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পদক-পুস্তক।

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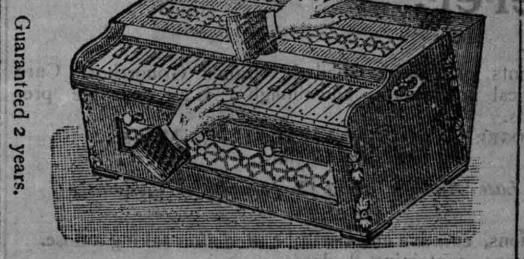
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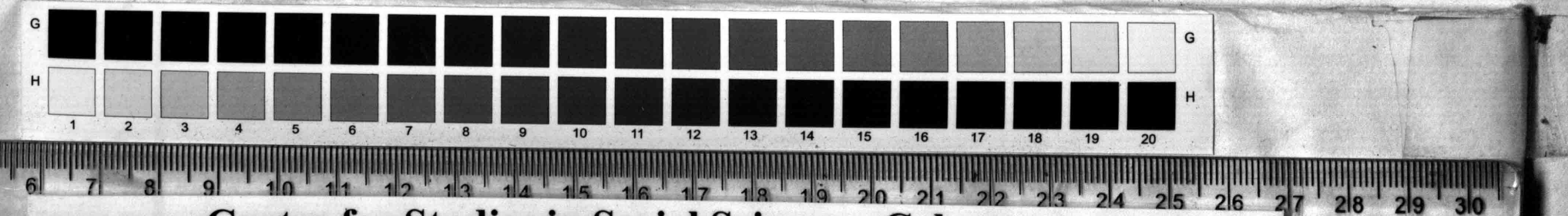
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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JUNE 11, 1899.

DISASTROUS EFFECTS OF THE PROVINCIAL CONTRACTS.

THE only provincial ruler who has an opportunity of being present in the Imperial Council, when the Budget Statement of the Finance Minister is brought forward for discussion, is the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

The Bengal Government had a cash balance of 58 lakhs when the last famine appeared in 1896. It had accumulated this sum after exploiting the District Boards and starving several useful departments.

But the statute and the rules were cast to the four winds and what the Central Government did was to apply the pump to the provincial treasury till it was emptied to less than ten lakhs, that is to say, the Government of India pocketed 49 lakhs out of the balance of 58 lakhs, or 33 lakhs more than it was entitled to take!

In short, the difference of 12½ lakhs Sir J. Westland sought to make up by "2½ lakhs mentioned in the third paragraph of the Financial Statement and a grant of 10 lakhs to the General Hospital."

The fact is, it is the Military Department which is mainly responsible for the above state of affairs. Just see. The total growth of taxation since 1884-85 is 13½ crores, of which nearly 6 crores have been obtained by increasing land revenue and the remainder by developing other principal heads of revenue.

All these 10½ crores should, however, have been placed in the hands of the Local Governments for the improvement of their respective provinces, which have been taxed to their utmost limits for raising the above amount.

INDIANS AND THE NOBLE ENGLISH RACE.

THE history of the British nation is a continued record of unparalleled heroism. The American has proved himself to be a patriot but the Englishman is more than a patriot; for, if the former will sacrifice himself for his country, the latter will sacrifice himself for the Empire.

They began with the conquest of the Armada, and ever since the temple of Janus has never been shut in England for any considerable period.

North, if not in the South. For England to go to war is not a matter of much moment at all. If an Englishman is molested, his countrymen will not bear it. They will rise to a man to deliver him if he happens to be detained in the midst of the African wilds.

Let us now enumerate the battles fought only during the reign of the Queen. We all know the charge of the heavy brigade at Balaclava; the brilliant deeds of valour performed in India; the storming of the Taku forts in China; the attack on the Maori Pah; the battle of Arohee in Abyssinia; the Ashantee war; the defence of Rorke's Drift; the Afghan war; the bombardment of Alexandria; the Matabele war; the battle of Ferkeh; the deeds at Chitral; and the heroism of Kitchener.

One example will show how Englishmen fight. The thirty-six men under Major Wilson and Captain Barrow sent to catch Lobengula, were surrounded by a strong force of the Matabele. Reaching a suitable spot they made a stand, and for four hours the gallant little band fought for their lives.

Such is an Englishman. For the honor of his country he will do anything. If the odds be against him he feels he must die like an Englishman. When in the battle of the Taku fort, there was a race between the French and the English for the honor of being the first to place the flag on the top of the fort, a plucky Britisher, Lieutenant Chaplin, though wounded in three places, succeeded in beating his rivals.

In India, however, Englishmen have disgraced the country and gagged the press. They who know no fear elsewhere betray a strange nervousness in this country, and also a degree of suspicion quite incompatible with their character. A nation of heroes, Englishmen should treat their dependencies with greater confidence and more kindness.

END OF THE MOONSHEEGUNGE CASE.

THE Government is an impersonal body, but some one must be held responsible for its blunders, specially when these blunders mean unnecessary harassment to private individuals and waste of public money. We can guarantee that Sir John Woodburn knows nothing or very little about the sensational Moonshееgunge case which came before the High Court on Thursday last and ended so disastrously for the Government; for, we cannot persuade ourselves to believe that, if all the facts were clearly explained to the Lieutenant-Governor, His Honor would ever have permitted this scandal to continue and grow in volume and intensity during the last eight or nine months.

The facts of the Moonshееgunge case must yet be fresh in the minds of the reader. But we shall recapitulate them, even at the risk of repeating the same thing over again. Moulvi Fazul Karim, the Sub-divisional Officer of Moonshееgunge, fell out with a Mukhtear of his Court, Babu Kali Prosonno Bose, and his Mohurir, Debendra Kumar, in this wise. Debendra claimed a piece of timber, found in the compound of the Sub-divisional Officer, as belonging to his master, the Moulvi, on the other hand, claimed it as his own. And Debendra brought a theft case against the latter. Now, fancy the situation! The petty clerk of a Mukhtear charging a Sub-divisional Officer with theft! It was, however, a purely private matter and Government had no business to interfere with it.

The matter might yet have been nipped in the bud; but Government weakly yielded to the pressure of the local authorities and chose to adopt a suicidal course. In short, it gave a carte blanche to the very local authorities whose blood was up, to dispose of the matter in their own way. And they adopted measures which not only shocked the sense of propriety of the public, but gave a sensational character to the case.

Magistrate, who was interested in the case, he or any other local official should never have been selected for this purpose.

But the sense of propriety had almost left the authorities. The Assistant Magistrate, was entrusted with the enquiry and he made a report that the case had not been proved against the Moulvi. Thereupon the prosecution of Kali Prosonno and Debendra for making a false statement against the Sub-divisional Officer and issued a warrant. Kali Prosonno, however, escaped by fleeing to Calcutta, and moving the High Court which quashed the proceedings of the District Magistrate as illegal, holding that the latter could direct the prosecution of Kali Prosonno only after the theft case against the Moulvi had been dismissed as false.

When the motion came to be argued in the High Court, the Advocate-General, with Mr. Douglas White, to the surprise of all, appeared to oppose it on behalf of the Government. It was not clear what the Government had to do with the case, as it was a private quarrel between Moulvi Fazul Karim and a Mukhtear of his Court. It now transpired that not only had the local authorities combined to try conclusions with a helpless Mukhtear, for the Moulvi, but the Government itself had joined the combination! Mr. Woodroffe, Counsel for Kali Prosonno, enquired the reason that had led Government to employ the Advocate-General and another Barrister and thus spend public money in a private case, but got no reply.

It was also on this occasion that Mr. Woodroffe uttered the remarkable words, that the cause of this official combination was that his client had been implicated in a case in which a Deputy Magistrate was a party. "It is well known," said Mr. Woodroffe, bitterly, "that if you raise a finger against even a punkha coolie employed in a Government office, you are sure to have all the officials combined against you." To such a pitiful condition have the people been reduced in this country.

Thus, in spite of its being a private case between the Moulvi and a Mukhtear, the Government was not ashamed to employ the Advocate-General and another counsel to crush a tiny creature like Kali Prosonno simply because his servant had offended an official. Kali Prosonno had, on the other hand, to bear his own expense; and it was pretty heavy indeed. The fight was thus, in every sense, an unequal one. The prestige and unlimited resources of Government were placed at the disposal of the Moulvi, while Kali Prosonno had to spend money from his own pocket to defend himself. When, in a private case, Government with all its resources, comes to identify itself with one party, on account of his being an official, the inevitable result that must follow is that the persecuted party secures the sympathy of the entire people.

But we have not yet related all the troubles of Kali Prosonno. The theft case against the Moulvi was dismissed and Kali Prosonno was again sought to be put on his trial for bringing a false charge. He again moved the High Court on Thursday last to have the proceedings quashed; and their Lordships, after hearing Mr. Jackson on his behalf and Mr. Douglas White on the other side, acceded to his prayer. Mr. Justice Prinsep characterised the proceedings of the lower court as not only "irregular" but "illegal". Indeed, the proceedings were so high-handed that, even Mr. Justice Prinsep remarked with surprise, "Mr. White, you seem to be against your own client!" In short, the case had no leg to stand on, and their Lordships set aside the order of the Dacca Magistrate to prosecute Babu Kali Prosonno.

We think, there was absolutely no necessity for the local authorities of Dacca to invite this humiliation for themselves and the Government for the sake of a Moulvi Shahab. The Government has gained nothing but lost a good deal of its prestige by shewing so much zeal over this petty case. The Moulvi should have been asked to clear his character, when a charge of theft was brought against him, by bringing a case of defamation, in his private capacity, against his alleged revilers. If this procedure had been adopted, the scandal would not have assumed such gigantic proportions. Even if the Government had won, the victory itself, in a case like this, would have been a disaster.

ONE of the grounds why Babu Kali Nath Mitter was led to support Mr. Tomlinson against Rai Krishna Chandra, both of whom had applied for the Chief Engineer'ship of the Calcutta Municipality, was that one, in the position of Chief Engineer, had to control European subordinates, and, therefore, none but a European should be appointed to that post.

Europeans do not like to serve under Indians, and, therefore, says Babu Kali Nath the Chief Engineer should be an Englishman. Now, we think that if Babu Surendra Nath and Kali Nath had acted in concert, without going in different directions, the post might have been secured for an Indian. The prejudice of a European serving under an Indian is a myth. It does not really exist; it is only brought forward to serve particular ends, but this alleged prejudice is given up as soon as the European finds it to his interest to do so. Indeed, we know that this plea that Europeans would never agree to serve under an Indian, is oftentimes brought forward to deprive the latter of his just rights. An Englishman has no objection to serve under a Japanese, a Turk, a Chinaman, and even an Egyptian. Why should he then object to serve under an Indian? But do Englishmen object to serve an Indian? The Indian Princes have many Englishmen under them, so have many Zemindars. The Englishman has thus no objection to serve an Indian when it is his interest to do so; he objects to it when he serves his interest by so doing. When the first Indian Civilian came to India, the Government did not know what to do with him. The authorities had never expected the spectre of an Indian Civilian in their midst. They knew that they had at least provided against that. But human provisions are never absolutely safe. And when Babu Satyendra Nath Tagore came, the Government called a meeting of the Council to solve the intricate problem of how to dispose of him. He must have his place; but then how to give him one and protect the interests of the Europeans? For, he it known that, in this conspiracy, namely, that a

native must not be allowed to lord it over a European, the Government had its fullest sympathy. Satyendra Nath was sent to the remotest corners of India! But others came. Englishmen are, however, very dutiful. And when they saw the difficulties of the Government and its desperate circumstances, some of them came forward to stifle their assumed prejudice and accept the lucky Indians as colleagues. Then methods were adopted to lead them to leave the executive service; some were given a higher pay, some were cajoled, and some threatened and at last led to agree to enter the judicial service. For a Judge has no European subordinate, as the Magistrate has. We have yet a few Indians who have European subordinates. Heaven knows how they manage these unruly European subordinates. This however, is certain that these native Magistrates are not at all ambitious of having in their train Europeans awaiting their orders. They would prefer by far to manage with subordinates of their own nationality. We have never seen it, but the sight must be an exceedingly interesting one,—the sight of an Indian Magistrate talking to his European Joint or his District Superintendent of Police. Does the Indian Magistrate "sir" them? We dare say he does not address them as "your honor" or "your worship"!

The Englishman is proud that it is his country which alone can produce gentlemen,—produce men who, though brusque, are invariably courteous, fair, generous to the weak and just to a rival. But are these characteristics of the Englishman compatible with his prejudice against the Indian, his fellow-subject, who is his peer in every thing except in the accident of birth?

The new Chief Justice of Bombay, Sir L. Jenkins, has killed two birds with one stone. He has given Mr. Aston of the Prato case fame, a good lesson and has also fingered a real plague-spot in the criminal administration of this country. What happened was this. One Dyan bin Mahadu was placed before the District Magistrate of Satara on a charge of murdering his wife. He made a confession and was committed to the Sessions. He, however, retracted it when the case came to be tried by Mr. Sessions Judge Aston. The proper course for Mr. Aston was to acquit the prisoner, as his confession was not corroborated by other evidence, and specially as the accused gave a very natural explanation of the death of his wife. What the accused said was that his wife had died of plague and he had concealed her body; and that fearing he would be charged with a heinous crime if he disclosed the above facts, he confessed to the police, to avoid immediate troubles, that she had met her death at his hands. There was absolutely no motive on the part of the man to kill his wife; and if Mr. Aston could calmly weigh the pros and cons, he would have had no alternative but to let him off. But how could he do it, when he had sent the editor of a newspaper to transportation for life for a much less serious offence, namely, for comparing the Indian Government with the Canadian, and voting the latter as the better of the two? Would he not be called weak-kneed and all that if he were to allow the man to go scot-free, when he had made a confession of having murdered his wife, though he withdrew it afterwards? The circumstances were too tempting; and needless to say, the man was convicted and sentenced to be transported for life. In due course the case came on appeal before the Chief Justice and his colleagues who viewed the matter from a different stand-point. They believed the conviction and sentence. His Lordship the Chief Justice took this occasion of declaring that too much importance should not be attached to the confession of an accused before a Magistrate; but, we shall quote his exact words:—

The circumstances of this confession and consequent withdrawal are only typical of what constantly occurs. A man is arrested, and then in a short but pregnant period of time, he is filled with a desire to incriminate himself, and in due course, he goes before a Magistrate and makes a statement which fastens upon him the responsibility of a serious crime which he, afterwards, under other influences, retracts. The result is a grave and serious mischief; not only may a great wrong be done to the accused, but proper efforts to trace the crime must almost necessarily be slackened.

The adage in the country is that, "the police can convert day into night and night into day." Confessions under police custody should always be received with reservation. In the absence of corroborative evidence of an unimpeachable character, the incriminating statements of the accused, when they have been under police influence, should never be used against him, specially in serious cases like murder, for which hanging or long terms of imprisonment are provided.

