. (Cheers.)

Mr. Haldane spoke of Mr. Curzon as a distinguished member of that House, with brilliance and talents, and he had the very best wishes of the House for his future in the great place to which he had been called. (Cheers.) As to the question before the House, a law had been passed in India which would not be tolerated in this country.

The Solicitor-General regretted to hear it said that the effect of this legislation was to put the Government of India into a position of antagonism to the people of India. There was no such antagonism. The desire of the Government of India was to prevent absolu e and untold mischief being wrought in that country owing to such arts of agitation as it was necessary for every Government desiring to maintain order to cope with. (Hear, hear.) The legislation which formed the subject of the amendment was introduced in the interests of the people of India themselves. India was inhabited by a vast variety of races professing a great variety of religions, and between the various sections of the people there prevailed a state of feeling which required the most careful management. The state of affairs was so critical that things which might be said or written in this country without producing any evil effect might in India have results of the most disastrous character. (Hear, hear.) The hon. baronet, the member for Banffshire, had said that the Government of India had recourse to Russianised methods. Perhaps the hon. baronet would modify that expression when he realised that the law as enacted in these sections was exactly the same as the law of England at the present moment. (Hear, hear,) On this point he quoted the authority ofSir Fitzjames Stephen. But it had been said there was trial by jury in England and not in India, That was true. Looking at India as a whole, trial by jury was rather the exception, and in these circumstances it was surely a right and reasonable course that the framers of the section should express clearly and explicity what the old section as judicially interpreted meant. They had got to deal with a state of things in India where fanaticism was always smouldering and ready to be blown into a blaze If this were unchecked, disaffection would break into open flame, and yet out of a pedantic regard for institutions which might be applicable to this country the magistrate was to stand by with his hands folded and not take any steps which, while inflicting no particular hardship on anyone, might prevent untold mischief. (Hear hear.) They must have regard to the spirit of the English law rather than to the letter. In this matter the Government of India had acted in a perfectly reasonable fashion with the sole desire to pro ote the interests of the vast dependency of which they were so proud. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Pickersgill, supporting the amendment, referred to the establisment of Press Committees in India, as to which he asked for information, The noble lord overruled the Indian Government and sent out to India a draft which had now become law, and which had been carried into law with ndecent haste. (Hear, hear.)

Lord G. Hamilton: What do you mean?

Mr. Pickersgill: If the noble lord will allow me I will tell him. The person who was responsible was the noble lord himself—(hear, hear)—and in order to quicken legislation he actually suggested to the Indian Government that the change in the law should be brought about forthwith.

Lord G. Hamilton wished to give the House the reasons which, from an administrative point of view, induced the Goverument to act. But perhaps he might first be allowed to reciprocate the kindly expressions which had come from different quarters of the House as regarded the new Viceroy. (Cheers.) This House always was generous in recognising ability even on the part of political opponents, and Mr. George Cnrzon had not only shown remarkable ability as a parliamentary debater, but had shown high qualities in readiness of resource and courage of conviction. (Cheers.) They all combined in hoping that his health would be fully restored to him, and that the ability he had shown in that House would be instrumental in developing prosperity and bringing our great empire even closer than before to this country. (Cheers.) With respect to the change in the code, after consultation with officials in this country he came to the conclusion that the clause referred to ought to be re-drafted. During seventeen years the necessity for re-drafting the clause had been under consideration. The fact was that a man might say anything in India,provided he was not too violent; and he had been informed by the highest legal authorities that the present section merely confirmed the old law as judicially interpreted, and went no further. (Hear, hear,) The old section was not equal to the law of sedition in this country, and it was necessary to strengthen it, and he believed anybody else in his place would have taken the course he did and put beyond doubt what was the meaning of the section. (Ministerial cheers.) When hon. members talked about the liberty of the Press they should remember that a man was not to be exonerated from the law because he belonged to th Press. If he incited to murder and sedition he was menable to the law, and there was no reason why he should be exonerated. It should be remembered that many of the so-called editors were the proprietors, printers, and compositors, and that many of the so-called newspapers were merely small sheets. As for haste, the course prescribed for legislation was accurately followed, and opinions had been expressed by societies of Mahomedans altogether favourable to the course taken by the Government. The greatest difficulties of our rule were not inherited, but were created by the English education of thousands of young Mahomedans who, not being able to find employment under Government, took, many of them, to newspapers and looked upon the Government as their enemies. We had given liberty to India, and it was to be regretted that a limited section of the c mmunity should use that liberty to attack their benefactors. (Hear, hear.) They who never before had freedom of speech, made speaches and wrote articles that struck at the very root of British rule. Far from wishing to stop fair criticism, he welcomed it. Language immeasurably stronger than personal criticism of the Government, appeared in the NativePress week by week, and no notice was taken of it, but it was a m re serious matter when that Press tried to sap the foundations of our rule. Such efforts did not spring from the wishes of the Indian people generally. They were put forth only by a class who were an excrescene of our rule, a semi-Europeanised class who, having learnt something from us, desired to supplant us. (Hear, hear.) It had been found essential so to alter the Indian law and procedure that the Government might act promptly in emergencies. That had been done without any danger to the liberty enjoyed by natives of India, a liberty unequalled in any other part of the empire. (Hear, hear.)

The house divided: For the amendment, thirty; against, sixty-six; majority, thirty-six. The result was greeted with Opposition cheers.

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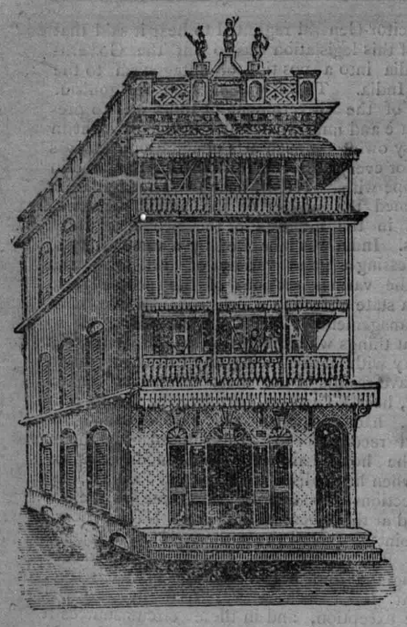

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