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পদকপ্ৰতিভা

দম্পন হইয়াছে
বলা ৩০ টাক।
পরিশিষ্ট বস্ত্র।

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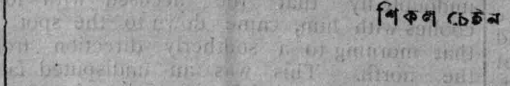
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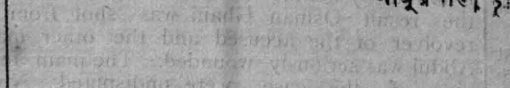
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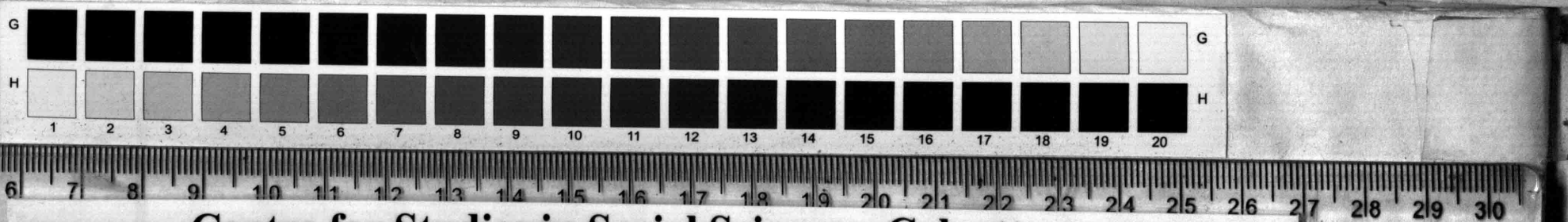
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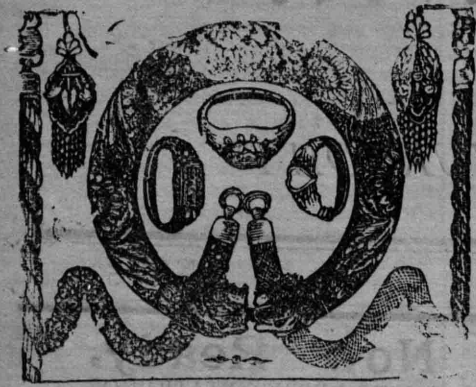
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MR. KRUGER IS BRAVE.

PRESIDENT Kruger is to-day the soul of the Boer republic. This remarkable man was born Oct. 10, 1825. His parents were Boer farmers, residing in Cape Colony, too poor to provide Paul with shoes. The future ruler of the South African republic, had to trudge over the African verdict in his bare feet. He was christened S. J. Paul Kruger, but the two initials were soon disused, though President Kruger uses them in signing state papers.

HIS FIGHT WITH A PANTHER. Fear was unknown to Kruger from boyhood. When he was in his 17th year his father asked him to take home his span of oxen and an empty wagon. He was accompanied by his little sister.

"Paul," said his father, "take care of your sister." "I will," he said, simply. In those days travelling in Cape Colony was anything but a picnic. Wild animals were plentiful and many a traveller became a prey to these beasts. Everything went well until Paul was within about five miles of home. Here a large panther made his appearance. The oxen took fright and bolted. The jostling of the wagon threw the little girl to the ground, where she was at the mercy of the ferocious animal. Without a moment's hesitation young Kruger jumped from the wagon and ran to his sister's assistance. The panther stood with gleaming eyes over the prostrate child.

Kruger was unarmed, but without a moment's hesitation he engaged the panther in a hand-to-hand battle. It was a fierce battle. Time and again the angry beast clawed Kruger cruelly, but his courage and strength never failed him. Like a bullock he held his grip upon the panther's throat until he strangled the beast to death. Kruger was badly lacerated. Blood flowed from many wounds, but, notwithstanding his injuries, he carried his fainting sister home. This exploit made him the hero of the sturdy Boers in that section. It was the first indication of the latent powers that dwelt in the coming ruler of the Transvaal. The first time I met Paul Kruger was at Pretoria in 1879. Though past 50 years of age, he was a Hercules in physique, standing over six feet in his stockings, and strongly built, without an ounce of superfluous flesh on his body. He and Jaubert were then arraying the Boers for the great struggle with England, which came in 1881, securing for the Boers the right of self-Government.

In those days Kruger was the poor compared with his wealth of to-day. He had a large family, to which he was devotedly attached. When I met him over fifteen years later, although the President of the republic, he was as unassuming as in earlier days. He asked me to be his guest, and in his parlor in Pretoria we talked of old days. Kruger had been aged considerably in the fifteen years. He stooped somewhat, but the fire of youth gleamed in his eyes and age seemed unable to dim his ardour. My conversation with him was carried on through his secretary. "Oon" Paul can speak English fluently, but under no circumstances will he carry on a conversation in that language. This procedure when in conference with British officials gives him an opportunity to collect his thoughts before replying.

The motto of President Kruger for years has been Patrick Henry's memorable utterance, "Give me liberty or give me death." This sentence, translated into the Boer language, hangs handsomely framed in his parlor. This heroic Boer ruler is almost devoid of learning. What education he has had for him to secure. Yet he has baffled men of learning by his sagacity. His knowledge of human nature is wonderful. Once, in Johannesburg, there was an elected board of health which was becoming daily more powerful. The members were mostly English, among them being a Mr. Holt, who was ultra-English in his views. This board was the only hope of the British element for securing control of Johannesburg in November, 1894. President Kruger issued an edict that only the Boer language could be used at the meetings of the health board, and only those who could speak the language were qualified to be its members.

The English fumed, but there was nothing to do but resign. The Boer language is as hard to learn as the Chinese.

In November 1894 I was President Kruger's guest when he drove home the last spike in the Delagoa Bay railway which connects Pretoria with Delagoa bay. It was an inspiring scene when the Presidential train arrived at Bronkhost Spruit. As the old President stepped from his special bar he was greeted by hundreds of Boer farmers. In the distance could be seen the three grouped graves of the rear guard of the British ninety-second regiment. In a few words Kruger exhorted the Boers to stand by their country; never to give it up to a foreign foe. As he made this appeal he turned his eyes towards the last resting place of the British soldiers.

STRONG LIKING FOR AMERICANS. He is decidedly partial to Americans and has not forgotten the time when a handful of Americans saved him from a British mob. This took place in 1893, when Sir Henry Lock, then Governor of Cape Colony and high Commissioner of Africa, went to Pretoria to confer with Kruger concerning the command to British subjects to carry arms in the Boer army. The Englishmen in Johannesburg, excited over Lock's visit, went to Pretoria in special trains. When Lock arrived they took the horses out of his carriage and drew him in triumph to the capitol. Some overexcited ones took the horses out of President Kruger's carriage and started to mob him. In an instant the old President was surrounded by twenty Americans with drawn revolvers. They threatened to shoot the first man that attempted to lay hands on Kruger. He has never forgotten that kindness.

Before I left Pretoria President Kruger said to me through his secretary: "When you go home to the United States tell the people there for me that there is a small nation here, loving their country and their liberty, that idolizes the American flag and the free institutions of the country. May the United States ever prosper and remain true to the principles of her forefathers, is my earnest wish. It would please me very much if a treaty could be made between the United States and the Transvaal. Could I favor American commerce I would do so, and I shall try in all my power to grant some concessions."

The voice of the aged President quivered as he spoke and his eyes were very moist. He was certainly deeply moved.

It is no wonder that the old Boers love their President. His character is pure; he is gentle as a babe, but firm as a rock, and a very lion when his country is in danger—Inter Ocean.

THE MOHANPUR MURDER CASE.

ACQUITTAL OF THE ACCUSED.

AFTER a protracted hearing for five days the case of Empress vs. John Norman Ross, committed by Captain Herbert, Deputy Commissioner, Sitchar, for murdering one Abdul Ghani and causing grievous hurt to one Abdul Guffoor, was concluded on Monday, at the High Court, before the Chief Justice and a Special Jury. When the hearing was resumed Mr. Garth, counsel for the accused, continued his address to the jury.

Referring to Arjun's statement, counsel observed, that if it was true, was destructive of the story told by the other witnesses and showed that they had committed the greatest perjury. Arjun's story showed that the first man seized was he (Arjun) and not Osman, that the second man seized was Fakiruddin and not Abdul and that Osman and Abdul were not seized at all. Therefore, when the other witnesses said that they heard Osman Ghani cry out he was seized and being taken away, they were not speaking the truth. The whole of the evidence of these men, from first to last, was untrue, especially so far as regards the men seized and what happened. Counsel asked the jury to say that this was an utterly improbable story. On the other hand, Mr. Ross' account seemed to be very probable. It was said that Mr. Ross seized the men on the garden land, that might or might not be, but there he no doubt ever that Mr. Ross thought he was on his own land. He had acted in good faith throughout. Even assuming that the bamboos belonged to the villagers, there was no question that he considered that the villagers had been cutting them on his land. The accused, was, he submitted, under the circumstances, justified in arresting the men whom he thought had been cutting away bamboos from his land. Then those men attacked Mr. Ross in a body, and he drew his revolver, with a view to frighten them when some one from the attacking party struck a blow on his hand with the result that the revolver went off. Under these circumstances, counsel submitted, the accused should not be held liable for the accident that happened. He then proceeded to call evidence.

Ram Lall, a cooly, employed in the Mohanpur Garden, examined, said: It was Arjun who was first seized by the Sahib on the morning of the day of occurrence. The man was handed over to the witness. Fakiruddin was the second man seized. After catching these men the Sahib went the same way that he had come. The coolies with the men arrested and with bundles of bamboos on their heads, followed. Then all the Bengalis who were there came from behind crying out, "maro, maro." They came up and beat the coolies. When they were beaten the coolies let the Bengalis go, who beat the Sahib. Some of them struck at the Sahib with some. Thereupon the Sahib called out to the Bengalis to take care or he would shoot them with his revolver. Then the Bengalis brought pointed spears to attack him with. One of them struck the Sahib a blow on the arm and the revolver went off. They then commenced attacking the coolies with bamboos while the Sahib was attacked with the dao. He snatched it away from the hand of his assailant.

Cross-examined, witness said: He had a swelling on his shoulder—the result of the attack and he showed it to the Magistrate. Other coolies did the same thing with regard to the bruises received by them. Witness did not notice what happened to the coolies, but he saw a dao being used on the Sahib and that he himself received a blow on the arm.

To the Court.—When I dropped the bamboos the Sahib was ahead of me at a short distance. There were a large number of men. I began to run to get nearer to the Sahib. The Sahib did not run. He stood and we stood behind him. When I was running towards the Sahib I received the blow on my shoulder. When the Sahib's revolver went off I did not see anything resulting from it.

Another coolie was examined. He supported the statement of the previous witness.

Mr. Garth then closed the case for the defence. Mr. O'Keane then summed up on behalf of the prosecution. In doing so he said he would not be long. The first thing he would draw attention to was the death of Osman Ghani and he thought that they would have no doubt that he had died of a gunshot wound received on the 7th February and that the shot had come from a revolver in the hands of Mr. Ross. With regard to Abdul Guffoor's he thought that the jury would have no doubt in coming to the conclusion that he was grievously hurt on that day, also by a bullet from Mr. Ross's revolver.

With regard to this matters, he would first of all ask them to direct their attention to the fact whether two shots had been fired on that day or one. Counsel had no hesitation in saying that upon the evidence it was clear, and he submitted that the whole evidence pointed to this, that there were two shots fired, and not one, as alleged by the defence. Mr. Garth had pointed out to them that Hamid Ali who had given the first information to the police, spoken of beating Osman Ghani and Abdul Guffoor being wounded by a bullet. The defence had endeavoured to make capital out of this, but he submitted that the word "bullet" might not necessarily mean one bullet. Besides, they had the evidence of all the other villagers which showed that two shots had been fired. When Abdul was in hospital he distinctly spoken to two shots having been fired. There was no reason for disbelieving his statement unless the jury believed what was put forward by the defence that one man was crouching behind another when the shot was fired. He really could not think that they should come to the conclusion that one shot had been fired. And then if they came to this conclusion they must disbelieve the suggestion put forward by Mr. Ross that he had not fired at all knowingly, but that his arm was struck by a stick and the revolver went off. Then, again, if the jury

looked to the letter of 7th February, of Mr. Ross, he submitted to them that from that letter it was not clear that this shot was fired unintentionally by the accused. He could not understand how, when it was present to the mind of the accused that he had never aimed the revolver, but that it had only been taken over by him for the purpose of keeping these persons back, he could have written as follows:—"There were about 40 or 50 men attacking me and I drew my revolver and I believe one man was shot." Then as regards the plea of justification, it was a matter for the jury to decide as to whether he was justified in taking the life of one man and wounding another under the circumstances disclosed. He, however, submitted that the evidence adduced for the defence did not bear out the suggestion made that there was a wild rush of people ready to murder Mr. Ross. He doubted, whether if there had been this wild rush, all these people (coolies and Mr. Ross) would have come off so easily as they had done. Only one cooly had received any injury while others received so slight injuries that Mr. Graham did not deem it necessary to mention them in his diary. If they came to the conclusion that the attack by these people was not a murderous one then they would have to come to the conclusion that Mr. Ross was not justified in killing one man and wounding another and to find him guilty of murder or any one of the minor charges.

CHARGE TO THE JURY.

His Lordship then delivered his charge to the jury. He said that the accused was arraigned before them charged with having committed two offences—one with murdering one Osman Ghani and the other with having voluntarily caused grievous hurt to one Abdul Guffoor. It was his Lordship's duty in the first instance to explain to the jury, the law bearing upon the case and then to draw their attention to the evidence which had been adduced and to lead them, upon that evidence, to see whether the prisoner was guilty or not. His Lordship must state at the outset that whatever the verdict might be, the prisoner could have no cause of complaint that he had not had an impartial trial, nor could the relatives of the dead man could entertain any doubt that the death of the deceased had not been subjected to a full and careful enquiry. The law of murder was to be found in the Indian Penal Code in the section for culpable homicide and the next section to which it led. The section, which his Lordship read, says "whoever causes death by doing an act with the intention of causing death or with the intention of causing such bodily injury as is likely to cause death or with the knowledge that he is likely by such act to cause death, commits the offence of culpable homicide." And "culpable homicide is murder, if the act by which the death is caused is done with the intention of causing death." The question of intention, continued his Lordship, was a question for the jury. For instance, if a man took out a revolver and fired deliberately at another man he did it with the intention of causing or likely to cause death. The above definition of murder was qualified by another definition, viz, that "culpable homicide was not murder if the offender caused the death of the person under grave and sudden provocation or by accident." That was virtually the defence in this case. Then again, it was not murder if the accused in the exercise of the right of private defence exceeded the power given to him by law without any intention of doing more harm than was necessary for the purpose of such defence. The law was, to his Lordship's mind, very clear. If the jury believed the evidence adduced on behalf of the prosecution, if they believed what had been said against the accused, then his Lordship did not see how they could avoid a verdict for murder against the accused. In respect to the charge of voluntarily causing grievous hurt upon Abdul his Lordship might at once direct the jury that if they were satisfied that the accused had voluntarily fired at this man they would have to bring in a verdict of voluntarily causing grievous hurt. There were suggestions from Mr. O'Keane that if the jury would not bring in a verdict for murder they might find the accused guilty of minor offences, but Mr. O'Keane had not said what manner of offence he meant. On the evidence as it stood, if the jury declined to bring in a verdict of guilty of the offences with which he was charged, his Lordship did not see for what else he could be found guilty.

In this case there were some general features which were not in dispute. The real question to be decided was which of the two stories was more credible in the opinion of the jury. There was no doubt that the accused was present on the spot on the occasion of this most unfortunate occurrence. They had undoubtedly that the accused with four coolies with him, came down to the spot on that morning to a southerly direction from the north. This was an undisputed fact. The next undisputed fact was that he found people cutting bamboos, that he seized two men among these people, that he was followed by some of the villagers and in the result Osman Ghani was shot from a revolver of the accused and the other man Abdul was seriously wounded. The main features of the case were undisputed. Now from this stage of the case a certain amount of variation in the statements of the witnesses took place. There was perhaps no case in which they could get the same story from all the witnesses—especially in cases of rioting or of street affray. It was always astonishing how people inclined to tell the truth, gave different versions of the same occurrence in giving evidence. For his Lordship's part he would be inclined to give more credence to evidence with slight variations than without them. Therefore if the jury did find some variations in the evidence of the witnesses for the prosecution they should not act upon those variations, but look to the story as a whole and come to some conclusion upon it.

But there were another class of witnesses who gave a more detailed story some months after an occurrence than at the time. The witnesses in the case gave only a very meagre account immediately after the occurrence and reserved the details for the subsequent hearing. It was also pointed out that there were inconsistencies in the statements they had made before the police and the evidence they gave in the witness-box there. These variations required greater consideration than the class of variations his Lordship had already mentioned.