NEWSPAPERS in England do not command that respect which it is in their power to secure from their country. Lord Salisbury does not like the leading articles of the Times; he would have only news. What his Lordship means is that newspapers try to mislead and deceive by their leading articles. Mr. Labouchere is more severe and comprehensive in his attacks. He says the editorial, "we" does not mean any body except the proprietors. And, therefore, he has the greatest contempt for the man who is in any way influenced by the opinions of newspapers. But, as a matter of fact, people are so influenced all over the world, and more in England than, perhaps, in any other country. Mr. Labouchere's contempt for those who are influenced by newspaper criticism is based upon a misconception. He says: "The only difference between them (newspapers) and others is that they have an opportunity which most others have not to secure a circulation for their opinions." Now, this is not the case. The newspaper man has to form an opinion on a subject while a layman is not bound to do so. The newspaper man has not only to form an opinion on the subject, but submit it to the public for their acceptance. He, therefore, cannot afford to support an opinion which is not based upon solid arguments, and it is thus that the layman has to submit to the influence of newspapers. In England newspapers have an opportunity of committing more mischief than their brethren in this country have. Here the newspapers are few while their readers are not vast. Here any conspiracy by any newspaper editor is detected at once. In England party feelings have a very demoralizing effect: the newspapers

have to support factions from considerations of party interests. Here in India we have no party feeling except that which exists between Europeans and Indians. But yet there are few questions in India which interest a European. An Anglo-Indian editor may continue to publish his paper daily or for a week and not take up any Indian question at all.

THE disfranchisement of the Dacca Division was sought to be justified on the alleged ground that the Calcutta Corporation had submitted a representation to the Government of Bengal, praying that the services of the two Municipal Commissioners, Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee and Norendra Nath Sen, might be retained after the expiry of their terms as members of Council, so that they might offer criticism on the Calcutta Municipal Bill when it would be brought forward for final disposal. It was alleged that as the two electorates through which they could get in were the Calcutta Corporation and the Municipalities of the Presidency Division, Babu Surendra Nath having a residential house in the latter, the Government, in deference to the wishes of the Corporation, was led to suspend the election in Dacca and invite the Presidency Division to elect a member; that is, Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee. It is quite true that no official announcement to this effect was made, but the authorities never contradicted the statement when it appeared in various newspapers. It is also an open secret that in conversation with some Indian gentlemen on the subject, Sir John Woodburn and his Secretaries gave the above reasons as their justification for departing from the previously announced arrangements of their predecessors, and depriving Dacca of its right on the present occasion. Then again, long before the publication of the usual Election Resolution in the Calcutta Gazette, when the public had not the slightest suspicion as regards the disfranchisement of Dacca, Babu Surendra Nath gave the members and Chairmen of various Municipalities in Presidency Division to understand that Government had decided to take "that extraordinary step in order to enable him to return to his seat again, and that they should therefore vote for him and for none else. In this way, he secured pledges, according to the Indian Empire and some other papers, from many municipalities mixing up Sir John Woodburn's name with his forthcoming re-election. In short, all the circumstances, enumerated above, created the impression in the public mind that, His Honor and his ministers had interested themselves in the return of Babu Surendra Nath and Surendra Nath and were practically canvassing for them, and that the latter were thus the nominees of the Government. It was this feature of the disfranchisement question which led us mainly to take exception to the action of the Bengal Government. For, if the heads of Governments allow themselves to be mixed up in these elections, directly or indirectly, then the latter become worse than farces. Indeed, popular representatives getting into the Council with the help of the Government may do more mischief than those nominated members who have never posed or been regarded as representatives of the people. Far be it from us to insinuate that Babu Surendra Nath will ever act in any other capacity than as a mouth-piece of the people, but there is no doubt, a popular representative lays himself under obligation to Government if he takes its help to secure a seat.

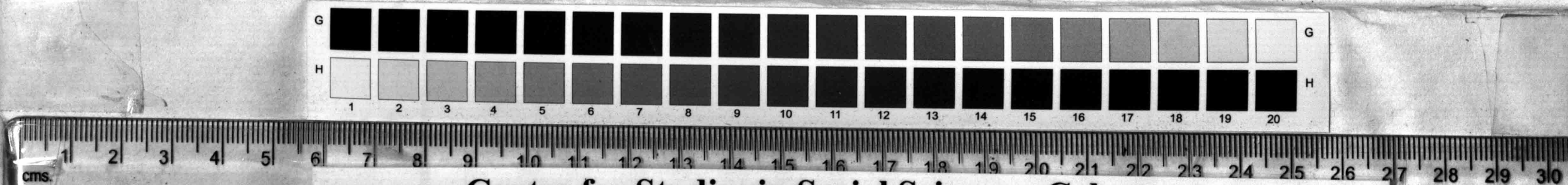
The Government, however, never admitted in any official document that it was in any way interested in the re-election of Babu Surendra Nath and Norendra Nath. Some apparently unguarded expressions from Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee, when proposing Babu Norendra Nath Sen as the Corporation candidate, have, however, left no room for doubt that at least the party principally interested in the disfranchisement question, that is, Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee, believed and had apparently acted upon that belief, that he and Babu Norendra Nath Sen were the nominees of the Lieutenant-Governor, and that those who did not vote for himself and his colleague, would show disrespect to His Honor. This is what is reported to have said when addressing the Municipal Commissioners on Wednesday last to accept Babu Norendra Nath Sen as their representative:—

The speaker (Babu S. N. Bannerjee) desired to call the attention of the Commissioners to the correspondence that had taken place between them and the Government on the subject. The Government in consideration of an unanimous request made by the Corporation having made a very important concession for the purpose of retaining in the Council the two members who had taken deep interest in the Bill on behalf of the Corporation, would it be consistent with their self-respect if they elected a new man now? Would it be showing regard to the honoured head of the Government, who had made this important concession if they now returned a new man?

In the above Babu Surendra Nath says distinctly that it was at the request of the Corporation that the Lieutenant-Governor decided to retain the services of himself and his colleague in the Council. He also held out a mild threat to the effect that they would offend the honoured head of the Government if the Commissioners failed to carry out the wishes of His Honor. What we beg to know is,—was Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee permitted to speak in this way in the name of the Lieutenant-Governor?

What makes the case more complicated is the rejoinder which came from Babu Kali Nath Mitter as well as from the Chairman of the Corporation. This is what Babu Kali Nath said:— Babu Kali Nath then replied to the statement made by Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee to the effect that the Corporation had in a way already practically decided to return Babu Norendra Nath Sen, when they had asked the Government to allow the Corporation to be represented by two members. Babu Kali Nath said that he never thought when he supported that representation that the Commissioners wanted the same members over again; so he failed to see wherein they would lose self-respect or show any disregard for Government if they elected a new man.

Babu Kali Nath thus denied that the Corporation had ever requested the Lieutenant-Governor to retain the services of Babu Surendra Nath and Norendra Nath. He further expressed surprise at the suggestion that they would incur the displeasure of His Honor by electing a new man. As Babu Surendra Nath did not contradict Babu Kali Nath, we may



take it that the statements of the Hon'ble gentleman were misleading.

The Chairman now intervened and the following conversation took place between him and Babu Surendra Nath:—

Chairman.—I am quite neutral in this matter. But as Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee has said that the Government wanted Babu Norendra Nath Sen—

Babu S. N. Bannerjee.—I didn't say that. I said we indicated that in that case we would return Babu Norendra Nath Sen. I never said Government wanted him.

Chairman.—I accept your explanation; but I must say that the Government is absolutely neutral in this matter.

Now, how could Babu Norendra Nath Sen be both "wanted" and "not wanted" at the same time? For, there is no doubt that, in his speech, Babu Surendra Nath said that the Lieutenant-Governor had made a very important concession to retain his and Babu Norendra Nath's services. It was not we but the editor of the Indian Nation, who was strongly for the re-election of both Babu Surendra Nath and Norendra Nath that said that, "this year it was rumoured that Mr. Bannerjee had an eye on the Bhagulpur Division, and suspecting a difficulty in that quarter, inspired a representation to the Lieutenant-Governor by the Corporation, which had the effect of drawing out a too generous Lieutenant-Governor." We are sincerely sorry for the awkward situation into which His Honor has been dragged in this connection. We have always admitted that Sir John Woodburn was actuated by the best of motives in this matter. But it is not at all desirable that his name should be so freely used and his high position compromised. In the end, we also find that, one of his nominees, though a very deserving man, has been rejected by the Corporation; and as regards the other, if he is going to secure his nomination unopposed, it is by creating the impression that he is backed by the Government. But for this unusual, rather improper course, the alleged wish of the Lieutenant-Governor would never have been satisfied.

The following telegram was received regarding the signallers' case:—

BOMBAY, JUNE 7.—Two telegrams were sent to the Home Board of the G. I. P. Railway, one on Sunday by the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta and the other the next day by the solicitors of the strikers, recommending the acceptance of the arbitration proposal. The Board wired in reply to say that the Agent was empowered to make amicable settlement with the men on their making proper representations to him. Mr. Devit thereupon wrote to the Agent asking for a conference of arbitration. But the agent still insists on individual representation.

Here is the full text of the message sent in the name of the Hon. Mr. Mehta:—

Public meeting of the leading Native gentlemen including merchants held to-day. It is strongly felt that public interest, safety and convenience suffer by continuance of Signallers' strike. Great loss is sustained every day which must eventually fall on general taxpayers. It is felt that the principal demands are not altogether unreasonable. Great sympathy is felt by the public. Meeting begs to recommend acceptance of arbitration proposal.

The other telegram, representing the signallers' present attitude runs as follows:—

Signallers willing to rejoin collectively and on assurance of arbitration on at least principal demands. Please wire reply. Otherwise must seek other employment.

The reply of the Home Board, it would seem, was assuring. They said that the Agent had been empowered to make up the matter with the signallers. If they made proper representation. But the uncompromising attitude of the Agent has made amicable settlement impossible. He would not listen to their collective representation, but would discuss every individual case on its own merits. This means that they must break up their combination, so that he may bring each of them on his knees by dictating his own terms. The condition is extremely unreasonable, and the signallers cannot accept it without ruining their cause for ever. Besides, it means a breach of pledge on their mutual part, for they have bound themselves to stand by one another in woe or in weal. And if the signallers have been able to secure so much public sympathy and support, it is due to this noble determination on their part to sacrifice themselves for one another. The matter has not thus much improved, though the Board are apparently disposed to make concessions.

FOLLOWING in the wake of the Bombay meeting, a public meeting was also held on Sunday last at Dhulia under the presidency of the Hon. Mr. Dhondo Shamrao Garud, to consider the question of the strike of the signallers. The following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved that this meeting regrets that the efforts of the signallers of the G. I. P. Railway Company to obtain redress of their just grievances have so far been unavailing and hopes that some influential bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce will yet intercede and put an end to the present dead-lock in a way which will be honorable to the Company and agreeable to their employes.

A committee was appointed to collect public subscriptions in aid of the signallers.

The Pioneer has shown a very good example. It has condemned in strong terms the conduct of the soldiers who committed the other day, an atrocious outrage upon a respectable Burmese woman, from the effects of which she died a horrible death. The Pioneer's article is reproduced elsewhere. Our contemporary has discussed the matter, in a way which leaves nothing more to be said on the subject. Anglo-Indian papers may do a vast deal of good to the Empire if, like the Pioneer, they condemn all cases of oppression committed upon the helpless people of this country by Europeans. What, however, usually happens is this. When a native of this country is subjected to outrage by a European, the Anglo-Indian papers either take no notice of it or side with the offender. This irritates the Indian papers, and they bitterly complain, not only against the conduct of the European press but also against that of the authorities. The Anglo-Indian papers, thus provoked, sometimes retaliate, and the result is that the gulf which separates the two communities is still further widened. Now, this is a state of affairs which must be deplorable by every well-wisher of the Empire. The

natural arrangement, however, should be this, namely, that when Indians are outraged by Europeans the Anglo-Indian papers should take up such cases of oppression, and the Indian press should not interfere with them. Similarly if an Indian commits an outrage upon a European, which is, however, a rare accident, it is the Indian papers which should censure the dastardly conduct of the former, and the European organs should remain silent. In this way much of the racial bitterness between the two communities may be removed and real good feelings established between them.

WHEN we objected to the disfranchisement of Dacca, the only Anglo-Indian paper which came to dispel our "illusion" with regard to this matter was the Statesman. The Statesman said that we were grievously mistaken, for the disfranchisement of Dacca was no disfranchisement at all. In reply we proved our position in this way. The Dacca Division has the right of returning a member, but Government will not permit it. And this is called disfranchisement in plain language. Our contemporary was apparently satisfied with our exposition, for he did not return to prove that we were labouring under an "illusion" or a hallucination. The Bengal Times was the next Anglo-Indian paper which took part in the discussion of this question. In a series of ably-written articles, some of which were reproduced in these columns, our Dacca contemporary supported every statement we had made in this connection. We now find that the leading Anglo-Indian paper, the Englishman, issues a mild protest against the action of the Bengal Government. Says our contemporary in reference to the election of the Corporation member:—

So far as the Hon. Babu Norendra Nath Sen was concerned, it was thought there would be no hesitation on the part of the Municipality in recommending him a second time. The case was somewhat different so far as the Hon. Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee was concerned. He represents the municipalities in the Presidency Division. The municipal municipalities elect members in rotation, and when the Hon. Babu's time expired it would be the turn, in the ordinary course, of the Dacca Division to send a member to Council. The Lieutenant-Governor, however, in his desire that the opponents of the Municipal Bill should have every opportunity of saying their say, has decided to interfere with the rotation and allow the Presidency Division to elect a member twice in succession, his impression being, of course, that the Hon. Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee would be again returned. But mark what happened at the Calcutta Municipal meeting on Wednesday. Babu Norendra Nath Sen was not re-elected, the majority of votes going to an European, Mr. J. G. Apar. It is needless here to enquire closely into the reason of Mr. Apar's election, which is connected with a controversy which is taking place as to the moral right of the Lieutenant-Governor to disenfranchise even temporarily the Dacca Division.

The Statesman, with all the pompous authority of an apparently official announcement, declared that Sir John Woodburn was led to disfranchise Dacca by the representation of the Corporation. The Corporation, it was alleged, had requested the Lieutenant-Governor to retain the services of Babu Surendra Nath and Norendra Nath, and hence His Honor was anxious to get them both, one through the Presidency Division and the other through the Corporation. Babu Surendra Nath himself confirmed this impression in an eloquent speech when he proposed Babu Norendra Nath Sen as the Corporation candidate. It, however, turns out that the Corporation never made such a request to Sir John Woodburn. If they had done so they would have assuredly elected Babu Norendra Nath and not Mr. Apar. This being the case, may we enquire who led His Honor to believe that he would do a meritorious act by enabling the two members to get themselves elected again, even at the risk of introducing a dangerous innovation? The Englishman doubts whether the Lieutenant-Governor has any moral right to disfranchise even temporarily the Dacca Division. But there are other important principles involved in the change. The precedent, laid down by the present Lieutenant-Governor, may be taken advantage of by a future illiberal-minded Governor to punish a Division by taking away the right of election from its inhabitants for years together. The whole business seems to be a comedy of errors from beginning to end.

THOUGH Babu Kali Nath Mitter gave his support to a European, Mr. Apar, against an Indian, Babu Norendra Nath Sen, at the Municipal election, we must say that, in this action of his, he has our cordial sympathy. Mr. Apar, when elected, gratefully acknowledged the compliment paid to him and declared that he would do his duty. Of this we have not the slightest doubt. Mr. Apar very well knows why he has been elected. It is to fight the battle of local self-government. The services that Babu Norendra Nath Sen has done to the country in regard to the Municipal business along with Babu Surendra Nath Bannerjee are very valuable. Babu Kali Nath gracefully acknowledged that; but he justly observed that Babu Norendra Nath Sen had done his utmost and that it would be a dissipation of energy to send him again. To send Mr. Apar to the Council is, therefore, like sending a reinforcement. And then there is a grace in the Indians sending a European which speaks volumes in their favour and in the favour of their cause. We only beg Mr. Apar to remember one fact. Although the Calcutta Corporation has elected him, he should act, like his distinguished predecessors, as member for the whole of Bengal. Indeed, Bengal needs a thoroughly independent European like him to ventilate its one thousand and one grievances in the Council. He will, however, have to study many Moffussil questions with close attention before he can hope to cope with the official members. Mr. Apar is going to resign his post of the Clerk of the Crown, which fetches him Rs. 700 a month, because it is against the established practice that a Government servant should occupy a people's seat in the Council. This is a great sacrifice and it shows that Mr. Apar will devote his whole time to the business of the Council.

