

Amrita Bazar Patrika

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CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1899

NO. 22.

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CURES THOSE CASES WHICH ALLOPATHS AND HOMOEOPATHS FAIL TO CURE.

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Leprosy and all kindred forms of diseases arising

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nature of the pain, etc.

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সর্পাঘাতের চিকিৎসা।

৩ষ্ঠ সংস্করণ।

মূল্য পাঁচ আনা মাত্র। ডাকমাণ্ডল স্বর্গ আনা।
এই পুস্তক-লিখিত-প্রণালী অস্বাভাবিক চিকিৎসা।
করিলে সর্পঘাত ব্যক্তি কখনই মরিবে না। ইহার
চিকিৎসা প্রণালী এত সহজ এবং পুস্তকের
ভাষাও এত সরল, যে জীলোকেরা পর্যন্তও এই
পুস্তক পাঠ করিয়া অনায়াসে চিকিৎসা করিতে
পারে। প্রত্যেক ব্রাহ্মণ বংশের বাত এই প্রণালী
অস্বাভাবিক অনেক সর্পঘাত ব্যক্তিকে নিজহাতে
চিকিৎসা করিয়া আরাম করিয়াছেন, এবং অপর
কর্তব্য আরাম করিতে দেখিয়াছেন।

এই পুস্তক-কাগজে প্রতি গৃহে ইহার এক এক
খানি পুস্তক রাখা এবং বালক বালিকাদিগকে
অন্যান্য পুস্তকের সহিত ইহা পাঠ করান
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and Rainy seasons, ready and made up despatched on
the shortest notice. Our Vegetable Packet contains
20 varieties of seeds suitable for the season. These
are all fresh, best and genuine and specially
selected for the Tea and Indigo Concerns. We
grow these seeds in our farms; so we can guarantee
every satisfaction and can supply them in any
quantity 20 sorts of Vegetable seeds—Such as different
varieties of Sages, Brinjals, Kumrars, Chichingah
Korola, Uncha, okra, Cucumber &c. &c., a high
packet Rs. 2, a small packet Re. 1.

Single papers of Vegetables are sold at annas 4
and annas 2 a packet, large and small, respectively.
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each sort.

Datura (Gold treble) 4 annas per paper.
We do not charge for packing seeds. Seed list
posted free on application. Seed list
posted free on application.

Plants supplied at moderate prices and very care
fully packed.
Best Fruit Grafts, Chinese pine apples, several road
side and timber trees, most beautiful and scented
varieties of select Roses, distinct varieties of Crotons,
Palms, Ferns, Orchids, Arancarias, Camellias and
Magnolias of sorts, Santalum Album Coffee, Camphor
Kudrakha, Nutmeg; many other ornamental foliage
plants, Culboms plants Dahlias, choice giant
Flowering canna, Gloxinias and beautiful creepers
are always kept ready for sale. Please send for
revised Horticultural and Fruit Catalogues with 2
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Please send your order early to prevent disappoint-
ment of the number and supply. Gentlemen are
requested to send in their orders with a remittance
sufficient to cover the cost of plants and freight. For
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tendent.

N. B.—Our patrons and constituents are requested
to have a look of the Institution which possesses its
own Nursery, Orchards and the extensive Model
farms.

ACIDITY PILL

ACIDITY and DYSPEPSIA are the two most com-
mon 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, can confidently say
will cure the patient of acidity, and its worse stage of
dyspepsia in a short time, effectively and radically.
However chronic and long-standing the complaint
however violent its attack, the Acidity Pill will give
instant and permanent relief as has been proved in
hundreds of cases. Here are a few unsolicited
testimonials:

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 Bobo, Toshi Banerjee, Deputy
Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date of 6th
March, 1896:—Many thanks for your Acidity Pills.
I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic pains of the
last 18 years. I tried many kinds of medicines to
no effect. Some of them gave me temporary relief
only for a day or two. But since I have been taking
your pills (3 weeks or more) I have not had any
attack for a moment even during this time. The
Pill is an excellent medicine for this nasty disease
which is very painful. Please send me three boxes of
that pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience
and oblige.

(From Babu Ramdhani Paure, Deputy
Inspector of Schools, Arrah) I am glad to
certify that your Acidity Pills have a wonderful power
to cure ailments they are intended for and I have
to thank you very much for the pills you sent me on
December last.

(From Mr. S. C. Haldar, Politica
Agency Gligit.)

I am exceedingly glad to let you know that your
Acidity Pills have miraculously relieved me of the colic
pains and bowel-complaints from which I was very
badly suffering for the last two years and more.

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

Babu Nilmoni Dey, Assistant Settlement Officer
writes from Camp Patepur, Dt. Mozaffarpur:—I have
tried your Acidity Pill and found them to be of great
and excellent remedy in removing acidity immediately.
They are a great boon after a heavy dinner. They are
invaluable in the Mofussil. They should find place
every tourist's bag. Please send me two boxes im-
mediately.

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

Babu Saradai Lal Sarcar, M. A. writes:—
I have tried Dr. Biswas's Acidity Pills, and found them
to be of great use not only in the case of Acidity but
in general Dyspepsia. The medicine, it seems, is
prepared solely from indigenous herbs, and perfectly
harmless. Dyspeptic persons will find it to be a great
boon for curing this distasteful disease.

Babu H. C. Bakshi, Professor, Govern-
ment College, Jabalpur, writes:—Dr. H. Biswas's
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 trial are
sure to derive much benefit from it.

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

Refund the Price in case of failure.
Price Rupee one per box. V. P. P. charge extra.
Do not fail to give it a trial when every other medicine
patent or prescribed, has failed to give you relief. You
will realise its worth by a week's use only.

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Wonderful Discovery.

DISCOVERED by an eminent American physician
and recognized by the latest edition of the
American Pharmacopoeia as the only safe, sure and
miraculous remedy for

GONORRHOEA AND GLEET

Of any description and in either sex. Acute cases
are cured in three days and chronic cases in a week's
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 1895-1896.

INTRODUCTION.

In presenting my Financial Statement of
March 1896 I alluded to the calamities of
famine, war, pestilence, and earthquake which
had fallen upon us during the year then closing
and I went on to refer to the promise of
brighter times introduced by the abundant
harvest of 1897. The recovery of the country
has been more rapid than any of us
anticipated at the time I allude to; another
good harvest has been gathered, and although
the plague still casts a shadow over the land,
the general condition of the people as evidenced
by the Returns of Trade and Revenue is pros-
perous, and the famine of 1896 and 1897 is now
little more than a memory, its effects being ob-
literated by the return of prosperous seasons.
I cannot, however, pass from the subject with-
out deriving from it one lesson which it seems
to me to afford—namely, that the margin be-
tween prosperity and adversity in India must
be a very narrow one, for if we have learned
that one bountiful harvest suffices to restore the
country after a widespread and severe famine,
we have learned also that the failure of the
seasonal rains in a single month of the
year is sufficient to set back a full tide of
prosperity; and that this is a possibility which
in the administration of India, and in its finan-
cial administration especially, we dare not leave
out of account.

2. In the two calamitous years of which I
told the history last March, namely, 1896-97 and
1897-98, I had to show that the accounts of the
Empire were in deficit to the aggregate amount
of, as nearly as possible, seven crores of
rupees (Rs. 6,988,100 since increased to Rs.
7,064,233). In the two succeeding years (those
of which I present the estimates to-day) I am
glad to say that this deficit has been, or will be,
more than covered, for so complete is the
reversal of last year's position that in passing
from 1897-98 to 1898-99 we pass from a
deficit of Rs. 3,359,211 to a surplus of Rs. 4,759,
400, and in my Budget Estimates for next year
I anticipate a surplus of Rs. 3,932,600. I lay
these figures before the Council at the very
commencement of my Statement, as I have no
doubt they are anxious to know, as soon as
possible, the general drift of the figures which
I now proceed to explain in greater detail.

ACCOUNTS OF 1897-98.

3. The Accounts of 1897-98 were, as usual,
published in the first half of January, and the
results then shown compare as follows with the
anticipations formed in March 1898:—

	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Deficit.
Estimate in			
March 1898.	96,561,500	101,844,600	5,283,100
Actual Accounts.	96,442,004	101,801,215	5,359,211

Better + —119,496 + 43,385 —76,111
Worse —

The differences on the whole were very
small, as the accounts under each of the heads of
Revenue and Expenditure closely followed the
Revised Estimate. Indeed, had it not been that
we determined after the close of the year to
make certain grants (aggregating Rs. 88,100)
to the Provincial Governments of Bombay
and Bengal in further reimbursement to
them of their famine expenditure, the difference
in the whole account between Revised Estimate
and Actuals would have been only Rs. 12,000.

4. In the Budget Estimate for 1898-99 I
estimated the results of the year to be a surplus
of Rs. 891,400. But we now find that mainly
through abundant revenue, military economies
on the North West Frontier, and very favour-
able exchange, the result of the year will be a
surplus, as I have already stated, of Rs.
4,759,400. I shall explain afterwards that on a
review of the financial position of the several
Local Governments, whose balances have been
exhausted by famine and plague, and who have
still to meet pressing demands for expenditure
while the expansion of their revenues has for a
time been set back by the calamities referred
to, we have decided to make them grants in
aid of their resources, out of the surplus that
has accrued to us on the Imperial account.

The total amount of these grants is Rs. 700,000
and thus the surplus of the year is reduced
from Rs. 4,759,400, to Rs. 4,059,400. The
money may be described as expenditure
brought to account by anticipation, that is
to say, it goes at present merely to
swell Provincial balances, and when actually
spent on the purposes in consideration of
which it is granted, it has not again to be
charged against the surplus of the year, but
passes through the Provincial adjusting entry.

5. The detail of the differences between the
Revised Estimates for 1898-99, as now present-
ed, and the amounts taken in the Budget
Estimates prepared twelve months ago are set
out in a long statement, showing that while the
Budget Estimate had shown a surplus of
Rs. 891,400, the Revised Estimates showed
Rs. 4,059,400.

6. The first point to note is that, except for
a small falling-off under Stamps and Registra-
tion, every one of the Revenue heads shows
better results than anticipated in the Budget
Estimates. The improvement under Land
Revenue is mostly in Burma and the North-
Western Provinces. In Opium we have got
much better prices in Bengal than we estimated
for, namely, Rs. 4,164,000 against Rs. 3,900,000,
and in Bombay the low rate of the pass-duty,
as compared with previous years, has led to a
revival of the export which last year showed a
very considerable decline. The increase in
Salt Revenue, which now produces 9 crores
against the 8½ which it gave us in the two
famine years, is a satisfactory indication of the
improvement in the condition of the people,
and the Customs Revenue continues to increase
as trade continues to flourish.

7. Post Office and Telegraph show a falling-
off, due in the latter case partly to the cessation
of hostilities on the North Western Frontier,
but chiefly to the more extensive use of deferred
telegrams which are now delivered by hand,
and in the former case to reduction of rates
of postage. We calculate that by the increase
from one-tenth to one-and-a-half of the unit of
weight for inland postage we diminish the
annual revenue by Rs. 60,000, and by adopt-
ing the Imperial Penny Postage (for India, one
anna) we give up Rs. 40,000. A considerable
portion of this last item will be recovered for
us by an arbitration given in our favour, in
respect of the distribution, between the
English and the Indian Post Offices, of the
subsidy charges payable to the Peninsular and
Oriental Company, and by reductions of the
scale of charge in respect of continental
transit.

8. Under Railways—Net Earnings—we have
received Rs. 778,100 more than we estimated,
the important items being—

		Rx.
1. North-Western	Better	410,000
2. Great Indian Peninsula	Better	416,000
3. Bombay, Baroda and Central India	Better	210,000
4. Rajputana-Malwa	Better	70,000
5. Eastern Bengal	Worse	110,000
6. Southern Mahratta	Worse	80,000
7. South Indian	Worse	50,000
8. Madras	Worse	55,000
9. Assam-Bengal	Worse	31,000
Net of the above	Better	780,000

The improvement is due generally to large
exports of grain consequent on good winter
crops, and in one case to postponement of
works of repair and renewal.

The Plague is responsible for the falling-off
on the Railways in Southern India.

An inferior jute crop and the postponement
of jute deliveries in Calcutta was the cause of
the worse result on the Eastern Bengal State
Railway, and inclusion in the Working Ex-
penses of the revenue share of repairs of earth-
quake damages caused the reduction on the
Assam Bengal Railway.

9. On the expenditure side, the first consider-
able improvement is under opium, and is due to
our failure to obtain as good a crop as we hoped.
We have been able to recommence the building
up of our Reserve, but the good season for
which for many years we have waited has not
yet come, and the produce still remains short
of our standard. There has also been a con-
siderable saving in the expenditure of the
Salt Departments, and fair amounts in the
other Revenue Departments. The Civil Depart-
ments show the usual considerable savings in
their Budget Estimates, but the amount
has been more than swallowed up in the ex-
penditure caused by Plague. The head "Medical"
alone shows an excess over estimate of Rs.
327,800, most of which is in Bombay, and all
of which for practical purposes falls on the
Imperial Account, for the Provincial Govern-
ments are not able to bear the expenditure
without assistance in the form of grants from
Imperial.

10. The Army expenditure in India (ordi-
nary) is less by Rs. 84,300 than estimated in
the Budget, and of the Budget provision of Rs.
1,458,000 in India for Warlike Operations only
Rs. 1,023,700 has been spent, the Military
authorities having, from the very beginning of
the year, found it practicable to reduce the
forces maintained on the North-West Frontier.

11. The rate of exchange taken for the
purpose of the Budget Estimate last March
was 15½ pence (or rather £1=Rs.15½), that
being the rate actually realized in 1897-98.
At the opening of the year 1898-99 the current
rate was 15-13/16 or 15½, but under the influence
of a strong demand in April and May (in each
of which months the Secretary of State sold
two millions sterling of Council Bills) it quick-
ly rose to 16 pence and over. This demand
was due mainly to unusually large exports
of Rice, Wheat, and Seeds.

12. The position thus gained at the begin-
ning of the year has never been lost, and the
rate has continually fluctuated about 16 pence,
now a little over it and now a little under it.
In the latter half of the year the rate has
never been below 15-15/16 pence. The
drawings have now for some time stood
at Rs. 700,000 a week, and we expect when the
year closes to have remitted by Council Bills
£19,000,000 equal to Rs. 28,540,000, giving, as
nearly as possible, an average rate of sixteen
pence. The revised estimates for 1898-99 are
accordingly made up at this rate.

13. For next year I have made the modest
estimate of 15½d. I fully anticipate we shall re-
alise, as this year, some thing closely approach-
ing to 16 pence, but our continual practice in
India is to avoid sanguine estimating, and fol-
lowing this principle I am loth to take a
figure which may have the taint of being, un-
der existing circumstances, the best possible.

14. It may be noted that not only are the
remittances of the current year, the largest on
record (there being hitherto only one year, 1881-
82, in which they exceeded £18 millions), but
we have in addition to these remittances re-
ceived in India in exchange for silver at the
rate of Rs. 15 per £ sterling, Rs. 2,616,400
of gold which we now hold as part of the
currency reserve in addition to Rs. 255,400
similarly held on 1st April 1898.

SOME CLAIMANTS TO VAST ESTATES.

WHAT ROGUES WILL DO.

THE spectacle of a poor person lying claim to vast
estates has never failed to enchain public attention,
so without any desire, we need scarcely say, of
prejudicing the case which will shortly occupy the
attention of the Law Courts, says a Home paper,
we have looked up some of the stories of past
claimants to estates which at the time quite mon-
opolised the attention of society.

The decease of the twenty-second Earl of Crawford
without issue resulted in a number of the relatives
claiming the title and estates.

Shortly after the Earl's death, the family mansion
one evening took fire, the flames obtaining such a hold
that before midnight a huge crowd had assembled on
the lawn in front of the house watching the conflagration.

Whilst the domestics were removing the valuables,
the chances of the various claimants were energeti-
cally discussed, the prevailing opinion being that the
title would fall to the last male descendant of
James Crawford.

Amongst those who were listening to the conversa-
tion were a couple of needy adventurers, one of whom
happened to be named John Crawford.

Amongst the articles removed from the house was
an old bureau which the servants carefully placed in
an outhouse a short distance from the burning
pile; not so secretly, however, as to escape the
notice of John Crawford and his companion, who, as
soon as the fire had burnt itself out, and the crowd
had dispersed, stole into the outhouse, and, possess-
ing themselves of a packet of letters marked
"James Crawford," hastened to their lodgings,
and, after manipulating the letters so as to show
that the son of James Crawford was John Crawford,
replaced them before morning in the bureau.

Then, with the help of one or two they had
reined, they proceeded with such infinite
dexterity to manufacture others, that present-
ly the farmers, peasants and cottagers on the estate
subscribed and presented John Crawford with a large
sum to defray the expense of proving his identity.

Finding Crawford in possession of a considerable
sum of ready money, his companion, James Bradley,
insisted on the plunder being halved, which demand
not being complied with, he secretly vowed ven-
geance, to obtain which he approached the other side.

At the trial he confessed that finding that the
letters were written on the first and fourth pages
only, he and his companion filled in the second and
third pages with matter skillfully contrived to support
the imposture.

The trial for forgery which followed resulted in
John Crawford and his companion being sentenced
to fourteen years' penal servitude.

Were the story of the Annesley Estate made the
groundwork of a novel, the plot would be held to
be unreal and exaggerated.

A spendthrift, named Lord Altham, towards the
close of his life became so impoverished that he had
to send his only son and heir—a mere child—into
the streets to beg for food.