THE VERDICT. His Lordship commenced to sum up, at 2-30 p. m. and finished at 3-30 p. m. when the jury retired. After a consultation of about three quarters of an hour the jury returned with an unanimous verdict of "not guilty" on both counts.

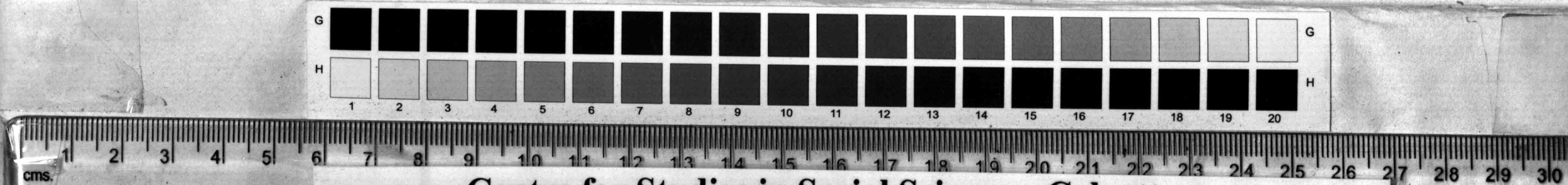
CONCLUSION.

His Lordship accepting the verdict acquitted the accused and directed his discharge. The Court was crowded throughout the day and considerable interest was taken in the case.

Mr. Graham, the Sub-divisional Officer of Hailakandi, Cachar, was present in Court. An interpreter from Cachar was also present throughout the trial. On the first day of the hearing, he interpreted the evidence of the witnesses. On subsequent days, however, Babu Behari Lal Pal, B. L., the Chief Interpreter of the High Court, interpreted the evidence.

THREE more men were handed over by the Military to the Civil authorities in the Rangoon outrage case. Thus, in all seven men stand charged. An identification parade was held on Friday, but the Civilian witness failed to identify any of the accused. The case is expected to come on for public hearing in a week.

THE question whether it will be possible to form a big lake in Samali Nullah by placing a dam across the valley about two miles off, is being seriously considered here. If this can be done it seems possible that from the waterfall sufficient power can be procured to provide Simla with electric light, as well as power for pumping purposes at the present waterworks. It is hoped that a Company may be formed to carry out the objects of the scheme which is estimated to cost about six lakhs. Much interest is being taken in the matter, which is likely to be supported by the Municipality.—Times of India.



THE Anrita Patrika

CALCUTTA, JULY 13, 1899.

THE SEDITION TRIALS.

Respectable Anglo-Indian papers take upon themselves to explain the motives of Government actions, which are unpopular, they can do a vast deal of good. But they seldom care to take notice of subjects, with which the Indians alone or primarily are interested.

His argument is that, one method of rule will not hold good for all the races of India. The Gurakhi articles are harmless enough, that is to say, such articles are seen in every province.

But no one who has any knowledge of the press in India can but be aware of the fact that articles are daily written in every province not a whit more loyal, superior in tone and sentiment. Why then have the above mentioned, Luxmon Joshi and Narayan Bhatye, been punished, while so many others have escaped scotfree?

The above argument is based upon one assumption, viz., there is sedition in Bombay and in no other province in India. If we deny this allegation, the argument falls to the ground.

Of course, Bombay has an ugly record in the murder of British officials. But Calcutta escaped it by a chance. We dare say Calcutta would, perhaps, have shewn a worse record if Providence had not protected the city.

The ridiculousness of the position assumed by the Government, in undertaking these sedition trials, will be made apparent by going through the speeches of the Advocate-General in the Gurakhi case.

Now, who can deny that here is a really grand touch of eloquence in this description of the snake? Is it not the "most detestable of creatures?" Does it not bite? Of course, rabbits bite and rats bite too, but their bites are harmless.

Mr. Paranjpe has, however, done this service to his country, that he has been able to show that the Hindu is not much inferior to the Englishman in intellect. And that is a great gain.

Indeed, much may be said about snakes, on both sides; but we want to show that those who advocate the prosecution of papers like the Gurakhi, betray a want of sense of proportions.

Now, just see the position of an Indian in his own country. There is no doubt of it that there is very little difference intellectually between an Indian and a European; but yet the disabilities of the latter are innumerable.

It is a great privilege to England that she is the master of India, inhabited as it is by an intellectual race. Let this privilege be utilized in such a way as to benefit both India and England.

detestable features of the snake, the Government has gained absolutely nothing. For the Englishman is quite right that the Gurakhi is not the only sinner, and yet such prosecutions are never undertaken in places outside Bombay.

HONOR TO MR. PARANJPE.

To Mr. Paranjpe, a complimentary dinner was given at the University Arms Hotel by the Indian Majlis, under the presidency of Mr. Ballakram, supported by the Rev. Dr. Taylor of the St. John's College where the honoured guest of the evening was educated.

Dr. Taylor considered it an honor not only to himself but to the College he represented, to be the proposer of such a toast.

It showed that one born there and educated there in its schools and colleges might be fitted to hold his own in the severest competition against the world. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Paranjpe was declared equal first, but he thought it undeniable that while the Englishman and the Indian were bracketed, the achievement of the Indian was clearly the greater.

Dr. Taylor gave the palm to Mr. Paranjpe, and by this he shewed his generosity. It is quite true that the English is a difficult tongue, and taxes the Indian brain too much to learn it.

We can also mention one more point in favor of the Hindu. If he has beaten all Englishmen but one, he has yet to beat India. It may be that he is the foremost student in the Deccan, but that is no conclusive proof that he is foremost in all India.

But yet Mr. Paranjpe had his advantages, which his rival Mr. Birtwistle had not. The decimal system was invented here in this country. The Hindus had carried the science of mathematics to a high state of development when other races of the world were sunk in ignorance.

Then take note of the fact that it requires the work of ages to create an intellectual race. It is no credit to the Hindus that they are intelligent. They have been cultivating their brain for many thousands of years.

But the English brain is the result of the work of, say, only five or six centuries at the most. His food is meat, his drink is beer. For him now to beat the Hindu in intellectual feats, is a work which can be likened to a miracle.

Mr. Paranjpe has, however, done this service to his country, that he has been able to show that the Hindu is not much inferior to the Englishman in intellect. And that is a great gain. The people of England only the other day entertained the notion that India was inhabited by a race of half civilized "blacks" who were immersed in ignorance and superstition.

Now, just see the position of an Indian in his own country. There is no doubt of it that there is very little difference intellectually between an Indian and a European; but yet the disabilities of the latter are innumerable.

It is a great privilege to England that she is the master of India, inhabited as it is by an intellectual race. Let this privilege be utilized in

such a way as to benefit both India and England. Let Indians be treated as brethren, the children of the same Father and the subjects of the same monarch. Does not the success of Mr. Paranjpe shew that England is withholding from India what the latter has a just right to?

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL. IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS.

ON WEDNESDAY Englishman contained the following startling telegram:—

SIMLA, JULY 10. Letters from the Government of India and the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal regarding the Calcutta Municipal Bill will appear in the Calcutta Gazette on Wednesday. It is understood the Bill will be altered in one respect only—instead of 50 members being elected by the wards there shall be 25 only, i. e., one for each ward. The result will be the Corporation will be divided into two sections, viz., 25 members will be elected by the wards and 25 as before elected, namely 15 by Government and 10 by the commercial bodies.

If the Englishman is to be believed, Lord Curzon has given us one pound in the place of 20 shillings, or rather less. Our Simla correspondent, however, telegraphs to us the following: "With reference to the Englishman's announcement regarding the Municipal Bill, I stick to what I said before. There is no doubt of it that important changes have been made."

After the above was in type, we received late at night the correspondence that has passed between the Governments of Bengal and India, which is published in another column. It will be seen that the information of the correspondent of the Englishman is correct. The Government of India have given us nothing, on the other hand, made the Bill worse than it was.

THE PLEA OF SELF-DEFENCE.

REFERRING to the Meerut Shooting Case, Lord George Hamilton, in reply to Mr. Herbert Roberts, said that the accused soldiers had acted in "self-defence." Commenting on this statement of Lord George Hamilton, our London correspondent observes:—

Nothing can be more absurd than this frivolous plea of "self-defence," so constantly urged by Lord George with reference to these frequent scurrilous attacks on soldiers and villagers.

Incidents repeat themselves in India. A European causes the death of an Indian. The former is hauled up and tried. He is acquitted on the ground of "self-defence." And this is the incident which, as we said above, repeats itself in India.

And true enough the Ross case, just now concluded, has precisely the same features. He was accused of having shot dead a native and grievously wounded another. The charges were admitted, but he was acquitted on the ground of "self-defence."

From these cases, which unfortunately happen frequently in India, one has a right to draw the conclusion that the natives of India are a fierce race, and the Europeans have to roam about in the country, armed with revolvers, to protect themselves from their murderous assaults. But is it a fact, is the Indian an aggressive animal—always thirsting for the blood of a European?

When the sedition clauses were being discussed in the Council, Sir A. P. Mackenzie proposed that the Native Press should not be permitted to comment upon judicial trials. But he was overruled. We wish his suggestions had been accepted, for then we would have been saved from the disagreeable and painful duty of commenting upon cases like the present one.

The Indian Daily News talks of the gross perjury of the witnesses. How is our contemporary so sure of it? The language in which the witnesses deposed is difficult in the extreme, and not understood outside their community. An interpreter who understands their language, was, at our suggestion, brought from Cachar. But this interpreter could not be properly understood by Counsel here; so the High Court interpreter had to interpret the witnesses. Thus the witnesses and the Court interpreter were placed at a great disadvantage. Then, if there were discrepancies they refer only to minor incidents in the case and they can be explained; but about the main facts there is no dispute. The case of Mr. Ross has been described by the Chief Justice in these words:—

There is no doubt the accused was present on the spot of this most unfortunate occurrence, but we have it undoubtedly that the accused was there with four coolies, that he was coming in a southerly direction and found men tying or cutting bamboos near the path, that he seized two men, that he returned on the path, that he was followed, that Osman Gani was shot by the revolver of the accused and the other man seriously wounded. No doubt in a case of the sort there is bound to be a certain amount of variance in the stories told by the various people.

There is no class of case where it is so difficult to get from various witnesses the same story as cases where there has been a row of any kind. For my own part I should give more credence to a story with slight variations than to one absolutely identical in every detail. In short, Mr. Ross was the first to seize two men and when he was followed, one man was shot dead and another dangerously wounded. That is the case for the prosecution, and the Chief Justice admits all that. And what was the quarrel about? Not about the honor of a lady, nor about any valuable property, but a few pieces of bamboos! Mr. Ross belongs to the ruling race; he is armed with a revolver while his opponents have been disarmed. He might have used some forbearance, especially as the stake was practically of no value. Affrays often occur about such cutting of trees. Who ever heard of revolvers being used in disputes relating to the cutting of a few bamboos?

Europeans, however, cannot realize the effect of such trials upon the native mind. Let

them, if they can, place themselves in the position of a native. Let them fancy that it was the Mussalman who used the revolver and shot a European dead. How would then have the European community felt? Would they not have rent the skies with cries of revenge?

No argument can conceal the fact that a native was killed, and another dangerously wounded, by a European armed with a revolver, and that the cause of dispute was a few pieces of bamboos. That European was found, and he was let off without even a reprimand.

Of course, the natives are told that everything possible under the circumstances, had been done. There was a trial and the accused was found "not guilty." That is all true. But if the accused were a native and the victim a European, then, we think, the European community would never have accepted things in such a philosophic spirit as they wish the natives to do in such a case.

His Lordship the Chief Justice observes that the friends of the deceased ought to be satisfied with the trial. The Indian Daily News finds perjury. But the better course for the Chief Justice and the Anglo-Indian newspapers, under the circumstances, would have been to take this opportunity of advising the Europeans, who are armed with revolvers and other deadly weapons, to use them with more discretion, and treat the subject races with greater consideration.

THE Bengalee says that, "with the exception of the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Hindoo Patriot there is not a single Indian paper in the country which has not expressed its regret at the action of the Corporation in regard to the defeat of Babu Narendra Nath Sen. The object of the Bengalee is to carry favor with that simple-minded gentleman who is in charge of the Indian Mirror. The impression is sedulously sought to be created that the Patrika is opposed to Babu Narendra Nath; and that it has expressed its exultation at his defeat. But this is not true. The Patrika did everything in its power to give support to Babu Narendra Nath. At the time of the election we wrote:—

We regret the position of Babu Narendra Nath Sen is not as secure as that of Babu Surendra Nath. We understand that Mr. Apcar has made every arrangement to compete the Corporation seat with Babu Narendra Nath and he is likely to prove a formidable rival. We have nothing to say against Mr. Apcar; on the other hand, he is well known for his sympathy towards the people of this country. But, considering the peculiar circumstances of the case we hope he will see his way to allow Babu Narendra Nath to be elected unopposed. The Government has interested itself on behalf of the two Municipal representatives of the Corporation; and it will not look well on the part of the European members of the Corporation to go against its wishes in this respect. Besides, Babu Narendra Nath Sen has done good service to the Corporation by representing its views faithfully and ably in the Select Committee, at a considerable personal sacrifice. The Corporation should not now throw him over-board, but return him unopposed.

In the above there is an ardent appeal on behalf of Babu Narendra Nath. But Babu Narendra Nath ungratefully forgot all that, and began to fill his paper with invectives, against us. It is true we gave a welcome to Mr. Apcar; that we did, because he promised to support the popular cause. Babu Narendra Nath was defeated because Babu Surendra Nath's ardent friend, Mr. T. Palit, canvassed for his opponent; and also because Babu Surendra Nath injudiciously recommended the Corporation to elect him (Babu N. N. Sen) "because the Government wanted him." Now, this suggestion at once converted his several friends into opponents. The Indian Empire suggested that Babu Narendra Nath was defeated, because of these tactics of Babu Surendra Nath, engaging a powerful man like his friend, Mr. T. Palit, to canvass for the opponent of Babu Narendra Nath while supporting him openly in such a manner as to do him unmitigated mischief. Of course, the Indian Empire has no positive proof to support his view of the matter, but the Editor of the Indian Nation distinctly declares that several Commissioners, who had made up their minds to support Babu Narendra Nath, were led by the remarks of Babu Surendra Nath to go over to the other side. It is, however, no longer a secret that it is difficult for ordinary men to fathom the motives which move Babu Surendra Nath. Thus, for instance, Babu Nalinakshya believed in the promise of Babu Surendra Nath and took him for a friend while the latter was privately canvassing for his opponent. Babu Prithwis Chandra brings a similar case to light in which Babu Surendra Nath, while openly working on behalf of Babu Ananda Mohan Bose, was privately helping his opponent. The letter of Babu Prithwis Chandra will be found elsewhere. The object of Babu Surendra Nath is to create a breach between us and our dear brother, the Indian Mirror, of whom we can speak in the same language of fervent love which Babu Surendra Nath used towards his beloved and life-long friend, Babu Ananda Mohan Bose, at the Town Hall meeting. Let the Mirror take care that it does not allow itself to be led to forsake its true friend for the sake of those who profess one thing and act in a contrary way. Babu Surendra Nath has his excuse for such tactics, though men pretending puritanic principles may not approve of this sort of dealings. It must, however, be borne in mind that Babu Surendra Nath is a political character, and those who deal in politics cannot always strictly follow a straight-forward course. The Bengal Conference should have been held in the 24-Pergunnas, but it was taken to Burdwan, why, outsiders have no knowledge. So the services of Babu Nalinakshya, a leading man of that district, were wanted and they were secured by a simple process, that is, by holding out the promise of a seat in the Local Council. When the Conference was over, Babu Surendra Nath perhaps thought that the cause of the country would be better served if Babu Baikunthanath was elected instead of Babu Nalinakshya. So he supported Babu Baikunthanath. And why? Not that he loved Babu Nalinakshya less, but because he loved his country more. In the same manner, it is quite possible that Babu Surendra Nath thought that Mr. Apcar would be a stronger man in the Council than Babu Narendra Nath, and he had to secure the election of the former in the way suggested above. And now he is trying to soothe the feelings of Babu Narendra Nath by some fine words in his columns, professing ardent friendship for him and throwing all the blame upon our poor selves.

It is not often that we have to thank Anglo-Indian officers of position for kindness or justice to Indians. It, therefore, gives us great pleasure to announce that Mr. A. U. Fanshawe, C. S., Director-General of the Post Office of India has just won the gratitude of the Indian community by conferring the office of Chief Superintendent in his office to a Bengal gentleman in preference to many European Mr. Grueber, the Chief Superintendent, having been deputed to Cawnpur as Postmaster there were many European and Eurasian candidates in running for this respectable appointment carrying a salary of Rs. 300-400. But Mr. Fanshawe has selected Babu Barada Kanta Mitter, who was till now Head Assistant in the Imperial Library. It should be stated here that after the promotion of Babu Saroda Prosad Roy, the Chief Superintendent of the Director-General's office has always been a monopoly of Europeans & Eurasians. The present action of Mr. Fanshawe cannot, therefore, fail to be regarded as all the more graceful.