The following account of a shocking incident has been furnished to us by Babu Dwarka Nath Roy, of 6, Manik Bose's Ghat Street. It happened on Thursday last, on board a steamer of Messrs. Hoare Miller and Co. A woman aged 45 was a passenger by it and was going from Bali to Hooghly. Under the existing rules passengers by steamer from Calcutta are subjected to plague inspection. The plague doctor, on examination, informed her that she would have to go to the Hooghly plague camp, as she, in the opinion of the doctor, seemed to have a touch of plague in her. At this she began to tremble and uttered a few words, indicating her horror at the fate that awaited her. She then kept quiet for sometime. But as the steamer was nearing the Hooghly Ghat Station, she left her seat and jumped overboard into the river. On this, there was a great commotion, and attempts were made to rescue her. After a search the body was found but her life was extinct. We publish the above account as we have got it; but we must say the party who has sent it is not known to us personally.

HERE are the details of the case which we noticed yesterday as pending before Mr. Hamilton, the Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh. It is said that 7 coolies from the tea-house set on Mr. Bellwood at about noon, beat him all over his body, broke his left arm in two places. It is also feared that his skull was fractured as Mr. Bellwood had been unconscious for several days after the assault. The Deputy Commissioner and the police went to the garden on Tuesday last. The cause that led to the riot has not yet been fully cleared up. A petition was filed by a coolie girl before the Deputy Commissioner, on Monday, alleging that Mr. Bellwood had set upon her in a jungle at some distance from the tea-house and attempted to forcibly take liberties with her person. There was another girl with her, who, on seeing the Saheb's proceedings, ran to the tea-house where the husband of the complainant was working and informed him of the dangerous situation in which she had seen his wife. The girl also deposed before the Deputy Commissioner that she was let off by the Saheb when her husband appeared on the scene with some other men. It appears that some of the men who have been arrested by the police admitted before the senior Extra Assistant Commissioner that they had struck Mr. Bellwood with lathies, though they pleaded the provocation disclosed in the petition of the woman. The petition of the woman as well as the case against the rioters have been made over to the Inspector of Police for investigation. Whatever may be the cause of the assault it was evidently a matter that only concerned a few, as the other coolies in the garden have taken no part either way and work is going on as usual. Later information says that Mr. Hamilton examined Mr. Bellwood in his Bungalow at Nadua on Saturday, the accused coolies being present there. The accused were all identified by Mr. Bellwood as his assailants. We are told that there is no case against the coolie girl who filed the petition against Mr. Bellwood and her companion, and we do not understand why they should still be kept in jail.

The following paragraph from the Pioneer will throw some light on the present situation in the Transvaal:—If to-day's telegrams regarding the result of the Conference, between Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger, are accurate, the news is serious, and will be received by all sober-minded people with extreme regret. When President Kruger agreed to the Conference, his acquiescence was interpreted by not a few experts on South African affairs to mean that he was riding for a fall. He had come to see, it was thought, the futility of continuing the protracted struggle with the Colonial Office, and hoped that the Conference, with the British High Commissioner, involving as it was bound to do, the specification of the minimum concessions with which the Suez Canal would be satisfied, would assist him when he came to explain his surrender to the Volksraad. Unfortunately this view of Oom Paul's intentions turns out to be altogether too optimistic. He has apparently offered some reforms in regard to the enfranchisement and naturalisation of outlanders in the Transvaal, and though these concessions are said to be regarded as inadequate by Sir Alfred Milner, they might have formed a basis for future discussion and negotiation; but the Boer President has deliberately destroyed all possible chance of such a solution by insisting as a preliminary condition, that all disputed points shall be submitted to arbitration. This is the one thing which the British representative could not possibly agree to. Such a method of settling disputes is only proper when the disputants are independent Powers; and in South Africa, where the exclusion of any outside voice in deciding the lines of future development is absolutely essential the entrance of an intermediary between the Suez Canal and the Transvaal is out of the question. No doubt the arbitration proposed by President Kruger may be something different from arbitration in the ordinary international sense, but this is improbable. If he has actually taken up the position the telegrams seem to indicate, it is difficult to see how a recourse to the arbitration of arms is to be avoided. Deplorable would this unhappy ending to the efforts of diplomacy, be held by all true friends of South African progress.

OUR Benares correspondent writes:—"Aneent the ostracism of the natives of the soil from all posts of emoluments in the country, you were pleased to remark the other day that such a selfish arrangement is unparalleled in the annals of the world" and cited the British post of Rs. 80, which has been given to a European, as an instance. Here is an instance to show what is not generally known to what lengths this desire to provide for poor Whites with posts, has gone. I was present in the Court of the District Judge of Benares, some time ago, when a judgment, which had been copied in the Collector's office, was presented to him by one of the parties. The Judge looked at the copy and was very much annoyed with its writing. Some one there informed him that the handwriting was of a European, a copyist in the Collector's office. The Judge kept quiet, but ordered that the copy be sent to the Collector with instructions on the subject. This incident roused my curiosity a bit, and I set out to enquire who this blessed European copyist was. I found to my horror that the information was a fact and that there was actually a European in the copying department who gets Rs. 10 a month! By the bye I may inform you that no notice of the Judge's letter was taken by the Collector, at least the European copyist is there up to this day."

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MONSOON FORECAST.—It is understood that Mr. Eliot's monsoon forecast is on the whole favourable for India.

A VISIT.—Sir Francis Maclean, Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, will inspect the Presidency Magistrates' Courts on Monday, at 11 A. M.

A FREAK OF NATURE.—A correspondent writes to a contemporary from Pudukotai:—A male child was born 4 days ago in the Eastern Fourth Street with 2 heads, and 4 hands. The child was alive for some hours and then died.

THE B. N. S. RY. OFFICERS.—The Board of Directors of the Bengal Nagpur Railway have accorded sanction to the removal of some of the officers from Nagpur to Calcutta, and the offices of the Agent, Traffic Manager, and the Auditors are to leave shortly or early in August.

MAGNETIC SURVEY.—A magnetic survey will be commenced by Captain Fraser next cold weather in six places, and portions of Bengal and Assam have been included in the programme.

BENGAL COUNCIL ELECTION.—At Wednesday meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta Mr. J. G. Apar, Clerk of the Crown, was recommended to His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal for nomination to a seat in the Bengal Council.

MOGULSERAI-GAYA RAILWAY.—Works on the Mogulserai-Gaya Railway are practically complete now, except the Sone Bridge, on which also work is going on vigorously. Those on the Barun-Daltongunge Railway are also well in hand and making good progress.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.—Mr. J. S. Gamble, lately Conservator, Dehra Dun Circle, represents the Indian Forest Department at the forthcoming Paris Exhibition, and an officer of the Geological Survey, on leave at home, will probably be similarly deputed to look after the geological exhibits from India. The scheme for a tea house at the exhibition is temporarily in abeyance owing to a difficulty having arisen on the subject of whether the Home Committee or India is to pay for the space it occupies.

UP-TO-DATE.—Our Lahore contemporary is not often more than a week behind with its news, though, as we have before had occasion to point out, it is almost invariably late by at least two days. In its issue of last Sunday, however, it succeeded in surpassing even its own record in behind-handedness. It gravely states that Mr. Heselbine is to be appointed Assistant Secretary in the Finance Department, "vice O'Connor, who is to be appointed Director-General of Statistics." We say nothing about our contemporary's mis-spelling of the name of so well-known an official as M. J. E. O'Connor, C. I. E., but we really cannot refrain from observing that he was appointed Director-General of Statistics in the year of grace 1895—that is to say, four years ago!—Morning Post.

QUESTION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Mr. Apar's election by the way raises the delicate question of eligibility. Mr. Apar holds the Government appointment of Clerk of the Crown. In previous instances of a similar kind, the difficulty has been overcome by the resignation on the part of the successful candidate of his official post and we presume Mr. Apar will be called upon to follow the precedent set in the cases of Babu Eshan Chunder Mitter, Government Pleader of Hughli, and Babu Jatra Mohan Sen, junior Government Pleader of Chittagong. The appointment of Clerk of the Crown is, in the gift of the Chief Justice, and is worth Rs. 700 a month with liberty to practice in a private capacity. The duties of the office are not onerous, and there will no doubt be a large number of applicants.

AN APPRECIATION.—Referring to the Sankirtan movement in Calcutta, the Indian Standard says:—"We congratulate our countrymen in Bengal for putting on this excellent method of expressing loyal feelings towards the sovereign and the Government. Sankirtan is a popular institution among the Vaishnavite sect in Lower Bengal, but the Gouranga Samaj is endeavouring to make it popular among all the Hindu religious sects. We have little doubt that the efforts of the Gouranga Samaj in this direction will be successful. An attempt may well be made in Upper India to introduce the Sankirtan. The Hindustanees and Marwaries in Calcutta have thoroughly appreciated the Sankirtan, and joined Bengalees in the processions. We do not see why the Sankirtan can not be popularized in the N.W. Provinces and the Punjab."

A SUSPICIOUS DEATH.—A correspondent from Hajipur writes to the Bihar Herald:—"There was a great sensation at Lalgunge in the Sub-division of Hajipur, over the death of a Mahomedan which took place on the 27th May last, created, as it was said, by the relations and Mahomedan neighbours of the deceased. Their version was that the man in question, after his arrival from Bhagalpore, was required by the several constables of the local Thana, to leave his house, and to remain isolated for ten days at a garden, on the ground that he came up from Calcutta, which the man refused to do saying that he did not come from Calcutta. Then the man, it was alleged, was dragged from his house to the Thana, and there belaboured to such an extent that he died from the effects thereof in six hours. Their relatives did not allow the body of the man to be buried, but laid information to the Sub-divisional Officer at Hajipur and the District Superintendent of Police at Mozafferpore, who came to the spot and held an enquiry on the 29th May. The dead body reached Hajipur on the same day, and, after a post mortem examination it was found that the man died from a natural cause, and not from violence, though there were marks of bleeding from nose and mouth at the time, when the body arrived at Hajipur."

PLAGUE NEWS.
PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

On the 8th June last there was one case of plague, and one death from plague. There was another plague death occurring on some previous date but reported on the 8th.

BOMBAY RETURNS.
The plague attacks reported on Thursday number three, and plague deaths six, the total mortality being 82. The total mortality last year was 91, and in 1897, 96.

KARACHI STATISTICS.
The plague returns for Thursday are three cases and two deaths, the totals to date being 3,010 cases and 2,178 deaths.

The Gawkwar of Baroda will shortly go to Europe under medical advice.

SEVERAL Native Chiefs who have been expected at Simla have put off their visits.

COLONEL FECHER, Director-General, Ordnance, Bombay, has been permitted to retire from the 2nd instant.

THE Raja of Jhind accompanied by his tutor, Mr. Irvine, is now on a short visit to Simla.

THE Government of Bombay have sanctioned a grand-in-aid of 3 lakhs towards the past plague expenditure incurred by the Karachi Municipality. This amount is to be adjusted against the advances amounting to 7 lakhs made up to the end of March 1899.

THE Governor-General in Council has declared that fittings of still (such as bends, boots, elbows, tees, sockets, flanges, and the like), for steel pipes and tubes shall be assessed to duty on importation at the rate, at which steel pipes and tubes are assessed, namely, one per cent ad valorem.

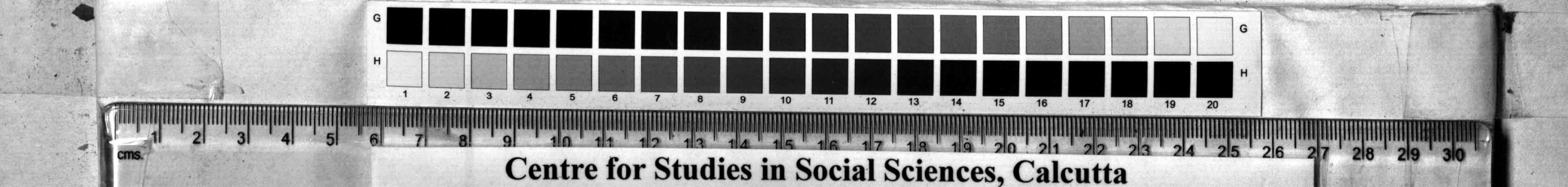
THE Minister of Hyderabad has resolved to enforce two conditions before any concession could be granted by the Nizam's Government to the construction of light railways: First, the jurisdiction of these lines should rest exclusively with the Government, and, secondly, the Government does not accord any guarantee to the lines.

JUDGMENT has been given in the suit brought by Mrs. Ellen Atkins to recover Rs. 250 from Mr. A. Martin and Mr. Donald Greenhalgh, being the amount given to Mr. Martin by her to purchase the roan pony from Mr. Greenhalgh. The defence was that the money was not paid to Mr. Greenhalgh for the pony, but to secure his attendance as a witness in the suit Mrs. Atkins was bringing against Mr. O'Brien. The Court, accepting this view of the case, dismissed the suit, but declined to allow costs to the defendants.

The first meeting of the Simla session of the Supreme Legislative Council has been fixed for the 23rd instant. No list of business has yet been drawn up.

Sanction has been received from the Secretary of State for India to the introduction of a Bill for the protection of press messages, which is likely to be taken up at the first meeting of the Council on the 23rd instant. The following Bills will also be taken up this session: (1) A Bill to amend the Whipping Act; (2) The Marriage Validation Bill of Pudukotai and Travancore; (3) The Northern India, Canal and Drainage Bill; (4) The Companies Branch Registration Bill; (5) The Indian Registration Act (1877) Amendment Bill; (6) A Bill to amend the Land Improvement Loan Act (1883); (7) A Bill for the registration of ships; (8) The Scotch Kirk Possessions Bill; (9) The Central Provinces Court of Wards Bill; and (10) The Prisoners' Consolidation Bill.

HOW TO CURE A SPRAIN.
Last fall I sprained my left hip while handling some heavy boxes. The doctor I called on said at first it was a slight strain and would soon be well, but it grew worse and the doctor then said I had rheumatism. It continued to grow worse, and I could hardly get around to work. I went to a drug store and the druggist recommended me to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. I tried it and one-half of a 50-cent bottle cured me entirely. I now recommend it to all my friends.—F. A. BABCOCK, Erie, Pa. It is for sale by
SMITH STANISTREET & CO
and **B. K. PAUL & CO.**



THE MOHANPUR MURDER TRIAL.

SILCHAR, MAY 9. On Tuesday the proceedings commenced with an application by the defence asking for copies of depositions which Abdul Gaffur had given before the Sub-Inspector on the 7th and before the District Superintendent of Police on 13th and 14th February. These copies were granted. Three witnesses were then examined and two recalled.

