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NO. 57.

পদক-পতক।

দশম বর্ষের

বৃত্তি-পত্রিকা।

পত্রিকা-পত্রিকা।

অনুষ্ঠানের পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

অনুষ্ঠানবন্দী।

শ্রীমদেব-দাস-প্রতিভা।

এই বারি উপস্থিত বৈক্য-প্রতিভা

বৈক্য-প্রতিভা-প্রতিভা।

মূল্য-১০ টাকা। ডাক-মাস-১০ টাকা।

অনুষ্ঠানের পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

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INDIA AND THE FAR EAST
IN PARLIAMENT.HOUSE OF COMMONS.
Friday, June 30.

THE EARNINGS OF INDIAN RAILWAYS.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state what has been the falling-off in the gross earnings of the Indian Railways since April 1, the beginning of the present financial year; and whether such reductions will affect the General Budget Estimate of 1899-1900, to be considered by the House at a later stage of the session.

Lord G. Hamilton said the gross earnings of the Indian railways from April 1 to May 26, 1899, were 4,094,030, rs., or less by 441,192 rs. than the earnings in the corresponding period of 1898, which were unusually large. The prospect of the railway revenue account would of course form one point for consideration in the discussion that would take place on the financial statement for the current year.

Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he will state what amount was during the second portion of the year 1898 provided out of current Indian revenues to make up the difference between the net earnings of the guaranteed and subsidised Indian railways for that period and the amount required for interest and dividends under contract; and whether he will present a statement showing the sums paid during the period referred to out of State revenues to the several railway companies, together with any sums which may have accrued to the public revenues from railways the net earnings of which exceeded the guaranteed interest during the same period.

Lord G. Hamilton said the Government accounts were not prepared according to the calendar year. He had no objection to have a statement prepared from the accounts of the several Indian railway companies to show with as much accuracy as practicable the position of the Government in respect of the guaranteed and subsidised companies in the two half years of 1898. To take the second half year alone would be misleading.

THE BARGHA SHERANNI COUNTRY.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been drawn to the notification recently issued from the Political Department of the Government of India, purporting to extend jurisdiction, under the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code, to a tract of country bordered on the east by the Dera Ismail Khan District, and on the west by the Bargha Sheranni country; whether this region is beyond the frontiers of Indian possessions; and, if so, whether he will his Majesty's state under whose authority, and by what statutory sanction, does the jurisdiction of the Indian Government purport to be established on such foreign territory; and whether he will state whether any civil or military officers of the Indian Government are stationed in that tract; and, if so, when and how will the consent of Parliament be asked, as required by the Act of 1858 to sanction the consequent expenditure of Indian revenues beyond the frontiers.

Lord G. Hamilton said: I am aware that a notification under the Indian Foreign Jurisdiction Act has been issued in respect of the Bargha Sheranni country. The country lies outside the administrative borders of the Punjab, but inside the frontier of her Majesty's Indian possessions. As her Majesty has foreign jurisdiction in the tract, action has been legally taken under the Indian Foreign Jurisdiction Act. A native extra Assistant Commissioner is stationed in the tract, and no action under the Act of 1858 is required.

HOSPITAL ASSISTANTS AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.—Mr. James Stuart asked the Secretary of State for India: If he will lay upon the table a copy of the circular issued from Simla, on June 13, 1898, for the purpose of ascertaining from the various medical schools whether female hospital assistants could be obtained to engage in the examination of prostitutes in India; and, if he will state the result of the inquiry, how many of such hospital assistants have consented to perform these examinations, and on what terms they have been engaged.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have seen no copy of the circular in question, but I will make inquiries on the subject.

THE MURDER OF MR. FLEMING.—Mr. H. Roberts asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he would state whether any definite arrangement had yet been arrived at between the British Government and the Tsung-li-Yamen as to the capture and execution of the headman who was principally responsible for the murder of Mr. Fleming, British missionary at Kweichow; whether the representative of the British Government had demanded the dismissal of the Governor of the province where the murder was committed, and that this demand had been refused by the Chinese Government; and that course the Government intended to pursue under the circumstances.

Mr. Brodrick: Her Majesty's Government have demanded the dismissal of the Governor of Kweichow in the event of his failure to arrest the headman of the village where the murder was committed, but in view of the capture and execution of two out of the three who were concerned in the crime, they have agreed to extend the limit of time fixed by her Majesty's Charge d'Affair at Peking for the apprehension of the headman.

THE RAIPORE ZEMINDARS AND THEIR GRIEVANCES.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India, will he explain why no reply has yet been given by the Government of India in reference to the memorials presented by Lal Brijraj Singh and other zemindars of Khariar, in the district of Raipore, praying for redress of grievances; and whether, in view of the long delay which has taken place, he will cause immediate inquiry to be made into the matter.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am informed by the Government of India that orders on their memorial were communicated to the Khariar and other zemindars of Raipore on the 14th of last month.

INDIAN P. W. D. OFFICERS.—Sir Seymour King asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether his despatch approving of special terms of retirement for certain service officers of the India, Public Works Department from Cooper's Hill has yet arrived in India;

And, whether he will arrange for its simultaneous publication in this country and in India.

Lord G. Hamilton: The despatch of the Secretary of State has been in the hands of the Government of India for some days, and, doubtless, the officers who are eligible for the special terms of pension sanctioned in that despatch have been communicated with.

The Government of India do not propose to publish the terms sanctioned by the Secretary of State.

EXILES IN CEYLON.—Colonel Pryce-Jones asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Toulba Pasha was allowed to return from his exile in Ceylon to Egypt on account of enfeebled health; and whether, in view of the age of the remaining four exiles, and the complaints which they had made as to the effects of the climate upon their health, the Government would recommend Lord Cromer to consent to extend the privilege of a change to some other British Colony, if a return to Egypt should be still considered inadvisable in the case of these four old men.

Mr. Brodrick: Failing health was the chief plea put forward for the return of Toulba Pasha, but he was regarded as probably the least important of the exiles. If the remaining exiles should petition for a transfer to some other British Colony, the application would be referred to the Egyptian Government for their consideration. The decision does not rest with Lord Cromer.

CEYLON LAND ORDINANCES.—Mr. Schwann asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies, if he can now distribute to members the report of the Governor of Ceylon on the working of the Land Ordinances of 1897 in that island.

Mr. Chamberlain said that he hoped papers with the report in question would be delivered at the end of next week.

MURDERS BY PATHANS.—Mr. Headrick asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether at Peshawar, in March of this year, Colonel Le Marchant, of the Hampshire Regiment, was assassinated, and in April three sentries of the Royal Scots Fusiliers cut off by Pathans; whether at Cherat, in May of this year, a sergeant was severely wounded by two Pathans and his rifle stolen, and a drummer of the Hampshire Regiment cut off while strolling outside the camp and stabbed; whether in respect of these crimes any reprisals or punishments have been inflicted upon the Pathans; and what steps the Government are taking to stop the constant attempts of the natives to murder and rob of their arms British soldiers on the Punjab frontier.

Lord G. Hamilton: Although I have not received detailed reports of each of the incidents mentioned in the first and second question, I have no reason to doubt their accuracy. In the case of the murderers of Colonel Le Marchant and the bandman the punishment of death has been inflicted on the guilty persons. I await information as to the punishments awarded in the other cases. In reply to the last part of the question I may state that a partial disarmament in the district of Peshawar, Hazara, and Kohat has been effected as an experimental measure, and if this proves to be ineffectual a total disarmament will be enforced.

THE MADRAS COURT OF WARDS AMENDMENT ACT.—Mr. Buchanan asked the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention has been directed to the Madras Court of Wards Amendment Act, 1899, passed on June 9 by the Madras Legislative Council, by which the Court of Wards is empowered to take charge of the estates of bankrupt zemindars, manage their estates officially, and eventually, when cleared of debt, hand them back to the original proprietors, and whether, before sanctioning this legislation, he will make inquiry as to the grounds on which this alteration in the laws relating to bankruptcy is made, and one class of proprietors treated differently in the event of insolvency from the vast mass of Indian proprietors.

Lord G. Hamilton:—I have not yet received a copy of the Act referred to in its final form, and can therefore give no undertaking on the subject. But I may say that, so far as my knowledge goes, I do not admit the accuracy of the description of it contained in the question. I believe that it applies only to the estates of persons who, by reason of age, or sex, or otherwise, are incapable of managing their affairs; and not to the whole class of zemindars, nor to any estates which are so encumbered by debt as to be incapable of restoration by proper management. I also believe that legislation on the lines of this Act is in accordance with the customs and the wishes of the people.

WILD ANIMALS IN SOUTH SYLHET.

It is seldom nowadays that one hears of a tiger or any of the larger carnivora of the jungle being shot in the South Sylhet District. Although they must be getting scarcer as the human population is gradually increasing, their periodical visits amply show that the district is by no means clear of them. In a garden I was on in the Balesera Valley, some years ago, hardly a week used to pass during the earlier years without there being two or three cows killed. Now I believe it is a most exceptional occurrence. Ten or a dozen years ago a very big school of elephants used to have their abode in the jungle behind Kalighat, and used to occasionally wander as far down the range as the Bharaora Phari, where the Assam-Bengal Railway now passes through. It would be considered a most extraordinary occurrence if a wild elephant made his appearance among us now, and one can hardly give credence to the fact that within the present decade a herd of elephants which included all elephantine ages and sizes were living in the midst of us. Leopards a few years ago were plentiful in the Balesera Valley, but they seem to be getting scarcer also, and only put in appearance at long intervals. The black bear used to be a regular institution with us on the Amrai side of the valley, but now I hear that he only pays an occasional visit. I remember the superintendent on the above divisions doing carbine practice on several occasions in the evenings at wild buffaloes out of his end-berandah. He used to say they were wild, but some neighbouring planters used to declare they belonged to the Monipuri busti people, but there are always people who say such things just because they are jealous that they never get the chance of shooting wild buffaloes out of their verandahs.

When the South Sylhet Company used to keep their own buffaloes for garden work the jungly fellows often used to come into the gardens at night to fight the tame ones, when occasionally a shot could be got. The tame buffalo, as might be expected, has no chance in combat with his brother of the jungle, and the latter usually stampedes the tame ones. On one occasion a few wild ones came into Rajghat and stampeded some of those belonging to the garden. During the chase a jungly fellow cornered a garden one close to

Schinderkand bungalow, and the ruction roused the manager and his assistant who presently put in their appearance on the scene of the fight and promptly opened fire, and down went one of the combatants. The other evidently thought discretion the better part of valour and made off. The feelings of the manager and his assistant may be imagined when they discerned that, instead of shooting the wild buffalo, they had shot one of the company's tame ones. They are always expecting to have the price docked off them, but it never was. I question very much if they could have legally claimed the price of that buffalo as it was found next morning that the nose rope had mysteriously gone amissing, and of course a tame buffalo without a nose rope may easily be mistaken for a wild one; I think the law runs something like that. Although it was the same sportsman that shot the one at Schinderkand, who used to fire at them out of his verandah at Amrai Chura, I would not for a single moment think about arguing that the Amrai ones were also tame. I have never heard of an authenticated case of a man-eating tiger in South Sylhet. Natives have been found dead who had the appearance of having been mauled. These cases are usually put down to Master Stripes' account, but I think it is a case of giving a dog a bad name. The more likely explanation would be that they had lain, or dropped down and died through natural causes, which often occurs, and if not discovered before nightfall by their own relations the jackals will have the body in such a state that no one could say how the death had occurred. I say "if not discovered before nightfall by their own relations" (of course, nobody else would ever think about putting themselves out of the way in the slightest), but although, as a rule, the native has sufficient respect for his kindred as to put his dead out of sight, I have come across some astounding causes to the contrary. However, returning to our tigers, although I never heard of a man-eater in the district, we have had ample evidence that the South Sylhet tiger has, upon occasions, no more respect for "Homo sapiens" than his feline relations in other parts of India. A few years ago a couple of young men boldly sallied forth to slay a full grown tiger which had been keeping the villagers in a state of siege for days in the Ruidipur district. Khubber, was brought to Kunsiaura bungalow that the tiger had taken cover in a small patch of jungle growing in the busti. A railway engineer, who happened to be at the bungalow at the time, and the garden assistant armed themselves with fowling pieces with a supply of No. 8 cartridges and went off smiling to slay the tiger. It is said the manager smiled, too, when he saw them going off. However, to make a short story of it, the assistant escaped, for which he had nothing earthly to thank but the tiger. They carried the engineer to the bungalow, and although it was almost touch and go with him he did recover ultimately. But the curious thing in connection with the affair was that neither of the two of them could ever thoroughly make out how it happened. It was all done in an instant. The tiger gave them no time to shoot, and all that the engineer could remember of the occurrence was that all at once he felt himself as it were in an "earthquake" centre of disturbance, after which the tiger was allowed to go his own way without further molestation.