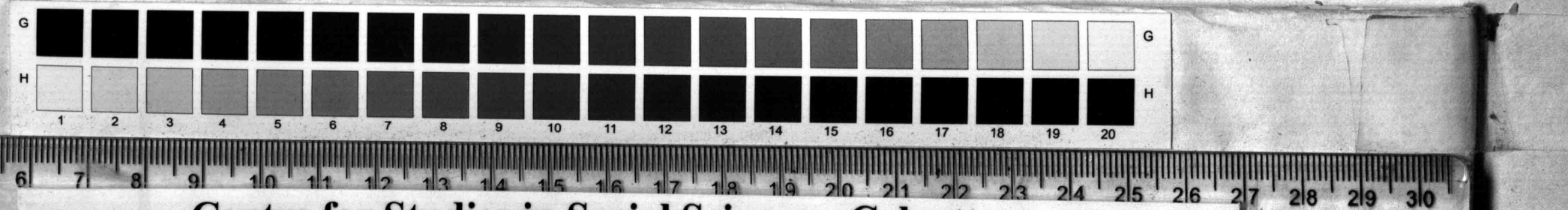
SOMETIME ago we noticed the case of an Assam official, who had been degraded by the Chief Commissioner of Assam for having whipped a Bengali. Since then we have been furnished with further particulars from which it appears that the erring official, Mr. T. C. Hodson, has been dealt with rather leniently. This is what our correspondent writes:—

Mr. Hodson, Assistant Political Agent at Manipur, has created a name for himself by acts of high-handedness. Lately a Bengali by the name of Srihata Bose one day applied his court for a copy of an order and instead of ordering the grant of a nakal, he ordered the man to be taken to the jail compound and there flogged with six stripes after the manner of a criminal, causing disturbance in the court. The man, though in indigent circumstances,—being only mohurir or agent in private employ,—was held in great respect amongst the natives of the place. He was dragged to the jail compound given the six stripes as ordered, and was allowed to go his own way. Finding no remedy for this outrage, he came to Cachar and filed an affidavit in the Deputy Commissioner's Court, stating all the facts of the case. The Deputy Commissioner forwarded the affidavit to Mr. Cotton, the Chief Commissioner. The Chief Commissioner called for an explanation from Mr. Hodson, through Mr. Maxwell, the Political Officer. Mr. Hodson so far forgot himself that instead of expressing his regret at what had happened he wrote in his explanation that the man should thank his stars for having escaped with six stripes which were given to him within the compound of the jail, while he, Mr. Hodson could have sent him to jail or could have had him flogged in public. While forwarding the explanation, Mr. Maxwell tried to compromise matters by expressing his regret at this ugly affair, and said that it was a foolish act on the part of Mr. Hodson. Mr. Cotton however, did not take the same view of the matter. He has passed an order degrading Mr. Hodson to the next lower grade, stopping his promotion for six months, and withdrawing from him his first-class powers together with the powers for whipping and summary trial. This act has elicited great admiration for Mr. Cotton from everybody. Indeed, the moral courage which Mr. Cotton has shown is unique.

The letter of our correspondent contains other serious allegations which we do not choose to publish without further enquiry. It is said that Mr. Hodson is a very young man, having entered the service in 1895. If this be so, it is unjudicious on the part of the Administration to entrust him with such high and irresistible powers. It is quite true that the punishment accorded to the offending official is inadequate considering the gravity of his offence but yet this, we believe, the first time that an officer in the position of Mr. Hodson has been dealt with in this manner by the ruler of a province. Mr. Cotton thus deserves the fervent gratitude of the people of Assam for this departure from the established order of things. We remember two other cases in which two rulers of Bengal, meted out similar punishment to the members of the Civil Service. The one occurred in 1876 or 77 when Sir Richard Temple was the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Mr. Kirkwood, Magistrate of Chittagong, committed gross oppression upon a zemindar and merchant of that district, and was degraded to the rank of Joint-Magistrate, and his promotion was stopped for a year by Sir Richard. The other case happened when Sir Antony MacDonnell officiated for Sir Charles Elliott. Mr. Radice as Settlement Officer, was found to have behaved in a very objectionable manner towards a zemindar of Balasore, and though he was strongly defended by the Commissioner of the Division, Sir Antony thought that severe notice ought to be taken of his conduct, and thus degraded him and stopped his promotion for one year. On resuming his office, however, Sir Charles Elliott, cancelled the order of Sir A. Macdonnell, and removed the bar which stood in the way of Mr. Radice's promotion. Rulers like Sir A. P. Macdonnell and Mr. Cotton serve the interests of the Empire much more than those of the people of this country by administering justice in this impartial way.

THERE is no denying the fact that the Police in this country exercise irresistible powers, nay, it can perform wonders. The fate of Aaur Rahaman, a Sub-Inspector of Police, Jamalpur, however, shows that he is nothing before even a very ordinary European. The difficulties of A. Rahaman began from the day when he came into collision with Mr. McCullagh, a European resident of the locality, and Heaven alone knows when there will be an end to them. The European in question accused A. Rahaman of having assaulted him at the Police Sub-Inspector, on the other hand, accused the European of having entered his zemana and beaten him. A police inquiry followed, but the District Superintendent of Police came to the scene while the enquiring police-officer had not yet submitted his report, and began holding a fresh inquiry. What followed has thus been described by our Monghyr correspondent:—

In this case a poor Mahomedan Police Sub-Inspector, (Aaur Rahaman) in charge of the Jamalpur thana, was called the other day by the District Superintendent of Police, Monghyr, Mr. W. T. Moore, a



"damned insubordinate," etc., etc. And what for?—Because the Sub-Inspector did not choose to answer while being cross-examined by Mr. Moore himself at the Jamalpur thana in connection with a certain petty and unimportant criminal case, quite in the way the learned D. S. P. wanted him to do.

Mr. Moore has a suspended Syed Ataur Rahaman and made him leave the thana at once. The next scene opens in the court of the Joint-Magistrate of Monghyr who sat to try the case. When Rahaman's name was called out, as he was going to the *izlas* of the Magistrate, he was asked to put off his shoes. He hesitated and was thereupon ordered to go away. Again, he was called and again he was going in with his shoes on. He was then ordered to put off his shoes but still he refused. For thus asserting his right to appear as a gentleman he was convicted for contempt of court and fined Rs. 20!

After the above was in type we are informed that Ataur Rahaman has been discharged under section 253 Cr. P. C. His troubles are, however, not yet over. Though he has been acquitted by a properly constituted court of law, he has been punished departmentally. He has been transferred to Bhagalpur after having been suspended for a month though he did nothing to deserve the punishment. A. Rahaman intends preferring an appeal against his conviction and sentence for contempt of court. In the meantime, we would request His Honor to send for the papers of the case.

Dr. James H. Hyslop, Professor of Psychology, Ethics, and Logic in Columbia University, has says the *Inter Ocean*, come back to New York from Boston, and re-asserted to a reporter the statement he made a few days ago in Boston that he is sure he can scientifically prove life after death. He bases his opinion on what he says is the incontrovertible fact that he himself has actually talked through a human medium, with persons long since dead. This medium is the famous Mrs. Piper of Boston, with whom he has had, all in all, seventeen sittings. Four of these have taken place in the past few days.

"I am absolutely certain," Professor Hyslop said, "that within a year I shall be able to lay before the world conclusive evidence of the immortality of the soul. In my seventeen sittings with Mrs. Piper not once has she told me facts connected only with my own memory. Each time they have been common to myself and to persons long since dead. And this is also true of the great number of scientific men who have examined her. I have received in my sittings and I have identified twenty-five names belonging to persons not necessarily my relatives or even acquaintances."

Dr. Hyslop's next step will be to organize a body of scientific men to investigate his facts. He will also expose frauds. As to the effects of this theory being proven true, Professor Hyslop said: "It will almost completely revolutionize the ideals of religion, morality and politics. It will disturb dogmatic theology, but it will rejuvenate the church's moral influence by inspiring confidence in the immortality of the soul. In morals the economic ideal of getting simply enough to live will be changed to a spiritual ideal, a sincere regard for the hereafter. I can show however and shall do so that the medieval idea of eternal punishment hereafter will be broken down. This fact politically will strengthen the necessity for a strong government and also the growing tendency of respect for the individual."

The other day we referred to the *Instructions* issued by Sir John Malcolm in 1821 to officers acting under his orders in Central India, and quoted a few passages from them to show in what close touch and sympathy were the rulers in those days with the feelings and aspirations of the people of this country. We shall like a few more quotations from these *Instructions* as published in the *Pioneer*, for the benefit of those liberal-minded Englishmen who are anxious to attract the peoples of India to British rule. In order to succeed in this important object, a kind and conciliatory manner, according to Sir John Malcolm, is essential. And this must proceed from the heart and not the head. Says Sir John:—

All human beings, down to the lowest links of the chain inclusive of children, are quick in tracing the source of the manners of others and above all, of their superiors. When that is regulated by the head, not the heart—when it proceeds from reason, not from feeling, it cannot please; for it has in it, if at all artificial, a show of design which repels, as it generates suspicion. When this manner takes another shape, when kindness and consideration appear as acts of condescension, it must be felt as offensive.

And he goes on to say:— I am quite satisfied in my own mind, that if there is one cause more than another that will impede our progress to the general improvement of India, it is a belief formed by its population from the manner of their English superiors, that they are viewed by them as an inferior and degraded race; but on the contrary, if the persons employed in every branch of the administration of this great country, comport themselves towards the people whom it is their duty to make happy, with that sincere humility of heart which always belongs to real knowledge, and which attaches while it elevates, they will contribute by such manner, more than any measures of boasted wisdom ever can, to the strength and duration of their Government.

As the rulers occupy a superior position in this country, they can easily afford to be generous and "comport themselves with sincere humility of heart." Unfortunately, their treatment of the natives of the soil, as a rule, is of a different kind altogether. And the unhappy result is that the gulf between the rulers and the ruled is getting more and more wide. Sir John Malcolm warned his subordinates against judging the Indians by unfair standards, especially against comparing them with the European public servants of Government,—"a class of men who are carefully educated, whose ambition is stimulated by the highest prospects of preferment and whose integrity is persuaded by adequate salaries." No country in the world, we think, can show a parallel to the class of Indian servants who serve the British Government as Deputy Magistrates, Munsiffs, Subordinate Judges, and so forth. Most of them are very inadequately paid for their work; they have no hope to get higher

and more responsible appointments; and yet corruption is unknown amongst them. But let us quote Sir John again: "He who approaches these peoples with an open and liberal mind," says he, "will find enough of virtue, enough of docility and disposition to improvement, enough of regard and observance of all the best and most sacred ties of society, to create an esteem for individuals, and an interest in the community which, when grounded on a sincere conviction of its being deserved, will render his kindness natural and conciliating." And he thus records his own experience: "I have invariably found, unless in a few cases, where knowledge had not overcome self-sufficiency and arrogance, that in proportion as European officers, civil and military, advanced in their acquaintance with the language and customs of the natives of India, they became more sincerely kind to them." But the present generation of rulers think that they are wiser than Sir John Malcolm, and they keep themselves as far aloof from the natives of India as is possible for them to do.

WHEN Mr. Bhasyam Iyengar took criminal proceedings against the editor of the *Madras Standard*, we ventured to suggest an amicable settlement. Mr. Iyengar, however, thought that the apology which the defendant had tendered was not sufficient and he proceeded with the case. He was naturally blamed by some of his countrymen for having adopted this course. If newspapers in India are the pets of the people, it is because they alone keep the ruled and the rulers in touch; and, therefore, no sooner were proceedings instituted against the *Madras Standard* than was Mr. Bhasyam Iyengar blamed for having gone to that extreme length. Those who deprecated the proceedings said that, since his character was very high, he might have safely treated any newspaper, attacks with indifference, or, at least, he might have adopted a less rigorous means than a criminal prosecution. Indeed, so great was the outcry raised against him that Mr. Iyengar was obliged to defend his action before the public, and he did so in these words:—

Mr. Bhasyam Iyengar said that he had taken the present proceedings not so much in vindication of his character as to protect the interests of the public. He did not take action on previous libels by the accused against him, as he hoped that the paper might improve, and that if it continued its scurrilous character it would die a natural death; but seeing that by its existence it had created a taste for its publications in the minds of a morbid section of the public, and persisted in its policy of reckless attack on persons of position in native society, he felt himself bound in the interests of the public to prosecute.

Now, we have a very high opinion of the *Madras Standard*, and cannot believe that our contemporary wrote anything maliciously against one of the foremost men in his province. We are, therefore, grieved to learn that he has been convicted and fined Rs. 500. We must, however, wait for the full proceedings of the trial.

£49,000 BID FOR A BRIDE.

MR. JOHN NORDEN, a rich Montana ranch man, is now in New York seeking a bride. He advertised that he would give £49,000 to any plain, practical young woman who would wed him. His hotel was so besieged by women that the proprietor ordered Mr. Norden to leave. He has hired a big hall in the Bowery, where he will examine the applicants.

A LIFE AFTER DEATH.

DR. HYSLOP, of the Columbia University, has announced that he expects in the course of a year to prove scientifically that there is a conscious existence after death. Dr. Hyslop has been making experiments through Mrs. Piper, a Boston medium, and he claims to have received a large number of bona fide communications from departed spirits. The Professor is not one of the common herd of spiritualists, but is regarded by his colleagues as a sound-minded, keen, scientific man. He is being helped in his investigations by other well-known psychologists.

SPEAKING at Sagaing the other day, Sir Frederick Fryer alluded to a proposal for a bridge across the Irrawaddy to connect Sagaing with Mandalay, and said he hoped to see the bridge finished before he left Burma.

CAPTAIN TOD, who was attached in the capacity of Intelligence Officer to the recent Burma Boundary Commission, has now returned to Simla, where he reverts to his appointment in the Quartermaster-General's Department.

A CIRCULAR has been issued to the Mining Companies at Kolar for the purpose of ascertaining their views on the subject of the proposed supply of electric power derived from the Cauvery Falls, situated at a distance of some ninety-seven miles from the field, on the system which has proved so successful in America. The Goregum Company has declared its willingness to adopt the system for most purposes.

IS IT RIGHT FOR AN EDITOR TO RECOMMEND PATENT MEDICINES?

From *Sylvan Valley News*, Brevard, N. C. It may be a question whether the editor of a newspaper has the right to publicly recommend flood the market, yet as a preventive of sufferings Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. We have known and used this medicine in our family for twenty years and a dose of this remedy would save hours of suffering while a physician is awaited. We do not believe in depending implicitly on any medicine for a cure, but we do believe that a bottle of Chamberlain's Diarrhoea Remedy kept on hand and administered at the inception of an attack much suffering might be avoided and in very many cases the presence of a physician would not be required. At least this has been our experience during the past twenty years. For sale by SMITH STANLEY & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

Lord Gauranga or Salvation. Shishir Kumar Ghose. Vols. I and II. The price of each Volume is— PAPER COVER 1-12-12 CLOTH BOUND 2-4-12 Postage extra. To be had at the Patrika Office Calcutta.

Indian Sketches. Shishir Kumar Ghose WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY W. S. Caine. PRICE—1 RUPEE AND 6 ANNAS. I heartily commend to every cultured and earnest Indian, to every Christian Missionary, and also to every European who cares to look beneath the surface of Indian life and thought, the contents of this deeply interesting volume of miscellaneous articles from the pen of Shishir Kumar Ghose.—W. S. Caine in the Introduction. The sketches are written in excellent English and an attractive style. These sketches are of a miscellaneous character—stories with a distinctive imaginative faculty on every page; excellent descriptions of exciting scenes; theological essays, dissertations on their political rights ignored by the Government, entitled "The perpetual slavery of India" which would do good to certain of the English people that in interesting essays. It is pleasant to find that our friends in India are capable of writing such an interesting strain as to be found in this book.—L. N. Review. To be had at the Patrika Office

MR. R. P. PARANJPE'S PORTRAIT.—Through the courtesy of the manager of the Poona Chitrasala Steam Press, we have received a copy of Mr. Paranjpe's portrait engraved and printed at that press. The portrait is selling at one anna per copy.

AN OLD CANNON.—The Musjid of Kutra, towards the East of Moorshidabad was built under the auspices of Moorshid Cooly Khan. Near this Musjid is yet to be seen an old fashioned gun which is held with great reverence both by Mussalmans and Hindus. It is about 12 cubits long and proportionately broad containing an inscription; indicating it was manufactured by a Bengalee artisan, named Janardan.