First witness, Mr. Graham, Sub-divisional Officer, Hailakandy, said that he had gone to the place of occurrence with the Sub-Inspector for investigation, and corroborated facts deposed to by the Sub-Inspector in main points. He took notes of places pointed out by Ebrahim and Fakirhan, saw footprints all along the path and foot-marks about ten yards north of where a cap was found. He ordered the Government Surveyor to prepare a map of the locality where the occurrence had taken place. The map was not made in his presence and he was not positive as to whether he had pointed out places for the preparation of the map. Witness was not also certain whether the maps now before the Court were those he had seen before. He then explained at length the different spots on and about the place of occurrence, referring to the maps which appeared to him correct.

The letter of Mr. Ross which, among other things, said, "I drew my revolver and believe a man was shot," to which the witness made reference, was argued by counsel as inadmissible. After considerable discussion it was held admissible.

The next witness, Mr. Carnac, District Superintendent of Police, said that he took up the enquiry on the 12th February and completed the local enquiry on the 16th, continuing further enquiries till the end of February. He questioned Abdul Gaffur at Hailakandy Hospital, and the deposition was recorded by Mr. Graham. On the 14th, Abdul Gaffur was carried to the place of occurrence, and he pointed out to him the place he was standing at the time, he said, he was shot. Witness explained the different spots on the map which appeared to him to be a correct one and had been prepared under the joint instructions of himself, Mr. Graham and the Sub-Inspector. On the 16th, he again took down the statement of Abdul Gaffur, and had 4 coolies and the accused shown to him. Accused also made certain statements to him that day. Witness identified the letter purporting to have come from Mr. Ross.

In course of Mr. Carnac's deposition Abdul Gaffur, recalled, said that he was carried on a dooly to the place of occurrence where he found the Police Shabib of Hailakandy, the Magistrate, Shabib and Ishan Babu Daroga. He pointed out to them the places where he had cut bamboos and was seized as also the places where he, the deceased and the Shabib were respectively standing. He was standing at a place where Osman Gunny was wrangling with the Shabib.

The next witness, Mr. Lees, said that he knew accused's handwriting and used to see it often. On Mr. Ross's letter being shown to him, witness said he was not certain that it was his writing. The question being repeated and the Court reminding witness he was under oath, he said it seemed to him to be accused's writing and signature. Accused was his assistant in an out-garden called Mohanpur.

The last witness, Kassimally, recalled, said that the deceased was his brother. He delivered his body to the doctor Babu. On the cap being shown to him he said it might be his brother's.

This closed the examination of prosecution witnesses. On Wednesday the cross-examination of witnesses commenced. Abdul Gaffur and witness No. 12, Kassimally, were cross-examined at great length by the defence counsel, Mr. Anley, a junior Extra-Assistant Commissioner, was seen sitting by the Deputy Commissioner for hours on the first, third and fourth days. The Government pleader was absent since Wednesday having been called away in an important case against Government before the District Judge.

SERIOUS DISTURBANCE AT TENEVELLY.

MADRAS, JUNE 9.

The Madras Correspondent of the Englishman wires the following particulars of the affair:

The riots occurred between Maravars and Kullars on the one hand, and Shanars on the other at Sivakasi. For some time past members have been at loggerheads with the Maravars and Kullars over some temple disputes, and daudity and acts of violence have consequently been very rife in those parts. The feeling in the villages for many weeks has been one of great unrest and uneasiness, and traffic on the roads has been at times completely stopped by threats of violence from organised bands of the two factions. Sivakasi is overruled with Maravar badmashes, who for some time have been threatening to sack the village, and Virudupatti, some miles away, was also threatened. It is reported that on the 3rd instant the Shanars murdered seven Maravars, who in retaliation killed and maimed a large number of Shanars. The Satur Hospital is now occupied mainly by the wounded. On the 6th instant Sivakasi was sacked and burned down by the Maravars, numbers of people being killed, including several women. Bands of Maravars have since been marching about the neighbouring district and burned down two or three villages nightly. The rising is said to be pretty general, and that all castes are against the Shanars. Half a company of Native Infantry is in Virudupatti for the protection of that village, as it was rumoured the Maravars intended to attack it next as there are a number of rich influential Shanars in it. Two more villages were destroyed on the 7th. More police and troops have been requisitioned. The numbers of Maravars, Kullars and Shanars involved in the disputes, are very large, as also is the area of the disturbance, so that the task of quelling the outbreak and arresting the offenders is one of great difficulty. These faction disputes between these castes are nothing new, but there has been nothing like this outbreak since that which occurred at Kalugumali 1896, when a native Deputy Collector was assassinated. The Collector of Tinnevely in a brief telegram to Government states that the Maravars appear to have been the aggressors, and that about ten people have been killed and some houses burned.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, MAY 19.

LORD ELGIN'S SPEECH.

LORD ELGIN made his first public speech this week at a meeting of the East India Association, where he presided. Sir Charles Elliott reading a paper on the "Recent Indian Famine and the Report of the Second Famine Commission", Lord Elgin generously took upon himself the entire responsibility for any blame which has been laid by the Commission, justly enough, on the defective administration in the Central Provinces. The charges of inertness and slackness put forward in the majority report was specially dealt with by Lord Elgin, who attributed them to the failure of the Commissioners to make sufficient allowance for the special difficulties which existed in the Central Provinces. I am disposed to agree with Lord Elgin in the main, (apart from the Central Provinces) when he contends that on the whole Government of India has got the danger of famine well under hand, that is certainly the impression left on the mind of the general public by the recently published Report of the Commission. I send you a report of the proceedings.

DEFENCE OF LORD ELGIN'S INDIAN POLICY.

The following evening a very distinguished company was gathered together by the Northbrook Club to welcome Lord Elgin back to this country, and congratulate him on the ability and success with which he has fulfilled the great position of Viceroy. It was a purely non-party function, Lord Northbrook presiding, the Liberal party being represented by Lords Rosebery, Kimberley and Sir Henry Fowler, while the Conservatives were represented by Lords Cross, Lansdowne and Harris. Letters of apology were sent by Lords Ripon, Dufferin, Roberts, Reay and Hobhouse. Lord Rosebery was entrusted with the toast of the evening, which was very appropriate, as he was the Minister who elected Lord Elgin for the post and whose persuasions overcame his reluctance to accept it, and who, thereby, as he remarked in his speech, staked his reputation for political judgment on his career. Though I cannot join in the unstinted eulogy pronounced by our most eloquent statesmen on Lord Elgin's reign, I think all Lord Elgin's critics are willing to give him credit for a sincere desire and honest attempt to grapple with the plague, pestilence, war and famine, which Lord Rosebery justly said were "the events which visited India during Lord Elgin's Viceroyalty",—events which might easily have wrecked the reputation of a more brilliant man. Lord Rosebery had to justify his own selection, and did his best with his brief. A perusal of his brilliant speech does not leave much behind; it was a mere aggregation of eloquent phrases. He was discreetly silent in all those great blunders which have excited the just anger of progressive and democratic politicians. Not a word was said about Press Acts, letter-de-cachet, attempts to destroy the little modicum of self-government existing in India and other blots upon Lord Elgin's administration. Lord Rosebery ventured, however, upon the slippery ice of Frontier policy, avowing that on this question he and Lord Elgin had agreed frankly and honorably to differ, but of course his business was eulogy and not criticism, and Lord Rosebery is not the man to spoil a job once undertaken. Lord Rosebery struck a note which will find an echo in the heart of every Congress-man, when he urged that British over rule should make "the natives of India feel that they had something to lose in our rule, in our Administration, in our civilization." He put the Frontier question into a nutshell, and declared his own policy, which is also that of the entire Liberal party in the following terse sentences:

An almost inaccessible chain of mountains inhabited by fierce and warlike tribes, not susceptible to intrigue, and resenting all interference from without, appears to the unaided eye of the Briton the ideal frontier for such an Empire as ours. It is, if I may compare it to anything else in nature, like a cactus hedge, absolutely impervious to those who wish to enter within it, absolutely impervious to those who wish to get out of it, but eminently desirable if you wish to make it a seat to occupy. And that, I confess, is the unaided view—subject, of course, to the limitations which are naturally opposed by the opinion of experts and by those who know much more of it than even experts—that I am inclined to take.

The closing sentences of Lord Rosebery's speech was a clear declaration that if he at any rate should be called upon in the near future to form a Government, it would be Lord Elgin's own fault if he did not hold the office of a Secretary of State. He said that in Lord Elgin's "splendid past" he saw the augury of an illustrious future, and that in his case the Viceroyalty is not the end, but the beginning of a career. He Herschell who was not merely the illustrious servant of his Queen and country in office, but equally out of office. His whole speech was one of his most graceful and effective orations, in perfect taste throughout, an excellent specimen of the powers of the man who is now the foremost orator of the British Empire. I gravely doubt, however, if Lord Elgin will ever do much more in the political world. He has secured no place on the roll of great Viceroys. He has got through a difficult reign without discredit, and only a skilledologist like Lord Rosebery can make more of his Indian career.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

I do not hear of any date being fixed after the holidays, for taking up, in the House of Commons, Sir Henry Fowler's challenge of the policy of the Government in regard to the countervailing duties upon imported sugar in India, but I suppose it will come off sooner or later. There would be little interest in the controversy, if it were not for the belief, which the Government make no effort to disperse, that the duties in India are intended to be the thin end of the wedge for similar duties here. Colour is given to this belief by the Blue-book just issued, in which it is clear that Mr. Chamberlain's care for Mauritius sugar planters had more to do with the imposition of the duties, than Lord Curzon's care for Indian ryots. Mr. Chamberlain's evident finger in the East Indian pie, makes the public think, reasonably enough, that he has a West Indian pie ready for the oven. If when the debate comes on (if it ever does), the Government can convince the House of the truth of Lord Curzon's declaration that the act is "in

the interests of India, and of India alone", Sir Henry Fowler will be defeated easily and by a large majority. But, if, on the other hand, the suspicion of ulterior designs upon the Free Trade policy of the United Kingdom is deepened into certainty, I think the Government will have a bad quarter of an hour in the division lobby. I do not believe for a moment, however, that even a Government containing Lord Salisbury and Mr. Chamberlain will be reactionary enough to propose at this time of day retaliatory tariff measures. This sugar Blue-book adds another item to the parallel inconsistencies that are being steadily piled up against that versatile statesman, Joseph Chamberlain. Mr. Chamberlain in these latter days gives an assurance to the Indian Government that there is "no valid economic argument against countervailing duties." In 1885 Mr. Chamberlain remarked in one of his speeches—"Take the case of sugar. Does anyone propose to put a duty on raw materials? Is it conceivable that we should ever be so foolish as to do away with the foundation of a great part of our trade—namely, the freedom with which we receive the raw material? An injudicious bounty system on continental beet sugars has been an immense advantage to the British manufacturer and consumer. For myself though I would oppose to the utmost of my power a countervailing duty in Britain, I have always refused to apply the fiscal policy of the United Kingdom, to the totally different position of a country like India. The Sugar Duties appear to have met with the approval alike of the Government and the Nation, Congress, and Parliament can take care of the Free Trade principles which regulate British policy, on their own merits alone."

THE TOKYO IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY.

Now that Japan is engaging the attention of educated India as a centre of technical and commercial education, the following information regarding the Tokyo University will be found interesting by our readers:—The academic year begins on the 11th of September and ends on the 10th of July and is divided into three terms: 1st term, from September 11 to December 24, 105 days; 2nd term, from January 8 to March 31, 83 days; 3rd term, April 8 to July 10, 94 days.

There is a Winter Vacation of two weeks commencing on the 25th December and ending on the 7th January; the Spring Vacation, one week, commencing on the 1st of April and ending on the 7th of the same month; and the Summer Vacation, two months, commencing on the 11th July and ending on 10th September. Candidates who undergo an Entrance Examination, held at the University, are required to pay a fee of five yen to the University.

The annual examination commences on June 21st. A course of post-Graduate studies is established in each College for the benefit of the students of the University Hall. There are scholarships attached to the post-Graduate course. Each holder of a scholarship receives a sum of 15 yen a month for regular expenses in the College.

Persons, not regular students, who wish to study one or more of the subjects, prescribed in the course in the Colleges, may be admitted as elective students upon application at the beginning of each year. English, French or German cannot be chosen as an elective study by students, unless a knowledge of any one of them is necessary for the study of the special subjects, chosen by them.

Elective students must be at least 19 years of age. For students who are unable to meet College expenses, "Loan Scholarships" are awarded. The holder of a "Loan Scholarship" is bound to return, after graduation, the sum of money which he had received from the University. Payments to be made monthly.

There are scholarships, offered by the Colleges of Medicine, Literature, Science, and Agriculture.

The following are the subjects, fixed for the post-graduate course:—Law, Pathology, Hygiene, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture, Technology of Arms, Electrical Engineering, Architecture, Applied Chemistry, Technology of Explosives, Mining and Metallurgy, Literature, Physics, Theoretical Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Zoology, Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.

The tuition-fee in the six Colleges is 2 yen and 50 sen (Rs. 5) per month to be paid monthly. A fee of one yen (Rs. 2) per month is required in the College of Engineering to cover the cost of materials used. No fee is charged for the months of July and August.

The necessary expenses of any one student, who resides in the Dormitories or in the other boarding houses, including tuition-fee, cost of living, clothes, fire, and light are about 13 yen (Rs. 26) monthly.

The University officers are a President 12 members, 2 Secretaries, Principal, of the Hospital, Superintendent of Dormitories, Curator of the Botanic Gardens, Librarian and Treasurer, and Chairman of the Health Committee.

In the College of Law, there are 17 Professors and 7 Lecturers; in the College of Medicine, there are 20 Professors, and 7 Assistant Professors; in the College of Engineering, there are 16 Professors, 12 Assistant Professors, and 19 Lecturers; in the College of Literature, there are 15 Professors, 4 Assistant Professors, and Lecturers; in the College of Science, there are 18 Professors, 2 Assistant Professors and 2 Lecturers; in the College of Agriculture, there are 13 Professors, 15 Assistant Professors and 7 Lecturers.

There is a Veterinary Hospital, situated in the grounds of the College of Agriculture. There are laboratories of Agricultural Chemistry, of Forestry and of Zoology. The Pathological Institute is furnished with all instruments and utensils necessary in the study of Bacteriology. There is a Farm, a Nursery, and a Botanic Garden in connection with the College of Agriculture.

The first year studies are Geology, Soils, Meteorology, Vegetable Physiology, Vegetable Pathology, Animal Physiology, Entomology, Manures, Agricultural Physics, Political Economy, Botanical Laboratory, Zoological Laboratory, and Farm Practice. There are four courses, each of which extends over three years.

Indian merchants, who wish to carry on trade with Japan, may communicate with Mr. M. Iwaya, of Messrs. Iwaya and Co., Ginza,

Tokyo, Japan. The Japanese Consul in Bombay, Mr. M. Nomi, will be glad to give every information about the Empire of Japan, "the land of the Rising Sun."—The Indian Mirror.

COSTLY FISH.

THE most beautiful and costly fishes in the world come from China, and the rarest and most expensive of all is the brush-tail gold-fish. Specimens of these have sold for as high as £140 each, and in Europe the prices range from £50 to £100. The brush-tail gold-fish is so small that a five shilling piece will cover it and probably there is no living thing of its size and weight that is worth so much money.

A PROPHETIC DREAM.