I think tigers must be very regular animals in their habits. They seem to honour districts and pay their visits at intervals which vary very slightly in duration. For six months I will never hear or see the slightest sign of a tiger. Then I will have a visit which usually extends to a week, but never over a fortnight; then no more signs for other six months. Another peculiarity which they appear to have is that, however much they may range the frontage of the jungle, they always appear to use regular tracks when passing through a belt of jungle from one valley to another. Although I only know of two of those tiger tracks myself, the Tipperahs tell me that they extend the whole way down the range and are seldom within one and a half to two miles of each other. The Bengalis say that they have the same habit when crossing a valley through among the busti when changing their quarters from one range of jungle to another. They invariably keep to well-known runs, which are by no means always the most secluded, sometimes passing through a thickly populated busti when a very slight deviation would have taken the track quite clear of any human habitations. The Tipperahs all agree that the tiger cannot bear the jungly dog, and when a pack of the latter appears the tiger disappears. Perhaps this may have something to do with the regularity which marks his appearance and disappearance in districts, as these dogs, as far as I can judge, have the same peculiarity. As far as I am personally concerned I may consider myself free of tigers for the next six months at least because Mr. or rather Mrs. Stripes, at that time, as she was accompanied by her family, paid her biennial visit a fortnight ago and stayed a week. Neuralgia had been keeping me awake at nights for a whole week, and one morning between two and three the silence of the jungle (and the jungle can be very silent at times) was broken by the well known drawn out Ya-ah—ourch! I ya-ah—ourch! which seemed to reverberate all over the place, and she was standing at my cook-house about 30 yards from the mud plastered walls of my kutcha bungalow, but it actually sounded to me as if she had her head stuck through what stands for a window in my spare room on the other side of the bungalow. Naturally the tiger's voice when heard in his native jungle at night at close quarters speaks with no uncertain sound and gives one a very decided impression of power behind it. I had no firearms of any description in the bungalow as the Garma Valley Light Horse authorities now a days have a playful way of depriving us our carbines for three or four months every year for a so called inspection. A carbine would not have been of much use, but I could not help thinking at the time that I would have felt more comfortable if I had it, as in the event of her jungly majesty electing to come to closer quarters, I would only have a very poor show with my cavalry sword which was the only weapon of offence I was in possession of. After about a quarter of an hour's serenade she commenced to move off and I commenced to realise that I actually had been in a "funk" I have heard tigers not once but scores of times during the night during the last half a dozen years and I cannot say that I ever felt funky before. However, as she went away into the distance I still could hear her calling and strange as it may appear I actually found

that the effect of her visit on my nerves had actually banished the pain in the side of my head and I went to bed and enjoyed the first sleep I had had for a week. I still could hear her voice away in the distance as long as I can remember, and next morning if I felt rather small and a bit of a coward for my feelings of the night before, I took comfort from the fact that I had enjoyed the unique experience of being lulled to sleep by a tigress. She serenaded me every night for a week, but at a more respectful distance. She is gone now, but if she is keeping up the "dustur" she has not gone far yet, and I am certain she could be found within a couple of miles of Maulvie on the Balesera side of the range. It is almost a certainty that my next visitors will be a pack of jungle dogs. *Forester in the Englishman.*

WHY GET DROWNED?
A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY.

TRIFLING incidents, as everybody knows, have frequently led to very important discoveries. It was through observing an apple fall that Newton discovered the law of gravitation. In a similarly accidental way a young bricklayer out Wandsworth way the other day hit upon a novel and simple device of restoring animation to apparently drowned animals.

He was salting some winkles which he had boiled over night, and noticing what he called "a dead blue bottle" in the pot, he thought to himself, "Oh, I'll put you in brine, too," and, suiting the action to the word, he buried the fly in salt. Thinking no more about the thing he was surprised. A couple of minutes later, to see the blue bottle shake itself free of the salt, crawl a little distance, and hesitating a moment, as if to take its bearings, spread its wings and soar to the window-pane with a new lease of life.

Mansfield was naturally astonished on seeing a fly which he believed dead for eight or ten hours—dead as Julius Caesar—thus restored to life. And to think that a little common salt had worked the miracle!

The inquiring spirit now took possession of him, and like a true scientist he proceeded to investigate further. He began with a beetle. For two hours he kept it submerged in water, then, life being apparently extinct, he buried it in salt, and sure enough in less than two minutes the insect crawled out as much alive as ever it was. Several beetles were experimented upon with equally successful results. Next he tried a mouse, that a rat, both of which were restored to life and freedom; and growing bolder, and at the same time more confident, the young man decided to consign his cat to the water tub. He did so. For two hours its lifeless form floated on the water before the magic salt was brought to bear upon it, and to-day the domestic pet is as much in evidence as ever.

It was when he experimented on his dog—a pup, retriever of five months—that Mansfield's faith in his discovery received its first shock. In this case, in the former cases, he made the time limit two hours; but the thickness of the dog's coat, he thinks, retarded the effective operation of the salt, and when after half-an-hour there was no sign of returning life, the budding scientist began to grow anxious. Half an hour, it may be mentioned, had sufficed to bring round the cat. In this dilemma Mansfield renewed the salt, which by this time had absorbed a considerable quantity of water, and fifteen minutes later he had the satisfaction of seeing his efforts crowned with success. The pup quickly recovered itself, and as it fearing a renewal of the experiment, promptly ran out of the room. Such is the story gleaned from Chas. Mansfield at his residence in Wandsworth. Mansfield, an honest enough fellow, not long entered upon his twenties, was working in the neighbourhood when our representative called. His wife ran to fetch him. He was anxious that "the doctors" should know of his discovery for he felt convinced it would restore life in the case of persons apparently drowned. He had written her said to the head doctor of one of the hospitals, telling him all about it; but as yet there was "barely time for a reply." He referred to cases which had come under his notice where the ordinary means of resuscitation by rubbing, etc., had failed even when applied within half-an-hour from the time of the bodies sinking in the water and expressed the belief that if "the doctors" would only try the experiment, the value of his discovery would be demonstrated.

"There is the cat now," said Mansfield, pointing to a cosy corner. Puss was quietly sleeping. Mansfield approached him "Puss, puss, puss," he called. Puss opened his eyes, and seeing who it was bolted from the room like a shot. He had not forgotten his "bath," evidently and feared another. "He is not quite himself yet," explained the master of the house, "the salt was too much for him, and yesterday I gave him some castor oil." But, you see, he can run all right."

To further established his *bona fides*, Mansfield offered to give a practical demonstration. He would drown a fly and afterward restore it to life. He produced a tea cup filled with water and then looked round the room for flies. There were not many about, so we went to the kitchen. Here were enough and to spare. One, two, three, four, five flies were caught in succession, but each was crushed too badly in the rough, horny hand of the bricklayer to make the test a fair one. The sixth capture proved more fortunate. The fly was sunk in the water and kept submerged for ten minutes by means of an ordinary trouser button. It was then taken out, all sign of life having vanished, and laid on the table; where Mr. Mansfield covered it with about a thimbleful of salt. In two minutes the fly began to kick its legs about. In another minute it was crawling over the table trying to free itself from the salt, preparatory to taking flight. The thing was demonstrated beyond a doubt.

What is wanting now is a volunteer to test the efficacy of salt as a restorative in the case of the apparently drowned human animal. Though Mr. Mansfield has every confidence in the method which he discovered so accidentally, he is not prepared to risk, perhaps, a coroner's inquiry, even though it be in the interests of science. But he thinks that "the doctors" might try it, and certainly the doctors may well deem the matter worthy of consideration. Of all animals the human variety is the most helpless in the water, and if a little salt would aid in removing the dire consequences of a too long immersion, the experiment is surely well worth trying.

From what a newspaper representative could glean little importance is attached to Mansfield's discovery by the medical profession. The attitude of the majority of doctors questioned on the matter was that of the unbelieving Thomas—they would believe it when they saw it.

Only one medical man would venture an opinion, and that a concise one—"It's all rot," he said. The doctor in question is the principal Medical officer of St. Thomas's Hospital. Insects and animals, he explained, are very tenacious of life, and on the data before him concerning Mansfield's experiments he was not prepared to say anything further.

Mansfield, he admitted, had written to him about his experiments, but he had not interested himself in the subject.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

MOUNT VESUVIUS was recently covered with a heavy snowfall, while the crater was in eruption. The sight was a very strange one; three streams of red hot lava moving at one time through the white snow.

DR. FRIEDLANDER, of Wiesbaden, recommends galvanism to relieve the pain and irritation and to reduce the swelling caused by the bites of insects. The negative electrode is placed over the sting.

TUNNELS under the Thames at London are multiplying rapidly. After the opening of the Black wall tunnel, another at Rotherhithe has been projected. It is to be 30ft. in diameter and a mile and a quarter long.

COMPRESSED AIR is now extensively used in foundry operations such as for hoists, cranes, chipping castings, and cleaning them by means of the sand blast and since recently the same agency has been used for the blackening of moulds.

NOWHERE has the development of automatically propelled vehicles reached a more advanced stage than in France, where, on account of the fine roads and pavements, the most favourable conditions are found for their operation. Carriages and tricycles operated by gasoline motors are now among the ordinary sights in the streets of Paris.

In order to determine the currents of the Arctic and the theory of an open current around the pole from the Atlantic to the Pacific, 50 patent casks of a peculiar make have been constructed in San Francisco, which will be sent out in the United States. "Bear" and vessels of the whaling fleet. They will be distributed in different parts of the Ocean and will be picked up by vessels which pass them later.

It is said that Dr. Bra has discovered the microbe of cancer, and that there is reason to hope that the discovery may soon lead to a certain cure of that dread disease. What he has succeeded in doing is to isolate and cultivate a parasite from cancerous tumors and to produce therefrom cancer in animals. The parasite is fungus-like and is certainly the specific agent of cancer. Dr. Bra has spent 4 years in his researches on the origin of cancer.

An unsinkable and uncapsizable boat has recently been constructed by M. Albert Henry. The boat is rendered uncapsizable by the combination of the air chambers and by means of a heavy centre board by which the centre of gravity is considerably lowered. It is likewise unsinkable by the air chambers and the longitudinal slot in the floor above the water line. The trial of the boat was terminated by an experiment calculated to show its endurance in a heavy sea.

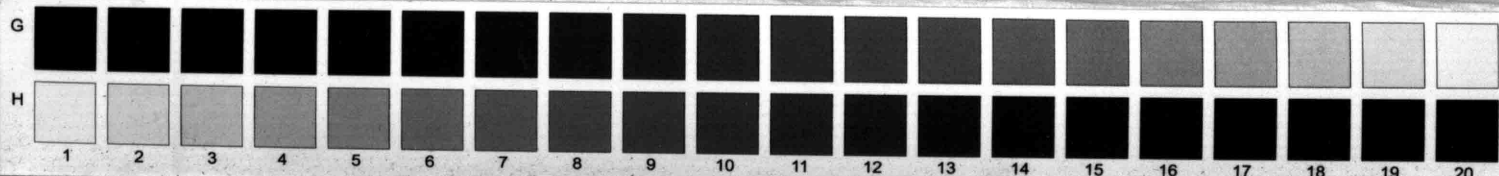
A FRENCH firm has undertaken the manufacture of a new metallic curtain for the Opera-house at Besancon. The curtain which is to be lowered after each act or in case of great danger, will be 60ft. wide, and 54ft. high, and is to be composed of aluminum sheets 13 ft. long and 29 inches wide and 1/12 of an inch thick. The total weight will be 4,000 pounds. If such a curtain were made of sheet iron, it would weigh 11,000 pounds.

A new process of hardening steel is to coat the metal with a mixture of whitening and varnish, heat to a cherry red, and then to dip for a few seconds in acidulated water. The steel is then dipped in rape-oil for a slightly longer time, and is finally laid in a cooling bath of rockoil or a mixture of water and whitening. By dipping the steel first in the water the heat is drawn away from the outer layer which thus becomes hard. Dipping it in the rape-oil retards the cooling of the interior of the metal and obviates the risk of cracks appearing.

On the summit of an extinct volcano in Natal near the edge of a lake filling the former crater, soundings have established the presence of a sand layer containing small diamonds. It would be instructive to know whether these diamonds were there accidentally or whether the find is connected with a diamond field, for the volcano is not situated in a district known to be diamondiferous. Considering the latter supposition the presence of precious stones in the crater of a volcano will doubtless throw some light on the formation of precious stones in nature.

An "amphibious tricycle" has recently been constructed and tried in France. It is constructed entirely of aluminum, with the exception of the chain and certain other parts which require the use of steel. The wheel-hubs enormous inflated rubber tires, which give them a diameter of 3'3ft. and make each wheel a water-tight float, buoying up the machine on the water. This tricycle can be used indiscriminately on land or water, and weighs 66 pounds and sinks when fully loaded, to a depth of only 12 3/4 inches.

The extremely great tenacity of life possessed by micro organisms is demonstrated by the following experiments of the French Savant M. Miquel. He took from a public park a sample of earth, dried it for two days at a temperature of 30°C and powdered it. He put this earth into sterilised glass vessels which were sealed and kept in a place not reached by light. The freshly dug soil contained 6,500,000 bacteria per gramme which were reduced to 3,900,000 by the pulverising and drying. After sixteen years the glass tubes were opened, and there were still found to be 3,580,000 micro organisms in a gramme of earth. Inoculated on a petriose, they produced after two days the characteristic symptoms of tetanus attending wounds.



Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, JULY 27, 1899.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE MUNICIPAL BILL.

As we said, we are now in a pretty mess about the Municipal measure. If now a question is asked in Parliament about it by our friends in England, Lord George Hamilton is likely to reply that Government has listened to the representations of the rate-payers. Of course, such a statement would not be strictly accurate, but less accurate replies than that have been given by the Secretary of State for India when he had been obliged to notice an inconvenient question. We think, therefore, the representatives of the rate-payers in the Council should directly address the Viceroy to say that, they did not mean what has been attributed to them. And let the rate-payers send along with this representation a letter to the Viceroy to the same effect. It is quite true the Viceroy has already given his opinion, and it would be mere dissipation of energy to trouble him again about this matter. But such representations, as suggested above, would at least prevent Lord George Hamilton from giving the reply, alluded to above, when pressed by our friends. In short, if such representations are submitted to the Viceroy, one from the representatives and the other from the rate-payers, Lord George Hamilton would not then be able to say, that the Viceroy has listened to the prayers of the citizens. Besides, we have a belief in our mind, based upon something substantial, but what we need not indicate, that Lord Curzon is anxious to serve us. Of course, his Lordship's views on the Municipal question do not fully support this view, but yet his position ought to be taken into consideration. The entire body of officials had pledged themselves to support the measure. The question, whether the Bill was a reform at all, had disappeared long ago. The question that was presented to the supreme ruler was whether he should listen to the "white men," or the "colored men," to the Lieutenant-Governor supported by the entire Anglo-Indian community, or to the natives. Lord Curzon has decided against the latter. Perhaps the pressure upon Lord Curzon was too strong, and one can see at a glance that it was almost irresistible. Anyhow it is absolutely necessary to let the Government know, from the rate-payers and their representatives, that they never prayed for the Bombay system, directly or indirectly.

THE MUNICIPAL BILL.