INVENTIONS AND DESIGNS.—Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed: Tanjore Kadamber Amurthalinga Achary, goldsmith and manufacturer, 9 Gunagan Street, Washermanpetta, Madras, a contrivance for lifting and self-titling water from wells and tanks; to be called the Havelock water-lift; Harry Phillips Davis, electrical engineer, of 327 Neville Street, Pittsburgh, Alleghany, Pennsylvania, U. S. A., improvements in controllers for electric motors; Ernest Edward Rouse, civil engineer, care of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., Calcutta, an apparatus for automatically adjusting the gauge of a railway, to be known as "Rouse's automatic gauge" adjuster; John David Jones, mechanical engineer and proprietor, Mica Works, Howrah, an improved lubricant; Guglielmo Marconi, and the wireless telegraph and signal company, limited, electricians, both of 28, Mark Lane, London, England, improvements in apparatus employed in wireless telegraphy; Henry Louis Rochat, engineer, of 3 and 4 Hare Street, Calcutta, the mechanical working of rotary pulkas; and Frederic Fowler Farrow, superintending engineer, Messrs. Moolji Jaltha and Co., Jalgaon, Khandesh, an improved automatic railway passenger communication; Alfred Ernest Markwick, M. A., M. E., engineer of Karachi, Sind, improvements in valves or cocks operated automatically by ball-float or otherwise.

TIGERS IN AN UNLIKELY PLACE.—A Dhubri correspondent writes to the *Englishman*:—Yesterday (5th July) at about 5 P. M. when the up-mail steamer had just arrived at the ghat, information was brought that two tigers had taken refuge in a submerged hut within 10 yards of the steamer and the receiving flat. Most of the Europeans in the station hurried to the scene with their guns, but before they could reach the spot an excited crowd of natives had assembled. The greater number remained on the road, while a few went in a boat down the river, so that the hut lay between them and the bank. The tigers now took flight, and the larger swam off down the river, while the smaller hid itself under an overturned boat which lay near the hut. At this the crowd completely lost their heads and indiscriminate firing began. The tiger under the boat was despatched by a shot by the police inspector. A very unfortunate accident, however, took place. A shot struck in the forehead an up-country native who had disobeyed the orders of the police to get out of the way. It is not known whether the shot was a ricochet or not; probably it was, but owing to the excitement which prevailed it was difficult to obtain accurate information. The wounded man was removed to the hospital, where he shortly afterwards expired. The tiger which was shot was a small female measuring about six feet six inches. The pair had, shortly before probably been driven out of their usual haunt by the flood which are now very high in Dhubri.

AN EPIDEMIC OF DIARRHŒA.

Mr. A. Sanders, writing from Cocoon Grove, Fla., says there has been quite an epidemic of diarrhœa there. He had a severe attack and was cured by four doses of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy. He says he also recommended it to others and they say it is the best medicine they ever used. For sale by SMITH STANLEY & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

SENSATIONAL MURDER CASE.—Our Dinajpur correspondent writes:—Four years ago, an old Zemindar of this district named Panaula Choudhree and his son Mahalattin Chondhree had been charged with having shot a man dead, the particulars of which appeared in the columns of the *Patrika* at the time of the trial of the former, the latter having absconded. Panaula Choudhree was, in due course, placed on his trial and being kept in *hajut* for a considerable length of time was honourably acquitted. Up to June last no one knew the place of concealment of the second accused. The Police very lately got some information. The result was that the accused was hunted down till he was captured and challaned to the sudder to take his trial before the Sessions.

A REVIEW.—We are glad to find that Babu Hem Chandra Banerjee has published a revised edition of his *Kabitabali* or Poetical selection. As a poet Babu Hem Chandra's reputation is almost unrivalled in Bengal and we need hardly say that his *Kabitabali* before us sparkles with gems in many a place. The book has been especially designed as a text-book for the Minor of the Vernacular schools of Bengal. The Text-book Society have already approved the publication and we doubt not the Director of Public Instruction will see his way to introduce it into all the Vernacular and Minor Schools within his jurisdiction. A perusal of the short poetical verses will satisfy those who are competent to judge that they are eminently suited to the taste and capacity of the young lads who go up to the Vernacular and Minor Examinations. Such a booklet was a great want.

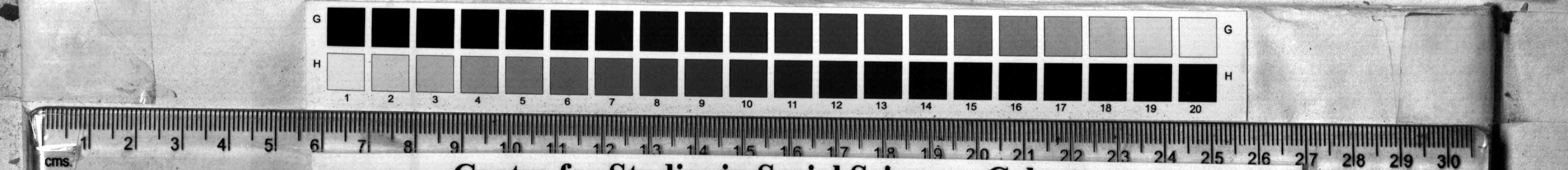
GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

- Babu Annada Churn Guha, sub protom Sub-Dy Collr, is allowed leave for three months. Babu Jogendra Nath Sarkar, sub protom Sub-Dy Collr, Kushtia, is allowed leave for two months and a-half. Babu Hem Chunder Mitter, Sub-Dy Collr, Nadia, is transferred temporarily to the Kushtia sub-div. Babu Amrita Lal Gupta, sub protom Sub-Dy Collr, Jessore, is transferred to the Jhenida sub-div. Mr. C. P. Caspers, Offg. Dist and Sess Judge, Saran, is allowed furlough for one year. Mr. A. P. Pennell, Addl Dist and Sess Judge, Saran, is appointed to act as Dist and Sess Judge of that district, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. G. W. Place. Babu Atul Chunder Kerr, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to the Barasat sub-div, on being relieved of his present appt as Asst Settlement Officer, Darbhanga. Babu Siris Chandra Ghose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month. Babu Fakir Chunder Chatterjee, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Mymensingh, is appointed to have temporary charge of the Jamalpur sub-div. Babu Ashutosh Sircar, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Manbhum, is allowed leave for six weeks. Mr. G. B. Havelock, Dist Suptd of Police, Manbhum, is allowed leave for one month. Mr. A. E. O'Sullivan, Asst. Suptd of Police, Gaya, is appointed to have charge of the district police of that district, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. F. L. Halliday, or until further orders. Babu Akhoy Kumar Ghose, Spl Sub-Registrar, Tippera, is allowed leave for fifteen days, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 23rd June 1899. Mr. C. H. C. Sevenoaks, Suptd of the Buxar Central Jail, is allowed leave for three months. Mr. G. A. Davis, Offg. Suptd of Jail Manufactures, is appointed to act as Suptd of the Buxar Central Jail. Mr. Charles Russell who is appointed to be a Member of the Indian Educational Service is appointed to be a Professor in the Presidency College, Calcutta. Babu Abinash Chandra Basu, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on excise work, Patna, is allowed leave for three months. Babu Suresh Chunder Sen, Dy Magte, Bala-sore, is vested with the powers of a Magte of the first class. Babu Atul Chunder Kerr, Offg Dy Magte who has been posted to the Barasat sub-div is vested with the powers of a Magte of the second class. Babu Girish Chandra Sen, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Basirhat, during the absence, on furlough, of Babu Kali Prsunna Dasu Roy Chowdhury, or until further orders. Babu Satish Chunder Banerjee, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Netrakona, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Promotha Krishna Singh, or until further orders. Babu Khagendra Nath Bose, Munsif of Serampore, is appointed temporarily to act as an Addl. Munsif in the district of Bhagalpur. Babu Khetra Mohan Mitra, Munsif of Chittagong, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif of Dubrajpur. Babu Hari Nath Ray, Munsif of Dubrajpur, is appointed to be a Munsif of Comilla. Babu Tara Charan Sen, Munsif of Comilla, on leave, is appointed to be munsif of Chittagong. Babu Ambika Charan Mukerji, Munsif of Sakhira, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif of Palamau. Babu Khetter Lal Singha, Munsif of Sakhira, is appointed to be a Munsif of Sakhira. Babu Sasi Bhusan Banerjee, B. L., is appointed to act as an Addl Munsif in the district of Cuttack, but to be on deputation at Jaipur, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Gagan Behary Chowdhury, or until further orders. Babu Loke Nath Nandi, Munsif, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif of Bongaon. Babu Atul Chandra Batavaly, Munsif of Narail, is allowed leave for one month. Babu Assini Kumar Guha, Munsif of Patiya, is allowed leave for fifteen days. Babu Gobinda Chander Basak, Munsif of Ranchi, is allowed leave for fifteen days. Babu Gagan behary Chowdhury, Addl Munsif on deputation to Jaipur, is allowed leave for one month. Babu Brajes Chandra Sinha, Munsif of Lakh-mipur, is allowed leave for fifteen days. Mr. HARRINGTON, Engineer, Simla-Kalka Railway, has returned to Simla after inspecting the whole route, which is now understood to be practically settled. He goes home next month bring out machinery for tunnelling.

Correspondence. BABU S. N. BANERJEE AND RAJ NALINAKSHYA BAIADUR. TO THE EDITOR. SIR,—I understand that there has been a great flutter in the political dovecots of Calcutta, and a general sensation created all over the town by the publication in your columns of a letter from Mr. T. P. Mukerjee, of Burdwan. I do not see why it should cause any sensation at all, seeing that there has been in Bengal politics no lack of such incidents as Mr. Mukerjee has taken the trouble to describe. An exactly similar incident happened in Bengal about six years ago. Mr. S. N. Banerjee first induced Mr. A. M. Bose, in spite of his unwillingness, to stand as a candidate for election to the Presidency Division. For a week or two, Mr. Banerjee appears to have given his support to Mr. Bose's candidature. But, before many weeks were over, Mr. Banerjee wrote privately to many of his friends in the moffussil of the Presidency Division to vote for Mr. Lalmoan Ghose instead of Mr. Bose. What in the meantime transpired to change Mr. Banerjee's mind and induced him to transfer his allegiance from Mr. Bose to Mr. Ghose is more than I know. The fact remains that he first induced Mr. Bose to contest the seat and then he actively canvassed for Mr. Ghose, keeping Mr. Bose all the while under the impression that he, Mr. Banerjee, was working for him (Mr. Bose) and Mr. Bose alone. But, instead of describing it myself, I shall leave it to be done by a letter which appeared in the *Indian Mirror* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the time, over the signature of the late Mr. Dwarka Nath Ganguli, who himself took a very active part in this question. I send herewith a copy of the letter, which, I trust, you will reproduce for the edification of your readers and for the benefit of the Hon. Mr. Banerjee and his supporters. As history repeats itself, I have got no comments to make upon it; your readers, however, are welcome to draw any inferences in the matter they feel disposed to do. PRITHWIS CHANDRA RAY.

[TO THE EDITOR, Indian Mirror.] SIR,—With reference to a paragraph in your issue of Sunday last, I beg to observe that Mr. Lal Mohan Ghosh and his friends need not congratulate themselves on having secured the support of Babu Surendra Nath Banerji in his candidature. When I say this, I mean no reflection either on Mr. Ghosh or on his friends. If there is any reflection in my observation, it is undoubtedly on my own hero, whom I have served for many years and always with honesty and devotion, and, if I now throw off my allegiance to him, I do so under a most painful circumstance and with the greatest mortification and a deep sense of humiliation. When our public men do not scruple to adopt the policy of running with the hare and hunting with the hound, it becomes necessary that a few plain facts should be stated. It was on Friday, the 14th instant, that I called at the office of the *Bengalee* newspaper to congratulate Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee on his success at the election made by the Municipal Corporation of Calcutta. When I called on him he was not at home; but soon after his return and after I had congratulated him he told me that he had just come from seeing Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose, and that he had advised him to stand as a candidate for the representative of the Bengal Legislative Council as Boards of the Presidency Division, but he found him hesitating. He further told me that Mr. Bose would require my services very much, and that I should at once call on him and induce him to stand. On my explaining to him my difficulties about moving in a matter which might be prejudicial to the interests should always be subordinated to public duties. I at once felt the force of this argument, and readily consented to work for Mr. Bose. He gave several reasons both to Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose and to myself why Mr. Lal Mohan Ghose should not be returned as their representative. What those reasons were, I should not be justified to mention here, but I would remind Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee that a sudden jump from an accuser, and an accuser of a very serious kind,—to a staunch supporter is rather a very long and risky leap, and is likely to bring the elective system into contempt. If he has subsequently found any reason to change his opinion, was he not in honour bound to communicate the fact to Mr. Bose and to myself, whom he had induced to go to Mr. Bose, and to urge him to stand as a candidate? It is a very painful duty for me to write in this strain about Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, but when obligations of honour are in this way cast away, the very foundation upon which public life rests is undermined, and it is in the performance of a public duty that I am obliged, to use the language of my preceptor, to ignore private considerations. DWARKA NATH GANGULI. Calcutta, the 27th April, 1893.

It is notified that the Secretary of State for India has accorded sanction to the construction of a light railway, on the 2 feet 6-inches gauge from Nowshera to Darghai, a distance of 3970 miles. THE *Charvi Mihar* of Maimansing says that Mr. Roe, District Magistrate, has expressed regret for having issued a notice to the editor of the paper, threatening him with prosecution. The official, however, denies that he ever threatened the manager, who went to see him, with the horrors of the jail. THE Committee of the Viceroy's Council will meet in Simla about the middle of the month to dispose of any outstanding individual cases that may be still pending in connection with the grant of exchange compensation allowance. A LETTER has been addressed to the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University expressing regret at the proposed conferment of an honorary degree upon Mr. Cecil Rhodes. The signatories recognised that as the offer of the degree was made to Mr. Rhodes in 1892, it could not now be withdrawn; but they asked for the publication of the letter of protest in the official organ of the University. The letter was signed by 94 members of the University, including the Master of Balliol. The Vice-Chancellor has replied that as the letter is not an official document he cannot authorise its publication in the *Gazette*.



Telegrams.

(INDIAN TELEGRAMS.)

THE ADVOCATE GENERALSHIP OF BENGAL.

Mr. Woodroffe, Advocate-General, Bengal, takes a few months' leave shortly. Mr. O'Keefe acts for him during his absence.

DURBHANGA RAJ AFFAIRS.

We hear that His Highness the Maharaja Bahadur of Durbhanga has acceded to the representation made by the ryots of the Gondwara Concern praying for the non-renewal of the lease of the factory. Mr. Meyer has been appointed Assistant Manager, with instructions to take over charge at once.

THE CURRENCY COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

Section six of the currency report, dealing with convertibility, says that existing conditions prevent limiting the amount for which rupees should be a legal tender, for some time to come. The Indian Government should not be legally bound to part with gold in exchange for rupees, but should make gold available for foreign remittances whenever exchange falls below specie point.

A SENSATIONAL RUMOUR REGARDING THE "GURAKHI" CASE.

A rumour is prevailing that jury's verdict in the "Gurakhi" case was wrongly declared. The verdict really was unanimous, acquittal for the first, acquittal by six against three for the second and by five against four for the third.

THE STANDARD DEFAMATION CASE.

In the defamation case against the Madras Standard, the accused has been fined Rs. 500 or in default to undergo three months' imprisonment. The fine has been paid.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

Mr. Balfour, in the House of Commons this evening, said that no contingency had yet arisen necessitating a material increase of the forces in South Africa, but it was necessary, under existing circumstances, to bring the force to a proper standard of efficiency and mobility.

The Transvaal Volksraad has adopted a reform, conferring the franchise forthwith on all Uitlanders who have been resident in the country for nine years, and on all future newcomers after seven years' residence.

Plague returns at Mauritius show forty-three cases and thirty-five deaths since the 25th June.

Mr. Brodrick, replying to a question by Lord Charles Beresford in the House of Commons, said that British subjects were liable to serve in the militia in the Dutch Indies.

The Transvaal Volksraad has appointed a committee to draft a law embodying the reforms recently adopted by the Raad. The London press is reserved and is waiting to know the real effects of the new law, and whether it immediately secures adequate representation for the Uitlanders.

The French press regard the Emperor William's visit to the French warship Iphigenie as the possible beginning of a change of policy which both England and Russia should note.

The Indian Currency Committee's report recommends a gold standard with the sovereign as legal tender and fixing the rupee at sixteen pence.

The Currency report is divided into eight sections. The first section recounts the history of the monetary system of India.

Section two discusses the silver standard and says the reopening of mints would be so fully and immediately discounted as to defeat the objects of such a course. Discussing the fears of the Indian tea industry being threatened by China producing on a silver basis, the Committee considers that the permanent interests of the industry would be promoted if worked under the same standard of value as the countries to which they export produce.

gold standard, and says it is impossible to maintain the status quo permanently, though it might prove adequate to create a margin of gold sufficient to tide India over adverse years. It advises that steps be taken to avoid all possibility of doubt as to the determination not to revert to a silver standard, and to proceed with measures for the effective establishment of a gold standard.

The fourth section says the committee as unable to recommend the proposals of the Indian Government as embodied in its despatch of the 3rd of March, 1898.

The fifth section deals with schemes for establishing a gold standard without a gold currency. The committee considers that the native habit of hoarding gold does not justify the permanent refusal to allow India a gold currency, and favours making the British sovereign a legal tender of current coin. It considers that the Indian mints should coin gold unrestrictedly on the same terms as the Australian mints.