THE following prophetic dream is related by the president of a theological seminary in the United States. It had been the custom of one of the professors to invite all the students with members of the Faculty to dinner at an hotel on the annual Thanksgiving Day. On the morning of that day the wife of this professor suddenly fell dead in her dressing-room at eight o'clock. That morning at seven o'clock one of the students woke up from a bad dream. He had dreamed that he sat down with the usual company at the Thanksgiving dinner, and that immediately one of his fellow-students rose in his place, saying that it was his painful duty to announce to the company that the wife of their host had suddenly died at eight o'clock that morning. This dream, however, he had instantly banished from his mind as an uncanny improbability, and had thought no more of it. But on going to the dinner and taking his seat with the company, he was unexpectably amazed to see the student seen in the dream rise, and to hear him make the announcement heard in the dream.

A BLOT ON THE SCUTCHEON.

THE laureate of the British soldier has summed up what may and what may not be fairly expected of Thomas Atkins in familiar lines:—

We aren't no thim red eroes, nor we aren't no blackguards too, But single men in barracks, most remarkable like you;

And if sometimes our conduct isn't all your fancy points, Why, single men in barracks don't grow into plaster saints.

This is Mr. Kipling's way of saying, that considering the classes from which he is recruited, the conditions under which he lives, and the temptations to which he is exposed, the British soldier is no better and no worse than might fairly be expected. And generally speaking the estimate is just. Not only so, but of recent years in the opinion of those who are competent and in a position to judge, there has been a marked improvement in the morale of the army, particularly in India. Black sheep of course there must be in every army and in most regiments; but the public had come to believe that neither their numbers nor their influence with their comrades was such as to render flagrant outbreaks of blackguardism and punishment of delinquents was a thing which, in the improved state of regimental morale and discipline, had come to be regarded as a matter of course. Thus the news of the recent outbreak of brutality and blackguardism among the soldiers of the West Kent Regiment in Rangoon came as a disagreeable shock; while the circumstances attending the affair, as well as the fact that no punishment has so far been visited on the blackguards concerned, suggest reflections extremely unfavourable to the state of discipline in the regiment.

The admitted facts of the case were briefly telegraphed by our Rangoon correspondent and published in the Pioneer of May 12th. Shortly after noon on a Sunday in the vicinity of the Great Pagoda, a respectable Burmese woman was waylaid close to the public highway by a party of West Kent soldiers, numbering about half a company, and brutally outraged. Some twelve or sixteen of the men were directly concerned in the affair, and the rest looked on making no attempt to interfere. It is true they were all more or less tipsy. But this in no way palliates an act of concerted brutality which we should be sorry to think has many parallels in the annals of the British army in India. And if it is disappointing and shocking to find in a British regiment a collection of blackguards capable of such an outrage, it is no less startling to find that several weeks have passed, and neither the police nor the regimental authorities have brought home the crime to the proper quarter. One soldier, Private Horrocks, of the West Kent, was arrested and tried at the Rangoon Sessions, but was acquitted both on the major charge of outrage (unanimously) and on the minor charge of attempted outrage (by a majority of six to three). That acquittal has not unnaturally been made the subject of excited comment in the native press, but on the evidence it is not easy to see that any other verdict was possible. The evidence identifying Horrocks was unsatisfactory, and the evidence of three of the prosecution witnesses was more than unsatisfactory. Thus although several petitions have been presented to the Local Government to review the sentence on Horrocks, such a proceeding is clearly impossible. At the same time the civil authorities are said to be helpless to prosecute anybody else in connection with the affair, for no evidence is forthcoming from soldiers and no soldier has been surely identified by civilian witnesses. The main responsibility thus rests with the regiment itself, and we have reason to know that steps are being taken by the military authorities to push this responsibility home. General Prothero, commanding in Burma, returned to Rangoon a few days after the Horrocks trial was over, and he immediately ordered a searching inquiry, which is still proceeding. It is, however, nothing short of a disgrace to the West Kent that they should have some thirty or forty men in their ranks either directly concerned in or witnesses of an affair of this kind, and that they should not yet have succeeded in discovering the criminals and setting themselves right with the public and with the military authorities.

The affair is the more mysterious that if we assume no more in operation than the routine rules of regimental discipline, there is a difficulty in explaining how such an outrage could have occurred precisely as it did occur, and still more how the regimental authorities are still apparently without a clue

to the perpetrators. On the Sunday in question it seems that the regiment had been confined to barracks and the immediate environs in consequence of a small-pox epidemic: yet we have some thirty or forty men all more or less under the influence of drink at noonday. Where did they get the drink? It is not easy to see how they could have had liquor conveyed from the bazar or the city, and yet one can hardly believe that half a company were allowed to get drunk in the regimental canteen on a Sunday. Moreover the disturbance lasted more than an hour, and it is odd that no officer or non-commissioned officer appears to have come on the ground. It will also be necessary to inquire whether all the sentries were at their post at the time, since, if so, it would appear that one of them must necessarily have overlooked the scene of the outrage. These and various other questions affecting the discipline of the regiment are no doubt included in the inquiry now being conducted by the General Officer commanding in Burma, and it is to be hoped for the credit of the regiment they will be cleared up satisfactorily. The feeling in Rangoon on the subject, no less among the Anglo-Indian than among the native community, is very strong, and the sooner something is done to show that the West Kent realise what their reputation request the better. It will be monstrous if nobody is brought to justice in connection with an outrage of so unusually flagrant a character, and for which it is so completely impossible to find any shadow of extenuating circumstance.—The Pioneer

THE Camp Office of the Surveyor-General breaks up in Simla on the 15th July.

The road from Dir to the Lowari Pass, which was greatly damaged by the heavy rains of April and May, has been repaired.

The late Swami Bishudhanand left, by will all his possessions to the late Maharajah of Durbhanga.

The patron saint of Lahore, by the way, is Data Ganj Bakhsh at whose Durbar on the old bank of the Ravi a big mela is held every Thursday evening.

MR. COBB, Assistant to the Resident of Kashmir, officiates for Mr. Thornton, as Commissioner of Ajmere, when the latter shortly proceeds on leave.

THE loss to Government by the grain swindles during the past few years is roughly computed at 20 lakhs, if not more, in addition to the four Native Indian Regiments.

LORD SANDHURST leaves Mahabeshwar this morning and goes direct to Bombay. His Excellency returns to Poona from Bombay on the 12th instant, when the Government will be established there for the season.

THE "Times of Ceylon" says that since the starting of the tramways in Colombo rapid strides have been made in connection with the use of electricity generally, and several firms are contemplating the introduction of it for motive-power in their mills and factories to take the place of steam.

A BIT OF THE TRUTH.

The most pertinent and startling question ever asked is this:—What is truth?

A Roman Governor trod upon it once, under circumstances which greatly worried and perplexed his official mind. And he was not the first man or the last—not by myriads. So far as I know there has been no satisfactory answer. Some people (radicals and come-outers of various sorts) fancy that in this, the tail end of a rather braggart and conceited century, they have flushed a large-dove covey of truths by firing speculative shrapnel into every way-side bush and bog.

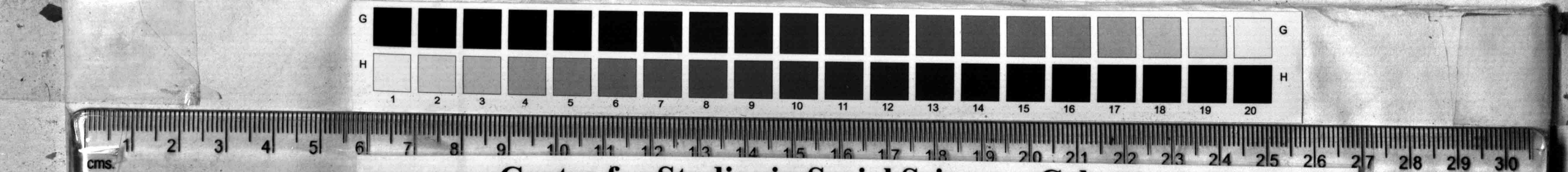
But have they done it? No, gentle reader, no. They have put up crows and sparrows, the same crows that picked the bones of the cave dwellers, and the same sparrows that sold two for a farthing in the time of Pilate. There were plenty of fools of old, and there are plenty now. The ancient doctors, indeed, prescribed some horrible stuffs as medicine,—they used electuaries of viper's flesh and roach-mended pomegranate seeds for toothache because those seeds resemble human teeth. Very shallow and silly, to be sure, this sounds to us. But if you wanted to find things that come very near matching them in modern practice, I could show you where to look. On my table I have a list of about 300 new "remedies" introduced to a suffering world within the past twelve months. "Must be some good ones among 'em," do you say? Possibly. Time will tell. Meanwhile let us stick to whatever we are sure of. "We learn how to cure diseases," said Celsus, "by experience, not by reasoning."

"One of the greatest truths in medicine," said a learned Scotch doctor, "came by the humblest means; not by synthesis or or veneration, but by the observations of peasants and the experiments of motherly women."

Concerning a medicine discovered by one such woman, thousands of stories have been told and letters written. Here is an example:— "For many years I have suffered from indigestion and weakness. I seemed to have no energy for anything. I had a poor appetite, and what little food I ate caused me violent pains at the chest and between the shoulders. Frequently I had attacks of giddiness, and when I stopped I suffered from an unnatural rush of blood to the head. The pain which I was affected upon to bear was often very severe; it affected all parts of my body, and at night I got little proper and refreshing sleep on account of it. "As time went on and the complaint grew fixed upon me, I came to be exceedingly weak, and now and again was obliged to take to my bed. I lost flesh and became quite thin, living, as I did, only on milk, beef tea, and other kinds of liquid food. It will be understood, of course, that I had medical care, besides attending the South London Dispensary. Yet I received no benefit from what was done for me.

"It happened that in January 1886, a friend, Mr. Pullen, told me he had suffered in a similar manner and been cured by a remedy called Mother Seigel's Syrup. Acting on his suggestion I got a bottle and after having taken it I found great relief. Presently my appetite returned and food no longer distressed me. Convinced that Mother Seigel's Syrup was adapted to my ailment I continued the use of it until it was no longer needed. My health and strength were re-established, and I have since been well. This medicine had done what no other had been able to do. My husband, who suffered from biliousness, used it with the same result. You have my free consent to publish this brief statement if you desire to do so." (Signed) Mr. Julia Massy, 133, Lorraine Road, Kennington, London, S.E., January 20th, 1898.

There is no royal road to the discovery of truth or knowledge. Anybody may find it anywhere. It is not always he who seeks that finds. Valuable discoveries are usually made by what, for lack of a better word, we call accident. The medicine that cures is the medicine we want, no matter whether it is old as the earth or was picked up yesterday in the fields by a child. That Mother Seigel's Syrup cures is proved by a cloud of witnesses. It is a bit of the truth. Therefore it will not die out, and nothing can take its place.



TELEGRAMS.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, JUNE 6.

The Americans have resumed hostilities northward of Manila and drove the Filipinos before them, but suffered fearfully from the heat and achieved nothing practical.

LONDON, JUNE 6.

Four fresh cases of plague have occurred at Alexandria. The total cases there from the outset number fourteen.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

It has transpired that the Conference at Bloemfontein has ended in failure. President Kruger proposed considerable concessions concerning the franchise and naturalization which Sir Alfred Milner regarded as inadequate, but President Kruger made all his proposals dependent upon England's acceptance of the principle of arbitration for all differences between the two countries. It is surmised that this constituted the especial difficulty at the Conference. The position is now regarded as grave.

LONDON, JUNE 7.

In the match between Derbyshire and Surrey played at Chesterfield the latter team won by an innings and 64 runs. The match between Leicestershire and Worcestershire resulted in the latter being beaten by eight wickets. The match between Essex and Yorkshire, played at Sheffield, resulted in Yorkshire being beaten by nine wickets. In the match between the Australians and the M. C. C. and ground the Australians scored a victory by eight wickets. Sussex has beaten Kent by 112 runs. Warwickshire versus Lancashire ended in a draw.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

Mr. Brodrick, replying to Mr. Maclean, regarding the concession made to Germany for the construction of a railway through Mesopotamia to Bagdad said the Government was fully alive to the necessity of maintaining British interests in the Persian Gulf.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

The debate on the Indian Sugar Duties question will take place in the House of Commons on the 15th of June.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

The House of Lord concurred in the vote of the House of Commons of £30,000 to Lord Kitchener. Both Houses passed a vote of thanks to the British and Egyptian forces engaged in the late operations in the Soudan.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

Only twelve per cent. of the Japanese loan of ten millions sterling has been subscribed, the remainder of the under-written loan being quoted at 15s. 8d. discount.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

In the House of Commons this evening Mr. Chamberlain confirmed the information already published in the Press that the Bloemfontein Conference had been without any result. The Government, he said, would consider President Kruger's proposals, according to which no change would be made in the franchise for two years and then only in the case of Uitlanders who had resided eleven years in the Transvaal. This, Mr. Chamberlain said, was entirely inadequate. Sir Alfred Milner also informed President Kruger that the British Government would not consent to the arbitration of the foreign Power between Britain and the Transvaal. The question of the dynamite monopoly is reserved for further discussion between the two Governments.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

Mr. St. John Brodrick in reply to question in the House of Commons said the Anglo-Russian agreement does not, in the opinion of the Government, cover the question of railway communication with Peking.

LONDON, JUNE 8.

The Dominion Government, in addition to disallowing the Anti-Japanese Act, has also annulled the British Columbian Anti-Chinese Act.

LONDON, JUNE 9.

The Daily Graphic learns that the conclusion has forced itself upon the Ministers that if the Transvaal persists in her present attitude, England will have no alternative but a forcible solution of the questions at issue. The Daily Chronicle believes that Mr. Chamberlain's reply to the Uitlanders' petition will now be presented to the Boers Government and will convey in unmistakable terms that unless certain concessions are made an ultimatum will follow.

BENGAL JAIL ADMINISTRATION.

The most noticeable points in the report are a large decrease in the number of admissions as compared with the previous year, a remarkable immunity from outbreaks of cholera or other epidemic disease, and the lowest death-rate on record.

The number of prisoners in the jails on the 1st January 1898 was high, being 19,447 against 18,750 on the same date in 1897. The admissions during the year, however, showed a considerable decrease compared with the previous year (94,204 against 116,270), and the year accordingly ended with a jail population smaller by 704 than that which it commenced. The average daily population was less by 566 than in the preceding year but higher than that of any other year of the preceding decade. This average under trial prisoners as well as convicts. If, however, convicts alone are taken the admissions during the year would come up to 35,966 as against 43,834 in 1897.

With a reduced average daily population as compared with the previous year, the total of offences committed by the prison population showed a slight increase, the figure being 38,439 against 38,406, a fall, however, occurred in the offences dealt with by the criminal courts from 72 to 52, and the totals of major and minor punishments do not show much difference in the two years. A marked difference is observed in the number of whippings, which shows a large increase in 1898, being 327 against 232 in 1897. The proportion of floggings to the total number of punishments was high in Jalpaiguri, Gaya, bankipore and Chittagong jails, but the Inspector-General reports that in each of these cases satisfactory explanations were submitted by the Superintendent at Jalpaiguri, ten prisoners were hanged for a brutal assault on a convict warder. At Gaya and at Bankipore prisoners combined to do short work, and the Superintendents found it neces-

THE ARMAMENTS OF THE POWERS.

WHEN the representatives of the twenty-four Powers summoned to the Peace Conference met at the Hague, it was to discuss the affairs of a world armed to the teeth. At the present moment the military forces of these Powers muster on the peace footing no less than 3,500,000 men; on the war footing they would reach the prodigious total of 17,750,000 trained men. From this latter figure all half trained forces, such as the British Volunteers and the men on the Continent who pass straight into the various reserves, without a period of service in the line, are excluded.

