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পদক-পতক।

দম্পতি হইয়াছে
দুখা ৩০ টাকা।
পরিণীত বয়স।

অনুভবকার পত্রিকা আকিবে প্রাপ্তব্য

অনুভবকারী।

অনুভবকারী হইয়াছে।

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দুখা ৩০ টাকা। ডাঃ মাঃ অর্ধ আনা।

অনুভবকার পত্রিকা আকিবে প্রাপ্তব্য।

ত্রিভুজ প্রকাশ।

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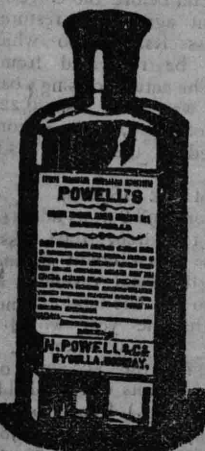
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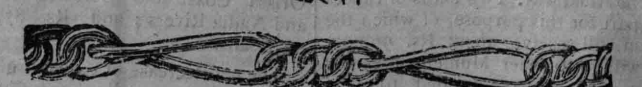
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THE BENGAL COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council was held on Saturday at the Council Chambers, Writers Buildings. There were present, His Honor Sir John Woodburn, (presiding), the Hon'ble Nawab Syed Amir Hossein, the Hon'ble Mr. W. B. Oldham, the Hon'ble Mr. R. B. Buckley, the Hon'ble Mr. C. W. Polton, the Hon'ble Mr. E. N. Paker, the Hon'ble Mr. M. Finucane, the Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerji, the Hon'ble Mr. J. Pratt, the Hon'ble Babu Narendro Nath Sen, the Hon'ble Babu Saligram Singh, the Hon'ble Babu Kali Churn Banerji, the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji, the Hon'ble Babu Jatra Mohan Sen, the Hon'ble Mr. T. W. Spink, the Hon'ble Rajah Shashi Shekharwar Roy Bahadur of Tahrpur, the Hon'ble Rajah Ranajit Sinha Bahadur of Nashipur, the Hon'ble Sahibzada Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, and the Hon'ble Mr. D. F. Mackenzie.

THE PLAG IN BENGAL.

The Hon'ble Surendra Nath Banerji asked:—I have the honor to ask whether, in view of the relief granted by the Government to the Municipalities of the Bombay Presidency, including the City Corporation, for plague expenditure as stated in the Financial Statement (page 112 of the *Gazette of India* of the 25th March last, Part VI), the Government will be pleased to afford relief to the Municipalities of this Province for plague expenditure? If so, will the Government kindly state the relief that is proposed to be granted to the Corporation of Calcutta and the other local bodies in the Province?

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker replied as follows:—The Government proposes to expend a sum of Rs. 56,000 in giving assistance to District Boards and Municipalities which have had to incur expenditure on account of plague. Further details of the distribution of this sum, so far as they have been settled, will be found in the Financial Statement which is laid on the table this morning.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji asked: Having regard to the recrudescence of plague in Calcutta this year with increased mortality and to the universally admitted fact that the surest and most effective measure by which it can be stamped out is to open up dark, ill-ventilated and congested areas throughout the town, will the Government be pleased to state what action it has or proposes to take on the recommendations of the Calcutta Building Commission, contained in paragraphs 127 to 134 of their report under the heading "Opening up of congested areas" and "Funds for improvement"?

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker replied as follows:—The Building Commission submitted a draft Bill to enable legislative effect to be given to their recommendation. This has been referred to the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill, whose report is shortly expected. Until it is known in what form the proposals of the Building Commission emerge from the Select Committee, and to what extent they have adopted or modified the recommendations of the Commission in respect of such important matters as the opening up of congested areas and the re-allocation of bustee, it will be premature for Government to make any pronouncement. The important question of the provision of funds for large improvements must await the formulation of the measures by which those improvements are to be carried out.

The Hon'ble Mr. D. F. Mackenzie asked: Will the Government give any information as to the extent to which plague has prevailed in districts of Bengal outside Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker replied as follows:—In answering this question, I should explain that we regard Calcutta as including the town of Howrah and the other contiguous municipalities, in the metropolitan area such as Cossipore and Manicktola. Cases of plague occurring in this area must be treated as a part of the Calcutta series to which they really belong. In 1898, there was only one outbreak of plague in the interior, viz. in Backergunge. There 11 deaths took place in about three weeks during August and September, and the disease was thoroughly stamped out. In 1899, to the end of March there have been four outbreaks. One of these occurred in two villages of the Furruckpore District in the latter part of February. There have been 32 cases and 30 deaths. No fresh cases have occurred since the 17th March and the outbreak has been stamped out. The next occurred in Dacca where 41 deaths occurred in two villages in February and March. Here also there have been no fresh cases since the 18th March. The third occurred in Durbhanga in a village, named Jhalwara, the disease first appearing on the 7th March. There have been 47 cases and 43 deaths. No fresh case has been reported since 1st April, and may be hoped that the outbreak is at an end. The fourth, and last local outbreak was in Saran, where in one small town there have been 88 cases and 76 deaths. The first case seems to have occurred toward the end of January, but it was not recognised as such, and the matter was not brought to the notice of the District authorities till the beginning of March. There has been no fresh case since the 29th March, and though a few of the old cases have not yet completely recovered, we hope shortly to be able to say that the infection has been completely eradicated. Besides these four local outbreaks, a very few isolated cases have been reported from Tippera, Nuddea, Hughly, Deoghur, and one or two other places. There were cases of a sporadic character, and were clearly due to the infection having been imported from elsewhere, and in no instance was there any spread of the disease beyond the immediate surroundings of the person first attacked.

DETENTION AT CHAUSA CAMP.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Banerji asked: Has the attention of the Government been called to the case of Babu Bhola Nath Majumdar and his party who were detained at the Chausa plague camp for twenty-four hours early in January last, and in which the Hon'ble Mr. Baker very kindly interested himself? (a) Is it the case that the party were marched off to the plague camp without any previous examination, although they were coming from a non-infected area, viz. Jubbulpur? Is it the usual practice to send suspected persons to the plague camp without a previous medical examination? (b) Is the statement correct that in this case the wife of Babu Bhola Nath Majumdar, who is a highly respectable lady, was not examined by a female doctor? If not, why not; especially as there were several female doctors at Chausa? Will the Government be pleased to state what the orders of Government are in connection with the examination of females?

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker replied as follows:—The attention of Government has been called to the case in question, which was enquired into at the time by the Sanitary Commissioner. It is reported that there were glaring discrepancies in the statements of the party as to the place they had come from, and his rightly aroused suspicion in the minds of the Inspecting Officer. The party were, therefore, detained for observation, and were released, after disinfection of their clothes, on the following day. The rules for the examination of female passengers are contained in Rule VIII (3) of Plague Regulations No. 2 of 30th November, 1897. The other information asked for in the question cannot be given without further enquiry which, at this distance of time, the Lieutenant-Governor does not consider is necessary to make.

EMBANKMENT AT KUTUBDIA.

The Hon'ble Mr. Finucane replied to the question of the Hon'ble Babu Narendro Nath Sen, asked at the Council meeting held on the 12th November, 1898:—At the meeting of Council held on the 12th November, Hon'ble Babu Narendro Nath Sen asked whether the attention of Government had been drawn to the statement contained in the Sanshodhini "news"

paper of Chittagong and in the "Bengalee" of 22nd October, that public money had been wasted in the construction of the embankment at Kutubdia, in the District of Chittagong, and whether Government would be pleased to lay on the table the correspondence that had passed between the Port Officer, the Commissioner of the Division, and the Collector of Chittagong on the subject, and to direct a sifting enquiry into the matter. In reply it was stated, at that meeting of Council, that there were no grounds for supposing that there had been waste of public money in the construction of the embankment in Kutubdia, that the correspondence alluded to had not reached Government, and therefore that a further answer to the question would be given at another meeting of Council. Since then enquiry has been made on the spot by the Collector and Engineer. The facts are these:—The embankment round the island was almost washed away on the west face and greatly damaged on the east by the tidal wave of 1897. It was repaired before the monsoon rains, but there were heavy cyclonic gales and excessive rains in June, 1898, which resulted in the repaired embankment being overtopped by the sea and breached in some places by the rush of rain-water from inland. The Port Officer visited Kutubdia on the 28th June and reported that, viewing the island from the top of the tower of the light-house, he could see no signs of cultivation except on three small pieces of land on which paddy has been sown for transplanting, and that the light-keepers informed him that the late high tides had come over the Government embankments and breached them in five or six places. As a matter of fact, the transplantation of rice had not begun at the time of the Port Officer's visit. Mr. Anderson, the Collector, visited the island in July. He found transplantation then going on and the crops looking well except in particular areas, and reported that there was no such distress as would call for aid from Government or the public. He also reported that the Engineer in charge had done all in his power in repairing the embankments and shown much zeal and courage in visiting the island to supervise the work at a time when crossing the channel was both dangerous and difficult. The present Collector, Mr. Lea, visited it on February last and found that in limited areas injury had been caused to the crops by ingress of salt-water due to the breach of the embankments. He promised remissions of rent in those areas. The embankments have been and are being repaired so far as practicable, but it is reported to be impossible to render the island entirely secure against ingress of salt-water except at an expense that is prohibitive.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Hon. Mr. Baker laid on the table the Financial Statement for 1899-1900 with explanatory notes. He said: I beg to lay on the table the Financial Statement for the year 1899-1900, together with the usual statements of account. The part of the statement to which most interest attaches will probably be found in paragraph 5 which explains the manner in which it has been decided to apply the special grants of seventeen lakhs which have been made by the Government of India in aid of the Provincial Revenues. Apart from these special grants the estimates would have afforded little satisfaction to any one. At the beginning of the year which has just closed, the balances had been reduced to less than ten lakhs, i.e., to less than one-half of the prescribed minimum working balance of twenty lakhs; and as late as three months ago, it seemed as if the receipts from Excise and Stamps, both of which, and especially the former, had been affected by the famine, were likely to be less productive than usual. In these circumstances, it was incumbent on us to cut down the expenditure in all branches to the bare necessities of administrative life. We could make no provision for any of the numerous useful and important projects and works which were pressed upon us; and we applied the estimated surplus of the year partly to building up our closing balance to Rs. 16,37,000, and partly to making some provision for plague charges. The Government of India have, however, come to the rescue. Out of their abundance, they have made us grants aggregating seven lakhs in partial restoration of the large sums which were spent from Provincial Revenues on account of famine relief. This assistance, coupled with an improvement at the eleventh hour under Excise, has enabled us to do something more than make both ends meet. The manner in which it has been decided to apply the money thus placed at our disposal is explained in paragraph 5 of the Financial Statement. In the first place, three lakhs have been added to our estimated closing balance, which has thus been raised to Rs. 19,37,000 or nearly to the prescribed minimum. This was a wise and prudent precaution on, with which, I think, no one is likely to quarrel. Next after this, we consider that the first claim upon us is the duty of giving some relief to those local bodies which have had to incur heavy expenditure on account of plague. The best and fairest way of doing this has received a good deal of consideration, for the various local authorities have not by all means been affected alike. The decision arrived at is this. First, we refund to them the contributions which were levied from them on account of the plague observation camps at Chausa and elsewhere. These camps were intended for the protection of the whole Province, and though it is quite equitable that the cost of them should be borne ratably by local funds, yet the latter had made no budget provision for the charge, which was imposed on them after the year had begun; and we think, therefore, that relief can most conveniently be given by transferring the charge to Provincial. It will be understood that these remarks apply only to the charges incurred during the past year. For the year now beginning local authorities will have to make provision in the usual way. Two lakhs of rupees is the amount set apart for this purpose, of which the Calcutta Corporation will receive about Rs. 90,000, and the remainder will go to other Municipalities and District Boards. Secondly, we have decided to make a grant to Calcutta of the amount paid by the Corporation under the Plague Regulations up to a maximum of two and a-half lakhs. Under Plague Regulation No. 9, dated 30th November, 1897, measures for the prevention of Plague in Calcutta are entrusted to the Chairman, who acts under the direct orders of Government. The bulk of the expenditure in Calcutta on account of plague has been incurred in this way, and though the charge is of a strictly local character, yet in view of the status of the city as the capital of the Province and of India, if its health and wellbeing are a matter of more direct Imperial concern than those of any town in the interior. Having regard to these obligations and interests, we have decided to make a grant of 2½ lakhs, which is approximately equal to the expenditure actually incurred during 1898-99, under the Plague Regulations. It is hoped that by this means, it will be rendered unnecessary for the Corporation to raise the Municipal rates for the present. But it must be clearly understood that Government has no intention of repeating the grant now made; and that in future Calcutta must bear its local charges like any other similar City. Thirdly, we provide sum of Rs. 1,10,000 for grants-in-aid on account of plague to local bodies in the mofussil. Most of these bodies have as yet incurred little expenditure on this account, and many of them will not participate in the allotment. We shall confine the grants to those whose finances have been materially affected. These grants to local funds total up to Rs. 5,60,000. Then we propose to reserve a sum of two lakhs to meet Provincial expenditure on account of plague. In the budget itself, we were only able to allot Rs. 1,35,000 for this purpose, viz. Rs. 88,000 under the police, and Rs. 50,000 under Medical. What the expenditure is likely to be

cannot possibly be foreseen; but it has been thought prudent to strengthen our position in view of contingencies which are at least possible. These various allotments absorb Rs. 10,60,000 out of the seven lakhs at our disposal. Out of the remainder, we have made additional grants of Rs. 90,000 for surveys and settlements, a very useful and remunerative item of expenditure, the provision for which had been cut down with reluctance; of Rs. 50,000 under education to raise the provision for grants-in-aid to Rs. 6,60,000; and of Rs. 50,000 under provincial rates, to enable us to pay District Boards one-third of the present actual cost of collecting the Road and Public Works cesses. This matter has been referred to more than once in this Council, and he views of Government have been stated already. Finally, we have made an additional grant of four and-a-half lakhs to the Public Works Department for civil buildings and communications. This will enable that Department to do something in the way of constructing feeder roads, to complete the expensive repairs rendered necessary by the earthquake, to make some progress with the General Hospital, and to carry out a few of the most pressing works which have been pending. That, sir, is the manner in which it has been decided to distribute the windfall which the Government of India have placed at our disposal. I do not suppose the distribution will satisfy every body. But it is the outcome of every careful consideration, and it is the best and fairest that we have seen our way to make.

The Council then adjourned for a week.

BENGAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT, 1899-1900.

GENERAL REVIEW.

In the Financial Statement which was laid before the Council on the 2nd April, 1899, it was explained that when the budget for 1897-98 had been passed by the Government of India, it was anticipated that local funds would be able to contribute Rs. 8,17,000 towards the total outlay on famine relief measures, and that the charge on this account imposed on the Provincial Revenues would be limited to such sum as those revenues could bear without reducing the Provincial balances below half the minimum of twenty lakhs prescribed as the working balance in ordinary years. When the revised estimate of the year was under consideration it was found that the local funds had contributed only Rs. 5,56,000, and the Government of India directed that the balance (Rs. 8,17,000—Rs. 5,56,000) Rs. 4,61,000 should be made good from the Provincial Revenues, thus reducing the Provincial balance from ten lakhs to Rs. 5,39,000. On re-consideration, however, of the full facts and figures subsequently laid before the Government of India, that Government agreed to restore the balance to ten lakhs less Rs. 78,000 which it was found could properly be recovered from the local funds in 1898-99. The actual closing balance on 31st March, 1898, was thus Rs. 9,22,000, showing an improvement of Rs. 3,83,000 as compared with the amount passed in the revised estimate for the year.

REVISED ESTIMATE 1898-99.

The budget estimate for 1898-99, as adopted by the Government of India in March, 1898, assumed that the year would open with a credit balance of Rs. 5,39,000, and that the total revenues would amount to Rs. 4,55,8,000 and the total expenditure to an equal amount, so that the year would close with the same balance of Rs. 5,39,000. The latest estimate available for the accounts of the year show that the total receipts will probably be (Rs. 4,77,17,000—17,00,000) Rs. 4,60,17,000, which is better than was originally expected by Rs. 4,87,000 and that the expenditure will be Rs. 4,52,02,000, which shows a decrease of Rs. 3,28,000. The result is a net improvement of Rs. 8,15,000; and as there is an increase of Rs. 3,83,000 in the opening balance, as explained above, the total improvement on the original estimate is Rs. 11,98,000. The Government of India have also sanctioned a free grant of fifteen lakhs from the Imperial Revenues in consideration of the very large amount expended from Provincial Revenues on famine relief, and a further assignment of two lakhs to enable the Local Government to grant assistance to those municipalities and local bodies whose funds have been so severely affected by expenditure on plague. Adding these special grants, the closing balance for the year 1898-99 is now estimated at Rs. 34,37,000.

Of the increase on the receipt side, Rs. 50,000 is under Excise, the revenue from which is slowly recovering from the depression caused by the famine; Rs. 80,000 under Assessed taxes due to the progressive revision of the assessment; and general improvement in the administration of this head of revenue; Rs. 74,000 under Jails, due to larger sales of manufactured articles; Rs. 1,50,000 under Marine for increased pilotage receipts; Rs. 59,000 under Miscellaneous, being an increase under Unclaimed deposits; Rs. 98,000 under irrigation—major works, on account of increased collections of water-rate in the Sone Canals; and of Rs. 53,000 under Civil Works, on account of larger collections from ferries. There are also increases of Rs. 25,000 under Customs; Rs. 29,000 under Forests; Rs. 20,000 under Law and Justice; and Rs. 23,000 under Stationery and Printing. The recovery of Rs. 78,000 from Local Funds on account of expenditure on famine relief, referred to in paragraph 1 above has been adjusted under contributions. Against these increases the decrease of Rs. 1,70,000 under Stamps, which is an after-effect of famine; Rs. 71,000 under Scientific and other Minor Departments, owing to smaller sales of opium; Rs. 56,000 under Minor Works and Navigation, due chiefly to smaller collections of Navigation receipts from the Orissa Coast and Calcutta and East-India Canals and Nadia Rivers; and Rs. 87,000 under Interest on Loans.

The net decrease of expenditure is Rs. 2,28,000, which is due to smaller expenditure under Courts of Law (Rs. 58,000), to the more favourable rate of exchange and consequent smaller payments of exchange compensation allowance; to smaller expenditure under Education (Rs. 1,17,000), especially under Arts Colleges and Government Schools, chiefly owing to the charges on account of salaries being over-estimated; Rs. 67,000 under Medical, under Salaries of Medical Officers; and Rs. 1,46,000 under Civil Works owing to transfers of grants to local bodies for the construction and maintenance of Provincial buildings. Against these decreases there is an increase of Rs. 84,000 under Police, for the additional police in the 24 Parganas, sanctioned for the protection of mill areas in and round Calcutta.

BUDGET ESTIMATE, 1899-1900.

The budget estimate for 1899-1900 as passed by the Government of India, accepts Rs. 34,37,000 as the opening balance, and contemplates receipts aggregating Rs. 4,64,08,000, and charges aggregating Rs. 4,79,08,000, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 19,37,000. The estimate includes a lump provision of fourteen lakhs under Civil Works which is left to the Local Government to distribute.

Many Lives Saved.