The supreme ruler of the country has to look at things from a higher standpoint than what is accessible to the ruled. The Viceroy has taken certain steps in regard to the Municipal measure which have not met with the approval of the Indians. It is quite possible that His Excellency thinks that, if he has not been able to accede to the wishes of the Indians in the fullest manner, he has done for them what was possible for him to do, taking into consideration the interests of the other races in the city. Possibly the Viceroy thinks that any one in his position would not have done more than he has done for the Indians. Of course, we cannot leave a matter, for which we have sacrificed so much energy and money, in this state. Before, however, we take any definite action in this connection it is proper for us to take a calm and dispassionate view of the situation.

Let us, first of all, see, what is the position that the Indians have taken. It was in 1876 that Sir Richard Temple was pleased to make over the control of the Municipality, with certain restrictions, to the representatives of the rate-payers. This was done because both the Indians and the Europeans had condemned the administration of the Municipality, which was at that time solely under official control, and prayed for the elective system. It is quite true that when Sir Richard offered the privilege, the Europeans refused to accept it. But that was not because they were opposed to election, but because they complained that the privilege given was not enough. They wanted the Municipality to be made over absolutely to the rate-payers. In short, Sir Richard offered the citizens the privilege of electing two-thirds of the members of the Corporation, but the Europeans wanted the privilege of electing all.

Twelve years after the introduction of the reform, that is to say, in 1888, the Municipal administration was subjected to a thorough examination. It was found that the institution had worked well, and the proceedings of 1876 were confirmed with certain changes. It was then that the Indians and Europeans felt that the constitution of the Municipality had at last been established upon a firm and permanent basis. And Sir Henry Harrison, in his ever-to-be-remembered speech, delivered immediately after the passing of the Municipal Act of 1888, promised a glorious future, not only for the Municipality but for the whole of India as well.

Sir A. Mackenzie, however, almost immediately after his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, planned a complete reversal of the previous policy. Under the reform of Sir Richard Temple the rate-payers enjoyed the privilege of electing two-thirds of the Corporation, which controlled the institution. Under the Mackenzie system they were asked to be satisfied with the privilege of electing one-third of the proposed General Committee, which would practically control the Municipality.

Under the Temple system the rate-payers enjoyed the privilege of electing two-thirds of the Corporation which controlled the Municipal affairs of Calcutta. Under the Mackenzie system, the representatives of the elected Commissioners were given the privilege of electing one-third of the General Committee, which was to practically replace the Corporation and control the Municipality.

This the rate-payers objected to. What they submitted was that, the privilege once granted to them twenty-three years ago, and confirmed after a trial of twelve years, ought to be retained, and that they had a right to be aggrieved at the attempt made to deprive them of a valued concession without any substantial reason.

Their case was submitted to Parliament, and if the Liberals were in power they would have won. So they lost only by an accident. And that shews that their case was strong.

It is needless to analyse the changes proposed by the Viceroy. The fact cannot, however, be concealed in any way that the rate-payers have been enjoying the privilege of electing two-thirds of the controlling body, which they are about to lose; and that they are asked to be satisfied with the privilege of electing one-third, or nearly one-half, of that body at the most.

We admit that certain charges were brought against the elected members of the Municipality. But these charges have never been proved. On the other hand, we find that neither the predecessors of Sir A. Mackenzie nor the official Chairmen, who controlled the deliberations of the Corporation, ever preferred these charges. Nay, Sir H. Harrison, the ablest of the Chairmen, who served the Municipality the longest, was eloquent over the success that the Temple scheme had attained, and bore testimony to the valuable services done by the representatives. As for the rate-payers, who are the most vitally interested in the question, they denied the charges altogether, at their last Town Hall meeting, as also at previous meetings, and prayed for a Commission of Inquiry. Let the Viceroy appoint a Commission of Inquiry, prove the guilt of the representatives and then punish the rate-payers.

WHAT THE RANIGUNGE CASE DISCLOSES.

THIS is how the Ranigunge quarrel arose, according to Mr. Thomas Williams, who, together with Mr. Ironsides, the deceased Assistant, fought with the durwans. Says Mr. Williams in his deposition before the Magistrate:—

"Thakur and Debi came and complained to me that Debi was crying. He told me, the durwan at the gate had struck him. I went out with them and asked this durwan why he had struck my man. I did not understand what he said in reply, but his manner was impertinent. I struck the durwan on the face, one blow only."

That is the way the native is oftentimes treated by impulsive Europeans. We hope, we shall be excused for saying that such treatment is fraught with danger. At least, it does no good to any body, but does unmitigated mischief all round. But to continue:—

"About an hour after I saw the head durwan or *Jemadar* talking to the Parsi, Mr. Sorabji. I learnt from the latter that the *Jemadar* was very angry with me for striking the durwan. I was left a moment or two with the *Jemadar* when Sajiban came and told me that the *Jemadar* would *maro* (beat) me. Hearing this from Sajiban, I gave the *Jemadar* a blow with my open hand."

The offence of the first man, struck by Mr. Williams, was that he seemed to him to be impertinent. This is, we need hardly say, a very uncertain indication to lead a man to act when he is going to commit an assault. He did not understand what the man said, but guessed impertinence and struck him. Now, it must be borne in mind that these durwans and head durwans are all respectable men in their own way, and were one day gentlemen in the up-country. They are now a degenerated race, but yet they have the self-respect of the higher classes. They would not certainly like to be struck, and struck without a hearing. As for the head durwan, his offence was that Sajiban told Mr. Williams that the former wanted to beat him (Mr. Williams). That was enough evidence for him to resort to blows. The free use of blows by Europeans on Indians is not the way either to command respect or win the heart.

We have, however, nothing to do with Mr. Williams. What we want to urge is that the feelings between the Europeans and the Indians are not of the most cordial kind, and that the relation is day by day getting more estranged. And the time may at last come when the natives of the soil will try to shun the Europeans altogether. Do not the Indians do so now? The respectable classes, whenever they come across a European, give him a wide berth. Now, this is not a malicious statement, but a fact. Whenever they see a European in a railway compartment, they leave it and seek another. Any why? The Europeans, generally speaking, are polite just like other men; rather, they are more courteous, when unprovoked, than others; and are, as a rule, generous, truthful, just and honest.

Yet it is a fact that a European is dreaded, and it is also a fact that he sometimes guesses impertinence in a native and assaults him. And why should one, who is courteous, just, nay generous, do so? Because, here, in India, he is trained to be imperious. If a *Padisha's* son, a very good child, is made to feel, from his very birth, that his will is law—that he is the monarch of all he surveys—then he is taught to become arrogant, selfish, self-willed, impatient, unreasonable and, finally, cruel. The training that Europeans receive here is bad; and it is this training that demoralizes the weak amongst them, and affects partially every one of them. The Englishman of the strongest mind goes from here to his mother country a changed man. If General Gordon had agreed to serve as Private Secretary to Lord Ripon, he would never have gone back the same man that he came.

The gulf is widening, and we are convinced that it is not the fault of the gentle and unaggressive Indian. Neither is it the fault of the Europeans—the fault is mainly to be attributed to the system that prevails in the country. We shall show how this system has produced this result.

From a love of authority the Europeans have secured excessive power; and as the possession of power increases a thirst after it, the European is constantly after increasing it. But the enjoyment of excessive power is a curse—a curse of the worst kind. Of course those who enjoy it don't admit it; some of them, no doubt, think that though the enjoyment of excessive power is demoralizing in its effects, yet they are too strong-minded to be affected by it. But the fact is, there is not a man in the world who can retain his faculties in a pure state, from being sullied, who is forced to exercise vast powers over his fellows. These Europeans who enjoy excessive powers, alas! do not know the harm that they are doing to themselves. If we had a mirror by which the soul of a man could be seen, we would have presented it to them to see what they were when they came here, and what they are now.

The fact is, a European in this country is a fatalist; he does not care for

the future at all. He knows that the Empire is sure to endure his time. He does not care to see that, if the Indians and Europeans go on hating one another in this fashion, society itself is threatened with dismemberment, for they are destined to live together.

We attributed this estrangement to the system. First, in India, the un-English method prevails by which the people of the country have been deprived of almost every political privilege; they are nobodies in their own country. This is a system which prevails nowhere in the British Empire and is repugnant to the genius, nay, even to the very imperialism of the British nation, of which Englishmen are so proud. This high imperial instinct of England leads that country to afford protection to vast Colonies, from pure generosity, without any hope of gain in return. In India, that generous instinct, which has made England great, is ignored altogether. Add to this the fact that the rulers enjoying all powers, will keep themselves aloof from the natives of the soil, treating them as an inferior race. This is done, because that is the custom that prevails here. It is not considered respectable to treat an Indian on equal terms.

And then, if a European is found to have maltreated an Indian, he ought to be censured for it. But that is not done. On the other hand, he is encouraged indirectly to continue in his mal-practices. No sooner is an accusation brought against a European, than an effort is made to extricate him. But we do not choose to dilate upon this disagreeable subject. We feel, however, that the Europeans and Indians should love one another, and if they can be persuaded to do so, they will make themselves happier than they are now.

AFTER the above was in type, we came across the following lines in the *Bengalee*:—

"The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* quotes a paragraph from the *Hindoo Patriot* and amplifies upon it. The answer to these observations is given in the Note of Dissent itself which strangely enough the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* quotes. The dissenting members say:—

"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."

The obvious meaning of the paragraph is that the dissenting members are not in love with the Bombay system; but if they are to have it, let it be introduced in its entirety—it will not do to borrow from it here and there. But this is not what the Government of India proposes to do. It proposes to borrow a principle here and a principle there and even that in a mutilated form. The constitution of the General Committee as proposed by the Government is not the constitution of the Bombay Standing Committee. The Bombay Corporation consists of 72 members; the Calcutta Corporation is to consist of 50 members; and the electorates differ in important particulars. Against this piecemeal borrowing the dissenting members protested; and if language has any meaning, what they said cannot be twisted even into a colourable support of the proposals of the Government. It may interest our contemporaries to know that the Note of Dissent was sent to some of the leading Commissioners before submission and was approved of by them. We confess it was not sent to the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*.

Let us see what is the dispute about. The Government of India has given a new shape to the Bill, which, it is believed by competent men like Babus Bhupendra Nath Bose, N. N. Ghose, and others, to be worse than what it was originally. The Government says that this change has been made at the instance of the representatives, Babus S. N. Bannerjee and N. N. Sen. And sure enough, when the Bill comes before Parliament, Lord George Hamilton will defend it on the ground that it was founded upon the suggestion of the representatives of the rate-payers themselves. What the *Bengalee* has got to do is, not to bandy words with and try to defeat us, but to see whether the mischief, that the representatives have done, if not deliberately at least from pure thoughtlessness and self-sufficiency, can be neutralized or not. The Government of India has thrown the entire responsibility upon the representatives, its position being that it has acted up to their suggestion. Is that a fact or a myth? If it is not a fact, let the *Bengalee* shew it. To show a bold front, as if there is nothing serious in what Babu Surendra Nath has done, and to bandy words with us is not the position that the *Bengalee* should take. It says that the representatives wanted the Bombay system in its entirety. It seems Babu Surendra Nath is yet unaware of the fact, that the Bombay Corporation is practically based upon the nomination and not the election system; for while Calcutta enjoys the privilege of electing two-thirds of the Corporation, Bombay has the privilege of electing only half. Nay, it seems that he has not been able to grasp the situation at all.

The real point at issue between Sir A. Mackenzie and the rate-payers was that, the former wanted to reduce the majority of the elected Commissioners that the rate-payers possessed, and the rate-payers wanted to retain it. For their representatives to want the Bombay system is to play into the hands of the framers of the Bill—to ask that in the place of the privilege that they enjoyed of electing two-thirds, they would be satisfied if they got only half! For it was this that the Mackenzie Bill was practically aiming at.

One simple fact will explain what a hazardous step Babu Surendra Nath took in praying for the Bombay system. Dozens of memorials were sent against the Bill; hundreds of leading rate-payers spoke against it; but who ever talked of demanding either directly or indirectly the Bombay Act? When the elective system was originally introduced, there was a talk of introducing the Bombay system. But it was rejected by that great benefactor, Sir Richard Temple, who wanted to, and did, give us something substantial. And what an infatuation to demand it again after all that had been done to protect the privilege of electing two-thirds!

As to the sneer that the Note of Dissent was not sent the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, well, we think Babu Surendra Nath might have done it without disgrace. All the memorials lately adopted were sent to this journal for its approval; and none of them contains a suicidal proposal like the one Babu Surendra Nath has embodied in his Note of Dissent

which has resulted in the ruin of our cause. And we can assure him that if his Note of Dissent had passed through our hands, we would have objected to that part of it where the representatives wanted the Bombay system as an alternative. For we knew what it was, which, it seems, the *Bengalee* does not even now know. Indeed, the *Bengalee*, instead of defending Babu Surendra Nath for the fatal blunder which was taken advantage of to deal a death blow to local self-government in India, ought to have expressed deep regret at the incalculable mischief thoughtlessly done by him as a representative of the people. We have talked of Babu Surendra Nath's self-sufficiency, and we regret that it is a harsh expression. A representative has to be guided by the wishes of his constituents. When the Drainage Bill was introduced into the Council, Babu Surendra Nath had, but for the efforts of this journal, almost succeeded in imposing a direct drainage cess upon the country. That was one instance of self-sufficiency. This time he demanded the Bombay system, though not a single memorial contained such a prayer, and his is another instance of that failing.

The *Pioneer* has the following editorial paragraph on the Ranigunge outrage case:—

"An uglier aspect than already wore has been given to the murder of a European foreman at the Bengal Paper Mills, by the evidence of a doctor before the magistrate that the unfortunate victim was not first beaten to death, and then thrown, merely for concealment, into a hot water tank vat, but must have been deliberately forced into the vat while still alive. As this theory rests at present on the *post mortem* appearances of the body only, one hopes, there is room for mistake."