Section six of the currency report, dealing with convertibility, says that existing conditions prevent limiting the amount for which rupees should be a legal tender, for some time to come. The Indian Government should not be legally bound to part with gold in exchange for rupees, but should make gold available for foreign remittances whenever exchange falls below specie point.

Section seven recommends a legal sterling rate of sixteen pence for the rupee. This recommendation is not made unanimously, but by a majority of the committee, who point out that this is now the normal rate to which prices may be assumed to have adjusted themselves.

Section eight says the effective establishment of a gold standard is of paramount importance to the material interests of India, not only to promote existing trade but to encourage the influx of capital. For the speedy attainment of this object it is eminent desirable that the Government of India should husband its resources and exercise a resolute economy to restrict the growth of its gold obligations.

In an appendix to the report Mr. J. A. Campbell and Sir John Muir favour fifteen pence for the rupee. Mr. Holland favours awaiting further experience before fixing the rate. Mr. Hambro recommends the creation of a Bank on the lines of the Bank of England. Messrs. Campbell and Holland and Sir J. Muir oppose sterling borrowing for the establishment or maintenance of a gold standard.

Mr. Brodrick, in the House of Commons today, stated that owing to illness, Mr. Barkley, Commissioner for Uganda, had resigned. The moment was opportune to send a special Commissioner to report on what posts it was desirable to establish, especially in view of Major Martyr's advance to the Nile, and Sir Harry Johnston would be appointed with full powers.

The death is announced of the Tsarevitch.

The Council of the Uitlanders at Johannesburg declares that the franchise concessions proposed by the Raad are derisive, and strongly condemns Mr. Schreiner, the Cape Premier, for expressing his approval of the Boer proposals.

The Queensland Government has offered to furnish 250 Mounted Infantry and a machine gun in the event of hostilities.

Mahmond Sami, one of the Egyptian prisoners in Ceylon, has been pardoned and returns to Egypt.

The Kamrup Division of Assam, which was formed after the earthquake, is now to be abolished, and again form part of the Khasia and Jaintia Hills Division. Mr. H. G. Billings who holds charge of it, returns to Burma.

The services of Mr. R. McIntosh, Deputy Conservator of Forests in the Madras Presidency, have been temporarily placed at the disposal of the Government of India for employment as Instructor, Imperial Forest school, Dehra Dun.

The Lieutenant-Governor of the N.W.P. has ordered a complete enumeration of the agricultural livestock throughout these provinces between August 16th and 20th. Great care is to be taken to prevent incorrect information being given to enumerators.

The earnings of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway having been seriously curtailed during last half-year owing to the block of traffic at Howrah, the Government of India have directed the East Indian Railway to pay the line upwards of a lakh of rupees as damages.

Mr. W. H. REYNOLDS, Superintendent of the Forest Surveys, has been granted one year's extension of service, and the proposed amalgamation of the Forest Surveys with the Survey Department stands over till September, 1900.

The N.W. P. Lieutenant-Governor has ordered a complete enumeration of the agricultural livestock throughout the N.W. P. provinces between August 16th and 20th. Great care is to be taken to prevent incorrect information being given to the enumerators.

The cause list of appeals before the judicial Committee of the Privy Council for the summer session is an unusually heavy one. There are no less than 17 Indian cases, viz., five from Bengal, three each from the North West Provinces, Madras and Oudh, and one each from the Central Provinces, Bombay and two patent cases. The Bengal appeals are those of Maharani Beni Parshad Koeri, appellants, vs. Duth Nath Roy and others, respondents; Mustabshara Begum, appellants, vs. Mehdi Hossain Khan, respondent and Uddi, Narain Singh and others, appellants, vs. Golab Chand Sahu and others, respondents for hearing; and for judgment the appeals of Rameshwar Koer and another, vs. Bharet Pershad Sahi, heard in April, and of Rani Mon Mohini Debi and others vs. R. Watson and Co., Ltd., heard in May last. Their Lordships will also deliver a written judgment on the application of Rajendra Nath Mookerjee for reinstatement on the rolls of Vakils of the Allahabad High Court.

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, JUNE 23.

OUTRAGES BY BRITISH SOLDIERS ON INDIANS.

ON Friday last Mr. Herbert Roberts interpellated the Secretary of State for India on two serious outrages on Indians by British soldiers. He commenced by asking the Secretary of State for India, whether there were any new developments in connexion with the inquiry into the outrage committed on a Burmese woman by men of the West Kent Regiment at Rangoon, on April 2.

Lord G. Hamilton replied:—I answered a question on this subject on Monday, and I stated then that every means at the disposal of the authorities, military and civil, would be used to bring to justice the perpetrators of this disgraceful outrage.

Then Mr. Davitt, who is sustaining Mr. Roberts in his demands for enquiry and justice in these constantly recurring military outrages, asked whether the regiment will be allowed to remain at Rangoon after such a cowardly outrage.

Lord George Hamilton replied:—That question is hardly germane to the question on the paper. A Court of Inquiry is now investigating the facts; and, until its report has been received, it is impossible to say what action should be taken; but the occurrence does not reflect well on the state of discipline in the regiment.

I should have thought Mr. Davitt's question singularly germane. When a horrible and revolting offence has been committed by a score of men in a given regiment; when it is certain that the guilty miscreants are known to most of their fellow-soldiers, and yet none of these will come forward as witnesses, making themselves thereby as guilty as the actual perpetrators; when the officers of the regiment have so little influence over their men that they cannot induce evidence, I should say that Mr. Davitt might have gone further, and asked whether or no the regiment ought not to be disbanded.

Mr. Dillon then pressed for further information and elicited from the Secretary of State that one man has already been tried, and has been acquitted, the Judge concurring in the acquittal. A Court of Inquiry was directed to be instituted by the Government of India in order to ascertain, if possible, the culprits, who have hitherto escaped detection.

Mr. MacNeill then asked:—Is it a fact that the unfortunate woman is now dead?

Lord George Hamilton replied:—I do not know. "I do not know," is a favourite reply of the worthy Lord George Hamilton. In this case it produced an audible murmur in the House to the effect, that with notice of the question, and the universal comments of the press upon this disgraceful incident the least he could have done was to get up the bare facts.

Mr. Herbert Roberts then put another question which he had down on the order of the day. Whether Lord George's attention had been drawn to the shooting case in which four Privates of the Connaught Rangers came into collision with some natives near Meerut in December last, and which had aroused considerable interest in India; and whether, in view of the frequent occurrence of such conflicts in India, due to the practice of British soldiers carrying firearms whilst on duty, he would consider whether more stringent regulations were required in the interests of the public peace.

Lord G. Hamilton replied: I have seen with much regret a newspaper report of the occurrence referred to, and have observed that it was found by the High Court of the North-Western Provinces that the soldiers acted in self-defence. As regards the second part of the question, the Government of India were consulted by me last year, and were of opinion that there was no ground for special measures. In this opinion I concur. The regulations for the grant to soldiers of shooting passes, which were revised in 1892 and 1895, are already very stringent. The hon. member is mistaken in supposing that cases of collision between British soldiers and natives are of frequent occurrence.

Nothing can be more absurd than this frivolous plea of "self-defence" so constantly urged by Lord George with reference to these frequent scourgings between soldiers and villagers. No one who knows anything of the Indian villager will believe that they are likely to attack armed British soldiers except under the direst provocation. This was the preposterous defence which was successful in getting the acquittal in the Guntakal case, one of the most cold-blooded and deliberate murders on record, and is absolutely unworthy of the dignity of the Indian Government. Your newspaper circulates from end to end of India. I should like to see the last statement of Lord George Hamilton taken up and exposed. Nothing would help Mr. Roberts more in his gallant efforts to abate these grave scandals, than full and constant information with regard to outrages on natives by soldiers, not one-tenth of which ever find their way into the newspapers of India. A constant dribble of questions in Parliament, exposing to the people of Britain every such outrage, great and small, would soon make a change. Such outrages never happen in this country, and there is absolutely no reason whatever why such abominations should exist in India. Can it be mainly due to the almost certain immunity of the offenders? It is of paramount importance that somebody should be hung for the barbarous murder of this Burman woman.

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. A VERY interesting series of by-elections are in progress just now, and, singularly enough, two vacancies for Divisions of Edinburgh were caused in a single week by the sudden and unexpected deaths of the sitting members Mr. Robert Cox and Mr. Wallace. The polling took place on Monday for the South Division of Edinburgh. At the General Election Mr. Cox, the Tory candidate, displaced Mr. H. W. Paul, an old friend of Liberal India, by a majority of 97. Mr. Paul is now avenged in the victory of the Liberal candidate, Mr. Dewar by a thumping majority of 831, reducing the Government majority in the Commons by 2 votes. The poll will be taken on Friday in the East Division, which was won by Mr. Wallace, by a majority of 450. It is expected that this majority will be at least doubled.

There is also a vacancy by death at Oldham, the most important seat in the great county of Lancashire.

The impression is general in political circles that a General Election would, at the present time, be absolutely fatal to the present Government. Their vacillation in Foreign politics, especially in China; the strained situation in the Cape, which is paralysing trade with one of our most important colonies; the failure of their domestic programme, as shown by the worry and litigation of their chief Act (the Compensation for Workmen Act) and the breakdown of their pledges on old age pensions; the barefaced way in which they have given money bribes to their special supporters, the Squire and the parson; and the general incompetence of their administration has worn out the patience of the electors. By-election after by-election has gone against them, and it will be so continuously till their discomfiture and rout at that final appeal to the country which cannot long be postponed. Any one who moves about among the electorate at a by-election will also find that on the top of these causes of disintegration, is a deep-rooted feeling of disgust with their Indian administration. The electorate are fairly familiar with the main facts of their disgraceful Poona policy, and just now the failure to punish the miscreants of the West Kent Regiment at Rangoon, to which Mr. Herbert Roberts has given such wide publicity by questions in the House, is having its effect. No one in Conservative circles appears to doubt for a moment that the disaster of South Edinburgh will be repeated in the East Division on Friday and at Oldham a few days later.

I had a long conversation with a very influential member of the Government on Monday. He admitted that they were played out, that their differing factions in the Cabinet could agree on no decent constructive Legislation, and, as he tersely put it, there was nothing left for them to do but "draw their salaries and wait patiently for an opportunity to dissolve Parliament."

In the mean time, they have fatuously re-organised and reunited the Opposition Leaders by introducing another Bill, giving a bribe to the parish clergy of the Church of England, by relieving them of payment of rates upon their income derived from their tithes. This Bill was not mentioned in the Queen's Speech, and comes as a bolt out of the blue. Nothing has so injured the reputation of the Government as their Act relieving landed proprietors from payment of rates by a "grant-in-aid," and now to secure the good will and help at the General Election of that most influential canvasser, the village priest, they are adding to their unpopularity with the very voter the parish priest is expected to influence. The Government is weighed in the balance and found wanting! It is only a question of time for the fate of all coalitions to happen to them, a dishonoured grave without a mourner.

MR. ERSKINE, Superintendent of the Sind Topographical Survey, is granted three months' privilege leave.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL Wahab, R. E., Superintendent, Beluchistan Survey Party, goes shortly on three months' privilege leave.

MR. TROTTER, Deputy Examiner of Military Work-Accounts, shortly goes in three months' privilege leave; Mr. S. C. Tomkins, Deputy Examiner officiates.

The Exchange Banks in London announce that no commission will be charged in future when the payment for documents or sterling bills sent to India is made in drafts of other Banks.

THE "Madras Mail" understands that Dewan Bahadur Srinivasa Raghara Iyengar is likely to return to Baroda at once on the invitation of H. H. the Gaekwar, who requires his further services as Dewan of the State.

MADRAS Act No. IV, of 1899, being an Act to amend the Court of Wards Regulation V. of 1804, received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 22nd June 1899 and that of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General on the 3rd July 1899.

TUESDAY last was a red-letter day in the annals of the prosperous little State of Akalkote, when the inhabitants of the towns turned out in large numbers to witness the opening ceremony of the new water works, performed by the Collector of Sholapore, who is the Political Agent of the State.

The latest rain report shows moderately heavy rain over Bengal and the North West Provinces and light to moderate rain over Burma. Conditions are favourable for general rain over the whole of Northern India and the Central Provinces. It is interesting to note that out of 146 reporting stations 84 report less than normal falls of rain, the deficiency being about 250 inches; on the other hand 62 stations report falls over the normal, and have collectively received 290 inches over the average.

THE Khoja assault cases, which were fixed for hearing on Saturday at the City Magistrate's Court, Karachi, were withdrawn at the instance of Shariffji Gangji, who arrived from Bombay on Friday to effect a settlement between the two factions of the community. The consideration of the notice in which the City Magistrate called upon the eleven chief members of the Khoja community to furnish a security of Rs. 1,000 each to keep the peace in the community stands adjourned till the 24th instant. Shariffji informed the Magistrate that he would endeavour to effect a settlement of the matters in dispute regarding *nambar* and *nishan*, and if he did not succeed in doing so, some more of his co-religionists would be summoned from Bombay for that purpose.

THE Agra Municipality has failed in its endeavour to get a suitable man for the dual post of Engineer and Secretary. There were 60 applicants, but none of them possessed the qualifications required. The latest idea is to get the desideratum from England. These fads are entirely due to the Chairman, who does not voice Municipal or public opinion.—"Indian Engineering."

IT IS PERFECTLY RELIABLE.

"We have sold many different cough remedies, but none has given better satisfaction than Chamberlain's," says Mr. Charles Holzhauser, Druggist, Newark, N. J. "It is perfectly safe and can be relied upon in all cases of coughs, colds or hoarseness. Sold by SMITH STANISTREET & CO and B. K. PAUL & CO

THE *barsat* is in its glory at Kulu. Good rain has fallen at Amritsar recently.

THE Vienna Academy of Science has decided to send a party of astronomers to Delhi to photograph the Leonides at two places several miles apart.

THE private lessees of forests in Kashmir, who deal chiefly in railway sleepers, are agitating against the unfair competition of the Forest Department, who are rivals in the same market. The rivalry has become so keen, that the latter are soliciting Railway Companies to give preference to departmental timber.

LAHORE were seen embracing one another in the public streets with great enthusiasm when they became aware of the fact that the smart shower of rain on Tuesday morning had thoroughly flushed the drains of the city.

THE Madras High Court opened after the midsummer recess on the 10th inst., the Hon. Mr. Justice Subramania taking his seat as Officiating Chief Justice. The High Court is at present undermanned, two out of six Judges being absent.

THE balances held in cash in the Civil Treasuries of the Government of India and of credit of Government in the Presidency Banks and their branches on the last day of June, 1899, amounted to Rs. 18,22,75,000, against Rs. 15,18,84,000 in 1898.

A CASE is now pending in the Court of Captain Campbell, Cantonment Magistrate of Allahabad in which Honorary Captain Eates, Senior Assistant Surgeon and Mrs. Eates stand charged with having received stolen property.

THERE will be three vacancies for Indian members on the Supreme Council before December. The Hon. Mr. Annada Charlu vacates this month, the Hon. Rai Pundit Surajkaul Bahadur, in October, and the Hon. Mr. Chitnavis in December.

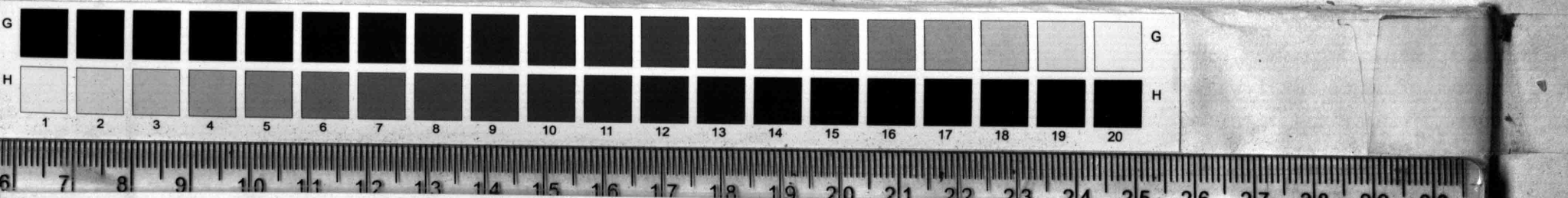
A HALIFAX (Nova Scotia) correspondent of the *Daily Mail* states that Dr. J. G. Bennet of that city claims to have discovered a "complete antidote" for all forms of malaria, and in communication with Mr. Chamberlain with a view to its trial in Africa. The doctor is said to have so much confidence in his discovery that he "offers to pay the whole cost of the trial."

QUANTITY of rice, husked and unhusked, exported by sea from India and British Burma to foreign countries during five years past has been (in cwt.) In 1893-94—total, cwt. 24,647,907; in 1894-95—cwt. 34,31,591; in 1895-96—cwt. 35,151,786; in 1896-97—cwt. 28,274,337; in 1897-98—cwt. 26,746,661; in 1898-99—(nine months) cwt. 23,436,407. In those figures unhusked rice (paddy) represents on an average, eighteen per cent. or 26,528 tons, and exports are mostly from Burma and Madras to Ceylon. Surplus rice available for export from Burma this year is estimated at 1,476,000 tons of cargo rice, against 1,931,000 tons in 1897-98, and an average of 1,480,000 tons for preceding five years. To Madras, exportable surplus of cleaned rice is not expected to be much in excess of the normal.