In almost every neighbourhood there is some one whose life has been saved by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, or who has been cured of chronic diarrhoea by the use of that medicine. Such persons make a point of telling of it whenever opportunity offers, hoping that it may be the means of saving other lives. For sale by SMITH, STANISTREET & CO. and B. K. PAUL & CO.

lute according to the necessities of the Province. Looking to the requirements of the several departments which had to be curtailed in the first instance in consequence of the depuration of the Provincial balance, and in view of the re-appearance of plague in these Provinces the special allotment has been re-appropriated in the following manner:—

	Rs.
Additional grant under Land Revenue	
—For surveys and settlements	90,000
Additional grant under Provincial Rates—For larger contribution towards the cost of collecting Public Works Cess	50,000
Additional grant under Education—Grants-in-aid	50,000
Grant to the Calcutta Municipality for direct charges under Plague Regulations	2,50,000
Grant to other local bodies for plague charges	1,10,000
Refund of contribution made by District Boards and Calcutta and Mofussil Municipalities in aid of expenditure on general measures of prohibition against plague	2,00,000
Reserve for plague charges in 1899-1900	2,00,000
Civil Works—Civil Works by Public Works Department	4,50,000
Total	14,00,000

Eliminating the special assignment of seventeen lakhs made by the Government of India for 1898-99, the receipts in 1899-1900 will, it is estimated, be better than the revised estimate of 1898-99 by Rs. 3,91,000. The increase is under all the principal heads of revenue except Forests, the increase under Customs being nominal owing to the inclusion of overtime and holiday fees, which were formerly kept outside the accounts; there is a corresponding increase on the expenditure side on account of payment of these fees. On the expenditure side the total grant, excluding the special assignment of fourteen lakhs is Rs. 4,65,08,000 against Rs. 4,52,02,000, the revised estimate for 1898-99. The increase is Rs. 13,06,000, of which Rs. 1,22,000 is under Revenue heads; Rs. 1,59,000 under Law and Justice, Judicial Courts, due to the provision for salaries of the full sanctioned number of High Court Judges and an additional District and Sessions Judge and his establishment; Rs. 1,22,000 under Jails for purchase of raw materials for manufactures to meet the demands of the Military and Police Department; Rs. 1,79,000 under Police, for strengthening the Calcutta Police Force for temporary police for plague duty, and for the gradual carrying out of the reforms recommended by the Police Commission for the Civil Engineering College, Sibpur, for a girl's boarding school at Kurseong, and boarding and other charges of the Eden Hostel for students; Rs. 62,000 under Medical for larger provision for hospital requirements and salaries of establishment. Increased provision has also been made under Scientific and other Minor Departments (Rs. 43,000), chiefly under Cinchona plantation; Rs. 79,000 under "Superannuations", for progressive increase under pensions and gratuities; and Rs. 48,000 under Miscellaneous for larger provision for donations to charitable institutions and for the maintenance of the telegraph line from Demagiri to Chittagong. The increase of about three lakhs under Civil Works is mainly for earthquake repairs and feeder roads. It also includes a sum of 2½ lakhs for the General Hospital in Calcutta.

A MEMORIAL OF THE PEOPLE OF RISHRA.

MOST RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH—

THAT as the Mahomedan festival of Korebani or 'cow-killing' is drawing near at hand, your humble memorialists have again been thrown into the greatest possible anxiety and terror at the movements of the Mahomedans in the matter of the killing of cows in the heart of the township of Rishra to the consternation of the Hindoo residents of the place inasmuch as cows are held in such reverence, as your honor is well aware, nay, regarded as deities by the Hindoos, that the killing of the same at a place where the practice has never been in existence, is sure to wound the religious feelings of the Hindoo community.

Your humble petitioners venture to submit that never before the above festival of Korebani or cow-killing was celebrated in Rishra and that it would be most painful to about 15,000 Hindoo resident living in Rishra and the neighbourhood, if the handi number of the Mahomedan sojourners succeeded in obtaining from the Supreme Government a permission, hitherto withheld, of killing cows at a place where Hindoo population is in the ratio of 7:1 Mahomedan population against the spirit of the Government circular on the subject.

That permanent Mahomedan residents of the place are very scanty in number having consisted of a few families only, and they did never make an indication of the celebration of the same. A number of Mahomedans being mostly up-countrymen and workers in the local mills (Messrs. Birmyre Brothers' Hastings Mill and Finlay Mill Co's. Wellington Mill) have settled themselves in the Busti land opposite Hastings Mill, and it is these lodgers having no permanent interest at stake, that have, of late, displayed signs of fanaticism. These men did, for the first time in the year 1896, attempt at celebration of the aforesaid Korebani festival, but were prevented from the act by Mr. Lister, the then Sub-Divisional Officer of Serampore, who having been perfectly satisfied as to the non-celebration of the festival at Rishra took the severest measure for putting down the rise of the Mahomedans, and thought it fit to put to prison their leader or Matali and send for help from the Cantonment of Barrackpore, as the papers in this connection and the High Court letters on the subject will clearly show.

Your humble petitioners thus indulge the hope that your honor will be graciously pleased to enquire into the correctness of the statement herein made, and pass necessary orders restraining the Mahomedans of Rishra from celebrating the ensuing Korebani or cow-killing festival which comes off on the 22nd April next and the following two days, and thereby deferring the religion of the Hindoo subject—a noble act of interference on your part for which the whole Hindoo community shall ever remain deeply indebted to you, and that your noble name shall in this connection be respectfully remembered by generation after generation for all time to come.

And your humble memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray.

LORD SANDHURST arrived in Poona yesterday morning from Bombay, and leaves for Mahabaleshwar to-morrow. His Excellency presided at a meeting of the Pague Volunteers held last evening in the city.

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, APRIL 13, 1899.

LORD CURZON AND MR. NAOROJI.

EVERY one ought to go to Heaven; at least, he ought to make an attempt in that direction, and there is, we presume, room enough for all. Men in high positions are beset, on all sides, by temptations; and they ought to be particularly careful of the pitfalls that surround them. We all love Lord Curzon for many good reasons. One is that he represents all that is called good in this world, having wealth, power, intellect, heart and piety. The other is that he has promised to love his people as his "kith and kin," which they no doubt are; and the third reason is that, he is the representative of our beloved sovereign. That being so, we think, in India Lord Curzon should be more charitable and more generous than others, and above those petty feelings which influence inferior men.

The following we cull from His Excellency's reply to the address presented by the Punjab Mussalmans:—

When you speak of the inestimable benefits conferred upon India by British rule, of the blessings of a settled and civilised Government, and of the freedom of thought and belief which you owe to its dispensations, I believe you to be recording, not merely the facts of history, but your own sincere convictions. Such unsolicited testimony from so powerful a section of the community as that which your co-religionists represent, is a striking answer to the nonsense which I sometimes hear and read in print about an India that is bleeding under British rule—nonsense which, so far as I can judge, finds little echo in India itself, but is sometimes retailed at the safe distance of 7,000 miles by perverted orators upon English platforms.

The above is meant for Dadabhai Naoroji. When in Calcutta His Excellency expressed great concern at the news of Kipling's illness. It is but natural that one great man should have respect for another. It is clear His Excellency has a tender feeling for Kipling and quite an opposite feeling for Naoroji. We think Mr. Naoroji also ought to deserve his good opinion. This Indian is an old man of 76 who has made England his home. His connection with India is slight; and even this may be severed for ever in a short time, though we hope he will live long. This "frivolous orator," this tottering old man appeals to England to do justice to his native country. Why should such a spectacle not please but offend the noble heart of Lord Curzon? It may be said that Mr. Naoroji's views are not correct;—that England does not suffer financially by its connection with India. Yet Lord Curzon should give him credit for patriotism and sincerity, for he can have no motive for wilfully maligning the country that he has adopted.

Kipling is appealing to the Americans to subjugate the Philippines, who are fighting under the greatest of disadvantages for their national freedom. Dadabhai Naoroji is appealing to England for justice to his mother country. These are the two figures before his Lordship. Whom should he nourish and commend?

In this as in every other country—more here than elsewhere, for here the people are not free—there are two classes of people, the patriotic and the sycophant. Of course the number of the latter vastly exceeds that of the former. The sycophant will tell nothing but what is pleasing to his English masters; he will demean himself and kiss the feet of men in power; he will forsake country, self-respect, virtue and everything held dear by men to be able to gain the favor of his English masters.

There are also a few men in this country, who think that they have a duty to perform to their country and to themselves. They will speak the truth, though it is disagreeable to their English masters; they will salute their English masters with respect, but not with abject subservience; and then will rather sacrifice their own interests than do anything which is wrong or hurtful to their country.

Let not the fact to be noticed below, be concealed. In India Englishmen oftentimes pat the sycophant on the back, further his interests, and try to put down the honest patriot.

And who are these Englishmen? They are the lords of the human kind; they look down upon every nation as their inferior and therefore with contempt; they hold their heads high to show that they are above all meanness, and are devotees of bravery, chivalry, and generosity.

There is no doubt of it that there is not a braver, more chivalrous and more honest race than the English in the whole world.

Indeed, they carry there instincts even when they go abroad. If they settle anywhere they immediately give freedom to the press and the person. Any sort of tyranny, oppression, and unfair play they cannot bear. They came to India and made the press free. They taught the people their own literature, their own history, and gave them a portion of the blessings of good government they themselves enjoy. They live as it were in an atmosphere of freedom and fair play. When the late Rev. K. M. Bannerjee, then a student in the college, was asked to deliver a speech before the Viceroy (Lord Auckland, we believe), and his suite and other high officials, who had come to examine the senior students of the Hindu College—young Bannerjee, as requested, stood up and preached—rank sedition! He said that resistance to tyrants was obedience to God and many other things, and ended by declaring that the English had no business to come to this country, and that it was

their duty to go back as speedily as possible! And what was the result? Bannerjee swano: manacled and marched off, but he was spoken to by the Governor-General himself. The Governor-General told the "perfidious orator" that if the English actually acted up to his advice, what would be the fate of his country, which he seemed to love so well? The Governor-General further said that this speech delivered to his face was a proof, that England was fulfilling her mission in India.

Lord Curzon should cherish and not condemn these perfidious orators. For they are not rivals like Wedderburn and Roberts, but absolutely helpless dependants, who have no other weapon save appeals, whines and groans to defend their rights. If Sir W. Wedderburn had said something ridiculous Lord Curzon might have exposed him; but there can be no comparison between Lord Curzon and Mr. Naoroji.

Besides as the responsible and honest ruler of a vast Empire, His Excellency, to be able to rule well, should weigh both sides of a question. It is these fervid orators alone who can furnish His Excellency with the other side of the picture. It is these men who will enable the rulers to feel the pulse of the nation.

Lord Curzon should nourish our patriot. Noble-minded as he is, he should respect those who speak with sincerity and freedom and those who are prepared to sacrifice their own interests to speak on behalf of their country, and hold the sycophants with contempt. The patriots of India have at least this advantage over the patriots of other countries, viz, that they do not love destruction in any shape but construction, and are opponents of anarchy and chaos, and friends of law, order and constitution.

THE INDIAN PRESS AND MR. MACLEAN.

WHEN interviewed Mr. Maclean was pleased to deliver himself thus:—

Free opinion in India is at the present moment almost entirely dead. People dare not speak out. The new press laws act like a gag. I was appalled on my last visit to discover how much freedom had been lost since I last visited India. That is precisely why Parliamentary criticism in this country is so important. It is the only chance of freedom. It acts like a breath of fresh air.

Mr. Maclean vividly realizes the wrong that has been done to the Empire by the press gag. He is convinced that the sugar legislation is a mistake, and he attributes the "uncertain tone" of the Indians to the gag! In short, it comes to this that the Indian papers do not oppose the legislation in a body and in a determined tone, because, according to Mr. Maclean, they are afraid of offending the Government!

The testimony of Mr. Maclean is important, however, in one respect; for it is based upon experience. He was in India; indeed, he is more an Anglo-Indian than an Englishman; he spent the best portion of his life in this country, not as an ordinary Englishman engrossed with his own affairs, but as a journalist, and, therefore, a keen observer of his surroundings. And what is his testimony? He says: "He was appalled, on his last visit, to discover how much freedom had been lost since his previous visit to India." This loss, of manliness and sincerity in the Indian press, is a great misfortune to all parties concerned,—the people, the Empire and the officials. What an Indian paper is now free to do is to commend. If he finds that he has to condemn, he has to kneel down to beg pardon for his impertinence. And this is the spectacle which is pleasing to a certain section of Englishmen in this country!

The Indian papers, even when in a kneeling posture, do not venture to say what they actually feel; and all their thoughts, finding no vent, are allowed to work in their mind and produce a disastrous effect. It is a position of which Englishmen can have no idea. Absolute restriction is one thing, but freedom to speak within certain limits, is a quite different thing. When an Indian paper has to criticize unfavorably, he has to weigh well his words; if he finds that he has used an expression which might be construed into the offensive he shivers all over; he tries to soften it if possible and ceases giving any opposition. Sometimes he prefers discretion to valour.

The surest, easiest, and most speedy way of emasculating a nation is to ask the people to criticize men and measures, such as they are vitally interested in, with a sword hanging over their heads, with this injunction that if they give offence, the dreadful thing overhead would be allowed to fall on their necks.

The officials, on the other hand, have been assured of support and commendation; at least they have now no apprehension of any serious opposition. The only healthy control that they had over their actions has been removed. Of course, it is presumed that they are properly supervised by their superiors. But you, we, they and all know that this sort of supervision is, generally speaking, a delusion and a snare. Just take note of the following propositions, namely,—the officials have excessive powers; they are in the midst of an alien population for whom they have very little respect; the only healthy control, which the Indian press exercised over them, removed,—and then you will see that the Government has, by its gag, paved the way for a downward fall of the officials. If the gag is an injury to the people, it is a greater injury to the officials.

And again, just see, how the gag measure has made everything uncertain. If the

Indian press support a Government measure, those, who oppose it in England, credit the support to the gag. Mr. Maclean triumphantly declares that the support of the native press, accorded to the sugar measure, means nothing because the press is gagged.

Nay, so vitally has the native press been discredited that, the Indian Parliamentary Committee would actually have ranked itself against the Government in this measure, if Babu Romesh Chandra Dutt had not restrained them. He earnestly implored the members to wait till they had heard from India, at least what the Indian representative members in the Council had said. There was absolute freedom of the press when the people had arms and this freedom did no harm. It was withdrawn when the people had been disarmed and rendered absolutely helpless! This half-freedom is worse than no freedom.

We received the following letter from Babu Prithwis Chunder Roy, Assistant Secretary to the Congress Committee, on the Kailash affair, on Saturday last:—

I gather from your paragraphs in this morning's 'Patrika' that Mr. Chambers of Bombay sent a private communication to the local Congress Committee urging us to take some action about this wretched Kailash matter. Nothing of the kind has happened, not a line passing between our Committee and Mr. Chambers for a long time. I never told you so in my long interview with you yesterday morning. If any body else has given out this information to you, I am in a position to give it a most emphatic denial. If you gathered it from my talk, I feel very much concerned in having thus misled you unwittingly or you yourself must have very sadly mistaken and confounded the spirit of my remarks. I do not remember to have told you that Mr. Chambers addressed to us any private letters in this matter. I could not tell you so. What I told you was that Mr. Chambers' appeal to all Congress leaders was too serious to be passed away without our taking any action upon it. By 'appeal' I did not mean any private communication but his own leaders in the columns of the 'Champion'.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Chambers did not address any private communication to the Calcutta Congress Committee on the subject. We were led into the mistake, from the letter of Mr. A. M. Bose and the conversation we had with Babu Prithwis Chander. If they had said that it was the 'Champion's', and not Mr. Chambers' appeal which had induced the Committee to take action, the blunder would not have been committed. We are grateful to Mr. Chambers,—and have always acknowledged our thankfulness to him,—for what he has so disinterestedly done for India: His influence in the country would be best explained by the fact that the step that was taken in Calcutta in regard to the Kailash matter was mainly due to the notion that it would be agreeable to him.

SIR A. P. MACDONNELL made the following important announcement at the last meeting of the Legislative Council of the N.W. Provinces:—

I expressed the hope to be able to place the Court of Wards Bill before you preparatory to our going to the hills. But I found it would take more time to get in all the opinions which were called for than had been anticipated, and also that there would be some difficulty in getting a Select Committee together. It seemed to me that it would be rushing the matter to get it laid before the Council by this date. At the same time I became aware that there was a certain amount of uncertainty and opposition to a part of the provisions of the Bill; and all these things satisfied me it is not desirable to hasten the measure. During the last fortnight or three weeks I have had interviews with some of the more important associations and gentlemen interested in the Bill; and the explanations I have been able to give has removed many of the misapprehensions which prevailed. I have no reason to anticipate that there will be in Select Committee or afterwards any serious opposition to the substance or principle of the Bill. But that is all the more reason why adequate time should be given in the matter. I therefore propose that the Select Committee should meet when we come down to the plains in July. The further progress of the Bill will depend upon what happens then."

We wish Sir John Woodburn has, like his brother of the N. W. P., had interviews with the leading men of Calcutta who are so vitally interested in the Municipal Bill. Indeed, if His Honor had kept his mind open like Sir A. P. MacDonnell and followed his course, then possibly the huge agitation raised against the measure would have been nipped in the bud. Honest and fair-minded as he is, he would have been convinced by the explanations he would have gathered from his conversation with our prominent men, that the measure is wrong both in principle and details, and that it cannot be justified on grounds of justice and reason. Aliens as the rulers are in this country, they naturally take serious responsibility upon themselves when they undertake to legislate for the people unasked; but the awfulness of their responsibility is increased a hundredfold when those, for whose benefit they move, object to their measures. Sir John Woodburn should never have persisted in having the Municipal Bill rushed through the Select Committee in the teeth of such universal opposition to the measure.

ELSEWHERE is published the representation of the Rishra people to the Magistrate of Hooghly, protesting against the slaughter of cows in their village, on the occasion of the Red Festival. Rishra is pre-eminently a Hindu village, the proportion of Hindus to Mussalmans being 7 to 1. From time immemorial, slaughter of kine had never been allowed to take place there, nay, it was never thought of. In 1896, however, some Mahomedans, who had no abiding and permanent interest in the locality, took it into their head to sow discord and dissension where peace and tranquility had previously existed by seeking to kill cows.

They applied to the local authorities for permission. Mr. E. Lister, the then Sub-divisional Officer of Serampore, rejected the prayer and passed the following order:—

Sec. 144 C. P. C.
Karim Baksh Miaw, Ishan Miaw, Abir Husien Miaw to Multan Miaw and all the Mahomedans living in or visiting Rishra.
Whereas it has been made to appear to me, that you intend to slaughter cows on the Bukt-Id in the village of Rishra or in neighbouring villages and whereas such sacrifice is likely to lead to a riot, I do hereby prohibit the slaughter of cows, and do strictly warn and enjoin you to take no share in such slaughter.

Sd. E. LISTER,
Joint Magistrate,
Serampore.
22-5-96.

So much was Mr. Lister impressed with the dangerous character of the Mussalman proposal that after having passed the order, he took special precautionary measures to prevent the Mahomedans from carrying out their intention. The firm and decisive attitude of Mr. Lister had the effect of keeping the Mahomedans quiet the next year. In 1898, they again moved in the matter and got the necessary sanction from the authorities. The result was a serious disturbance, when the military had to be called out to quell it. A number of people was arrested, *challaned*, tried, convicted and sent to jail. We hear the Mahomedans have again applied for permission to perform *Karbani* at Rishra this year, and this has led the Hindu inhabitants to submit the counter representation alluded to above. We understand that the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrate of Hooghly recently came to Rishra to make inquiries. They have not, however, passed any orders as yet. In deciding the matter the following points should be taken note of:—The slaughter of cows is not essential in *Karbani*; the sacrifice of any other animal, such as goat, sheep, etc., might serve the purpose equally well. But the slaughter of kine is a sight which every Hindu is bound to avoid by the distinct mandates of his *shastras*. According to the *shastras*, a Hindu deserves a place in hell even if he hears by chance the shrieks of the sacred animal in the process of slaughter. With regard to Rishra, it is a Hindu village, pure and simple. The killing of cows has never been allowed there, and though the Mussalmans got sanction last year, their attempt to perform *Karbani* by the sacrifice of cows ended in riot and bloodshed. With these facts before His Honor, we dare say, Sir John Woodburn will never encourage a practice which is fraught with so much danger to the cause of peace and good order.

THE general impression amongst the English opponents of the Sugar Act is that Government is anxious to introduce protection; and that not venturing to do this in England, it has begun the work in helpless India. Their impression is that the benefit of India is only a plea, the real object is to destroy Free-trade. But the fact is, it was this journal which first began the agitation; and Lord Curzon saw that to prove that he was sincere in his promise of encouraging native industries he was bound to protect an important industry like the sugar, which was being sought to be destroyed by unfair means. And thus the Bill was introduced and passed. The letter of our London correspondent will show that the question has almost convulsed England. This is called an irony of fate. When the Government of India does any real injury to the people of this country, it is then that Englishmen should come to our support. On such occasions, however, they are found nowhere. But now that their kind services are not wanted, they are good enough to thrust them upon us from all sides.