On his

THE Viceroy addresses the people of India with sympathy,—not the sympathy of the diplomat, but that of the honest Englishman; Mr. Odham, the official who stands next to the ruler of Bengal in importance, chides a scribbler for abusing the Bengalees and defends that much-maligned race; the *Englishman*, instead of supporting Mr. Stevens, condemns him for his virulent writing; and the *Pioneer* appeals to all Englishmen, official and non-official, to treat the Indians with sympathy. Is it possible that the millenium is upon us, that is to say, Englishmen are at last determined to introduce a more sympathetic rule? The *Pioneer* is so good as to admit: "that the peoples of India will respond to expressions and manifestations of sympathy there can, we think be hardly two opinions, extreme impressionability and responsiveness being part of most of the Indian character."

Now, the Indians are much better than they are usually given credit for. They love their parents, brothers, children, and wives devotedly ; they maintain their poor relations ; they love their homes ; the Indian servants are devoted to their masters who treat them kindly, so devoted are they, indeed, as to be able to give their lives for the latter ; they are gentle in nature ; and they do not drink. Above all they have not that sort of patriotism which makes that feeling superior to every other that sways the human mind.

No, it is not at all difficult to deal with the Indians. The difficulty will be found to exist with Englishmen in India, who, naturally kind-hearted, have been spoiled by their residence in this country. We said the other day, that, though the arrangement here is that the Englishman is the absolute master and the Indian a helpless dependant, still in this arrangement the Indians are better off than their masters. We shall try to show this in a distinct manner in subsequent issues.

Englishmen derive only fanciful advantages by ruling India under the present methods, but the disadvantages that they suffer from are real. That morally they should deteriorate by governing Empires under despotic principles is natural, but it is doubtful whether they have gained materially by treating India as a property, and not as a part and parcel of the British Empire. This decay of moral instinct in the ruling nation, is seen in the tone of the leading newspapers of the imperial country. They talk of spoliation as if it were a very good thing, and have ceased to see in it any moral wrong. This was not so before.

China is breaking up, and here is an opportunity for an intelligent nation, says the *Times*. Let those who have yet a spark of love for Christ and Christianity look sharp. A big house is on fire, and neighbours run, apparently to offer help. They all enter the premises and try to save what they can lay hands on. Two men thus bring out a box of clothes and some utensils, one of whom counsels thus with the other. "Let us take this home," says he. The other refuses—he says that would be stealing. His companion says—"No, not stealing; we are entitled to this box. If we had not brought the box out, it would have been consumed by the fire. We have fairly earned this property."

A loot was also going on before their eyes, of the things taken out from the house. The owner of the house, too busy with his own affairs, trying to save wife, children and cattle, had no opportunity of looking after his property. So all that was saved from the flames by himself and neighbours was at the absolute disposal of the spectators, and the owner had no opportunity of keeping guard over them.

The thief referred to above said, "If we had not brought this box out, it would have been consumed by the fire; if we leave it here, it will be stolen by others. Come, you have a share; but if you stupidly decline to avail of it, I, I must carry it home." The other, however, would not permit this; he said the box did not belong to them, and it would be stealing to take it home. The thief persists in saying, "If I leave the box it will not be helping the owner at all; another will take it. You are only doing me wrong by persisting in your opposition, for I took the trouble to bring it out; and have at least greater right to it than another who did nothing."

The honest man repeats, that he will not permit the stealing. The thief retorts.—“Very well, I let go the box. I shall take another; you can't be everywhere. Look, every one is helping himself.”

The facts stated above came out in the course of a criminal trial. The thief, who was convicted, got two years. Of course, what is crime in individuals is sometimes glory and statesmanship in nations.

DR. MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR, while presiding at the meeting of the Gauranga Samaj, on Sunday before last, said that while the teachings of some other Prophets had been followed by the unsheathing of swords and the creation of sectarian and race feelings, those of the followers of Gauranga only humanized men. They prayed for all, and

their love for mankind was universal. And the old philosopher of sixty summers, burst into tears when he said this. Naturally enough, Mr. Malabari says : " The religion of Love preached by the Lord Gauranga has become necessary for the salvation of the human race." Stephen was not given an earthly Empire by Jesus Christ for his devotion. His reward for his devotion to Christ was the cruellest of deaths ! He was the first martyr ; he was *stoned to death* because he had refused to give up his faith in Christ. Christ himself might have easily destroyed the Jews who sought his destruction, for he was the Son of God. But if he had destroyed his enemies, he would have proved false to his own teaching which inculcated the love of an enemy. But now his disciples, who confess themselves to be his devotees, do not agree to be stoned to death, but are quite willing to stone others to death, if they happen to be too weak to be able to defend themselves. And was it for this that Jesus Christ bled ?

THE *Pioneer* says :—

The debate on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, weeks hence, will be particularly interesting, as the opponents of the measure will have to make out a very good case indeed, if they are to cause the Government to abandon the reform of municipal administration.

What a disastrous effect has irresponsible rule upon the mind, even upon the reasoning faculties of men? Government-wants to change the existing order of things against the wishes of the people, and it is the people who have to shew why it should not be done! Ordinarily, however, the statesman who wants to do away with the existing state of affairs, has to make out a case, but in India, that duty devolves not upon him, but on the party who opposes him!

We have seen it declared in respectable newspapers that Sir John Woodburn is determined to pass the Municipal Bill. The suggestion is that the more the rate-payers clamour, the more they seal their doom. What is then the poor native to do under the circumstance? If he does not clamour, it is taken for granted that he accepts the reform thrust upon him. If he does, he seals his own doom; for it is alleged against his pretensions that it is bad policy to yield to clamour. The susceptibilities of the rulers have now become a strong factor which the Indians have to take into account while carrying on any agitation. When there was a discussion as to whom the Municipal memorial to be adopted at this evening's meeting, should be submitted,—to Lord Curzon or Sir J. Woodburn,—one party suggested that it should be submitted to Sir J. Woodburn, for the simple reason that to submit the memorial to Lord Curzon by ignoring Sir J. Woodburn would be making the latter a declared opponent!

Let it be borne in mind that India is governed under purely despotic principles. When such is the state of affairs, the rulers should listen to the just prayers of the people. The people have acquiesced in British rule, and this they shew by frankly representing their wishes and grievances to their rulers. The rulers, on the other hand, have to justify the large powers they enjoy by shewing that though nominally their rule is despotic, it is really based on enlightened principles.

The case is very simple. Sir A. Mackenzie was carrying out the wishes of his late master, Sir Ashley Eden, in destroying the representative character of the Calcutta Municipal ty. Mr. Risley was entrusted with the task of framing the Bill, and naturally he was led to contract an affection for his creation. But fate drove Sir A. Mackenzie from here, and he had to leave his pet measure to his successor, which, we are told, he did with "tears in his eyes." The circumstance was so extraordinary that any one in the position of Sir J. Woodburn would have done what he was led to do, that is to say, to promise to support the Bill. In the same manner Mr. Bolton gave a promise to the late Lieutenant-Governor whose right-hand man he was. It is to these circumstances of the case that we owe our misfortune; and India is to be deprived of a boon, because of these peculiar circumstances! In short, Sir John Woodburn promised to sacrifice himself for the sake of his predecessor.

This noble sacrifice reminds us of the story of the hen-pecked King who had learnt the language of beasts, birds, nay, of insects. Two ants were quarrelling over a grain of cooked rice which had fallen from the royal plate, and the high words that they exchanged elicited a smile from the lips of the King. For, as stated above the lucky sovereign had got the gift of understanding the language of even insects. Seeing the smile on the royal lips his consort wanted to know the reason. Now, the King had acquired the gift under an awful condition, namely, that he must not disclose what he heard creatures speak, for if he did so he would lose his life immediately. So he could not explain to his wife the cause of his smile, for were he to do so he would forthwith fall down dead. He, therefore, begged to be excused, but the Queen would not hear of any excuse, even when the King said that the penalty of the disclosure was to be the loss of his life. The Queen, not wholly believing this, said, "Very good, I don't care. If you die I don't mind. I must know the reason why you smiled." The hen-pecked King seeing that he had no help in the

matter, agreed to disclose everything. "My dear," said he, "if I die I must die like a good Hindu, in the bosom of the Ganges, for my salvation. So come, follow me, let us go there." Thus saying the King entered the sacred river, and the Queen stood on the bank to hear why the king had smiled.

But just then a strange thing happened. An ewe and a ram were grazing on the bank, the former being in an advanced state of pregnancy. She saw a bundle of green grass being swept away by the current of the river and she requested her husband to fetch her the bundle as her tongue was watering for it. The ram said in reply that he did not venture to do so, for he might be carried away by the current and drowned. But the wife would take no denial. She began to scold him, in the bitterest terms, for his ungallantry, his heartlessness, his unmanliness, and so forth. "Why did you take a wife," said she, "when you cannot satisfy her wishes?" The ram bore all the taunts of his wife with patience for sometime, but at last he found that the more he submitted, the sharper became the tongue of his wife. So he said, "You see, wife, I am willing to do anything reasonable for you. But I am not a fool like that King who is sacrificing his life for the whims of his wife. That ass with a human shape has come to give his life. If he had only the sense to see that, instead of sacrificing himself, he ought to have given his wife the cut of a horse-whip, she would have long ago desisted from tormenting him! Take note, wife, if you again tease me with such selfish and unfeeling requests, I will give you such a push with my horns that you will remember it all the days of your life."

The ewe seeing that her lord had assumed his natural position immediately gave in. The King, as we said, could understand the language of all animals and so he understood all that the ram told his wife. And a new light dawned on him. He came out of the river and let his wife know that he would not submit to her whims. Seeing the threatening attitude of the King the poor Queen, fell at the feet of her husband and pitifully begged pardon of him. Since then she felt greater respect for the King than she had ever done before.

What Sir J. Woodburn has to do is to accept the advice of the ram. He is by no means bound to sacrifice himself for the sake of Sir A. Mackenzie. Let him acquaint Sir A. Mackenzie that willing as he is to sacrifice himself for his predecessor, he has also a duty that he owes to himself and to his people. He is, in his present position, not so much to please his friends, as to protect and cherish his people whom he had sworn to take care of. He can further tell Sir A. Mackenzie that the fate of the Bill is not actually in his hands and that there is a very independent-minded Viceroy to be taken into account. So his support of the Bill will not mean much to the measure but will prove an absolute sacrifice to himself.

It goes without saying that the forthcoming Town Hall meeting will be attended by a large number of people. There was absolutely no necessity for this demonstration but for some unhappy misunderstanding. Public meetings have been held in all available parts, of Calcutta, and the Municipal Bill has been discussed everywhere. Both the principles and the details of the measure have been condemned, and nothing has been left undone to convince the authorities that the Bill if passed would prove disastrous to the interests of both the rulers and the ruled. The ruled now possess some share in the administration of their Municipal affairs; it would mean great wrong if they were deprived of it after they have enjoyed it for nearly a quarter of a century. Similarly, it will be impossible for the rulers to keep the capital city of the Empire clean and healthy without the hearty co-operation of the natives of the soil. The measure is thus an unmitigated evil, and this the Indian citizens of Calcutta have done their utmost to show by adopting resolutions and memorials at public meetings and by discussing the subject in all its features in newspapers and pamphlets. To hold another public meeting after this would therefore seem to be something like over-doing the thing. But a cry was raised in certain quarters and it was taken up even by such an august personage as Sir John Woodburn, that the members of the B. I. Association were with the Government in this matter. It is needless to enquire how the authorities came to misunderstand the attitude of the B. I. Association, but it was incumbent upon that body to publicly declare that the measure had not its support. This is the origin of the Town Hall meeting, which has been convened by the Sheriff and is to be held to-morrow evening at 5 o'clock. The chair will be taken by the president of the B. I. Association; and the resolutions will be moved and seconded mainly by the members of that body. It goes without saying that the proceedings will be carried out with great moderation, and speakers have been specially enjoined not to deal in defamation. In order to confound the enemies who gave out that the agitation against the Bill was the work of some interested parties, the Municipal Commissioners are rigidly excluded from the protest meetings hitherto held in this connection. But, at the special request of the B. I. Association, two of them have been selected to

take part in to-morrow's meeting, firstly because, they are non-pushing and non-political in their habits, and secondly, because, they have practical experience of the administration of the Corporation, and have thoroughly studied the Bill, and are, therefore, in a position to speak on the subject with authority. Hence, we find the names of Babu Nalin Behari Sarkar and Babu N. N. Ghose amongst the speakers. As outsiders, the speeches of the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta and the Hon'ble Mr. Charlu will be listened to, no doubt, with special attention.

I WAS anx'ous'y expecting you, to hear
of your talk with the Viceroy.
He is a magnificent man

Well, that of course. Repeat to me in detail all that you said and heard.

The Viceroy talked and I listened. The conversation was on general subjects.

What ! you an intellectual man dissipating such a precious opportunity on frivolous talks ?

Yes, that is a pity. The Viceroy is a new-comer, and I would have preferred speaking on matters regarding the people, but I got no opportunity.

You should have created one. I think you could have done that.

Perhaps that would have been rude. I ventured not, for he seemed too shrewd for me.

Why did you not tell him, that as the Viceroy's time was short, and the opportunity of a private talk with him was rare, you would prefer to talk to him about the wishes, aspirations and grievances of the people?

To interrupt him and thrust my wishes ?
—I dared not !

He is now fresh from England with his English instincts intact. Naturally he is not only an able man but a very good one. Do you think, a residence at Simla will change the man?

Possibly he will not come the same man that he goes, but it is not likely he will come thoroughly changed.

MR. MACDONALD, the late editor of the *Englishman*, was not only a well-known figure among the European community of Calcutta, but had also many friends among the Indians. We had a slight acquaintance with him, but we must confess, we were much impressed with his personality when we first came across him. It was some time after the Ilbert Bill agitation that we happened to meet him, and that, in connection with the great Jhinkergatcha mass-meeting. The feeling between the Europeans and the Indians had then been very much embittered by the discussion of that unhappy measure, and the cordial manner in which we were received by Mr. Macdonald surprised us a good deal. What was more, he promised to give his support to the Jhinkergatcha meeting, which was attended by a lakh of men, and the main object of which was to protest against the Choukidari Bill, which had caused grave alarm amongst the rural population of Bengal. Governors in those days paid greater regard to popular opinion than they unfortunately do now. When this demonstration was held at Jhinkergatcha, a village in Jessore, Babu Ananda Mohan Bose was the only Government-nominated member in the local Legislative Council. But yet his single voice prevailed and the Bill was dropped, because his hands were strengthened by the united protests of so many thousands of people, which Government did not think it proper to ignore. The Jhinkergatcha meeting created a great sensation not only here but even in England; nay, some American papers also noticed it, though the Congress had then just been started and had not yet established its branches either in India or in the ruling country. Mr. Macdonald published a graphic account of the demonstration in the *Englishman* and was much impressed with the fact that, though such a large mass of people gathered at one spot, neither was a drop of liquor consumed nor a head broken! The same Bill, which was shelved during the time of Lord Dufferin and Sir Rivers Thompson, was passed, with slight modifications here and there, by Sir Charles Elliott during the Viceroyalty of Lord Elgin, in the teeth of opposition from the entire press. Some brilliant articles from the pen of Mr. Macdonald, headed, "Criminal administration by percentage," exposed the heartless manner in which criminal justice was administered in this country and supported the cry of "No conviction, no promotion," raised in these columns. It was, we believe, during the absence of Mr. Macdonald that the *Englishman* now and then went astray and abused the people of this country; for, we cannot believe that, a good man like him was capable of hurting the feelings of his fellow-beings who did him no harm.

We are deeply obliged to the Viceroy for affording relief to the sugar industry of the country, which was being sought to be unfairly destroyed, by means of a legislative enactment. Let it, however, be known distinctly that we are thankful not so much for the good that this piece of legislation has done to the industry as for the opportunity it has given to create a feeling of wrongness in the minds of the people for the Government itself. The Government is naturally alien. But it is in the power of the rulers of the land, to behave in such a way as to make the people forget it. Can any one point to a piece of measure so promptly introduced, solely for the benefit of the

people; or one which was accepted with joy by the representatives of the people as this was done by the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu and the Hon'ble Mr. Chittavis? Would it be doing injustice to Lord Elgin if it were alleged that the measure would never have been introduced at all, or not so promptly at least, if he had not been here as Viceroy? The root of all mischief is that the rulers here are not only aliens, but they do not even try to feel and show some sympathy for the people. They are as cold, careless and indifferent as aliens are likely to be, but yet they are our earthly providence and the Indians cannot move a step without their help. Our friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta said, that there was no urgency about the measure. Well, there was this urgency that, if the Bill were not passed immediately and a check put upon flooding this country with bounty-fed sugar, then, next year, very few men would have grown sugar cane and date trees; and the cane and date cultivation, which is a source of livelihood to millions of our people, would have almost disappeared from India.

MR. HILL, counsel on behalf of Mr. Ambler, (who was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 10 for the alleged offence of having caused the death of an Indian coolie,) while arguing against the motion of the Government to enhance the sentence, is reported to have remarked :—

I am at a loss to understand why in this country punishments are atrociously hard.

Mr. Hill was both right and wrong. It is quite true that punishments are atrociously hard in this country where the natives of the soil are concerned; but it is not true that it is also atrociously hard in the case of European offenders. Without prejudicing the case of Mr. Ambler in any way, it may be safely said that, if an Indian had slapped a European and the latter had fallen down and died afterwards, he would not have been let off with a fine of ten Rupees. Nay, if an Indian gentleman had been the unconscious cause of the death of even a coolie of his own nationality he would have been dealt with far more severely than Mr. Ambler was treated. Indeed, in criminal cases, justice is reserved for the Indians and mercy for the Europeans; and hence is the situation that while a European has never been hanged in this country for having murdered an Indian, half-a-dozen Indians, on the other hand, are sent to the gallows for taking the life of a single person. In the famous Baladnan case, the matter was carried to such an extreme that seven or eight innocent people were sentenced to be hanged for the murder of the European manager of a tea plantation by some unknown parties. We have not the slightest objection to the lenient manner in which European offenders are treated. Our contention is, why should there be one law and one administration of the law for the Europeans, and quite another for the Indians, when they both are under the benign rule of the same sovereign? On the other hand, considering the helpless and dependent condition of the Indians, they deserve greater leniency than the members of the ruling nation who are stronger and more powerful, and therefore more favoured than their weaker brethren. We, however, thank Mr. Hill for bringing the fact prominently to the notice of the Judges of the High Court that punishments meted out by our courts are unduly severe, and that nowhere in the world are sentences so monstrously hard as in this unfortunate country.