In the report published in our columns and also in all Anglo-Indian daily papers including the *Pioneer*, Dr. Vaughan, the Civil Surgeon is nowhere reported to have said in his evidence that the deceased had been "deliberately forced into the vat while still alive," as the *Pioneer* would make him say. All that he said on this point was "the immediate cause of death would have been possibly the immersion in the tank of hot water." As a matter of fact Dr. Vaughan would have proved himself ridiculous had he deposed in the way the *Pioneer* indicates, for no one but an eye-witness could depose whether or not the deceased had been "deliberately forced into the vat" or had slipped into it. The Anglo-Indian papers have already begun to prejudice the case and show their temper. They call it "a murder" though that is yet to be proved. Indeed, the defence allege that the deceased European, while running away, fell accidentally in the tank of hot water, the temperature of which was 130°, and the immersion caused his immediate death. The *Indian Daily News* reporter, in order to prove that the Durwans really committed a murder, characterises them as "determined-looking men!"

NEEDLESS to say that our friends at Lucknow are doing their very best to make the forthcoming National Congress a success. We learn from the Lucknow *Advocate* that the members of the Working Committee are going to make a house-to-house collection; and in this way, they hope to raise about Rs. 15,000 from Lucknow alone. Unfortunately, as we said the other day, no site for the *palace* has yet been fixed upon. Two suitable places are available, for which an application has been made by the Reception Committee, but the authorities have not yet given their sanction. We are amused to learn from the *Advocate* that, at the instigation of a certain Nawab, a curious petition, signed by some fifty or sixty persons, has been submitted to the Local Government, praying that the Congress may not be allowed to meet at Lucknow, lest the delegates from outside brought plague bacilli concealed in their pockets and killed the Mussalmans of the place! Our contemporary, however, assures us that the vast majority of the local Mahomedans have, not only nothing to do with this petition, but are indignant at the attempts made to compromise them. With a sympathetic and enlightened ruler like Sir A. P. MacDonnell at the head of the Government, we know, the patriotic band at Lucknow have nothing to fear.

ONE of the most pleasant privileges of the Indian journal is to speak gratefully of the protection that the High Court affords to the people of this country. It stands a living testimony of the sense of justice of the English nation. Many excellent British commodities deteriorate when they come to this country, but British Judges have ever been able to maintain the reputation that they enjoy all over the world. To find fault with the work of the High Court is, therefore, a most unpleasant duty. To find illegality in the acts of the Hon'ble Judges, who interpret the laws, is to attempt to prove that white is black. Yet we must say, that a good deal of sensation was created when the High Court was found to have given a new lease of life to the Norton case already disposed of by a competent court. People doubted whether it was legal. In reply all that we can say is that it must be legal since the High Court says it is so. It may seem illegal to us, but we are not the interpreters of the law. This, however, we can say with confidence, that the procedure adopted was novel; and if followed would be something like dismembering our society. The law empowers the Government to appeal against an acquittal or move the High Court to enhance punishment. But if a private party is once allowed the same privilege, others will follow suit; and if every acquittal is followed by a new trial, and every sentence of the lower court is sought to be enhanced, then society is likely to be dismembered in half a dozen months!

But a greater sensation was created by the procedure adopted in regard to the Munshigunge case. Whatever the High Court does must be right. That is our creed. But yesterday a most distinguished Barrister wrote to us to say that the procedure adopted in the Munshigunge case was not at all to his liking. In this case we see a rule was once granted and made absolute, and judgment delivered. A few days after we see the same rule discharged in spite of the judgment given before, making the rule absolute. All that we can say is that such seemingly contradictory procedures are apt to bewilder the lay mind; and leaders of the bar like Messrs. Woodroffe, Jackson, Bonnerjee, Pugh

and others ought to explain the real situation to the public.

A CASE has just been disposed of by the Sessions Judge of Sylhet, which calls for the exercise of mercy by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor. A woman was charged with having inflicted injuries on her daughter, from the result of which the latter ultimately died. The mother was convicted of murder and sentenced to transportation for life. In course of the trial, it, however, transpired that the woman was at the time of the occurrence in a temporary fit of insanity, and that the act was done without any criminal intent. Indeed, it was a purely motiveless homicide for which perhaps no human soul is more sorry than the mother. The trying Judge himself was perfectly alive to these extenuating circumstances, to which he referred as a strong ground for the Local Government to show her mercy. He could not release the woman because of the rulings of the Calcutta High Court reported in L. L. R. 22 and 23 Cal. We hope some public-spirited pleader of Sylhet will memorialize His Honor on behalf of the unfortunate woman.

OF course Sir J. Woodburn prays to God for the welfare of his people. He is emphatically a good man, and it is not likely that he goes to bed any day without calling upon the Merciful Father to protect the millions whom He had graciously placed in his charge. Just at this moment, the special prayers of the Governor are urgently required for the protection of the people from a dire calamity that is threatening them. The incessant rains are destroying the *aus* crop, and rendering the transplantation of the *aman* impossible. As they have to live from hand to mouth, the failure of a single paddy crop means starvation to millions. We have no desire to create unnecessary alarm, but the Government ought to be on the alert.

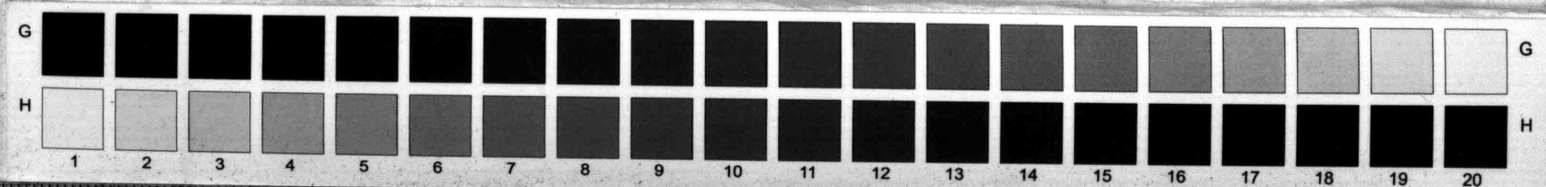
JUDGMENT has been delivered in what is known as the Nadua Rioting case, with the particulars of which the reader is familiar. The two girls, Buchi and Nuni, who were charged along with six coolies with abetting the assault on Mr. Bellwood, Manager of the Nadua Tea Estate, have been discharged. All the male accused have been convicted and sentenced by the Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh to four years' rigorous imprisonment each. It remains to be seen whether any action will be taken upon the complaint of the coolie girl, accusing Mr. Bellwood of attempting to outrage her modesty.

ON the 18th instant Mr. John Lees, Manager of the Mohunpur garden, submitted the following petition to the Deputy Commissioner of Cachar:—

"Sir,—Previous to my leaving for Calcutta in connection with Mr. Ross's case, the villagers of Ratanpur and Bahadurpur continued to enter the garden jungle for stealing bamboos &c. Notwithstanding the several convictions we had in the Hailakandi Court, the villagers did not discontinue stealing bamboos from the Company's land, and now they being more dissatisfied with the result of Mr. Ross's case, I am informed they are now moving in the garden jungle armed with guns. In the interest of the Company it is necessary either for Mr. Ross or myself to go to the land to stop this stealing, but the villagers being armed I do not consider that I should arm myself to go there or Mr. Ross should go there similarly armed. To preserve peace, it is necessary to locate a guard of military police for patrolling in the garden jungle for at least a month or until such time as the villagers will be in a less turbulent state. I therefore pray that you will be pleased to order the location at Mohunpur garden of a guard of military police from four to six or such number as your Worship may consider sufficient for the purpose."

J. LEES.
The petition was supported by an affidavit, and a guard of 4 Sepoys and one Havildar, from the Frontier Police Battalion, have, we understand, been quartered at the Mohunpur garden. Now the question is, was any enquiry made as to the truth of the allegations? We are told, the ryots roam over the garden armed with guns. This is a serious charge indeed. But where did they get guns from? Are they these bamboo-cutters, rich enough to buy costly weapons like guns? Or, did they steal them? Mr. Ross, however, did not see them armed with guns but only with *daos*. The matter should have been thoroughly enquired into before the adoption of the drastic measure, specially as the Mohunpur garden and the ryots are not in the best of terms. We trust, Cachar matters will engage the serious attention of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. It seems, there is some screw loose somewhere in the administration of that district; or else, why should we receive so many complaints against it? The next point is the question of cost. Who will pay it? The ryots, the Mohunpur garden, or the general tax-payers? As the military police has been quartered for the benefit of the garden, it is the latter which should bear the entire cost. The public ought to be enlightened on the subject.

THE *Indian Daily News*, in an excellent article, thoroughly exposes the mischievous and unworkable character of the Copyright Bill. As we said the other day, a similar Bill was sought to be introduced into England at the instance of the *Times*; but, the Parliamentary Committee which sat to enquire into the matter, came to the conclusion that it would do more harm than good to give copyright in foreign news. Strangely enough, when men like Lord Herschell, Lord Welby, Lord Knutsford and Lord Thring, who composed the Copyright Committee at Home are against the idea, the Government of India should think of legislating on the subject. "It is India and who cares?" and here is a proof of that oft-repeated allegation. Because the *Pioneer* thinks that it may be benefited by such an Act, therefore the Government is going to oblige it, by bringing forward the Bill! At least, this is what the *Indian Daily News* says. But, it seems, the Government is not yet aware that the effect of the legislation would be the death of almost all the Indian daily papers, excepting a few, for they are not in a position to spend Rs. 400 a month for securing foreign news through Reuters. There is no competition between these papers and the *Pioneer* or any European daily paper; so,



no Act is needed to protect the interests of the latter against the piracy of the former. We sincerely hope, the Government will reconsider the matter, and forbear introducing a measure into this country which is not only uncalled for, but which is fraught with mischief.

As we said the other day, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor could not please both Dacca and Bhagulpore at one and the same time, in the matter of the next Council election. The reader is aware that when Sir John Woodburn paid a visit to Bhagulpore about a week ago, the local Association, in their welcome address, prayed to His Honor to allow the Bhagulpore people to exercise the privilege next year, in March, when its turn came. They emphasised their prayer on the ground that, Bhagulpore was not permitted to elect a representative on the last occasion as there was a tie; and the Government, taking advantage of the accident, appointed a member of its own to the Bhagulpore seat. A wrong had, however, been done to Dacca by depriving it of the privilege, and His Honor was naturally anxious to repair it as soon as possible. In his reply to the Bhagulpore address, Sir John Woodburn therefore declared that when the Chittagong member retired in March next, Dacca would be called upon to choose a member, and that Bhagulpore must wait another two years, that is to say, till the next vacancy occurred. So, while we congratulate Dacca, we condole with Bhagulpore, on the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor.

THE *Englishman* expressed its horror at "the lying perjury of the native witnesses in the Ross case." Mr. Ross himself, in his letter to the *Englishman*, which is reproduced in another column, says the same thing, and thanks our contemporary for the ardent support that he gave him. The *Englishman* itself makes this curious remark upon the letter of Mr. Ross: "The account which he (Mr. Ross) gives of the antecedents of his assailants throws a good deal of light upon the assault, and takes the wind out of the sails of those of our native contemporaries who, in spite of the acquittal of Mr. Ross, have held up these ruffians as models of gentleness and propriety." We never held them up as "models of gentleness and propriety"; but it is the *Englishman*, who, upon the mere assertion of Mr. Ross, an interested party, calls the villagers "ruffians," and so forth, without enquiring or knowing anything about them. As the leading Anglo-Indian paper, the *Englishman* cannot afford to write in this way, or show prejudice and unfairness. The acquittal of Mr. Ross proves nothing; our contemporary must bring forward independent testimony to prove that the villagers are ruffians and rascals.

It took twenty-seven years in England to ascertain whether it would really be of any advantage to afford protection to newspaper telegrams by law. The Government of India waited all that time to see what conclusions England arrived at. The conclusion arrived at by the Copyright Committee at Home was that, such a measure would not be of any service. And as soon as the Indian Government came to know of it they set down to draft their Copyright Bill! Of course, as they were awaiting the decision of England they ought to have given up their idea of legislating for that purpose, when that decision was against it. In India, however, things are not done in the ordinary way. From their bewildering action we are led to the inference that, if England had approved of such a measure, the Indian Government would have dropped it! Is that so? We are told that the measure is for general good, and that the Government is copying Melbourne. We are further assured that the *Times* wanted the British Legislature to serve its interests but failed in its attempt. The *Pioneer*, we are similarly assured, wanted to do the same thing in India, and has succeeded. The measure is certainly not for the benefit of the public nor to the interests of the Anglo-Indian papers. Let us now wait and see how they make a workable law on the subject.

RAI MOHAMMAD PROSAD BAHADUR is a big zemindar of Chupra. He lately incurred the displeasure of the district officials, not for any particular offence, however; and had to take Mr. Jackson all the way from Calcutta to an enormous cost to extricate himself from his troubles, which he had brought upon himself in the following manner. A *Nasir* peon being deputed to execute a warrant of attachment of moveable property, seized one of the Rai Bahadur's horses. There was no necessity for the issue of the warrant, as the Zemindar was a millionaire. Be that as it may, it is alleged that the peon was maltreated by him, while in the execution of his duty. A prosecution followed. The accused Zemindar sought to be represented in court by his pleader, but his application was rejected. On the day of the trial, he did not appear and a warrant was issued against him, and all his moveable property was attached with the notice that if he did not turn up within a certain time, all his property would be seized by the Government. The zemindar, in his terror, took Mr. Jackson up to defend him. After some witnesses for the prosecution had been examined, Mr. Twiddle, the District Magistrate, relented so far as to inform Mr. Jackson that the case might be withdrawn if the accused apologised. This Counsel refused to do. The accused was subsequently acquitted. The case, as expected, has created great sensation in the locality. The above account, we are asked to believe to be true.

At last Burma is to have a Chief Court of its own. The draft Bill of the Chief Court for Burma, has, we hear, been sent to the Government of India, and it is most probable that the Chief Court will be established from 1st April next. Sir William Agnew, the Recorder, is likely to be the first Chief Judge of the Court. It has not yet been settled if Upper Burma is to be included within the jurisdiction of this Court. But, if it is so included, it is probable that besides the Chief Judge there will be four other Judges—two Civilian and two Barristers. And in case it is thought that the time has not yet come for Upper Burma to get the advantages of a Chief Court, there will then be only two other Judges.

