

# Amrita Bazar Patrika

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NO. 39

**পদক পুস্তক।**  
 স্বল্প হইয়াছে  
 মূল্য ৩০ টাকা।  
 বিক্রির সময়  
 অবতারণার পত্রিকা আঁকিবে প্রার্থনা।  
 অনুসরণবন্দী।  
 ক্রীমোহরমাস প্রণীত।  
 এই খবর উপায়ের বৈক্য প্রয়. দুই পত্র  
 পূর্বে লিখিত।  
 মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডা: বা: অর্ধাশানা।  
 অবতারণার পত্রিকা আঁকিবে প্রার্থনা।

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 মাসিক পত্রিকা। বার্ষিক মূল্য ২৫ ডা: বা: ১০  
 সপ্তকে, পঞ্চম হইতে কীৰ্ত্তিবন্ধু পত্রিকা।  
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 হইবার উহার প্রতি বর্ষের পত্রিকা। সেই  
 চাকার পাইবে। কৈবল্যবালার জন্য, একমাত্র  
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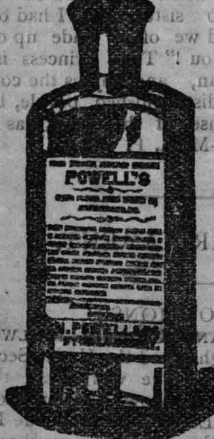
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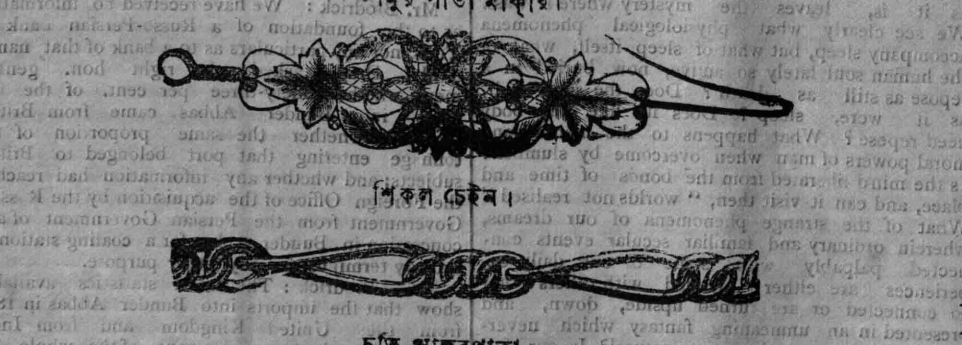
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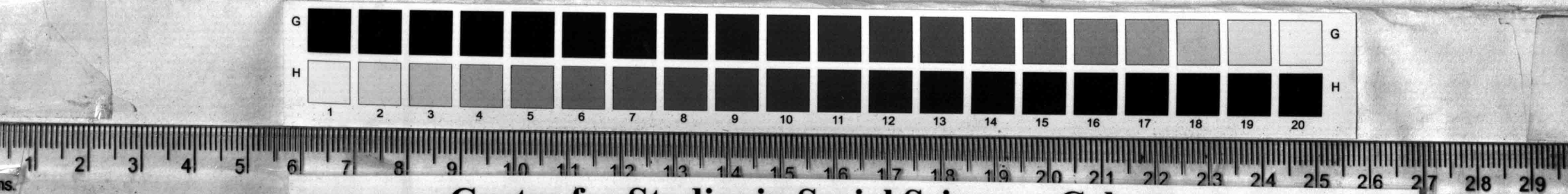
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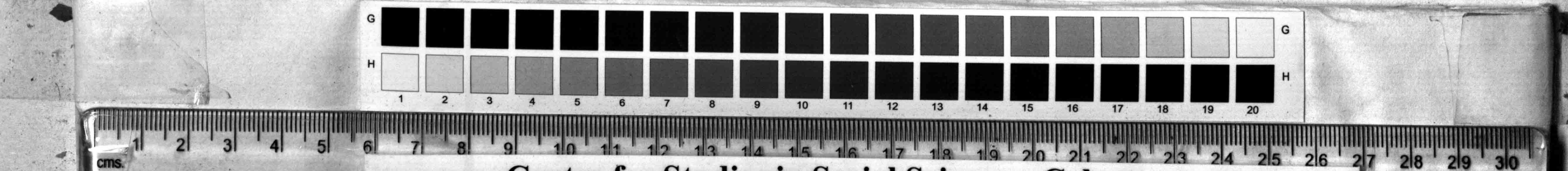
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Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, MAY 25, 1899.

ANGLO-INDIAN PAPERS.

The propositions that we laid down in our last were:—

(1) Newspapers are more necessary in India than in any other part of the world; and, therefore, they can wield greater power here than their brethren are likely to do elsewhere.

(2) Anglo-Indian papers have, generally speaking, up till now, frequently prostituted their sacred functions.

(3) The Anglo-Indian papers of the present day are disposed to deal with the children of the soil in a more friendly manner than their predecessors used to do.

If a British Judge is influenced by motives of interest, passion or prejudice, to support wrong, he prostitutes his office and debases himself. A newspaper has greater influence than a Judge, for he sits in judgment upon the king or is the expression of the sovereign will of the people. A journalist has to discuss questions affecting public interest from the highest stand-point and give his verdict. If he betrays weakness, he debases himself, prostitutes his sacred functions, and mars his own usefulness.

In India Anglo-Indian Editors think that they are Englishmen in a foreign country, where they have come to make money. As Englishmen their paramount duty is to support British interests at all hazards.

But suppose British Judges also think in the same way. Suppose they think that they are Englishmen, who are here to make money and uphold the interests of their countrymen, and therefore, they have no business to side with a native, though justice may be on his side and not on that of his opponent, who is an Englishman. Will not every honest Englishman in this country cry shame and condemn such a Judge, though so patriotic in his sentiment? In the same manner why should not an English Editor consider it a degradation to uphold wrong against right, simply because by so doing he will help a countryman or an administration controlled by his own countrymen? And why should not all honest Englishmen here cry shame and condemn a newspaper which from a clanish feeling is prepared to side with injustice?

Newspaper Editors are permitted to prostitute their sacred functions because the standard of morality is low. We do not say this in reference to India. It is low everywhere, even in England. Had not that been the case, the Times could never have been the leading paper in that country. In India, however, the Anglo-Indian papers have not openly to violate the principles of truth and justice, because they have an easy way of escaping from a difficult position. If they see a wrong done to a native by their countrymen; it is their duty, as journalists,—guardians of public morality—to enter a protest. But they have a tender feeling for their countrymen and none for the Indians, and, therefore, it is no pleasant duty to them to side with an Indian against their own kith and kin. On the other hand, they cannot openly support a flagrant act of injustice, even in the defence of a countryman, for they have a character to maintain. But they escape from the dilemma in the following manner. They altogether ignore such subjects. And thus they have not to support an unjust act committed by a countryman. Thus, for instance, a native of India is murdered by a European, and the culprit is allowed to escape. What the Anglo-Indian papers do is not to say that the verdict is a proper one, or that they are glad their countryman has escaped, for they are too honorable to do that. But what they do is to take no notice of the case at all.

The Anglo-Indian papers, we must say to their credit, are not so guilty of the errors of commission as of omission. They are too honorable to support an unjust act, but they are too weak to condemn it, if it is the work of a countryman. Magisterial vagaries are one of the most potent causes of discontent here. The Anglo-Indian papers are too honest to support such acts, but not honest enough to condemn them.

All power is in the hands of their countrymen who form themselves into a compact family here. The Empire of India is a common property of all Englishmen in England, Englishmen have no help, but to rely upon those who are sent out here, to rule this Empire of theirs. But those who are here have no reason to stand aloof and leave everything to a clique of officials. If the officials rule the country, the non-officials should play the part of the Opposition. A Government can never be properly conducted without an Opposition. Where is the Opposition in India? The Indian papers? Well, the officials can send every one of their conductors to jail!

In England they will not trust the Government, though the members composing it are under their eyes; and they have, therefore, set up an Opposition to control their action. But in India, which is a country far more difficult to govern, they have left every thing to a clique who carry on their work in secret, and resent if they are asked to give an explanation. Is this not funny? Yet a single blunder of the officials here may produce incalculable

mischief. What the Anglo-Indian papers do in this country is to leave the Government and administrators alone. If they refer to them they do it only to accord support to those who are irresistible, and, therefore do not need it.

Now, the newspapers are outsiders. They see things from a different standpoint from that of the officials. If, instead of crying ditto to whatever the officials might say, the newspapers criticize the actions of the former, there can be no manner of doubt that the country will be better governed, that is to say, governed more economically and sympathetically. Are they indolent? Are they afraid of criticizing the Government? Will independence, on their part, injure their interests? We do not know. But this we see, that Anglo-Indian papers can, if they like, rule the Empire along with the officials, which, however, they do not; they have voluntarily given up privileges they should enjoy and utilize.

The Anglo-Indian papers are here in the midst of three hundred millions of people, but like the Jews in Calcutta, they remain aloof from the inhabitants of the country. A question, affecting the vital interests of the Indians, may throw them into convulsions, but the Anglo-Indian papers have no space for such matters, while they will describe a Simla *tamasha* in an exhaustive manner.

Now that the Anglo-Indian papers are displaying far more sympathy for the inhabitants of their adopted country, may we hope to see them carrying on their legitimate function, which is to act as guardians of public morality? Let them act the part which the Opposition is doing in England, and then the country will be better governed and no British interests sacrificed. The Indian papers are unequal to the task for many reasons, and now that the sedition laws have been passed it is impossible for them to discharge their duties in that hearty manner which is so essential to success.

THE SIGNALLERS' STRIKE.

We are sorry to see the following lines in the Pioneer:—

Probably 97 per cent of the signallers now going on strike on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway are Mahatta Brahmins or other Mahatta castes, the Brahmin predominating. Comment is unnecessary. Forty rupees a month is declared to be the maximum salary to which the signallers can rise. For this wage there should be no difficulty in obtaining Anglo-Indian lads from the Lawrence Asylums and from crowded Madras and Calcutta, who would make for loyalty and hang together for the good of the Railway in times of difficulty. Give these lads, who might be indentured, the certain prospect of advancement to guards and stationmasters' positions in due course, and the authorities will, by employing them, have insured themselves against a repetition of a signallers' strike.

We shall explain the situation. Men are divided into two classes, viz., tyrants and their victims. These tyrants and victims are to be found everywhere, even in the most civilized of countries. And thus all over the world there is a ceaseless struggle between these two classes. In Russia, the autocrat is too strong for his victims, and the latter failing in an open warfare, resort to infernal machines. In America, on the other hand, the freest country in the world, where every man is a factor, where the sovereign is only one of the people, the tyrant is the capitalist. And the poor working men are treated with selfishness and cruelty by the generality of the capitalists, who employ them. The poor people finding themselves utterly helpless have to combine for the protection of their interests.

These strikes are usually the attempts of the down-trodden to assert their right to live. If strikes are common in America, they are more common in England. When these down-trodden working men form combinations, there is a fight between them and their employers. Sometimes the former win and sometimes the latter. But whenever there is a strike it can be taken for granted that there is a real and wide-spread grievance, that has led them to take the risk of standing in opposition to their bread-giver. And the master, who is reasonable, gathers from the strike a lesson to the effect that there is a screw loose somewhere. He makes the necessary inquiry and then removes the wrong which had led to the combination.

But the master, who is selfish and cruel, adopts quite a different method. He takes offence, feels vindictive, and does his best to crush them. The tyrants are, generally speaking, very selfish. They cannot persuade themselves to believe that their victims have their rights, one of which is that they have a right to live in some comfort. And, therefore, Jesus Christ, who is on the side of the victims of tyrants, when asked how he could justify the sense of justice and mercy of God when He permitted the strong tyrant to oppress the helpless weak, consoled the party, on whose side he was, with the assurance that, though the tyrant seemed to be prosperous here on this earth, they would find no place in Heaven.

As regards the present strike, the combination is not due to the signallers being Mahatta Brahmins, but to the fact of their having real and intolerable grievances, for, as we have pointed out above, strikes are not the inventions of the Mahatta Brahmins but the products of the West. As a matter of fact, the Brahmin signallers had been respectfully laying their grievances since a long time before their employers, and they ceased to work only when they had lost all hope of obtaining justice.