THE Budget Statement was presented yesterday. The people have, however, very little interest in it; for they have no voice in the management of the finances of their country. Their portion is to pay taxes, while others levy and spend them. It is all the same to the people whether there is a deficit or a surplus. For, if there is a deficit Government makes it up by borrowing; but when there is a surplus no tax is abolished or remitted, and thus no relief is afforded to the over-taxed population. Sir James Westland says that but for the plague and the famine, the Government exchequer would have overflowed with money. That is quite true. But it is of small moment to us whether the coffers are full or empty. We, however, expect better things under the administration of our new Viceroy. May Heaven help him in reducing at least a portion of the burden which the people can hardly carry on their backs?

THE *Times* of India found a second opportunity of proclaiming the Brahmin conspiracy at Poona when the recent murders were committed. Reuter immediately utilized that occasion by wiring that precious piece of news to London, and some Tory papers immediately became savage and demanded blood. Here the Indian newspapers imposed upon themselves a conspiracy of silence, and refused to treat the incident as anything more than ordinary murders. Thus the conflagration was thought to be raised, but was nipped in the bud for want of fuel. It is the easiest thing in the world to create panic, especially amongst Englishmen in regard to India. But whether it is politic or not is quite another question. The *Times* of India has done one piece of service to the Brahmins; they will henceforth be more respected.

The impression that the people of India have been thoroughly emasculated is not a fact. If this impression had not existed the Bombay authorities would have provided more sympathetic means for the enforcement of the plague rules, and would have listened to the piteous complaints of the people who appealed to them for protection, from the high-handedness of some plague officers. Plague has, however, proved that the impression is a great mistake. The plague operations have shown, that there is yet a good deal of the spirit of resistance in the people. The apparent tameness of the Indians proceeds from two causes,—first, they are naturally gentle, and secondly, they are never goaded to lawlessness by the actions of their wise and considerate rulers. An attempt was made to introduce anarchy in the land by the creation of cow riots. Fortunately Sir A. P. MacDonnell stopped them, and fortunately a devoted Englishman succeeded in proving, to many of his countrymen, the dangers of the policy that was being pursued from pure perversity. The service done to the Empire and the country by Sir A. P. MacDonnell, and Mr. Rogers are simply incalculable. The operation of plague-rules has likewise shown that the people bow with absolute submission to the Government, because it is just and considerate, and that they will resent it, if treated unsympathetically or harshly.

The Government should draw one moral from its experience. It should never entrust unsympathetic laymen with excessive powers. It is dangerous to place a knife in the hands of a child. A child thus armed will commit mischief. An unsympathetic and untrained layman, armed with absolute powers, is sure to commit mischief. It was to this mistake of the Bombay Government, in investing this class of men with dictatorial powers, that led to the disaster which overtook that unlucky Province. Armed with dictatorial powers, some of these plague officers lost the balance of their minds. Of course, when the plague officers are obstructed in the performance of their duty, Government is bound to protect them, but the airs some of them give are irresistible, that is to say, they irresistibly lead some of the most inoffensive of men to give them a slap. They walk with "pride in their port and defiance in their eye as if they are the lords of mankind." You can find a plague-officer by merely looking at him, his fierce look betrays him. When he enters a house, the occupants tremble with fear. They know that if the plague officer is offended, they are ruined. So they try to please that great man by all means in their power. When they salaam him, they touch his feet with their heads; they never talk but with folded hands; they address the plague officer as "Huzoor," "incarnation of virtue," etc. But yet that hard-hearted man is not softened; all the while he is only seeking an opportunity to get angry. The fact is, it is the most unwise thing in the world to invest this class of men with power, for the process makes them dizzy. It is the cultured civilians alone who can bear the weight of power, without losing their head; others cannot.

It is a pity the Congress Committees in India have to send a large sum of money to England for the maintenance of their organ, *India*. As Englishmen hold the destinies of Indians in their hands, they ought to make themselves acquainted with the condition of this country. *India* represents India to England, and therefore, the British Government should subsidize that paper for distribution amongst the members of Parliament. In the same manner, the Government of India ought to subsidize it for distribution amongst its officials. This is clearly their duty. There are Englishmen in India, who subscribe to this journal, and they do so on the ground that "having taken the government of the country in our hands it is our duty to keep ourselves acquainted with its affairs." Of course, Government has officials who furnish them with translations from Indian vernacular newspapers, but they do not serve the purpose adequately. We want to have our own people reporting our own papers, and we want such a report to be publicly circulated. In short, we think a copy of *India* should be placed in the hands of every member of Parliament and every high official in India. The Parliamentary Committee should move for such an arrangement. The Indians also have a duty to do in this connection. Every one who can afford it, should subscribe to a copy not for his use but for distribution amongst officials. A paragraph in *India* means exposure in England, and it will produce greater effect than a para in an Indian paper.

Those who have condemned the measure just passed, for the protection of indigenous sugar, should bear in mind that the condition of America and of this country is the same. That is to say, like India, America does not only grow sugar, but also consumes it. And what is the attitude of the Americans in regard to this question? They have imposed a countervailing duty. The India Government has closely followed the Americans in this matter. We too have a Government, and why should not our Government do what is good for the country? The Americans when imposing the duty, never cared to see, how such a measure would affect others. Neither should our Government have any business to see whether the duty imposed by it, is liked by other

countries or not. The object of these bounties is clear. It is to help the manufacturers in a way to enable them to destroy their competitors. As a matter of fact the bounty-fed sugar was destroying our indigenous manufactures. It is true the consumers were getting sugar cheap. But why did other countries pay the bounty if they had not an object in view? That object was this. When the bounty-fed sugar had destroyed the Indian industry, they would make up their losses by various means. Thus Belgium is paying its manufacturers a bounty, and we are getting now sugar cheaper than before. But when the Indian industry had once been destroyed, the Belgians, having no more competitors, would be able to fix their own price. We are now getting sugar at Rs. 7 per maund, they may then charge Rs. 20. So the present cheap price of sugar is a delusion and a snare. It is difficult to revive an industry when, once destroyed, and if an attempt is made to do so, a bounty would be given to frustrate the effort. We are glad to find that this feature of the question was pointed out by the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis, whose speech is published elsewhere.

The Chamber of Commerce has passed the following Resolution:—

In view of the recurrence and increasing intensity of the plague in Calcutta, the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce regard with the greatest alarm the fact that the Calcutta Municipal Bill is being made a party question in the British Parliament. Political discussion inevitably results in delay. For the protection of the lives of the inhabitants and the trade of the port, immediate measures for the cleansing and keeping clean of the town and for better sanitation are demanded, and the Committee consider that the political aspect of the question may well remain over for future discussion. While looking, therefore, to the Local Government to adopt such immediate measures as they may think necessary to meet the emergency of the case, the Committee take the opportunity of assuring the Government that any measures they may take to accomplish the object in view will have the cordial and continued support of the members of the Chamber.

And the *Englishman* has drawn the attention of the citizens of Calcutta to the above. We, however, miss the point in the Resolution. It seems the Government could do much to stop the ravages of the plague if party politics did not hamper its action. What has, however, party politics to do with the spread of plague, or even the action of Government? Does the Chamber mean that if Government be allowed peacefully to pass the Municipal Bill, it will then be able to put a stop to plague? But how can the Government give such a guarantee? Does the Chamber mean that this agitation is diverting the mind of Government from its legitimate works and, therefore, it ought to be put a stop to? If that were the case it was the Government which brought in discord where there was peace before. Even now Government can shelve the Bill and let the reform wait, and direct its whole attention to provide a measure for the check of the disease. Government, under the present system even, has every power to do whatever it likes. The best course for the Government is now to leave this farce of legislation alone for the present, and make the Commissioners do what is useful. It is not likely that they will prove obstructive especially at a time like this. The Chamber ought to have made its intentions less obscure.

It is a matter for extreme congratulation that there is at present noticeable a change for the better in the tone of certain Anglo-Indian papers, with regard to the children of the soil, their claims to the attention of the authorities, and their treatment by their rulers. The other day we quoted a short paragraph from the *Englishman*, ancient the vile aspersions of Mr. Stevens in the *London Daily Mail*. Short as the paragraph was, it showed clearly how strongly our contemporary felt the injustice of the globe-trotter's sweeping remarks. Then, here is a paragraph we quote from the *Pioneer* in relation to the Calcutta Municipal Bill, which also unmistakably points the direction the wind has veered. The following sentences are taken from an article in the Allahabad paper reviewing the working of Municipalities in the N.W. Provinces:—

The point that we would wish to bring home to the unsparing critics of Municipal Government is, that its present feebleness is largely due to official action or pressure. We will not go so far as to say that the pressure cannot be justified, but the fact remains that Municipal Government, as such, has been severely handicapped. You cannot expect to drive a straight furrow if you yoke the horse and the buffalo to one plough. Official control is no doubt absolutely necessary at present, but it is, if largely exercised, itself an evil.

Yes, while it may be argued that official control is necessary to a certain extent, it is as undeniable as the noon-day sun rides high in the heavens, that too much of it spells out nothing but disaster. We reproduced an article from the *Pioneer* under the heading, "Sympathy for India" which we commend to the notice of every thoughtful Indian. Let the Indians alone, suggests the *Pioneer*, let them not have a taste of too much legislation, let their social customs remain as they are without any interference from so-called philanthropists, and the rulers will do more to win back the sympathy of the people than any number of Dufferin hospitals.

The *Madras Standard* says that the Local Government have just ruled that henceforward an English graduate should be appointed to the Headmastership of the Mangalore College; and enquires the reason why. For ourselves we do not see any other reason save the desire to provide for a "poor White." Experience has taught all who have any connection with the system of education in this country, that the Headmastership of a school or Collegiate School is best filled by an Indian, who knows the vernacular and the habits and customs of the people.

The two following cuttings from the *Tribune* will speak for themselves, and we will not try to add to them much by way of comment. In the first case, a Punjab clerk in the Ordnance Office at Rawalpindi, was thrashed by his superior officer; but why such a heroic measure was adopted we are not told. In the other case, the following telegram has been received from the Toll Manager of Jhelum, addressed to the Manager, North-Western Railway, the Inspector-General of Police, the Civil and the Military Gazette and the *Tribune*: "Abused, assaulted, ears pulled out by the Police Inspector on demanding toll. All passed without paying toll's accompanied by some officers while returning after shooting. Surely it is not too much to expect that these cases will attract the notice of the authorities."

About a thousand mules have been ordered to be despatched by rail down-country from Peshawar. They were to leave in two special trains on Friday and Saturday.

On the night of the 9th instant, a band of outlaws, supposed to be Mahads, broke into a house in the village of Jander Lzot Sheikh, in the Dehra Ismail Khan District, and having bound the occupant, as well as his wife and son, decamped with five bullocks and a cow of the total value of Rs. 150, the tracks leading through the Zam Pans.

Mr. ERNEST TREVELYAN, whose name is mentioned as successor to the late Sir Louis Kershaw as Chief Justice of Bombay, is well known in India, having only lately resigned his appointment as a Judge of the High Court, Calcutta. Mr. Trevelyan is grandson of the late Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister of England, who was assassinated (by an Irish fanatic) while entering the House of Commons.

REPRISALS similar to those carried out in the Kurram, are being adopted against the Mahsuds in Southern Waziristan. It is hoped that raiding will be checked by these means.

The statements that have appeared in the Lahore paper as to the settlement of the question of the gauge for the military light railways on the Frontier in favour of the 2ft. 6in. gauge, are, we believe, substantially correct. The decision of the Government of India, in any case however, have to go home to the Secretary of State for sanction.

RAJPUTANA now reports 5,520 persons in receipt of famine relief and 4,242 persons migrated in search of work and food. Agricultural operations are progressing satisfactorily except in Merwara, and the state of the crops is generally good, though some damage has been done to them by frost. But the spring crops are not particularly hopeful, the average estimated output being set down at six and-a-half annas. Prices of food-grains have risen in four states and fallen in three, but are steady elsewhere, and the cattle are in fairly good condition.

JUDGMENT was delivered on Saturday in the case of Abdullah, a Municipal Commissioner of Agra, charged with falsifying municipal records. The Judge agreed with the assessors that the accused was not guilty under section 405 of the Indian Penal Code, but, disagreeing with them found him guilty under section 193 of the Indian Penal Code. The Judge observed that the offence called for two years' imprisonment, but taking into consideration the fact that the accused was a rais, a zemindar, a Municipal Commissioner, and advanced in years, he would be lenient. The accused was sentenced to one month's simple imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 1,000; in default, six months' further imprisonment. The prisoner has telegraphed to the High Court to be admitted to bail, pending an appeal.

WHAT might have been a terrible accident took place early on the morning of the 17th instant at Messar Keswal, a few stations south of Rawalpindi. The mail train from Lahore was due to pass a goods train standing in this station. The pointsman however, it is alleged, so arranged the points that the mail was switched on to the line on which the goods train was standing. Though travelling at a good speed, the driver of the mail fortunately saw the mistake and by promptly applying the vacuum brake so reduced the speed of his train as to make the resulting collision comparatively slight. Both engines were damaged but no passengers were hurt. The mail was some three hours late on arrival here. The pointsman has been brought on here for trial.

The *Beluchistan Gazette* describes the latest Gazi outrage in these words:—Another case of most deliberate Gaziism has occurred at Sibi, the victims this time being five, in all of whom two are Hindu Government servants, who, up to the latest accounts, were not of them expected to live. It appears that three Beluchis—of the *Silachi* tribe—after visiting a sacred shrine, a place called Thalli, some ten miles from Sibi where there is also a Forest Department depot, came into Sibi, with a sort of introduction to the Deputy Ranger who stops there, on the evening of the 6th current. This man being away on leave, his *locum tenens*, the Forest Munshi, by name Sheo Ramput, the three men up. They remained as his guests till the early morning of the 8th current when one of them attacked him with the sword he had, and leaving him for dead in his house proceeded out to attack whoever else might fall in the way of himself or his comrades, the first man unfortunately being the Octroi Moharrir—or clerk—who with two others who were with him, were all attacked and wounded. The alarm had meanwhile been given, and the first man to tackle the Gazi was a Sikh orderly of the Political Agent Captain Tighe, who had a regular sword fight with him, getting more than one wound in the encounter, none however dangerous. A Police Levy sepoy, a Punjabi Mahomedan, came up and bayoneted the murderer, who died shortly after. The second man was also arrested at the same time, the third managing to get away though he is sure to be caught. The unfortunate Forest and Octroi Moharrirs are in a precarious state.

Calcutta and Moulshill.

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ALLEGED POLICE OPPRESSION.—The *Sangsoodini* of Chittagong reports that on the 6th instant two local constables are alleged to have severely beaten a Mussalman near Alikhan's *Musjid*. The assault, it is said, was witnessed by a large number of neighbours who were drawn out of their houses by the cries of the assaulted man.

A TORNADO.—A tornado passed over Attara-Bari and certain neighbouring villages in Mynensing on the 25th *Falgun* last, doing immense havoc. Roofs of houses were blown off and trees were uprooted. The sky assumed a strange appearance, for trees and branches of trees, bamboos, etc., were seen flying about. Two men were killed and a hundred others were more or less injured. Many have been rendered houseless.

BENGAL TRADE.—The accounts relating to the trade by land of British India with foreign countries for the last nine months of 1898, show a falling off in the value of imports amounting to over twenty-two lakhs of rupees as compared with 1896, and a slight increase as regards 1897, so far as Bengal is concerned. In the matter of exports, the value of merchandise aggregated close upon eighty-nine lakhs, as against ninety-one lakhs in 1896, and over a crore in 1897.

INDIA AND ITS PEOPLE.

LECTURE AT THE LIBERAL CLUB.

THERE was a large attendance in the Council Chamber of the Liberal Club on Wednesday night, when Miss Alison Garland delivered a lecture, illustrated by five light views, on "India and its People." The lecture was listened to with close attention and evident appreciation. The chair was taken by the Rev. T. Granger, who briefly introduced the lecturer.