THE following account of a case appears in the *Lahore Tribune*:—A few days ago a European, who is employed in the Railway workshops at Lahore, put his horse to graze near his bungalow. The gardener in charge of the ground remonstrated, for he rightly feared that the plants, etc., in his charge might be damaged. This very natural and just protest, however, incensed the owner of the beast, and he punished the man by firing at him a gun loaded with pellets. The pellets, there were over a dozen of them, lodged in the back and were taken out at the hospital where the injured man was taken by his friends. The District Magistrate before whom the affair came in due course, kept the case on his own file. But the case was compounded out of court by the man being prevailed upon to accept Rs. 60 as compensation for his hurt and say nothing more about the affair. The above shows if it shows anything, that it is not the natives who are "ruffians."

"It may seem strange," says our Berham-pore correspondent, "that in this very letter in which I have to inform you about the return of Mr. Egerton to this district, I have to narrate another sensational criminal case hailing from Jangipore." The facts of the case are these:—Babu Tarini Prosad Dhar, brother and manager of the estate of a rich lady zemindar, Nityakali Dassi of Jangipore, was charged with having obstructed public servants in the discharge of their duties, under section 353, to wit, having ordered some constables to be beaten by his men on the occasion of the *Tulsi Behar mela*, a religious procession, on their attempting to disarm his men of a gun. The case was practically initiated by the District Magistrate and tried by him with the result that Babu Tarini Prosad Dhar was found guilty under Section 353 I. P. C. and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 1 month and a fine of Rs. 100 and his 5 Bar-kandazes to 3 weeks' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 20 each. Judgment was delivered at about 1 o'clock on the 19th July. Unfortunately the Sessions Judge did not attend Court on that day. So Babu Baikuntha Nath Sen, who defended the accused, had to go to the house of the Sessions Judge, who, after hearing the appellant's Vakeel, admitted the appeal and allowed the accused to bail. And thus Babu Tarini Prosad Dhar was saved from being dragged to Jail on that day! The appeal has been fixed for hearing on the 29th instant and the public are anxiously waiting to see the result thereof.

OUR readers will remember the case in which some of the villagers of Surarum were charged with having maltreated some officers from Trimulgherry, who had gone there on a shikar expedition. The Resident drew the attention of the Nizam's Government to the case, and some correspondence has since then passed between that Government and Maharajah Sheoraj Bahadur, in whose jagirs the scene of occurrence lies. It appears that Maharajah had sent to the Patel of the jagir a notice that no one should be allowed to shoot in that village, which was strictly preserved. Now, the officers in question had a pass which entitled them to shoot in Government lands and not in private estates. When the Maharajah's notice was shown to them they are said to have torn it off and annoyed the villagers in other ways. As a result of the correspondence, some villagers were sent for identification, but they could not be identified. In the meantime, the Maharajah has written to the officer who organised the shooting party expressing his regret at the occurrence and pointing out that all this was due, in the first instance, to their having failed to provide themselves with a shooting pass from him. However, he has promised to see that the offenders are brought to book. From the above it will appear how queer is the position of the Maharajah. The fault—both of omission and commission—lay with the officers. All the same, the Maharajah had to apologize to them. Apropos of this case, a correspondent relates the following typical story:—"It happened in these Dominions about a year and a half ago. Some officers from Bangalore were anxious to make up a shikar party and were duly furnished with a pass. Previous to their arrival the Subadar (Commissioner) was communicated with, and he very kindly took some trouble in making arrangements for a camp, beaters, supplies, etc., and went so far out of his way as to meet the gentlemen at the railway station where he had arranged for a breakfast. When the officers arrived he conducted them to the refreshment room and not unnaturally sat down to table with them. Thereupon one of the gentlemen got up with the polite remark that he was not going to eat with a d-d nigger—and left the room! The story is a painful one but I believe it to be quite true."

In the forged hundi case, which has occupied Sir Lawrence Jenkins for several days at the Criminal Sessions, the jury found Maneklal Ohellabhai and Bapjee Dhumjibhai Banajee guilty of fraudulently using during March and April last, three forged hundies of a total value of Rs. 15,000. His Lordship sentenced both prisoners to six years' rigorous imprisonment each. The third accused, Chotalal Harjivan, was acquitted. The case excited great local interest.

DR. BHAGAT RAM, a native medical practitioner, residing in the Suddar Bazar, Umballa, has been arrested for performing an alleged illegal operation on the late Mrs. Bacon, wife of Sergeant-Inspector Bacon, N. W. R. A. Volunteers, who died at the Station Family Hospital at Umballa on Friday last. The facts of the case appear to be that the accused attended Mrs. Bacon in her last illness, and that she had a miscarriage while under his treatment. This was followed by complications, which necessitated her removal to hospital. The state in which she was found aroused the suspicions of the medical officer in charge, who reported the circumstances to the police. A post mortem examination was made by no less than three doctors, and the result of their investigation were that Dr. Bhagat Ram was placed under arrest. He was brought before the District Deputy Commissioner, and released under very heavy bail of sum Rs. 10,000. The case is exciting the greatest attention not only among the European population, but also in the bazar as Dr. Bhagat Ram is a highly popular native doctor, and possessed of a considerable amount of influence.

Calcutta and Howfussil.

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LEGISLATIVE.—Dr. Asutosh Mukhopadhyaya, M. A., D. L., F. R. A. S., F. R. S. E., has been gazetted a Member of the Bengal Council.

THE HOOGHLY OUTRAGE CASE.—We hear the appeal in this case, in which the accused was sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment, has been dismissed.

UNWELCOME VISITORS.—A fisherman while fishing in the Canal in Nardoldanga, netted three huge serpents. The unwelcome visitors were killed then and there.

PROPOSED RAILWAY EXTENSION.—A reconnaissance has been made by the Assam-Bengal Railway for an extension of their system from Hajiganj, on the Chandpur branch, to Shatnol, a distance of 25 miles, with a ferry thence to Naranganj, 12 miles. A report with a rough estimate of cost has been submitted to Government, and it is estimated that the line can be constructed for 25 lakhs of rupees, and the wagon ferry for ten lakhs.

DARJEELING-HIMALAYAN RAILWAY CO., LD.—Approximate earnings for the week ending 15th July, 1899, Rs. 12,642; approximate earnings for the corresponding period of 1898, Rs. 12,617; increase Rs. 25. Receipts per mile for the week ending 15th July, 1899, Rs. 247-14-1; receipts per mile for the corresponding period of 1898, Rs. 247-6-3; increase, Rs. 0-7-10. Receipts from 1st July to 15th July, 1899, Rs. 27,912. Receipts for the corresponding period of 1898, Rs. 27,374; increase, Rs. 538.

LABOUR LAW IN ASSAM.—The Government of India's despatch on the proposed amendment of the Labour Law in Assam went home by the last mail. If approved by the Home Government the Bill dealing with the matter may be expected to be introduced in the Supreme Council before the end of the Simla session and passed into law some time next cold weather. It is understood to embody the main results of the recommendations of the Labour Commission, over which Mr. H. C. Williams presided some time ago.

GRANDER THAN THE KOILWAR BRIDGE.—The new stone bridge near Dihri on the Mogulserai-Gya extension is expected to be grander than the old one at Koilwar. It is ninety-three spans of one hundred feet each in length. One hundred and sixty-six wells have been already built, one hundred and forty-eight sunk, fifty piers have been finished, and twenty-nine spans of girders erected. It is hoped that the bridge will be opened for traffic in March next. The line from Gya to Mogulserai will be opened very soon as the permanent way has been laid throughout, and stations and buildings are nearly complete.

A STRANGE METAMORPHOSIS.—A wonderful tale has been subject last week of official correspondence between the Inspector-General of H. H. the Nizam's Police and the Residency authorities. In all seriousness, the Inspector-General states that at Azfulpur, in the Guburga District, a girl, born 2½ years ago, has developed into a boy! This physiological miracle is still living, and has been seen by thousands. It is hardly possible to repeat the technical language used by the Inspector-General to describe the physical changes that have taken place in the formation of the child, but there is the metamorphosis, and no one reading the official story can dispute its accuracy, so far as the official story goes. It will be interesting to know whether such a human wonder has a parallel anywhere.—*Kathianur Times*.

FIGHT WITH A CROCODILE.—On Saturday last three native Christian lads, went to bathe in the Multa river below Canning Town. One of them having gone a little deeper into the water, a large crocodile caught hold of him by the leg. He began to rend the skies with his cries of distress. His two brothers, seeing the danger he was in, at once plunged into the river to attempt the rescue of their relative. Then commenced a regular tug-of-war between man and beast—a sight for the gods to see.—the saurian monster pulling on one side and the two brothers of the unfortunate boy on the other. The fight lasted for a long time and at last ended in the success of the two plucky boys. The crocodile left its prey and disappeared. The name of the injured lad is Simon. He was brought down to Calcutta and admitted to the Medical College Hospital, where it was discovered that he had a compound fracture of the left leg. Although his brother had rescued him from the jaws of the monster they could not unfortunately save him from the jaws of death, for the injuries he had sustained proved fatal and the poor lad expired soon after admission in hospital.

THE RANGOON OUTRAGE CASE.—Among the witnesses in the Rangoon outrage case will probably be the Adjutant of the West Kents, who was recalled from leave in connection with the inquiry. It is, we believe, a fact that in April last, before the case had come into court at all with the trial of Private Horrocks, several of the men of the West Kents were interrogated by the Adjutant, and notes of their replies were taken down by the latter. During the Horrocks trial this fact was not elicited, but in the course of the fresh investigation, which preceded the trial now going on in the Cantonment Magistrate's Court, one of the West Kent officers, who was being examined before the Commissioner of Police and the Government Advocate, casually alluded to notes by the Adjutant, of the existence of which the civil authorities were up till that moment ignorant. The production of the notes was thereupon demanded, and they are now in the hands of the police.

GOOSE QUILLS.—From a Government order to hand we find that one of the subjects that was the subject of correspondence was "goose quills." Among the surplus articles in store with the Superintendent of Stationery, Madras, was 78,000 dozen goose quills. He wrote to the Government for instructions as to how he should dispose of them. After much correspondence the Madras Government passed an order in which they say that "the Government of India will be addressed in view of ascertaining whether some of the surplus stock of quills in the Madras Stationery Office cannot be transferred to other Provinces." The correspondence has reached only this stage. We may expect something more before the serious problem about goose quills is finally solved. Meanwhile the Superintendent of Stationery is authorised by the Local Government to issue, during the current and succeeding years goose quills on the scale which was in force prior to 1896. Perhaps the dispute between the Big Endians and the Small Endians, which interested Gulliver so much, is nothing when compared to this grave problem about goose quills. Cannot Lord Curzon do something to reduce the volume of correspondence on such subjects?—*Madras Standard*.

SWAMI BHASKARANAND SARASWATI.

A TRULY great man has left this world, great not in filthy lucre, but in the imperishable wealth of God's storehouse—the rightful heritage of man truly received and foolishly lost by him. Such a man is rarely, quietly born, and leads a quiet life, and quietly passes away. His progress is not marked by a flourish of trumpets, nor the clappings of nineteenth-century greatness, but when he departs this life, he vanishes like a meteor and like the meteor, leaves a brilliant trail of after-glow to illumine the earth on which he lived. The life of such a man is not varied by multifarious incidents of any thrilling interest. It does not teach the artful intricacies of success or of the gilded vanities of the earth. The grand object-lesson of a life like this is the man himself, the man purified and ennobled, the man regenerated in sackcloth and ashes.

Such a man was Swami Bhaskaranand. He died on the 25th Asar last, at 20 minutes after midnight, in his residence at Benares. On the 21st Asar he had an attack of diarrhoea which gradually developed into cholera. He breathed his last while sitting in divine contemplation. A few days before, after finishing his breakfast he told his disciples that, that was his last breakfast in this world. Before his death, he gave instructions to them to expose his dead body on a high loft so that the birds might make food thereof. Needless to say that the disciples did not act up to his advice but buried him in the grounds attached to Anandbag where he lived, with the usual ceremonies.

Swami Bhaskaranand was born in 1833 in a village called Maithalapore, in district Cawnpore. He was the son of Misra Lal Misra and maternal grandson of Mani Lal Chaudhary. Misra Lal was a devout man and Mani Lal was deeply versed in Hindu Logic. Before initiation, the Swami's name was Mati Lal. While eight years of age he was invested with the sacred thread and after his investiture he came to Benares where he began to study the Hindu grammar *Panini*. In his seventeenth year he finished his grammar and some other subjects. Even at this time he was known as a learned man. In his twelfth year he had been united in wedlock, and in his eighteenth year he was the father of a male child. After this he considered his duty discharged as a Unit of Society, and his mind aspired after the things that are not of this earth. He snapped asunder his domestic ties and left his home as a devotee. He proceeded to Ujjain, thence to various, other pilgrimages returning again to the very same place. Here in his twenty-seventh year he assumed the garb of an ascetic and was initiated by Purnanand Swami; and henceforth he was known as Bhaskaranand Saraswati. After staying here for some time he went to Benares again, and thence to Asanpore in Fatepur. He abandoned his pilgrim's staff at this place. He went to Cawnpore again and from there accompanied by two disciples and with the rag about his loins to call his own, he visited his native village and came back to Cawnpore. From Cawnpore in wind and rain, denying himself even the shelter of a tree he travelled through all the places of pilgrimage on either side of the Ganges up to the sea, ultimately reaching Hardwar. Here he read the Upanishads and other Shastras with a Pandit named Anantram.

On hearing that his mother had gone to Badarikasram he went there to visit her. His wife died in Benares. At the age of forty, Swami Bhaskaranand went to Benares again and there he remained till his death. Latterly he had given up wearing clothes altogether. Such is the history of Swami Bhaskaranand.