In England, we have the colliers' strike, the lamp-lighters' strike, and other strikes; but there is no Mahatta Brahmin there to lead them to it. When we see "strikes," we naturally come to the conclusion that the strikers have a grievance, but the writer in the Pioneer would give the present strike a political significance to divert attention from the real point at issue. The name of a Mahatta Brahmin has a charm of its own now-a-days,—the name of a Mahatta Brahmin having the effect of inflaming at once the worst passions of a class of Anglo-Indians; and knowing this full well, the writer invokes this name to suppress the fact of their grievances.

We don't know how the Mahatta Brahmins came to be unpopular with the present rulers of the land. It was the Mahatta Brahmins who held the Indian Empire when Lord Clive was fighting in Bengal. They made over the Empire to the present masters and loyally agreed to uphold them. When at Poona, we heard a Mahatta ballad in which Baji Rao Peshwa was praised for having left the *gadi* in favor of the English, which arrangement brought peace to the land. The Mahattas, therefore, deserve to be treated with kindness and not with hostility by the present rulers of the land; and we dare say, the bitter feeling displayed towards the Mahatta Brahmins by a certain class of Anglo-Indian writers is not approved of by the higher classes of their countrymen. There is no doubt of it, the signallers have a real grievance and a wide-spread one, that they made efforts to remove it in a peaceful manner and that they have resorted to this combination when they were convinced that they had no hope of redress from their superiors.

The public has a right to know what has led the Bengal Government to disturb the publicly-announced arrangements of its predecessors with regard to the election of members to the local Council, and bring about all this confusion, uncertainty and injustice into this province. At whose instance and to serve what purpose was the Lieutenant-Governor moved to introduce this dangerous innovation? We are the more anxious to know all, as there is no doubt of it that His Honour has been actuated in this matter by the best of motives, and secondly, because, His Honour, judging from his attitude towards the Calcutta Municipal Bill, is very loth to interfere with the acts of his predecessors. There is no earthly reason why Sir John Woodburn should support this Bill which, if passed, will, as he is perfectly aware, render his rule very unpopular with the people; but yet, it is said, he sticks to it so tenaciously, because, he thinks, it would not look well to run counter to the wishes of his predecessor. Well, it was in 1893 that Sir Charles Elliott announced in a Resolution that Dacca should be allowed to exercise the franchise in 1899. His Honour repeated the announcement in 1895, and withdrew the proviso by which he left his successors to do whatever they liked in this matter; and Sir Alexander Mackenzie also did the same in 1897. Thus three announcements, in three public Resolutions, Dacca the privilege to exercise the right of election this year, were made. What has occurred in the meantime to lead Sir John Woodburn to go against these repeated declarations of his predecessors?

It is said that the Government of Bengal has been led to take this step by the recommendation of the Corporation of Calcutta. But this cannot be correct. What the Corporation prayed for was that Government should be pleased to nominate one of the two Municipal representatives in the Council and allow the other to get in through the Corporation. This was a reasonable prayer; and Sir John Woodburn may yet accede to it, and avoid all complications. If His Honour cannot accede to the request, there is no doubt, some explanation would be forthcoming on the part of the Governor.

The action of the Bishop of Colombo in entering a protest against the circular of the Lord Bishop, has evoked a good deal of comment. Dr. Weldon issued a circular that Christians and non-Christians should unite in offering special prayers and thanksgiving to God on the eightieth birthday of Her Majesty. By this move the Lord Bishop gives one a retort of what he meant by "imperial Christianity". The Bishop of Colombo, however, says that there can be no union or unity between Christians and non-Christians. In this controversy, though our sympathies are, of course, with the Lord Bishop, we must say the Bishop of Colombo is more consistent. If non-Christians are enemies of God, any prayer from them can never be acceptable to Him. The Hindus have, however, no interest in this controversy. Says the *Vishnu Upanishad*, Part III, eighth section, eighth sloka: "If a man sincerely worships God, he is accepted, no matter in what form he does it." So, you see, according to the Hindus, the Christians are welcome to pray through Jesus Christ, as the Mussalmans are also welcome to do through their Prophet. The Hindus have, therefore, no *locus standi* in this controversy, but the Mussalmans have. Thus, if the Christians have voted eternal damnation to non-Christians, the Mussalmans have voted damnation to those who are not Mussalmans; and the point is as to which of them is right

can only be settled in the other world. The Bishop of Colombo is no bigot, he has some charity at least, for instance, he says:— "Though Christian prayer is prayer in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and no other is prayer in the full sense of the word, yet we trust that lower forms of prayer are graciously accepted by God from those to whom the name of Christ is unknown. We feel sure that among non-Christians there are many individuals, whose worship, though offered in ignorance, is yet accepted as worship of Him after whom they are seeking."

The prayer "in the full sense of the word" is the Christian prayer: what that is, we know. All others are of "lower forms." Let us examine some of these "lower forms" as taught by the Lord Gauranga. He taught that man can develop his spiritual nature, and his worship must be according to his capacity. Here is a free translation of the prayer for the beginner:—

"My Lord God, I pray not for wealth or for any earthly good, but grant me, oh, Lord, Bhakti (faith and reverence) to Thee." Here is the next higher form of prayer:— "Oh my God! wilt Thou mercifully vouchsafe to me the privileges of being overpowered by emotion followed by the shedding of tears, broken voice and *pulak* (signs of unutterable joy) by the mere utterance of Thy sweet name?" Then comes another:— "Oh my God! make me Thy servant and, as for my pay, give me Love to Thee." Here is yet another:— "Oh, my Govind! my days have become long and tedious; my eyes are like clouds in the rainy season; the world itself appears dreary because of Thy absence."

The Natus brothers, who are now under restraint at Belgaum, had recently an occasion to feel their peculiar position very keenly. The younger Natus had a marriageable daughter to dispose of, and a Hindu can understand, in what predicament the Natus family found themselves under such circumstances. A bridegroom was secured, and the date and the place of marriage were fixed. The Natus then wired to the Bombay Government, praying for permission that one of the brothers might be allowed to go beyond Belgaum and attend the marriage at Kolaba, as it was incumbent upon them to do so, under the rules of the Shastras. The permission was refused. The incident needs no comment. As the Natus are leading the Bombay Government to commit blunder after blunder, the best course for the latter is to set them free at once. Perhaps they would have done it long ago if an impression had not taken hold of their mind that, by so doing, they would lose their prestige. What an idea of prestige! We fancy, however, the prestige of the enlightened Government of England consists in redressing, and not persisting in, an admitted wrong. It is said the Natus will be quietly released after the departure of Lord Sandhurst from Bombay.

As far as we have been able to gather information on the subject, the object of the Bengal Government in disfranchising the Dacca Division was to offer an opportunity to Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee and Narendro Nath Sen to get into the Council again, after the expiry of their terms, so that they might criticize the Calcutta Municipal Bill, when it would be brought forward for final disposal, on behalf of the people. Apart from the fact that their speeches would be of no practical use, as the Government would not be in the least influenced by them, we also pointed out that competitors might stand in the way and frustrate the object of the Government. For instance, if Babu Ananda Mohun Bose were to oppose Babu Surendra Nath, the latter would find it very difficult to secure the Presidency Division seat. It is an open secret that important members of several important Municipalities in this Division had expressed their preference for Babu A. M. Bose; but, as the latter is not willing to contest the seat with the Secretary of the Association of which he is the President, so the Government has no cause for anxiety as regards Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee; for, barring Babu Ananda Mohun Bose, there is scarcely a resident of the Presidency Division who can successfully compete with him on the present occasion. We regret, however, the position of Babu Narendro Nath Sen is not as secure as that of Babu Surendra Nath. We understand that Mr. Apar has made every arrangement to compete the Corporation seat with Babu Narendro Nath, and he is likely to prove a formidable rival. We have nothing to say against Mr. Apar; on the other hand, he is well-known for his sympathy towards the people of this country. But, considering the peculiar circumstances of the case, we hope he will see his way to allow Babu Narendro Nath to be elected unopposed. The Government has interested itself on behalf of the two Municipal representatives of the Corporation; and it will not look well on the part of the European members of the Corporation to go against its wishes in this respect. Besides, Babu Narendro Nath Sen has done good service to the Corporation by representing its views faithfully and ably in the Select Committee, at a considerable personal sacrifice. The Corporation should not now throw him over-board, but return him un-animously.

REFERRING to the Rules empowering the Bengal Government to disfranchise the

Dacca Division, the *Bengalee* says:— "The Rules on the subject are clear and we quote them here: The following is a sketch of the form which the rotation may probably assume: but the Lieutenant-Governor cannot bind himself or his successor, as to the exact order in which the privilege will in future be exercised:—

It seems the *Bengalee* is not aware that, from his next election Resolution, that is to say, the one dated 6th May 1895, Sir Charles Elliott took out the proviso entirely and thus made it clear that his successors should not disturb his scheme of rotation. Sir Alexander Mackenzie respected his wishes, but Sir John Woodburn, it appears, has found it necessary to run counter to them for reasons which are not yet known to the public.

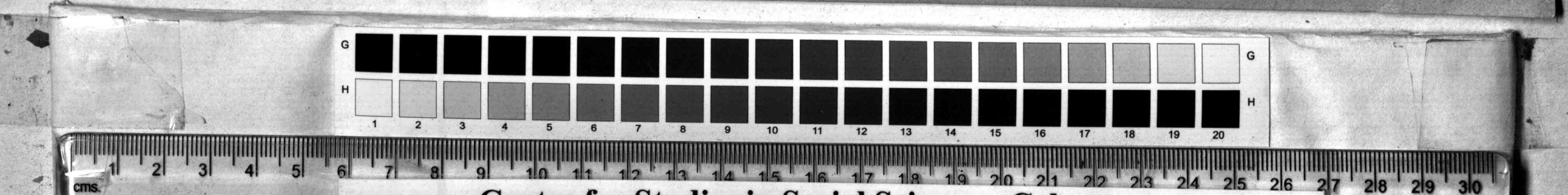
In our issue of the 9th instant there appeared a letter describing an unprovoked assault on a Mahomedan by a European on the platform of the Dum-Dum Railway Station. The correspondent, Babu L. Mohun Ghosal, is a Commissioner of the Cossipore-Chittpore Municipality, and an educated man. He saw the assault with his own eyes, and learnt the name and address of the Indian who was caned on the crowded platform, in the presence of hundreds of people. The assault took place on the 30th April last and not on April 5th as stated in the letter. It is, we believe, not too much to expect that the military authorities will put themselves in communication with Babu L. Mohun Ghosal who will be able to give them every information, hold an enquiry into the matter and take what steps justice would prompt. It is really a matter of the greatest regret that such an unprovoked assault, as is alleged in the case under notice, should occur even in the metropolis of British India. The officer we are told, is a Lieutenant in the Royal Irish Rifles now stationed at Dum Dum.

The Sugar Duties Act still continues to evoke interest, and invite comment in England. Of course, we need hardly recapitulate at this late hour of the day, that the English people are divided over this question. The writer on Indian Affairs in the *Times* makes some very pertinent observations in regard to the Sugar Duties, which should silence the Free Traders of England. This is what he says:— "There can be no pretence, that in other matters we strictly regulate our Indian finances by the British principles of taxation. In England our fiscal policy is to let the necessities of life go revenue free. In India the heaviest tax is levied from salt, a prime necessary of life for the poorest classes and their cattle. In England import taxes are confined to a few luxuries, and export taxes on staples could not be borne for a moment. In India there is an almost universal Customs tariff on imports by sea and land, and an export duty of about 80 million rupees a year is still levied on rice, as until Lord Mayo's reforms, an export duty was levied on wheat. . . . In England the bare suspicion of manipulating our customs tariff in the interest of rival producers beyond the seas would shatter the strongest Ministry. In India the customs tariff has again and again been adjusted and re-adjusted by exemptions, reductions and a countervailing Excise in the interest of the rival manufacturers of Great Britain."