India quotes the following with approval:—

The Morning Leader of Wednesday last printed the following telegram (dated March 21) from its correspondent at Bombay:—

While Native opinion is still somewhat uncertain as to the Sugar Duty Act, among well-informed Indian circles, there is only one opinion. They are against it as being economically unsound, and they regard as extremely doubtful the suggestion that it will benefit N. W. industry.

Our worthy contemporary has been hoaxed by the importers of Beet-root sugar, that is all. The above represents their views, and not of the country. India ought to have waited before forming an opinion on the subject. The following letter has appeared in the Manchester Guardian:—

THE INDIAN SUGAR BILL.

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.
SIR,—I have read with attention and interest the article on the Indian Sugar Bill in your issue of this morning, as I always read everything relating to India contained in the "Manchester Guardian." And if I differ from you on this subject, I am sure you will permit me with the usual fairness, to state my opinion, which is the opinion generally held by my countrymen.

The error which underlies your contention is that this bill, which has been passed into law, will "make sugar dearer to poor people" in India. I believe it will have no such effect. The poor people consume raw sugar produced in India, with which the Continental bounty-fed sugar did not compete, and the price of which the import of the bounty-fed sugar did not in any way affect. The price of the raw sugar in India was determined by its cost of production and will remain so, unaffected by the present Legislative Act. For the millions of consumers in India the Continental sugar did no good, and the restriction on its import will do no harm. Refined sugar is consumed by a very limited and well-to-do class of people, and this class will possibly have to pay a higher price after the passing of this bill. This is, so far, a disadvantage. Against this is to be set the advantage of the protection to sugar industry and sugar cultivation secured by the bill. The disadvantage is insignificant;

the advantage is immense. Sugar cultivation is an important and profitable industry in many parts of India. The date tree is tapped, the cane is grown and pressed, and hundreds of thousands of cultivators derive incomes from the manufacture of raw sugar. Much of this raw sugar is consumed as such, or is used in confectionery; but a portion of it went to factories to be refined. To restrict factories by importing bounty-fed sugar is to restrict the cultivation of the sugar-cane, and thereby to lessen the income of the agricultural population. To help the factories by protecting them from unfair competition is to extend sugar cultivation and to improve the condition of the cultivators.

The comparison with the corn laws of England is misleading. The million in England can get cheaper bread by importing corn; the million in India did not get cheaper sugar by importing European bounty-fed sugar. The abolition of corn laws in England cheapened bread for the million; the absence of a countervailing duty did not bring cheaper sugar to the million in India. To impose corn laws would make bread dearer for the million in England; the passing of the Sugar Bill in India will not make Indian raw sugar dearer, for the million. What the passing of the Sugar Bill will do is (1) to make refined sugar consumed by the upper classes a little dearer, and (2) to help the sugar-growers and poor cultivators all over India by increasing the demand for raw sugars in the refining factories. I look forward to the increase of such factories now, and the consequent increase of sugar cultivation in India.

Interference with Free Trade is more or less mischievous. But the sinners in the present instance are the Governments which offer bounties to force their commodities on other nations, not the Government which imposes a countervailing duty to protect a native industry from ruin.—I am, &c.,

ROMESH DUTT, Late of the Indian Civil Service. March 21, 1899.

Luckily Babu Romesh Chunder Dutt is there to explain the real situation to the English public. His arguments are unassailable. We do not, however, agree with him that the sugar measure will make refined sugar dearer. For the imported beet-sugar is no real sugar at all; it is only half as sweet as our cane or date sugar is.

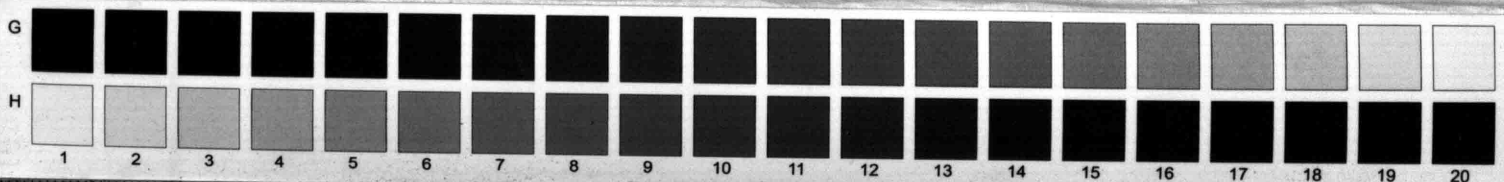
MR. MACLEAN has gone mad over the sugar question. He thus disposed of Lord Curzon:—

Lord Curzon has many admirable qualities; but they are those of Commons qualities. He forgets that rhetoric does not go far in the government of men. He over-estimates, for instance, the effect of his speech on India. He forgets that any Calcutta Baboo or Mahatma Bahinji could make a speech quite as good. The fact is that he has been spoilt. He reminds me of the young Eudymion, who tells his father, when asked what he is going to do, that he intends to be Prime Minister.

Lord Curzon is a Conservative leader, and Mr. Maclean is a prominent Conservative member. Lord Hamilton is not popular here. Free-trade is almost worshipped in England by a large class of the people. The present Government is very strong, for the Liberals have been weakened by disunion and other causes. Given the above premises, and our readers will understand what follows. The sugar question is seized as an opportunity one to overthrow, at least to undermine, the present Ministry. It has made Mr. Maclean a bitter enemy of Lord Curzon. Lord Hamilton, in dealing with the question, committed certain blunders and gave his opponents a hold upon him. A combination was thus easily formed, of Tories and Liberals, against the Ministry. The Indian Parliamentary Committee, representing India, formed an important factor in this combination. It was essential that the Indians should oppose the Sugar Bill and the Parliamentary Committee was sure that this opposition would come from Calcutta. The matter was placed in a very tempting shape before us. We were distinctly assured by some of our friends in England, not belonging to the Parliamentary Committee, that here was a glorious opportunity of undermining the rule of Lord George Hamilton. The bait was really a very tempting one, but yet what could we do? We knew that the sugar industry was a very important one in the country. We knew further that it was being run down day by day, and we knew Lord Curzon introduced the measure solely from a high sense of duty to India. We could not therefore oppose it, and we wrote to England to say that Lord Curzon was deserving thanks and not condemnation for the part he had taken in this measure. We are exceedingly thankful to learn that our articles and letters had a wholesome effect on our friends in England. Thus Messrs. Caine, Romesh Chandra Dutt and others, though out and out Free-traders, found that the sugar measure had been introduced for our benefit, and they therefore tried their best to impress that fact upon the minds of those, who were opposing it, in the belief that they were doing a service to India.

THE Pioneer's remarkable article "Sympathy with India," reproduced in these columns the other day, created intense surprise. What does that article mean? Does it mean a change of policy for the better in that intensely official organ? Or, is the article a mistake, surreptitiously inserted in the columns of that paper, without the knowledge of the Editor? But that is not the first article in that paper advocating liberal principles. Sometime before the appearance of that article in the Pioneer, it also wrote in the same strain, though in another form, from which we cull the following:—

We may safely say that there is no Englishman whose opinion is ever likely to count for anything in the settlement of these questions, who is not in favour of a policy of liberality and concession to the Natives of this country, and who does not hope to



see them, as time goes on, more and more intimately allied and associated with the Government.

It would appear from the above that the *Pioneer* has been following a liberal policy for some time past. We also quoted another para the other day, from the same paper, in which our contemporary condemned too much official control in the management of municipalities.

In our opinion, the gospel preached by the *Pioneer* is likely to secure the salvation of India. He preaches sympathy and good-feeling. He says that the less the people are interfered with in their local affairs, the better for all parties. The principles are good, and he should hammer them into the hearts of his constituents. But how is it that the *Pioneer* should forget its own teachings so soon? Referring to the *Kal* matter our contemporary talks of the inexpediency of prosecuting that paper. But why should the paper be prosecuted at all, if it is not guilty of any offence? The *Pioneer* assumes that it is guilty. Its ground for supposing the *Kal* guilty is, that the article has been condemned by the *Champion*, which is a Congress paper. Would he have jumped to the same conclusion if the *Kal* had been an Anglo-Indian paper? Of course, we do not say that it is not guilty; but, we cannot condemn it on *ex parte* testimony. This disposition to assume guilt, when the accused are Indians, is a vice which our contemporary should try to give up. And then the reason, given by him, why it is inexpedient to prosecute the *Kal*, shews a still deeper prejudice. He says that the prosecution would be inexpedient, for, once begun, no one knows where it would end! Here, it is assumed that it is not only the *Kal* that is guilty but there are many other Indian papers equally so! To be able to practise what he preaches, the *Pioneer* should first of all obliterate from his mind his prejudice against the Indians.

If Mr. Cotton has been able to promulgate such excellent plague rules in Assam it is because he knows the people thoroughly and are in sympathy with them. We wish every high official had mixed with the Indians in the way Mr. Cotton has done, for then, not only would the rulers have been able to govern this vast Empire with out friction, but they would have secured willing loyalty everywhere. Our thanks are primarily due to Sir John Woodburn, for it was he who first took away the sting from the plague regulations. Mr. Cotton has, however, improved upon the Bengal model. The Chief Commissioner of Assam is not against segregation. In his resolution, he says that persons infected with plague should be segregated, where necessary, but then he directs—

"That no person shall be removed to a public hospital without his consent; provided that suitable arrangements are made for the treatment of the case at home. If there is any ward, caste or family hospital, for admission to which he is eligible, and to which he is willing to go, he may be moved thither. If there is no such hospital available, an endeavour should be made to explain to the patient or his friends the advantages which he would obtain in a public hospital in respect of treatment, attendance, and surroundings. But if, notwithstanding this, he still prefers to be treated at his own home, arrangements must be made to adapt the latter to the purposes of a private isolation hospital. The other inmates, except such as are in attendance on the patient, should be induced to remove elsewhere. Medicines and medical attendance should be provided free of cost, and on the recovery of the patient (or after his death if the case should terminate fatally), the premises must be either thoroughly disinfected, or if necessary, demolished, compensation being paid to the owner. All clothing, or bedding which is likely to have become contaminated should also be at once disinfected or destroyed on payment of compensation."

What a contrast between the above and the Bombay method! If, in the beginning, plague rules were enforced in the way suggested by Mr. Cotton, what a world of misery might have been avoided! Humanity was actually checked when it came to be known that in Bombay and Poona, wives were being separated from husbands amidst agonizing shrieks; and that patients, who might have recovered, if allowed to remain quietly at home, were dying out of simple fright on being pounced upon by plague officials and dragged to public hospitals. The Bombay method proves conclusively the gentle and law-abiding character of the Indians; for, if enforced in any other country, it would have maddened the people and driven them to commit dreadful acts. The Bombay method has, however, done this good: it has opened the eyes of the rulers to the impolicy of governing this country with an iron rod.

The letter of Babu Lalit Mohan Ghosal, a local Commissioner, published in these columns the other day, shows that, while the rate-payers of the Cossipur-Chitpur Municipal area are deeply grateful to the Government for the boon of pipe-water in their houses on the payment of a 3-per-cent. water-rate, they consider it a great hardship, that they should be required to use a meter in every case. A meter will cost nearly Rs. 60, and as the vast majority of the rate-payers are poor, this provision will prevent many of them from availing of the boon. Of course, when any rate-payer is found to consume more water than he is entitled to, he may be compelled to attach a meter to the communicating pipe under the Act. But why introduce the meter system

all at once? The Commissioners in a body should appeal to the Government to remove this portion of the notification when it means so much hardship to the poor classes.

The sensational telegram published in our yesterday's issue, accusing the Eurasian District Engineer of Malda and some of his Mussalman servants of an outrage upon Hindu religion, comes from the accusers, and, therefore, the statements should be accepted with reservation. The trial will disclose the real bearings of the case. The Hindus have many vulnerable points; the non-Hindus have very few. Thus one can easily destroy the caste of a Hindu, but the Mussalmans and Christians having no caste rules, cannot be injured in that way by the Hindus. What a Mussalman has to do is to make a Hindu drink his water forcibly, and that Hindu becomes an out-caste at once,—his people will not accept him. But the Hindu cannot injure the Mussalman in that way. In the days of Mussalman rule, when the rulers and the ruled were at war, the Mussalmans increased their number by accepting Hindus who had been forced to forsake their caste. But no Mussalman was ever accepted by the Hindus. Thus a Mussalman may profess the Hindu faith, but the Hindus will not accept him. A Hindu, forcibly converted into Mahomedanism, may seek to return to his fold, but he will not be permitted! Such is the rigour with which the Hindus maintained the purity of their blood, and hence the expression, "a Hindu is born and not made." The Mussalmans had thus all the advantages of increasing their number at the cost of the Hindus, but strangely enough, the latter yet succeeded in maintaining their position. Jehangir says in his auto-biography that the proportion of Hindus to Mussalmans is as 5 to 1, and that is almost the proportion now, in the numerical strength of the two races.

A RELAXATION of the caste-rules has, however, become necessary. Castes are disappearing fast, both high and low. The Hindus cannot afford to lose any portion of the higher castes. Babus Ananda Mohun Bose and Kali Charan Banerjee should try to return to the Hindu fold. All these so-called Bramhoes and "native" Christians ought to be accepted by the Hindu society. Alas! with all the boasted charity of the followers of Christ the Indians, who have been led to join them, are yet "native." They are called "native" Christians by those who converted them to their faith by the allegation that the Christians had no caste. As salvation is not the exclusive property of the Christians or Bramhoes, they have no business to leave their own people, who are struggling, at what disadvantage Heaven alone knows, to regenerate their country.

SAYS CAPITAL.—There is quite a consensus of opinion that the limit of exemption from income-tax should be raised to Rs. 1,500, and the loss to the revenues by so doing would be slight, only about Rs. 50,00,000; yet the relief would be intense. We trust, therefore, that the Government will see its way to take this step at an early date.

Let it be borne in mind that this opinion comes from a disinterested party. The policy of repression was first introduced during the rule of Lord Mayo, under the Strachey brothers. This led to deep discontent. Lord Northbrook was, therefore, sent out to calm public feeling. His Lordship, a new man, was deceived by the misrepresentations of interested councillors into the belief that it was the income-tax which was at the bottom of the discontent. This imposition upon his Lordship became possible, because all the Anglo-Indian papers declared in one voice, that the tax in question was inquisitorial in its nature, and therefore unsuited to India. Unfortunately, the Indian papers not knowing their own interests followed in the wake of their Anglo-Indian brethren. It was only this journal that supported the tax, as the only tax which reached the rich and exempted the poor, the incidence of all others falling on the poor and scarcely reaching the rich. We then said that if incomes below Rs. 1,500 were not taxed, then a more equitable tax could not be devised. But our voice was drowned in the universal condemnation, and Lord Northbrook was led to abolish the tax altogether, under the notion that such a proceeding would really be agreeable to the public. The tax was subsequently re-imposed with a sting in its tail, that is to say, persons with incomes of Rs. 500 were brought within the operation of the tax. This is a grievous hardship, nay, something like a cruelty upon a large section of the poorer middle-class men. Lord Curzon had an excellent opportunity of introducing a real reform by raising the scale to Rs. 1,500. Here was an opportunity of remitting taxation without in any way endangering the finances of the Empire. The opportunity was excellent as there was a large surplus shown this year, and the remission would have cost the Government only half a crore. We are sorry Lord Curzon missed it. Cannot the political associations of the country combine to move in the matter? Cannot Lord Curzon reconsider his decision?

SOME peculiar interest attaches to the financial statement of the Bengal Government presented at the Council on Saturday last. The

Government of India out of their abundance, as the Hon'ble Mr. Baker observed, had made a special grant of seventeen lakhs to the Government of Bengal in partial restoration of the money spent from Provincial revenues on account of famine relief; and it was interesting to note how the Government disposed of the money which they thus obtained quite unexpectedly. With the ordinary estimated income the Government thought somehow of other to make two ends meet and this assistance of 17 lakhs coupled with an improvement at the eleventh hour under excise led the Government to be somewhat generous in its distribution of grants. Out of these 17 lakhs the Government kept three lakhs to add to the closing balance raising it to a little over 19 lakhs; refund to local bodies the contributions of two lakhs levied from them on account of the plague observation camps at Chausa and elsewhere; make a grant to Calcutta up to a maximum of two and-a-half lakhs on account of plague charges incurred last year; provide a sum of Rs. 1,10,000 for grants-in-aid on account of plague to local bodies in the mofussil; and lastly, reserve a sum of two lakhs to meet Provincial expenditure on account of plague. These various allotments absorb Rs. 10,60,000 out of the 17 lakhs placed at the disposal of Government. Out of the remainder, four and-a-half lakhs will be given to the Public Works Department for new roads and buildings; Rs. 90,000 for surveys and settlements; Rs. 50,000 under education raising the grants-in-aid to Rs. 6,60,000, and Rs. 50,000 to District Boards as one-third of the actual cost of collecting the cesses. Under this distribution the Corporation of Calcutta will receive about three lakhs and forty thousands and Government hope that by this means "it will be rendered unnecessary for the Corporation to raise the Municipal rates for the present."

IN India if the students of our schools and colleges display boyish pranks, they are often hauled up as criminals and punished severely. In Russia, where, it is said, people have no freedom and the students are a dangerous element, they quarrel with the authorities and then bring them down on their knees. Thousands of students have struck in Russia, because the police, it is said, horsewhipped them for their boisterous conduct in the streets of St. Petersburg. The Police version is that on February 20th, the annual Fete day of the St. Petersburg University the students hooted the Rector of the University during his lecture; and when they found the Police under the personal direction of General Kheighels, they began insulting them, and afterwards attacked them with brooms wrested from the tramway men and street sweepers. The mounted police intervened, and as the students were defiant and would not move quietly, made use of their riding whips. Several of the rioters were slightly injured either by the whips or by the hoofs of horses as they were being driven back to the University Court. The students assert that the presence of the Police in force under the orders of the Prefect, is, in their eyes, sufficient evidence that the whole affair was planned beforehand and that, instead of being aggressors, they used the brooms in self-defence. The students now demand ample reparation. So general is the movement that it includes not only the University students of St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kieff and Charkoff but also the students of the Technological Institute of Military and Medicine, the Academy of Mining, the Forestry Colleges, the Naval Electric Institute in Cronstadt, the Theological Institutes and even the High School for girls. Students' balls arranged for weeks ago are being countermanded; invitations to charity balls and other public entertainments are returned; and the students declare they will persist in this attitude until full satisfaction has been given to their wounded pride. It is said that the Czar and his advisers regard the strike as a great inconvenience, and that His Majesty has ordered or is about to order, the removal of General Kheighels, the Police Prefect, to Kazan, as Governor, which would be tantamount to his banishment. Of course, all this will be read with incredulity in this country, where the officials are never punished for their blunders or indiscretions.

Plague News.

RISE IN CALCUTTA RETURNS—31 ATTACKS AND 30 DEATHS.

On Tuesday last there was a further rise in plague figures—31 attacks and 30 deaths distributed as follows over the different Wards—4 and 2 in No. 1; 1 in No. 2; 1 in No. 3; 2 and 1 in No. 4; 7 and 6 in No. 5; 2 and 1 in No. 6; 2 and 4 in No. 7; 3 and 4 in No. 8; 1 death in No. 9; 1 in No. 11; 2 and 2 in No. 13; 1 attack in No. 14; 1 death in No. 15; 1 and 1 in No. 19; 3 and 3 in No. 22; 1 attack, address unknown. Of suspected cases there were 30 with an equal number of deaths, viz., 3 and 3 in No. 1; 1 in No. 4; 2 and 2 in No. 5; 1 and 1 in No. 6; 2 and 2 in No. 7; 5 and 5 in No. 8; 4 and 4 in No. 9; 1 and 1 in No. 10; 2 and 2 in No. 13; 2 and 2 in No. 14; 1 and 1 in No. 15; 3 and 3 in No. 19; 1 and 1 in No. 20; 1 and 1 in No. 22; 1 and 1 in No. 25. The total mortality from all causes amounted to 96 as against 75; the average of the last five years.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

TUESDAY'S plague returns give 113 cases and 76 deaths, with a total mortality of 224, as against last year's 60 cases and 70 deaths and a total of 171.