The Swami was deeply versed in Shastrie lore. His head was as rich as his heart. He has left innumerable disciples and ardent admirers both in India and Europe. Eminent Europeans used to visit him. It is said that among the number of his admirers were some of the Potentates of Europe. Many among the Rajas and Maharajas here were his disciples. On the 10th July 1898, the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces paid him a visit. Several eminent Europeans and Americans wanted to be his disciples but he would never accept them as such. His advice to the Christians and Mussalmans was to cherish their own religion. The Swami is said to have possessed miraculous powers also. The man is gone. But he has left nothing behind him except his dead body for the beasts of prey and birds of the air; and for man, his own noble-self, his stainless and immaculate life—his holy and saintly existence—the pattern of purity—the paradigm of human perfection. Let our painted butterflies only contemplate the disposition of their dead bodies in the way in which the Swami did.

No less than 61 cases, mostly British soldiers, have been sent to the Pasteur Institute at Paris from India since the 1st of January, 1898.

His Excellency the Viceroy has been pleased to signify his willingness to open the Simla Fine Arts Exhibition at the Town Hall at 4 P.M. on Monday, the 14th August.

THE RANIGUNJ OUTRAGE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ON the 21st instant the trial of the 13 accused in the above case commenced before Mr. B. Foley, District Magistrate of Burdwan, in the Court of the Sub-divisional Officer, Ranigunj. Mr. Emslie, the Sub-divisional Officer, owing to his being an enquiring officer, expressed his disinclination to take up the trial of the case and the Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Kennedy, who happened to be at Ranigunj on the 19th instant, wired to the District Magistrate to come up and try the case. On the morning of the 21st, Mr. Foley proceeded to the Bullbhpore Paper Mills to see the place of occurrence, accompanied by Babu Devendra Nath Mitter, Government Pleader of Burdwan, who appeared for the prosecution. Already a good many witnesses have been examined in course of two days trial. There were the representatives of the *Englishman*, the *Indian Daily News* and the *Statesman* present from the beginning of the trial to take down proceedings of the Court, and all of them, excepting the last sent a telegraphic despatch of the proceedings of the Court in full, but I find in none of the papers a full report of the examination to which the witnesses were subjected.

Sorabee is an important witness for the prosecution, and in to-day's *Dak* edition of the "Statesman" a trifling account of his examination has been published. It is a matter of no less importance to note that the Court destroyed in a temper the deposition of this witness, when in fact more than half of it had been recorded. The Court asked the witness as to when I did see Mr. Ironsides last, on the night of the occurrence. The witness replied he had seen him last about 10 or 15 minutes before any hot words took place between some of the accused and Mr. Williams on the night of the occurrence. When asked to identify, he said he could only point them out by guess. The reporter of the *Indian Daily News* tried to explain to the Court the sense of what the witness had repeatedly said and the Court could not understand, but had to hold his tongue by order of the Court. The witness was, therefore, subjected to a fresh examination. The deposition of Captain Vaughan, Civil Surgeon of Burdwan, has not been given out in full. This gentleman, if I am not mistaken, was the 4th witness examined, but in the *Indian Daily News* of the 22nd (Dak edition) his deposition has altogether been omitted although that of those examined after him has been published. This is what Captain Vaughan said in his examination:

"I am Civil Surgeon of Burdwan. I examined Mr. Ironsides' body on the morning of the 13th. I found some bruise marks on the upper surface of the left shoulder, on the left side of the middle of the throat and the right side of the middle of the neck. Under the angle of the jaw were two small bruise marks. Over the upper part of the front of the chest there appeared some bruising. There was a deep severe bruise on the left side of the head over the temple where dissection showed effusion of blood as deep as the bone. I considered the immediate cause of death to have been the immersion in the tank of hot water, which Mr. McNicol told me was generally 130 degrees. In all probability the deceased died immediately on immersion as the result of the extreme shock. I wrote my report immediately after the post mortem. Dr. O'Connor was present—I practically did the whole thing myself. (By the Court.)—The wounds were inflicted in my opinion by a blunt weapon. The wound on the head was one that would have stunned him. It would have produced insensibility. In my opinion none of the blows would have killed him. The marks on his neck might possibly have been caused by finger clutch. It is impossible to say the injury on the head was the most severe. I noticed that there was no abrasion or mark on the skin or knees. The mouth was empty. The fingers were folded but not tightly clenched. There was a very small quantity of silt or sledge in them which I think had come from the bottom of the tank. There was a little blood flowing from the nostrils. There was nothing in the eyes. A temperature of 110 degrees is a very hot bath indeed. A temperature of 130 degrees means a very extreme shock. The injuries I saw on the body might be produced by lathies."

The pleader for the defence, Mr. Troilokhy Nath Mookerjee applied for copies of the proceedings on the 21st, a little before the rising of the Court, but was asked to file the application the next day. This was accordingly done, but the Court did not grant it saying there was ample time yet for the copies to be of any use, (probably meaning a trial in the Sessions Court) and that he could hardly spare time to let him have the copies just then.

I have wired you already the reason for the postponement of the case till the 29th.

THE "GAZETTE OF INDIA."

THE services of Mr. Obbard, Judicial Commissioner, Central Provinces, have been replaced at the disposal of the Foreign Office.

The services of Lieutenant Cummins, 24th Punjab Infantry, Assistant Commandant, Burma Military Police, have been replaced at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief.

The services of Lieutenant G. C. Burn, 13th Madras Infantry, is appointed to the Burma Military Police.

Mr. Curry, Government Examiner of Burma Railways, on the expiry of leave, is appointed Government Examiner, Burma.

Mr. Balston, on return from furlough, is reappointed Examiner, Public Works Department, Burma.

Mr. Oram is appointed Assistant Traffic Superintendent, North-West Railway.

Mr. E. W. Arundel is granted extension of leave for eight months.

Mr. J. E. Hilton is permitted to retire from the service.

Lieutenant R. H. Thomas, R. E., is appointed to the Public Works Department.

Lieutenant Chandler is confirmed as Assistant Military Accountant.

The services of Lieutenant Colonel Newill are replaced at the disposal of the Military Department.

Mr. H. C. Hill received charge of the Office of the Inspector-General of Forests from Mr. B. Ribentrop on the 8th of July.

Mr. Cleadow, Deputy Director of the Forest School at Dehra, is granted three months' leave, Mr. Gradon officiates, and Mr. Macintosh from Madras officiates under instruction.

The services of M. Finucane are replaced at the disposal of the Home Department.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

MR. A. W. Cook, Asst Magte and Collr, Darjeeling, is transferred to Gaya.
Babu Gagan Chandra Das, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed leave for three months.
Mr. A. P. Muddiman, Asst Magte and Collr, Gaya, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the district of Saran.
Babu Anath Bandhu De, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Jahanabad, is transferred to the Serampore sub-div.

Mr. A. J. Ollenbach, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Champaran is allowed leave for two months.

The following acting promotions are sanctioned in the grades of Magistrates and Collectors until further orders:-

To act in the first grade.
Mr. W. Maude, and Mr. F. W. Duke.

To act in the second grade.
Mr. H. D. deM. Carey, Mr. C. A. Bell and Mr. Mohammad Yusuf.

In modification of the order of the 8th July, 1899, Mr. C. H. C. Sevenoaks, Supdt of the Buxar Central Jail, is allowed leave for three months.

Babu Nilratan Mukerjee, Spl Sub-Registrar, Birbhum, is allowed extraordinary leave without allowances for six months.

The following promotions and appointments are sanctioned in the Provincial Educational Service, with effect from the 1st July 1899:

Promoted to Class VI.
Mr. H. A. Lane, vice Babu Mati Lal maitra, retired.

Promoted substantively pro tempore to Class VI.
Babu Kisori Mohan Sen Gupta vice Mr. H. A. Lane, seconded.

Appointed to Class VII.
Babu Kailash Chandra Bhattacharjee vice Mr. H. A. Lane, promoted.

Babu Rasamay Mitra, Head Master, Hare School, is appointed to be Head Master of the Hindu School.

Babu Hari Das Banerjee, Head Master, Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Cuttack, is appointed to be Head Master, Hare School.

Babu Kailash Chandra Bhattacharjee, Head Master of the Chittagong Collegiate School, is appointed to be Head Master of the Ravenshaw Collegiate School.

Babu Kali Kumar Roy, Sub-Dy Collr, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is allowed leave for one month and twenty-one days.

Maulvi Mohamad Lateefallah, Sub-Dy Collr, Siwan, is allowed an extension of leave for one day.

Babu Khudiram Poddar, Sub-Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the Buxar.

Babu Joges Chunder Dutt sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, Buxar, is transferred to the Presidency Division.

Babu Shoodhangshu Bhushan Roy, Munsif of Munshiganj, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif of Mymensingh.

Babu Mati Lal Haldar, Sub Judge of Birbhum, on deputation to Bankura, on leave, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Saran, vice Babu Atul Vihari Ghose, deceased.

Babu Jadu Nandan Prasad, now acting as Munsif of Chapra, is appointed to act as a Munsif of Hathahazi, during the absence, on leave, of Babu Charu Chandra Mukherji, but to be on deputation to act as Addl Munsif of Siwan.

The following promotions, confirmations and appointments are sanctioned in the Judicial Branch of the Provincial Civil Service:-

Promoted to the first grade of Sub Judges.
Babus Abinash Chunder Mitter and Grish Chunder Chatterjee.

Promoted to the second grade of Sub Judges.
Babus Mohim Chandra Ghosh and Hara Krishna Chatterjee.

Confirmed in the third grade of Sub Judges.
Babus Jodupati Banerji, Lal Gopal Sen, Bipin Behari Mukerji and Jogendra Nath Ghosh (No. 1).

Appointed substy pro tem to the third grade of Sub Judges.
Babus Triguna Prasanna Basu, Jogendra Nath Ghosh, (No. 1) and Jadu Nath Ghosh and Maulvi Abdul Bari.

Confirmed in the first grade of Munsifs.
Babus Aghor Chandra Hazra, Purna Chandra De, Purna Chandra Ghosh, Pran Krishna Misra, and Nalini Nath Mitra.

Promoted sub pro tem to the first grade of Munsifs.
Babus Purna Chandra Ghosh, Pran Krishna Biswas, Nalini Nath Mitra, Bepin Behari Chatterjee, Lohit Kumar Bose, Bhuban Mohan Gangooly and Surjo Narain Dass.

Confirmed in the second grade of Munsifs.
Babus Krishna Dhan Mookerjee, Saroda Prasad Sen, Tarak Nath Datta, Jadoo Nath Goswami and Asutosh Sarkar.

Promoted sub pro tem to the second grade of Munsifs.
Babus Tarak Nath Datta, Jadoo Nath Goswami, Asutosh Sarkar, Annada Charan Sen, Bankim Chandra Mitra, and Brajendra Lal De.

Confirmed in the third grade of Munsifs.
Babus Shyama Charan Banerjee, Kunja Behary Gupta, Maulvi Syed Mohamad Yusoo Ali, nabus Gobind Gopal Gupta and Charu Chunder Mitter.

Promoted substy pro tem to the third grade of Munsifs.
Maulvi Syed Mohamad Yusoo Ali, babu Gobind Gopal Gupta, Charu Chunder Mitter, Surendra Nath Ghose, Umesh Chunder Chatterbutty, and Lohit Mohan Das.

Confirmed in the fourth grade of Munsifs.
Babus Ashutosh Gupta, Norendra Nath Ghose, Rajendra Nath Roy and Bunwari Lal Banerjee.

Appointed to the fourth grade of Munsifs.
Babus Hem Chandra Mitter and Norendro Nath Mitter.

Appointed substy pro tem to the fourth grade of Munsifs.
Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji, Mohor Lal De, Benoy Kesub Mitter, Jotindra Chandra Sen, and Sarat Chandra Ghose.

Babu Jadupati Banerji, Munsif of Nilphamari, and sub pro tem Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, on deputation to Saran, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Birbhum, on deputation to Bankura. He will, however, continue to act in his present appointment as Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, on deputation to Saran.

Babu Norendra Nath Ghose, Sub pro tem Munsif of Nilphamari, is confirmed in that appointment.

Babu Triguna Prasanna Basu, Munsif of Lakkimpur, who is now acting as Sub-Judge of Birbhum, on deputation to Bankura, is appointed to be sub pro tem Addl Sub Judge of Bir-

bhum, Faridpur and Saran, but to continue to act in his present appointment as Sub Judge of Birbhum, on deputation to Bankura.

Babu Mohor Lal De, Offg Munsif of Satkonja is appointed to be a sub pro tem Munsif of Lakkimpur.

Babu Lal Gopal Sen, Addl Munsif in Noakhali, on deputation to Fenny, and sub pro tem Addl Sub-Judge of Bhagalpur, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Jessore, but to continue to act as Addl Sub-Judge of Bhagalpur.

Babu Ashutosh Gupta, sub protem Addl Munsif of Noakhali, on deputation to Fenny, is confirmed in his present appointment.

Babu Jadu Nath Ghose, Munsif of Bhangra, who is now acting as Sub Judge of Jessore, on deputation to Khulna, is appointed to be a Munsif of Bagerhat, and to be sub pro tem Addl Sub Judge of Bhagalpur. He will, however, continue to act as Sub Judge of Jessore, on deputation Khulna.

Babu Har Kumar Ray, Munsif of Bagerhat, on furlough, is appointed to be a Munsif of Bhangra.

Babu Sarat Chandra Ghose, Offg Munsif of Bagerhat, is appointed to be a sub pro tem Munsif of Bagerhat.

Babu Norendra Nath Mitter, Offg Munsif of Munshiganj, is confirmed in his present appointment.

Babu Sayam Kishore Bose, Sub Judge of Dacca, who is now acting as an Addl Sub Judge of Sylhet, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Patna, but to continue to act, as an Addl Sub-Judge of Sylhet.

Moulvi Abdul Bari, Munsif of Barisal, who is now acting as Sub Judge of Patna, is appointed to be a Munsif of Bholah. His services are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam, but he will continue to act in his present appointment as Sub Judge of Patna.

Babu Gyanendra Chandra Banerji, Munsif of Bholah, is appointed to be a Munsif of Barisal.