Miss Garland soon gained the interest of her hearers, for the pictures which were shown on the canvas were of an exceptionally interesting kind. Some of the finest buildings in the country were shown, and the history of these places was sketched in brief, pointed language. It was, however, when the lecturer dealt with the British rule in India that she showed her grasp of the problems of that country. She expressed the opinion that the outset that England ought not to give up the ruling of India. British rule had done a great deal of good there, a fact which had been recognised by the natives themselves; and this was certain, if the British rule were relaxed, the country would soon be given up to anarchy. But British rule, good as it was, might be made a great deal better. There was no representative government there, and this naturally gave rise to certain difficulties, which might be got over if a little more attention was given to the affairs of the country. Speaking of the customs of the people of India, the lecturer said that as little interference as possible had been made with these customs, but in one case it had been deemed advisable to interfere. That was in connection with the custom of the destruction of widows by burning when the husband died. Lord Wm. Bentinck had passed a law which had rendered these rites unlawful, and from that time the custom had ceased. Speaking of famines, the lecturer referred to the fact that since India had been brought under European rule famines had been on the increase. In the 15th century there was one famine; in the 16th century there was no record of a famine at all; in the 17th century there were two; in the 18th century the number had risen to eight, and in the 19th century, when England was responsible for its rule, there had been twelve large and six small famines. There were no famines in Europe and America. What was the cause of this? Famine was indirectly the effect of a dearth of water, but more directly it was through the want of money. There has been so much money taken out of the country, that when the natives had paid their taxes they had little left to live upon. It had been said that half the labouring population of India did not know what it was to have sufficient to eat. Miss Garland then proceeded to give some reasons for the poverty of India. There was no reason, she said, why the country should be so poor. It had a fertile soil, and a teeming population willing to work at a small cost. One of the causes of India's poverty was the fact that it had to maintain a more costly Administration than even England, and there were more highly paid civil servants in that country than in any other part of the world. This could not be avoided. But all this things had to be paid for by the people of India as a consequence of their foreign rule. There were in India at the present time 28,000 officials drawing large salaries. One case given was that of a man drawing £6,000 a year, and out of this amount he sent £5,000 a year to England. All this money was taken out of the country and never went back. The remedy for this evil was to have a larger number of Anglo-Indians in the Indian Civil Service. Another cause of the poverty was the number of punitive expeditions which had been made on the frontiers of India. These expeditions had cost about seventy-five millions sterling, and in her opinion there had not been the least benefit to India by these costly ventures. Miss Garland spoke strongly on the question of the alteration which had been made in the native system, of money-lending. The result of this alteration was that half the land of North-West India had been passed into the hands of the money-lenders. Miss Garland touched briefly on the question of the currency, and explained how the natives would be injuriously affected by the decision to introduce a gold standard. By this decision three hundred millions sterling would be lost to the natives of India.

At the conclusion of the lecture a vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer and chairman on the motion of Mr. T. Parnell, seconded by Mr. Harvey. This having been acknowledged the proceedings terminated.—*Scarcaraugh Mercury.*

Plague News.

CALCUTTA FIGURES.

ON Monday last, there were 16 attacks and 18 deaths from plague, distributed over the wards in the following manner: Ward No. 2, 3 attacks and 3 deaths; No. 4, 5 and 5; No. 6, 5 and 5; No. 7, one attack; No. 10, 1 and 1; No. 12, one death; No. 19, one death; No. 22, one death; No. 25, 1 and 1. There were 10 suspected cases and 10 deaths in Ward No. 1; 1 and 1 in No. 2; and 5 and 5 in No. 3. The total mortality from all causes was 100 as against 75 the mean of the last five years.

A PLAGUE APPOINTMENT.

THE Government of India, on a representation from the Government of Madras, has, subject to the confirmation of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, sanctioned the continuance of the appointment of Plague Commissioner for such period as the prevalence of plague in the Madras Presidency may render necessary. The appointment is worth Rs. 2,500 per mensem to the substantive holder of the appointment, plus deputation and travelling allowances. To the present incumbent, however, (Mr. Murray Hammick) a Civilian of twenty-two years' standing, the salary is Rs. 1,800, with the allowances attached to the appointment of a full-blown Collector.

A SUBMARINE AUTO-MOTOR CAR.

McClure's contains a very interesting account of the submarine boat Argonaut and her achievements. Mr. Simon Lake, inventor and builder, and R. S. Baker describe this strange piece of naval mechanism. When the maker was ten years old, he read Jules Verne's "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea," and he has been working at submarine boats ever since. The Argonaut is "cylindrical or cigar-shaped, with a very bluff bow and a pointed stern, and is 36 feet long." She is made of the same steel used in the naval cruiser. She is propelled by a gasoline engine, and is provided with compressed air for the diver's room, electric light, telephone search-light, etc. She can sink 100 feet, but so far had not gone beyond 50 feet. The inventor says:—

"We have been cruising on the bottom in rivers, in Chesapeake Bay, and beneath the broad Atlantic. In the rivers we invariably found a muddy bed; in the bay we found bottoms of various kinds—in some places so soft that our divers would sink up to their knees, while in other places the ground would be hard, and at one place we ran across a bottom which was composed of a loose gravel resembling shelled corn. Out in the ocean, however, was found the ideal submarine course, consisting of fine grey sand, almost as hard as a macadamised road, and very level and uniform."

The use of his invention in naval war are "so terrible as to lead Mr. Lake to consider it an important step towards universal peace. There is nothing to stop the destruction of any squadron afloat by submarine torpedo-boats. They could crawl along, cutting all cables and mine-wires and render all other submarine defences harmless."

The chief value will be in raising treasures sunk in wrecks:—

She not only swims either on the surface or beneath it, but she adds to this accomplishment the extraordinary power of diving deep and rolling along the bottom of the sea on wheels. No machine ever before did that. Indeed, the Argonaut is more properly a "sea motorcycle" than a "boat."

Air is supplied at a moderate depth through the tall steel tube must, and is stored for greater depths compressed in steel cylinders. The compass guides are effectively below the surface as above. It is possible to remain days and even weeks below. With a crew of five men on board, the vessel has done one thousand miles above and below.

The idea of the thing wheeling over the seabottom suggests much discovery:—

The submarine wrecking boat will undoubtedly recover from the bottom of the sea many times the value of the vessel lost in war. Of the cargoes, treasures, and vessels lost in the merchant service, the aggregate amounts to over one hundred millions of dollars per year, according to the official report of Lieutenant-Commander Richardson Clover, Chief Hydrographer of the United States Navy; and as the loss has been going on for many years, the wealth lying at the bottom of the ocean transcends the fabulous riches of the Klondike. One authority said many years ago: "There is every reason to believe that the sea is even richer than the earth, owing to the millions of shipwrecks which have swallowed up so many a royal fortune." Fortunately the majority of these great losses occur in waters in which it will be practical to operate with submarines.

The colliers sunk in Chesapeake Bay would alone form quite a valuable coal mine. These submarine vessels would also be of a great service in coral, sponge, and pearl fisheries. The diver simply steps out of his room filled with compressed air, and saves the weary descent and ascent. Mr. Baker gives a very lively narrative of his trip below. It seems to have been a remarkably safe and comfortable voyage.

THE sentries of all guards in Rawalpindi have been armed with carbines and tuckshoos.

THE Nowshera-Dargai Frontier Railway will be forty miles in length, and on the 2ft. 6ins gauge its construction is estimated to cost about twelve lakhs. A further sum of five lakh will be required to equip the line with its rolling stock.

A KAFILA of 60 camels arrived from Peshawar on Saturday, each animal loaded with about 60 rifles for the Amir. It proceeded to Tor Kun the next morning, where it was taken over by the satrap of Dacca and an escort of Afghan troops.

THE gold now in the Indian Government Treasuries amounts in round figures to two and-a-half crores of rupees. A further shipment of £1,750,000 was advised from Australia last week; but this in all likelihood, was contracted for previously, before the premium on London exchange ruling in Australia fell, and when exchange there was above one and four pence. Or, if it is fresh business, the gold must be destined for the bazar and not for the Mints. The arbitrated exchanges between Australia, India and London no longer admit of gold shipments from Australia, for the purpose of tendering the metal at the Mints, at Rs. 15 per sovereign.

Tow to Save Doctor Bills.

We have saved many doctor bills since we began using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in our home. We keep a bottle open all the time and when ever any of my family or myself begin to catch cold we begin to use the Cough Remedy, and as a result we never have to send away for a doctor and incur a large doctor bill for Chamberlain's Cough Remedy never fails to cure. It is certainly a medicine of great merit and worth.—D. S. MARKLE, General Merchant and Farmer, Mattie, Bedford county Pa. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO., Ltd.
K. PAUL CO., Ltd.

India and England.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MARCH 23.

BY ELECTIONS.

TWO more By-elections have been completed since my last letter. Mr. Holland has been returned as the Liberal Member for Rotherham by a substantial majority of over 1000; and the Tory electors of Folkestone have returned Sir Edward Sassoon by much the same majority as his predecessor. The representation is unchanged in both cases, and no political significance can be attached to either. Mr. Holland who has been returned for Rotherham is an old member of Parliament who lost his seat at the last election. He was a member of the Indian Parliamentary Committee during the last Parliament and is a convinced and sympathetic friend of the progressive movement in India. Sir Edward Sassoon is a Jew, member of the well-known family of Persian Jews, so long a feature of Bombay commerce; he has married into the Rothschild family and will take the most case-hardened Anglo-Indian view of Indian politics.

MINING REGULATIONS IN INDIA.

I am glad to hear that there is some decent prospect of amending the present preposterous and unworkable rules under which the Government of India are alone prepared to make mining concessions. It is authoritatively stated that a Bill to regulate mining has been drafted and will shortly be presented to the Viceroy's Council. I hope the Indian members of Council will realize the importance of close criticism and will widen its provisions to the utmost of their power. It will be well too, to take care that ample time is allowed for its criticism in this country before it is passed into law. There is no greater need, for the due development of the natural resources of India than that the condition under which minerals can be explored, should be settled once for all on a solid, practical and permanent basis. Mr. Herbert Roberts, himself a very practical business man, intends to watch closely the progress of this promised mining legislation.

A CORDITE FACTORY FOR INDIA.

I am glad to hear that the Government of India is at present engaged in an earnest endeavour to establish a fresh native industry, and has despatched a formal recommendation to the India Office that a local factory for the manufacture of cordite should at once be established in India. Recent experiments have convinced the authorities in India that cordite can be manufactured with perfect safety in the equable climate of the Nilgiri hills. The proposal is to establish at once a factory large enough to supply all the necessities of the Indian Empire. I trust the Secretary of State will consent to this scheme, and that it may be followed up by the establishment of a Small Arms factory. There is no reason whatever why the entire requirements of the Indian Army, including field guns as well as small arms should not be manufactured by Indian workmen, to the great saving of expenditure, with the advantage of distributing taxation among those who pay it, by way of wages for skilled labour.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AMONG BRITISH SOLDIERS.

A Parliamentary paper just issued, gives careful official statistics showing the extent to which British troops were incapacitated in the campaign of 1897-8 on the Indian frontier, as the result of venereal disease. The number of British troops employed were 16,600 in all. No less than 989 men were rejected as unfit for service owing to this loathsome disease, while during the campaign 492 were incapacitated from the same disgraceful inability, a total of no less than 1481 altogether, or every eleventh man. It may be taken for granted that this is typical of the whole army, and if the entire British army were called out to repel a foreign foe or suppress a revolution, 8000 of them at least would be incapacitated from this one cause alone, quite preventable and entirely due to the individual soldier's own action. As a British soldier in India costs from first to last about £200 a year, the Indian tax-payer is robbed by the Cantonment B. of a considerable over a million sterling. This is but a small portion of the mischief wrought by this beloved institution of successive Commanders-in-Chief. The ruin, moral and physical alike of the fine young soldiers, and the lust of unhappy daughters of India procured for the awful fate of a soldier's prostitute, cry to heaven for redress. Control of prostitution is a confessed failure. Nothing but the entire suppression of the Chakla in every Cantonment in India, and the stoppage of the pay of every soldier during incapacitation will have any serious effect in reducing this terrible evil. The worst of having to deal with a social ulcer like this, is the difficulty of plain speaking about it. But I am sure if the real naked truth of it were spoken throughout this country, it would be impossible for the authorities of the Indian Army to resist the cry of indignation that would be uttered.

INDIAN TRADERS IN AFRICA.

SIR WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, M.P. wrote to Mr. Chamberlain on January 13th respecting the regulations imposed upon Indian traders in the Transvaal, requiring them to proceed to the specified location for residence and trade, and pointing out the loss and hardship this would be to Indian traders. The following reply has been received:—

Downing Street, February 15th.—Sir—I am directed by Mr. Secretary Chamberlain to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 17th and January 13th relating to the position of British Indian subjects in the South African Republic. Mr. Chamberlain gathers that you are fully alive to the difficulty of dealing satisfactorily with the case, but Sir

An Editor Finds a Sure Cure for Rheumatism.

A. L. De Fluett, editor of the *Journal*, Dayton, Ohio, suffered for a number of years from rheumatism in his right shoulder and side. He says, "My right arm at times was entirely useless. I tried Chamberlain's Pain Balm, and was surprised to receive relief almost immediately. The Pain Balm has been a constant companion of mine ever since and it never fails." For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and K. PAUL & CO.

Alfred Milner is prepared on his arrival at Cape Town to take up the question, and to endeavour to arrive at some arrangement of a favourable character to the Indian traders. In the meantime the Government of the South African Republic have suspended the notice for the removal of Asiatics to locations on the 1st inst. —I am, Sir, your obedient servant, Fred. Graham.

It is impossible to speak in too warm terms of the unwearied pertinacity with which Sir William Wedderburn has pressed the just grivances of Indians in the Transvaal and the Cape generally, and it appears from this correspondence as though his efforts were at last about to be crowned with some success. If Sir Alfred Milner, who is very sympathetic, is able to get justice done the matter will have to be raised in a parliamentary discussion.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Captain T. S. Barton, 2nd Bengal Infantry, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Canton Magistrate of Barrackpore and Dum-Dum.

Mr. C. A. Bell, Jt. Magte and Dy Collr, is appointed to act, until further orders, in the first grade of Jt. Magtes and Dy Colls, and is posted to Muzaffarpur.

Mr. W. Maude, Magte and Coll, Pabna, on furlough, is appointed to act as Magte and Coll of Muzaffarpur during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. L. Hare, or until further orders.

Babu handi Das Ghose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr Serampore, is appointed temporarily to have charge of that sub-division, vice Mr. J. A. Craven, deceased.

Mr. H. E. Ransom, Offg. Dist and Sess Judge, Midnapore, is allowed furlough for one year.

Mr. E. G. Drake-Brockman, Jt Magte and Dy Collr, Ranchi, is appointed to act as Dist and Sess Judge, of Midnapore, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. H. R. H. Cox.

Babu Gobind Chandra Das Gupta, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Dacca, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Narayanganj sub-division.

Mr. J. Windsor, Offg. Dist and Sess Judge Burdwan is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. W. H. Vincent, Offg. Addl Dist and Sess Judge Jessore with Khulna and Backergunge, is appointed to act, as Dist and Sess Judge, of Burdwan, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. J. Windsor, or until further orders.

Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, Sub-Judge and Asst Sess Judge, Saran, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Addl Dist and Sess Judge, Jessore with Khulna and Backergunge.

Babu Rajendra Nath Ghose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Nawada, Gaya, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Bunku Behary Datta, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Nawada sub-division.

Babu Jagat Chandra Bose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Noakhali, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Kali Sankar Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Tippera, is transferred to Noakhali.

Babu Nobin Chunder Sen, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the head-quarters station of the district of Tippera.

Mr. T. MacBlaine, J. C. S., is appointed to be a Magte and Collr of the third grade. Mr. MacBlaine is appointed to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Purnea, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. F. E. Pargiter or until further orders.

Mr. W. F. C. Montrieux, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Cuttack, is appointed to have charge of the Khurda sub-division.

Babu Mahananda Gupta, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Hoogly, on being relieved of his present duties in connection with the drainage work in the district of Hooghly and Howrah.

Mr. E. H. Kealy, Asst Magte and Collr, Champaran, is transferred to Darjeeling.

Babu Mohes Chandra S. N. Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Nadia, is allowed leave for one month and eight days.

Babu Anand Bandhu De, Offg. Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Hooghly, is transferred temporarily to the Serampore sub-division.

Mr. L. E. B. Cobden-Ramsay, Asst Magte and Collr, Darbhanga, is appointed to have charge of the Samastipur sub-division.

Mr. J. R. Blackwood, an Offg. Jt Magte Dy Collr, Samastipur, is transferred to Darbhanga.

Babu Bivenswar Bhattacharya, Dy Magte and D. Collr, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Bhabhua sub-division.

Mr. J. Maxwell, Asst Magte and Collr, Shahabad, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Bhabhua sub-division.

Mr. E. B. H. Pantou, Offg. Jt. Magte. and Dy Collr, Bhabhua, is transferred to Shahabad.

Mr. F. C. T. Halliday, Asst Supdt of Police, Bhagalpur, is allowed furlough on medical certificate for eight months.

The order of the 8th February 1896, appointing Mr. Halliday to have charge of the Midnapore District Police, is cancelled.

Mr. H. B. St. Leger, Dist Supdt of Police, on special duty, is allowed furlough for one year.

Captain T. S. Barton, Offg. Cantonment Magistrate of Barrackpore and Dum-Dum, is vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class. He is also appointed to act as Small Cause Court Judge within the Cantonment limits, and is vested with powers for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 50.

Mr. A. F. M. Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur, Fifth Judge of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is allowed leave for three months.

Mr. C. D. Panigrahi, Registrar and Chief Ministerial Officer of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is appointed to act as Fifth Judge of that Court.

Babu Jadupati Banerji, Munsif of Nilphamari, is appointed to act as Sub-Judge of Saran.

Babu Atal Vihary Ghose, Sub-Judge of Saran, is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 500, within the local limits of the Chapra Munsif.

Babu Triunna Prassana B. S. Munsif of Lakshmi-pur, who is now acting Sub-Judge of Rajshahi, is appointed to act as Sub Judge of Chittagong.

Babu Heman Chandra Bose, Sub Judge of Patna, is appointed to be Sub-Judge of Hooghly, vice Babu Radha Krishna Sen, about to retire.

Maulvi Abdul Bari, Munsif of Patna, is appointed to act until further orders, as Sub-Judge of Patna.

Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji, B.L., is appointed to act, as Munsif of Patna, during the absence, on deputation, of Maulvi Abdul Bari, or until further orders.

Babu Jogendra Nath Roy, Sub-Judge of Chittagong, is allowed leave for forty-two days.

Babu Kali Dhan Mukherjee, Munsif of San'tip, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Ram Charan Mullick, Munsif of Patiya, is allowed leave for forty-five days.