APPEARANCE IN NASSICK.

NASSICK City has become badly affected with plague. Great anxiety is felt.

IN THE PUNJAB.

PLAGUE has reappeared in the Hoshiarpore District, carried thither by three persons from the Jullunder District. It is so far confined to one village in Hoshiarpore, but the disease is distinctly spreading from its centre in Jullunder in spite of the increasing heat which was naturally expected to check it.

THE Parsi community of Karachi invited the elite of the station to meet Mr. Edalji Dinshah on the night of the 10th instant at the Parsi Institute in honor of his having had the title of C.I.E. conferred on him, the Hon'ble James Gles, acting Commissioner in Sindh, Mr. Jacob, the District Judge, leading merchants and others being present. A congratulatory address enclosed in a handsome silver casket was presented to Mr. Edalji Dinshah by the Hon. Mr. Ames at the request of the Parsi community.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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BY

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BY

W. S. Caine

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—London Review.

To be had at the Patrika Office.

FOREIGN OFFICE.—It is proposed to erect a new building for the Calcutta Foreign Office, close to Government House.

EARTHQUAKE.—At about 4-30 A.M. on the 5th instant, a sharp shock of earthquake was felt at Dacca—direction about South-east to North-west. Several minor vibrations followed.

A RAILWAY SCHEME.—The construction of the Railway from Bettia to Bagaha in Champaran is again under contemplation. Mr. Izat, Agent and Chief Engineer of the B. N. W. R. way, was at Bettia the other day in connection with this scheme.

BHAGULPUR-BAUDIHANATH BRANCH RAILWAY.—It has been proposed to name this Section of the East Indian Railway as the "Sonthal Railway." It is more than probable that the District Board of Bhagulpur will come forward to help in the construction of the line in consideration of the most important issues involved being identified with its own interests.

—Indian Engineering.

PLAGUE ON THE WANE.—From a comparison of the plague figures during the last three days it is evident that instead of spreading it is being got in hand. On the 7th instant, there were 23 attacks and 17 deaths, on the 8th, 18 cases and 21 deaths, and on the 9th, only 7 cases and 11 deaths. Suspected cases, at the same time, are on the wane—22 attacks and 21 deaths on the 7th and the 8th, and 14 attacks and 14 deaths on the 9th. This is reassuring.

AFTER A TIGER.—Mr. T. Hussein writes from Karatya, in the Myensing District:—"On the 29th March, at about 2 P.M., we received information to the effect that a Royal tiger, which had accidentally appeared in village Karatya-Para, had begun to disturb the peace of the poor villagers. In the course of two short days the brute had wounded 8 or 9 men, one of whom died shortly after the attack. The animal proved to be a terror to the neighbouring villagers. As our elephants were engaged elsewhere in the mofussil, I and my cousin, Mouli Wajid Ali Khan Panu, with about one hundred attendants, hastened to the spot at 4 P.M. On the outskirts of the village we learnt that the brute lay in a neighbouring jungle. I and my cousin mounted upon the thatched roof of a house contiguous to the jungle, and therefrom faintly observed the brute. My cousin fired upon the animal and wounded him in the right foot, but it did not cripple him sufficiently. The tiger sprang into another jungle, and we followed him thither too. Not getting a view of the tiger, we began to send bullet after bullet into the jungle, whereupon the brute, in a great fury, got out and wounded some half a dozen men and then again retired into the jungle. As it was growing dark after sunset, we did not linger on the spot any more and got home at about 8 P.M."

SIR EDWIN COLLEN reached Simla on the 10th instant.

THE Legislative season promises to be a light one, as no less than four Bills were passed in two and-a-half months in Calcutta. The Mines Bill, as stated by Mr. Rivaz, will not come up till next cold weather, and the Select Committee have advised the Bankruptcy Bill to be dropped. The Cantonment House Accommodation Bill is perhaps the most important matter at present pending. At present it seems unlikely the Legislative Council will meet for at least two months.

PRIVATE well-borers have been successful in getting good water in other places than Rangoon. Messrs. Lyne and Simpson have succeeded at three stations on the Prom line in getting good water by boring for the Burma Railways. They are now engaged on boring at Insein, and have come on good potable water at a depth of 160 feet, but not having reached a spring are going deeper. One of the secrets of successful well-boring seems to be continuous and unremitting work day by day until water is reached. Where the work slackens for any reason, for even 24 hours, well-boring often fails to get a supply. All the successful wells, which have been bored in Rangoon, were worked at daily and continuously until water was reached.

India and England.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, APRIL 24.

THE WELBY COMMISSION.

THE Easter holidays are upon us but the members of the Indian Expenditure Commission are still without any communication from Lord Welby. This matter has now become a public scandal. It has been rumored that Sir Henry Fowler would not complete the report of the Currency Committee until the Expenditure Commission had reported. There is no doubt that Sir Henry Fowler is much dissatisfied with Lord Welby's delay and feels seriously hampered in the preparation of his own report. He tells me, however, that he will go on with it regardless of Lord Welby's Commission, and the report may be expected in May or at the latest early in June. I understand that if Lord Welby's draft report is not in the hands of the members of the Commission very soon after the Easter holidays some of the members intend calling the Commission together on their own responsibility, and urging Lord Welby to resign the Chairmanship to Mr. Leonard Courtney M. P. or some other of its neutral and non-official members. As I mentioned in my last letter, Lord Welby has not improved the situation by taking the onerous post of Chairman of the London County Council, the duties of which must, and ought, inevitably absorb his whole time and attention.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

The Sugar Duties Bill, which has now become an Act is the political sensation of the moment, and has been made so by Lord George Hamilton's own stupidity. As I explained in my last letter he has, in every action he has taken with regard to this matter, played into the hands of the gang of irreconcilable Protectionists, who are led by Sir Howard Vincent, and whose following in the country, though not numerous, is extremely noisy. Lord George's answers to questions have suggested that the Indian Bill was a mere cloak for legislation in the same direction in this country. The consequence is that there is not a newspaper in the United Kingdom that has not had a leading article on this extremely innocent measure, magnifying it into a departure on the part of the Government from Cobdenite principles, and warning the country that it was a good deal more than the thin end of the wedge for the protection at any rate of the sugar refiner and wheat grower.

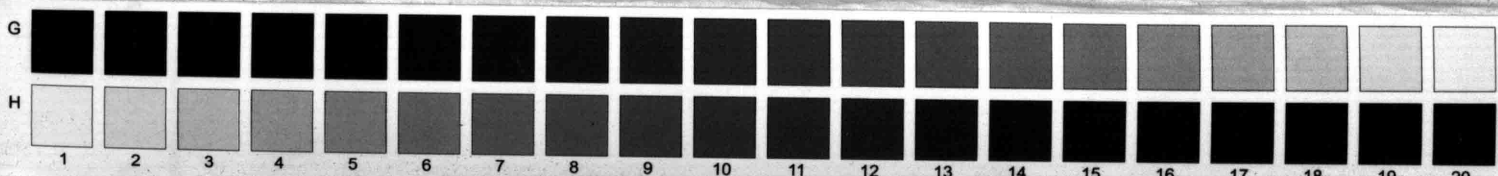
On Thursday the "Times" published a long telegram from its Calcutta correspondent giving the substance of the Viceroy's speech before the Council, in which, in a significant sentence he makes it quite clear that there is nothing behind the Bill for imposing countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar imported into India, and that British Free traders may possess their souls in peace. He says:—

Moreover, if the utilitarian ass upon which the doctrines of free trade are supposed in the last instance to rest—namely, that they regard the interests of the greater 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 the sugar industry, with a population the vast majority of which are not consumers of the raw material, and 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 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 this population.

I must be excused for requesting to you what your readers have perused a fortnight before this letter reaches you, but if this Cabled summary accurately represents what Lord Curzon said, and it is entirely in accord with the shrewd commonsense which always characterises him, he is to be commended for his statesmanlike utterance upon a difficult and intricate subject. If Lord George Hamilton has only spoken as frankly in his reply to any one of the volley of questions which have been levelled at him, he would have saved the ferment which he has stirred up. Had he, in replying to the first question put to him on this subject, made a brief speech of three minutes stating that the measure was simply dictated by fiscal and agricultural exigencies in India alone, and that the Government had not the smallest intention of proposing similar legislation for this country, the thing would have fizzled but like a damp squib. Instead of this, he fenced with the question, got upon his high horse, and when Mr. Maclean intimated that he would move the adjournment of the House with a view of getting some definite information, he committed the fatal blunder of encouraging Sir Howard Vincent to put down a notice of motion welcoming what had been done in India, and recommending its adoption in this country. He could not have indicated more plainly that it was the intention of the Government to do as Sir Howard Vincent suggested.

There will be no chance of any debate upon this subject coming on before the Easter holidays, and during the Easter holidays I have no doubt that Lord Salisbury and Mr. Arthur Balfour will throw Lord George Hamilton over in some speech and make it abundantly clear that the Government have no sinister designs upon the Free trade policy of this country. Every successive action taken by Lord George Hamilton in Parliament convinces me more and more of his utter unsuitability for the important post into which his family influence has pushed him, and makes me long for the day when he will receive the solatium of a Colonial Governorship.

Some additional colour has been lent to the impression of sinister design by Sir James Westland having defended the measure on the ground of the strong claims which Mauritius had to protection. If Sir James Westland had had any experience of British public opinion he would not have made such an injudicious reference, and I do not suppose that an argument based upon the necessity of protection to Mauritius would have any weight whatever with the Legislative Council. There is no doubt that the political



principle which is held more tenaciously than any other by the great bulk of the British electorate is the doctrine of absolute Free trade for the United Kingdom; and half-a-dozen words making it clear that India cannot be judged by the same economical standards as the United Kingdom, combined with a cordial assurance that there was no sinister design behind the Indian proposal, would have saved the Government a good deal of discredit and Lord George Hamilton a certain humiliation.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

I THINK I may be well pleased to record of the interpellations which have taken place in Parliament on this subject rather than leave you to pick them out for yourself; and here follow the various questions which have been put in the House since I wrote my last letter:

Mr. McKenna: I wish to ask the Secretary for India whether the proposal of the Indian Government to impose countervailing import duties on bounty-fed sugar is made with a view to stimulating the Indian sugar refining industry; and whether the bulk of coarse unrefined sugar now exported from India is refined in England.

Lord G. Hamilton: The hon. gentleman asks me what is the object of the Indian Government in imposing countervailing duties in India on bounty-fed sugar. The object is to prevent a vast and indigenous trade in India, based on free enterprise and industry, from being undermined by the subsidised products of foreign countries. The average yearly export of unrefined sugar from India for the past three years was 45,000 tons a year, of which about three-fourths are consigned to the United Kingdom. I understand that this Indian sugar is used here by refiners, breweries, and for fattening cattle.

In answer to Sir H. Fowler and Mr. Courtney, Lord George went on to say: All Bills, after they have passed through the Legislative Council and have received the assent of the Viceroy, become operative. They are then sent home to the Secretary of State, who can disallow them upon the recommendation of the Crown but it is not necessary for him to express approval of them. It has been the practice in the past to adopt that course, but if it be the wish of the right hon. gentlemen and gentlemen who take an interest in this matter that I should formally abstain from publicly expressing approval until a discussion in this House takes place, I am quite ready to assent to that suggestion. I will take care that the papers, correspondence, and debates on the subject shall be laid on the table. The Bill comes into operation on Monday.

Mr. Maclean, who was received with Opposition cheers, asked the Secretary for India a question of which he had seen the following statement made on Thursday by the Under Secretary for the Colonies, with regard to countervailing duties on West Indian sugar: "The hon. Member asked the noble lord whether in the face of this declaration that the Colonial Office would bow to public opinion, he intended to persevere with the Indian Bill. (Opposition cheers.)"

Lord G. Hamilton: My hon. friend will observe that Lord Selborne's observations applied solely to the imposition of countervailing sugar duties in this country, but he did not say, as the question implies, that public opinion was against the imposition of countervailing duties in this country. All he said was that public opinion as a whole was not yet on that side. (Ministerial cheers and Opposition laughter.) In India, as my hon. friend is aware, the conditions surrounding the sugar trade are the reverse of those (Mr. Maclean: "No, no") existing in this country. (Ministerial cheers.) I am happy to be able to inform my hon. friend that, in India, where countervailing duties are about to be imposed, public opinion is, I believe, unanimously in their favour.

Mr. Maclean: I wish to ask the noble lord if he really assumes that India is governed without any regard to public opinion in this country. (Opposition cheers.)

The Speaker: Order, order. The hon. Member is trying to raise a debate.

Mr. Maclean: It is so difficult to raise a debate in this House. (Loud Opposition cheers.)

Mr. Bryan Roberts: Is there any difference except that consumers are not represented in India and are represented here? (Opposition cheers.)

The Speaker: Order, order.

Sir W. Lawson asked how the noble lord arrived at the public opinion of India. (Opposition cheers and laughter.)

Lord G. Hamilton: Through the usually recognised channels of public opinion. (Ministerial cheers, Opposition laughter, and an Hon. Member: "He Press.")

SUGAR DUTIES.

Mr. McKenna (Monmouth.) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he intends to introduce legislation for the purpose of imposing countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar in order to carry out the same policy in Great Britain and Ireland as has been declared to be that of the Government with regard to India—namely, to prevent a vast indigenous trade in Britain, based on enterprise and industry, from being undermined by the subsidised products of foreign countries.

Mr. Balfour: Without discussing the question of countervailing duties in this country, I must point out to the hon. gentleman that my noble friend the Secretary of State for India in his answer referred to the fact that there was in India a great indigenous production of sugar, which under ordinary and natural conditions of trade might largely increase. As the hon. gentleman knows, there is no indigenous production of sugar in this country.

These questions indicate the intense interest which a portion of the House is taking in this new Sugar Duty legislation. Sir Wilfrid Lawson was not quite as ready as usual in his retort when he asked the noble lord how he arrived at the public opinion of India, and was told—"through the usual recognised channels of public opinion." I would have been very interested indeed if he had pressed Lord George Hamilton as to how he arrives and what he considers the "recognised channels." I am afraid that they would turn out to be the *Englishman*, the *Pioneer*, and the *Times* of India. I don't know whether he would recognise any other channels than these.

As far as I can judge from the *Times* correspondent's telegram, the Indian members of the Legislative Council were unanimously in favour of the imposition of the duties. In that case Lord George Hamilton was probably justified in his statement that public opinion is unanimous in their favour. So far as I am personally concerned—ardent and uncompromising Free trader that I am, the whole circumstances of India and the diametrically different methods of Government make it quite impossible to arrange her fiscal system on the same lines of political economy as prevail here. As soon as this is made known to the public here as I have no doubt it will be, the excitement will die away, there may be a formal debate in the House of Commons on the question as to whether or no protection ought to be employed in India on which there will be no division and the matter will probably drop.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

ALLEGED SACRILEGE AT A HINDU TEMPLE.

GREAT AND FEVERISH EXCITEMENT.

MALDAH, APRIL 10.

PROFOUND excitement prevails here on account of a grave sacrilege at a Kali's temple here, committed by the Mahomedan servants of the Eurasian District Engineer. They killed fowl before the temple and sprinkled the blood on the verandah of the temple of Siva and Kali under orders of the District Engineer. The Sevati of the temple complained to the Magistrate, who ordered a police enquiry. The Inspector of Police after examining witnesses, arrested the accused and submitted "A" form, which was put up to-day. Deputy Magistrate Moulvie Abbas Samad declined making over this case, although distributed other cases. This has taken the people by surprise. The feelings of the Hindu community have been greatly wounded.

THE MAHARAJA OF DURGANGA AT GAUHATI.

GAUHATI, APRIL 10.

A crowded and influentially attended meeting took place in the school premises yesterday at 5 p.m. to present an address of welcome to His Highness the Maharaja of Durganga. After according a most hearty welcome to the Maharaja for the interest he has evinced in the welfare of the people, a reference was made generally to some of the crying wants of the province. The Maharaja after thanking the gentlemen for the very flattering terms in which they had addressed him, stated that it was a great pleasure to him to visit Assam, and he hoped that this would by no means be his last visit. He said that he esteemed it a privilege to be associated in so good a work as the restoration of the temple of Bhubaneswari which had been damaged by the earthquake, and added that its welfare was a matter of concern and pride to every good Hindu, and that he was not conscious of having done anything beyond what was imposed upon him by his religion. He also thanked the gentlemen for the kind way in which they had alluded to his accession to the Gudee of the Durgbanga Raj, and the very sympathetic manner in which they had noticed the services to the country and to the Queen rendered by his late lamented brother and that he would esteem it a privilege to follow in his foot-steps. He assured the audience that as a member of His Excellency the Viceroy's Council he would be glad to help the people in any way that lay in his power, that for old associations' sake he was deeply interested in Assam and it would afford him much pleasure to further any scheme that would promote her progress and development and that he did his best to bring the urgent needs of the province before His Excellency the Viceroy at the last Budget meeting. He referred to Mr. Cotton's Colonisation scheme for Assam, and said that with it his name would be indelibly associated. Shortly after assuming charge of the province, Mr. Cotton first called attention to the enormous capabilities of the Assam Valley and the large tracts of cultivable lands that remained unproductive and unclaimed. The scheme he submitted to the Government of India, was feasible and practicable but unhappily the modifications introduced by the Government were in the opinion of the mercantile community and businessmen of Calcutta likely to operate most detrimentally to the success of the scheme. He was, however, glad to add the Hon'ble member in charge of the Home Department seemed fully alive to the importance of the questions and that he had reason, to believe that the new Viceroy, who took so keen an interest in everything that tended to the welfare of India, would give the subject the attention it deserved. He congratulated the province on having such a Chief Commissioner as Mr. Cotton. In his hands the welfare of the province was assured, and if the results of his administration were not visible in his day they would endure to after time as a monument to his statesmanship and zeal for the true interests of the people.

Lord Farrer said that bimetalism as a solution of the question was impracticable, and the re-opening of the Mints would be injurious to trade and ruinous to the finances. He advocated a gold standard with an automatic currency based on gold and having a fixed gold value. The only sound foundation of a gold standard is convertibility. He also thought it desirable to obtain the support of the Imperial Government to establish a gold standard.

Mr. Leonard Courtney recommended the Government to confine itself for the present to opening the Mints to the coinage of gold and in the meanwhile to accumulate gold. The Government, he thought, should not undertake to convert rupees into gold.

AN ISLAND IN THE AIR.

THREE miles south of the Mesa Encantada is the most splendid specimen of fantastic erosion in this continent. An "island" in the air; a rock, with overhanging sides nearly 400 feet high, seventy acres in area on the fairly level top, indented with countless great bays, notched with dizzy chasms, flanked by vast buttresses so sheer Assyrian in their chance carving by the rain that one could believe the builders of Nineveh had learned their trade here, so labyrinthine in its perimeter that no man would find the last word of it, and I who may safely claim to know it better than any other white, do not feel that I half know it—it is a rock wonderland worth crossing the world to world to study, even if it had no other attributes.

But it has. On its top stands a town which in artistic charm, ethnologic interest, and romantic history together, has no peer.