Babu Bejoy Kesub Mitter, Offg Munsif of Chittagong, is appointed to be a sub pro tem Munsif of Bholah.

Babu Syam Chand Dhur, Sub Judge and Asst Sessions Judge of Mymensingh, on deputation to Faridpur, who has been appointed to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Patna, is appointed to be Sub Judge and Asst Sess Judge of Saran. He will, however, continue to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Patna, until further orders.

Babu Tara Prasanna Banerjee, Sub Judge of Saran, is appointed to be a Sub Judge of Dacca, but to continue to act in his present appointment.

Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, Sub Judge and Asst Sess Judge of Saran, who has been appointed to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Tippera, is appointed to be Sub Judge and Asst Sess Judge of Mymensingh, but to continue to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Tippera.

Babu Durga Charan Sen, Munsif of Suri, is appointed to act as Sub Judge of Mymensingh, but to be on deputation as Addl Sub Judge of Faridpur.

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

Babu Jogendra Nath Ghosh, Munsif of Chandpur, who is now acting as Sub Judge of Bhagalpur, on deputation to Moughry, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Tirhut but to continue to act in his present appointment.

Babu Rajendra Lal Ghose, Munsif of Naugaon, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif of Naugaon, on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif to Chandpur.

Babu Hem Chandra Mitter, Offg Munsif of Naugaon, is confirmed in his present appointment.

Babu Rajendra Nath Roy, sub pro tem Addl Munsif of Gobindpur and Chaibassa, who is now acting as Munsif of Khulna, is confirmed in his present appointment.

The services of Maulvi Marza bedar bhakht, Munsif of Khulna, who is now acting as Addl Munsif of Gobindpur and Chaibassa, are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam. He will, however, continue to act, as Addl Munsif of Gobindpur and Chaibassa.

Babu Banwari Lal Banerjee, sub pro tem Addl Munsif of Munshiganj, is appointed to be a Munsif of Goibanda, but to continue to act as Addl Munsif of Munshiganj.

Babu Jotindra Chandra Sen, Offg Munsif of Gaibanda, is appointed to be a sub pro tem Addl Munsif of Munshiganj, but to continue to act as a Munsif of Gaibanda.

Babu Davendra Nath Pal, Munsif of Jahanabad, is appointed to be an Addl Munsif in Murshidabad, but to be on deputation at Jangipur.

Babu Mohendra Nath Dass, late Munsif of Kasba, is appointed to be a Munsif of Jahanabad.

Babu Phanindra Mohan Chatterjee, B.L., is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Munsif of Jahanabad.

THE PLAGUE.

POONA RETURNS.

In the city 140 cases and 100 deaths were recorded on Monday, the mortality being 110. In the Cantonment there were 48 cases and 28 deaths, and in the districts nine cases and four deaths.

THE WEEK'S SUMMARY.

THE following is the plague summary for the week ending the 22nd July: In Bombay city the reported plague deaths fell from 66 to 62. In Bombay Presidency the deaths rose from 1,384 to 1,869; the increase was mainly due to Poona City reporting 569 deaths and Belgaum district 447. Three deaths occurred in Calcutta and Karachi, eight in the Madras Presidency, and 19 in Mysore. A fresh outbreak occurred in the Gulbarga district of the Hyderabad State, 97 deaths being reported up to the 13th of July.

WAZIRI ATTACK ON A CONVOY.

ON the 23rd a convoy was attacked in the neighbourhood of Haidari Kach by a band of Waziris. One Sikh sepoy was shot through the head and killed and another seriously wounded in both legs. One of the raiders was killed and two wounded when they retreated. No further details have been received.

SIR ANTHONY MACDONNELL had a conference on the new Rent Bill at Allahabad on Thursday.

THE Bombay Tramway Company proposed shortly to exchange horse traction for the electric overhead system. At the same time the low tariff of a one-anna fare for all distances will be introduced.

THE RANGOON OUTRAGE.

TO-DAY, the 20th July, the hearing was resumed, before Major Wylie, Cantonment Magistrate of Rangoon, of the charges (under Sections 376 and 511 of the Penal Code) against Private Johnson, Comber, Martin, Boulter, Gough and Thorpe, and Lance-Corporal Rodgers, all of the Royal West Kent Regiment.

Mong Po Gya recalled, said that on the day in question he saw soldiers pulling an old woman up a hill off the road. There were other soldiers at the top of the hill. The woman was crying for help. The witness stopped his cart, and he and his companion saw the soldier outraging the woman. The soldiers threatened him and he and his companion ran away. They returned after a short time, but the soldiers again threatened them and they ran away. The woman was Mah Goon.

The tenth witness was San Win, the companion of the previous witness. He said only one soldier pulled the woman from the road, but two others immediately joined this witness. He corroborated Po Gya as to the outrage. When he left the scene he met a woman, named Mah Doung, wife of a police officer. She asked him what was the matter. He did not tell her, but told a man accompanying her. Mah Doung was then told and she told, witness to call the police, but witness was afraid to do so.

Moung Pa, the eleventh witness, clerk to the Adviser on Chinese Affairs, said he was returning from the funeral with a large party of men and women when Mah Doung stopped them and asked them to save the life of a Burmese woman, who was being outraged by English soldiers. Witness and eleven other men ran up the hill. A number of soldiers were standing about. Two of these took up stones and two others rushed up, one with a stick, the other with brick, threatening them. Witness and the others ran away, dodging the stones which were being thrown at them. Then Mr. Abraham, a clerk in the Burman Secretariat, came up and went up the hill alone. About fifteen minutes afterwards the police came. With the police were thirty or forty Burmans. These all rushed up the hill. A non-commissioned officer then came, and one soldier was arrested. Two Burmese picked up the woman and took her to a gharry. Witness and others memorialised the Lieutenant-Governor on the matter. Witness had not been questioned by the police till after the memorial was received.

The Public Prosecutor said the original of the memorial would be produced. It was in consequence of the memorial that the police were able to obtain a number of witnesses who would be called.

Mah Doung was called and bore out the testimony of the previous witnesses. When she heard of a woman being dragged into the nullah, she remained on the road till help came. When the party of Burmese were stoned witness went to the thana and reported the occurrence.

Private Sullivan, recalled, identified Po Gya and San Win as the two cart-drivers he had seen on the day in question.

Summonses were issued for the attendance on the 24th instant of an officer with the further proceedings of the court of inquiry, and also for the attendance of four non-commissioned officers of the regiment, including Lance-Corporal Nurse, who was the only military witness in the Horricks case.

TO-DAY the 21st July the hearing was resumed before Major Wylie, Cantonment Magistrate of Rangoon, of the charges (under Sections 376 and 511 of the Penal Code) against Privates Johnson, Comber, Martin, Boulter, Gough and Thorpe and Lance-Corporal Rodgers, all of the Royal West Kent Regiment.

Six witnesses were examined to-day. Four of these were members of a party returning from a funeral, and they corroborated the evidence of previous witnesses as to stone-throwing by the soldiers when the Burmans went up the hill. More than one witness spoke to seeing one soldier with what appeared to be a bayonet or oken dah.

Abraham, a clerk, deposed to seeing with was going on and protesting to the soldiers who told him to mind his own business. He went away to the tram and on the road saw Private Sullivan. He could not identify any of the other soldiers.

The last witness, a Burman, spoke to calling the police, were also stoned by the soldiers. The case was adjourned till Monday.—Pioneer.

MR. ROSS AND HIS ASSAILANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "ENGLISHMAN." SIR,—Please accept my heartfelt thanks for the interest you took in my trial on the false charges of murder brought against me, and more especially for the very able and true leading article on the 12th instant.

It is, I can now see, very true that very probably many Europeans have been convicted on the false evidence of lying natives.

Had it not been for the kindness of the directors of the company by which I am employed, who engaged for me the best legal advice, I fear I might also have been convicted on the capital charge of murder, as it would have been impossible for me to have gone to the expense which it has cost (about Rs. 13,000) and the result would most probably have been that I would have got seven or ten years' imprisonment, and only for protecting my life against a most vicious, murderous attack, that no one that did not see it could imagine; and had it not been that I had my revolver with me, I am positive that I should have been murdered.

The people in these villages are well-known as the worst in Cachar, and are, I learn descended, from a colony of old Sylheti criminals from Habiganj, who came and settled here some years ago, and who now live chiefly through thieving and pilfering. No European can go near their villages without being insulted, and in some instances assaulted by them, and I am sure you would gain the gratitude of the whole of the European residents in Cachar, if through the medium of the *Englishman* steps were taken to protect us, and our property against these lawless ruffians, who at present care for nothing and nobody.

Again thanking you for your kindness in exposing the matter.

J. NORMAN ROSS.

Mohunpur T. E., Salchupra P. O., Cachar, July 19.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SIMLA, JULY 25.

The following is the list of business to be brought forward at the next meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council to be held here on Friday next:—The Hon'ble Sir Arthur Colen will move that the Currency Conversion Bill be passed; the Hon'ble Mr. Rivaz will move that the Telegraphic Press Messages Bill be referred to a Select Committee composed of the Hon'ble Mr. Dawkins, the Hon'ble Mr. Rayleigh and the mover himself; the Hon'ble Mr. Rayleigh will introduce the Prisoners Consolidation Bill, a Bill to amend the Punjab Courts Act of 1884, and a Bill to amend the Central Provinces Court of Wards Act.

REPORT OF THE CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SIMLA, JULY 24.

The report of the Currency Committee with their recommendations has come in to-day, of which the following are only the more important points, left untouched in previous summaries:—

(1) The Committee emphasizes the fact that steps should be taken to avoid all possibility of doubt as to the determination not to revert to a silver standard but to proceed with the effective establishment of a gold standard in this country.

(2) The Committee favours the idea of making British sovereigns legal tender in India, and current coin, and recommends that mints should be opened to the unrestricted coining of gold, as the Committee looks forward to the free outflow and inflow of gold.

(3) The Committee does not propose to impose any legal obligation on the Government of India to exchange silver for gold at a moment's notice, but urges that the principal use of a gold reserve should be that it should be freely available for foreign remittances when Exchange falls below the specie point, but when it has accumulated sufficiently Government might discharge its obligations in gold instead of in rupees.

(4) The exclusive right to coin fresh rupees must remain vested in the Government, and regulations will ultimately be needed for providing such additions to the silver currency as may prove necessary.

(5) Government should continue to give rupees but fresh rupees should not be coined till the proportion of gold in currency is found to exceed the requirements of the public.

THE POLLARBUND MURDER CASE.

FURTHER ENQUIRY.

OUR own correspondent at Silchar writes under date, 18th July:—The adjourned enquiry into the charges against Mr. O. Falcktyer, of Pollarband Tea Estate, which was fixed for yesterday, the 17th instant, could not have been resumed as it was reported that on the 14th instant Mr. Falcktyer had been assaulted by a number of coolies of the said garden, and that the injuries he had sustained therefrom were such as to have incapacitated him from coming over to Silchar.

A medical certificate from Dr. Glover, Medical Officer of Luckpore side gardens, further stated that Mr. Falcktyer would not be in a position to attend Court for about 6 weeks. Independently of the circumstances of the alleged assault, which might or might not have any bearing on the murder case, Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner, told Babu Kamini Kumar Chanda, pleader for the defence, that in view of the serious nature of the case, he had already, felt inclined to commit the accused to the Sessions, and that the defence might therefore withhold the cross-examination of the witnesses.

The defence pleader, while he hoped to be able to explain away the serious aspect of the case and persuade the Deputy Commissioner to a different conclusion was, however, not prepared to come to any understanding on the point without consulting his client. Thus after a short consultation with the pleaders for both sides, it was arranged to take up the matter to-morrow, the 19th instant, to decide whether to commit the accused to the Sessions or to proceed with the case, should the defence intend going on with the cross-examination of the witnesses.

In any case Captain Herbert intimated that fresh bail, enhanced to Rs. 2,000, would have to be furnished by the accused. Mr. Falcktyer being a Swedish, is not a European British subject, and will, therefore, be triable by the District Sessions Judge.

[After the above was in type, we got the following communication from our correspondent:] As arranged on the 17th instant, Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner, on taking up the Pollarbund murder case informed the court that he had fully made up his mind, to commit the accused to the Sessions. Thereupon the defence pleader, Babu Kamini Kumar Chanda, said that, under the circumstances, he would decline to cross-examine the witnesses, but he considered that it was not quite fair to his client that the Court should have come to such a conclusion before hearing the other side of the case. The pleader then made a few general observations on the deposition of the eye-witnesses and the medical evidence. The Court's decision was, however, not to be altered.

In view of the commitment, the bail was enhanced to Rs. 2,000 for production of the accused on the 26th instant when the commitment order would be passed.

THE steamer Monarch, Commander G. A. Murry, sailed from Calcutta for Hull and Hamburg on June 29th with a general cargo, and after ten days' voyage three of the blades of her propeller were discovered to have broken. It was, therefore, taken to the Bombay harbour for repairs.

THE Indian revenue receipts in June were twenty lakhs behind those of the same month last year, owing, chiefly, to fallings-off under the heading of land revenue and salt. This leaves the revenue for the quarter ending the 30th June, however, still thirty-five lakhs ahead of the revenue realised in the first quarter of 1898.

TELEGRAMS.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, JULY 21.

Sir Seymour King has modified the question to which objection was taken by Mr. Naclan and Sir Henry Fowler the other day, by asking why Prince Ranjitsingh's memorial stating his claims to Navanagar, remained unanswered. The question will now be put on the 25th instant.

LONDON, JULY 21.

In the House of Commons this evening, Mr. Goschen, presenting the Naval Estimates, said he saw no menace in the programmes of the foreign Powers against England. The latter was bound to equal any two Powers but did not desire to enter into a race for naval supremacy. America and Japan, he added, were now naval Powers, and it was expedient to appoint Naval Attaches to those countries.

LONDON, JULY 22.

During a discussion of the Naval Estimates in the House of Commons, last night, Mr. Goschen strongly supported the use of tubular boilers, which, he said, must be retained for strategic purposes.