Babu Upendra Nath Mukherji, Munsif of Bhagal-pur, is allowed leave for one month.

Assistant Surgeon Satis Chandra Mitra is appointed, to act as an Inspecting Officer for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, at the Plague Observation Camp, Chatta.

Assistant Surgeon Man Mohan Gupta is appointed temporarily to have medical charge of the civil station of Balasore, during the absence, on deputation, of Captain C. E. Sunder, J. M. S., or until further orders.

The services of Mr. P. Donaldson, Supdt of the Presidency Jail, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Mr. W. Leonard, Supdt of the Alipore Central Jail, is appointed to act, in addition to his own duties, as Supdt of the Presidency Jail.

The services of Mr. S. C. Hill (Indian Educational Service) are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Babu Hari Charan Roy, Principal, Chittagong College, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Mathura Nath Chattopadhyaya, Offg Inspector of Schools, Patna Circle, who has been appointed as Inspector of Schools, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Circle, is allowed leave for two months and nine days.

MONSTER MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL.

CALCUTTA'S PROTEST TO THE MUNICIPAL BILL.

As announced before, a monster meeting of the rate-payers of Calcutta was held last evening at the Town Hall, to enter an emphatic and united protest against the Municipal Bill and to pray to His Excellency the Viceroy to avert the threatened withdrawal of the valued privilege of Local Self-Government which the citizens of Calcutta have enjoyed for 22 years.

It was the most crowded and influential meeting that ever assembled in the Town Hall, so much so that Mr. Hughes did not think it advisable to allow the meeting to be held upstairs, fearful lest the weight of so vast a concourse of people should bring about a collapse. As it was, the ground-floor hall was packed to overflowing. Indeed, from an early hour streams of ratepayers were seen pouring into the Town Hall; and it was impossible that it could hold all those who came. Two to three thousands of people had to go away disappointed for want of standing space. Even respectable ratepayers were seen to stand all the time the meeting lasted, so great was the enthusiasm evoked. At a modest estimate, there were not less than three thousand people inside the hall, among whom were all the biggest and most respectable ratepayers in the town.

Among the speakers, the speeches of the following were worth noticing:

Mr. Ananda Charlu was original and humorous. He spoke extempore, without referring to any notes, and kept the audience enthralled for half an hour.

Mr. R. Mitra delivered a most lucid and elaborate speech, criticising the Bill in almost all its phases.

Raja Benoy Krishna's was an impressive speech; his delivery was excellent; he was cheered almost all through.

The most practical speech was that of Babu Nolin Behari Sarkar. We hope to publish it in *extenso* in a future issue.

Mr. N. N. Ghose made a good and effective speech.

Raja Peary Mohun Mukherjee, who had a sore throat, could hardly make himself heard by the people away from the dais. But it should be stated that he spoke well and to the point.

Babu Charu Chandra Mullick also made some pointed remarks.

Kumar Manindra Mullick Bahadur, in proposing Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna, to take the chair, said: "It is with great pleasure that I beg to vote Maharaja Bahadur Sir Narendra Krishna to the chair. He needs no introduction at my hands. He is a distinguished member of our society, and his reputation as a leading Hindu nobleman is not confined to this country but has reached the shores of England. The Government has also full confidence in him. We cannot choose a better person than he to preside on the present occasion. Our illustrious countryman, Maharaja Bahadur Sir Jotindra Mohun Tagore, was to have voted him to the chair; but the state of his health not having permitted him to attend the meeting, the agreeable duty of voting this scion of the noble Raj family of Sova Bazar has devolved upon my humble self. Maharajas, Rajas and gentlemen, I need not detain you further with any remarks of my own. Those who have to move and second the resolutions will tell you that the Calcutta Municipal Bill, to consider which we have met to-day, if passed into law, would take away one of the most valued rights we have been enjoying since about a quarter of a century, and prove disastrous to the interests of the house and land-owners and the residents of the city in various ways. I hope and trust, our good rulers will be graciously pleased to pay due regard to the deliberations of this meeting, and do what is just and fair to all parties."

The motion was seconded by Babu Subal Chander Clunder.

On taking the chair Maharaja Bahadur Sir Norindra Krishna, K. C. I. E., said in opening the proceedings:—

Gentlemen,—The citizens of Calcutta have reason to complain that the present Municipal Act would be replaced by a new one interfering with the privileges enjoyed by them on the management of municipal affairs. Since the Act was passed in the year 1876, its sphere of usefulness has been enlarged from time to time securing the confidence of the ratepayers of the town. The sanitary condition of the city was so perfect that people from distant places came to reside in it for the restoration of their health; but the recent visitation of an epidemic fever of a virulent type, causing death against the treatment received from eminent doctors, has created distrust in the minds of the people about its healthiness, and it is but natural that Government is anxious that articles of trade exported from this country should not contain infectious matters carrying on contagion in other countries. We cannot, however, withhold our praise due to the Calcutta Corporation for cleansing the city and striving unceasingly in removing this pestilence from the town. The gratuitous and useful services rendered by the members of the General Committee have been acknowledged by Government; its number should not therefore be reduced as it is composed of ratepayers, merchants, respectable traders and Government officers of high rank and ability in Calcutta. We hope the Government will favourably consider our representation and withdraw the Bill disliked by the people of this country.

The following resolutions were then proposed and unanimously passed:—

RESOLUTION I.

That this meeting views with great alarm, and respectfully takes exception to, the policy of the Calcutta Municipal Bill now before the Bengal Legislative Council, as it threatens to deprive the ratepayers of Calcutta of local Self-Government which

they have been enjoying with great appreciation for nearly a quarter of a century; and this meeting also views with great alarm and respectfully takes exception to many of the detailed provisions of the Bill as they are calculated, if passed into law, to entail great hardships on the people of Calcutta.

Proposed by Raja Peary Mohun Mukherjee, C. S. I.

Seconded by Babu Charu Chandra Mullick. Supported by the Hon'ble P. Ananda Charu Rai Bahadur.

RESOLUTION II.

That this meeting resolves that a memorial be submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy praying that a representative Commission be appointed for the purpose of enquiring as to whether any change in the system of municipal administration of Calcutta is desirable to meet the requirements of the town; and that the present Bill be not proceeded with until the Commission so appointed has submitted its report.

Proposed by Mr. R. Mitra.

Seconded by Rai Ananth Nath Mullick Bahadur.

Supported by Babu Nalin Behari Sircar.

RESOLUTION III.

That the following memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy be adopted and forwarded under the signature of the Chairman of this meeting, together with a copy of the foregoing resolutions.

Proposed by Raja Binaya Krishna.

Seconded by Babu Sitanath Roy.

Supported by Mr. N. N. Ghose.

RESOLUTION IV.

That a committee consisting of the under-mentioned gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be appointed for the purpose of taking such action as may be deemed necessary to carry out the objects of this meeting.

Proposed by Dr. Lal Madhub Mukerji, Ra Bahadur.

Seconded by Babu Beharilal Seal.

Supported by Babu Damodar Dass Barman and Rai Buddredas Mokim Bahadur.

Before a vote of thanks proposed to the chair Babu Mati Lal Ghose, said:—"I beg to offer a vote of thanks to three illustrious persons, namely, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Sir Henry Fowler, and Sir Willam Wedderburn for their disinterested and noble service to the cause of India and the Indians."

Vote of thanks to the chair.

Proposed by Babu Barendra Nath Tagore.

Seconded by Babu Pramatha Nath Mitter.

In proposing the third resolution Raja Benoy Krishna made the following speech:—

I deem it a great honor to be able to take part in to-day's proceedings. It is a very gratifying circumstance that all sections of the community have now come forward to make a united appeal against the proposed Municipal Bill which, as you know, gentlemen, is a measure suicidal in its policy and if it becomes law is destined to prove disastrous in consequence. Let me also congratulate you, gentlemen, on the fact that we have met together this time under better auspices and more favourable circumstances. I deem it also my duty to say that we cannot be too sufficiently thankful to the authorities for the sympathetic attitude they have generally adopted in regard to this burning question of the day. It is a matter of great comfort and relief that our rulers do not mean to do away with the little of self government that we have in the constitution of the Calcutta Corporation. After all, gentlemen, we have been able to carry on this great agitation as we have faith and confidence in the abiding sense of justice of our rulers, in British statesmanship, in its beneficent policy towards the subject races. You are pretty well aware, gentlemen, that the representative system has been introduced into the Calcutta Municipality after most anxious and careful deliberation and much thought bestowed upon the subject. What was the condition of Calcutta when the principle of election was at first introduced? Was it better than that of the Calcutta of to-day? Was the sanitation of those days comparable with the sanitary aspect of the town to-day? It is decidedly not. Have not public spirit, enlightenment, material prosperity, in fact progress in all directions made giant strides and advanced by leaps and bounds? The literature on the subject has become well-nigh pretty full, and you are aware, gentlemen, that the system which this Bill proposes to revert to has been tried and proved an utter failure. Both the Government and the public condemned the system. Two successive Lieutenant-Governors considered this remedy, and it was during the Viceroyalty of Lord Northbrook that the popular control over the affairs of the Municipal Government in Calcutta has been put forth as the proper solution of the question. Reason, logic, facts, arguments and public opinion have all been arrayed in exposing the inutility of the measure. But, gentlemen, we should never forget that the inestimable boon of the representative government is unquestionably and without doubt the outcome of the soundest wisdom and is a glorious triumph of the British rule in this country. If matters are properly represented to our rulers, I venture to think, they will not take away with the left hand what they have so generously bestowed upon us with the right hand. Let us therefore respectfully and in a loyal spirit approach our rulers with the memorial, and better days may yet dawn upon us.

THERE was one omission from the speech of Raja Binoy Krishna Bahadur that was published yesterday in these columns. The omitted portion contained thanks for the disinterested services of Mr. Herbert Roberts, M. P., the Right Hon'ble Sir Henry Fowler, M. P., Sir William Wedderburn, M. P., Mr. W. S. Caine and Mr. R. C. Dutt in relation to the agitation against the Municipal Bill. Lord George Hamilton was also thanked by the Rajah for his lordship's assurance that he will not take away local self-government from the people of this country. A formal vote of thanks was subsequently proposed to the Secretary of State for India and the other gentlemen named above by Babu Moti Lal Ghose amidst loud cheers and carried unanimously with acclamation.

Mr. HODSON, Director of Railway construction, goes next week to Nowshera in order to go over the route for the newly settled 2 feet 6 inches railway to Dargal.

THE contract for the Gokteik Bridge on the Mandalay-Kunlon Railway has been placed with an American firm whose Engineers have a special knowledge in the bridging of gorges.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

A LECTURE.

JAMALPUR, (MONGHYR), MARCH 20. Sri Swami Ala Ramji Sagar Samyazi, the great, eloquent, world-known and orthodox Hindu Sadhu who is puring up with Pandit Thakur Prashad Pauthuck Sitaranj, Secretary Monghyr Purnaniguge S'natan Hindu Dharma Sabha, delivered his lecture on "Murti Puja" at the Sabha on Sunday, at 4 P. M. Among others the members of the local Arya Samaj were present. After three hours long lecture the meeting closed with the usual "Sanatan Hindu Dharmaki Jai."

THE MOHUN-PUR TEA-GARDEN TRAGEDY.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

SILCHAR, MAR. 21. The murder case against Mr. Ross of the Mohunpur tea estate, came on for hearing to-day before Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner. The court was crowded with natives and about a dozen European spectators. The accused was provided with a chair behind his readers.

Babu Kali Mohun Deb, B. L., appeared for the prosecution, and Babus Kamini Kumar Chanda, M. A., B. L., and Mahesh Chandra Dutt for the defence.

The pleader for the prosecution put in a petition praying for three days' time as he had received a telegram from Mr. Abdul Rahim, Bar-at-Law, stating that the High Court was being moved for the transfer of the case. After a keen contest, the petition was granted and the case adjourned to the 24th inst.

The Deputy Commissioner at first asked the Government Pleader to be in readiness to appear for the prosecution, but on an objection being raised by the pleader for the defence, claiming a similar privilege for his client in the counter case, the Deputy Commissioner said that he would see about it when he would take up the case on the 24th.

Captain Powell of the Military Police was allowed to sit by the Deputy Commissioner and go through the papers in connection with the case.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, MAR. 17.

The Windsor Hotel, situated in the heart of New York, was burned to the ground about midday to-day in forty minutes. It is feared that twenty-five of the inmates perished in the flames, while many persons were injured.

LONDON, MAR. 17.

Sir W. Gordon, the Liberal candidate, has been elected Member for North Norfolk, in place of Mr. Cozens Hardy, the new Judge having polled 4,775 votes, against 3,610 recorded for Sir Kenneth Kemp, the Conservative candidate.

LONDON, MAR. 17.

It has transpired that Mr. Chamberlain, in replying to the deputation from the Ceylon Association, said that the Northern Railway was to be made on a broad gauge.

LONDON, MAR. 18.

During the discussion on the Army Estimates in the House of Commons, yesterday, Mr. Caldwell, Member for Lanark, moved a reduction of the vote as a protest against the formation of a regiment for Wei-hai-wei. The motion was rejected by 123 to 41.

LONDON, MAR. 18.

The Queen-Regent of Spain has signed the Treaty of Peace with America, without submitting it further to the Cortes, owing to the unwillingness of successive Cabinets to accept the responsibility of ratifying the terms of peace.

LONDON, MAR. 18.

The *Times* Pekin correspondent telegraphs that Count Martino, Italian Minister, yesterday informed the Tsung-li-Yamen of his recall from China.

LONDON, MAR. 18.

Fourteen dead bodies have been recovered from the fire at the Windsor Hotel, New York, and thirty-four persons have been treated for injuries, most of the victims being women. The missing inmates of the hotel are estimated at sixty.

LONDON, MAR. 18.

Mountain Batteries are being sent to Manila, as it is believed that the Filipinos are little affected by recent repulses and are likely to continue jungle warfare indefinitely.

LONDON, MAR. 18.

In the International Football Match to-day Ireland beat Wales in the Rugby contest by three points to nil, and Scotland defeated Wales in the Association game by six goals to nil.

LONDON, MAR. 19.

The P. and O. steamer China has arrived safely at Belfast.

LONDON, MAR. 20.

In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Brodrick in reply to a question relating to China said it was understood that the Italian demands did not include the Islands of Chusan which were subject to treaty engagements between Great Britain and China. He also stated that no general agreement of the Powers interested in China was at present contemplated.

LONDON, MAR. 20.

In the course of the debate in the House of Commons on the vote on account of the Colonial office, Mr. Chamberlain deprecated criticism of the Governor of Ceylon's conduct on the land question and discredited the evidence of Mr. Lemesurier, the non-official members of the Council and a vast majority of the natives having accepted the principle of land ordinances.

LONDON, MAR. 20.

The transport Nubia has arrived at Southampton.

LONDON, MAR. 20.

Testimony is accumulating that the fire in the Windsor Hotel, New York, was the work of thieves.

LORD CURZON AT CALCUTTA.

[BY AN OBSERVER AT CLOSE QUARTERS.]

Just before he left for India, Lord Curzon gave expression to certain of his sentiments. Soon after his arrival here and in replying to addresses of welcome, pure and simple, he gave utterance to others. A family likeness is discernible among them all, in aspired as all of them must be, by a spontaneous wish to reveal to the outer world, his state of mind and his state of feeling which sought vent. One sees a like spirit to be frank in his unforced speech as the Chancellor of the University, prompted not less by an irresistible desire to speak out, when he has had opportunities, which came to him or which he sought, to judge and appraise. All this is as it should be, in one who erewhile belonged to the class of public men, who in their anxiety to unburden themselves and to attach people to themselves, seized the slightest occasion—such as a public dinner or the opening of a library—to take the world into their confidence. But when he was approached with business addresses setting forth the boardships and problems, which the millennium has not yet come to render non-existent in this country, an altered attitude manifested itself at once.

HIS MENTAL PORTALS.

His mental portals closed up like the leaves of the touch-me-not, and his tongue dealt out sarcasm and evasion, such as are always at the command of a past master in the use of words true to the ear but false to the eye. This divergence of practice this almost sudden veering round in policy may seem, at the first blush unintelligible, and it may be taken for an ominous sign of growing secretiveness and shrinking sensibilities—the besetting sin of Indian officialdom. Though taught and trained to be sedate and close, Lord Curzon is for too buoyant and vivacious to be so soon or ever won over to the device of simulating wisdom by an assumption of consequential silence. The true explanation seems to me to be that, despite all the clearness of mind and the amplitude of information claimed for him, he is beginning to find Indian problems and Indian questions to be far too big and far too complex to admit of ready solution or of immediate reply.

HIS COMPARATIVE RETICENCE.

If this is the correct reading of the Viceroy's comparative reticence it shows at the same time not merely a recognition on his part of the necessity to make a reply of some sort for the present—but also a disposition to study the problems as early as he can and to give out his views thereon at the earliest opening he can get. So far as I am able to judge and so far as others who are observant and who have a right to form an opinion are concerned, there is absolutely no room to fear that Lord Curzon will ever degenerate into an ornamental official furniture, or a tool in other people's hands or a mere mouthpiece of other people's ideas and words. Note his last deliverances at the public meeting in connection with the Countess of Dufferin's scheme of medical aid to Indian women. He was under no compulsion to speak out his thoughts. But he had certain ideas and he had the courage to give vent to them. They were indeed fairly-faulty because he had not studied all the details of the subjects, he dwelt upon. But they are nevertheless, the faults of one who was sure of his mastery of one side. It suited the occasion—it was perhaps an almost unconscious necessity of the situation—that he should cry up the healing art of the West Aryan, implicitly denying to his Eastern brother any the least merit in that line.

HIS FAULTS OF THE HEAD.