The Pueblo of Acoma is three vast parallel terraced blocks, each block nearly a thousand feet long, and looking for all the world, from a little distance, as if carved from the bedrock. It is one of the most perfect types still remaining of the prehistoric Pueblo architecture; three stories high, with the blank black walls of the old defensive scheme—and even in front modern security and the nudgings of convenience have caused the breaking of but few first stories with doors and windows. Most of the houses remain of the type invented when every house must be a fort, as well as every town a Gibraltar. One climbed a dozen feet to his first roof, and pulled the ladder up at night; lived in the second and third stories, and used the ground floor as a cellar, reached only by a trap-door in a room of the second story. Against enemies armed only with bows and arrows, this sort of architecture was a very fair defence. And it is eloquent of the danger that walked in darkness and the destruction that wasted at noonday, in those old times, to see—in all the length and breadth of the hundreds of thousands of square miles over which the Pueblos ranged in different ages—how comfort had to be sacrificed for safety. Nothing but the eagle ever sought such inaccessible eyries as these victims of their own civilization. Because they were farmers instead of freebooters, because they had homes instead of being vagrants, they were easy to find; and they were the prey of a hundred nomad tribes. It was only by their wonderful system of fortified town sites and homes that they held their own. To this day Acoma goes half-a-mile for water and anywhere from two to fifteen miles to the cornfield. That of the prehistoric times in New Mexico was the most precarious farming in human history; and only the patience that is always a part of the patriarchal organization, supplemented by the greater patience that is learned by those for centuries beleaguered, could have held to their little corn and squash patches these first American farmers. It was the stone hoe in the right hand, the bow and arrow in the left; and in the long run the scratch like furrows drank a richer and redder irrigation than came from the little acequias. Sometimes it was the painted Apache who fell in his raid; and

LONDON, APRIL 10.

In the House of Commons to-day Mr. Brodrick, in the course of a debate on East African affairs, said the Government was unable to undertake to subsidise the new British line of steamers. The progress of East Africa under Sir A. Hardinge had been most satisfactory, and he thought that the policy of the protectorates had been fully vindicated and the country would soon realise its advantages. The Government added Mr. Brodrick will confine themselves to the administration of the territory already acquired, and it was not proposed to have any other expedition beyond Major Martyn's, which had practically accomplished its object in joining General Kitchener's advanced posts.

LONDON, APRIL 10.

The American troops in the Philippines have captured Santa Cruz with trifling loss, taking many prisoners and large quantities of stores.

LONDON, APRIL 10.

The second volume of evidence taken before the Currency Committee has been published. Lord Northbrook deprecated the re-opening of the Mints, which would increase the taxation and be unwise and dangerous, and urged that sovereigns be made legal tender in India with free mintage of gold. He also advocated an Imperial grant for the purpose of making a gold standard effective.

Messrs. Chatham and Graham, merchants, advocated the re-opening of the Mints, which would ultimately steady exchange. In their opinion a gold standard was desirable, but was impracticable.

Messrs. David, Cruickshanks and Rustomjee described the disadvantages which had arisen through closing the Mints and favoured a gold standard at fourteen pence.

Sir Robert Giffen condemned the closing of the Mints, and mentioned incidentally the deficit resulting therefrom which by their re-opening would probably be reduced by three to four millions annually, if India was treated fairly as regards Home Charges. The gold standard was unsuitable for India because the currency would always be chiefly silver.

Convertibility would remove many objections to the Government scheme, but the re-opening of the Mints was the least disadvantageous of the courses open.

Sir Alexander Mackenzie declared that the re-opening of the Mints would necessitate a considerable increase of taxation, involving the risk of disturbances.

Mr. Romesh Chandra Dutt criticised the currency policy of the Government, and favoured letting the rupee sink to bullion value. In his opinion the people of India did not desire the gold standard.

Sir John Lubbock said the gold standard was impossible without a gold currency which was not suitable to India. He favoured maintaining the value of the rupee by the imposition of a heavier import duty on silver. With this and seigniorage it might be possible to re-open the Mints.

Mr. Barclay, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, said the proposals to the Government by Mr. Lindsay aimed at upholding exchange and ignored the interests of the people. He urged the re-opening of the Mints with concurrent mintage by America at the rate of forty-two pence per ounce.

Lord Farrer said that bimetalism as a solution of the question was impracticable, and the re-opening of the Mints would be injurious to trade and ruinous to the finances. He advocated a gold standard with an automatic currency based on gold and having a fixed gold value. The only sound foundation of a gold standard is convertibility. He also thought it desirable to obtain the support of the Imperial Government to establish a gold standard.

Mr. Leonard Courtney recommended the Government to confine itself for the present to opening the Mints to the coinage of gold and in the meanwhile to accumulate gold. The Government, he thought, should not undertake to convert rupees into gold.

AN ISLAND IN THE AIR.

THREE miles south of the Mesa Encantada is the most splendid specimen of fantastic erosion in this continent. An "island" in the air; a rock, with overhanging sides nearly 400 feet high, seventy acres in area on the fairly level top, indented with countless great bays, notched with dizzy chasms, flanked by vast buttresses so sheer Assyrian in their chance carving by the rain that one could believe the builders of Nineveh had learned their trade here, so labyrinthine in its perimeter that no man would find the last word of it, and I who may safely claim to know it better than any other white, do not feel that I half know it—it is a rock wonderland worth crossing the world to world to study, even if it had no other attributes.

But it has. On its top stands a town which in artistic charm, ethnologic interest, and romantic history together, has no peer.

The Pueblo of Acoma is three vast parallel terraced blocks, each block nearly a thousand feet long, and looking for all the world, from a little distance, as if carved from the bedrock. It is one of the most perfect types still remaining of the prehistoric Pueblo architecture; three stories high, with the blank black walls of the old defensive scheme—and even in front modern security and the nudgings of convenience have caused the breaking of but few first stories with doors and windows. Most of the houses remain of the type invented when every house must be a fort, as well as every town a Gibraltar. One climbed a dozen feet to his first roof, and pulled the ladder up at night; lived in the second and third stories, and used the ground floor as a cellar, reached only by a trap-door in a room of the second story. Against enemies armed only with bows and arrows, this sort of architecture was a very fair defence. And it is eloquent of the danger that walked in darkness and the destruction that wasted at noonday, in those old times, to see—in all the length and breadth of the hundreds of thousands of square miles over which the Pueblos ranged in different ages—how comfort had to be sacrificed for safety. Nothing but the eagle ever sought such inaccessible eyries as these victims of their own civilization. Because they were farmers instead of freebooters, because they had homes instead of being vagrants, they were easy to find; and they were the prey of a hundred nomad tribes. It was only by their wonderful system of fortified town sites and homes that they held their own. To this day Acoma goes half-a-mile for water and anywhere from two to fifteen miles to the cornfield. That of the prehistoric times in New Mexico was the most precarious farming in human history; and only the patience that is always a part of the patriarchal organization, supplemented by the greater patience that is learned by those for centuries beleaguered, could have held to their little corn and squash patches these first American farmers. It was the stone hoe in the right hand, the bow and arrow in the left; and in the long run the scratch like furrows drank a richer and redder irrigation than came from the little acequias. Sometimes it was the painted Apache who fell in his raid; and

LONDON, APRIL 10.

Reuter's Agency understands that the negotiations between Russia and England have been extended to other questions besides those relating to China with a view to the adjustment of present or contingent difficulties between the two countries.

LONDON, APRIL 8.

Advices from Apla state that Malietoa Tanu was crowned King of Samoa on the 23rd of March in the presence of the British and American representatives. The Germans held aloof from the ceremony.

LONDON, APRIL 9.

The French and Russian Guards have left Pekin.

LONDON, APRIL 9.

General Lawton is advancing up the river Pasig with gunboats and 1,500 men, his object being the capture of Santa Cruz, which is held by the Filipinos.

sometimes the Pueblo farmer who came to fertilize his own field, while his toptop (and thereby his virtues) went to enrich the pirates of the plains.

In front of, and some hundreds of yards apart from the house of Acoma, stands the huge old church, a miracle at once of faith and labour. It is not the original temple of the new God here—founded by Fray Juan Ramirez, the Apostle of the Acomas, in 1620. That stood a little nearer the town, and was destroyed in the terrible Pueblo Rebellion of 1680, when the gentle missionary, Fray Lucas Maldonado, was butchered by his flock. The present structure dates from about 1700. Every grain of its enormous bulk was brought up the precipice from the plain; its forty-foot timbers, fourteen inches square, came twenty miles from Mt. San Mateo by man-power its graveyard—a stone-walled box 200 feet square and forty-five feet deep at the outer edge—is filled with earth brought up the same wild trails on patient backs. And for that matter the infinite tons of earth and stone which compose the houses of 600, people came by the same way.

When one knows the approaches to Acoma, the inconceivable labour which built the skyward town begins to be guessed at. During the present generation a trail has been built, up which horses come; but that did not count in the construction of Acoma. Before it, the several trails which crept up by toe-holes in various clefs of erosion were not just the thing for the average tourist. Only two American women have ever traversed any of the serious trails up that cliff; and of the very easiest of them all—the famous "Camino del Padre," by which Fray Ramirez made his ascent in the face of a hail of arrows—I have had almost to carry educated American men. The most picturesque of these stone ladders is the one just southeast of the church, and one other which has long been deserted after many fatalities; and since erosion has smoothed off many of the tiny "steps" no human being has traversed its whole dizzy course in many years.

The shape of the Mesa is that of a pair of eye glasses. The southern oval is unoccupied, but is much visited—since here is the chief water-supply, a beautifully picturesque rainwater reservoir in the living rock. And on this same cliff, but never seen by half-a-dozen white men, is a perfect cliff-dwelling which faces the rising sun.

At about the neck, which joins the two Mesas—the bow of the eyeglasses—is the spot where Vicente de Zaldívar, with less than seventy men, stormed Acoma, and where the soldier-poet Gaspar de Villagran made his heroic leap on the 22nd of January, 1599. It was the most wonderful assault in the history of North America. The Indians had treacherously massacred Zaldívar's brother Juan and his companions, and their punishment was as just as it was terrible. Three days of hand-to-hand fighting followed the assault; and at the end, though every surviving Spaniard was wounded, Acoma was taken for nearly a century.

The age of the present town is not known—except that it was already old in 1540. There is no possible doubt that this is the Acoma of Coronado and Onate.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. F. J. JEFFRIES, Offg Jt. Magte and Dy Collr, Gaya, is appointed to have charge of the Sitamarhi sub-div.

Mr. Tahir-Uddin Ahmed, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Monghyr, under orders of transfer to Backergunge, is allowed leave for three months.

Maulvi Mohamed Azhar, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Narakona, is transferred to Noakhali. Maulvi Abdul Huq, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Hooghly, being appointed in his place.

Babu Nityananda Ghose, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to Balasore.

Babu Tara Prasanna Acharya, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Shish Chandra Mozumdar, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the headquarters station of the District of Backergunge.

Mr. F. G. Wigley (Barrister-at-Law), Asst Secy to the Govt of Bengal in the Legislative Dept, is confirmed in that appointment.

Mr. H. B. St. Leger, Dist Supdt of Police, on special duty, is appointed to act as Dist Supdt of Police, Gaya.

Mr. J. Mann, Prof Presidency College, is allowed furlough up to the 23rd April 1900.

Babu Bipradas Chatterjee, Sub-Judge of Murshidabad, is allowed furlough for five months.

Babu Debendra Lal Shome, Sub-Judge of Rajshahi, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Nagendra Nath Ghose, B. L., is appointed to act as Munsif of Contai.

Babu Mohor Lal Deb, B. L., is appointed to act as Munsif of Contai.

Maulvi Amir Ali, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Katihar.

Mr. Abdul Hassan, Fourth Judge of the Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is allowed leave for two months and fifteen days.

Mr. C. D. Panigty, Offg Fifth Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is appointed to act as Fourth Judge of that Court.

Babu Bejoy Keshub Mitter, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Chittagong.

Babu Autosh Banerji (No. II), Munsif of Brahmanbaria, is allowed leave for twenty-four days.

Babu Uma Charan Kar, Munsif of Barabazar, now stationed at Purulia, is allowed leave for two months, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Pulin Vihari Basu, Munsif of Bangaon, is allowed leave for one month, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Gobind Gopal Gupta, Munsif of Pirojpur, is allowed leave for one week, in extension of the leave granted to him.

Babu Jugal Kisor De, Munsif of Contai, is allowed leave for one month and four days.

Babu Srikumar Bhattacharji, Munsif of Contai, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Okhoy Coomar Mitra, Munsif of Katihar, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Upendra Nath Datta, Munsif of Sandip, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Shish Chandra Basu, Munsif of Garhbata, is allowed leave for one month, in supersession of the leave granted to him on the 1st December 1898.

Babu Probode Chunder Dutt, Munsif of Lakhmipur, is allowed leave for thirty-one days.

Mr. J. C. Lloyd, Sub-Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the headquarters station of Singhbhum.

Babu Balaram Das Gupta, Sub-Dy Collr, Singhbhum, is transferred to the Presidency Division.

Mr. Sorab S. Day, Sub-Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the Presidency Div.

Rai Sahib Gopal Chunder Daw, Hony Asst Engineer and Sub-Engr, 1st grade, is appointed to officiate as Ex-Engr of the Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, vice Mr. K. H. Stephen, or until further orders.

N. W. P. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE Hon'ble Raja Rampal Singh asked: Will the Government be pleased to state whether for these last 25 years a punitive police force has been placed at the temple of Bindhyachal on account of the turbulent and fighting character of the Pandas amongst themselves; and if so, how long would it be necessary, (in future) to keep this punitive police force at the cost of the temple?

The Hon'ble Mr. Miller replied: The reply is that the special police force at Bindhyachal originally posted there in February 1866 was

withdrawn by the orders of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner in November 1895.

The Hon'ble Raja Rampal Singh asked: Is the Government aware that, like the District Board system, every Municipal Board of the district is not represented in the Lucknow and Allahabad groups satisfactorily; and will the Government see its way to increase the number of the representative of the Municipal Board so as to enable every district to send at least one representative to the above-mentioned groups from each district?

Mr. Miller said: I may say that the Government is aware that under existing arrangements all municipal boards are not included in the groups formed for the purpose of recommending persons for nomination as Councillors. The Government will on a suitable opportunity consider the question of increasing the number of municipal representatives.

The Hon'ble Raja Rampal Singh asked: Has the Government been pleased to read the *Hindustan* of the 24th March 1899, which exposes the defects of the Oudh Rent and Revenue Acts; and will they kindly order the initiation of their amendments to be made soon to relieve the landlords, under proprietors, &c., &c., of Oudh of their anxiety, which arises from the defective clauses of these Acts?

The Hon'ble Mr. Miller said: The question of amending the Oudh Land Revenue Act is under consideration of Government. The question of amending the Oudh Rent Act is not at present under consideration.

The Hon'ble Babu Sri Ram asked: Has the attention of the Government been directed to the unduly slow promotion among the lower grade Munsifs in Oudh? Whether in the opinion of the Government their case deserves special consideration by equalizing the number of Munsifs in all the three grades in Oudh, as is the case in the North-Western Provinces?

Mr. Miller said: The Government would consider the question of the alleged slow promotion among the lower grade of Munsifs in Oudh.

The Hon'ble Babu Sri Ram asked: Whether the Government is aware that since July 1897 the number of classes in the Government, Aided and Recognized Anglo-Vernacular Schools has been increased from 10 to 12—a change which makes it compulsory, on a boy to remain in the school classes at least 12 years before he can appear at the Entrance or School Final Examination of the Allahabad University.

Whether the Government is aware that the introduction of three new Departmental Public Examinations, viz., the Lower Primary, the Upper Primary and the Lower Middle in addition to the already existing Middle English Examination, practically operates, in majority of cases, to increase the period of study above twelve years besides imposing undue and injurious strain both on the mental and physical capacities of boys of tender age?

Whether the Government is aware of the hardship which the enforcement of the Education Department rules entails in cases of students who, having been privately taught up to the standard of a higher class, cannot be admitted in a Government, Aided and Recognized School into a class for which they are really fit, simply because they have not passed any of the prescribed higher public examinations?

Whether the Government is aware that the promotion of a boy from one section to another is solely dependant upon his passing the Departmental Examinations, thus taking away from the School authorities the exercise of their legitimate discretion in promoting boys, otherwise fit, from lower to higher classes?

Whether the Government is aware that the Arithmetical course in the Upper Primary class, which is the 6th below the Entrance class is substantially the same as that prescribed for the Entrance Examination, and is unduly heavy and difficult for the students in that class?

Will the Government be pleased to state whether it would not be advisable to take proper steps to remedy the above severities and hardships in the educational system of the United Provinces?

The Hon'ble Mr. Miller replied: The points raised on these questions have already been referred to a mixed committee of official and non-official gentlemen, and the Government thinks that the committee's report should be awaited before expressing an opinion on them.

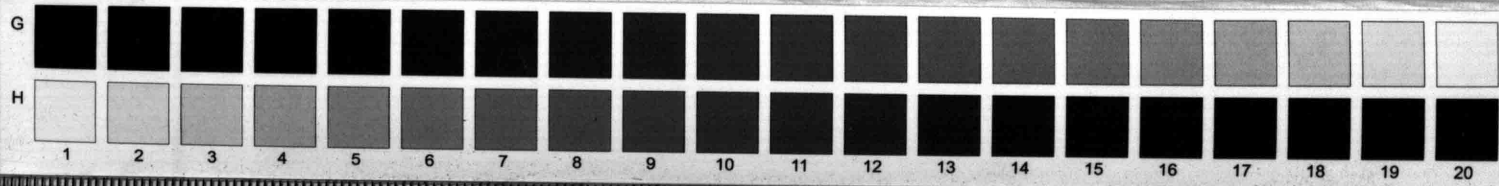
The Lieutenant-Governor added: I may remark that not one of these questions was left untouched in my recent convocation address at Allahabad University, and there was not one of them in regard to which I did not throw out a hint as to the intentions of the Government to make inquiries into the subject.

The Hon'ble Babu Sri Ram asked: Has the attention of Government been directed to the decision of the Deputy Magistrate of Agra in the case of the Municipal Board of Agra versus Maula Baksh and Muhammad Ismail holding that octroi duty cannot be levied on all articles which have paid customs duty?

As the matter is of considerable importance to the majority of the Municipalities of the United Provinces whose principle source of income is octroi duty levied on articles imported within their limits including articles on which customs duty has been paid, will the Government be pleased to take immediate legislative measures to remove the doubt raised regarding the legality of levying octroi on such articles?

The Hon'ble Mr. Weston replied: The attention of Government has been directed to the decision in question and a copy of the judgment has been obtained from the Magistrate of Agra. The judgment shows that the accused were prosecuted at the instance of the Municipal Board. The alleged offence was cheating (Section 417, I. P. C.) in respect of certain consignments of American cigarettes which they imported into the municipality without payment of octroi duty. The Deputy Magistrate discharged the accused on ground that though the acts alleged were presumably dishonest, yet the cigarettes were exempt from taxation under para. 1 (1) of the directions printed at page 117 of the Municipal Manual. The Government does not consider it necessary to take any such action pending the result of the revision of the Deputy Magistrate's order by the superior courts.

A GREATER part of the fine of rifles is reported to have been collected by the Maliks. Apparently there has been some hitch as the day fixed for the surrender has passed. The encounter of the 7th instant is not likely to cause any difference in the attitude of the tribe who will probably send in the full number of rifles before very long.



A BENGALI'S VISIT TO CABUL.

SPECIALLY WRITTEN FOR THE PATRIKA.

THE metropolis of a country, whether in the east or in the west, is always worth a visit, whether from a globe-trotter or from a mere casual visitor. It is because you see in the metropolis, as in a mirror, the true reflection of the entire country, its people, its religion, its customs and institutions.

Afghanistan enjoys a unique position among Asiatic countries not merely for its grand natural scenery, its lofty mountains, its rushing hill torrents, its picturesque valleys—its orchards and groves, the best in the world, but also as the centre and cradle of great political upheaval which might any day shake the peace of the world to its very foundation. It forms the buffer State between two of the greatest Powers in the world—England and Russia, both wielding immense power in the continent of Asia, holding what may be called a monopoly of European influence. Semi-barbarous as are its people, they form a very interesting study especially to the children of India whose best interests are wound up in them. In our own country we are accustomed to see Afghans peddling their fruits or winter clothes and though they appear to many as a fierce dirty race, up to any mischief, they yet claim no mean attention from us on account of their magnificent physique, quaint customs, enormous strength and wild appearance. They are not bad looking anyhow, on the other hand there are many points in their features which may arrest the artist's attention. But the Afghans whom we find here are not true Afghans, they are tribesmen who live on the borders of Afghanistan. Curiosity, therefore, naturally leads one to know something of life in Afghanistan. It was not strange or unusual, therefore, that we should think of penetrating into the heart of that country of murder and mystery.