Were these reckoned in—and they are all liable to be called upon in the event of war—the total would be swollen to perhaps twenty-two or twenty-three million men. So vast is this force that the imagination cannot grasp it. Were it drawn up in a single line, there would be one continuous cordon of men from the Hague to Vladivostok, stretching completely across the old world from Atlantic to Pacific Ocean.

In the above figures the naval force of the Powers have not been reckoned. Yet the total of seamen in the various fleets on the peace footing amounts to 380,000 men, while on the war footing this figure is swollen to about 630,000. It should be remembered that though the navies cut a less imposing figure, their cost is very much heavier. Reckoning out the cost per man on the peace footing in the armies and navies of the eight great powers—Britain, the United States, Germany, Russia, France, Austria, Italy and Japan—it comes to £60 per soldier, and no less than £146 per sailor. In England, with voluntary service, the cost is even greater than these figures would show. Each soldier in our home army demands an outlay of £180 each seaman in the navy, £236.

The total sum expended on armaments by the twenty-four Powers reaches £274,000,000, of which £200,000,000 goes in outlay upon armies, and the balance to the various navies. As we should expect from her peculiar conditions, England is the Power which spends the most, because she makes no use of the indirect tax of compulsory service. Though this makes no showing in the various estimates, some allowance for it must be added in, to get a clear idea of what the world spends on warlike preparations, when the total outlay would, perhaps, be swollen to £320,000,000. Fifty million will not seem an extravagant sum at which to estimate the cost of compulsion.

The British Empire, including Egypt and India, spends annually about £40,000,000 on its army, and £26,000,000 on its navy. For its military expenditure it has the smallest army of any of the great European Powers, and probably also the least efficient. On the peace footing the nominal total is 379,000, which, in the event of war, could be raised to about 500,000 by the incorporation of trained reserves. In addition to these men are the half-organised volunteer, militia and yeomanry forces for the most parts without artillery and cavalry deficient in officers, and subject to the grave disadvantage that they can only be employed at home. They muster about 360,000 men. To these must further be added the colonial forces, composed of excellent material, but weak in numbers and not always sufficiently trained.

The chief colonial forces are those of Cape Colony and Natal, including the mounted police, 12,000 strong; the Australian volunteers and militia, 26,000 strong; and the Canadian militia, 36,000 strong; which gives a total for the colonies of 74,000 men, and raises the whole force of the British Empire available in war, to the majestic figure of 934,000 men. The white population of the empire may be taken at 51,000,000, so that the percentage of white troops on the peace footing is about 4, the lowest of any Power except Japan to the whole population.

The navy in time of peace includes 110,000 men. In time of war it can be raised to 150,000 by embodying the various reserves. After England, the European Power which spends most on its army and navy is Russia. Her military outlay is £38,000,000; her naval expenditure about £10,000,000. On the peace footing she has by far the largest army in the world, totalling on paper 896,000 officers and men. In Russia, however, facts and papers figures do not always agree, and it will not be far wrong to place her standing force at 800,000. Her recruits serve four years in the active force and eighteen in the various reserves, and her total available on mobilisation is placed at about 3,500,000. For this colossal force she has organisation, cavalry, artillery and officers, but her enormous distances and her defective railway system would render a rapid concentration excessively difficult. By far the larger part of her army is, however, always kept on the western frontier, where it would be near the theatre of war in Europe.

The Russian navy will have, at the close of the present year, about 40,000 officer and men, with a trained reserve and of at least 10,000 and probably much more.

By far the most powerful and efficient military force in Europe is, however, that of Germany. Exposed as she is to attack on three sides, perhaps to sudden and unexpected attack, she has been compelled, in order to protect her national existence, to carry the science of organisation to a remarkable pitch. Every soldier in Germany is there; there are no paper totals as in England, France, and Russia; and the machine may be trusted to work with unexampled ease and success when the day of battle comes. On the peace footing she has 600,000 men under arms; the recent addition of two new army corps will enable her in the near future to place in line, on mobilisation, nearly four million trained men—two million on each of her two most exposed frontiers. This is almost four times the force of which she

WOULD NOT SUFFER SO AGAIN FOR FIFTY TIMES ITS PRICE.

I awoke last night with severe pains in my stomach. I never felt so badly in all my life. When I came down to work this morning I left so weak I could hardly work. I went to Miller & McCurdy's drug store and they recommended Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. It worked like magic and one dose fixed me all right. It certainly is the finest thing I ever used for stomach trouble. I shall not be without it in my home hereafter, for I should not care to endure the sufferings of last night again for fifty times its price.—G. H. Wilson, Livermy, Burgettstown, Washington Co., Pa. This remedy is for sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. and B. K. PAUL & CO.

disposed in 1870. Her military outlay is only £30,400,000, in spite of these vast results. Her navy has 25,000 seamen on the peace footing, 40,000 on the war footing, and costs a little over six millions. It is a model of organisation and excellence, though small.

Her old rival, France—and our rival—has always aimed at Power on the sea as well as power on land. On the peace footing the French army nominally musters 616,000 men, which means that France has one soldier for each sixty inhabitants—the highest proportion found in any country of the world. On the war footing the total of trained men is about 3,400,000. Though the men are good enough and well-trained, the General Staff has in the Dreyfus affair made itself the laughing stock of the universe, and it is certain that, in spite of her vast outlay, France is still to-day far weaker than Germany, morally even more than materially. The French navy has 42,000 men on the peace footing and 150,000 on the war footing. There can be no doubt that next to England's it is the strongest navy in the world, just as next to Germany the French army is the strongest in the world. Thus on land and sea France holds the second place. She spends £38,000,000 annually on "defence."

As for Austria, she has a much smaller army—on the peace footing 358,000, on the war footing 2,500,000 trained men—but in certain respects she is unequalled. Her cavalry are perhaps the best in the world and through her forces may not make a very magnificent show on paper, they are exceptionally well-organised and thoroughly efficient. Her navy though small, is admirable. On the peace footing she has 13,000 seamen, and on the war footing perhaps 20,000. All this she achieves with the very moderate outlay of £16,700,000.

Italy has a peace force of 250,000 men, and for war an army of five times as many trained men. She has been compelled to strain all her resources in maintaining this large force, and in consequence her navy has suffered greatly. But wiser counsels now prevail, and it seems most likely that in the near future her army will be diminished and her fleet increased. She spends £15,200,000 a year on defence.

The United States and Japan of recent years have greatly developed their armaments. To-day the American navy stands fourth on paper, and is probably in real fact third among the fleets of the world. The American army, though the vast outlay of £50,000,000 upon it is proposed for 1899, is extremely small, not exceeding 95,000 men. This is all the same, a great increase upon 1897, when it numbered 15,000 men. Japan has on the peace footing 145,000 men and on the war footing 520,000, besides her 25,000 seamen in the navy. Of all the Powers she gets most return for least money, spending only £6,800,000 on her war budget. But then her seamen and soldiers are paid and fed on the Eastern scale, which is far lower than that of Europe or America.

SUPERSTITION EXTRAORDINARY.

A CURIOUS case of superstition is reported from a suburb of Vienna. A joiner, 70 years of age, discovered in a cellar a beam which was somewhat strangely notched, and immediately hit on the idea of proclaiming that he had found a carved image of the Virgin Mary. The news spread rapidly, and great curiosity was aroused among the people. Before allowing anybody to see his "treasure," the joiner divided the beam into two parts, one of which he described as the image of the Virgin Mary, and the other as that of the infant Jesus. After giving a few skilful touches to the images he placed a bowl for offering on each, and opened the doors. For three days hundreds of men and women flocked in, prostrated themselves before the wooden objects, and deposited a gift of money. The police, however, intervened and exposed the fraud.

SIR SALTER PYNE AND THE AMIR OF KABUL.

A REPRESENTATIVE of Reuter's Agency has had an interview with Sir Salter Pyne who has arrived in England and who is rapidly recovering from his recent severe illness. In reply to questions, Sir Salter Pyne said:—"I have left the service of the Amir, but, contrary to certain statements which have appeared, my relations with him are friendly. I have come to the conclusion that thirteen years is a sufficiently long period to spend in a country like Afghanistan. There are, it is true, certain financial matters outstanding between the Amir and myself. On my last return to Kabul, the Amir wished me to agree to certain conditions connected with future service with the Government of Afghanistan to which I did not feel justified in consenting. I do not know whether I shall return to Kabul. That will depend upon circumstances; but at any rate for the present I have determined upon a period of rest after a severe illness and after a long and anxious term of service in Afghanistan."

THE AMIR'S HEALTH.

Questioned regarding the Amir's health, Sir S. Pyne replied:—"In his last letter to me the Amir said that he was in good health, but in all probability his next illness will prove fatal. For the past five years he has been unable to walk or even to stand on his feet. He but rarely leaves his palace, and is never seen in the streets of Kabul. He moves twice a year between his various residences in Kabul and his country gardens, a few miles distant from the capital. I do not think the question of succession will give rise to serious trouble, but this will depend upon the length of the Amir's final illness. If he dies suddenly, as may be expected, the succession will all be carried out before the Afghans have had time to form plans of their own, and, as Habbibullah Khan, the eldest son, is exceedingly clever and popular the Afghans

A CARD OF THANKS.

I wish to say that I feel under lasting obligations to what Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as done for our family. We have used it in so many cases of coughs, lung troubles and whooping cough, and it has always given the most perfect satisfaction, we feel greatly indebted to the manufacturers of this remedy and wish them to please accept our hearty thanks.—Respectfully, Mrs. S. DOTY, Des Moines, Iowa. Sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

may probably accept his rule without much demur. So far as it is possible for an Afghan ruler to deal with the matter the question of next occupant of the throne has been practically settled. Habbibullah continually holds durbars in his father's stead and the Amir has shown to his eldest son that he will succeed him. In open durbar the Amir said to Habbibullah, "You ought to be able to rule this country easily when I am gone, as I have removed every thorn from your path. This," said Sir Salter, "is true in a literal sense. One of the real menaces to Afghanistan lies in the presence of the Oxus, only waiting his opportunity to seize the throne." Continuing, Sir Salter Pyne said:—"There is no likelihood of internal trouble in Afghanistan. All the tribes have been subjugated, and the leading recalcitrant chiefs removed. The Amir has really consolidated the country. He holds absolute sway, and has all his people well in hand. The influence of his so-called Ministers is practically nil, and none of his seven or eight Ministers have really any influence over the Amir. Only two of the Ministers who were in office when I first went to Kabul thirteen years ago are now alive."

AFGHANS AND BRITISH.

Discussing the feeling for Great Britain, Sir Salter Pyne remarked:—"Afghans generally are now friendly towards us. The animosity against Englishmen, which was formerly universal, is not now apparent. Collectively, if not perhaps individually, the Afghans are like the English. With regard to the Amir's relations with the Government of India, it would be unwise for me at this moment to say more than that on the whole they are friendly. I wish to say in conclusion—and you will understand that it would be very unwise to discuss this subject freely in the Press—that the constant stories of the contemplated despatch of Russian missions to Kabul are purely mythical. All the year I was in Kabul I never saw a Russian emissary. All the same I will not say that the Amir has not a very high opinion of the might of Russia. He has seen it and realises it. He appreciates the autocratic Russian Government which naturally appeals to him while he regards the British humane administration as a sign of weakness; but on questions of policy, he fully realised the value of being on good terms with the British."

INDIAN NEWS.

AMONG the distractions provided for M. Doumer, Governor-General of French Indo-China, during his recent visit to Siam, was an elephant hunt. Tame elephants, however, had to be hunted as it was impossible at that season of the year to organise a hunt of wild animals. It must have been a regular circus, adds the North China Herald.

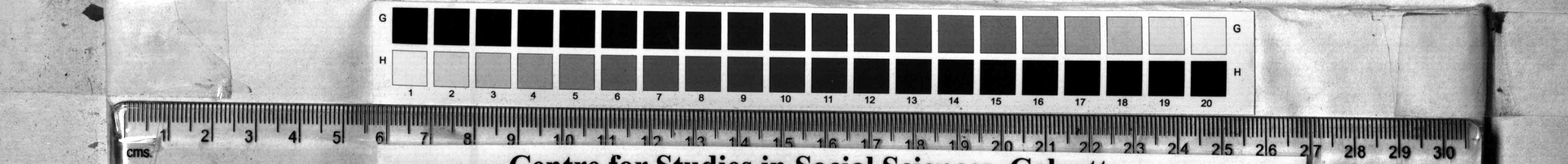
ANOTHER serious outrage by a gang of armed thieves is reported from Matonga, a suburb of Bombay. Twenty men armed with sticks made an attack on the house of a Hindu, forced an entrance, and maltreated the occupants and all who interfered. They succeeded in making away with property valued at a hundred rupees. The police have made no arrests. This outrage following upon one at Worlee on Sunday have occasioned considerable alarm among the residents in these outlying districts.

It is stated that it is doubtful whether the buildings for the Paris Exhibition of 1900 will be ready in time. The authorities are proceeding in a very laissez faire manner, and do not seem to be in the least concerned on the backwardness of the work. A correspondent on the spot states that it will require a Jack and the Bean Stalk rapidity of construction to have all the erections completed in time to receive the exhibits.—L. D. News.

MR. ERNEST RECHNIZER, a Hungarian banker, established in London, has put forward a fresh demand to the Turkish Government for a concession for a railway from Konieh to the Persian Gulf. It is understood in Constantinople that Mr. Rechner disposes of English capital mainly. If this scheme be carried out it will be possible by means of connections, to travel overland from London to the Persian Gulf in a week. The new line would open up Massotamia, once the most fertile country in the world it will cross the spot where by some the site of paradise is located and bring within reach of tourists the ruins of Babylon and Nineveh. Passengers will be able to reach Bombay in about ten days from London, supposing a first line of steamers were to run in connection with this railway calling at the terminus on the Persian Gulf.

A PRIVATE telegram received from London informs us that Dr. Shapurji, son of Mr. Hormusjee Maneckjee Mody, proprietor of the Apollo Hotel, has passed his final examination in F. R. C. S. of London. The young gentleman, after a brilliant collegiate career in Bombay, had proceeded to England in 1866 and after acquiring several other medical degrees in London, stood the test of the "Fellows of the Royal College of Surgery," successfully within a short period of two years, at the comparative early age of 24. We understand that among the recipients of the coveted honour he is the third among the Parsees who has attained that rare distinction. Mr. Shapurji, who is a very promising young man, intends to become a specialist in midwifery.—Bombay Gazette.

THE oil refinery room of the Burma Oil Company at Rangoon caught fire at 8-50 on Thursday and was soon destroyed. The fire, however, kept in the room where it broke out, and the other works and stores of oil, crude and refined, and other products were saved. Four lakhs gallons of oil were destroyed. The damage is estimated at two lakhs of rupees. The fire was extinguished by twelve o'clock. The fire originated in the bleaching room of refinery. The fire extinguishing appliances of the Company were at once brought into play, and in a brief time the Municipal steamers and three powerful steam tugs were at work. The whole efforts were directed to keeping the fire in the bleaching room, near which were several tanks containing several million gallons of oil. Water was poured in enormous volumes on the tanks, and hundreds of willing workers piled sand and earth around the burning building. After nearly three hours' hard work the danger was over. The cause of the fire is unexplained, but official enquiry will be held. Work will be resumed in a few days. The damage will be covered by insurance.



FARMS THAT ARE BEWITCHED.