With a clerical parent and with a College chum for a collaborator as the head of the Christian Church, out here it may well be that the Viceroy has insensibly glided into a tacit negation of a religion in this land of super-abundant—and perhaps, super-serviceable—spirituality. It may likewise be that the blight that has fallen on the literature of this land from the days when Lord Macaulay pronounced his philippic in language as eloquent as it was untrue, has not yet been destroyed by the elaborate critiques of hundreds of *scholarship boys*, who spoke on Sanscrit literature with a knowledge which did not belong to that great Whig epigrammatist. Opinions might differ as to whether it was not indiscreet and hasty of the Viceroy that he should have been tempted into haranguing on these thorny subjects, with but one-sided information without any opportunity to correct and to judge aright. But who can deny that his faults, in this instance, were those of the head rather than of the heart? Fresh from a sphere vastly different from what is visible here on the surface and vastly creative of egotism in all matters, human and divine, he has first to unlearn much and he has then to learn, quite as much. This will take time and there is no royal road to this species of learning open to our sovereigns representative any more than to the rest of men. Short as the interval has been between his arrival here and his approaching flight to the heights of Simla for all this, yet there has been time enough for Lord Curzon, if he were so minded or were keen about it, to have arranged to come face to face and to confabulate familiarly with the men of light and leading in the city, as he has yet only come across wealthy or glittering men of the city.

HIS EVENING PARTIES.

His evening parties were bound to have done these to some extent. But they signally failed to bring about this desirable result—thanks to his bad advisers who, for the first time in the annals of Viceregal entertainments, elevated him on a dais about six feet square, covered with richly laced embroidered silk-velvet, with two or three cushioned chairs thereon. Let me describe the pageantry of the first occasion. The soft cushioned chairs had evidently been designed for Lord and Lady Curzon to sit on. If they did, then every one who was led forward for presentation would be too far from His Lordship or Her Ladyship to go through the formality of shaking hands. This Lordship and Her Ladyship have indeed arms of proportions to bring their possessors within the Aryan definition of great personages. But then the *aditi* or square platform was so broad that their arms, fully put out, would not be within reach of the suppliants' arms, equally stretched out. To the great paraphernalia of reception as befitting the emblem of royalty on the one hand and the consequences of these little practical difficulties had not even occurred. Something, however, occurred which precluded the ludicrous scene being enacted of pairs of arms vainly struggling to grasp each other owing to considerable space between. The Viceroy, possibly absent-mindedly, mounted the *aditi*, but he stood far in advance of the chairs, probably because he instinctively grasped the situation or because he had the foresight which told him that all would not be right, if—a plebeian by the status of his own and a lord titular, by reason of the acceptance of the Viceregalty—he should, in season and out of season, play the mock royalty as was ordained for him by injudicious flatterers. Then went on for a time the elaborate proceedings in which sapient officials played the most prominent parts. Their blows were upraised as a token of superiority and exceptional powers of observation.

ASPIRANTS TO ALPHABETICAL HONORS.

They raised themselves on their toes to cast their searching glances in quest of choice specimens of the be-decked, be-laced, and be-jewelled personages, and blessed, and/or aspiring to alphabetical honors or titles at rajadoms. As these specimens were within men amid the crowds of visitors, who stood puzzled and gaping, and chewing the end of the old fashioned idea "first come first served," the busy usher elbowed his way through the assembly and brought them out, with an admirable mixture of coaxing and patronising smile. Finally the ranks of the magnate

were vicereally shaken by the hand, as also were some few of unadorned, yet worthy plebeians. As if they found a relief or release from what looked like a pantomime show, the youthful Viceroy and Vicereine alighted from their temporary and enforced attitude and freely moved about half-a-dozen times and made their exit for the night. The ceremonial lasted for over two hours; but it ended as stiffly as it began. I am not sure that either the Viceroy or the Vicereine was any the wiser for that evening party, which by its name, by tradition and by established practice ought to have been but was not quite distinct from a levee to which alone belong all formal and stiff methods of elaborate introductions and lowly bows &c., &c., between the emblem of our royal mistress and her loyal subjects.

OFFICIAL CRANES.

There has been no second evening party as yet. I know not whether, should there be another, the procedure would be like or unlike the last one. But one thing is certain that if the Viceroy is desirous of knowing and being in touch with men who are of sterling worth but who wish to gain nothing by stooping to be picked up by official cranes, hoisted aloft and let down to be in line with the Viceregal eyes, he must either put his foot down and insist upon freedom for himself and for his people at his evening parties, or he must ask or permit his people to make arrangements to assemble at some suitable place and invite him as befits his rank. In this city of great wealth and greater worth the latter course ought to be quite within reach—and possibly might have been within reach, days back. But alas! amid all the widespread public spirit which one meets with here, one not seldom comes across a thing of ambition which seems to whisper in your ear "I am ambitious; I am jealous; and I can make mischief." When such men thrive and good soon, from our midst, the impious thought arises that this land is verily God-forsaken. Is this land really God-forsaken?—R. A. B. in *The Madras Standard*.

ENGLISH PRESS ON THE MUNICIPAL BILL.

THE Indian Parliamentary Committee pleaded in vain in the House last night for at least a postponement of the Calcutta Municipality Bill. This bill practically makes an end of local self-government in Calcutta, and hands the affairs of the great city over to a paid official majority. The main reason for this drastic measure is the unresolvable antagonism of the old municipality, a weakness towards which the people at St. Stephen's at least might have been expected to show a little generous indulgence. As was pointed out in last night's debate, public bodies in England perpetrate blunders occasionally, and have to be pulled up by their superiors, and we have even heard of Cabinet Ministers, including Lord Secretaries, that have made a sorry mess of things. But they have not met with the same fate as the Calcutta Municipality. Of course, Lord George Hamilton refused to interfere with the objectionable bill, and thus a severe blow is dealt at representative institutions in India.

The debate last night upon Mr. Herbert Roberts's amendment to the Address, calling attention to the Calcutta Municipality Bill, was most opportune. If ever any proposal of the Indian Government, called for protest in the House of Commons, it is surely this Bill, which will virtually deprive the rate-payers of Calcutta of the rights of local self-government which they have exercised for twenty-two years. The Bill does not abolish the Municipality Committee, two-thirds of whose 75 members are elected by the rate-payers, but it reduces the Committee to impotence. At present the fifty elected Commissioners choose two-thirds of the members of the Executive Council, which actually carries out the work of administration. In future, if the Bill passes, the elected Commissioners will only choose one-third of the Executive. By this simple device the popular majority in the Committee will be rendered powerless to control its own local affairs. The excuse put forward by the Indian bureaucracy, and repeated by Lord George Hamilton, is that the Calcutta Municipality has neglected the sanitation of the city. Plague is still threatening, and "when they had to deal with plague they could not allow talk to stand in the way of work." This of course is a serious argument, but it seems to be quite certain that the sanitary condition of Calcutta has greatly improved since the Municipality Committee was formed in 1876, while it is very doubtful indeed, whether it requires a municipal revolution to carry out new drainage schemes. The truth appears to be that the reactionary element in the Indian Government has seized upon this question of drainage as a pretext for restricting the small measure of local self-government granted to the Indian people by a more recent generation of administrators. Lord George Hamilton's suggestion that for Parliament to interfere with these reactionary bureaucrats would be to vitiate the true principles of local self-government for India may seem ridiculous, but some of our Indian administrators really do seem to think that they are a law unto themselves, and that no even Parliament may criticise them.—*Manchester Guardian*.

THE Bengal Government is scheming a Bill to upset the representative character of the Calcutta Municipality, and the faithful little band of the friends of India on Tuesday sought to get the Government to promise to postpone a decision until the rate-payers had been heard. It is always the same when India comes on—the House is almost empty. Of course, Lord George Hamilton had to be there. He gets £5,000 a year, £100 a week for pretending to attend to the affairs of India, and he knows as much about them as a pig knows about Sunday or a cow about skating. On Tuesday he tried with indifferent success to read a speech which some official had written out for him, and while promising to give the Bill the most impartial consideration when it comes along from the Bengal Government, he showed his animus by bitterly attacking the Calcutta Municipality over and over again. It makes one sick to see so incompetent a dodderer occupying so high a position. *Reynolds's Paper*.

OUR readers are already familiar with the main outlines of the Calcutta Municipality Bill, which the Indian Parliamentary Committee brought before the House of Commons last night on an amendment to the Address. The bill, which is nothing if not subtle, proposes to take away all real authority from the representatives of the Calcutta rate-payers and to transfer it to an official committee, which will be paid fees to induce it to attend meetings, and which will consist of two official members, to every representative member. This is rightly described as a destructo of the representative character of the municipality, and we are glad to see that Sir Henry Fowler, who is singularly remiss, as a rule, upon Indian questions, joined last night in the protest of the

Indian Parliamentary Committee. The amendment asked for the postponement of the bill pending full inquiry. Lord George Hamilton did not consent to this course, but he seems to have blended some non-committal remarks about impartially considering the bill with a good deal of unforced abuse of the Calcutta Corporation. This appears to have been thought sufficient to warrant withdrawal of the amendment. For our part, we should have liked to see a division taken.—*Morning Leader*.

CALCUTTA ATHLETIC SPORTS.

ON Saturday the annual athletic sports for the natives of Bengal were held on the Dalhousie Ground, before a large number of spectators. Lady Maclean gave away the prizes and among those present were Sir Francis Maclean, Miss Maclean, Maharaja Sir Narendra Krishna, Sir James Westland, Mr. W. B. Ergh, Mr. A. F. M. Ablur Rahman and others. There were in all twenty-three events, five of which, owing to the large number of entries, had to be competed for in three heats each, besides the final. The medal which the Viceroy had presented, had not arrived, and therefore could not be given to the winner. The proceedings opened with the two mile bicycle handicap, which was competed in two heats, besides the final. In the final M. Dass, of the P. C. Club, ten yards' start, was first in 6 min. 56 sec.; C. Bose, twenty-five yards' start, of the same club, being second, and D. De, Duff College, third.

In the 100 yards' flat race, S. C. Chowdry, Bishops' College was first, Mangona, St. Xavier's College, second and Singh, Bishop's College, third.

N. G., of the Howrah Club, won the high jump, with five feet one inch; B. Sen, Kumartoli Institution, being second, and N. N. Banerjee, Boitakhana A. Club, third.

In the quarter-mile flat race, M. N. Mitter, of Phoenix Union, was the first to breast the tape in 50 sec.; P. Shome, Bishop's Collegiate School, being second, and A. C. Roy, T. L. Sporting Club, third.

The 120 yards hurdle race was also competed for in three heats besides the final in which N. N. Banerjee, Boitakhana A. Club, who won the similar event last year, came in first in 18 3/4 sec., but was disqualified for crossing. R. Banerjee, Kumartoli Institute, was, therefore, awarded the first prize and Osmanghazi, Sibpore C. E. College, the second prize.

The students' tug-of-war, between the Sibpore C. E. College and the Students' Union was won by Sibpore, who proved best by two out of three pulls.

The last event on the card was the five-mile bicycle championship, which was watched with considerable interest. After a very interesting race Zakharia, a Mahomedan youth, won by about a yard from the second in about sixteen minutes' time.

Lady Maclean then gave away the prizes and a vote of thanks to her proposed by Mr. Bright and seconded by Maharaja Narendra Krishna and adopted with acclamation, brought the proceedings to a close.

THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPH.

CAST a stone into a quiet pond and you will observe a series of ripples travel from the spot where it falls in widening circles towards the shore. If, as often happens, there is a patch of dead leaves floating on the surface, you will see them agitated as the waves glide through them. Clap your hands and invisible waves will pass from them in all directions through the air. Should they impinge on the ear of a distant person with sufficient force they will cause him to hear the sound. Or again, if you strike a tuning-fork the sonorous waves or vibrations in passing through the air will make another tuning-fork of the same pitch resound. To go a step further, we have good reason to believe that there is a still finer medium than liquids or gases, which is called the luminiferous ether, or simply the ether, and it too, is capable of oscillating minute ripples, which the vibrating molecules of the sun or a live coal set up in the ether, and they travel through it at the prodigious velocity of 186,000 miles a second. When these ripples enter the eye of a living person they enable him to see their distant source. An electric spark will also set up waves in the ether, which travel in all directions with the speed of light, but are much larger than those of light, and they can be made sensible at a distance with proper means. This fact is the basis of the "wireless telegraph"; that is to say, an electric telegraph in which the electrical signals travel from one place to the other without the use of a wire, but simply through the atmosphere, or, to be more correct, the ether which pervades it.

The apparatus is very simple. Let us first consider how the signals are sent. The reader is probably acquainted with the Morse code of telegraph signals, commonly called "dots" and "dashes"; that is to say, short and long marks or signs. Letters are telegraphed by certain combinations of these signs, and words are spelled out letter by letter. We require, therefore, an instrument for producing short and long series of electric sparks at will, and this we possess in the well-known appliance, an "induction coil." The action of the coil and the duration of the sparks are easily controlled by an ordinary telegraph signalling key for "making" and "breaking" the exciting current of the coil. The operator has only to press the key down and excite the coil for the short and long moments of the signals, and the coil will spark simultaneously.

The brief or prolonged sparking causes a corresponding brief or prolonged set of oscillations in the ether, which fill through the air with the celerity of light, but are quite invisible, and otherwise insensible to us. They require to be made apparent to the receiver at a distance, and this is done by means to a simple device known as a "coherer," or as its discoverer M. Branly prefers to call it, a "radioconductor." It is merely a pinch of metallic dust in a small glass tube, with wires or electrodes passing into the tube and in contact with the dust. Signor Marconi, who has made the wireless telegraph a practical success, employs filings of silver in a tube about the size of a quill, but gold and other metals have been used experimentally. If the "coherer" is connected in the circuit of a battery the loose dust offers a considerable resistance to the passage of the current, but when the electric oscillations influence it the dust coheres, and the resistance falls, permitting a stronger current to pass. It is this fact which reveals the passage of the electric waves, and enables Marconi to make them work a telegraph instrument. In the circuit of the battery and the coherer he includes a "relay," that is to say a well-known telegraphic apparatus for working a telegraph instrument by means of a feeble current. The current in the relay is not sufficient to work the instrument itself, but it is strong enough to close the circuit of another battery which is connected to the instrument, and has power to work it. When the electric waves affect the coherer then this relay in circuit with it actuates the telegraph instrument. Signor Marconi uses an ordinary Morse instrument, and the signals appear as "dots" and "dashes" in ink on a running slip of paper. In this way the

sparks at the sending station are caused to record themselves at the receiving station almost instantaneously.

As every station has a sending as well as receiving apparatus, the receiver has to be guarded against the waves caused by its own sender in action, and this is done by enclosing it in a metal box of screen. While the coherer is defended from the "home" waves by the screen it is susceptible to the "foreign" waves coming from a distance, which are brought to bear upon it by an exposed wire or conductor rising into the air and connected to one electrode of the coherer, the other electrode being connected to the ground. When a considerable distance has to be traversed the parking coil of the sending apparatus is also connected to an elevated conductor and to the earth. These exposed conductors are not, as many think, for the sake of clearing intervening obstacles, such as hills or houses; but for some other reason not very obvious. They require to be higher the greater the distance between the sending and receiving stations. The waves are capable of going round buildings and over high hills. Another practical point is that the receiver can be "tuned" to respond only to the electric waves emitted by the sending apparatus, just as a diaphanous is tuned to respond to another of the same pitch, and this favours the secrecy of the messages. Moreover after every set of waves passes through the coherer it is tapped by a small hammer, like the clapper of an electric bell, in order to loosen the metal dust again and make the signals more distinct.

Marconi's telegraph is far beyond the experimental stage. It is a finished working instrument, and it has not been adopted in Great Britain until now, that is owing to the usual inertia or caution shown with regard to novelties. The Italians have been prompt to recognise its merits, and it is installed on board the warships of the Italian Navy. Its advantages for enabling warships to communicate without displaying signals are patent. Indeed, it would be a good substitute for the troublesome flag or lamp signals employed by ships in general. They would be able to telegraph to each other while passing on the high seas, or to report themselves at signal stations, and in foggy weather they could warn other vessels of their presence. The nature of the weather does not seriously interfere with it, but if anything it works best in thick weather. Lightships, lighthouses, and dangerous headlands or islands would also be able to warn approaching ships in time of fog.

The advantages of the Marconi system for signalling at sea were strikingly demonstrated during the last Regatta at Cowes, when the Prince of Wales, on board the Royal yacht, corresponded with Her Majesty at Osborne, and, we believe, kept up the communication while on a cruise round the Isle of Wight. Another illustration was given at the Kingstown Regatta, where the Dublin *Daily Express* chartered the Flying Huntress for the use of its correspondent, who followed the racing yachts to sea out of sight of land and yet described the progress of the races to his newspaper, with a Marconi apparatus on board. The wireless telegraph has unquestionably a great field before it in communicating between lightships and the shore, without the need of expensive cables. The Marconi apparatus has been installed and working under the auspices of the Trinity House without interruption for the past three months between the South Foreland lighthouse and the East Goodwin lightship twelve miles distant. The man who works it on the lightship knew no hint of electricity three months ago, and, in truth, any person of ordinary intelligence has only to learn the Morse alphabet and get a few lessons about the adjustment of the apparatus in order to use it. There is another installation between Poole, near Bournemouth, and Alum Bay, a distance of eighteen miles; and we understand that Signor Marconi has made arrangements to communicate across the Channel between Boulogne and Folkestone or else the South Foreland, a range of no fewer than thirty miles. He has already done thirty-four miles, between Bath and Salisbury, and there is no doubt of the result in this case.