We learn on the authority of *Seda*, the newly started Santipur weekly, that the *Fairdipur Hitaishini* is in rather hot waters. We are told that in its issue of the 15th *Balgon* last, the *Hitaishini* published an article headed *haleb puja* or worship of Europeans. This article attracted the attention of the Bengali Translator to the Government, who translated and submitted it to the Government. As a result thereof, the Director of Public Instruction was asked to hold an enquiry into the matter. Mr. Pedlar, we are told, wrote to the worshippers of Europeans mentioned in the article for information. The result of this correspondence is not yet known. We do not think that we are justified in making any comments on the case at the present stage. We may, however, say that it will be watched with interest and anxiety not only by the press but by the entire population of Bengal.

GLADSTONE, in his article, in the *Nineteenth Century*, on the "Empire of the English", anticipated some of the sentiments of Rudyard Kipling. He expressed wonder at the success of his race in conquering a nation seven or eight times numerically stronger than themselves. This in itself would be no wonder if the Indians were savages; but they had, said Mr. Gladstone, a civilization of their own, in no way inferior to that which prevailed in Europe at the time. Now, this knowledge, that the Indians are a

THEFT and robbery of a very serious character having become common in Ferretpur, a special meeting of Magistrates, Honorary Magistrates, and Members of the Municipal Committee was held at the Town Hall to consider means for the greater security of the town. Several proposals were made how to check the increase of crime. It was suggested that a special magistrate with full powers was required under the existing state of things. It was also brought to notice that several private individuals had opened doors in the wall of the town and thus opened communications with the outside world independently of the usual town gates that are guarded by the police. It was resolved that a sub-committee be appointed of Government officials and other influential men to consider all questions in regard to crime in the town and to discuss means to prevent it.



civilized race, and not "blacks," came to be realized very lately by the people of England. The notion prevailed and was made to prevail by interested and designing men that the Indians were a race of savages, as black as the Negroes, and more superstitious than they. They, these "blacks" were sometimes called "Gentoos."

They were represented to be as black as Negroes in all illustrations, almost naked, and doing only menial service. In pictures the bigger folks were described as sitting, gaudily dressed, on gaudily caparisoned elephants, giving an idea that they were no better than they should be. It was told that they worshipped hideous idols, burnt their widows, sacrificed their children, &c., &c.

It has now come to be realized that the Indians are not a savage race, that they have a civilization of their own, and that they possess all the elements which, when properly utilized, would make them a great nation. England has other dependencies besides India; as, for instance, Ireland, Australia and the Provinces in Africa.

There is one feature in the signallers' strike about which the public may naturally expect an explanation from the Government. The signallers were the servants of a private Railway Company; the quarrel was not between them and the Government. They had a grievance against their master, and in order to gain their ends they resorted to a method which is not only adopted in every civilized country but which is perfectly legitimate.

the party which received help from Government was apparently the stronger of the two. The proper course for the Government was to have maintained an attitude of perfect neutrality. As the protector of the weak against the strong, its other duty was to have made an enquiry into the subject, and remove the grievances of the poorly-paid signallers, if their complaint was founded in fact. It is in this way alone that Government can interfere in a matter like this, and not in a way to strengthen the hands of the more powerful party.

Another feature of the question is—can military signallers be thus employed to serve a private Company? And, by whom are they being paid? If their services could be lent to private parties, without infringing any rules, it is reasonable to hold that their salaries should be paid by them and not from the public Exchequer.

We thank the Pioneer for its article of May 22, headed "The teaching of a great teacher." The great teacher is Sir John Malcolm. According to the Pioneer, no Englishman has ever been in closer touch and sympathy with the feelings and aspirations of the princes, chiefs and gentlemen of position in India than Sir John.

We are supported by the good opinion of the lower and the middle classes, to whom our Government is indulgent but it has received the rudest shocks from an impression that our system of rule is at variance with the permanent continuance of rank, authority and distinction in any native of India.

"These are golden words," we repeat with the Pioneer; and "to inspire a recurring sense of benefits might well be engraven on the rock as the aim and ideal" of the British Imperial Policy. Unfortunately the policy of the modern times is the reverse of inspiring a recurring sense of benefits.

ON the 12th May, two Telegraph lines men were wounded by rifle thieves at Camp Baradum on the Chitral side of the Lowari Pass. No rifle were lost, but the thieves escaped.

Calcutta and Mofussil, Indian Sketches BY Shishir Kumar Ghose WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY W. S. CAINE

PRICE—1 RUPEE AND 6 ANNAS. I heartily commend to every cultured and earnest Indian, to every Christian Missionary, and also to every European who cares to look beneath the surface of Indian life and thought, the contents of this deeply-interesting volume of miscellaneous articles from the pen of Shishir Kumar Ghose.

FOREST SURVEY.—During last year, re-demarcation of village boundaries in Palamau district and operations by the Settlement Officer in Manbhum, have rendered it possible to add ninety-five square miles to area of which estimates have been formed.

ASSAM JAIL ADMINISTRATION.—In commenting on the Jail Administration in Assam for the year 1898, Mr. Cotton is glad to find that the unenviable reputation of Assam for showing the heaviest jail mortality in India has now been lost, the death-rate having fallen from 51.6 per mille in 1894 to 36.6 per mille in 1898.

THE CENTRAL STATION.—We understand, says Capital, that after several meetings the Committee appointed to consider the merits of the Central Station scheme have asked Sir Bradford Leslie to verify his estimates, the opinion being that the work cannot be done for the price.

SUPERSTITION.—We Hindus are, of course, superstitious. But by what name are we to characterize the recent successful agitation against Sunday newspapers in England, if not by the name of superstition?

DACOITY.—On Saturday last a dacoity was committed in the house of a rich jeweller at Matrah near Diamond Harbour. In the dead of night when all the inmates of the house were fast asleep, 35 armed dacoits entered the house and after brutally torturing the inmates with fire in order to make them disclose the resting place of their valuables decamped with cash and jewellery to the value of Rs. 2000.

KILLED BY DROWNING.—Some days ago, an Ulah boy, aged 8 years, was playing in the neighbourhood of his house in Garden Reach, when a man accidentally threw a quantity of rice water on him. The sudden shock was so great that the boy fell down apparently dead.

A TALE OF OUTRAGE.—A correspondent writing to the Indian Empire from Masimpur in the district of Noakhali, says: The village Masimpur is the abode of thieves and badmashes. The inhabitants of it are so much harassed by them that they do not venture to rise against them.

MURDER AT SANTIPORE.—The local paper Sobit, reports that a Brahmin widow living by herself in Duttpara, was found murdered in her house the other day. She had only a young unmarried daughter with her at the time, but no male servant or relative. Her body was found floating in a pool of blood with her throat cut as if with a dao.

THE GHATSILLA CASE.—Referring to the interpellation in the House of Commons, regarding the Ghatsilla case, the Indian Nation says:—We are not acquainted with the facts of this particular case, but there can be no doubt that the entire system of union of judicial and executive functions is a great evil, and possibly it is more than ordinarily serious evil in backward districts like Manbhum and Singhbhum where the bar is not a large or powerful institution.

DACOITY IN MIDNAPUR.—The Medini Bandhab of Midnapur says that the other day an armed band of dacoits attacked the house of a well-known family of jewellers. They successively broke down three padlocks and forced an entry into the house and into the bedroom of Babu Ramsaran Shaha where the marauders stood at his head.

A DISTRICT JUDGE IN COURT.—The other day, one Sital Prosad, a record-keeper of Srinagar Raj, was accused by Mr. F. MacLaine, the District Judge of Purneah, of urinating near an obscure, old pond, overgrown with jungle. A foot path passing through a meadow far off from the public road leads one to this place.

RED TAPEISM.—A propos of our remark the other day regarding the necessity for placing some check on the excessive flow of ink which goes on in some of the Secretariat offices, sufficiently amusing story is told by a military officer in question for urgent military reasons required to address a certain political office, but did not know who he was, or where he lived.

A MAGISTERIAL ERROR.—The blending of executive and judicial functions in one officer has been the root of many evils. The other day the Sessions of Patna was moved by Babu Karuna Kanta Ganguly, Reader, on behalf of two well-to-do Zemindars against whom proceedings were drawn up under sec. 154 of P. C.

LEGISLATIVE FORECAST.—There is not likely to be a Legislative Council meeting for some weeks yet, and there is no exciting business at the moment on the programme. Among the small bills likely to come forward may be mentioned (1) A Bill to validate certain marriages between Native Christians in Pudukkottai and Travancore; (2) a small Bill to make a technical alteration in the N.W.P. Canal and Drainage Act; and (3) a Bill to amend Section 22 of the Indian Registration Act of 1871 with reference to the clause on the subject of the description of property.

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SUIT FOR RESTITUTION OF CONJUGAL RIGHTS.—Yesterday before Baba Koruna Das Bose, first Sub-judge of Alipore, the case brought by Prince Faridjah of the Oudh Family against a daughter of the late Prince Sir Jehan Kader and his son-in-law, Prince Mirza Mohamed Mokim Bahadur for restitution of conjugal rights came up for settlement of issues. The facts of the case are briefly as follows: The plaintiff was married during the lifetime of Prince Jehan Kader and on the occasion of that marriage the dowry was fixed at Rs. 25,00,000 and an agreement was registered and executed by the plaintiff by which he promised to reside with his wife in her father's house and not to take her to any place he liked. The defendant had no objection to the plaintiff's living with her in her father's house, and she insisted on the plaintiff's coming there. The defendant also refused to go to the plaintiff's house where he had kept another woman said to be his mistress or mutai. The plaintiff says he is not bound by the agreement as it was executed when he was a minor, nor is he liable to pay the dower. After a long discussion issues were settled and a day fixed for final hearing, the Judge directing that if any commission was required for the examination of any female witness the parties must do so within three weeks.

A LEOPARD KILLED WITH A ROOK RIFLE.—We have just heard, though the information is rather late, of a curious shooting incident, which we may establish a record of its kind for Ceylon. It seems that at Easter, Mr. L. Supton, of the Survey Department, was out shooting in the Wellaway District between Wellaway and Telula, being after deer, armed with an American Marlin rook rifle .220 bore. While thus engaged, his tracker drew his attention, by pointing about thirty yards away where a large leopard was visible, sitting up, quietly like a cat, watching some deer moving in the distance. Mr. Supton turned, and without the slightest hesitation, drew a head on the leopard just above the shoulder, and, firing, killed the brute almost instantaneously, it being found that the spinal cords had been severed, so that the leopard rolled over at once, and, with a slight quiver of its paws, expired. It requires a good deal of nerve and confidence to face a leopard with a rook rifle, for had Mr. Supton only wounded the brute, the tragedy might have ended the other way about for a half-inch off the fatal spot reached would have brought the brute right down on him with consequences to unpleasant to contemplate. Anyone who knows the tiny little cartridges that go into rook rifle will realise the fearful odds against killing a big brute with such a weapon. It is a record for Ceylon, although there is a story that in India a tiger has been killed with a similar miniature weapon. Mr. Supton must be proud of the head and skin of the leopard which he keeps as a trophy.—T. G.

PURSIAN TALE

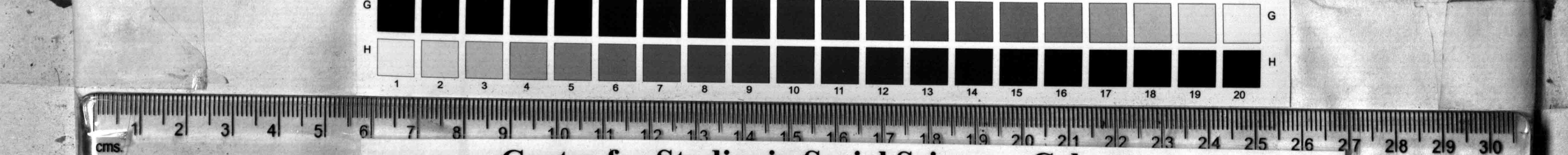
EARLY in the morning of severe winter day, as the conclave of a very high and narrow dwelling in the neighbourhood of the madeleine, Paris, was industriously engaged in pursuance of his business as shoe-tobler, he was disturbed by the sudden violent ringing of the door-bell. Monsieur Jean Joyeuse angrily threw his neighbour's boot from his lap, rose hastily, and opened the door, bringing a tolerably vexed man to view, which, however, immediately gave place to an obeisance, as he saw before him a gentleman of fine presence, who was the possessor of a head of remarkably black hair.