THE Madras Mail has published a memorandum of telegrams said to have been sent by the Shannar inhabitants of Sivakasi to the superior authorities praying for the protection of person and property before the sack of Sivakasi on the 6th of June. Six telegrams were sent on the 2nd of May, namely, three to the Deputy Magistrate, one each to the Governor, District Collector, and District Superintendent of Police. The three last cost Rs. 17 each. Eight other telegrams were sent during May, including four to the Collector, one costing Rs. 23 and annas 11. Three telegrams were despatched on the 5th of June, the day before the outbreak, one to the Collector, one to the Superintendent of Police, and one to the Deputy Magistrate. From the list it appears that the Shannars spent close on Rs. 160 in warning telegrams alone.

MR. A. FAIRLIE BRUCE writes to the *Times of India*:—I do not know whether it is as widely known as it should be that there are gangs of London thieves who make it a speciality to prey on the wives and families of men in the service of Government or otherwise employed in India. They appear to have confederates in this country, who collect the most minute biographical details for them, of the men whose wives they wish to victimise. One of the home members of the firm then calls on various excuses on the ladies singled out, professing to have known their husbands well in India, and proving their professed intimacy by mentioning numerous facts which no one not in a position of friendly intimacy was likely to have known. It is obvious how easily unsuspecting woman may be taken in in this way and robbed to a greater or less degree.

A CONJEEVERAM correspondent writes to the Hindu under date the 5th inst.:—Yesterday at about 6 P. M., a severe storm accompanied by rain, lasting for a few moments passed through Conjeeveram and the tiled roof of the local Municipal Market came down along with the granite stone pillars that supported it, maiming several and killing a large number of the inmates mostly vendors of vegetables. As usual the market was in the evening, attended by a large concourse of people and added to this, several passers-by seem to have taken shelter there against the rain. It is not possible just at this moment to give an idea of the exact number of deaths for the process of removing the dense heap of masses is still going on. There is now no knowing how many are to be reckoned among the departed. The scene near the place is most heart-rending. The absence of the belted knights to make confusion worse confounded by attempting to disperse the crowd to save the dead, was a source of immense relief. The absence of any help by the authorities by way of torch light, or even the Municipal lights greatly added to the solace of the crying and anxious crowd, for the evil hour, of identifying their kith and kin among the dead bodies was thus postponed. The whole building consisted of a platform raised to a yard's height with a heavy tiled roof above, supported by granite stone pillars which were made to stand on the raised masonry work. No wall having been constructed to support the superstructure, the building was wide open for immense quantity of air to test the strength of the roof. The moment it was shaken by the stormy wind, the stone pillars which had no substantial support either way became loose and lo! the roofing and the pillars kissed the earth, doing great havoc!



CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The following correspondence has passed between the Governments of India and Bengal regarding the Calcutta Municipal Bill:—

No. 180T, dated Calcutta, the 4th May 1899.
From—The Asst. Secy. to the Government of Bengal, Legislative Department.
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Legislative Department.

I am directed to submit, in pursuance of Rules 3 and 7 (4) of the revised instruction regarding legislation in Local Councils, a copy of the Calcutta Municipal Bill as amended by the Select Committee, together with a copy of the Report of the Committee, and to request that the sanction of the Government of India may be accorded to the penal clauses of the Bill, namely, sections 602 to 609. These sections have been modified by the Select Committee, and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to accept them as they stand in the amended Bill.

No. 93, dated Simla, the 17th June 1899.
From—A. H. L. Fraser, Esq., C. S. I. Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India, Home Department.
To—The Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Legislative Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 180T, dated the 4th ultimo, submitting a copy of the Calcutta Municipal Bill as amended by the Select Committee with a copy of the Committee's report. These papers have been carefully considered by His Excellency in Council, and I am to communicate the following remarks and proposals.

2. The late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, set forth the grounds for the introduction of this Bill in Mr. Risley's letter No. 383 T. M., dated the 17th June 1897. He drew attention to certain matters in respect of which the existing system of municipal government in Calcutta had failed, and to certain flagrant abuses which had grown up under it. The principal grounds for the introduction of the present Bill, as summarized by him, were as follows:—

- (1) the complete failure of the elective system to secure adequate representation even of the different interests existing in the native city;
- (2) the practical exclusion of European men of business from all share in the municipal government of Calcutta;
- (3) the growth of party-spirit and the appearance among the elected Commissioners of a class of professional and in some cases corrupt politicians;
- (4) the abuse of the Committee system, which paralyzed the executive officers and demoralized the subordinate staff; and
- (5) the consequent break-down of the conservancy and water supply of the town and of every department of municipal administration.

3. The Government of India fully accepted the necessity for the remedy of these abuses; and they assented generally to the principle of the proposed legislation, while in respect of details they relied at that early stage upon the high authority of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. In submitting the Bill to the Secretary of State (Despatch No. 1, dated the 6th January 1898), the Government of India said:—"We desire to give our fullest support to the Lieutenant-Governor in his endeavour to improve the system of municipal government and to remove the sanitary defects of Calcutta, and we approve of the introduction in the Legislative Council of Bengal of a Bill based on the general lines of the Bill under consideration. But we have refrained for the present from any general discussion of the details of the Bill; and we think that the responsibility for them should rest with Sir Alexander Mackenzie." It may be noted also that in this Despatch the Government of India, even at that early stage indicated a preference as regards the constitution of the General Committee, for the model of the Bombay City Municipal Act. It was only in deference to Sir Alexander Mackenzie's strongly expressed objections that they did not at that time persist in their views in this respect.

4. The Secretary of State (in His Lordship's Despatch No. 25, dated the 10th February 1898), after summarizing the views of the Bengal Government and of the Government of India communicated in very cautious language his acceptance, not of the Bill itself, but of the principle that the executive should be strengthened, and that the bodies representing the trade of Calcutta should have a voice on the General Committee. He added that he would watch with interest the discussion of the proposed Bill in the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor.

5. In these circumstances the Bill was introduced into the Local Council on the 19th March 1898; and it was referred to a Select Committee on the 4th April 1898. Meanwhile Sir Alexander Mackenzie resigned the office of Lieutenant-Governor; and Sir John Woodburn succeeded him on the 7th April 1898, in opening the winter session of the Local Council on the 12th November 1898. His Honour made a statement upon the course of business. He dwelt especially on this Bill, the consideration of which by the Select Committee was to be the main work of the session. He accepted fully the proposals of his predecessors. He specially quoted with approval the opinion of Sir Henry Harrison, a distinguished Chairman of the Corporation, that "under its present constitution, there is a lack of motive power. The energies of the municipal government expend themselves in criticism and not in action; and His Honour added, "in the administration of a great city there must be provision for prompt, steady and efficacious action; and there is no room for doubt that reform of some sort is needed."

6. The Select Committee began their sittings on the same date, the 12th November 1898, and have met forty times, discussing the Bill, section by section, and devoting to it what appears to have been a very patient and thorough examination. They have carefully considered the Bill itself, the voluminous criticisms referred to in the first paragraph of their report, and the views of the Calcutta Building Commission. They have recognized the limitations imposed by the reference from the Local Council under which they were acting; but they have proposed a large number of alterations, some of which are of considerable importance. And now the amended Bill with their report is submitted for the renewed consideration of the Government of India.

7. The Government of India cannot fail to realize that they have a special responsibility in this case. It would be strange, indeed, if they did not feel a peculiar interest in a measure

affecting the municipal constitution of a city, which is not merely the capital of the Province of Bengal, but also the seat of the Imperial Government and the capital of the Indian Empire. They are deeply persuaded of the importance of a local administration, which shall adequately represent the various great interests that have placed, and still keep, Calcutta in its premier position in India, and which shall be businesslike, efficient and free from scandal or reproach. At the same time it would be their natural desire, in the interests both of continuity of administration and of public harmony, to see these objects attained, not by any contravention of the broad principles of Local Self-Government already conceded, but by a curtailment of the abuses to which in practice they may have become exposed; and by a restriction within limits suggested by experience, of the range of their future operation. In these opinions the Government of India are convinced that they have the sympathy of the Lieutenant-Governor.

8. In the course of the passage of the Bill through its various stages, much criticism has been bestowed upon it from many quarters; and, while a good deal of this criticism has been of only ephemeral value and has rested upon no solid foundation, the Government of India have been led, after a careful and independent investigation, to think that there are features in Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Bill, which are not in entire accordance with the principles just laid down, and which might not in practice ensure that amicable and patriotic co-operation of all parties in the future municipal government of the city, which is essential to its efficient administration.

9. The first of these points is the want of correspondence, in constituent proportions, between the Corporation, which is still left under the Bill with its original numbers (75) and constituent elements (50 elected by wards, 10 elected by bodies representing trade, and 15 appointed by the Government) and the new General Committee of 12 members, to be constituted in the opposite proportions of 8 from the 25 members representing trade or appointed by the Government and 4 from the 50 ward members. This proposal, however, fairly it may be held to give representation on the General Committee to the leading interests in the city, and however well it may have been expected by Sir Alexander Mackenzie to work in practice, is undoubtedly illogical, inasmuch as it introduces a wholly different basis of representation in the small executive body from that upon which the larger administrative body is constituted. Moreover, it has been anticipated that this lack of proportion, and the divergent interests which it may be expected to some extent to create, will be liable to produce friction between the two bodies, upon whose harmonious co-operation the future government of Calcutta must so largely depend. To the success of any scheme of municipal reform the absence of such a spirit of concord would unquestionably be detrimental, if, indeed, it did not in the long run prove to be disastrous.

10. Such were the opinions which the Government of India had been led to form by the attitude of public opinion towards the Bill, and by a careful study of the Bill itself at the time when the Select Committee began their labours. It has now emerged from the Select Committee; and the Government of India are called upon to consider the Bill in its amended shape.

11. In some respects the Bill is now a stronger and a better Bill than when it was introduced into the Local Council. Passing over minor details, in respect of which there has been improvement, there have been inserted, for example, sections 26-D, 26-E, 26-F in place of sections 22 and 63 of the Bill as introduced. These modifications follow the English law, and the powers of inspection and of prompt and effective intervention thus bestowed will enable the Local Government to exercise much efficient control. And though an appeal will still lie to the Government of India, the provision for the suspension of action pending appeal has been very properly abandoned. Another instance of the improvement of the Bill in important respects is the action taken in the Select Committee to reduce the burden of work and responsibility laid upon the General Committee by the Bill as originally introduced.

12. On the other hand, the fears entertained by the Government of India as regards the institution of co-ordinate authorities and as to the possibility of friction resulting therefrom have been confirmed by changes which have been made in the Bill in the Select Committee, and by the opinions recorded by the Honourable Messrs. Narendra Nath Sen and Surendra Nath Banerjee in their Minute of Dissent. The powers of the Corporation over its officers and over the work of the General Committee have been very considerably increased by the provisions of sections 28-J, 57 and 66 regarding the appointment and leave of the officers, and by the provisions of sections 79, 95 and 126 regarding contracts, control and finance, as well as by several other provisions of perhaps minor importance. At the same time an unequivocal declaration has been made in an unequivocal manner by the two members of the Local Council, who represent the opinion of the majority of the Corporation as constituted by the present Bill, that "an emasculated Corporation, must view in possession of supreme power, must view with uneasiness, if not with positive jealousy, the creation of authorities rendered independent of it, but now the bulk of their powers and functions. The Government of India are not without alarm that the want of homogeneity, already complained of, may, if uncorrected, prejudicially affect the future success of the measure.

13. In these circumstances, the Government of India have carefully considered whether the Bill should receive their sanction in its present form, or whether it is susceptible (without any such radical reconstruction as would produce general irritation and throw away the labours of the past year) of modifications either of principle or form which would meet the objections previously stated, and lesson, if not altogether remove, the possibilities of future friction. The Government of India have been struck in their examination of the grounds advanced both by Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Sir John Woodburn for the measure, by the allegation that the existing Corporation has devoted itself to speech and to criticism rather than to action. This charge, while doubtless to some extent due to the temper and spirit in which it has approached its work, is in the main to be attributed to the consideration, and, as it would seem excessive, mem-

bers of the municipal body. Their numerical strength, when viewed in regard either to the number of electors by whom the majority are returned, or to the experience of municipal institutions elsewhere, seems to be disproportionately and unnecessarily large. There can be no reason why a number of voters returned as only 13,890 out of a total ward population estimated at about 650,000, or a proportion of little more than 2 per cent should return as many as 50 members; or why the interests of a city even of over 681,000 inhabitants should require the services of 75 Commissioners for their proper protection. The Government of India are disposed, therefore, to think that a most effective, though hitherto unsuspected, check upon the abuses and anomalies complained of might be found in a reduction of the numerical strength of the Corporation.

14. Such a reduction might further enable the Government of Bengal to secure that more just and adequate representation of the various interests that compose the corporate life and wealth of Calcutta, which has been the avowed object of the promoters, and supporters of the existing Bill without presenting the illogicality on form, or producing the possible friction, associated with the measure now under discussion. It should be found, if possible, in a plan which would recognize, and constitute in some sort, an equality of balance between the two main interests and classes in the population of the city, viz., the European interest, largely preponderating in wealth and influence, and the Native interest, largely preponderating in numbers.

15. It will be remembered that already, at a very early stage in the history of this Bill, the Government of India had indicated a partiality for the Bombay model, as regards the constitution of the (General Committee and the numerical ratio existing between its constituent elements and those of the main body of the Corporation. Their attention has been recalled to this suggestion by a remarkable paragraph in the able Note of Dissent recorded by the two native members of the Select Committee who have most distinguished themselves by their frank and intelligent criticisms of the present Bill. It will be found that they there (paragraph 24 of their Note) throw out the following noteworthy suggestion:—

The constitutional part of the Bill, as we have already remarked, is largely modelled on the Bombay Act of 1888. But the fact is lost sight of, that while the Bombay Act is the natural outgrowth of the systems of municipal administration, previously in force in Bombay, the principles of that Act are entirely foreign to the spirit which has characterized the municipal legislation of Calcutta, since 1863. Besides, the present Bill only partially borrows from the Bombay Act, incorporating some of its objectionable provisions, while all those which tend to popularize that system have been altogether left out. In the course of this Note we have pointed out, how in certain important respects the provisions of the Bill differ from those of the Bombay Act, and we now propose to draw attention to some of the most prominent features of the Bombay Act which find no place in the present Bill. In Bombay the Corporation is the superior administrative body. It chooses its own President, who is the chief spokesman of the Municipality. The Standing Committee, corresponding to the General Committee under the Bill, is really a Committee of the Corporation, and not so merely in name, fully two-thirds of its members being elected by the Corporation. There is thus a solidarity of feeling among the majority of the members of the Standing Committee, who owe their position, and are responsible to one central authority, whose policy they are obliged to carry out with the utmost loyalty. The Standing Committee too elects its own Chairman and the Municipal Commissioner, the Chief Executive Officer, is not even a member of either the Corporation or the Standing Committee. The Municipal Commissioner performs all executive work and carries out all orders of the superior administrative body. It is true he is appointed by the Government, but the appointment is for a renewable period of three years, and his salary cannot be increased beyond Rs. 2,500 a month except with the approval of the Corporation. Can any one say that this is the constitution that is proposed for Calcutta under the Bill? We are no advocates of the Bombay system; but if it is at all to be given a trial in Calcutta we are certainly of opinion that it will not do to borrow from it here and there, but that the system should be introduced into Calcutta in its entirety."

16. The Government of India are inclined to think that in this suggestion and in a more close adaptation of the Bombay model, might be found the solution for which they are seeking. I am desired, therefore, to submit, for the consideration of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the following amended plan for the constitution of the reformed Corporation of Calcutta and of its Committees.