THE SPRITE THAT SETS ACRES A-BEGGING.

FARMERS are not as a class by any means a superstitious lot; in fact, as a rule, they are strictly matter-of-fact individuals...

There is a farm in the south of England, about 120 acres in extent, whose history is certainly remarkable. About twenty years ago the tenant lost quite suddenly a number of cattle from the disease known as black quarter.

In this there was nothing extraordinary; for black quarter is as deadly as it is rapid in its effects, and spreads among stock like wildfire. It, however, generally confines itself to a small area, sometimes even to one field, as it did in this particular instance.

The farmer at once took off the remaining lot of his cattle not infected with the disease from this field, and, not liking to put any more stock on that portion of the farm, he ploughed the field up and set oats in it.

The following year, for some totally inexplicable cause, the oat crop failed, and then misfortune after misfortune befell the unhappy tenant of this farm until he became bankrupt. Three other tenants fared in like manner, and now the farm is going a-begging to anyone who will take it off the owner's hands.

There is another farm in the Midlands with an equally strange history. In this instance the ghoulish made no attacks on the stock of crops, but confined his unwelcome attentions to the occupants of the farmhouse. And the really strange part of the matter is that in each case it was the eldest son of the tenant who suffered.

The first victim was the eldest born son of the farmer, who was in occupation of the land about fifteen years ago; he died very suddenly, it was said of heart disease, though now there are some who think differently.

The next tenant lost his eldest boy through an accident during threshing operations. The third and last tenant had his only son killed by his being thrown from a horse—the poor lad was dragged for about a quarter of a mile across the farm, his foot having caught in the stirrup.

The farm is now vacant, and is likely to remain so. Irish farmers are naturally more superstitious than their English brethren. There is a farm in the county of Kerry that has been untenanted for years. It is situated on the side of a lonely mountain. Several years ago the body of the tenant, an old man about seventy years of age, was found stretched out dead some yards from the house.

No light was ever thrown on the mystery, and the people about quite believe that it was a "stroke" from some evil spirit. A black calf is supposed in some parts of Ireland to appear on a farm when some particular misfortune is about to fall on the ill-fated tenant. Only a few years back a certain landlord came back from his travels abroad to take up his residence on his Irish property.

Not long after his return one of the tenants, who lived hard by, came to him, and with bated breath stated that the fatal black calf had made his appearance, not on the tenant's land, but in the demesne of the newly-returned landlord.

The owner of the soil mocked his tenant's fears, and declared he felt no fear of the dreaded black calf. The following day a groom in the landlord's employment was killed by lightning, and such was the effect on his master's mind of the awful results of the black calf's visit that he shortly afterwards left Ireland, and has not since returned, nor is he likely to.

There is a well-to-do farmer in Kent who places great confidence in the luck brought to him by a certain grey mare which he purchased many years ago when not in very good circumstances. It would take a long price now to induce him to part with this "fetish," though the animal is old and past all work.

THE MUNSHINGUNGE CASE.

THE HIGH COURT SETS ASIDE THE SANCTION FOR PROSECUTION.

THE sensational Munshingunge case came up before Justices Prinsap and Hill of the Calcutta High Court on Thursday for the revision of the order passed by Mr. Rankin, District Magistrate of Dacca, directing the prosecution of Babu Kaliprosanno Bose for instigating his mookhri to bring a false charge of theft against Moulvi Fazul Karim, Deputy Magistrate of Munshingunge.

Mr. Jackson with Babu Hendra Narain Mitter and Dasarathi Sanyal appeared for the petitioner, while Mr. Douglas White represented the Crown.

Mr. Jackson in opening the case stated that the rule had been issued by the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice Banerjee upon the District Magistrate to show cause why the sanction given by him for the prosecution of the petitioner should not be quashed upon all the grounds mentioned in the petition. The circumstances of the case were shortly these. The charge against the petitioner was that he had laid or rather instigated a charge, against the Deputy Magistrate of stealing a mango tree. Counsel thought that at this stage he should better read the petition gave all the circumstances of the case.

The following is a summary of the petition: The petitioner is a mookher practising in the criminal courts at Munshingunge. On the 14th November last one Debendra Kumar Shome, who was employed as a mookher of the petitioner, lodged a complaint before the police against one Mohesh Chunder Singh, a contractor of the Public Works Department at Munshingunge, and also against Moulvi Fazul Karim, Sub-divisional Officer of Munshingunge, charging the former with having cut and taken away the trunk of a mango tree belonging to the petitioner, and thereby having committed an offence, and the latter with having retained the said piece of wood in his compound with guilty knowledge. A police investigation then took place with the result that the case was reported to be false and the Sub-divisional Officer forwarded the report to the District Magistrate asking for a judicial enquiry.

Debendra also put in a petition before the Magistrate for a judicial enquiry into his complaint. The matter was subsequently made over to the Assistant Magistrate for enquiry and report.

After examining some witnesses the Assistant Magistrate made a report to the effect that the case had not been proved. On the 9th December the then District Magistrate, Mr. Shirres, passed an order upon the report directing the prosecution of the petitioner and Debendra under section 211 I. P. C. The petitioner therefore moved the High Court and the High Court set aside that order as improper. In setting aside that order Mr. Justice O'Kinealy, who had heard the previous application with Mr. Justice Stanley, had pointed out that if the Magistrate were to proceed against the man he should do so under section 476 Cr. P. C. Mr. Shirres then went away on leave and his successor, Mr. Rankin, without issuing any notice on Debendra, recorded an order purposed to have been made under section 203 dismissing the complaint of Debendra and instituted proceedings under section 476. After taking three witnesses on behalf of the accused as to the ownership of the wood, the District Magistrate ordered the prosecution of the petitioner and of Debendra. The petitioner alone then moved the High Court and obtained this rule for quashing the Magistrate's order.

Counsel observed these were the facts of the case and that the rule was issued on all the grounds taken in the petition. He would, however, leave his learned friend to show cause.

Mr. Douglas White in showing cause submitted that this application should never have been made as it was nothing but asking their Lordships to reverse any order passed by another Bench, Justices O'Kinealy and Stanley. The Magistrate of Dacca had simply carried out the instructions given by their Lordships. His first point therefore would be that the District Magistrate in instituting the proceedings under section 476 and passing an order for prosecution had simply carried out the instructions of the High Court; and secondly, that false information having been lodged before the police no proceedings under section 476 Cr. P. C. were necessary.

As regards the first point he would observe that this Bench had no right to sit in judgment upon an order passed by another Divisional Bench. As regards the second point he would say that the sanction was not necessary under section 195.

Mr. Jackson.—I think that question has already been decided by Justices O'Kinealy and Stanley.

Mr. White.—That question was never raised.

Mr. Jackson.—But the Advocate-General who appeared for the Crown did not oppose the decision and I think you appeared with the Advocate-General in that case.

Mr. White.—Yes, I appeared with the Advocate-General. I asked him to press this matter, but for reasons best known to him he refused to do so.

Continuing Mr. White observed that he must admit that the Magistrate of Dacca had erred in taking proceedings under section 476, as he had no jurisdiction to act under that section.

Prinsap, J.—Of course he has jurisdiction when the sanction is under section 195. In that case proceedings can be taken under section 476.

Mr. White.—Yes, and that relates to a matter in a court of law.

Hill, J.—When the Magistrate had no jurisdiction, it will be a bad order.

Mr. White.—Yes, that must be the case.

Mr. Jackson.—That is what I am saying. Moulvi Fazul Karim may in his private capacity proceed against him. Let him do so.

Prinsap, J.—Mr. White, you seem to be against your own client. Do you say that?

Mr. White.—A case in the 3 W. N. 33 says that when there is no complaint before a Court sanction is not necessary. I find that the petitioner asked the Magistrate for an enquiry.

Mr. Jackson.—Whom do you mean?

Mr. White.—I mean Kaliprosanno.

Mr. Jackson.—He never asked for an enquiry. It was Debendra.

Mr. White.—Oh, it is the same. That man is the servant of Kaliprosanno and Kaliprosanno bore all expenses.

Mr. Jackson.—That makes all the difference.

Mr. White submitted if there was an irregularity in the case that was cured by section 537.

Prinsap, J.—This is no irregularity but illegality and it cannot be so cured.

Mr. White then continued at some further length admitting that the District Magistrate had no right to pass an order, as he had one under section 203. It was the Assistant Magistrate alone who could do so. Counsel, however, based his appeal to their Lordships not to set aside the Magistrate's order on the ground that that would be reversing the order passed by another Bench.

Mr. Jackson in reply submitted that the case had been practically given up by the other side. It was said that his client had accepted the judgment of Mr. Justice O'Kinealy; that had never been done. But reading his judgment, counsel nowhere found that Mr. Justice O'Kinealy had deliberately told the Magistrate, as the other side credited him with, to proceed against the petitioner over again. He had simply said that if the Magistrate so desired he would have to do it in this way. Mr. Jackson observed that the petitioner had no objection to be prosecuted by Moulvi Fazul Karim but why should there be these proceedings which were quite illegal?

Prinsap, J.—Of course, the order is bad and we are going to set it aside.

Their Lordships then delivered the following judgment:

This is a matter arising out of a complaint made by a party not before the Court, the servant of the petitioner, of theft by removing a tree, which after police investigation was reported to be false. Proceedings were taken before the Magistrate which in some respects were at first irregular but which have been cured in consequence of the intervention of this Court on a motion made to it. The matter now stands thus: On an enquiry made so as to give the complainant an opportunity of proving the truth of his complaint the Magistrate has declared that complaint to be false and dismissed it under section 203. In taking that course he has followed several judgments of this Court, the object of which was to prevent prosecutions in that a case was false, without giving the complainant an opportunity of proving his case. Having dismissed the case the Magistrate has taken proceedings under section 476 and eventually directed the prosecution of the complainant who is not before us and the petitioner his master. It is necessary on this rule to consider whether, this is a case in which proceedings can be properly taken under section 476. It has become settled law under numerous decisions not only of this Court but of other High Courts

that on a complaint made to the Police no sanction under section 195 is necessary before proceedings can be taken as regards to any other offence and consequently this would not be a matter which would properly be dealt with under section 476. No doubt in the judgment of another Bench on a rule obtained in a matter relating to this case the learned Judges referred to sections 195 and 476, but we must take it that it was not then brought to their notice that this was matter arising out of a complaint made to the police which was said to be false. The order under section 476 and all proceedings taken thereunder must therefore be declared null and void and this rule is made absolute.

A NEW RAILWAY SYSTEM.

MR. F. B. BEHR, the advocate of the "Mono" rail system, in a lecture at the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce the other day gave some interesting details about the proposed "Lightning" Express railway between Liverpool and Manchester, over which trains are to run at a minimum speed of ninety miles an hour. The new line will differ from the ordinary two-rail track, in that it will consist of a single rail elevated about 4ft. from the ground, and supported on "A" shaped steel trestles. The coaches intended for the line are to be fitted with wheels in the centre and these will run on the elevated rail. The position of the coach on the railway may be likened to the saddle packs which hang on each side of the camel's back. It is intended to place the triangular supports about 3ft. 3in. apart, and at each side there will be fixed literally two rails one about 18in. above the other. The object of these is to increase the stability of the system and to engage the thirty-two horizontal guide wheels with which the car is fitted. Electricity will be the motive power, and the cars each of which contains four electric motors, will pick up current from an electrical conductor. Mr. Behr promises that the journey from Liverpool to Manchester—a distance of some thirty miles—shall not take more than twenty minutes at the outside. Similar lines (all worked by steam locomotive power) have been built in many parts of the world, and Mr. Behr has arrived at the conclusion that the system is the only one suitable for speeds of 100 miles an hour and over. At the Brussels Exhibition in 1877 he built a Mono line, and had cars capable of holding 100 persons, propelled over it by electric traction at a speed of ninety miles an hour. Higher speeds, he says, could doubtless, have been attained had more current been available. He is of opinion that when once he has built the Liverpool and Manchester line, the Railway Companies will come to see the advantages of the Mono rail system for express passenger traffic at 100 to 150 miles an hour. He proposes that single rail lines should be built alongside the great trunk lines, and that these should be kept exclusively for express trains. The ordinary lines would then be used for slow trains and goods service, and all this would tend greatly to the benefit of the public and the Companies.

MANY TIGERS AND THINGS.

WHEN you see an animal trainer performing with ferocious beasts you may be quite right if you imagine the man as a fearless master of them, but if you think for an instant that there is no danger you are wholly wrong. A trainer never confronts the beast and compels them to do his bidding, but he literally takes his life in his hands.

He is so used to the danger that he does not think of it each time, and he holds his mastery of them by a sort of power that becomes habit, second nature as it were, just as he eats his meals or performs other common employments. Or, to make the case more plain, he forgets the dangers that surround him just as men in any other dangerous calling do, for instance, a painter who stands upon a narrow platform hundreds of feet from the ground.

A trainer must inspire constant fear in the brutes. What a power for harm there is in the elephant, for instance. One swing of that powerful trunk, and he could crush the life out of the man, but he is possessed by an ungodly fear. Some animal trainers live to a good age, and never have an accident. He is absolutely fearless in his work, and yet he may be no braver than you or I when other animals are in question.

There was one trainer who gave a wonderful performance with all these animals in the one cage. He would take all manner of liberties with the ferocious animals, compelling them to do his bidding, making them from pyramids, and lying down on them. When you consider how a cat or dog will sometimes turn upon you, if not handled just so you must realise what a tremendous power the trainer must exert over such huge, savage beasts.

There were always a dozen other keepers about when this performance was being enacted, and they were armed with pistols, hot irons, and raw-hide whips. One of the lions turned upon this trainer once, and his arm was badly lacerated before he could be rescued.

Of all animals keepers say the tiger is the worst and most treacherous. It is necessary to keep the eye fixed pretty constantly upon it, or it may revolt at any moment. There is only the secret, if such it can be called, of handling wild beasts, and that is to be brave, and make them fear you. If they have the slightest cause to think you timid they will take advantage of it instantly, and they are shrewd and knowing in their way, and constantly watching for some evidence of a momentary forgetfulness or timidity.

ON the 2nd instant, three Volunteer Martini-Henri rifles and sword bayonets were stolen from the house of the head clerk of the district office at Abbottabad.

AN extraordinary hailstorm occurred recently in the Thal-Chotiali district, crops being damaged, and 536 cattle destroyed by the hail and the flooding of the Vitaki River.

His Highness the Gaekwar of Baroda accompanied by Colonel Martelli, Resident, is expected at Simla very soon on a short visit.

A DARING robbery occurred at Lahore on Tuesday at the house of the Deputy Postmaster of Lahore, the premises being broken into and ornaments and cash to the value of six thousand rupees stolen. No trace of the thieves has been found as yet.

THE CONGRESS OF PEACE.

THE PLACE OF MEETING.

THE International Congress, summoned at the instance of the Czar of Russia, to confer upon various proposals for promoting international friendliness and peace, meets in the Huis-ten Boch.

This palace is situated within a mile from the centre of the Hague. It rises from the midst of a beautiful garden, dotted with grand trees, which are now bright with their luxuriant spring foliage. The road leading to the palace is through a delightful avenue. The palace consists of a central building flanked by two wings. The whole of the centre and the right wing have been placed at the disposition of the Conference which will hold its sittings in the Orange Hall, the walls of which are adorned with works of nine Dutch masters of the seventeenth century, as fresh in colouring as on the day on which they were painted. The hall is lighted by immense windows and by a cupola. It is square in shape, but with returning and blunt angles, which give it in a sort of way octagonal appearance. In the hall are arranged benches covered with deep blue cloth, somewhat close together, perhaps, for accommodation has to be found for 120 persons, and it will take the capacity for the Salon to contain so great a number. In the right wing of the palace, and communicating with the Conference Hall are a large number of other rooms which have been set apart for the requirements of the Conference.