"There is room to be let here," asked the stranger. Monsieur Joyeuse assented with another bow. The stranger expressed the wish to see the apartment. Jean remarked most politely that he had three rooms to let—one in the first storey, another in the second, and still another higher up in the mansard.

"Then lead me to the mansard room." "He will rent the mansard thought Monsieur Joyeuse, and prepared, in spite of the stranger's elegance to lose all respect for him when by some accidental movement the overcoat of the black-haired gentleman parted upon his breast, and the landlord espied the red ribbon of the Legion of Honour in the button-hole of his frockcoat.

Monsieur Jean was now in one of those situations when one does not know what to say. At last he shuttered forth that the attic room was not fitted for such a gentleman. The stranger made an impatient gesture, and said, shortly:—"Prepare the room, and in course of the forenoon I will move in."

With these words he drew forth his purse, and gave a napoleon as earnest money. Jean then saw him enter an equi-age near the church and retire away.



The worthy conjugal pair had hardly recovered from their fright when the bell jingled again and a second stranger appeared, a man of most lowering aspect, with dark glances, and still darker bushy eyebrows.

"Did a gentleman move in here to-day?"

"Yes; but he recovers no one."

"He will receive me. Let me in. I come in the Devil's name!"

Thereupon the dismal guest vanished likewise. From now on these two—the lodger (who did not make this his sleeping place), and the Devil's ambassador, met each morning at a certain hour in Monsieur Jean's house, shut the door of the mansard room behind them, and at five o'clock in the afternoon departed, to meet again in the morning, Monsieur and Madame Joyeuse did their best to discover the clandestine practices of these dangerous men. They listened by turns at the door, but could hear nothing but godless songs, which re-echoed from the mansard walls. Monsieur and Madame Joyeuse endured this for six weeks. One day, when there was a pause in the slogging, the porter caught up a few crumbs of the conversation.

"Courage! courage!" Jean heard one say. He recognised his lodger's voice.

"But it is so hard to play the Devil!" said the other.

"Ah! a contract with the Evil One," thought Monsieur Jean, and shuddered.

"But only consider," began the lodger again, "how effective it is, especially where you call the dead from their graves—and then the summons to Satan and his host, and the answer from the chorus of assembled devils!"

Monsieur Joyeuse had heard enough. The villains should not make his house a den of evil. The police must be informed immediately. The Commissioner heard Monsieur Jean's horrible recital with amazement. He, with two constables, was soon upon the scene.

"In the name of the king, open!" demanded the Commissaire.

The door was immediately thrown open.

"What is your name? Who are you?"

"Giacom Meyerbeer."

"And you?"

"Levasseur, first bass of the Grand Opera."

The Commissaire at once divined the truth, but he asked what they were practising.

"We are studying the role of Bertram in 'Robert the Devil,' a new opera which will soon be produced. In order to be undisturbed I rented this garret room," answered Meyerbeer, smiling.

"But the coffin!" cried Monsieur Joyeuse, still incredulous. The two musicians laughed aloud.

"A simple viola case," said the composer, gazing with amazement on the looks of poor Jean.

"You are a blockhead!" said the Commissaire to the disconcerted janitor, and turning, he begged most humbly to be pardoned his intrusion. Then he withdrew.

A couple of weeks after, Monsieur and Madame Joyeuse had, through the gift of a couple of tickets, the pleasure of witnessing the first representation of the famous opera.

As Levasseur, in the necromantic scene, gave vent to the profound depths of his voice, Jean could not refrain from saying to his Lucy:—

"I maintain it he is the Devil, after all!"

LORD SALISBURY AND THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN AGREEMENT.

THE Royal Academy banquet took place on Saturday evening, April 29 in Burlington House Sir E. J. Poynter, President, occupied the chair and there was a large and distinguished gathering of guests. The Prince of Wales, responding to the toast of his health, said:—

"You have kindly alluded to several members of my family—to my sister, the Princess Louise, and to the Princess of Wales, and to their practical association with Art. We, the other members of the family, have not, I fear, the same practical knowledge which they possess, but we at least share with them their interest and admiration for the work of the Royal Academy. (Cheers.) You have kindly alluded, sir, to the share which I have taken in the effort to raise a suitable memorial to your late President, Sir John Millais. Whatever I have done in the matter has been, I assure you, a labour of love, and I and all those who have worked with me will be amply recompensed for their labours if they see a fine statue erected in a suitable spot. (Cheers.) People have been generous in responding to our call for subscriptions for this monument, but I am afraid we want a little more money, yet, and I hope we shall not be thought extravagant in our demands if we ask some of our friends to give us a little more. (Cheers and laughter.) I am glad, sir, to hear what you have said about the forthcoming Paris Exhibition. From what I have seen and have been able to learn, I make little doubt that it will be one of the finest exhibitions which have ever been arranged. (Cheers.) I sincerely hope with you, sir, that the British Fine Art Section may be worthy of our country, and I am sure that it will be so on account of the distinguished gentlemen who form part of the special committee. I can only hope that all those who appreciate their efforts and who are in a position to help will send their best works, and I am sure that, as far as the authorities are concerned, their pictures will be well-housed and will be as perfectly safe there as they are here. I tender you again my most sincere thanks for the cordial way in which you have received this toast. (Cheers.)"

The toast of "The Navy and Army" was acknowledged by Mr. Goschen and Lord Lansdowne.

AN AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA.

Lord Salisbury replying to the toast of "Her Majesty's Ministers," said:—

"Perhaps it may not be wholly in appropriate to the remarks which the President has made if I convey to you some information which possibly has reached you already—namely, that we have signed a gratifying agreement with the Russian Government which I think may have a good influence. (Cheers.) I do not wish to exaggerate its extent, but, in view of the relations which during the last half-century have from time to time prevailed between this country and that most important empire, I think it is a matter of congratulation that we have come to an agreement with respect to affairs in China which to a certain extent will, I think, prevent any likelihood of any collision between our interests or our objects for the future. (Cheers.) It is always, I think, a matter of congratulation, in which all Her Majesty's subjects will equally sympathise, when we are able to improve our friendly relations with the other nations of the earth. (Cheers.) We have talked of alliances, and in a certain sense the phrase is perfectly just, but an alliance in the sense that with any nation we should go out to war together and bear the cost and danger of war together for each other—that kind of alliance can only very rarely take place. You may in a country neighbourhood be the very dearest friends with your neighbour, and you may say with a great justice that you and he are in relations of perfect amity;

yet if you asked him to pay your solicitor's bill in a certain law suit I think he would be very much surprised. (Laughter and cheers.) That applies to the many nations. The alliances of which we speak are the alliances of good feeling between the peoples and Governments of the respective nations that are allied, and not of engagements which under any circumstances are likely to bring either side into war. (Hear, hear.) On this ground I think we have reason to congratulate ourselves that with so many nations on the earth we are now in relations of amity. (Cheers.) We feel that the maintenance of these relations, so long as our essential interests and our honour are preserved, are the highest objects which any Ministry can look to. (Cheers.) Whether the Peace Conference—that is about to assemble will effect any improvement in the mutual relations of the nations to each other I do not know. Until the discussions are opened we cannot tell. But the very fact that such a conference should have been summoned, and summoned by the nation that in material respects is the most powerful nation on earth, is surely a good omen for future peace and an augury on which all those who value the interests of peace, civilisation and Christianity may filly dwell.

THE COMING DISPENSATION.

After some further remarks Lord Salisbury proceeded:—

"But I do not wish to speak in a spirit that is not consolatory—I think I see the glimmers of a dawn ahead—hopes of a new dispensation, under which art shall be duly regulated and stimulated and brought to its highest perfection. (Laughter.) Recently in controversies that have arisen with respect to the dome of St. Paul's—(laughter)—it was intimated to me that there is a strong feeling that at all events, it is desirable that in such matters as the dome of St. Paul's should be placed under the care of Her Majesty's Government. (Laughter.) Now, when you know what Her Majesty's Government has done in the past you will be thrilled with enthusiasm at that prospect. (Laughter.) You know the way in which the Government does its work. You may imagine how the Royal Academy, once delivered over to it will travail. With Commissions to the right of them and Commissions to the left of them, the Government will at last arrive at the conclusion that whatever is to be done must be deferred until next year. (Laughter.) They will find that these assurances are multiplied to them in abundant measure, as to other interests. They will be examined. Examination is a great proof of the favour which the Government lends to the movements that it supports. Nobody will be allowed to paint a picture until he has proved to the Civil Service examiners that he can speak and write two dead languages, and after that his life will be a life shadowed by inspectors. (Laughter.) Wherever he turns there will be an Inspector to determine whether his action is entirely consistent with the latest sanitary theory—(laughter)—whether, I suppose, a painter in his method of mixing his colours can pass the verdict of the highest chemists of the day—(laughter)—and whether he can also show that the subjects which he patronises are up to the highest points—well, of County Council morality. (Laughter and cheers.) What havoc such doctrines will make to the beautiful exhibition we have seen I do not venture to forecast, but in the course of time we shall all come within the government and administrative hierarchy of the day, and art I have no doubt, will not escape. At all events, it will give a reason which I for one have always found rather difficult to understand—why you have so graciously honoured us with a toast on these festive occasions because I am afraid that our existence has little in it that is germane to art. But in future, when we are your guides, philosophers, and friends, when we examine you, inspect you, and regulate you when all your financial transactions are submitted to the careful scrutiny of the Treasury, may I say that you find that there is a difference of 6-12d., which provides you with material for six months' animated correspondence—(laughter)—when these things happen you will know that you have reason to appreciate us and that there will be a reason in self-interest for that which we now attribute to your abundant courtesy, and which leads you to propose our health to the Royal Academy. (Laughter and cheers.)"

The toast of "Music and the Drama" was acknowledged by Sir Hubert Parry and Sir Squire Bancroft, that of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation" by the Lord Mayor, and that of "The Guests" by the Lord Chief Justice, who proposed "The Royal Academy" to which the President responded.

BURMA PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Babu Ambica Charan Muzunder the President of this Conference after touching very briefly on the history and utility of the Bengal Conference said:—

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

Gentlemen, if the plague is seriously threatening our lives, there is at this time a measure on the legislative anvil of our Council which bids fair to prove no less a dangerous menace to the political existence of the people. I mean the Bill to amend the constitution of the Corporation of Calcutta. The necessity for a change in the existing law which had worked for nearly a quarter of a century was originally urged upon Government by the Commissioners themselves to enable them to recover license-tax from certain companies which had hitherto escaped payment and to supply certain omissions in its building regulations, and when amendments in respect of these points were decided on, there suddenly came a revelation that the town was in a "terribly insanitary condition" and that the constitution of the Corporation must, therefore, be changed. What a terrible irony of fate! The people asked for bread and the Lord gave them only stones; Gentlemen, Oriental exaggeration no longer seems to be the monopoly of Oriental peoples; but like Oriental stock-in-trade it is fast falling into foreign hands. Who does not remember what Calcutta was under the Police Commissioner and his Council of twelve Justices? And who is there so bold as not to acknowledge the vast improvements which have since been effected by the much-abused Commissioners of the present day? From a huge, dirty loathsome den of the City of Palaces has proudly risen to the rank of a great city whose sanitary condition, in spite of its existing defects is now the attraction and the admiration of the entire province. Dirty, narrow streets, filthy open drains, innumerable rotting cesspools, and poisonous tanks formed the striking features of almost every important centre of the town in the early seventies. If the sanitary condition of Calcutta was ever so terrible, it was so then and not now. Sir Alexander Mackenzie, who was himself in Calcutta as Secretary to Sir Ashley Eden shortly after Sir Richard Temple introduced the present elective system, and was again there in the early eighties as Home Secretary to the Government of Lord Ripon, ought certainly to have known these things much better. But perhaps he forgot all about this "terribly insanitary condition" of the metropolis until he was reminded of it by the drainage works at Entally. But let us listen to the testimony of those whose authority may be at least equal to the framers of this retrograde measure. What a rich legacy the Justices left for the present Commissioners is here described by Dr. Payne, the Health Officer of Calcutta in 1876: "It is impossible to conceive a more perfect combination of all the evils of a

crowded city-life in the primitive filthiness and disorder than is presented in the native portion of Calcutta. Dirt in the most intense and noxious forms that a dense population can produce, covers the ground, saturates the water, infects the air, and finds in the habits and in elements of the people's lives every possible facility for re-entering their bodies; while ventilation could not be more shunned in their houses than if the climate were arctic instead of tropical."