17. The Bombay Corporation is composed of two factors equal in numbers, and consisting respectively of members elected by the wards and of members appointed by the Government or elected by representative bodies. These two sections consist of 36 members each, or a total of 72. For the reasons already named, the Government of India are inclined to think that this total, which falls little short required in the latter city in the interests either of adequate representation or of efficiency. They are more disposed to take this view in the case of Calcutta, because any attempt to raise the strength of what may be described as the European element to the existing level of the Native element would not merely greatly augment total numbers, which are already in their opinion excessive, but would give to European interests a share in the numerical strength of the Corporation to which it is believed that they have no desire to lay claim; whilst if the Native proportion in the Corporation were diminished by 14, and the European proportion were increased by 14, so as to follow exactly the Bombay model, it is conceived that while the objection already stated would apply to the increase of the European section, serious exception would also be taken to a reduction of the Native element, which would either involve a radical reconstruction of the wards, or would call into existence an illogical and ill-balanced scheme of representation. I am accordingly suggested that the future Calcutta Corporation should, like that of Bombay, consist of two equal factors, the strength of which should be determined by that of the moiety now returned by what are in the main European interests. In other words it is advised that the Corporation should be composed of 50 members,

being elected as now by the 25 wards into which the city is already divided, and 25 being partially nominated (as now) by the Government and partially elected (as now) by bodies representing commercial interests. The Bombay model would in this way be faithfully reproduced, though with smaller numbers, in equality and balance of interest between the European and the Native elements. And owing to the fact that no re-constitution of the existing wards would be required, and that the European element would continue to be constituted as at present, change could be introduced with the minimum of friction and delay. In speaking, however, of the European element the Government of India must guard themselves against a possible misinterpretation of the phrase. For convenience sake the term may be employed and has been employed by them. But they are well aware that the section of the Corporation in which they are speaking need not necessarily be exclusively European in its composition; since it is to the Bengal Government and to the power of nomination enjoyed by the latter that certain non-European and Native elements of the population of Calcutta must look for representation, on the event of their being unable to secure it under the existing method of election by wards. The Government of Bengal have never failed in this respect to consider the interests of the sections of the population here alluded to; and it is not unlikely that under the amended scheme which is now suggested, their good offices may be called into action in defence of non-European and Native interests, that might otherwise remain unrepresented in the re-modelled Corporation. To this extent must a qualification be admitted in the use of the phrase which has been employed in this paragraph.

18. The Select Committee have already in section 89A followed the Bombay model in giving to the Corporation power to appoint Special Committees to consider matters which are reserved by law for decision by the Corporation, and to delegate such of their duties to such committees. The Bill also provides in section 81 for the appointment of Sub-Committees by the General Committee. But I am desired specially to suggest that that model be more nearly followed in the constitution of the General Committee. They note the special approval with which the Honourable Messrs. Narendra Nath Sen and Surendra Nath Banerjee draw attention to that feature of the Bombay constitution which provides for the formation of what is there known as the Standing Committee. Their words are as follow:—"The Standing Committee, corresponding to the General Committee under the Bill, is really a Committee of the Corporation, and not so merely in name, fully two-thirds of its members being elected by the Corporation. There is thus a feeling of solidarity among the majority of the members of the Standing Committee, who owe their position and are responsible to one central authority, whose policy they are obliged to carry out with the utmost loyalty." The Government of India who see much force in this argument, are disposed to recommend to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor a similar procedure at Calcutta. They think that a General Committee, thoroughly representative both of the principal interests involved and of the larger Corporation, and qualified to discharge the important duties which it is proposed to place upon its shoulders, might be constituted by the nomination, as in Bombay, of one-third of its total number of 12 members by the Government and by the election of the remaining two-thirds by the Corporation itself.

19. The circumstances of Bombay, however, differ materially from those of Calcutta, in one respect, viz., in the numbers and strength of the various communities that compose the total population of the city, and are represented in the Municipal body. The Bengal Government will doubtless, therefore, find it desirable to suggest some plan that will secure to that proportion (two-thirds) of the General Committee which is to be elected by the Corporation a strictly fair and proportionate representation of the constituent elements of the electoral body. Otherwise it might be possible for either party, in the chances of voting, by a bare numerical majority, to swamp the General Committee, and to secure that the entire two-third proportion should be of their own political complexion or class. Such a result would be destructive of that fairer representation of interests which the Government of India, equally with Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Sir John Woodburn, desire to secure. And it would be fatal to the harmonious co-operation of all parties in the future, which they hope by this suggestion to produce.

20. I am also to suggest, that it might be desirable to lay down rules for the appointment of the Special Committees and Sub-Committees which would secure their being truly representative, in respect of their constituent elements, of the Corporation or General Committee appointing them. The provisions regarding the making of rules and bye-laws for the conduct of the business of Special Committees and Sub-Committees under sections 89A and 89B, in connection with sections 595 and 597, might be extended to include their constitution in general agreement with the principles already laid down. It might not be necessary or feasible for all such Special Committees and Sub-Committees to be homogenous in constitution with the body appointing them; but it is clear that in some cases at least such homogeneity alone would secure efficiency and obviate friction.

21. Such are the outlines of the revision of the existing scheme which, in the interests of the future efficient and orderly administration of Calcutta, the Government of India commend to the consideration of the Government of Bengal. No scheme that can be proposed will secure the unstinted approbation of all parties. The Bill already introduced has excited no small share of criticism. Exception can also doubtless be taken to the provisions of the suggested or, indeed of any other possible, modification of that Bill. The Government of India, however, who in a sincere desire to promote harmony equally with good government in the future, entertain the hope that there may henceforward be a truce to such dissension and that the Bill as re-modelled may be accepted by all classes in the spirit in which its modification has been discussed and put forward by them. For the successful municipal administration of a city like Calcutta, composed of such various and important interests, and with fortunes so momentous at stake, are required both a high

standard of public duty on the part of those of its citizens who may be willing to enter its service, and the friendly and disinterested co-operation of every section of the community. Such co-operation the Government of India confidently hope that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor may look forward to receiving. That evils and abuses have grown up in the existing municipal system will not be disputed. That they stand in need of correction cannot be denied. It should be the aim of all parties so to apply or to accept this correction as to purge the reputation of the city, of which they are the guardians, from the least stigma of reproach, and to vindicate the wisdom of the decision that twenty-three years ago first accorded the privileges of Local Self-Government to the capital of the Indian Empire.

No. 276T.—M., dated Darjeeling, the 3rd July 1899.
From—E. W. COLLIN, Esq., Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal, Municipal Dept.
To—The Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department.

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 93, dated the 17th, June 1898, conveying the views of the Government of India on the subject of the Calcutta Municipal Bill.

2. It is pointed out in paragraph 9 of your letter that there is a want of correspondence, in constituent proportions, between the Corporation which is to consist of 75 members, of whom 50 are to be elected by wards and 25 are to be selected by Government and bodies representing commercial interests, and the new General Committee, which is to consist of 12 members to be constituted in the opposite proportion of 8 from the 25 members selected by Government and commercial associations, and 4 from the 50 members elected by the wards. It is anticipated that this lack of proportion, and the divergent interests which it may be expected to create, will be liable to produce friction between the two bodies upon whose harmonious co-operation the future government of Calcutta must depend. It is also observed that the defects of the existing Corporation have been due to a great extent to the fact that the numbers of the Municipal body were excessive. It is therefore proposed to reduce the number of Commissioners, so that the future Calcutta Corporation should, like that of Bombay, consist of two equal factors; and in order to effect this object, it is suggested that the Corporation should be composed of 50 members, 25 being elected by the 25 wards into which the city is at present divided, and 25 being partially (as now) nominated by Government and partially elected by bodies representing commercial interests. With regard to the General Committee it is suggested that the Bombay model should again be followed, with certain reservations necessary on account of the special features of Calcutta, and that two-third of its members should be elected by the Corporation. The object of the reservations suggested above is to secure that the members of the General Committee, who are to be so elected, should constitute a strictly fair and proportionate representation of the constituent elements of the electoral body.

3. The Lieutenant-Governor desires me to acknowledge the courtesy with which the Government of India have discussed the solution which they have presented to his consideration, for the future government of Calcutta. The solution is one which had, of course, been examined by himself in studying the manifold criticisms upon the scheme of the Municipal Bill, and the precedent and authority of the Bombay system assumed, undoubtedly, the greater prominence when the dissenters from the report of the Select Committee had declared their general adherence to it. The Lieutenant-Governor has not therefore been surprised that an adaptation of the Bombay system to the circumstances and conditions of Calcutta is commended to him by the Government of India.

4. With the Government of India, as it has always been with himself, the first consideration is the good government of Calcutta, the prompt and efficient discharge of the multitudinous duties which the administration of so great a city involves. The adaptation of the Bombay system, which the Government of India propose, does not conflict with the arrangements which he considered to be necessary in Calcutta to that end, and he has no objections to offer to the settlement of the issue on the lines they recommend. The reasons which led him personally to prefer the maintenance of the present numbers of the Corporation have been publicly stated and were before the Government of India. They have held that these reasons are outweighed by the danger of friction in a Corporation, where the executive and managing committee is out of harmony with the main body. Sir John Woodburn has never concealed the force of these objections, and he will not press his personal opinion on this point further against the deliberate conclusion of the Government of India.

5. With regard to the suggestions in paragraph 10 of your letter, that provision should be made to secure to the portion of the General Committee, which is to be elected by the Corporation, a proper representation of the constituent elements of the Corporation he recognizes that such provision is necessary. The necessary amendment will accordingly be introduced into the Bill.

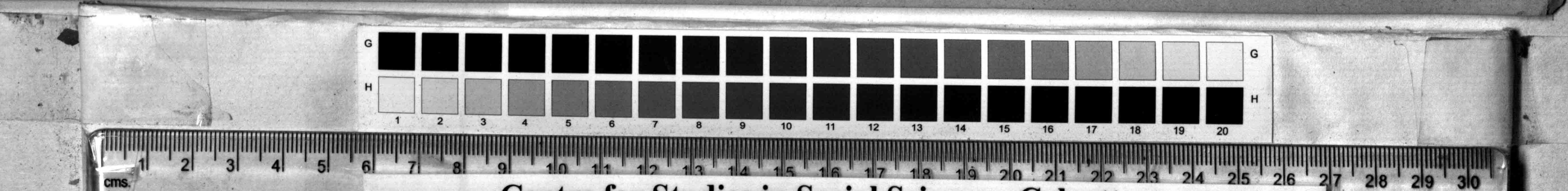
PLAGUE NEWS.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.
AFTER a short spell of inactivity the plague came again in evidence on the 10th instant, when one case and one death were reported in Ward No. 9. The total mortality was 53 as against 47, the mean of the last five years.

IN BOMBAY.
THE plague returns for Monday show 12 attacks and 14 deaths, the total mortality from all causes being 83. Last year it was 78.

POONA MORTALITY.
FORTY-FOUR cases and 28 deaths were recorded in the city on Monday, the total mortality being 39. There were in the Cantonment ten cases and three deaths, and in the district eight cases and five deaths.

THE steamer *Edwin* with the outward mails is expected to arrive at Bombay at 6 A.M., on Friday next.



THE TRANSVAAL.

A MEETING of 4,000 burghers was held on Saturday at Paardekraal. General Joubert in opening the proceedings said they were willing to shed their blood for their country. However, they were not going to make a declaration of war, but would approve for the sake of peace what the President had done at Bloemfontein.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, speaking at a Liberal gathering on Saturday, said he could discern nothing in the Transvaal to justify war-like action or military preparations. The desire of this country was to live harmoniously with the Transvaal, but for the maintenance of this harmony, prudence and delicacy were required in the action we took.

It is stated that the Cape Ministers and African leaders are using their influence with Mr. Kruger with a view to a peaceful solution. They are hopeful of success. Speaking at Croydon Mr. Ritchie expressed the hope that backed as the Government were by public opinion Mr. Kruger would see fit to make proper concessions to the Uitlanders.

At a meeting of burghers at Johannesburg resolutions approving of the President's proposals were passed. One of the speakers, a commander, remarked that, tired of war and agitation, they wanted peace.

One of the alleged Johannesburg conspirators, Christopher Butler, has been discharged. The State Attorney declares the plot was of very much less importance than was supposed. The prisoners will probably be released on bail.

The Transvaal Government, who have decided to increase the representation of the Gold Fields in the Raad, in accordance with Mr. Kruger's promise to Sir A. Milner, are engaged in drafting a reply to Mr. Chamberlain on the Uitlanders' petition.

It is pointed out in reference to the statements relative to the augmentation of the British Forces in South Africa, that only four companies and a few drafts have been despatched, additions which are not in any way due to the present situation. It is understood that in the event of serious operations becoming necessary General Sir Redvers Buller will command the British forces.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE annual conversazione of the Society of Arts took place on June 20 at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. The guests, who numbered about 2,000, were received by Sir John Wolfe-Barry, the chairman, and the members of the council.

THE Berlin correspondent of the Daily Mail reports that a workman named Montag, living at Mannheim, in Baden, has succeeded in manufacturing artificial coal, earth and several mineral residual substances being the components. Trials with small and large quantities of the new fuel made under expert supervision have succeeded admirably. The heat produced was very great, while the ashes remaining per kilogramme (2.205 lb.) of burned fuel weighed only 9 dwts. A company has been formed for the exploitation of this striking discovery, and is at present negotiating for the purchase of an extensive tract of land in the suburbs of Mannheim for the erection of manufacturing works.

THE French naval authorities, acting in conjunction with Signor Marconi, on Saturday, June 17, conducted some successful experiments with wireless telegraphy between a ship and the shore in the English Channel. The French storeship *Vienne* was used for the purpose. One of Signor Marconi's installations was fitted up on board, and the inventor was present on the cruiser to superintend the experiments. Wimereux, near Boulogne and the South Foreland lighthouse, on the Kentish coast, were used as the land stations. The operations were conducted at a greater distance than hitherto. Up to Saturday the distance between the South Foreland and Boulogne, about twenty-eight miles, was the greatest space through which these messages have been transmitted. On Saturday messages were sent between the vessel and the English coast from off Boulogne, and afterwards at intervals, until the vessel was twelve or fourteen miles away from that port. The greatest distance through which the messages were telegraphed was forty-two miles. The increased distance appeared to have no effect, the messages being recorded at the receiving station at the South Foreland with unvarying distinctness. The experiments began at 8 A. M. and were continued throughout the day. In the afternoon the Channel was enveloped in a dense fog, but this did not in any way interfere with the transmission of the messages. The vessel was fitted with a wire passing up the masthead, and messages were exchanged while the vessel was travelling at various conditions of speed with the same result. An interesting feature in the experiments was the facility with which Signor Marconi's latest development for cutting out a station was applied. The messages were sent at will either to Wimereux or to the South Foreland, without the other station being able to intercept them. The results of the experiments are to be reported to the French Government.

OWING doubtless to heavy floods, all the wires connected with Burma, except one, have been interrupted.

THE SEDITION TRIAL.

THE great obstacle in the way of Indian legislation lies in the fact that the legislator has to deal not with one community bound together by common ties of blood and religion, but with a heterogeneous mass of communities widely differing with respect to race, social customs, and religious ideals. A people like the Bengalis, peaceable and orderly in their dispositions and swayed rather by intellectual than animal emotions, require only a moderate amount of control, but the inhabitants of Northern India with their warlike traditions and strong passions, must be governed with a firmer and stronger hand. Yet the provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code are applied to the whole of India, with the exception of a few tracts of country. The Brahmins and the Jain live under the same laws as the Wahabis and the Bhil. Of course the task of devising rules and regulations for each section of the community is an impossible and dangerous one, and the British have done well not to attempt it. But it is obvious that the greatest care must be taken by legislators to ensure sufficient elasticity in the law to provide for offences which, impossible in one province or among one community, are likely to occur in another province or among another community. And in this connection there is no class of crime which requires more delicate handling than crime against the State. In its inception and progress it may take so subtle and elusive a shape as to defy recognition till it is too late to stamp it out except by means of the most heroic and strenuous measures. At the same time it is quite possible for harmless, even healthy, forms of activity to be mistaken for the dangerous disease and then the hasty legislator may find himself jeered at as a laughing stock or condemned as a despot. But in spite of its peculiar features, it is possible to say broadly that, like many other crimes, crime against the State is more likely to prevail in certain parts of India than in others, and this fact should be remembered by all who would criticise the law against sedition.

When, a couple of years ago, it was proposed to enlarge the scope of the law against sedition, a good deal of feeling was manifested—and not by the native press only—against the amendment. The officials were strongly in favour of the measure, and no one spoke with greater vehemence on this point than Sir John Woodburn. But among non-officials a good deal of doubt was expressed as to the wisdom of a change in the law. The origin of this feeling is not far to seek. It was felt that in a country governed like India the one safeguard against possible bureaucratic intolerance lay in the freedom of the press. It was not enough for Government to say: "Give us these powers; you may trust us not to abuse them;" for Governments are, after all composed of individuals. However, the law was amended in the required direction. The change was a very vital one, but broadly speaking, it has not in any way fettered the press, which is allowed to exercise much the same liberty that it did before. Indeed, while the tone of the newspapers has not altered, prosecutions have been fewer. The reason is to be found in the fact that sanction to prosecute editors and proprietors must be first obtained from local Governments, and does not rest, with police and other executive officers; and local Government have so far shown the wisest discretion. We have already published translations of the articles in connection with which two Bombay native journalists have been sent to jail. They undoubtedly come within the provisions of section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, and the jury were bound to convict the offenders. But no one who has any knowledge of the press in India can but be aware of the fact that articles are daily written in every Province no whit more loyal superior in tone and sentiment. Why then have these unfortunates, Luxmon Joshi and Narayan Bhatye, been punished, while so many others have escaped scot free? Because, as already indicated, what is seditious in one locality and under certain circumstances, may be perfectly harmless in another locality and under different circumstances.