Up to Peshawar we came by rail, and here ended British territory. From Peshawar you have to wend your way through a mountainous country, through the famous Khyber Pass. The mode of conveyance was riding and though not a particularly skilful horseman, I had no alternative but to adopt this one mode of locomotion. It is not an easy matter to ride in a difficult country like the Khyber Pass, where you not only risk your neck but also your purse and your life.

Dacoty is very rampant all over Afghanistan and though between Peshawar and Cabul there are outposts and foris at intervals to serve as a protection to caravans that pass and repass along the route, yet travellers are often attacked and killed. I applied to the Amir's Agent at Peshawar for a passport without which no one is allowed to enter His Highness's dominions. The officer treated me with great courtesy and kindness and granted me not only the usual passport but also an escort of tribal levies. The more we advanced on our way the more did I admire the grandeur and majesty of the scenery. It took us several days to reach the capital of Afghanistan—not of incessant riding though, for that would have been impossible for one unaccustomed as I was to such a rugged mode of locomotion and over such a rugged way. On the road we halted at wayside *chattis* and *serais* of which there were many, so as to avoid the possibility of being attacked by any chance marauders that we might come across.

At last we reached Cabul. Most picturesque is its situation, cradled among high mountain ranges. To add to the natural defences of the capital, every known means of artificial defence has been adopted—walls, turrets, ditches, etc. I should here state that almost every village we passed through was a miniature Cabul in this respect, that is to say, was protected from outside foes by walls and fortifications.

There are at present several Englishmen at Cabul, but every one who has eyes can see that the Afghans as a nation have the strongest antipathy towards the English. Solitary Englishmen are often slain by villagers, who deem such cold-blooded murder an act of merit. Of course, it would perhaps not be correct or safe either for me to say that the Amercon connives in these attacks and murders or that he at all encourages his people to bear ill-will against the English from whom he derives so much benefit. On the other hand, I believe it is my duty to record that he always metes out exemplary punishment to those who are guilty of any act of Anglo-phobia among the people.

But if the Afghans are not friendly towards Englishmen, they do not evince the same unfriendly towards Indians and specially not towards the Bengalis. Whenever we chanced to pass through or halt at a village, people flocked round us to take a peep at a "Bengali"—out of sheer curiosity I suppose, just as villagers in the interior of Bengal would flock round a European. No one, however, did us any harm or molest us in the least and I owe it to the Afghans to say that so far as I was concerned they did not prove to be the inhospitable race some Anglo-Indian writers try to make them out to be.

In Afghanistan both men and women work, as is the case with the poor classes of our people, but the Zenana system prevails to a certain extent even among the lowest classes of the society, while among the middle and higher classes the Purda is strictly maintained. Afghan women are fair, handsome, graceful, sweet-tongued, strong-limbed, and perhaps a little too tall for the fair sex. I had no opportunities to gauge their moral standard, but I should say that from what little I saw I was not very favourably impressed, though I saw nothing to give me a decidedly bad opinion.

Living is very cheap in Afghanistan. The Afghans like meat and their own luscious heal h-giving fruits above everything else. Meat often sells at one seer to a pice, while similar is the rate charged for milk also. Fish is both rare and dear, and is not liked by the people. Your readers need hardly be reminded of the high prices we have to pay for Afghan fruits in our own country. Fancy my pleasure and enjoyment when I was told that I would have to pay nothing for eating fruits in any garden to my heart's content! I did full justice to the unstinted supply placed before me in all the gardens I visited. The avidity with which I gorged myself with these delicious fruits excited the mirth and amusement of the people.

It was the middle of winter when I visited Cabul and the cold was intense—more intense than you can imagine. Snow—there was snow everywhere and the warmest clothes often

failed to give adequate protection. The Afghans always wear warm clothes which excite an Indian's wonder.

There are many Marwaries resident in Afghanistan and they are allowed to conduct their business peacefully without any opposition or harassment. Besides this growing Indian colony there is a peculiar Hindu community here of whom I should make some mention. They are called Kaffirs; and though they dress like Afghans, they carry the sacred thread and worship in their unique temples. The Tilak mark on their foreheads is the only distinctive sign of their nationality or religion. They live in perfect amity with the Mahomedan population among whom they are placed and eat with them too, the only restriction being about food cooked by Mahomedans. Another peculiar custom is that neither the Kaffirs nor the Mahomedans raise any objection to their entering their respective places of worship. Thus while a Kaffir will enter a mosque, a Mahomedan will enter a temple without hesitation or objection.

The Afghans are rich in the possession of domestic animals. The horses are shaggy, strong-limbed and sure-footed; they carry their masters over mountains without the fear of an accident; almost every householder has 8 or 10 horses. The cows are strong and hardworking and yield an enormous quantity of milk. The dogs are large, strong and fierce and sell at high prices. The cats are woolly and beautiful to look at. They are large and by no means inferior in strength and ferocity to the ordinary leopards of Bengal.

As I said before travelling is not safe in Afghanistan, for everywhere one runs the risk of falling victims to the avarice of dacoits, which argues that whatever may be said of the Government of Amir Abdur Rahman, his police organisation leaves much to be desired.

A RIDE TO MARATHON.

It may be news to some that the historic arena where Grecian valour first stemmed the onrush of Persian despotism is marked by no other monument than the rough mound of earth hastily piled over the corpses of the defenders of liberty two and a half millenniums ago. In an age when every Little Peddington erects a statue or an obelisk to its leading grocer or draper, it may not be out of place to expend a few sovereigns on a tablet or slab of marble, "with suitable inscription," to adorn this epochal site of the victory of civilization over barbarism. Invalids and old ladies, who visit Greece are doubtless wise in confining their peregrinations to Athens and its immediate environs. To others a trip to Marathon can be recommended, both for its novelty and the insight it affords into the habits and customs of country Greeks. The scenery also well repays the trouble of the excursion. Purple mountains, brown soil, and an unimpaired dust are not all that Greece can show. Forest trees, wonderful gorges, and a certain amount of green foliage reward the view of the more enterprising explorer in the interior.

The best method of travelling for those who can stand it is on mule back. There is a delightful uncertainty about a route which adds piquancy to the journey and affords plenty of incident en route. A young English lady who accompanied the writer and two friends on a recent visit to the famous battleground, discovered this very rapidly on opening her red silk parasol to ward off the sun. The myriads of flies no persons who have had experience of the East attempt to defend themselves from. The white mule, unaccustomed to such gregarious civilization as female sun shades, simply leaped in the air, curvetted, leaped again, twisted her off, aimed a parting kick at her head, and then bolted. Demonstrations of the muleteers (the other was Aristides), soon brought back the recalcitrant quindiped. The typical countrywoman of Miss Mary Kinsley mounted another animal without the formality of fainting, and the writer had to bestir the snow-white frolic, the only alternative to the uninviting prospect of tramping a score of miles in the blazing sun.

There was not much fear of his yielding to somniferous tendencies during the remainder of the journey. The direct route to Marathon lies along the classic Attic Plain, with its rugged amphitheatre of historic hills. We made a slight detour by deserting the high road at the foot of Mount Pentelikon, and striking in the direction of Mount Parnes, towards the village which was intended to be our night's resting-place. A pleasant plantation of fir trees was then traversed, intersected by a running stream which the mules eagerly sniffed from afar. What better spot could be chosen for the midday meal and subsequent siesta? The sensation of "a fresco" lunch under these circumstances, even when composed of such frugal fare as Greek keftaries, and French rolls and butter washed down by a bottle of Santerina wine, are not altogether forgettable. For the moment one becomes oblivious of the cares and worries of life. Such mundane matters as the commotions of Kensis, the Liberal leadership the Dreyfus case, and even the latest problem play or company smash fade into insignificance and one is simply concerned with the glorious sky, glinting sun, and the Elysium!

Casualties, reposing cheerfully on the hillside, is easily reached ere nightfall. There is hardly any twilight in this country. On approaching the village, Demosthenes discharged a pistol to signalize our arrival. He carried this little toy, by the way, on account of being concerned in one of the numerous squabbles which peasants in Eastern latitudes promote to vary the monotony of existence. Fortunately, his friends abstained from their rural potting practice whilst he was engaged on a business journey. We thoroughly appreciated their nice sense of etiquette. No hotel bills are presented to the tourist in Capandrite, primarily, because there are no hotels, and secondarily, because a stranger is such a rare bird that he is treated like a visiting angel. After the exactions of France and Italy, this attitude is not unpleasant. The fare—soup, pilau, boiled chicken, eggs, bread, cheese, and wine—would be very passable if one's country hosts would not persist in cooking everything in boiled oil. It is somewhat arduous to acclimatize Western palates and nasal organs to the fried fish-shop flavour so dear to the native heart. The women-folk of the schoolmaster's house at which we stayed watched us devouring their viands at a respectful distance with considerable interest. They are not permitted to sit down with their lords and masters. We were a little uncomfortable at this ancient convention; but they did not seem to feel it a jot and chatted merrily from the background during our exclusive meal.

It was very interesting to discourse with the village schoolmaster afterwards on all topics, from brigands to high politics. We soon found that the man of letters was a sort of glorified Pope and "General" Booth rolled into one. As the best informed individual, for miles round, he naturally had reached the stage which brooks no opposition, and is inclined to lay the law down on every subject under the sun. Some Western pedagogues with less excuse act likewise. Canning (of whom he was a great admirer), Palmerston, Gladstone, and Salisbury all came under the review of the pungent criticism of this pedagogic philosopher resident far from the highways of nineteenth-century culture. "Ah," could he happily ejaculate, Kaiser Wilhelm, it might be said in parenthesis, is equally loathed by all modern Hellenes. "I would go 10,000 miles if I could put a knife into such an enemy of my country," he continued excitedly.

ly. "I always teach my boys to hate the Turks, the Russians, and the German Emperor—the German people are another thing—and to love the English, the French and the Italians, who are the friends of their country."

During the night we reclined on rugs on the floor of a room, the principal furniture of which consisted of an advertisement picture of Coats's sewing cotton. Sleep was out of the question—for one thing, because we were favoured with the company of a host of lively insects, who seemed to be playing football on our prostrate bodies, and another, because the night air resounded with uproarious sounds intermingled with pistol-shots. In the morning we discovered that it was not brigands, but an all-night marriage feast.

After our matutinal coffee we strolled through the village in the crisp invigorating mountain air, and were treated most hospitably by all and sundry, the younger section of the community taking as much interest in us as if we had been Chinese. In the corner of one of the houses or hovels to which we were invited we saw what at first appeared a bag of rags. It turned out to be the grand-mother of the house, who was a hundred and something (every one becomes a centenarian in Capandrite), who had been blind for twenty years, and spends her time shrivelled up on the floor like a squeezed orange, mumbling about the days of her youth, when the Moslem power was supreme in her beloved country.

We left the village accompanied by the bridal party, headed by an improvised band of pipes, tom-toms, and other classic instruments, and after traversing many picturesque mountain passes and the fever-stricken, tumble-down village of Marathon, arrived at the funeral mound. The terribly energetic marriage procession fortunately was destined for somewhere else. We lunched on the tumulus, and had a fine view of the day and plain where Darius and his host were hurled back by the bravery of the Greeks under Miltiades. We never saw a Greek run in our lives, but it must have been a fine spectacle to witness 10,000 of them charging at a canter, and anyhow, it was a famous victory.

We would strongly advise the pilgrim to these parts to return to Athens by the Gorge of Rapetasa in preference to the dusty high road. This chasm is of such rugged splendour and massive impressiveness, that it would be hard to beat even in the country of the Alps. A goat-path skirts the edge of the precipice, which slopes sheer down many hundreds of feet to what at the time of our visit was the dry bed of a river. At midday the sun sets off to great advantage the intermixture of white rock and fir on the opposite side, and the coupling of the wind through the branches of the adjacent forest is suggestive of hidden brigands and a choice between a heavy ransom and a slit throat. The mules have to ascend over huge slippery slabs of rock that rise like so many steps of a giant's castle from the foot of the valley to the summit. The track being bordered with shrubs, it is quite impossible to see which way one has come or where the path leads to. After three-quarters of an hour's hazardous climbing and equally dangerous descent, we emerged into an opening in the forest where hundreds of goats were browsing, protected by a couple of the wild dogs which abound in Greece and attack all travellers indiscriminately. Threatening them in a foreign tongue seems only to urge them on the more in their murderous career. A block of rock, the more jagged the better, deposited on their ribs is the only remedy. Their owners never dream of calling them off.

At last Pentelikon, the white marble mountain out of whose capacious store most of the Grecian pieces of antiquity were built, is reached. It is now appropriately being worked by an English nineteenth-century limited liability company or spick-and-span syndicate. A few miles further on one comes to Kepissia, where it is as well to abandon the picturesque mules and adopt the more utilitarian methods of railway locomotion. Despite the trivial inconveniences of boiled oil, all-night marriage feasts, and feast-foot-ball matches, the trip is both enjoyable and health-giving. And dinner at the Hotel d'Angleterre is none the less appetizing after such an exploration.

MR. BARNES, who will shortly officiate as Foreign Secretary, had arrived in Simla.

IN the compound of a bungalow near the Punjab Bank, Lahore, a poor-beehive women died evidently from the effects of excessive drinking. The police suspect foul play and are making enquiries.

MR HODGES, Public Works Department, in charge of the Kohat-Bannu Railway Survey, is at present engaged in the survey of a line of light railway of 30-inch gauge from Khushalgarh to Kohat. The section from Kohat to Bannu has been surveyed for a broad gauge line, but the question of gauge for the whole of the proposed line has not been definitely settled yet.

ON the 29th March, at Datta Khel, a Ghazi attacked a picket of the 35th Sikhs on the road to the water supply. He wounded two sepoy with a pistol and knife, and was then shot dead himself.

MR A. WILLIAMS, who has been officiating as Deputy Secretary of the Legislative Department, vice Mr. Carduff, has, since Mr. Macpherson's return from leave, been placed on special duty in the Foreign Office to bring out the new edition of Mr. Macpherson's six volumes of Native States enactments.

WE regret to announce the death after an illness of three months of Sirdar Gurdit Singh, Private Secretary to His Highness the Nawab of Bahawalpore. He was very popular in the State. We offer our sincere condolence to his bereaved family.

News from Uganda states that Major Price, with 70 Baluchis and Uganda Rifles and some levies, left Masindi on the 3rd of December, and at dawn on the 6th attacked Ireya in the Budonga forest, dispersing the enemy after a short sharp encounter. English casualties were one man of the Levies killed and 10 men of the Uganda Rifles and Levies wounded. The enemy lost 24 killed. On the 7th of December he column encountered a party of rebels, even of whom were killed and four taken prisoners. English loss was one man of the levies wounded.

ON the morning of the 10th instant, a serious Railway accident occurred on the B. & C. Railway between the Chumney and Marine Line stations. A light engine and local train collided, with the result that a native maccadam of the Company and two children were killed on the spot, six other persons being injured.

A DACOITY took place in the house of the village kulkarni of Karti, in the Sangli State, Bombay Presidency, last year, in which the kulkarni was seriously injured. Among the dacoits there were a Pathan, a Brahmin, a woman, and three others. After a prolonged trial, the Magistrate of Shahapur committed the case to the Court at Sangli, where the accused were each sentenced to undergo seven years' rigorous imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 300.

Moulussil News.

Dacca, April 7.

SWAMI ABHOYONANDA is on a visit here. The members of the Ramkrishna mission lately formed here, gave her a reception last evening at the Northbrook Hall. Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur presided on the occasion and with his usual eloquence spoke a few words of introduction. The Hall was so overcrowded that many people had to go away disappointed. An upcountry coolie was lately murdered in broad daylight in the heart of the town by a Mahomedan by severe blows on the head with a thick piece of wood on account of a quarrel which he had with the deceased some time before the occurrence. The accused has absconded.

RAMGOPALPUR, APRIL 8.

A HEAVY downpour of rain fell here yesterday. It commenced at 4 P.M., and continued till 10 P.M., at night. Sharp cyclonic storm, lightning and roars of thunder accompanied it. Down came hailstorm thrice; at the first fall, the hail-stones were two inches in diameter. They produced a monotonous pat-pat sound over the corrugated tin houses. For some ten minutes they clothed the ground, as it were, in a white sheet. The rain will greatly help cultivation. But the hail-stones have caused much injury to the mango crop. The "Dol Jatra" festival has been celebrated in the house of the Zemindar of this place, Rai Jogendra Kisor Roy Chowdhury Bahadur with great eclat.

ULUBERIAH, APRIL 6.

A MEETING of the inhabitants of the Uluberiah Thanna, convened by the local Sub-divisional Officer, was held at the local police station on the 2nd instant, to consider (a) what steps should be taken to prevent the advent of plague, and (b) what measures should be adopted in case the monster appeared in our midst. The meeting was presided over by the Sub-divisional Officer, Babu Mohin Chander Ghosh, who explained to the people the object of the meeting. Babu Jogendra Nath Mitter, pleader, followed him. The speakers made it clear to the audience that persons who might object to come to the public hospital in case of an attack might erect hospitals of their own near their houses, and that all people must cleanse their houses, latrines, ponds and everything. In short they must live very neat and clean. From to-day there will be inspection here at the landing ghats of all passengers coming from Calcutta. A plague doctor and a nurse have come here for the purpose.

MALDA, APRIL 9.

THE enquiry into the case in which a Police Sub-Inspector and three others stand charged with having caused the death of a person in attempting to extort confession from him is going on in the court of the Senior Deputy Magistrate, Mouvi Abdus Samad. Another sensational case has recently been instituted against Mr. District Engineer T. B. Byer and two of his servants. The story of the prosecution is that near the house of the Engineer there is a temple of goddess Kali where some Hindu masons were engaged in work, their food being kept in an adjoining hut. A fowl of the Engineer entered that hut and polluted some articles of the masons in consequence whereof an altercation took place between them and the servants of the *Saheli*. The masons then went to the Engineer Sahab to complain against his servants but the Sahab was rather offended at the conduct of the masons and ordered his servants to go and slaughter the fowl in the temple itself. Emboldened by this order of their master two Mahomedan servants went with the fowl to the temple of Kali and just in front of it, where goats are usually sacrificed by the Hindus, slaughtered the fowl and sprinkled its blood over the veranda of the temple and thereby seriously wounded the religious feelings of the Hindus. The hearing of the case has not yet commenced. On the retirement of Rai Jadbub Chandra Deb Bahadur, Mouvi Jinnat Hossien Khan has taken over charge of the Malda District Police. The officiating Magistrate, Mr. J. N. Gupta, is expected here to-day. Mr. Manisty makes over charge to him to-morrow.

A TRAIL line will be constructed from Henzada to Letpadan in connection with the Bassein-Henzada Railway, Mr. F. M. Jones, Assistant Engineer, Rangoon, has been detailed for this duty, with an efficient staff of surveyors, and will leave almost immediately to commence work. As soon as this is done, and plans submitted, it is anticipated, Government will accord sanction to the construction of the branch, and that work will commence next cold season.

An extraordinary and sensational story has cropped up at Bombay in connection with the judgments of Mr. Justice Parsons and Mr. Justice Ranade, delivered in the High Court on Tuesday before last, in the matter of the appeal presented by Wasudeo Hari Chapekar, Mahadeb Venayek and Balkrishna Hari Chapekar, against the decision of Mr. Justice Crow, who, on the 8th of March, convicted them of the murders of Mr. Rand and Lieutenant Ayerst, and sentenced them to death. When a man has been sentenced to death by any Sessions Court, and an appeal is preferred by the culprit, it is the practice for the whole of the proceedings in the case to be forwarded on to the High Court. On their reaching they are printed and copies of the documents are sent to each of the Judges who are to sit in appeal. In the case of Balkrishna that procedure was adopted, as the vacation was then on. A copy was forwarded to Mr. Justice Parsons and another to Mr. Justice Ranade, who happened to be staying at Lanouli. Both these Judges recorded their opinions regarding the finding and sentence of the Lower Court, and interchanged views through the medium of the post. On the opinion of Mr. Justice Parsons reaching Mr. Justice Ranade, the latter immediately endeavoured to show why his views should be accepted by his colleague. Having done so the papers were put into an envelope, which, after being sealed, was it stated, given to one of his (Justice Ranade's) servants and their destination, and no clue can be found as to their whereabouts, but, strange to relate, twenty-four hours before judgment was given in the High Court, the nature of the judgment which was to be delivered was known in Poona, where the purport of it was published in a local newspaper.