Now from that picture turn to this. In 1876 Sir Richard Temple introduced the new constitution, and within a few years, Mr. Cotton now Chief Commissioner of Assam, recorded his testimony as follows: "The Corporation of Calcutta, as a representative body, commands the confidence of the vast majority of the rate-payers; it has already done much in the direction of sanitary reform; it has not retrograded in giving effect to a single sanitary improvement."

Again in 1890 Sir Stewart Bayley, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and now a member of the India Council, in reviewing the preceding nine years' administration of the Commissioners recorded: "The innumerable sanitary of the water-supply and the conservancy of the bustees, the increase in material prosperity in the city which is consequence of these reforms, has shown itself in so marked a degree that the value of land in Calcutta generally may be said to have doubled, the reorganization and reconstruction of nearly every department of work, the hearty zeal and co-operation with which the Commissioners as a body now unite with the Executive to advance the welfare of the city, are a sufficient and a lasting tribute to the manner in which Sir Henry Harrison has discharged his duties."

Such is the evidence on the record, and yet it is said that Calcutta is in a "terribly insanitary condition," that its defective sanitation is due to incapacity produced by internal dissensions on the Municipal Board, and that, therefore, its functions must be relegated again to a second, unrevised edition of the discredited Council of the twelve Justices. Gentlemen, if the dog must be banded, by all means hang him honestly because he is a dog; but for fairness' sake let no one give him a bad name and then hang him for it. I will not enter into any details of this revolutionary pleasure, nor can you, gentlemen, hope to discuss thoroughly any portion of this huge and portentous Encyclopaedia of Municipal Laws and Regulations. They have been thoroughly dealt with by the numerous public meetings held in Calcutta, and above all, have been fully laid bare by the very able and elaborate minute of dissent recorded by two of our most distinguished representatives in the Council. They have rendered yeoman's service to the cause of Local Self-Government in this country, and though defeated at almost every step, being in a hopeless minority, they have not yielded an inch of just ground without a severe fight. Whatever may be the fate of Calcutta and its Municipal Corporation, the labours of the Hon. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee and the Hon. Babu Norendra Nath Sen in connection with this vital retrograde measure will be gratefully remembered by their countrymen as long as the bare name of local Self-Government finds a place in the administration of this country. Gentlemen, in recent years Bengal has a way appeared to our rulers as being in need of models for its administrative reforms. When, therefore, about five years ago, Sir Charles Elliott had to recast the Bengal Municipal Act, the laws of a backward frontier province were openly called in requisition to supply such a model. Now another model is required by his successor for the improvement of the metropolis of Empire, and that model is furnished by the discredited constitution of a Presidency town. Municipal administration, however, vigorous it may be, can never be successful unless it can adapt itself to the genius of the people, and enlist their sympathy and co-operation. In an hour of extreme difficulty Lord Sandhurst had at last to fall back upon the support of the legitimate leaders of society. Sir John Woodburn had these leaders duty enlisted in the Corporation itself who came loyally to serve and to support him. Would any such assistance be available under the proposed constitution? It will estrange the sympathies of the people and no respectable leader of society will consider it worth his while to associate himself with such an administration. Local Self-Government, under such conditions, would be a farce, a delusion, and a snare. "Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind." But, Gentlemen, let us not desecrate our altars. If we have failed in India, we must carry on our agitation in England. Lord George Hamilton from his place in the House of Commons, promised to consider the matter he cannot break that promise. Let us once more screw up our courage and our energies and appeal at the bar of English public opinion. That opinion is the supreme authority in England, and has often shaped the policy of statesmen, and decided the destinies of nations. Let us be still true to ourselves and to our cause, and all may still be well.

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT IN THE MOFUSSIL.

Gentlemen, that spirit of reaction which has so visibly manifested itself in the present Calcutta Municipal Bill has been for some years past silently sapping the constitution of Local Self-Government in the mofussil. There it has been at work not with the help of open legislative interference, but slowly and noiselessly, under the secret influence of a bureaucratic policy. The general success of the Municipalities and the District Boards in Bengal no longer admits of any question or controversy. But yet the hopes held out to the District Boards fifteen years ago for extending their franchise to the election of their Chairmen have not been fulfilled even in a single instance. The provision of the law has throughout remained a complete dead-letter and these bodies have been allowed gradually to drift into the old order of things under the detestable Road Cess Committees. The administration began in 1885 with about 150 municipalities in these provinces, and to-day, after fifteen years' trial, the number remains almost where it was without an inch of ground being practically added to the municipal area. Every year the Government is apparently noticing with the deep concern the growing in sanitary condition of the country, the alarming scarcity of wholesome drinking water for the people, and the appalling mortality among the dense, unprotected rural population. Yet to this day the system of municipal administration in these provinces continues to show no signs of development or expansion. The true remedy lies in ungrudgingly extending that system, it may be in elementary form at first, to new compact areas as they rise in importance and commercial activity. But towns are being built, ports established, and railways extended all over the country without any safeguard being provided against their concomitant evils and difficulties by the expansion of the municipal system which alone can cope with the growth of sanitary evils. Then look to the number of Local Boards and Municipalities that are being yearly transferred to official dotardship and practically swallowed up in the general administration. There are a hundred other evils and grievances from which their institutions are secretly suffering, and it is for you, gentlemen, to take note of them before it is too late.

EDUCATION.

Gentlemen, you are doubtless aware that, some time ago, a mass of opinion from all public bodies and associations in Bengal was collected by the Local Government in connection with this important question, and that Sir Alfred Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, and his successor, Dr. Martin, submitted certain suggestions and proposals for the

introduction of a graduated course in scientific subjects in Primary and Middle School in these provinces. The Government in August last appointed a Committee under the president of Mr. Pedler, the present Director of Public Instruction, and with Dr. J. C. Bose, Dr. P. C. Roy and several others as members to consider the subject. In referring the question to this Committee, the Government pointedly observed: "That one of the main objects in the improvement of primary education in Bengal is to make it of a kind more suitable to the station from which the pupils come, more designed to be advantageous to them in their occupations as men, and more likely to lead to earn their living by practical work in other walks of life, rather than by clerical employment, is a principle which has long since passed beyond the pale of personal opinion. Now, gentlemen, it is understood that this Committee, after considering the whole question, have recently submitted their report. The recommendations of the Committee have not yet been published, and we do not know what they are. Considering, however, the valuable assistance which is likely to be obtained from an expression of public opinion on a subject like this, we earnestly hope that the Government of Sir John Woodburn will not take any action, without inviting public opinion in a matter of such grave public importance. As regards higher education, I have no hesitation in saying that the present University system is distinctly at fault. It seeks to familiarise the student with a wide variety of subjects at the expense of depth and accuracy. The former system of high education which produced such men as Krishna Mohan Banerjee, Ramgopal Ghose, Rajendra Lal Mitra, Dwarka Nath Mittera, and a host of other distinguished scholars, is not the system which the University encourage, and the result is that the present generation is wanting in the race of scholar and men of erudition whose researches were as creditable to themselves as to the system of which they were the products."

SEPARATION OF JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS.

Gentlemen, there is one other question of supreme importance which I would invite the attention of this Conference. It is that old chronic complaint—that ancient disease—which for years has baffled your labours, and which in its ever increasing severity and obstinacy has well-nigh broken down the constitution of the country. It is nearly fifteen years to-day that the united voice of the nation has been incessantly crying in the wilderness for the separation of the Judicial from the Executive functions of the State, and every year amidst hazy official platitudes has the false vision of its longed expectations receded further and further into the uncertain remoteness of a vague and distant future.

Gentlemen, it is my honest conviction, a conviction which I dare say most of you share with me equally, that the present state of unrest among the people which we all so deeply deplore, and the harrowing disturbances and convulsions which have been for some years past surging from one end of the country to the other, are due chiefly if not solely, to distrust and want of confidence in that fair and impartial administration of justice which has always been the bulwark of this great empire. Gentlemen, it may be convenient for some people to throw the blame upon Congress and Conferences; but it would be almost equally sound and logical to attribute the disastrous collision in the Atlantic between the Victoria and the Camperdown to your agitation in India. Gentlemen, Truth is Truth. Let no false function be put simply to cover the sore. There seems to be danger ahead, and let wise statesmanship yet hasten to the breach and restore peace and confidence by placing the administration of criminal justice in this country on the same lofty pedestal which the British constitution has assigned to it in England, and from where it can in no way lower its dignity or impede its progress. Gentlemen, here is a golden opportunity for Lord Curzon to vindicate the honor and glory of his country and to earn unending gratitude and blessing of a whole nation. The Congress meets at Lucknow next cold weather, and let us in a special deputation from that Congress wait on our firm and generous Viceroy upon this great question. The voice of reason and suffering humanity can not be lost upon him. Lord William Bentinck signalled his administration by social reforms, Lord Canning by his policy of love and sympathy, and the great Marquis of Ripon by the extension of Local Self-Government in this country. May we not hope that Lord Curzon will add yet another great name to the roll of his illustrious predecessors by a complete separation of the Judicial from the Executive functions of the State. Gentlemen, the last century closed with the reign of terror, let us hope that the present which has almost drawn to its close, will not yet tend in that of error.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

BURDWAN, MAY 21.

The Conference met at the Town Hall on Saturday, as announced before. There was a large attendance notwithstanding very foul weather. The first resolution expressed gratitude towards Sir John Woodburn for his plague policy and prayed that local bodies should be exempted from contributing towards the expenses of the Chowka Camp. The second resolution thanked Government for concessions, in many details, of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, but expressed profound dissatisfaction for the constitutional part remaining unaltered and prayed for a Commission of enquiry. The third resolution appealed to Government for having taken prompt measures to provide for an adequate supply of pure water in the mofussil. The fourth resolution prayed for raising of the pay of ministerial servants. The fifth resolution while pointing out that the Government contribution for the Public Works Cess, is less than one-third, prayed that half the charges should be paid by them.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Conference met at 12 o'clock to-day. Resolutions were passed praying for the expansion of Local Self-Government the separation of Judicial and Executive functions, the reform of the police, and the admission of Indians to the higher offices in the minor civil services, such as Customs, Survey, Telegraph, Post Office, etc. A resolution was also passed thanking the Hon. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee and Norendra Nath Sen for their services in connection with the Calcutta Municipal Bill in Council and expressing the hope that means would be found for their being again in the Bengal Council at the time of the final debate. The Conference meets at Bhagupur during the next Mohurrum holidays at the invitation of Mr. Durpanain, on behalf of Local Congress Committee.

A PLEASURE AND A DUTY.

I consider it not only a pleasure but a duty I owe to my neighbours to tell about the wonderful cure effected in my case by the timely use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. I was taken very badly with flux and procured a bottle of this remedy. A few doses of it effected permanent cure. I take pleasure in recommending to others suffering from that dreadful disease.—W. LYNCH, Dorr, Va. This remedy sold by SMITH STANISTREET & CO., and B. F. PAUL & CO.

Telegrams.

(INDIAN TELEGRAMS.)

(From our own Correspondent.)

BIRTHDAY HONOURS.

SIMLA, MAY 23.

Intimation has been received that the Birthday Honour List will not be published till Saturday, the 3rd June,—the date fixed for the celebration of the Birthday in London.

PLAGUE IN INDIA.

The latest statistics showing mortality from plague in India during the week ending 21st May shows 872 cases in Bombay and Sindh, 2 in Madras, 40 in Mysore, 3 in Hyderabad, 5 in the Punjab and 26 in Bengal.—Calcutta alone showing 23 and Howrah, Hooghly and the 24-Perghanas showing one each.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, MAY 20.