For some years past there has been a good deal of political discontent in Western India. The stories told about a Mahatta conspiracy certainly are not based on any evidence, but there does seem to be a sort of palpable uneasiness in the air, which has already found expression in the case of a few individuals in assassination and murder. In these circumstances the Bombay Government was perfectly right to let it be known that attempts to stir up disaffection would not be allowed to pass unpunished. Smoking in a drawing-room is a harmless practice as Mr. Chalmers would say, but you must not smoke in a powder-magazine. Sir John Woodburn has the same powers as Lord Sandhurst, but it has not been necessary for him to use them. One can, however, conceive a situation in Bengal when it would be politic to restrain injudicious criticism of the Government. The summer of 1897 opened the eyes of all in Calcutta to the grave possibilities of panic disorganising the whole commercial life of the capital. At such a time, when such a cry as "inoculator" is sufficient to convulse thousands, foolish remarks and false statements in the press, if allowed to pass unchecked, might prove a source of the gravest mischief. Take the analogous case of the right to carry arms. There are times and seasons and places when and where the Government would be perfectly correct in disarming the whole population of a district. The epidemic of murders in Backerganj came to a stop when the authorities proceeded to call in all the gun licences. Similarly the disarmament of the Peshawar district has produced the happiest results. On the whole, therefore, India has not suffered because extraordinary powers are vested in the hands of the Government, which has hitherto used its authority with moderation and wisdom. At the same time both the official and non-official community should remain on the watch lest the rights and liberties of peaceful and loyal citizens are invaded by a misuse of the sedition laws, which, if powerful to preserve the public safety, may also be made an instrument for the prosecution of harmless, even patriotic, individuals.—*Englishman.*

A TERRIFIC storm raged in the Jhelum Valley early on Tuesday morning last and washed away the Kashmir cart road in three places, owing to which traffic was delayed for some hours. The road was cleared by the time the mail tonga passed in the afternoon.

BOMBAY TRAGEDY.

CAPTAIN IREMONGER is now said to be on of danger. The local papers publish a few additional facts about the sad tragedy.

It appears that on the news reaching Mrs. Gregory's friends at home that she had left the protection of her husband and was living with Captain Iremonger. Her brother immediately proceeded to India. He went straight to Iremonger's house, and demanded his sister. He was at once allowed to interview the lady, and he appealed to her to return to her husband, and demanded that the man she was living with should no longer detain her. Her lover replied that the lady had sought a home with him, but he would not stand in the room of her returning to her husband. Mrs. Gregory herself absolutely refused to listen to the advice given her, and said she was determined to stay where she was. Having failed to bring the lady to reason, the brother at last produced a letter from their mother. She read it unmoved, threw it to Iremonger, who looked at it and tossed it back. That was the end of the attempts to get Mr. Gregory to return to an honest life. Curiously enough, these facts connected with the brother's appeal to his erring sister were made known to friends by Mr. Gregory himself, who related the incident as if to show that his wife was unworthy of consideration, and that he was well-rid of so heartless a woman. That has been his misdeed since he left her home. He spoke of the matter freely, and there was nothing to indicate that he meditated so terrible a revenge.

The appointment of Adjutant of the Corps necessitated frequent visits to Igatpuri district, which is one of the principal centres of the Railway Volunteers. During his visits Captain Iremonger became acquainted with the whole of the railway officials, and amongst them met Mr. Gregory and his wife. The lady possessed many attractions, and in addition to being extremely good looking was of very attractive temperament. She was some years younger than her husband, and only came out from home to join him last cold weather. A strong friendship soon sprang up between Captain Iremonger and Mrs. Gregory, and it was quickly noticed and became the talk of the station that the pair were on unusually good terms.

They made excursions alone to local points of interest, and their general demeanour was more that of young lovers than common-place friends.

Such incidents filled in some time prior to the annual training camp at Igatpuri, when Captain Iremonger occupied the whole of his time between his duties as Adjutant of the Corps and attention on Mrs. Gregory. It was at this period that his conduct towards the lady attracted most notice, and it the annual camp ball, which marks the end of these gatherings his close attendance on the wife of his friend became the subject of general gossip; but as invariably happens in such matters the unfortunate husband was the least suspecting person, and heard nothing of the whispered allegations against the character of his wife.

On several occasions after the break up of the camp Captain Iremonger returned to Igatpuri and continued the "liaison" with Mrs. Iremonger. There were more quiet picnics, and at length their infatuation led them to the desperate resolve of running away in each other's company. In the early days of February, plans were matured, and some time about tenth of that month, Mrs. Gregory had disappeared from her home. She left her husband's house at the dawn of day on the pretence of coming to Bombay for a day's shopping. She did not return by the night train, and one of the servants of the house telegraphed to Mr. Gregory, who at the time was away on the line attending to his duties. The husband returned home immediately and instituted inquiries, and it was not long before he received the startling intelligence that his wife was in the company of Captain Iremonger in Bombay.

It was subsequently learnt that when Mr. Gregory left the bungalow in the early morning, it was pre-arranged that she should be met in the vicinity of her home by her lover, who had the night before managed to get up to Igatpuri without being recognised. The pair met and went to Igatpuri station, which is near the house. They took extreme precautions to avoid being observed, and conceal themselves until the arrival of the Bombay train behind some sheds in the station yard. As soon as the train stopped, the lady was quickly hustled into an empty third-class compartment, and the pair got safely away without detection.

The news of Mrs. Gregory's absence from home was naturally not long in spreading, and for the time being was the only item of conversation among the local gossips. Her close intimacy with Captain Iremonger was, of course, known, and, although the circumstances under which the couple had left were unknown, it was not long before suspicion was aroused that things were not as they should be. At the same time, there was a hope that Mrs. Gregory had not placed herself beyond the pale of decent society by an act so outrageous as that of which she was guilty. Forty-eight hours' absence, however, and the hurried return from the district of Mr. Gregory and his subsequent departure for Bombay soon made it apparent that things were not well, and the fact that the lady had left her home became a matter beyond doubt. On arrival in Bombay, it is believed, Captain Iremonger and Mrs. Gregory went to an hotel and stared there as man and wife. They were discovered later on by the husband a Captain Iremonger's bungalow at Bandora when, according to all accounts, a most painful scene took place.

The lady refused to return home, and Captain Iremonger appeared equally determined not to let her go, and was prepared to accept the consequences of his conduct. The husband laid a complaint on the 17th February at Bandora, and charged Captain Iremonger with abduction. After that, on the 24th idem, the case was taken to the Thanna Court, where a charge of abduction and adultery was filed, and Captain Iremonger appeared before the Magistrate.

The first hearing was in camera, and the case was adjourned for a few days. On the morning of the second hearing some arrangement was come to, and proceedings were withdrawn. It was rumoured that the stipulation was that Mrs. Gregory agreed to leave Captain Iremonger, and return to her people in England.

This agreement seemingly they failed to carry out, and continued to remain together. This, it would seem, preyed upon the husband until

his mind became unhinged, and he committed the desperate deed on Wednesday night.

Captain Iremonger, it might be mentioned, is about thirty-seven years of age. Mr. Gregory was about forty, while Mrs. Gregory was only about twenty-five.

Mr. Gregory was married at Willesden Parish Church on February 26th, 1898, and his wife joined him in India as recently as last October.

To show how premeditated Mr. Gregory's action was, it may be stated that a letter was found upon his body conveying instruction as to the taking over of this personal and office effects, besides a letter to his sister, who had recently come over from England to keep home for him.

The indiscretion of Captain Iremonger remaining with another man's wife so near to the home of the injured husband has been much commented upon. But it is stated to have been his intention to have left the country altogether as soon as his retirement from the Army had been effected, taking Mrs. Gregory with him.

The dying deposition of Captain Iremonger, taken down by Mr. Rajee, Second Class Magistrate, is very short. Captain Iremonger stated that before the dinner hour he and Mrs. Gregory were standing in the north room of the bungalow when Mr. Gregory rushed into the room and fired a shot at him. Captain Iremonger ran out of the room into the compound, and Mrs. Gregory followed him. Whilst Mrs. Gregory was supporting him, Mr. Gregory fired three shots at her and killed her. Captain Iremonger then ran away for protection to the toll bar where, he said, he was kindly treated. His age was thirty-seven. That was all he had to say.

Captain Iremonger received a gratuity of £1,200 on sending in his papers.

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR INDIAN FORESTS.

A TREE that will grow anywhere from sea level to the frost line, a tree that requires the minimum of care and will stand the maximum of neglect, a tree that even as a seedling has nothing to fear from half-famished cattle or deer, a tree too that will yield a revenue besides which that from our existing Indian forests is as naught—surely this is a tree that demands the instant attention of Government that it may be planted up as extensively as possible, and without a year's delay.

And what is this wonderful tree that all these fine words are used to bring into notice? It is Ceara rubber, *Manihot Glaziovii*. Ah, yes, I can almost hear the chorus of sneers that will attend this statement. I know it has been tried in plantations in Ceylon and in India, and that as a serious rival to either tea or coffee or even the other more valuable kinds of rubber it was abandoned many years ago as a total failure. Whether or not it must still be counted as a failure from a plantation point of view, which is that of quick returns and heavy profits, is a matter which I shall not now enter into; although even in this case I have strong reasons for having doubts. I am quite willing to admit that in the ordinary way returns cannot be hoped for before ten years or so, and even then the yield of rubber cannot be compared for a moment with that of such varieties as Para, Castilleo, Landolphia and so on.

Where then does the advantage of Ceara appear? In the enormous range of climate and soil in which it can grow, and thrive. The more abundantly yielding varieties require a soil and climate that is to be hardly met with in India; the soil must be deep and very rich, the rainfall must be abundant and well-distributed the whole year round, and the climate must be hot. Now good, deep rich soil is found in many parts of India, but there the rainfall if abundant is rarely if ever in equally apportioned the long year round; and even in such exceptional cases, the climate is too cold to enable the trees to thrive.

But how is it with Ceara? It grows well in the driest climate, and in the poorest soil; it seeds abundantly and at a very early age; and commences to yield rubber earlier than any of the other varieties. In South India, where it has been established on the Nilgiris, in Bangalore, and elsewhere, it has grown so well, and is so prolific of seed, that on certain coffee plantations it is already regarded as a nuisance. At Bangalore, as Mr. Cameron of the Mysore Gardens reports in his brief notice of the plant, the loose stony soil there forms an excellent medium for its quick development. It is not improbable, he adds, that this species will eventually outstrip the *babool* in clothing waste ground and rocky eminences such as abound on every side. If it does this, it needs no other recommendation to become one of the most useful gifts the land toll possess. Like the Lantana, it annually liberates the ground with decayed leaves, thus adding fertility to what otherwise might remain barren soil. Being a deciduous tree, it remains bare of leaf during the driest part of the dry season, thereby escaping the risks of drought and exposure at a critical period; being milky, cattle do not attack the foliage.

Yet granted that it does thrive well everywhere where it has been introduced, that alone does not give it a claim to the high place which I have claimed for it. What about the yield of rubber, which repeated experiments have proved to be so minute as in the opinion of the experimenters not to repay the cost of collection? True, I admit that numerous experiments have been made, and that they have been most unsatisfactory. But as the experiments were, until the last eighteen months, conducted by persons utterly ignorant of the proper modes of collecting rubber. I must reject their evidence as totally useless. One of the last of these farcical experiments was made in the South of India by an official of standing. The incisions in the bark seemed to have been made by an axe; great slabs being slashed off promiscuously at the base. The cuts were made on a certain day, the rubber collected on the morrow, before the milk had had time to harden properly; consequently a large proportion was left on the trees. And to cap all, the tapping was done at the wrong time of the year! It will be of more use, however, to detail the successful tapping operations, which have been conducted during the past year or so.

To begin with the best season for tapping is in February and March, when the trees are leafless, and the saps ascending. The tapping should never be done in wet weather; sunny weather should be chosen, so that the milk exuded can dry properly on the trees for some days, so that every particle of rubber may be

easily collected. Tapping, however, need not be confined to February and March alone, but can be done all the year round, though the yield in other months will not be so great. Now as to the proper method of tapping. The outer bark should be stripped off carefully—earlier experiments were invariably made with this loose bark remaining on the tree, so that most of the sap ran between the inner and outer bark and wasted. The bark comes off very easily; it should be removed to a height of about 6 feet, or as high as a man can reach. Then take a farrier's searching knife (which has the end bent over to form a hook, and cuts only at the end) or, if great care is exercised, and ordinary pruning knife may be used. In quick work, however, a special knife is of such importance that I may devote a few words to detailing its proper shape. The handle should be of wood, about eight or nine inches long to allow of a good grip with both hands. The blade is a narrow strip of steel, about half an inch broad, and about six inches long. It should be fixed on the handle with its edge at an angle of roughly 45 degrees to the shaft. The end of the blade is turned back on itself for an inch or so, leaving a narrow space of quarter-inch free between the two surfaces. The cutting edge is only required one inch from the hook, which should also be sharpened. With this knife, a groove can be easily cut in the bark, and owing to the shape of the blade, there is little fear of the cambium layer being injured. A coolie can easily tap a couple of hundred trees in a day. First make a main or down channel from as high as the man can reach to the foot of the tree, this should be the deepest and broadest, half inch or so broad and nearly to the wood. Then at intervals of say an inch or two apart, score the bark lightly (each branch channel, about a foot long) at angles to the main channel, so that all the juice can flow in the same direction. The flow, however, being very gentle, no cups are required to hold it. Two or three main channels can be made, according to the size of the tree so that the whole area of the bark can be tapped at once. It is advisable, by the way, to roughly brush the inner bark, in order to get the rubber as pure as possible. The sap will collect in the channels, when it should be allowed to dry for some days in the sun. When thoroughly dry it can be peeled off easily by hand. An ordinary coolie could collect the crop from two hundred trees easily in a day. The wounds in the bark caused by the tapping, heal up very rapidly; indeed I have seen what was the inner bark peeling off in six weeks from tapping, leaving a fresh surface to be operated on when desired.

So far the minutiae of tapping and collecting, but I have not yet touched on the yield thus produced. By repeated experiments, fairly grown trees have given from four ounces upward in a single season. It seems very little, perhaps, but as Ceara can be planted closely together—over five hundred per acre—the yield per acre runs out to 125 lbs. in a season, or taking a very modest valuation indeed, Rs. 150 in money value. Against this must be put the cost of collection, shipping and upkeep, says, 50 per acre, which yields a net profit of as much as Rs. 100 per acre. If planters could only afford to wait and they would have to wait ten years or more in the ordinary course of things, Ceara would indeed prove their salvation. And, in fact, by a judicious system of closer planting, say 1,000 trees per acre, and tapping the alternate trees from their fifth year, a revenue not to be despised would be obtainable almost as early as tea or coffee. Of course the other trees would be left untouched till they were of matured growth, and the tapped and exhausted trees cut down to allow of the proper growth of the permanent plantation. One coffee plantation at least, where shade is a necessity, the poorer fields which it hardly pays now to cultivate, might well be planted up with Ceara. Its effects as shade on good-coffee being not yet generally tested, I hesitate to recommend it except on poorer soils.

But this is a digression, as I had not intended to touch on the subject from the planter's point of view at all. I trust, however, to have established my main point, *viz.*, that the cultivation of Ceara should be taken up largely by Government, not in supersession of existing forests, but to clothe the bare leagues of unprofitable arid wastes scattered in such profusion in every district in India. Untouched by the plow, with scanty weeds for pasturage, unclothed by higher vegetation than prickly pear or other noxious growths, the transformation of these wastes into highly profitable rubber forests would bring an overflowing revenue into Government coffers and would besides give employment to the ryots just at the season when work fails.

Let me conclude with a statement summarising the above and supported by the Kew authorities. Ceara is readily propagated, from seed or even cuttings, seed being yielded abundantly in almost every part of the world where it has been introduced, from the early age of three years. Consequently an immense area could be planted up very quickly. In its native home, the seed are shown *in situ*, which of course cheapens the operation of planting enormously. It is very hardy, a fast grower, free from insect and fungoid attacks, requires little or no attention when once established and thrives in poor dry and rocky soils in which no other crop will grow. The rubber produced is excellent, only inferior to the best Para in price. The yield is small, but commences earlier than any other variety. With thick planting and judicious thinning as the trees grow up it may be possible to increase the yield recorded; while with skilful treatment the permanent trees may be tapped for twenty years, the self-sown seedlings automatically replacing the worn-out trees year by year.—*Pioneer.*

THE official return of India's foreign trade for the two months ending May 31st exhibits a remarkable decline in exports and equally remarkable increase in imports over the corresponding period of 1898. A rise of over 2 crores in the value of the imports is due chiefly to one crore on account of a revival in the piece-goods trade, an increase of 32 lakhs in railway material and a curious recovery in the imports of coal from the United Kingdom, which increased by some 22 lakhs. On the other hand notable increments in the exports of oilseeds (over half a crore), opium (41 lakhs) and tea (15 lakhs) are much more than counterbalanced by a big drop of over 2½ crores in wheat and some 40 lakhs in raw cotton.

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