On land the wireless telegraph might be useful for enabling bodies of troops to communicate; especially in wild countries, where the natives could not tap the messages. It might also serve as a means of telegraphing to or from a moving train, or, for example, between the signalman and engine-driver. In the general telegraphic work of the country it has to contend with wires already in possession, which also have the advantage of confining the message instead of soiling it broadcast, so to speak. Nevertheless, there are press messages which might be sent broadcast, and perhaps the new telegraph will make its way in spite of wires or cables. Theoretically, there seems to be no limit to its range, given sparks powerful enough and conductors high enough. Practically, however, there might be difficulties in spanning the Atlantic, for example, unless a row of lightships and repeaters were employed, to relay the messages. Such lightships would, of course, be available to signal passing ships, or receive telegrams from them, and constitute in themselves a series of ocean telegraph stations.

Original.

HINDU LIFE SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

THE Life in Bengal of Prem Chand Taikabagh, that profound Sanskrit scholar, who died in 1867 at Benares, at the age of 60, by his distinguished brother, B. B. Ram Akhaya Chatterjee, Rai Bahadur, a retired Deputy Magistrate, throws some light as to Hindu life at that existed seventy-five years ago. Though Prem Chand came of a learned family, his father, Ram Narayan, on account of misfortune, had not been able to complete his education. About his hospitality to wayfarers and strangers we find the following description in the work before us:—

We are not sure if in the whole of *Rark* country there was another as hospitable as Ram Narayan Bhattacharjee. It was with difficulty that he could maintain his own large family but yet if any day there happened to be no guests at the house he would feel very dejected and miserable. "Why should I ask him to go to-day," he would ask himself and go out to seek for one. As it was, hardly any day would pass when there would be no guest at the house. If, however, for some reason or other, there happened to be no guest, he would call in some poor man of the village in the evening and feed him before he would think of performing his evening worship.

There used to be held twice a week a *hat*, close to the residence of Ram Narayan, and on these days, especially in the rainy season when it was difficult to cross the swollen vioulet flowing past the village, people used to come to his house for shelter during the night; and great would be his joy on these occasions. At times the influx of these unwelcome guests would be so great that there would hardly be holding space in the house; but the inconvenience arising therefrom in Ram Narayan would never cheerfully curtail them otherwise.

Now, before his sons began to earn, meet his family expenses and the cost of his untended hospitality—his ancestral rentfree land, cultivation and the occupation of *svayampanti* at all ceremonies in the surround-

ing villages. Of course, these brought him some income, and it was not very inconsiderable; for, considering the state of Hindu society at the time when people regarded it as an act of religious merit to give to the poor and the Brahmin; but in the light of present experience, Ram Narayan's income was nothing in comparison to the demands on his purse. The fact was, the management of the household, which was vested in his second wife, a living incarnation of Goddess Lakshmi, was pestered to look to the finances of the empire which has able and highly paid Finance Ministers especially imported from England. Indeed, so careful a housewife was this lady that her arrangements, her thrift, her mode of action, her preparation for the rainy day were such as to excite the wonder of her husband. These were matters which it would not be quite easy to explain clearly to our present-day acquaintances. True, in none of the several rooms of the house was there any article of useless luxury or beauty; but every one of them was full of what was necessary for the simple life of artless villagers.

She, Ram Narayan's wife, never spent a minute in idleness, nor wasted a crumb for nothing. She herself would gladly and gratefully cook for hundreds, without a cloud overspreading her face features, without even as much as a murmur or a contraction of the forehead. It would often happen that a party of strangers would drop in late at night after the family had retired to rest. And while preparations were being made to feed them, another large party would perhaps arrive at another terror into the heart of Ram Narayan for he would naturally think that the house did not contain enough rations for all the guests. The night was perhaps advanced, and the shops were closed, while the servants too had perhaps retired. But his wife would re-assure him, saying that nothing was wanting to serve the guests hospitably save fuel. At once Ram Narayan would get hold of an axe and hew down the very posts of the thatched house. Then would she—the presiding genius of the house—appear at her best. She would bring cut basket and pots of rice, pulses and other eatables from secret recesses, which she had taken care to hoard for emergencies. No wonder, whatever this pious, affectionate and tender-hearted lady would prepare would taste most delicious—better than richer dishes prepared at great cost perhaps, but not with the same genuineness of feeling.

A party of up-countrymen once appeared at the house, composed of 63 men, some stone images and 8 horses. The animals were weighted with large metal pots called *ghanas* and large bundles. Among the party were 10 or 12 armed men, the whole band under the leadership of a man of gigantic proportions, his head covered with *jada* or matted hair descending to his waist. They had come because they had heard of the hospitality of Ram Narayan; but as they formed a rather strong party, some of the armed members came to enquire if Ram Narayan would be able to provide them all with food. Of course, he would never say, nay. Paddy was brought out of the Gola, and in exchange thereof a price was obtained from several neighbours. Other necessary articles too were procured. When the whole party had finished their dinner it was almost evening, and it then neither Ram Narayan nor his wife tasted even a drop of water.

In the evening, when for the worship of the images that accompanied the party, bugles, clarions, conches, horns, etc. began to be sounded, neighbours assembled from every quarter, and they decided that the party were Thugs who wanted to rob the hospitable Brahmin during the night. Some even went so far as to prove to Ram Narayan their friendship by requesting him to deposit his valuables with them.

A little surprised by these wise counsels Ram Narayan sought the advice of his wife. She, however, scouted the idea of robbery, saying in the simplicity of her innocent belief, that it could never be that their open hospitality could be rewarded by black treachery; and that as Ram Narayan himself would never consent to leave the house so long as the guests remained, nothing should be removed for the simple reason that nothing was more valuable than his life.

Ram Narayan was satisfied. The villagers were disappointed but the idea of the strangers, treachery had taken so strong a hold of their imagination that many wanted to see the denouement. At night, at a signal from the leader, the armed members of the band posted themselves around the house for sentinel duty.

While the villagers lay awake to witness the robbery, Ram Narayan and his sainted wife slept the profound, unbroken sleep of innocence and toil. The next morning the *Sadhus* left the place, the leader raising his hand to bless the host and hostess.

THE Chamkani prisoners will march from Parachinar to Kohat escorted by the 22nd Punjab Infantry, and thence to Khushalgarh escorted by the 22nd Gorkhas. The party will arrive at Khushalgarh on the 26th instant, where the prisoners will be made over to police charge for deportation to Umballa.

At the Mazagon Police Court, Bombay, Dada-bhai Murcherjee Gohshi, editor and proprietor of a Mohamedan newspaper called *Akhbar Islam*, appeared before Mr. Phiroze Hoshang Dastoor, to answer a summons taken out against him by Bhikaji Fakirchand, a mechanical engineer for defamation of character. Mr. Firdoonjee Pestonjee Taleyarkhan, barrister-at-law, appeared to prosecute, while Mr. Kajji, b. rister-at-law, defended. The complainant said he was a mechanical engineer and had passed his examination in Bombay in the year 1891. Since then he had held several appointments and possessed certificates of proficiency. In his issue of the 4th of January last, the accused published a letter from a correspondent under the nom de plume "Obliged Servant," in which the writer made defamatory allegations about mechanical engineers generally, and also made a personal attack on the complainant. The whole letter was circulated to harm his professional reputation. He through his solicitors, asked the accused to furnish him with the name of the correspondent, but the latter refused to do so. The Magistrate said that before he could frame a charge against the accused he would advise him to come to some settlement as he thought the accused was not justified in publishing the letter. The accused accordingly agreed to publish an apology in then next issue of his paper. Mr. Taleyarkhan applied that the apology might be filed in Court along with the proceedings in the case. The Magistrate agreed to have this done, and ordered the accused to be discharged.

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE BUDGET AND THE SUGAR BILL.

A MEETING of the Council was held yesterday at Government House. His Excellency Baron Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, presided, and there were present: His Honour Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, His Excellency General Sir W. S. A. Lockhart, Commander-in-Chief in India, the Hon'ble Sir J. Westland, the Hon'ble Mr. M. D. Chatmerr, the Hon'ble Major-General Sir E. H. H. Collen, the Hon'ble Sir A. C. Trevor, the Hon'ble Mr. C. M. Rivaz, the Hon'ble M. R. Ananda Charlu, the Hon'ble Mr. J. J. D. LaTouche, the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Pandit Suraj Kaul, the Hon'ble Mr. Gangadhar Rao Madhav Chitnavis, the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, the Hon'ble Mr. P. M. Mehta, the Hon'ble Nawab Muntaz-ud-daula Muhammad Faiyaz Ali Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. J. K. Spence, the Hon'ble Mr. G. Toynbee, the Hon'ble Mr. D. M. Smeaton, the Hon'ble Mr. J. D. Rees, the Hon'ble Maharaja Rameshwara Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga, and the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Sir Khwaja Ahsanullah.

THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland introduced and explained the Financial Statement for 1899 to 1900. The following is a general summary of the statement:

The Financial Statement opens by referring to the very rapid recovery of the country from the effects of famine as evidenced by the returns of Trade and of Revenue.

The Accounts of 1897-98 have been already published. They close with a deficit of Rs. 5,360,000 as compared with Rs. 5,280,000 estimated last year.

The Revised Estimates for 1898-99 show a surplus of Rs. 4,760,000, being a large increase on the Estimates of the last March, which anticipated a surplus of Rs. 890,000 only. This surplus is, however, reduced to Rs. 4,600,000 by charging against it various grants in aid of Provincial Governments as will be afterwards explained. The improvement in the Estimates is mostly due to a gain under Exchange of Rs. 1,070,000, sixteen pence having been realized on the Secretary of State's remittances; to better revenue, Rs. 1,330,000, almost every Revenue head including Opium having shown an improvement; to very favourable returns in India from Railways, Rs. 850,000, and to savings of Rs. 430,000, on the provision in India for warlike operations by earlier withdrawal of the troops. Most of the Expenditure heads show a saving, but plague is responsible for an excess of Rs. 330,000 over Estimate.

The Budget Estimates for next year are made up at an exchange of 15½ pence, which is justified on the ground that, though 16 pence may reasonably be anticipated, the Indian practice is to avoid sanguine estimating. At this rate the Estimates show a surplus of Rs. 3,930,000. Compared with 1898-99, considerable improvement is expected in Opium Revenue, as prices are favorable, but under other Revenue heads the returns expected fall short of the current year; Railways are doing very well, and are estimated to give net return in India Rs. 230,000 better than current year; Rs. 560,000 provided for plague expenditure, but very little is for war expenditure.

The Famine Insurance Grant is taken in both years at Rs. 1,500,000.

The Government have no remissions of taxation to propose, both because it is considered desirable first to make up for the deficits of the past two famine years, and also to maintain as strong a position as possible in view of expected measures of currency reform.

The Secretary of State has, during the current year, drawn 19 millions sterling at an average rate close on 16 pence, being the largest drawings on record. Rs. 2,620,000 of gold has also been received in India in exchange for silver.

Next year he proposes to draw for 17 millions sterling; he does not estimate for any borrowing or discharge of debt, though his high cash balance may be utilized in repaying debt.

No borrowing in India is estimated to be necessary. On Railway Construction Rs. 9,160,000 will have been spent this year, and Rs. 8,820,000 is estimated for next year. The intention of Government to reduce rate of progress of Railway Construction has been modified owing to necessity of completing work left undone last year by reason of Engineers' strike delaying the supply of stores from England. An addition of Rs. 100,000 is made to the usual annual grant of Rs. 750,000 for Irrigation.

The Statement then reviews the working of the system of Provincial finance in the eight provinces for the last seven years, drawing attention especially to the effect upon that of famine and plague expenditure and earthquake in Assam. Grants aggregating Rs. 430,000 are made to Bombay, Madras, Bengal, and Assam to cover charges arising from these calamities, and in view of the generally favourable condition of Imperial finance further grants aggregating Rs. 700,000 are made in general aid of the Provincial Governments, besides Rs. 190,000 for plague expenditure next year in Madras and Bombay.

The Statement concludes with a review of the past twenty years' finance, based on recently published figures, in which it is shown that the annual standard of ordinary revenue has improved by about Rs. 13,800,000,—the account of Debt Services and Railway and Irrigation Earnings by about Rs. 3,720,000, total improvement Rs. 17,520,000. This improvement has been absorbed by the following causes: loss of Opium Revenue Rs. 3,680,000, Exchange Rs. 4,730,000, Army Services Rs. 5,470,000, Administration Upper Burma Rs. 450,000, charges of Provincial Civil Administration, Rs. 3,780,000.

The Statement, while setting out a very favourable condition of finance, points out that some of the favourable elements are temporary only; and draws from the extremely rapid recovery of the financial position the warning that the possibility of sudden reversal of the tide of prosperity (which the failure of a single month of seasonal rainfall has proved sufficient to effect) can never be left out of account in the administration and especially the financial administration of India.

THE SUGAR BILL.

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland moved that the Bill to further amend the Indian Tea Act, 1894, be taken into consideration. The Hon'ble Member said that His Excellency the Viceroy received a memorial from the sugar planters of Mauritius. They asked for a legislation of the character which was now before the Council.

In Mauritius Indian labour was employed to a very large extent. Out of three hundred and eighty thousand labourers employed in the colony two hundred and sixty thousand were Indians. In view of this fact the planters claimed and rightly claimed that Government of India should in the interest of Indian people undertake legislation in the matter. Sir James added that this was an additional reason in support of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta said that he did not see any reason why this Bill should not have gone through the usual course, that is, it should have been referred to the Select Committee. First because the matter was not quite so simple as the Hon'ble Member thought. It seemed to the Hon'ble Member (Mr. Mehta) that more investigation ought to have been made than had been made. It was said that some sugar refineries had been stopped, but he did not know that it was entirely due to the bounty-fed sugar; secondly because the Hon'ble Members did not think that the matter was so urgent as to justify the course adopted, namely, that it was not referred to the Select Committee. For these reasons it seemed to the Hon'ble Member that the Bill should have been referred to the Select Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis gave his entire concurrence to the measure.

The Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu said: "At the first blush, it may look as though we are flying in the face of free trade principles. But, in reality, we are doing nothing of the kind. If our action were abnormal, it is only directed against steps which are themselves abnormal and which, while inflicting deeper and deeper injury on us, seem to admit of no other cure, in order to safe-guard what are of vital interest to us. But, in truth, we are embarking on anything abnormal? In my humble judgment, we do no such thing."

"If the sugar whose importation is proposed to be subjected to countervailing duties were the outcome of natural resources and of normal conditions, it may perhaps be arguable whether, on commercial grounds, an exception could be taken to it on the ground of irreparable loss to us. It may be equally arguable whether, on commercial grounds, it is expedient to stem, by artificial means, a torrent which—as unrelentingly as does water—must find its proper level sooner or later. But the sugar in question is unnaturally produced. It is made capable of being sold as cheap as it is now, only by reason of bounty which bolsters it up—be that bounty in the shape of a prior advance by the States to stimulate manufacture or be it in the shape of remission or refund of taxation after the commodity has been produced, in order to quicken its circulation in the Indian and other unprotected markets, for the up-keep or welfare of which the bounty-giving Governments make no sacrifice or have no concern. Nothing the tendency it has created to alarmingly diminish the cane-cultivation on extensive tracts, so long and wholly devoted to it in this country, and the dreaded certainty of danger that our sugar manufacturers will have soon to shut shop and pass out of their present prosperous existence, the day is not distant when locally-made sugar is sure to be a thing of the past or be relegated to the limbo of our other and numerous extinct industries. When that bitter cup is full to the brim, the imported sugar will increase by leaps and bounds, rule our markets absolutely without a rival, and its owners may dictate their own terms or drive the hardest bargain. Let us suppose—and the supposition is by no means unnatural—that the bounties which now prop up the manufacture in the foreign countries are withdrawn—be it from caprice or because no longer necessary or because wiser counsels prevail. The result will be that a well-established and thriving industry would have been, in the meantime, brought (at best) to the brink of ruin. The capital and labour, which are now working with excellent results, would be diverted from the production of commodities of extensive local consumption and sent adrift in problematic search of tentative re-investments in a spirit of timid experiment or hazardous enterprise, so foreign to the genius, nature and habits of the people of this country. It is easy to realise what will be the fate of even the present consumer when reduced to a condition of sole or virtual dependence on the tender mercies of that foreign producer. Viewed in this light alone, the present Bill is fraught with good to the consumer as well as the producer in this country. This is not all. I think, that, unless, indeed, we rigidly define the term 'consumer' as an intensely and sordidly selfish being, the word has a wider significance in this country where spontaneous charity is enjoined on every individual as an inviolable and meritorious religious duty towards the poor and helpless within the fold, common to them and him. If, then, the consumer should regard himself, not merely as living for himself and his immediate kith and kin, but as one acting or acted upon by the common good of his community as distinguished from other communities, he could not help taking a far more comprehensive view of his position. He would then conceive his well-being as part and parcel of the well-being of the rest of his community and welcome some amount of hardship and sacrifice on his part without murmur. If, again, the present consumers are of the well-to-do classes as asserted, our position is all the more strong; for we must bear in mind that they must then realise a near and repeatedly-recurring future when they must come in, for their share of contribution, either in the shape of additional taxes or of large charities, in case the hosts of cane-growers and sugar-makers of the day are thrown out of employ or reduced to a state of starvation—as is but too likely in this land of periodic famines—and are thereby cast on their hands or on the State, which is the same thing. Having regard to their inherited nature or to this eventuality, which—be it repeated—is by no means improbable, the effect of this Bill, even if it should cause a rise in the price of sugar they use, would be to lay men of comparative competence under a species of indirect taxation for the benefit of their poor brethren, which they will not and ought not to grudge. These are among my reasons for advocating this measure with perfect loyalty to Free Trade doctrines."