At the second meeting of the Peace Conference Baron Staal placed mediation and arbitration in the forefront for the consideration of members, then humanizing laws in war, and lastly the reduction of armaments.

LONDON, MAY 20.

The Tsar has personally appointed a committee to consider the cessation of transportation to Siberia.

LONDON, MAY 20.

Two of the Transvaal prisoners prove to be spies and agent provocateurs.

LONDON, MAY 20.

The Australians have beaten the England eleven by 172 runs and Essex has beaten Sussex, by one wicket. The match between Surrey and Gloucester was drawn.

LONDON, MAY 20.

Admiral Dewey has left Manila homeward bound.

LONDON, MAY 19.

Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a question in the House of Commons, said that Sir Alfred Milner, whom he had recently instructed on the subject, would doubtless discuss the positions of Indians in the Transvaal at the forthcoming meeting with President Kruger.

LONDON, MAY 19.

Lord Kitchener has established excellent relations with the new Sultan of Darfur.

The latest news of the Khalifa states that he has left Sherkeila, and gone southward.

LONDON, MAY 21.

The India mail train has been derailed near Turin, and two postal vans have been wrecked. The police are guarding the valuables.

LONDON, MAY 22.

Dawson City, Klondyke, has been almost destroyed by a tremendous fire, and much gold has been lost.

LONDON, MAY 21.

A case of plague has occurred at Alexandria.

LONDON, MAY 21.

Harvard and Yale Universities in America are sending a team of athletes to England in July to compete against Oxford and Cambridge.

LONDON, MAY 22.

Serious strike is to have taken place at Riga, where troops were called out and fired on the strikers, several of whom were shot dead and twelve wounded.

LONDON, MAY 22.

The United States Government have offered the Filipinos a Government similar to the one established in Cuba, having a military character until the country is settled.

LONDON, MAY 23.

The Porte has instructed its Ambassador in London and Paris to present a written protest against the Nile Convention as interfering with Turkish rights on the Tripoli hinterland.

LONDON, MAY 23.

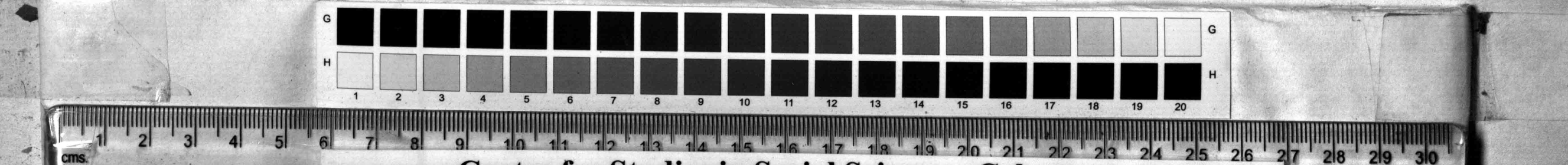
The steamer Kaisow, bound for China, has gone ashore on Lundy Island off the Devonshire coast.

GAZETTE OF INDIA.

THE following acting appointments are made in the Postal Department: Mr. W. F. Cockerell, 2nd Assistant Director-General to officiate as 1st Assistant Director General; Mr. G. A. T. Bennett, 3rd Assistant Director General, to officiate as 2nd Assistant Director General; and Mr. H. C. Sheridan, Superintendent, Railway Mail Service, to officiate as 3rd Assistant Director General of the Post Office. Khan Bahadur C. J. Lalkaka, Deputy Post Master General, Central Provinces and Berar, is granted privilege leave for one month. Lieutenant-Colonel Gerald Ward Martin, I. S. C., Assay Master, Bombay, is granted furlough for one year. Major A. Milne, I. M. S. (Bombay) Deputy Assay Master, Bombay, acting for him. Captain R. L. Kennion, Staff Corps, a Political Assistant of the 3rd (officiating 2nd) class is posted as Asst to the Resident in Kashmir. Mr. H. Jowers, of the Indian Civil Service, is posted as First Assistant to the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana and Chief Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara. Mr. T. M. Grunner is appointed as acting Consul for Germany at Bassein, during the absence of Mr. C. Bachmann. The appointment of Mr. W. T. Fee, as Consul for the United States of America at Bombay, has been confirmed. The appointment of Mr. W. F. Bickel, as Consul for Sweden and Norway at Bombay, has been confirmed. Mr. J. L. Pigot, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Coorg, is employed as Conservator of Forests in the Mysore State. Captain F. W. Pirrie, I. S. C., off Dy Supt, 1st grade, Survey of India Department, is granted furlough for one year.

It is reported that Babu Rajendra Coomarr Bose, Subordinate Judge of the Twenty-four Perghanas, will soon be promoted to the rank of Assistant Civil and Sessions Judge. We congratulate this officer as well as the Government on the selection.

HIS Excellency the Viceroy granted a private interview to the Hon'ble Rai Bahadur M. Adan Gopal, M. A., Barrister-at-law, a member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, on the 18th instant.



GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. J. S. Mackay, Offg Dy Magte and Collr Dy Godda, Sontal Parganas, is appointed to have charge of that subdiv, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. A. W. Stark, for until further orders.

NOTES FROM SIMLA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.) SIMLA, MAY 18.

THE spring season is now fully with us, with all its loveliness, and those people who have been able to come up can only compare the lovely climate of this place with the over-heated temperature of the plains. Simla is nothing if not a place of changes.

Though the season has fully commenced with the arrival of His Honor Sir Mackworth Young and the officers of the Punjab Government to-day, there has been dearth of music, life and work since we came up. But we are looking forward to the coming weeks as not only official but also many non-official festivities will take place.

The most interesting portion of the Birthday celebration will be the publication of the Honor's List and many speculations are rife. So far as I am aware, the non officials will not figure very largely, but this is Lord Curzon's first list and there is still hope.

Turning to the business which has been transacted since I wrote last, there are only few things done which are likely to interest your readers. The most important move was the reduction of Malakhand Garrison by one battalion; and this, it is anticipated, is the beginning of more important changes.

There were also reductions in many minor stations, which it is quite unnecessary to detail. The next important thing was the publication of the papers regarding the Sugar Duties Act, over which there were various comments. It has, however, been proved that the measure originated with Mr. Chamberlain, and it was pressed upon Lord George Hamilton and His Excellency the Viceroy.

The Legislative Council does not sit till the end of the next month, and even that is not yet decided, and it is also sure that the season will be a very light one, as in the last Calcutta season some fourteen Bills were passed and nothing particular was left for Simla. The Mining Bill will stand over till the Council re-assembles in Calcutta, as was recommended in the Select Committee's report, and it is also decided to hold over the Cantonment House Accommodation Bill, the only important measure lying before the Council, till the next cold weather.

The next important thing of the last week was the annual "Sipi Fair." It is a fair of the hill people in honour of the deity of Sipi. Contrary to general expectations Saturday was a very dry one and Sunday was wet, and notwithstanding the bad season there was a very large gathering and this was largely due to the presence of Her Excellency Lady Curzon and her sisters and also a big contingent from the Viceregal Lodge.

Since I wrote last the climate of this place has changed for the worse, and the cry of influenza is heard everywhere. His Excellency was laid up as also his Private Secretary and his A. D. C. and even the poor people did not escape. The little Bengali colony was shocked to find six deaths in a single house. The attack was not very widespread and fortunately with the change of season and the rains the climate has again resumed its normal condition. But the fear has not disappeared and strict sanitary measures are being taken.

THE Viceroy visited the Public Works Office, on Monday afternoon.

THE system of identification by means of thumb-impression in its application to the payment of pensioner in the Civil Department has been found to work so satisfactorily in Bengal, where it has been in operation for over a year, that Sir William Mackworth Young, approving of the suggestion of the Government of India, has, by a recent Resolution, ordered its introduction into the Punjab along with the rules in force in Bengal. All Civil pensioners, except those specially exempted, will be liable to the rules. Native Princes, European ladies, and those have been gazetted that there can be no difficulty about their future identification. Thumb impressions are also to be taken in the service books of persons in service. In all cases when an officer is sent for medical examination, the examining Medical Officer or Board should be asked to obtain the thumb-impression of the candidate, for appointment, leave or pension on medical certificate, and this impression should be verified with that in the service-book. The system, both as a safeguard against fraudulent personation, and for the purposes of identification is regarded with far more favour than Bertillon's complex system of anthropometry, and is superseding it everywhere in this country.

Zab Intelligence

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH.—MAY 23.

(Before Justices Prinsep and Hill)

ALLEGED FORGERY OF A PLAINT.

THIS was an appeal by one Lala Ojha from the decision of the Sessions Judge of Shahabad who agreeing with the assessors, convicted him of having attempted to corruptly use as true a plaint which he knew to be false and of having attempted to use fraudulently this plaint which he knew to be forged, and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200. The facts of the case were that one Sajevan Ojha instituted a suit in the court of the Munsiff of Buxar against the present accused for the recovery of the possession of a piece of land. The Munsiff gave the plaintiff a decree, but this was reversed in appeal, the appellate court holding that the plaintiff had failed to establish his title to the land.

Amongst other evidence filed by the plaintiff in that suit was a certified copy of the plaint in a previous suit instituted by Lala Ojha against his brother. During the course of the hearing of the suit brought by Sajevan Ojha this copy of the plaint in the previous suit of Lala Ojha was being referred to by the pleader for Sajevan, when the pleader for the latter objected that it was not a correct copy and referred to a certified copy with which his client, the present accused, had supplied him in support of his objection.

Mr. P. L. Roy appeared for the appellant and Mr. Rahim for the Crown.

Their Lordships after hearing both sides, reserved judgment.

A RIOT AT SILCHAR.

BABU PRASANNO GOPAL ROY moved on behalf of Sona Mia and others for a rule to set aside their conviction for rioting and sentence of imprisonment and fine by the Deputy Commissioner of Silchar. The facts of the case are briefly these: There was a riot between certain Mahomedans on one side and certain Manipuris on the other, about a plot of land. Two cases were instituted in one of which one of the Mahomedans was the complainant and eleven Manipuris were the accused; and in the other, one of the Manipuris was the complainant and eight Mahomedans and a Hindu were the accused. On the side of the Mahomedans three were severely beaten, one of whom died after a short time; while on the side of the Manipuris one was hurt. The Magistrate found that there were about thirty Mahomedans and sixty Manipuris engaged in the affray and that the riot was premeditated on both sides. He convicted and sentenced the Mahomedans as stated above, while nine Manipuris were convicted of rioting and grievous hurt and sentenced to nine months' rigorous imprisonment each. On appeal the Sessions Judge set aside the conviction and sentence of the Manipuris but upheld that of the other side.

The learned pleader argued that the two cases being tried together, and copies of statements of witnesses in the police enquiry being not allowed, the petitioners were prejudiced. As regards two of the petitioners there was not sufficient legal evidence to warrant their conviction, while the sentence was severe.

Their Lordships took away the papers with them intimating that they would pass orders later on.

A RAID was committed on the 15th instant by about 20 armed Waziris at Larti Killa, South of Karak between Thal and Bannu, a Hindu was looted, and some shots were exchanged, but there was no loss of life.

ON the eve of 20th the Shabar Khels paid in Rs. 3,000 in cash, representing about half of the fine money outstanding against them and gave security for the balance. They have also expelled the outlaws in their limits in accordance with the Government demands, and the punitive column which had reached Thal is being withdrawn.

THE question has been raised for how long the special leave concessions for plague work granted by the Resolutions of the Government of India, dated the 15th November 1897 and the 29th June 1898, shall continue. The Government of India has decided "that the period of the concessions shall run for two years from the issue of the Resolution of the 29th June 1898. The special leave may under these orders be taken at any time before the 29th June 1900 for plague service rendered at any time before that date. The concession will not be continued beyond the year 1900, because it was intended as a reward for special services rendered during the stress of a temporary calamity and the Government of India have recognised that it is no longer possible to treat plague duty in this manner by relaxing the orders prohibiting the grant of special allowances to officers appointed to plague duty in addition to their ordinary work."