THE MUNSHIGUNJ CASE.

Dacca, April 8.

YOU know the result of the case of Debedra Shome vs. Fazal Karim, and another, in the High Court. You with all right-minded persons expressed a hope that the matter should be allowed to drop there but fate has decreed it otherwise. The officiating Magistrate, Mr. Rankin, passed the following order on the case after the return of the record from the High Court: "I have gone through the evidence and the report in this case. The facts alleged and all the circumstances leading up to during the investigation convince me that the case is maliciously false. I agree with the Assistant Magistrate in what he has reported. For these reasons I dismiss the case under section 203 Cr. P. Code. I will proceed now to make a further enquiry under Section 476. Notice to accused to produce any evidence they have as to the ownership &c of the wood. Fixed for the 6th April. Inform complainant and Kali Prasanna of the fact by notice."

J. T. RANKIN,
Dt. Magistrate.
20-3-99.

Yesterday, the accused i.e., M. Fazal Karim and another examined 3 witnesses, one Tarini, Nazir of Deputy Magistrate, Fazal Karim, another a Duffry of his, the third a peon. They said that the Nazir and the peon had purchased the wood from a stranger whom they could not produce! The Duffry says he saw this wood at the time of purchase but then he did not particularly notice it, but when the case cropped up the accused asked him to see the tree with care. Strange to say, that this very Nazir, who was present at the police search at night at Mouvi Fazal Karim's place, did not either then, or for some days after, even utter a word to say that the tree in dispute was purchased by him for the Deputy Magistrate. The Magistrate has not passed any final orders to-day but will do so soon. It would be premature to say anything about the legality or propriety of the order in question as the matter is sub-judice and may go up to higher courts for decision. By one thing that strikes one as very odd is that when neither the inquiring magistrate nor the District Magistrate could declare the case to be maliciously false on the materials before them (for they simply said that the prosecution failed to prove its case) how could Mr. Rankin without any fresh materials before him, whatever could at once jump to the conclusion that the case was maliciously false? Then again, when the Magistrate has already declared the case to be maliciously false where is the necessity of calling upon the accused to prove that the tree belongs to them? For the first finding must have been based on the belief that the tree does not belong to Kali Prasanna. If that was not the belief, or if there was any the slightest doubt in the Magistrate's mind as to the ownership of the tree, how could he say that the case was maliciously false?

I understand that the Magistrate has to day passed orders for the prosecution of Debedra and Kali Prasanna under sec 211 I.P.C. Whatever may be the ultimate result of the prosecution, the poor men have for the present been again put to enormous expense and trouble. Here is the text of the proceeding drawn up by the Magistrate:

PROCEEDING UNDER SECTION 476 CR. P.C.
Whereas one Debedra Kumar Shome lodged information at Moonsheegunge Police Station on 1st November 1898 charging Mahesh Chandra Contractor and Mouvi Fazal Karim under Sections 379 and 411 of the I.P.C. alleging that some timber belonging to his master Kali Prasanna Bose had been cut up and taken away by the said Mahesh Chandra under the orders of Deputy Magistrate Fazal Karim and was being kept by Mouvi Fazal Karim in his compound and whereas in disposing of that case I found that the charge was maliciously false, and it appeared to me to have been brought with a view to injure Mahesh Chandra Contractor and Mouvi Fazal Karim and that Debedra Kumar Shome knew that it was false and whereas from the evidence recorded I am convinced that the said Kali Prasanna Bose caused the information to be lodged knowing that there was no just ground for the charge and with the intention of causing injury to Mahesh Chandra and Mouvi Fazal Karim, and whereas a further enquiry held by me confirms these conclusions, I hereby direct under section 476 of the Cr. P. Code that the said Debedra Kumar Shome and Kali Prasanna Bose be prosecuted under section 211 I.P.C. and send the case to the Joint Magistrate for trial.

RAO BAHADUR S. V. PATWARDHAN, Director of Public Instruction in Berar, who is retiring on pension, will be succeeded by Mr. Candy, Principal of the Rajaram College at Kolhatpur. Mr. Patwardhan has held the Directorship for five years, after long service in the Bombay Educational Department. His two predecessors were Brahmins of the Berar press has been urging the claims of a local candidate to follow Mr. Patwardhan.

News has been received at Agra of a serious disturbance at Brindaban, near Muttra, which occurred during the annual *Rakh* procession, when two rival processionists came into collision and *lathis* were freely used, several men being seriously injured. It is said that the combatants were employees of the well-known Muttra Sett, Raja Lachman Dass, C. I. E., and the equally well-known and wealthy Hindu priest, Brim Chari. Several arrests have been made.

THE ordeal through which the students had to pass on the occasion of His Excellency's visit to the Arts School and the Museum was terrible, and it is just possible they are still feeling its effects. We do not understand how the authorities had the heart to make them stand three or four hours continually under the scorching rays of the sun without even some special arrangement of water supply. "Water" was the cry everywhere, and we saw many actually weeping. The water supply was absolutely insufficient. The scene was really heart-rending, and it is greatly wondered why there was no case of regular sunstroke notwithstanding the combination of all necessary materials. The majority of the boys, it is said, felt very bad for a long time afterwards, and who can say some more delicate of them have not fallen ill?—*Tribune*.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, March 22.

The Indian Civil Service and the Russian Language.—Mr. Bill asked the Secretary of State for India whether, having regard to the importance of a knowledge of Russian in the Indian Civil Service, he would cause that language to be added to the list as an optional subject for candidates in the open annual Civil Service competition.

Lord G. Hamilton: The subjects in which the open competition for the Indian Civil Service is held are chosen with the view of testing the general ability of the candidates, and their proficiency in the studies which usually form part of the higher education of this country. The candidates thus selected have to pass a subsequent examination in languages and other subjects which are likely to be specially useful for work in India, and, if a knowledge of Russian were made an optional subject, it would have to be added at this stage, and an extra language so added would tend to oust some other language more generally useful. The hon. member is probably aware that the study of Russian among Indian civilians is encouraged by the grant of special facilities and privileges.

Dum-Dum Bullets.—Mr. Dillon asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he had any information as to the statement that Dum-Dum bullets had been served out to Russian troops serving in the neighbourhood of the Indian frontier.

Mr. Brodrick: We have no information as to this statement.

In reply to Mr. Dillon, Mr. Howell-Williams said no Dum-Dum bullets were used in the Sudan campaign.

Lascar Seamen.—Mr. Havelock Wilson asked the Attorney-General: Whether any communications have passed between the Board of Trade and the Law Officers of the Crown, from Aug. 9, 1896, to Jan. 9, 1897, with regard to the state of the Law as to the accommodation of Lascar seamen on board British registered vessels.

The Attorney-General said that no correspondence had passed on the subject.

AFFAIRS IN CHINA.

(HOUSE OF COMMONS.)

MR. J. WATSON said the Blue Book on the affairs of China contained an insufficient amount of information on several important matters. The whole position as it now stood was unsatisfactory, and he suggested that the Government should arrive at an agreement with Russia for the exchange of the Neu-chang extension line for the Pekin to Hankow line. He moved the reduction of the Vote by 100.

Mr. Moon called attention to the position of Russia in Manchuria, and hoped the right hon. gentleman would be able to assure the Committee that our position in the Far East sphere of influence was not in error.

Mr. Drage heartily supported what they now understood to be the policy of the Government—namely, that of coming to an understanding with Russia on questions of difference between the two countries in reference to China.

Mr. Provand said he was convinced that till we arrived at an understanding with Russia our interests in China must remain as they were.

Mr. Bowles said the policy of this country was the maintenance of the integrity and the independence of the Chinese Empire, and we were still in a position to maintain that policy. England was stronger and Russia weaker since the latter had gone to Port Arthur, and we to Wei-hai-wei. He viewed with great misgiving the course of events under which valuable ports and naval stations were being torn away from China one by one.

Mr. Beckett said that the sense of alarm which pervaded the House last year had given way to a feeling of security; but still they were somewhat in the dark as to the policy which the Government was pursuing with regard to China. Until we arrived at an understanding with Russia our position in regard to China could not rest on a firm and sure foundation, and he hoped the Government would keep that in the forefront of their policy. (Cheers.)

Sir C. Dilke asked whether there had been any negotiations between ourselves and France with regard to anything like a division of the province of Yun-nan between our respective spheres, or whether it was the view of the Government that the province, being on the upper waters of the Yang-tse, was in any sense included in our sphere.

Mr. J. Lowther said he very much doubted whether the Government would be prepared to announce that the policy of its noble friend the member for York (Lord C. Bessford) was their policy. He asked his right hon. friend (Mr. Brodrick) whether he was prepared to assure the Committee that the Government entertained no sympathy whatever with any policy of that kind, but that it intended to devote itself to securing our interests in the sphere of China which we had marked out as our own. He would also ask where the limit was going to be placed to the race for concessions.

Mr. Keswick, in a maiden speech, regretted our withdrawal from Port Arthur, but thought that the moment the mistake was discovered the best remedy was applied, and considered that Wei-hai-wei was the best port of the two for this country to acquire. It was not possible for this country to stand up and maintain an exclusive position in China, but it was possible to maintain our pre-eminence in the Yang-tse Valley and the adjacent dominion.

Mr. Brodrick said the speech of the hon. member who was well qualified to speak on the subject of China, differed from some of those which preceded it, in that he only regarded the matter from the point of view of what was practical. For himself he had been struck by the extraordinary unanimity which prevailed in the House with regard to an ultra-forward policy which did not appear in regard to any other foreign debates, and which was specially bent in some cases in which our intervention was, perhaps, even more natural than it was in China. This rather coinciding with the extraordinary silence on the part of the right hon. gentleman opposite, who did not believe in the forward policy, left to the member of the Government who had to reply the task of throwing cold water upon many schemes, and of appearing unsympathetic with regard to many projects which had been suggested. The hon. member for Burnley was very much exercised about England's getting a share of China.

Mr. J. Walton said he had distinctly advocated spheres of concession to all the Powers interested in trading with China, and, as regarded railway construction and mining enterprise, would open the door throughout the whole of China by agreement with the various Powers.

Mr. Brodrick: Quite so; but in each case where a foreign nation had obtained any one of these advantages the hon. gentleman had subjected it to the severest criticism.

Mr. Walton said that he had submitted that the terms and conditions of these concessions were an infringement of the treaty rights of the Tein-tsin Treaty.

Mr. Brodrick: The hon. member had contended that the moment the Pekin and Hankow railway was given to another Power we ought not to have gone to the Tsung-li-Yamen for compensation, but insisted on the concession being immediately cancelled, and addressed an ultimatum to Russia, France, and Belgium.

Mr. Wal on said he had urged that the Government ought to have compelled the Chinese Government to respect our treaty rights in the Yang-tse Valley.

Mr. Brodrick said it was absolutely impossible to carry on business in China in the style to which the

hon. gentleman referred. We on our side must have some regard to international amenities. (Cheers.) Our first object should be to show no vehement jealousy of other Powers, but steady regard for the commercial advantages which could be obtained, and the political advantages which he should maintain in our special sphere. (Hear, hear.) He could not understand why the hon. gentleman should assume that the pledges of the Chinese Government to foreign nations were valid with regard to their spheres, and that the pledges given to us with regard to the Yang-tse Valley were null and void, and waste-paper. The point as to the railway loans has been disposed of by my hon. friend, the member for Ebsom, who has a considerable knowledge of the subject. We have achieved the position that what is given, positively or negatively to any other Power we are to get for ourselves; that what is given now to one Power is not to be given at any future time to any other Power. (Cheers.) Then my hon. friend (Mr. J. G. Bowles) said he had not read this Blue Book without a sense of shame and his shame is caused by our conduct with the Yamen. But I want to know with whom we are to deal so long as there is an established Government in China, and surely even my hon. friend will admit that there is some advantage in having the Yamen as a buffer, at all events between the various Powers who are competing for China. (Cheers.) I do not believe that my hon. friend's view represents the opinion of the House of Commons. I believe that the policy of asking everything for ourselves and of attacking the Chinese Government for giving anything to any body else is an absolutely indefensible one. (Cheers.)

Then my hon. friend the member for Whitchy has expressed a hope that the policy of the open door would be preserved, and he has added that the danger is in his fear that the Government have preserved an open mind. I maintain that there is no single sentence in the Blue Book which will show that the Government have faltered in the proposals it has made. When we are asked to compare what we have obtained with what other nations have obtained, I venture to say that there is no nation now connected with the affairs of China which, standing in our place, would not be satisfied with what has been achieved on our behalf. (Cheers.) With respect to concessions, what they were waiting for now in China was not concessions, but concessionaires not merely men who had gone to get concessions which they could sell to the public, but men who themselves had capital behind them. He was sure that the position of affairs was such in respect to railway enterprise generally that if British capitalists wanted to have a share in the advantages of any concessions they would not have the least difficulty in getting foreigners to take their money. He could not say so officially, but he had reason to believe that even with regard to the Pekin-Hankow railway, if British investors were willing to advance the money they would not improbably get the concession. Reference had been made to the Mission of the member for York (Lord C. Bessford). The noble lord had represented a number of commercial individuals, but he in no sense represented the Government. As to the railway in Manchuria, it was not dealt with in the Blue Book, because the negotiations were not yet complete. He thought that when they were able to tell the story it would be seen that British interests had been safeguarded. They were conscious of the importance of our trade interests in North China, and held it desirable to come to an understanding with the Russian Government regarding them. They were not without hope that they would succeed. There was so far a perfectly friendly and conciliatory disposition on both sides. We stood by our policy in China. We would safeguard our own sphere of interest, and as far as possible obtain freedom for trade for all nations throughout China. It was, however, impossible to map out China according to our own desires and then lay down the law to the rest of the world regarding it. So far as our influence is concerned we propose to continue on the course we have followed in past years, a course which has proved to be advantageous to China, which has secured due regard to the rights of other nations, and a proper share of benefits to the British Government, and which in the minds of those best qualified to judge, and whose interests are most concerned in China, give confidence in her Majesty's Government. (Cheers.)

Sir E. Grey did not undervalue the concessions which had been made, but the general impression on reading the Blue Book was one of discomfort all round. If the transactions in the Far East left this country stronger than before, the term stronger was relative. It meant stronger than might have been expected at one time, considering the drift of affairs; but no concessions which had been granted compensated us for the disturbance of naval power and of territorial power which had taken place in various parts of China. What he wanted to see was that there was some agreement, some understanding between the different Governments interested in China. The basis of that agreement must be a recognition of spheres of influence, and he did not see why the "open door" should not go with the spheres of influence. He thought it was also necessary that there should be direct negotiation between the British Government and the Russian Government. He did not think that the course taken by the Government was the way to take advantage of the opportunity for removing the distrust on the part of Russia, but he welcomed the assurance of the right hon. gentleman that some progress had been made, and he trusted that it would lead to the favourable conclusion anticipated. (Cheers.)

The motion for the reduction of the Vote was ultimately withdrawn.

INDIAN SUGAR DUTIES.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. MACLEAN, M. P.

A CONSERVATIVE Member of Parliament is naturally rather slow to be interviewed on a subject on which he is at issue with his own Government. But Mr. Maclean stands in a very peculiar position. Though a man of great knowledge on Indian affairs—for many years the proprietor and editor of the "Bombay Gazette"—he has been muzzled by the Government in his effort to raise the question of the Indian Sugar Duties in the House of Commons. Mr. Balfour's reply to him yesterday on the question of the "blocking motions" was a decided and deliberate rebuff. Wherever he tries to break through the ring-fence, he is driven back. For the final blow is that he is not only precluded from moving the adjournment, but the speaker has now informed him that he cannot raise the question on the adjournment of the House over the Easter holidays. Thus silenced in Parliament, he naturally seeks an outlet in the Press; and I found him yesterday afternoon only too anxious to pour out his tale.

The most recent theme for his indignation was Lord Curzon's speech. He held a cutting in his hand, and he pointed out passage after passage in a crescendo of indignation.

"A more indiscreet speech was never uttered by a Viceroy of India," exclaimed Mr. Maclean. "It is worse than Lord Lytton. Hitherto I have said

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not a word in criticism of Lord Curzon. I thought that it would be ungenerous. I gave him a fair trial. But I said to a Minister a few weeks ago, 'It would be better if he did not talk so much.' And I have proved right. My prophecy is justified.

"Look this!" cried Mr. Maclean. "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."

"That is a threat to us in England—sugar duties are to come to us; via India and Lord Curzon."

"Then look at this fine rhetorical attack on free trade—a doctrine which is held here equally by both parties, and which we have laboriously taught to India."

"I do not think 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."

"And he gives us an elaborate defence of the whole policy of meeting bounties by duties—a defence which is obviously meant for home consumption."

"Lord Curzon" went on Mr. Maclean, "has many admirable qualities; but they are House of Commons qualities. He forgets that rhetoric does not go far in the government of men. He overestimates, for instance, the effect of his speech on India. He forgets that any Calcutta Babu or Maharatta Brahmin could make a speech quite as good. The fact is that he has been spoiled. He reminds me of the young Endymion, who tells his father, when asked what he is going to do, that he intends to be Prime Minister."

"But are his facts right? He says that Indian opinion is behind him, and that the Indian indigenous trade has been going down. Is he correct?"

"As to the latter point, he takes the returns of a famine year, which is as if you were to take the returns of the South Wales coal trade during the coal strike, and to conclude from that that the coal trade had fallen off. I have not seen the returns he quotes—they have not reached this country. But in regard to refined sugar, I would ask—was it not at a higher price last year in spite of imported sugar than before? Lord Curzon quotes opinion at Bombay and Karachi. But even if he correctly states his case, I would point out that both these places are on the seaboard, where the competition of imported sugar is at its highest. Inland, the rates of carriage would take off all the profits, and refined sugar does not penetrate. So the competition does not affect the native raw sugar."

"Have you any information as to the real state of Indian public opinion?"

"Free opinion in India is at the present moment almost entirely dead. People dare not speak out. The new press laws act like a gag. I was appalled on my last visit to discover how much freedom had been lost since I last visited India. That is precisely why I am in this criticism in this country is so important. It is the only chance of freedom. It acts like a breath of fresh air. But in the general deadness of public opinion the Bombay Chamber of Commerce is one of the freest assemblies in India, and is always regarded as expressing Indian opinion. That Chamber has gone against Lord Curzon. It is to this that he refers when he says:—

"There are, it is true, certain interest and certain chambers of commerce at Bombay and Karachi in which these interests are strongly represented, which have not entirely concurred in the necessity for countervailing duties."

"By that," Lord Curzon means the strongest chamber of commerce in India."

"Have you any recent news from India?"

"Yes, I have spent £10 of my own money in wiring to India for a reliable opinion, as it is useless to accept the usual telegram sent by Reuters, who, by the way, have suppressed my name in the Parliamentary telegrams sent to India. This is what my correspondent, a thoroughly impartial man, has wired in return:—'Pioneer,' 'Bombay Gazette,' 'Times of India' approve Bill—native Press considering—European and native mercantile opinion hostile—measure unexpected—information inadequate—eviled—Protection remedy disliked.' So you see that the most important opinion—that of commerce—is hostile to the Bill."

"And what do you propose to do now?"

"If I cannot speak in the House of Commons, I shall not be muzzled in the country. I shall not remain silent. I have all the best opinion on my own side against the Government—not only the Liberal Unionists, except Mr. Chamberlain, but also a great number of the Conservatives, especially men like Mr. Ascroft, Mr. Whiteley, and other representatives of the great towns. The boroughs, who returned Conservatives at the last election, did not vote for Protection. The Government little know what they are doing. They will soon know that they are entering on a dangerous path. They cannot keep the House of Commons silent for ever, and it will speak when it is too late. They will have to repeal the law and that is as bad for India as anything, as Lord Salisbury himself pointed out in the masterly dispatch of May 31, 1876. There he asserted, once and for all, the control of Parliament before the event over Indian finance. It is on that dispatch that I take my stand."

"And Lord Curzon?"