Three handsome saloons, one Japanese and the other Chinese, tastefully hung with tapestry and hand-embroidered curtains, have been prepared for the three sections of the Conference. Twenty-six Powers will be represented, and in each of these three saloons twenty-six seats have been placed, one for each Power, around a large table covered with the traditional green cloth. A fourth saloon, arranged in identical fashion, is destined for the General Committee for the arrangements of preliminaries. Various other apartments have been allotted for the accommodation of the delegates, and they will be utilised either as secretarial offices or for private conversation. Finally, a large hall has been furnished as a buffet and restaurant for the members of the Conference. The Dutch Government has made admirable arrangements. It is impossible to imagine a more beautiful, a more tranquil, or a more appropriate sitting for a Conference destined to advance the cause of international peace. All the windows afford glimpses of lovely gardens, and the delegates will be able to carry on their labours in an atmosphere of ideal repose. Beautiful paintings adorn the walls of the Orange Hall, in which the Conference will hold its sittings. It would require whole pages to render them justice. It is sufficient to say for the present, that they also are admirably appropriate to the occasion, the general scheme being the representation of the triumph of peace after the long struggle maintained by the Netherlands for eighty years against Spain, and the celebration of the independence of their country. Thus near the entrance to the Temple of Arts, Minerva and Hercules are seen, the former having laid aside her shield and the latter his club, opening wide the gates of a temple for peace, who advances in the guise of a beautiful maiden, holding in her right hand a wreath of laurel and in her left a crown of olives. This hall was built by Amelie de Solms in memory of her husband, Frederick Henry, Prince of Orange.

ARRIVAL OF DELEGATES. The Standard's special correspondent at the Hague telegraphed on Tuesday: Already the Hague is filled with delegates, and the flags of all nations adorn the fronts of the principal hotels, the Blue Dragon of China beating against the Russian Eagle, which marks the residence of M. de Staal. Yang Yu arrived from St. Petersburg with no fewer than twelve secretaries, most of whom have been banished to Scheveningen. Sir Julian Pannocote and his colleagues are expected to-morrow to take up their abode at the Hotel des Indes, where the German, French and Greek flags are already displayed. Queen Wilhelmina will not reach the capital until May 23. Meanwhile, M. de Beaufort, her Foreign Minister, receives the delegates. M. de Staal is to preside over the Congress. The number of delegates with a right to vote will be about 120.

The Siamese Mission to the Conference, consisting of M. Phrasurya, the Siamese Minister in Paris, and M. Corragioni d' Orelli, the Councillor or the Legation, left Paris on Wednesday morning for the Hague.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE. The Conference assembled yesterday at 2 p. m. Before that hour all the members were in their seats which were distributed in alphabetical order, and labelled not by name but by nationality. These brought the United States delegation to the first bench on the left side of the President and the German delegation to the front bench on his right. They had been requested to come in morning dress, the only contrast being the Chinese and two foreign military delegates. The appearance of the assembly was that of most of the Continental Parliaments.

It was a quarter past two when M. de Beaufort took possession of the President's chair. He is of middle age, tall, and wears a full dark beard. He has a pleasant countenance and quick eye. His affability is proverbial at the Hague. The President's bell was conspicuous by its absence. This great Conference, which may, after all, produce more benefits for the human race than any of its predecessors was opened by a few strokes on the President's desk, made with a small wooden hammer such as is used by auctioneers. M. de Beaufort spoke in French with no perceptible foreign accent. His speech was delivered in a clear voice, without emphasis and without the faintest trace of emotion.

His Excellency said: In the name of Her Majesty, my august Sovereign, I have the honour to wish you welcome and to express here my feelings of profound respect and keen gratitude towards His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias, who in designating the Hague as the seat of the Peace Conference, did our country a great honour.

His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias in taking the noble initiative which has been applauded throughout the whole civilised world, sought to realise the wish expressed by one of his most illustrious predecessors, the Emperor Alexander I. who desired to see all the Sovereigns and all the nations of Europe in agreement that they might live as brethren and help each other in their respective requirements.

Fortified with these noble traditions of his august ancestors, His Majesty proposed to all the Governments whose representatives are here the meeting of a Conference, whose mission will be to find the means of putting an end to incessant armaments and to avert the calamities which threaten the whole world. The day of the meeting of this Conference will, unquestionably, be one of the days which will make a mark in the history of the century that is about to close. It coincides with the fête which all subjects of His Majesty celebrate as a national festival. In associating myself from the bottom of my heart with all wishes for the happiness of the magnanimous Sovereign, I take the liberty of making myself the mouth piece of the wishes formed by the whole civilised world in expressing the hope that His Majesty, seeing the realisation of his generous plans effected by this Conference, may in the future consider this day as the happiest one in his life.

Her Majesty, my august Sovereign, penetrated by the same sentiments which inspired His Majesty the Emperor of all the Russias wished to place at the disposal of this Conference the most beautiful monument in her possession. The hall you are in, which was decorated by the best artists of the seventeenth century, was erected by the widow of Prince Frederick Henry to the memory of her noble consort. Among the groups and allegorical figures which you will admire here is one connected with the peace of Westphalia that deserves your best attention. It is the one that will be found on the entrance door to this hall, where you will see Peace entering this room to close the Temple of Janus. I hope, gentlemen, that this beautiful allegory will be of good omen for your labours, and that when you shall have completed them you will be able to say that Peace, who introduced art into this hall, went out of it to spread her benefits over the whole of humanity.

Murmurs of approval followed the close of the Minister's speech.

His Excellency then proposed, and the Conference decided, that a telegram should be addressed to the Czar. "Respectful congratulations on the occasion of anniversary, and a sincere desire for the accomplishment of great and noble work of which your Majesty has taken the generous initiative."

The Minister then proposed, and the Conference decided, that M. de Staal should preside over the deliberations of the Conference. On taking the chair, M. de Staal shook hands with M. de Beaufort, who afterwards occupied a seat on the President's left, the Comptroller of the Royal Palaces sitting on his right. M. de Staal addressed the Conference as follows:

My first duty is to express to His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands my entire gratitude for the noble words he has just addressed to my august master. His Majesty will be deeply touched by the elevated sentiments which inspired His Excellency M. de Beaufort, as also by the spontaneity with which the members of this high assembly adhered to them. If it is to the Emperor of Russia that the initiative of the meeting of the Conference belongs, it is to Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands that we are indebted for being assembled in her capital. It is of good omen for the success of our labours that we should be called together under the auspices of a young Sovereign whose charm is experienced far abroad, and whose heart, which is open to all that is great and noble, has manifested so much sympathy for the cause that brings us here. In this calm centre of the Hague, in the midst of a nation which constitutes such a striking factor in universal civilisation, we have under our eyes a brilliant example of what can be done for the welfare of peoples by courage, patriotism, and sustained energy. It is on this historic soil of the Netherlands that the greatest problems of the political life of States have been discussed. It may be said that here is the cradle of the science of international law. For centuries the principal negotiations between the European Powers were carried on here. Lastly, it was here that the remarkable transaction was signed which imposed a truce in the sanguinary struggles between States. We, therefore, find ourselves in the midst of historical tradition.

M. de Staal then addressed a few words of thanks to M. de Beaufort and the members of the Conference for selecting him as President after which it was resolved that the Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, should be made honorary president, and that the following telegram should be forwarded to the Queen of Holland. Assembled for the first time in the beautiful Chateau of the Woods, the members of the Conference hasten to place their best wishes at the feet of your Majesty, and beg you to accept the homage of their gratitude for the hospitality which you have so generously been pleased to offer them.

After the Vice-President and bureau had been chosen, the Conference adjourned till Saturday.

COLONEL SCOTT REID, R. A. M. C., is appointed Sanitary Commissioner of the Central Provinces.

MR. PARAMASWARAN PILLAI, Editor of the Madras Standard, has been made a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, on the motion of Sir Charles Dilke.

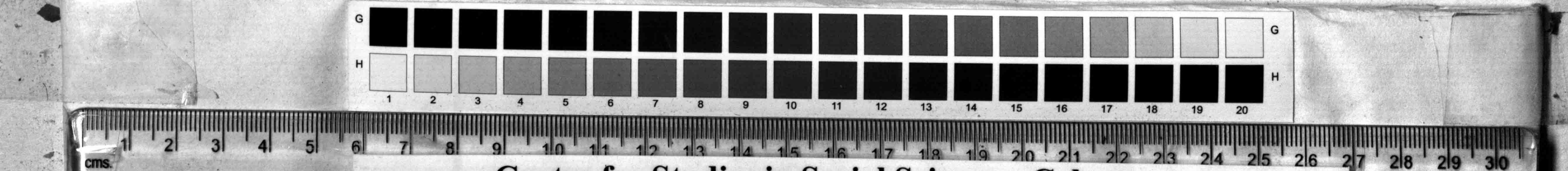
THE Government Inspector of Railways, Madras, is at present engaged in inspecting the Nilgiri Railway, prior to its being re-opened to traffic on the 15th instant.

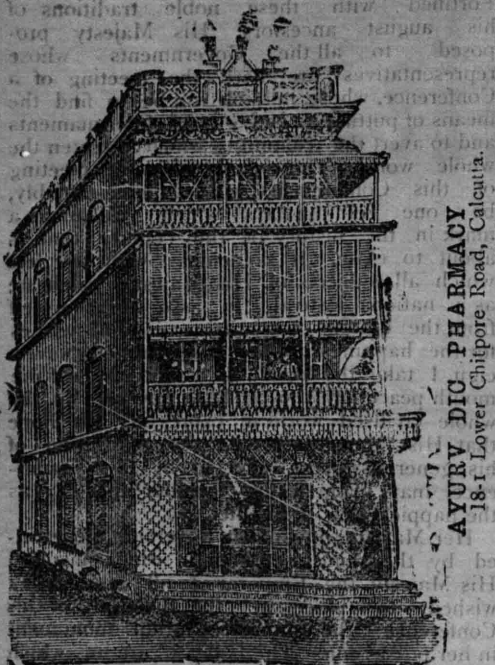
AN outbreak of glanders has occurred in the stables of the 11th Hussars at Meerut, and the Veterinary authorities have been obliged to destroy three horses.

SIXTY tons of ground-nuts from Senegal, for sowing purposes, have arrived by the Duplex at Pondichery. There is a great rush for the seeds although the sowings seldom take place before August and September, the ryots being anxious to secure them after the successful trial of last year.

The next Agri-cultural Exhibition of Pondichery will be held on the 16th February, 1900, thus giving ample time to prepare the exhibits. M. Calve Krishnasamy Chetty has placed at the disposal of the Chamber of Agriculture a sum of Rs. 200 for the purchase of methods and prizes in his name.

A NOTIFICATION has been issued regarding the quantity of carbide of calcium which may be imported, transported, or kept without a license by any one person. The proposed limit is five pounds, and any person having an objection or suggestion to make with regard to this limit must submit the objection or suggestion before the 1st of July next.





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be best Harmoniums of the day and to play and accompany Bengali, Hindi and English Music. CATALOGUES ON APPLICATION. Violins, Violas, Violoncellos, Double Basses, Arionets, Cornets, Horns, Piccolos, Flageolets, Banjos, Guitars, Mandolins, Sitarings, Reeds, Pien and Harmonium Meterals and Fittings, Strings, to, etc. Honest prices. Humble Margins.

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AN ABSOLUTELY PURE OIL. KUNTALINE is a highly refined and absolutely pure oil. The following Analytical Certificate from the most celebrated and eminent chemist in the land, Dr. P. C. Rai, will prove it. "I have put to careful analysis a sample of KUNTALINE prepared by Mr. H. Bose, and I have found it to consist of vegetable oil in a highly refined state, and perfectly free from any Acid Alkali Metal or other injurious ingredients; nor does it contain any Alcohol. It is likewise very agreeably perfumed, and I can confidently recommend it as A REALLY GOOD HAIR OIL."

PRICES OF KUNTALINE. KUNTALINE is put up in round 6-oz bottles and neatly packed in a Beautiful Card-board Case at the following prices — Sweet Scented 1 0, Lily Scented 1 8, Rose Scented 2 0, Jasmin Scented 2 0. The Sweet Scented Kuntaline is the best Hair Oil for everyday use. It has a very sweet and lasting fragrance. Quality considered it is the cheapest hair oil in the market.

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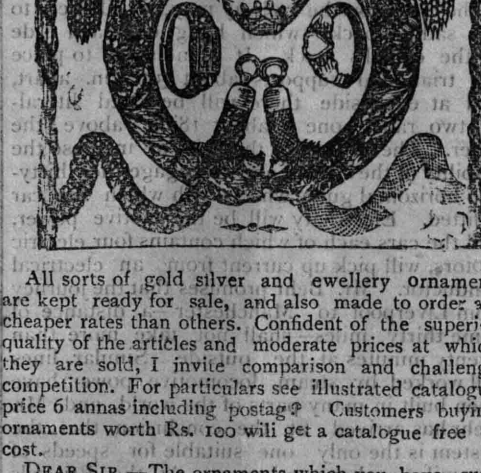
ASWA-GANDHA BATIKA.

It is an infallible medicine for debility. A fortnight's use will restore the appetite and give a healthy tone to the system. It revives the vital power and checks its premature decay. By its use one is sure to regain his strength and youthful bloom and activity. One who has lost his power by too much sensual indulgence, study or thinking, can advantageously use this medicine. It also restores the retentive power of the mind. What is more cures diabetes, gleet and melia of various kinds. Many persons have been cured by its use, and the undersigned is getting fresh orders constantly.

Babu Umesh Chandra Kotal, Sub-Registrar, Malsadal (Midnapore), writes under date, the 25th September, 1898:—"I am glad to inform you that the effect of your medicine has been excellent on the patient. Be good enough to send me, per V. P. P., a box of your 'Aswagandha Batika' and oblige. Price one box of 30 pills, Rs. 2; Postage 4 ans. V. P. P. 2 Ans. extra.

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All sorts of gold silver and jewellery ornaments are kept ready for sale, and also made to order, at cheaper rates than others. Confident of the superior quality of the articles and moderate prices at which they are sold; I invite comparison and challenge competition. For particulars see illustrated catalogue price 6 annas including postage. Customers buying ornaments worth Rs. 100 will get a catalogue free of cost.

New Model Anglo American Bicycle KINGLET

This machine combines ease, elegance, lightness and speed, for which American bicycles are unequalled, with the strength and durability of English bicycles. A few specifications are given below: FRAME.—Improved Diamond pattern, made of Smith's best steel tubing. WHEELS.—28 wheels, piano wire, tangent double swagged nickel spokes. BEARING.—Made from high carbon steel, road and ground, positively oil retaining, dust hard and with ball retaining device. SPROCKETS.—Accurately milled and machine tried to pitch. CRANKS.—Drop forge, superior quality hardened in oil to spring temper. CHAIN.—Soid hardened steel block chain. GEAR.—72 inches. FINISH.—Superior black enamelled and ornamented with designs in gold, beautiful. TYRES.—Pneumatic Double Tube. Such a bicycle with all accessories including even bell and lamp is for sale at the extra-ordinary low price of Rs. 140 only.

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