TELEGRAMS from Zanzibar, Seychelles and Mauritius state that pressure conditions are normal at those stations and south-east winds in the trades region are very slightly stronger than usual. The conditions in that area hence are practically normal, and not unfavourable for an early monsoon. The weather in the Bay and North-Eastern India is very unusual, but so far as can be judged, is probably favourable to an early monsoon. A severe cyclone gave heavy rain in Burma at the beginning of the month, and two feeble attempts at the formation of cyclones and storms at the head of the Bay in the second and third weeks of the month were followed by a moderate storm at the end of last week, which has since given moderately early and heavy rain in Bengal. Snowfall reports coming in show that the snowfall has been generally below the average except in the Assam, Himalayas, where it has been very heavy, and in Kashmir where it is probably somewhat heavier than usual.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

By sowing dissension, England holds, her own. Europe no longer listens to her insinuations, but the inexperienced cousin across the ocean becomes her ready victim.—Tages Zeitung, Berlin.

Sooner or later the Americans and the Germans will discover that England estranges them to suit her own purposes.—Paris Correspondent.

Every German paper regards England as the disturber, and blames the United States chiefly for being a ready catspaw for British intrigue.—Literary Digest, New York.

A NEWSBOY who has been for years toiling early and late over his business of selling the New York papers has now laid aside enough to permit himself the great treat of trip to Europe, and he will sail for Liverpool shortly. He is John S. McBride, of No. 125, East ninety-second street, who with his father, T. J. McBride sells papers in the Empire-building-arcade. The boy will have a six weeks' junket through England, Ireland and Scotland, and will take a short trip to Paris. He will travel alone, and see the Old World with very young and eager eyes. His father says he deserves the trip if any boy ever did for his hard work of the past winter.

THE recently appointed Governor General of Finland, General Bolrikoff, has, the Manchester Guardian learns, applied to the Tsar for authority to send into exile, on his own responsibility, any Finlanders whose presence in Finland he may consider contrary to the interests of the Russian Government. It is said that if the Tsar should grant this request the Governor-General would immediately make use of this exceptional power, and that a preliminary list is already in existence. It is doubtful, however, whether the Tsar will go to such lengths; for there are episodes in General Bolrikoff's military career which make it extremely undesirable that he should be entrusted with such extraordinary powers.

THE descendants of Cromwell living to-day number several hundred persons. They all trace their descent through the female members of the Protector's family, as the last male descendant, Mr. Cromwell, of Cheshnut, died in 1821. Many well-known men have had Cromwell's blood in their veins. In recent times they include a Prime Minister, Lord Godrich; a Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir George Cornewall Lewis; a Foreign Secretary, Lord Clarendon; a Governor-General of India, Lord Ripon; a Viceroy of Ireland, Lord Cowper; and Mr. Charles Villiers, the Champion of Free Trade. It is also interesting to note that Sir William Harcourt, through his first wife, was connected with the House of Cromwell.

THE Prime Minister (a House of Lords correspondent says) has had his hair severely cut. This was the fact that most struck the House of Lords on 21st April when he entered for the first time since his five weeks' holiday on the Riviera. From a Cavalier Lord Salisbury had become a Roundhead, hardly recognisable. But other things completed the change. He used to walk heavily. Now he almost tripped into the Chamber. Formerly sad of expression he was now cheerful. Paleness had given place to healthy colour; weariness in his eye to brightness and vivacity; and, unless appearances were very deceptive, he had lost weight. After cordially shaking hands with the Lord Chancellor, he sat beside him on the woolsack for a few minutes' talk. Then he went to his customary seat, exchanged greetings with Viscount Cross, and listened to Lord Wemyss without showing the restlessness which used to mark him.

THERE is an interesting character sketch of the unfortunate Chinese Emperor in this month's Cornhill Magazine, which also contains many illuminating references to that very strong will and determined lady, the Empress Tze-Hsi, who a few months ago turned her nephew out of his throne, and proceeded to take up the reins of government in his stead. "The Empress lives in China" the writer says, "which may be considered as being now in some parts in the condition in which Europe was in the fifteenth century, although in some ways it may rather resemble Europe in the thirteenth century. She thus uses medieval methods. Setting this aside, the Chinese Empress resembles the present Duchess of Devonshire in that, so people say, there is nothing she has ever wished that she has not attained. She is undoubtedly a woman of great ability as well as of unwavering purpose. But the French saying, 'Qui veut la fin, veut les moyens,' was never more true of anyone than of her."

LORD CURZON, says the Saturday Review, has wound up a season of sporadic oratory by a speech, on his entry into Simla, which had not been the worse for being left unspoken. The Viceroy who, in a public address to the municipal commissioners of Simla, accepts the position of an apologist for his being there puts himself in the wrong. The usual quotation from the "Lotos Eaters" is always expected, but a certain originality may be traced in the line of apology adopted on this occasion. Viceroy, it was explained from a class who find it impossible to think in the climate and surroundings of Calcutta. They must go to Simla for the purpose. That being so, their officers and their offices, some thousand or so of assistant thinkers, must necessarily accompany them, which leads to the flattering conclusion that if there were no Viceroy there would be no Simla. Lord Curzon has lately been quoting a French proverb to native schoolboys at Lahore. He might remember the one that runs "qui s'excuse, s'accuse."

AN ANCIENT BELIEF.

The ancients believed that rheumatism was the work of a demon within a man. Any one who has had an attack of sciatic or inflammatory rheumatism will agree that the infliction is demonic enough to warrant the belief. It has never been claimed that Chamberlain's Pain Balm would cast out demons, but it will cure rheumatism, and hundreds bear testimony to the truth of this statement. One application relieves the pain and that quick relief which it affords is alone worth many times its cost. For sale by\*

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

Correspondence.

THE LIGHTING OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—The pyrotechnic display at Darjeeling, in connection with the electric lighting, as illustrated in your issue this morning, is by no means an isolated case of the pranks played by electricity, and although these little episodes in the lighting of public buildings may be very useful in affording an opportunity for contrasts between one system of illumination and another, surely they are very embarrassing. I venture to say that with the Acetylene gas no such contretemps would have happened except from sheer neglect, whilst with electric lighting such mishaps may be more fitly described by the word constitutional, that is, there is a want of stability and certainty about the light, independent of its cost and necessary daily careful manipulation, that perhaps no other system of lighting ever displayed.

Fancy a crowded public assembly being left with a flickering light for a few moments and then in total darkness or chaos, and what an opportunity for wrong doings.

May, 17.

THE GAURANGA SAMAJ AND SANKIRTAN PARTIES.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Perhaps you are not aware how the outside public think of the Gauranga Samaj and its recent demonstrations, which have marked an era in the Hindu religious movements of the present age. The outside public have only heard of the magical effect of this grand demonstration, which has made the metropolitan people mad with joy and religious fervour, never before witnessed in Calcutta. They have only read of the same in newspaper columns and formed an idea of its usefulness and utility. It is a popular belief in the mofussil that the decrease of plague cases in Calcutta is due to the magical effect of sweet Hari Nam and it is truly believed that the plague will be ultimately driven out of Calcutta, if the present demonstration is continued. This, indeed, need excite no wonder. Hari Nam is the panacea for this dreadful disease. When cholera and pox break out in mofussil towns and villages in an epidemic form, it is the custom of good people to set up Hari Sankirtan parties and to go round the villages every evening, chanting and singing sweet Hari Nam with the help of that ever fascinating sound of Khol and Karatal. Such demonstrations always prove beneficial. It is, indeed, a good sign of the times, that our educated men have joined the movement, which is destined to do immense good to the country and to improve the religious tendency of the degenerate Hindus. To you, Sir, is due great credit for the formation of such a religious association. I hope you will continue to wield your powerful pen for the advocacy of the cause of the movement which should be given the character of a national one. I propose that branches of the Gauranga Samaj should be formed in every town and village.

HARI DAS GOSWAMI.

DR. G. A. GRIERSON, C. I. E., who has lately been suffering from a severe attack of influenza, has made a complete recovery.

The Maharaja of Kapurthala has abandoned the idea of coming up to Simla, but goes to Kashmir very soon.

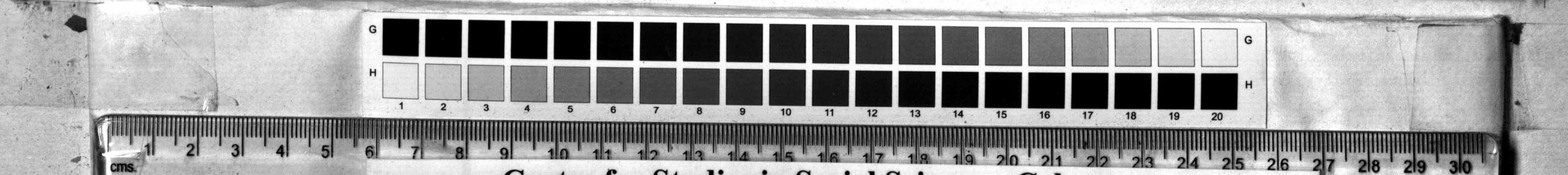
THE latest news of the "Mad" Fakir is that he is at Biahana, in Kana, where he and his followers are busy making leather cannons, which are said to be highly effective. The Fakir recently summoned the Bonerwals to rise at the Id, but was met with a very emphatic refusal. The Bonerwals replied that they had lost enough in following the Fakir already, and were never going to join him again.

ALBANY (New York), May 4.—Mrs. Anna Rivers, who has begun an action for divorce from her husband, claims that the ghost of her husband's first wife infests the house and makes her miserable. It appears at nights and frightens her so that she is unable to sleep. It comes near to her and indulges in paroxysms of weeping, and occasionally it smashes the furniture. Mr. Rivers' assertions were at first laughed at, but she persisted in them, and upon being medically examined was declared to be sane. The action will be heard next week.

THE Bombay Gazette says:—The misgivings as to the punctuality of the monsoon, entertained in many quarters and shared by the Meteorological Department, have been set at rest by the telegram received by Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie that it has burst at Colombo. According to the usual calculation we may now expect its advent here in the first week of June. There was not unreasonable fear that the unusual atmospheric disturbances, early in May, accompanied by heavy rains—pretty general throughout the country and considerably reducing the temperature—would delay the monsoon. Doubts on this score were scarcely set at rest by a sudden return of normal conditions in Northern India, when the heat became seasonable and even excessive there when the announcement of a heavy fall of snow beyond the frontier, blocking the Passes, gave renewed cause for anxiety. Still there were symptoms along the Western Ghats, which seemed to presage an early monsoon. A strong south-west wind has been blowing pretty steadily throughout the present month, bringing with it masses of clouds and great electrical disturbance. The humidity has been so great that the Ghats for a fortnight past have put off their sombre livery of burnt umber and donned the bright and restful green, which is usually reserved for the monsoon months. Trees, shrubs, and bulbs were profited by the unwonted humidity following on several days' rain in early May.

AN EPIDEMIC OF WHOOPING COUGH. Last winter during an epidemic of whooping cough my children contracted the disease, having severe coughing spells. We had used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy very successfully for croup and naturally turned to it at that time and found it relieved the cough and effected a complete cure.—JOHN E. CLIFFORD, Proprietor, Norwood House, Norwood N. Y. This remedy is for sale by\*

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



INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MAY 5.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

The chief event of the week has been the conclusion of an agreement between the Governments of England and Russia with regard to their respective spheres of influence in China...

This week the welcome news arrives that this sensible policy has at last commended itself to the two Governments. It was first made known to the public here by a telegram in Monday's papers...

Lord Salisbury confirmed the gratifying announcement in his speech at the Royal Academy dinner, on Monday evening, in reply to a question put to him by the Earl of Kimberley...

I am a little in difficulty, because I am not quite sure whether I am acting in accordance with the wishes of the Russian Government in entering into the matter. That I have not been able to ascertain...

Mr. Balfour made a similar statement in the House of Commons in reply to Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman's inquiry. The news has been received with great satisfaction throughout the country...

LORD SALISBURY'S FOREIGN POLICY.

There has been too much of a tendency in the past, I think, both in Liberal and Conservative circles, to condemn Lord Salisbury's Foreign policy as weak and vacillating...

unvarying hatred of Russia. Lord Salisbury is supposed to have sat at his feet, but he has certainly emancipated himself from the Disraelian tradition, and has taken a line of his own...