"Lord Curzon will have to learn to hold his tongue. These allocutions to the House must cease. He will have to stop lecturing and hectoring the British House of Commons, and denouncing the recognised finance of the British Empire. The Imperial Government will do well to tell Lord Curzon to mind his own business."

And with that the Member for Cardiff went his way—sombre, determined, indignant. It is not a wise thing for a Government to incur such anger lightly. *Daily Chronicle.*

CENTRAL ASIAN NOTES.

RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA.

ACCORDING to a well-informed writer in the "Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung," the strength of the Russian troops now quartered in the country between the Caspian and the Pamirs is as follows:—

In the military district of Transcaspia there are four rifle battalions and six sotnias of Cossacks at Ashkabad; three rifle battalions, a company of sappers, one rifle battalion and six sotnias at Merv; one rifle battalion at Serakht; one mounted battery at Kiachta; one railway battalion at Kizil Arvat; three infantry battalions at Kizil Arvat; and one infantry battalion at Chirchik. In the military district of Turkestan, including the provinces of Sir Darya, Samarkand and Ferghana, there are four rifle battalions, two infantry battalions, four sotnias of Cossacks, seven batteries of field artillery, one battalion of garrison battery, and two companies of sappers at Tashkent; two infantry battalions and four sotnias at Petralendrovsk; five infantry battalions, six sotnias, and one mounted battery at Samarkand; one infantry battalion at Katty-Kurgan; three infantry battalions, four sotnias, and one mounted battery at Margilan; and three infantry battalions at Andijan, Kokand, and Osh. The writer adds:—

These troops are in themselves not strong enough to cause any uneasiness in England in regard to her Indian possessions, and she need not be disquieted if the Russian frontier should be pushed forward to the south. Even if Russia should occupy the Pamirs, and thus become England's immediate neighbour on the Chitral frontier, it would not prove her intention to advance towards the Indies. Quite apart from the enormous physical obstacles in the way of large numbers of troops advancing thither, such an intention ought not to be taken into consideration until the Trans-Caspian Railway is extended as far as Omak and a direct connection is established between St. Petersburg and the Pamirs. This will take many

years more, and even then it will have only a civilising and no strategical value. Russia's way to the Indian Ocean does not lead from St. Petersburg via Omak and Chitral, but from the Caucasus via Merv and Herat. General Roberts is of opinion that England need only defend her Indian possessions; and if this view is supported by the British Government, a collision between England and Russia need not take place even after the Russian occupation of Herat, especially if Russia prefers to advance, not through Afghanistan, but from Herat, through Persia, to the Arabian Sea.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

It is reported that Professor W. H. Pickering of Mr. Percival Lowell's private observatory at Flagstaff, Arizona, U. S., has discovered a new satellite—the ninth—of Saturn. Its estimate distance from its primary is 7,500,000 miles, and its brightness is estimated as of the fifteenth magnitude.

An electric fish which was exhibited at the Royal Institution in connection with Professor Francis Gotch's lecture on "The Electric Fishes of the Nile" is, says the "Daily News," no more. At the commencement of the discourse he was as lively as could be wished. When Professor Gotch had finished his lecture, however, the audience pressed round the tank in which he lay, and every one was anxious to get an electric shot by touching his body. This so exhausted him that before the next morning he had departed this life.

At a recent meeting of the Académie des Sciences, Paris, M. Marey presented a new phonograph, which speaks so distinctly, that one can scarcely recognise any difference between the original voice and its reproduction. On the same occasion, M. Dussaud described a new method of amplifying the sounds of the phonograph just as a photograph is enlarged. It is done by causing the phonograph to speak into a second phonograph having a cylinder of larger diameter. Evidently we are slowly advancing towards the perfection and development of this marvellous instrument.

A cotteuse cradle, that is to say a "baby-hatcher," for fostering new-born babies, after the manner of incubators for chickens, has been introduced by Dr. Diffre of Montpellier, France. It is a copper cradle, closed by a movable plate of glass and warmed underneath by a "boiler" of warm water heated with an oil lamp. The cradle contains a bed, a moist sponge to make the air humid, and a thermometer to show the temperature. There are two holes for ventilation. Dr. Budin, member of the Académie de Médecine, speaks highly of the invention.

ENGLISH NOTES.

THE celebrated Unionist, Mr. Joseph Cowen, declares that the Government is on its last legs.

THE Currency Committee meet immediately after Easter to consider the report which is not expected for a couple of months.

MR. MACLEAN is making himself as nasty as possible to the Government. He threatens to move a rejection of the Money-lending Bill.

THE Chancery Judge has declined to grant the Sheffield *Sund y Telegraph* an injunction restraining the *London Daily Telegraph* from publishing a *Sund y Telegraph*.

THE Queen-Regent, on March 17, signed the ratification of the peace treaty with the United States. A decree has been issued dissolving the Cortes, and convoking the new Parliament in June.

THE application of Madame Dreyfus, challenging three Judges of the Court of Cassation owing to their previous knowledge of the affair, has been rejected and the applicant fined a hundred francs.

AT the request of Professor Nordenskjöld, the King of Sweden and Norway has provided Mr. F. R. Martin with 1,500 kroner to enable him to conduct a search for Herr Andree in Siberia. Mr. Martin has already started on his journey.

A NATIONAL convention in connection with the Peace crusade was held at Martin's Town Hall on Tuesday under the presidency of Lord Aberdeen. Amongst the speakers were Mr. Stead, who said that the peace proposal had not stirred the national heart to anything like the same extent that the proposal to knock off the hours of extra drinking would do, and they had good reason to stand humiliated.

THE Vienna correspondent of the *Daily News* says it is rumoured and generally credited that the Emperor, in the hope of securing the throne for descendants of the direct line, has already made his choice, and that when the year of mourning is over he will become engaged to Princess Isabella, sister to the Duke of Orleans, the Queen of Portugal, and the Duchess of Aosta. The Princess will be twenty-one in May next.

ON Friday March 3rd Mr. Doubleday, the publisher, stated that Mr. Kipling was better. His physicians are no longer anxious about him. Though his removal to the next room of his suite had afforded him relief, arrangements have been made for his second removal. He will be taken to another apartment as soon as he is strong enough to be carried out. The room is larger and airier than his present one, and he will have sun light in it and a more cheerful atmosphere. In this room Elsie Kipling, the younger daughter, who is recovering from pneumonia and her brother John met the other day for the first time after some days. Mr. Kipling has asked for his children several times, but his physicians have put him off. He does not know yet that Josephine is dead, and he will not be told for some time yet. The postponement may be even longer. Mrs. Kipling was said to be maintaining the same heroic attitude that she has displayed since the beginning. Mr. Kipling has again asked for little Josephine. He questioned the nurses, and it was not easy to grow suspicious and the hardest task for all around him is not to break down.

In the House of Lords on the 16th the Money-lending Bill was read a second time, and the Duke of Devonshire made a statement as to the vacation of a post at South Kensington. On the 17th a Royal Commission on the Poor Law was demanded by Lord Wemyss, who, after some discussion, withdrew his motion. On the 20th Lord Salisbury made a statement as to the objects of Major Macdonald's expedition in North-East Africa. The Supreme Court (Appeals) Bill was read a second time on the 21st.—The House of Commons on the 16th continued the discussion of the Navy Estimates. On the 17th, after question on the Indian Sugar Bill, several Army votes were discussed. On the 20th the affairs of the Transvaal, Newfoundland, and Ceylon were the subject of a speech by Mr. Chamberlain, and Mr. Brodrick took part in a discussion of Chinese affairs. On the 20th the London County Council's Welsh Water Bill was shelved by 206 to 130. The London Government Bill was discussed by Mr. H. Gladstone, who severely criticized it and others. On the 22nd the Consolidated Fund Bill was read a second time, after a debate on slavery in East Africa. Mr. Holland opened the debate on his Old Age Pensions Bill, and Mr. Chamberlain said the Government would consent to its second reading, to be followed by reference to a Select Committee.

MAJOR CHENEVIX TRENCH, at present Assistant to the Resident in Kashmir, succeeds Sir George Robertson as Political Officer with Sirdar Ayub Khan, when Sir George goes on his six months' special leave which has been granted him. Lieutenant Kennion, Assistant to the Political Agent at Gilgit, officiates for Major Trench in Kashmir.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE PHILIPPINES.

WASHINGTON, March 17 (Reuter).—According to telegraphic advices received here from Manila, there is every indication that a climax may be reached at any moment. The officials here are very well pleased with the condition of affairs, but decline at present to discuss the details of the despatches. There are indications, however, that hostilities may cease within a very short time. President McKinley has been advised to this effect.

In compliance with a request from General Otis, three light batteries and six Hotchkiss guns have been ordered to the Philippines to be used as mountain batteries in places where it is impossible to move heavier artillery.

Mr. Long is arranging for a mosquito fleet to undertake police duty on the coasts and inland waters of the Philippines. Some of the big ocean tugs which formed the mosquito fleet that operated round the Cuban coasts will be utilised for this purpose. They will go up the Pacific coast and proceed to Manila by way of the Aleutians, Hakodate, and Hong Kong.

Manila, March 17 (Laffan).—The insurgents whom Major Rogers' infantry pursued inland yesterday have returned and occupied Taytay.

New York, March 19 (Times).—Recent despatches from Manila relieve to some extent American concern about the military conditions in the Philippines. But the War Office declines to publish General Otis's latest despatch, though saying that it indicates that the end of the war is near. It maintains a censorship on Press telegrams, of which the only effect is to sow distrust and create anxiety.

Laffan's Agency telegrams from Manila, March 19:—General Wheaton's flying brigade completed a week of good work to-day by driving the enemy fifteen miles southward from Taguig along the west shore of the lake to San Pedro Tunasao, and burning ten towns. The insurgents suffered heavy loss. The American loss was about thirty wounded and seven killed. General Wheaton estimates that during the week 2,000 insurgents have been killed, wounded, and captured.

THE Railway from Moulmein to Mymao will be opened for traffic on the 30th instant.

PROFESSOR PICKERING at his observatory Arizona has discovered a ninth moon to the Saturn.

SIR A. MACDONNELL, it is understood, will hold an Educational Conference at Allahabad University.

MR. HESELINE, Registrar of the Finance Department, takes up his new appointment of Assistant Secretary to the Finance Department, Punjab Government, early in May.

THE result of the Police case wherein the Maharaja of Jhawal prosecuted some ekka drivers has now closed. One has been sentenced to 3 years, and two to 2-2 years' rigorous imprisonment.

THE Hon. Ratnasabapathi Pillai has paid the Editor and the Printer and the publisher of the *S. I. Post* Rs. 100 in settlement of all civil claims of the former by the latter in connection with the withdrawn defamation case against the *S. I. Post*. This result is due to the intervention of the council, Mr. Notion for the accused.

THE execution of Balkrishna Hari Chapekar, who murdered Mr. Rand and Colonel Ayerst, is fixed to take place on the 24th instant.

A GANG of daccits consisting of seven persons which was arrested at Cawnpur in January on the charge of looting carts, has been sentenced to transportation for life.

SIR EDWIN COLLEN arrives in Simla to-day when all the members of the Government of India will be present in Simla.

MR. HARRINGTON, Chief Engineer of the Kalka-Simla Railway, arrives at Simla next week, and will make a survey of the proposed line. He then returns to England to consult with the directors of the Company, and the line will be commenced in October.

THE orders of the Maharaja of Bikanir that henceforth all papers of the State should be kept in Deva nagri characters has called forth much rejoicing in certain quarters. Pandit Ram Chandra Dube of the Devanagari School, Meerut, has composed a poem of no less than 84 lines praising the Maharaja's action.

A BHAND of about fifty Waziris raided the village of Wasna Ram, in the Bannu district, on the night of the 2nd instant. They seized all the women's jewellery and all the money they could find, and altogether they are said to have looted about Rs. 7,700 worth of property.

THE construction of the beach railway station at Madras is still being delayed by the dispute between the Municipality and the Madras Railway. It is to be hoped that the Consulting Engineer to Government will soon effect a "modus vivendi," for it is nothing less than absurd that a dispute as to "rights" between two public institutions should delay a work of great public utility.—*Madras Mail.*

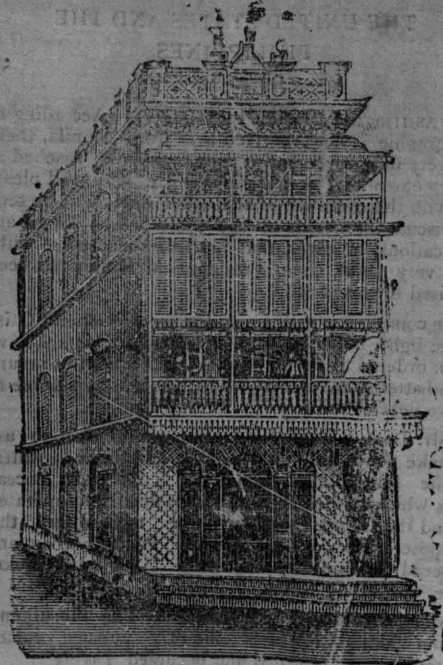
A BOMBAY telegram, dated April 9, states that the *Indian Sporting Times* to-day reproduces the information laid by Donald Greenhalgh, jockey, charging the paper with defamation for having stated that it was alleged he deliberately pulled Mulberry in the Eclipse Stakes and was warned off by the Calcutta Turf Club in consequence. The paper adds the following editorial comments:—"It will be seen from the above that when our attention was called to the matter we at once offered to correct the statement and to express our regret for an inquiry we found it was inaccurate. The statement was made on the authority of our Calcutta correspondent, whose accuracy we had no reason to doubt, but we find that it was incorrect. Greenhalgh was not warned off by the C. T. C., nor was it alleged that he deliberately pulled Mulberry in the Eclipse Stakes. We therefore unreservedly withdraw the statement and express our regret for having given publicity to it."

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About three years ago my wife had an attack of rheumatism which confined her to her bed for over a month and rendered her unable to walk a step without assistance, her limbs being swollen to double their normal size. Mr. S. Maddox insisted on my using Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I purchased a fifty-cent bottle and used it according to the directions and the next morning she walked to breakfast without assistance in any manner, and she has not had a similar attack since.—A. B. PARSONS. For sale by

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EAR DROPS.

It cures otorrhoea, otitis, tympanitis, inflammation and all other diseases of the ear. Deafness, if not of long standing, is sure to be cured by its use.

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Our Own Health-Restorer.

This medicine not only allays all local irritation but improves the digestion and strengthens the constitution. Hence, it is used with the most signal success in Asthma, Bronchitis, Cough, Consumption, Influenza, and all affections of the Throat and the Chest.

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

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A most valuable Tonic and Digestive. It is a wonderful remedy against gastrodynia with indigestion, costiveness, diarrhoea, high-coloured Urine, occasional Diarrhoea, a dirty-coloured Tongue, Vomiting of green matter, a nasty taste in the mouth, dreadful dreams and sleeplessness, heavy drowsy feeling after eating, alternate constipation and relaxation of bowels, soreness and extreme sensitiveness of the right side of the abdomen, sour taste in the mouth with eructations of wind from the stomach, a constipated condition with clay-coloured stools and difficult defecation, headache accompanied with obstinate constipation or diarrhoea, &c. &c. It would be as efficacious in Acute as in Chronic cases.

Price for one phial Re 1.

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knife (10) one coping ink pencil, (11) one ink

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(14) one packet blue black ink powder

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বাহ্যিক যে ইহা একখানি উৎকৃষ্ট স্ত্রীপাঠ

পুস্তক। প্রথম একশত প্রাক্কক এক খানি

এক টাকা মূল্যের বৃত্তাবর রহস্য ও আট আনা

মূল্যের একখানি বিজ্ঞানিক দর্পণ উপহার দিব,

যদিও তাকবাহার ও ডি: পি: খরচ লইব না।

ঐত্বকাম্যবাবগ্গি এম ডি সাহিত্যিক, কলিকতা।

KAVIRAJ

BIJOY RATNA SEN KAVIRANJAN'S

AYURVEDIC AUSHADHALAYA,

5, Kumartuli Street, Calcutta.

Musks.—It is one of the best ingredients of many

of the Ayurvedic medicines, which cannot be prepared

effectually without genuine musks. This article, which

is usually sold in the Calcutta market as genuine, has

often been found to be artificially adulterated. We

have therefore arranged to obtain our supply of genuine

musks from Assam, Nepal and Cashmere a large

stock of which are always available for sale at this

Aushadhalaya.

Assamimusk ... Rs. 40 per tolah.

Nepal and Cashmere musks ... Rs. 32 per tolah.

Chavanaprasha.—The best of the Ayurvedic

medicines. It is stated in Ayurveda that the very old

saint Chavana had the revival of youth by the use of

this medicine. Hence it is called "Chavanaprasha."

Many of the Indians are aware of the name of this

prasha. No other medicine has yet been invented so

good for health and during illness. This medicine, if

continued regularly, also completely cures cough, con-

sumption, asthma, phthisis, natural weakness, nervous

debility and other troublesome diseases. It is a

marvellous remedy for diseases of the lungs, heart, liver,

impurity of blood and weak constitution. Besides

these, the descriptions and effects of these medicine, as

practically related by the *rishtis* (old clever physicians),

have all been proved to be true and correct. Long trials.

Price Rs. 4 for a phial for a month's use, packing two

annas. V. P. fee two annas, and postage in addition

to be paid extra.

Kalpa-latika-Batika.—It is a marvellous

remedy for general debility, loss of appetite and loss of

cheerfulness. It is absolutely free from any intoxicating

ingredient, such as opium &c. Box containing

pills (for one month) Rs. 4, packing 1 anna, V. P.

fee 2 annas, and postage 4 annas.

Kamdeva-Ghrita.—It is a powerful remedy

for cases of mental debility and loss of the retentive faculty,

caused by too much study or exercise of the brain.

This is especially beneficial to students—for it im-

proves and strengthens memory and sagacity. Ghrita

for one month, Rs. 4, packing 2 annas, V. P. fee

2 annas and postage 12 annas.

Mohasomeshwar-Batika.—This cures diabe-

tes, Albumenuria and like diseases. Box containing

pills for one month Rs. 4, packing 1 anna, V. P. fee

2 annas and postage 4 annas.

Jivanti-Rasayan.—It is a best remedy for all

impurities of blood, disordered of the bowels, itching of

the body, pain over body, effects of mercury and disor-

der of the liver. Those who are suffering from the

effects of syphilis of mercury are recommended to try

Brihat-Jivanti-Rasayan. Besides these, in all other

cases, Jivanti-Rasayan is suitable. Each phial Rs. 2

V. P. fee 2 annas, packing 2 annas and postage 12

annas.

Himabindu-Oil.—It cures all sorts of headache

and disease of the brain, proceeding from too much

study, and loss of virile fluid. Each phial Re. 1, pack-

ing 1 anna, V. P. fee 2 annas and postage in addition.

Kesharaj-Oil.—This prevents the hair from

becoming grey before time, preserves the hair and

cures all sorts of skin diseases of the head and defects

of the hair. It also cures sleeplessness. Its regular use

is a preventive for brain and hair complaints. It may

be used by males and females alike and is highly

perfumed. The fragrance lasts even after washing.

Price is very cheap, if its valuable medical properties

are considered. Each phial 1 Rupee, 2 annas,

V. P. fee 2 annas and postage in addition.

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 Tosh Banerjee, Deputy
Magistrate of Dacca, writes under date of 6th
March, 1898:—"Many thanks for your Acidity Pills
I was suffering from Dyspepsia and Colic 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 pasty disease
which is very painful. Please send me three boxes of
pills per V. P. P. at your earliest convenience
and oblige."

(From Babu Ramdhani Paure, Deputy
Inspector of Schools, Arrah) "I am really glad
to certify that your Acidity Pills have a wonderful power
to cure that ailment 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, Political
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
splendidly writes:—"I am glad to state that I have de-
Rifi much benefit by the use of a box of your Acidity
vill. 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. Mozaffar-
pur:—"I have tried your Acidity Pill and found them
to be an 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 in every tourist's bag. Please send
me two boxes immediately."

The Amrita Bazar Patrika says:—"Dr. H
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