"There is another ground—not an altogether inapt ground—in favour of this Bill. It is this, viz., that it is calculated to dispel the notion more or less widespread and more or less groundless—that Free Trade has ruined the indigenous industries—a notion which cannot but lend an undesirable colour to the opinion entertained about the effects of the British rule. I regard it, therefore, not only as inaugurating an era in the fiscal legislation of

the country and as being welcome on that account and on its own merits but also as dispelling the above erroneous notion. There is no doubt that with the advent of British sovereignty, the reign of Free Trade has synchronised in this country; and, with that reign, a taste has set in for British articles of clothing which began to flow in unchecked. But the truth ought not to be disguised that such, after all, the fault of the altered tastes rather than of Free Trade. Certain new ideas of the decencies and comforts of life, which have followed in the wake of the civilization of the West, have weaned not a few from their old and traditional ways; but Free Trade, as such, has had nothing to do with that result. Exegencies that have arisen in consequence may have, as I think they did, intensified the result, but it is difficult to see how that result could be helped or be said to have been originated by it. For every one man or woman who fell in with and adopted the Western fashions, there are tens, if not hundreds, who have adhered to their old ways, in a perceptible degree. It is therefore illogical to say that because a large number of the well-to-do and the seekers of the fashion of the day have utilised the Western articles, the articles themselves or the natural facilities for their influx should be denounced or proscribed. Giving Free Trade the fullest swing, it seems to me that the local industries might well have thriven if the tastes of the people had in the bulk, remained unvaried and unvariable. Take, for instance, the almost entire masses of the Hindu ladies. They have been untouched by the fashions of their Western sisters, and the species of manufacture which supplied their clothing have, I believe, continued to hold the ground. As surely would the manufacture of male clothing have continued its hold, if men too could be brought to display or develop a like tenacity to old habits. While for these reasons I regard the prevailing outcry against free trade as unreasonable, while I recognise in the Bill before us a departure which marks a desirable epoch in our fiscal legislation, and which will prove a powerful solvent of doubts entertained about the operation of free trade doctrines, I cannot but share the feeling nor get rid of the impression that, just as the threatened ruin of the cane-growers and sugar-makers have laudably moved our Government towards these measures, of preventive legislation, the urgent need exists to inaugurate measures on similar lines, to meet the case of the millions of skilled workmen whose ruin is almost accomplished and whose instructed and inherited aptitude for delicate workmanship, menaced with extinction at every famine that comes round, presents a no less anxious and grave problem of the day."

"Claims of international commerce may be said to be in the way. I am not unaware of the motives, results and advantages laid to its credit. I nevertheless venture to think that it suffices to say just at present that the subject has not yet ceased to be controversial and that so far as this dependency of the British Sovereignty is concerned, those motives, results and advantages are either too remote or too problematic to be efficacious. In the meantime let me allow that the claims of international commerce are indeed great. But the claims of a nation's prosperity and its freedom from utter impoverishment are even greater. The question may well be asked, whether the sustenance and prosperity of millions of lives, which run imminent risk of being either altogether lost or sensibly enfeebled, are not to be a primary object of every Government—a consideration paramount above commerce, international amity and all else. One may well entertain the grave doubt whether there is not, to the problem, to be grappled with, a political as well as commercial and an economical side, whether the European and the American Governments, which are not wanting in intelligence and which have persisted in non-free-trade principles in dealing with other States, side by side with a full recognition of free-trade principles within their own territorial jurisdictions, do not, after all, act in tacit acknowledgment of some such distinction, and whether sufficiently long periods of such per se have not elapsed to refute, by practical, concrete results, the abstract theory that the policy is bound to prove suicidal."

"But these latter remarks are superfluous to set on its legs the Bill before us—a Bill which has indisputable merits of its own. The sole aim with which I have thrown out those observations is to hint at what seems to me a possible solution of a kindred problem of no less gravity; and I have done so, in the hope that what is but an academic debate to-day in relation to the Bill now on the anvil, will, before long, pass within the domain of practical politics, and that this Bill will prove but the harbinger of other measures to come, though they must needs be experimental, fragmentary and cautious at the onset."

The Hon'ble Sir James Westland then briefly replied. The motion for taking the Bill into consideration was agreed to. The Hon'ble Sir James Westland then moved that to the Bill the following clause be added, namely:—

"3. This Act shall not apply to any imported article, the Bill of lading for which was signed and given before the commencement of this Act."

The motion was agreed to. The Hon'ble Sir James Westland then moved that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

His Excellency the President then delivered his speech which will be found below. The Bill was then passed.

The Council was adjourned to Monday next when the Budget will be discussed.

What to Do Until the Doctor Arrive.

It is very hard to stand idly by and see our dead ones suffer while awaiting the arrival of the doctor. An Albany (N. Y.) dayman called at a drug store there for a doctor to come and see his child, then very sick with croup. Not finding the doctor he left word for him to come at once on this return. He also bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which he hoped would give some relief until the doctor should arrive. In a few hours he returned, saying the doctor need not come as, the child was much better. The druggist, Mr. Otto Scholz, says the family has since recommended Chamberlain's Cough Remedy to their neighbour and friends until he has a constant demand for it from that part of the country. For sale by

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

VICEROY'S SPEECH.

BEFORE I put the question that this Bill be passed into law I should like to make a few observations with regard to it. I have been glad to notice the complete unanimity that has prevailed with regard to the Bill in this Council—representative as it is of so many diverse and important interests. The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta indeed would have preferred that this Bill should have been referred to a Select Committee—a contention to which I think that and adequate reply was given by Sir James Westland. I also understood him to urge that it might have been desirable that further enquiry should have taken place with respect to the subject-matter of this legislation. Well, I have always heard it made a reproach against the Indian Government that it is perpetually conducting enquiries, and very seldom acting upon them; and that reproach I at any rate during my time of administration here desire to escape.

The answer to my hon'ble friend Mr. Mehta is that we have been conducting enquiries for a whole year past. We have received representations from every leading Chamber of Commerce in the country, and from most, if not all, the important firms connected with this industry. We have addressed observations to, and received replies from, the Government of all the provinces and districts of India concerned. We should have had, if my hon'ble colleague's advice had been followed, to wit, for the best part of another year before we introduced this legislation. We regarded the case as urgent, and we are not prepared to accept such a delay. At the same time I am glad to notice that the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta, although he delivered this criticism on a point of detail, did not withhold his assent, which I am certain that he is prepared to give, to the general principle of the measure. Then we have had on a previous occasion again to-day a statement approving the Bill from the Hon'ble Mr. Allan Arthur, the distinguished representative of European mercantile interests in this capital, and finally we have had two speeches from the Hon'ble Mr. Chitnavis and the Hon'ble Mr. Ananda Charlu, which I take it we were entitled to regard as typical of the opinions that are held by those important sections of the Native community which they represent at this table. I am therefore, I think, justified in saying that at any rate within these walls complete unanimity has prevailed with regard to the principle of the Bill.

This complete unanimity here reflects an almost equally complete unanimity outside. There are, it is true, certain interests and certain Chambers of Commerce—Bombay and Karachi I may name—in which those interests are strongly represented, which have not entirely concurred in the necessity for countervailing duties at this stage. Those representations are entitled to due consideration, but it is to be noted that they do not come from the areas where the sugarcane is grown, where the refineries exist, or where the real effect of the bounty system is felt. They represent in the main the interests neither of the producers nor of the consumers, but of the importing merchants. On the other hand, if I regard either the representations to which I have already referred, and which have been received by us from the Local Governments, or the reception which our proposals have met with alike in the English and the Native Press of India, I do not hesitate to say that few measures have ever passed through this Council with a greater weight of qualified and homogeneous opinion behind them.

Now the first point that I desire to emphasise is this—that it is in the interests of India, and of India alone, that this legislation has been proposed by us, and that I have authorised the introduction of this Bill. It may be that our Bill may ultimately affect the action of other countries. It may more immediately touch the interests of certain of our own Colonies as well. Sir James Westland in his speech to-day has alluded to the representations that we have received from the Colony of Mauritius, a Colony in which, in view of the enormous Indian population that is there engaged in labour, we here are bound to take a close interest and whose welfare we should be glad, I am certain, consistently with our own, to subserve. It may be that this Bill will set an example of far-reaching significance. By some it may even be regarded as a factor in the Imperial problem. It is from such points of view that we may expect the measure to be examined, and perhaps criticised, in the British Parliament in London. I do not deprecate such examination, or such criticism, conscious that it will not weaken, but will rather strengthen our case. All I have to say here is that our conduct has not been determined by those considerations. We are exercising our own legislative competence of our own initiative, though with the sanction and concurrence of the Secretary of State, to relieve India from an external competition, fortified by an arbitrary advantage, which can be shown to have already produced serious consequences upon our agriculture and manufactures, and which, if unarrested, likely to produce a continuous and a dangerous decline.

There is another point upon which I must, in passing, say a word. I have been glad to notice that no one of this Council has ventured upon the argument that we are guilty of an economic heresy in our proposal to meet bounties by a countervailing duty. Bounties are in themselves an arbitrary, and in my opinion a vicious economic expedient designed in exclusively selfish interests. They are inconsistent with Free Trade, because they extinguish freedom, and they reverse the natural currents of trade. To meet them by a countervailing duty is to redress the balance and to restore the conditions under which trade resumes its freedom. I do not think that we need pay much attention, therefore, to the mutterings of the high priests at Free Trade shrines. Their oracles do not stand precisely at their original premium. This is not a question of economic orthodoxy or heterodoxy; it is a question of re-establishing a fiscal balance which has been deflected for their own advantage and to our injury by certain of our foreign competitors.

Moreover, if the utilitarian basis upon which the doctrines of Free Trade are supposed in the last instance to rest, viz., that they regard the interests of the greatest number, be examined, out of their own mouths would the prophets of those doctrines, in India at any rate, be condemned. For here we are dealing in the case of sugar industry with a population the vast majority of which are not consumers of a chief imported article but are themselves producers of the raw material, and in their capacity as consumers consume for the most part the article which they have themselves produced and worked up. In other words, the conditions that prevail in England are completely reversed. The majority in England consists of poor consumers to whom it is indispensable that the price of sugar should be low. The minority consists of capitalist producers. On the other hand, the majority in India consists of poor producers whose industry is at stake; the minority consists of well-to-do consumers of refined sugar who are not likely, in my judgment, to be affected seriously, if indeed they are at all affected by enhanced prices resulting from our legislation, but who, if they were, could not claim that their interests should override those of the overwhelming majority of the population.

Now I shall not recapitulate the figures which have been laid before you with so much ability and clearness by Sir James Westland when he introduced the Bill a week ago; but let me remind you of the facts which have been established in this discussion. They are these:—Firstly, that there has in the last few years been an enormous increase in the importation of beet sugar into India from Germany and Austria—a fact which is unquestionably due to the loss by the American market of those countries in consequence of the imposition of countervailing duties by the Government of the United States in 1897; secondly, that in the same period the price

price of sugar in this country has seriously fallen; thirdly, that there has been a contraction in nearly every part of India in the area under sugar cultivation, the total reduction being estimated at as much as 13 per cent.; fourthly, that there has been a widespread and still unarrested closing of native refineries, a phenomenon which is capable of one explanation, and one alone; for while it may be argued that the decline in the total area under cultivation may be partially due to other causes such as famine and the low prices resulting from famine, that this is not the case in respect of the factories which have been closed is demonstrated by the fact that in districts where cultivation has increased, or remained stationary—in other words in districts which have remained unaffected by famine—the refineries nevertheless have been, and still are being, shut.

From these facts it appears to me to be impossible to draw any other conclusion than this decline in an Indian industry in which I have seen it stated that two millions of people are employed and in which the value of the annual crop has been estimated at nearly 20 millions sterling is due to the importation of beet sugar at a price below the natural cost of production plus the cost of transport, in other words, to the unrestricted competition of a bounty-fed article.

Now this is a state of affairs which neither the Government of India nor I, as the head of that Government, from whatever point of view we may regard it can contentedly accept. If we look at it from the point of view of the agriculturist, we cannot sit still and look on while he is impoverished by the economic exigencies of continental nations. If we regard it from the point of view of native manufactures, what would be the meaning and value of the speeches which I have made since I came to India about the encouragement of native enterprise, if I were, to acquiesce in the tacit suppression of this promising branch of indigenous industry? We ought on the contrary, I think, to stimulate and to encourage its development by every means in our power. Finally if I approach the question from the point of view of the Government, while we should be strangely constituted if we could contemplate with equanimity the grievance which must sharply react upon the general prosperity of the people, we should also be poor stewards of our own state if we were to acquiesce in a condition of affairs that must detrimentally affect both the land assessments and the canal returns, and in this way jeopardise the ultimate revenues of the State.

These are the grounds—which I have endeavoured to state in their wider rather than in their narrower aspect—that have induced the Government of India to introduce this Bill, and that enable me confidently to recommend it to the acceptance of this Council and of the public.

INTERESTING ITEMS.

THE largest cannon in the world was taken by the English when India was conquered. The cannon was cast about the year 1532, and was the work of a chief named Chulhy Koom Khan, Ahmednagar. The inside of this big gun is fitted up with seats and is a favourite place for English officers to go for a quiet noontide sleep.

PROFESSOR WALTHER in Petermann's Mittheilungen, declares the legend that the Oxus once flowed into the Caspian Sea as false as that other which made the Nile once flow through the wadi of Rischrasch explored by Schweinfurth. His conclusion from geological evidence is however regarded as questionable by other experts.

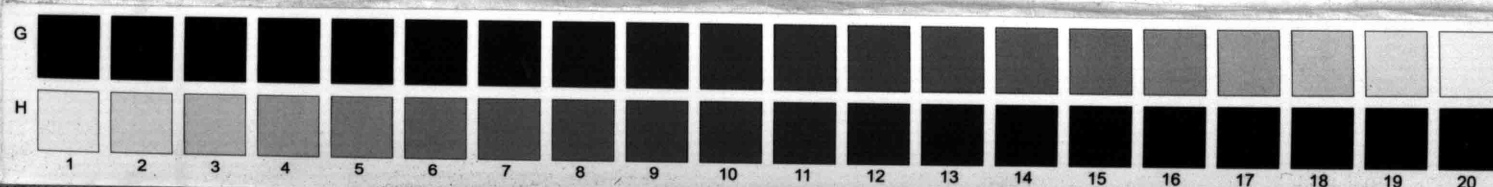
A SCOTTISH artisan has conceived the ingenious and economic idea of employing mice in the manufacture of thread. The small quadrupeds are made to turn a wheel with their feet, and in this manner and by means of a simple mechanical contrivance, they are able to make about 2,899 reeds of 137 yards each daily. To produce this quantity it is estimated that they cover a course of 18,000 yards.

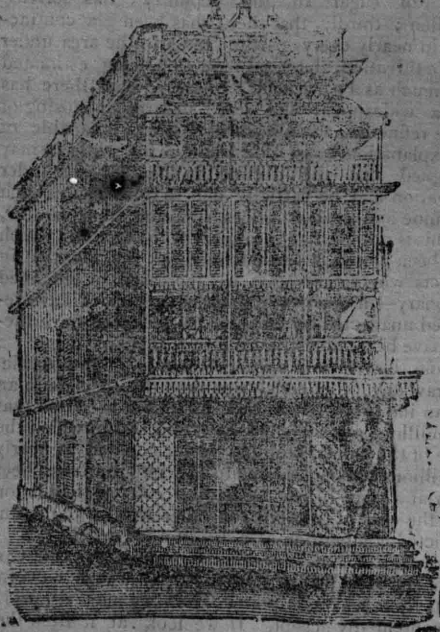
AMONG journalists the question of where the old journalists go is a constant matter of wonder. Germany, at least, can show us a really aged newspaperman. The Fremdenblatt has the honour of having on its staff the oldest working journalist in the world. Herr Leopold Ritter von Blumentron, who was born on February 21st, 1804. Yesterday on his ninety-fifth birthday, he was surprised to find the desk in his editorial office decorated with flowers. Herr von Blumentron still walks every morning from his house to the Fremdenblatt offices in bad weather and in good, mounts to the first floor without difficulty, reads the papers at his desk, and writes with his own hand a lede or paragraph for the evening edition, as well as in the afternoon, one or two contributions to the morning issue. He was in the Military and Diplomatic Services before he turned journalist, and in his new profession has utilised the experiences of his former callings.

OVER Rs. 1,200 were given by His Highness the Maharaja of Kapurthala to the owners of selected animals brought to the last annual cattle fair held there towards the end of February last. Diwan Azz Baksh is in charge of the arrangements and the fair is improving. His Highness personally taken great interest in these matters.

MR. HARRINGTON, the Engineer-in-chief of the Simla-Kalka Railway, will arrive in India about the middle of the next month. He will make arrangements for the location of the line and the engagement of a staff and will then return to England to report to his board. He will come out again in October when the work of construction will be begun.

ON the morning of the 4th March, a Hindoo named Govinda, a labourer engaged under the Public Works Department in repairing the Akola-Hingoli road, came into the police office at Hingoli, Bombay, and lodged a complaint. He was horribly burned about the head, arms, and chest, parts being absolutely charred. His statement was that on the previous night he was returning from Hingoli bazaar to the stone-breakers' huts two miles up the road. As he passed the cotton ginning mill, which stands by itself half-way between the two places, he was invited by some men there to sit down and smoke in the mill compound. When they got him near the boiler they seized him and thrust him, head first, into the furnace. Being a strong man he managed to free himself before they could shut the door on him. He subsequently managed to get back to his hut, and next morning with the assistance of his wife came down to the police station at Hingoli. The unfortunate man, who was suffering terrible agony, was taken into the Station Hospital, where everything was done to alleviate his pain. His recovery was almost hopeless from the first, and on the 14th he died of tetanus. A Parsee engineer, named Nowrojee, part-owner of the mill and one of the firemen, have been arrested, but the former has been released on bail for Rs. 20,000. The opinion among the natives is that the wretched man was offered as a sacrifice to the engine, which had not been working satisfactorily.



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