THE PEACE CONFERENCE.

The agreement between England and Russia has come to pass at a most appropriate moment. The great Peace Conference convened by the Czar of Russia is about to commence its deliberations at the Hague...

Anything which tends to lessen the strain which has so long existed among the great naval and military Powers of Europe, and especially between Great Britain and Russia, must be of supreme importance to our readers who have been among those who have suffered most by this unnatural condition of things...

by a desire for universal peace than by his unvarying friendship for everything Russian, and there were not wanting many who questioned the propriety of accepting, in this matter, the leadership of a man who has been boasting for years past that it was his pamphlet, "The Truth about the Navy" which led to the British fleet being brought up to its present overwhelming strength...

In the meantime steps were being taken by the Powers for giving effect to the Czar's suggestion. The Rescript was followed by a circular note from Count Mouravieff, setting forth the principal questions that would come before the proposed Conference...

The President of the Conference will be M. de Staal, the Russian Ambassador in London. Following the precedent set by the African Conference which sat at Berlin in 1884-5, the Peace Convention will meet in three sections, each with its own president, to deal with:

- 1. The question of disarmament and the reduction of peace effectives.
2. The humanising of war.
3. Arbitration and cognate matters.

It now remains to be seen what will be the practical outcome of the Conference. This much is certain that for the next few months public attention will be centred on the proceedings which are about to begin in the quaint old Dutch capital...

THE ENGLISH BUDGET.

As I ventured to predict last week, Sir Henry Fowler altered his amendment to the Budget so as to bring in all who were opposed to the financial projects of Sir Michael Hicks-Beach. Instead of limiting his amendment to the liquidation of the National Debt...

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

As far as India is concerned, the week in Parliament has been very barren. Up to last night the questions asked were as follows, and call for no particular comment:

THE PLAGUE IN BEHAR.

In answer to Mr. Monckton, Lord G. Hamilton said, "The plague reached Durbhunga a month ago. During the fortnight ended April 8, 42 plague deaths were reported from the Durbhunga district. For the fortnight ended April 24, only one plague death has been reported. One plague death was reported from the Muzaffarpur district during the week ended April 8. Since that week and before that week no plague deaths are reported to have occurred in that district."

BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

Major Rasch asked the Secretary of State for India whether, taking into consideration the fact that the increase in the number of British soldiers invalided home from India for venereal disease was 20 per cent. over the preceding year in 1895, 60 per cent. in 1896, and 199 per cent. in 1897 over the figure for 1894, he would at once increase the stringency of the regulations now in force.

Lord G. Hamilton.—I must refer my hon. and gallant friend to the answer I gave to his question on this subject on March 9. If the improvement which, as I then said, has begun to show itself in the admission rate for these diseases is continuous, as I trust it may be, a reduction in the number of invalidings may be expected to follow, though necessarily somewhat later. Until the present regulations have had a fair trial I do not propose to take any further action.

THE TRANSPORT OF INVALIDS FROM INDIA.

In answer to Dr. Farquharson, Mr. Powell Williams said, "The provision of a hospital ship for conveying the sick and wounded from India to this country would rest with the Indian Government, and after very full consideration, the Secretary of State is not prepared to press the adoption of such a system upon that department. The balance of advantage is not by any means entirely on the side of a hospital ship for the conveyance of invalids as against their more rapid and frequent conveyance on board transports, in the equipment of which great improvements have recently taken place. These considerations apply with special force to our widely scattered colonial garrisons, invalids from which are sent home by packet at the earliest possible opportunity."

INDIA AND AUSTRALIAN WINES.

Captain Sinclair asked the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of the colony of Victoria paid any bounty, direct or indirect, on the production of wine; and, if so, whether such wine would be liable to a countervailing duty if imported into India.

Lord G. Hamilton.—I understand that the Government of Victoria have in the past spent money to encourage the production of wine in that colony, but I doubt whether they have ever taken any measure which would bring their wines under the operation of the Indian Act. As I have already stated in this House, the Act will be administered by the Government of India, who must be guided by circumstances and by experience in dealing with the various cases as they arise.

INDIAN RAILWAYS.

In answer to Mr. Herbert Roberts, Lord George Hamilton said: "The estimates show, as regard railways, reduction of the deficiency from Rs. 2,660,000 in 1896-7 and Rs. 1,432,600 in 1897-8 to 1898-9 and Rs. 880,600 in 1899-1900. The Hon. member is, of course, aware that the variations in the deficiency are mainly dependent on the rate of exchange at which the payments in England are made. In India the profit on the working of the railways was 5.20 per cent in 1896, 5.08 in 1897 (when the famine and plague affected the returns) and 5.30 in 1898. In respect of irrigation the estimates show a profit of Rs. 2,39,600 in 1898-9 and of Rs. 116,300 in 1899-1900."

INDIAN CIVIL SERVICE.

Mr. Talbot asked the Secretary of State for India whether it was possible to grant to the members of the Indian Civil Service the same advantages with regard to passage money which were allowed to police and forest officers.

Lord George Hamilton.—The two cases which are contrasted in my right hon. friend's question do not stand on the same footing. The Indian Civilian has advantages, both before he leaves for India and after his arrival there, which the police and forest officers do not enjoy. But, on the other hand, it has never been the practice to pay for his passage to India, and I see no sufficient reason, as at present advised, for making any change in this respect.

INDIAN TRADE WITH CENTRAL ASIA.

Replying to Mr. Darge, Lord George Hamilton said: "The Ladak trade returns for the latest year show a decrease in the trade of India with Chinese Turkestan, which the Assistant Resident in Ladak attributes to the duty levied in India upon hemp exported from Yarkand. The Resident in Kashmir thinks it possible that improved communications with Russian centres may cause further decline in the Indo-Yarkand trade. The Government of India has been considering measures for improving trade between India and Tibet via Sikkim, and the Viceroys in communication with the Imperial Commissioner of Tibetan Affairs on the subject."

LICENSING COMMISSION.

Controversy and speculation are still very rife about the rival reports of the Licensing Commission, the separation of which into two irreconcilable sections I notified to you some weeks ago. "The Times" of Monday last contained what purported to be an authentic summary of the two reports. It says that the majority report will be signed by 16 out of the 24 members, but as the report contains some very damaging statements about the trade in intoxicating liquors, I think it is very likely that the "Times" has been misinformed. For instance, the report speaking of the traffic in drink says—"a gigantic evil remains to be remedied, and hardly any sacrifice would be too great which would result in a marked diminution of this natural degradation." I shall be very much surprised if the representatives of the trade sign such a declaration as that. The report then goes on to recommend certain small reforms which do not appear to involve any such sacrifice as the Commissioners express themselves ready to make. In fact, the only sacrifice which the majority of the Commissioners appear ready to make is the sacrifice of the interest of the public to those of the publican. On the other hand, Lord Peel's report which will secure the adhesion of the Temperance members, goes to the root of the evil, and recommends drastic measures of reforms which may be expected to do something towards lessening the evils which flow from this terrible trade. Anyhow the public will not be kept much longer in suspense. The two sections are now holding their final meetings and their authoritative reports may be expected very shortly. Unfortunately one of the leading Temperance members, Mr. Cairne, has been absent during the greater part of this crisis, but he is expected home from America next week, and will probably have something to say upon

the questions at issue before the reports are finally signed.

In the meantime the Government makes the existence of the Commission an easy excuse for resisting all measures of Temperance Reform until the report is issued. For instance, the Scotch members brought in a Bill on Wednesday conferring upon the people of Scotland the right to decide for themselves in their respective localities whether they wanted liquor shops in their midst or not. The Government opposed the Bill, and, with the assistance of their English Tory levies, swamped the Scotch members and threw out the Bill by 117 to 143. It will be noticed, however, that in this division, their normal majority of 140 fell to 74—an encouraging sign of the times. Analysis of the division list shows that 40 Scotch members voted for the Bill and only 14 against it. Is it not a crying shame that, on a measure of this kind, the wishes of the Scotch people should be so ruthlessly set aside by the reactionary representatives of what is called the predominant parties?

Sir Wilfrid Lawson, the leader of the Temperance party in the House of Commons, made one of his witty speeches in favour of the Bill. Here is one of the stories with which he convulsed the House. He was saying that hon. members seemed to think that the world would not be worth living in if they could not get liquor. He remembered reading of a Kentucky Colonel, who fell into the Mississippi, which divides the State of Kentucky from the State of Ohio. The Colonel was pulled out, laid upon the bank and resuscitated. When he opened his eyes he said: "Where am I?" His rescuers replied: "On the river bank." He said, "which bank?" They replied "Ohio." He said: "Ohio is a prohibition State; throw me in again!"

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S HUNTING LODGE.

THE City Corporation are to be asked to spend £500 on the renovation of the old Tudor building known as Queen Elizabeth's hunting lodge at Chingford, in Epping Forest. The building was erected in the reign of Henry VII. and is in excellent preservation. Good Queen Bess often paid it a visit, and on one occasion rode on horseback up the broad oaken staircase to the banqueting room. The structure is oblong in shape, measuring nearly 30ft. by 20ft. Internally, it is divided into three storeys, the square staircase, projecting from the main building, being 14ft. square. Its original arrangement was very peculiar, consisting as it did of two large rooms, one occupying each of the upper floors and some small apartments below. The top room served as a fine parlour for rest and refreshment for Queen Elizabeth, the room below for dressing, and the small chambers on the ground floor for attendants. There is a dignified character about the building, which, in the opinion of Mr. J. Oldrid Scott, an eminent architect versed in Tudor architecture—and upon whose advice the recommendation for the renovation was made—seems to distinguish it from the usual buildings of its age and shows that it was evidently intended for a special purpose. The Essex Field Club has, since 1895, occupied part of the building, and exhibited to an admiring public a large number of stone and bronze implements, snakes, lizards, and amphibians, etc. found in the forest. Under the advice of Mr. Scott, the lodge will be greatly improved, and much larger space provided for the museum. Visitors to the forest will then be able to obtain refreshment for the body at the Forest Hotel, mental pebulum at the Lodge, and muscular strength on the boats close at hand on Connaught water. No doubt the improvements will be carried out before the summer brings its thousands to this great Essex playground.

A SEA VOYAGE IN PARIS.

The most remarkable feature of the Paris Exhibition of 1900 will be the "Mareorama," which will give one all the sensations of a sea voyage; not an excursion of a few moments, but a real journey as attractive as if one were standing on the bridge of an ocean-going steamer. First of all, the vessel will be real and possess every equipment. There will be real sailors too. By some special machinery the ship will be made to pitch and roll just as if it were at sea. The smell of ozone will complete the illusion. Once the steamer is on the move the artificial sky will keep in harmony with the development of the journey. There will be a full sun for the day, starlight for the night, and black clouds with thunder and lightning to give the passengers all the sensations of a tempest. The itinerary of the journey will be from Marseilles to Constantinople, and the ship will stop at Algiers, Naples and other places on the way. When the ship arrives at Naples, boatmen will come on board to take away the passenger's luggage, and another incident of the voyage will be the meeting with a naval squadron. The bridge of the steamer it may be explained rests on a pivot, spherical in the centre, so as to allow the ship to take all the positions required in rolling and pitching, which are regulated by the alternative movements of pumps. Passengers who are not good sailors will go down under the bridge, and through the loopholes will see the bridge, and through the look-holes will see the panorama unfold itself. The project has been received with enthusiasm by the commissioners of the exhibition, who regard it as the leading feature among the attractions of 1900. The Mareorama Palace will be situated at the Champ de Mars.

The trial of Mr. and Mrs. Smith charged with attempting to set fire to their shop, which was alleged to have been greatly over-insured, closed at Rangoon, both accused being acquitted.

A CURIOUS, and what might have been a serious incident, occurred in Sealkote on Friday. Whilst the horses of the 5th Dragoon Guards were at evening exercise, about six o'clock, a violent sandstorm suddenly came on, and a general stampede took place amongst the led horses, it being impossible to hold them owing to their being so terrified. All the horses have been brought in with but a few casualties. Happily none of the men are injured.