LONDON, JULY 22.

A plenary sitting of the Peace Conference has finally condemned the Dum Dum bullet, the delegates from Great Britain and America alone opposing the resolution.

LONDON, JULY 22.

Mr. Wyndham, Under-Secretary for War, replying to numerous criticisms, in the House of Commons, last night, on the Army estimates, stated that the Reserve had now filled up again to 82,000 men.

LONDON, JULY 22.

The Queen's Prize at the Bisley Rifle Meeting has been won by Private Priaula of the Guernsey Militia.

LONDON, JULY 22.

There were 36 cases and 29 deaths from plague in Mauritius during the week ending 20th instant. The pestilence has spread to Reunion.

LONDON, JULY 22.

At the Athletic Competition to-day between representatives of Harvard and Yale, and Oxford and Cambridge which took place at Queen's Club, the Englishmen won five events and the Americans four.

LONDON, JULY 22.

Mr. Elihu Root has succeeded Mr. Alger as American Secretary for War.

LONDON, JULY 23.

Trade in the Transvaal is at a standstill, and there will be many bankruptcies declared unless a speedy settlement is arrived at.

LONDON, JULY 23.

Captain English of the Bombay Rifles was in the competition for the Queen's prize at Bisley, and obtained ninety-first place.

LONDON, JULY 24.

The opening of the trial of Captain Dreyfus at Rennes has been officially fixed for 7th August.

LONDON, JULY 24.

The sales of tea under the new conditions advertised for to-day were withdrawn, pending further negotiations. A small quantity of tea under the old conditions sold slowly at about previous rates.

LONDON, JULY 24.

THE KAISER AS A FATHER.

It is at the final hours of a busy day that the Kaiser becomes a loving father to the exclusion of everything else. Surrounded by his "little gang" as he loves to call the seven children, he joins them in all sorts of fun and frolic. They tumble and play and monopolise every inch of him, whilst the mother stands by and enjoys this rarest picture of earthly bliss.

The photographs of his loved ones invariably accompany him on his travels, and may be at once seen on entering his cabin or his room in some distant castle. He never returns home without bringing a present for each. Thus, while taking leave of an aristocratic gathering at Hamburg recently the ladies of the party handed him seven pretty boxes of choice sweets for the "little gang."

"I thank you," said the Kaiser with undisguised feeling. "I have visited St. Petersburg, Copenhagen, Vienna and other cities in the past year. But outside of Hamburg no one remembered my little ones. You may fancy, ladies, what a joy there'll be when I reach home."

THE gross earnings of the Indian Railways from the 1st April to July 9th show a deficiency of fifty-six and a-half lakhs as compared with the same period last year. This deficiency is mainly due to the deficiency of four lakhs and seventy-seven thousand on the East Indian Railway; twelve lakhs and seventeen thousand, Rajputana-Malwa Railway; thirteen lakhs and seventy-seven thousand, North-Western Railway; eighteen lakhs and four thousand, G. I. P. Railway; eleven lakhs and sixty thousand, Bombay-Baroda, and Central India Railway; and four lakhs and fifty-eight thousand, Madras Railway.

THE report of Mr. J. A. Crawford, Officiating Commissioner of the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, as to the measures taken during 1898 for the extermination of wild animals and poisonous snakes, contain a great deal of interesting information. Statistics go to prove that these animals are increasing, no fewer than 221 persons, an increase of forty-nine on the previous year, meeting with violent deaths. There is a satisfactory decrease in the number of cattle destroyed, and the number of wild beasts and snakes destroyed is 320 as compared with 3

India and England

(From our own Correspondent.)

LONDON, JULY 7.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

The British Congress Committee intend this year to concentrate their action on the Budget debate upon the following Resolution, of which due notice has been given this week by Sir William Wedderburn:—

"That under the existing procedure the superintending authority of Parliament over Indian affairs is not effectively exercised; that the salary of the Secretary of State for India should be placed on the Estimates; that the debate on the Indian Budget should be appointed for an earlier day in the Session; and that, with a view to the more effectual discharge by the House of its existing duty to the unrepresented Indian taxpayer, the East India accounts should each year be referred to a Select Committee with instructions to report on any special features deserving the attention of the House."

With a view to securing a certain division on this Resolution, some forty members of the House of Commons, interested in Indian affairs, intend to ballot for the first place which, I hope, they will succeed in securing. I have reasons to believe that the India Office is not disposed to look unfavourably on this proposal and would at any rate welcome the payment of the salaries of its two parliamentary representatives by the British Exchequer as a means of securing an earlier and more general debate on Indian affairs than is now afforded by the introduction of the Budget on the last day of the Session. I doubt, however, if the India Office is prepared to concede the latter portion of the Resolution.

The securing of effective machinery to control Indian expenditure is a question that Sir William Wedderburn has made his own and has thoroughly mastered, and you may look forward to a very interesting and profitable debate on this Resolution. Although the Royal Commission on the administration of the Expenditure of India has not yet reported, the evidence is public property and Sir William will be able to quote the opinions of some very formidable witnesses to sustain his demand. In November 1895 the Commission took the evidence of Sir David Barbour and Sir Auckland Colvin, both of whom have been Finance Ministers of India. They were both agreed that the machinery for controlling Indian expenditure is defective and that the Indian administration does not give sufficient attention to financial details. Sir Auckland Colvin, in reply to a question asking for suggestions as to the direction in which financial interests might be strengthened in the Government of India, said:—

"I think the direction in which you would have to look for it, would be, the strengthening of the financial interest in the Council of the Secretary of State, and in trying, without undue interference with the authority of the Government of India, to establish a control emanating from what theoretically is at present the last Court of Control—Parliament."

When in cross-examination, however, Sir Auckland was pressed as to further detail, he declined to do more than express the general opinion I have just quoted.

Sir David Barbour, while strongly deprecating the interference of Parliament in details, said, "I have the highest opinion of the value of the general control of Parliament over Indian Expenditure... it is most valuable." Speaking further on the general question of Parliamentary control, Sir David Barbour said:—

"There is no doubt that a Standing Committee of the House of Commons that would merely occupy itself with intelligently inquiring into Indian affairs and making itself acquainted with them, would certainly do good." He qualified this afterwards by saying that such a Committee ought to be appointed from time to time to deal with particular questions specially referred to it. I could quote many other opinions in favour of the principles of Sir William Wedderburn's proposed resolution but they will not doubt be fully quoted in the coming debate together with the universal condemnation by every important witness, of the annual farce of discussing the budget with only the weary drags of a moribund session present to take part.

Practically, what Sir William Wedderburn demands in the latter part of his resolution is, that each year as soon as possible after the Budget has been passed at Calcutta, the House of Commons should appoint a Select Committee to inquire into, and report upon, the financial condition of India, as shown in the Budget and the accounts of the two previous years; that the materials for this enquiry should include the debates on the Budget in the Viceroy's Legislative Council and any dissents recorded by members of it; a despatch from the Viceroy-in-Council with a special report by the Finance Minister on the financial position, and a financial statement by the Secretary of State in Council, with any dissents recorded by members of that Council. Sir William will also demand that with a view of increasing the opportunity of the Indian taxpayer to make his voice heard, the non-official members of the Viceroy's Council should be made more directly representative of the Indian people, and should have the right to move amendments and divide the Council upon the provisions of the Budget; and further, that a sufficient number of representative and experienced Indians should be nominated to the Council of the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the elected members of the Viceroy's and Local Legislative Councils.

THE FRONTIER QUESTION.

The Times makes the following authoritative statement this week. If it be authentic and I have no reason to doubt it, the Indian Government appear to have taken to heart the adverse criticism of the Forward Frontier policy, which has been so freely forthcoming in and out of Parliament during the last two years:—

"Although the Indian Government has made no definite statement as to the conditions which are to govern the future policy on the North-West frontier, the impression gathers weight that no great change in the methods employed during recent years need be anticipated. The advanced, and in many cases isolated, military posts, which by a certain section of the public have been considered as the main cause of the constant trouble with the border tribesmen, have not been condemned under the new regime as perpetual menaces to the peace of the frontier, and

looked at from a certain standpoint, the slight changes which have been made would seem to have rendered these military posts even more vulnerable than they were formerly. To judge from such indications of policy as have made themselves evident during the last few months, it would seem that, far from abolishing detached posts, the Government of India is intent upon reducing the permanent garrisons of these posts, trusting to correct this reduction in strength by a scheme for the construction of light railways which will bring the reduced garrisons within easy reach of the nearest military base. This seems to be the pivot upon which the frontier policy in the near future is to turn, the conception, doubtless, being that in the event of hostile demonstrations the rapid concentration of re-inforcements upon any threatened point would prevent a recurrence of the disasters which attended the first outbreak on the part of the tribesmen in 1897."

INDIAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The Indian Financial Statement for 1898-1900 has just been presented to Parliament. In the introduction Sir James Westland refers to his Statement of last year, and to his prediction of brighter days. He congratulates Parliament on the unprecedented recovery of the country from the disasters of the last 3 years. Good harvests, prosperous trade, improving revenues are the order of the day, and the terrible famines of 1896-1897 are "little more than a memory." In these two years the accounts went, in the aggregate, seven crores to the bad. All that loss has been recovered, for the abstract account comparing 1897-98 with 1898-99, shows that a deficit of 5,360,000 Rs. is converted into a solid surplus of 4,071,000 Rs. while the Budget Estimates for next year expect the handsome surplus of Rs. 3,933,000. He explains this by abundant revenue, favourable exchange and, as everybody will be glad to see, military economies on the North-west Frontier. The army expenditure for 1898-99 shows a decrease on the previous year of nearly 5 millions Rs. The saving on Famine Relief is over 4 millions Rs. On the other side of the account Land Revenue springs Rs. 2 millions, Salt 500,000, Opium 500,000, Excise 250,000, and State Railways 1,500,000.

Sir James Westland cannot see his way to any remission of taxation, contending quite rightly, that it is better finance to wipe out deficits. He gives as a further weighty reason against remission the possibility of important measures of currency reform, now under the consideration of the Committee appointed for that purpose, which calls for a wise preservation of the strongest financial position possible.

Simultaneously with the Financial Statement the Home Accounts of the Government of India have been published. These will be scanned by politicians with unusual interest as the Expenditure Commission will soon report upon the question which has been specially referred to that body, viz. is the apportionment of charges between India and the British treasury fair and just?

I cannot forecast what is likely to be the attitude of a Commission, of which I am myself a member, towards various items of expenditure upon which they will be called upon to report; but it may be well, in anticipation of that report, to revive in the minds of your readers some of the items in the published accounts of the disbursements of the Home Treasury, which that Commission may be called upon to adjust.

Telegraph expenditure is the first item of the account which calls for comment. One item is reasonably claimed by Indian cities as belonging to the British treasury, a sum of £10,000, yearly, subsidy to the Eastern Telegraph Co. for a cable between Zanzibar and the Mauritius. Then comes the head of "General Administration," which accounts for £235,000, the cost of the India Office. A division of this amount should be made as between the two countries, charging to Britain every expense that corresponds to the Colonial Office, including, of course, the salaries of the Secretary of State, the Under Secretary, the India Council and all the subordinates, while charging India with all expenditure that comes under the general head of "Agency." Under the head "Medical" is a charge of £5,683 for the cost of maintenance of lunatic soldiers, who have developed insanity while in India, probably through heredity, intemperance or the causes inherent and not acquired. The entire item headed "Political" belongs exclusively to Britain. Why on earth is India called upon to pay £7,000 a year towards our mission to the Court of Persia, £12,500 towards Her Majesty's establishments in China, £2,000 for secret service money at the disposal of Lord George Hamilton, £1,000 subsidy to a steam ship company in Turkey, £426 to the Consulate at Jeddah, £160 towards a mission to Abyssinia, £424 to the Perso-Baluch Boundary Commission and £689 for entertaining Persian envoys to the Diamond Jubilee?

Under "Scientific" £1900 is charged to India as a contribution to the Imperial Institute, and £400 to the Botanical Museum at Kew. Under "Miscellaneous" is the paltry charge of £125 as a contribution to the Alexandria (Egypt) Maritime and Quarantine Board. Under the heading "Buildings and Roads" is a sum of £3751, salaries and expenses of students at the Royal Indian Engineering College at Cooper's Hill, who are retained in this country after passing out of the College.

These are only specimens of the shabby relations which exist between the two countries on almost every page of the Home Accounts. Such matters as Aden, and the whole question of the adjustment of military expenditure, are of course, far vaster than any of these, and I cannot even begin to discuss them. They will provide ample material for future dissertation in your columns when the Commission has reported upon them.

AN EPIDEMIC OF DIARRHŒA.

Mr. A. Sanders, writing from Cocoa 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

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THE NORTON ASSAULT CASE.

RIGHTS OF A PRIVATE PROSECUTOR: HIGH COURT'S JURISDICTION UNDER THE REVISIONAL SECTIONS.

THE Norton Assault case, which has been watched with so great interest by the public as well as the profession, came on for hearing before Justices Prinsep and Hill on Tuesday. The interest mainly gathered round the fact that it was perhaps the first time that the High Court had been moved to issue a rule on the motion of a private prosecutor to enhance a sentence passed by a lower Court. The facts of this case are already known to our readers. Briefly they are that on the complaint of one Mr. H. B. Norton, Prince Jani Mirza, a young lad, a grandson of the late Nawab of Oudh, and one Reza Khan were tried before Mr. Pearson for assault on Mr. Norton and his wife in connection with a driving incident. So far as the young prince was concerned the Magistrate found his offence to be very trivial and while convicting him of assault, bound him over under the First Offenders' section (Section 562), and fined his companion Rs. 50. This did not satisfy Mr. Norton and his friends, and backed by some persons as Mr. Allen observed, Mr. Norton moved the High Court for enhancement of sentence and the present rule was issued.

Mr. Allen appeared to show cause for Prince Jani Mirza; the second accused did not appear nor was he represented by counsel, while Mr. Dunne appeared for Mr. Norton.

Mr. Allen said that the rule was to show cause why the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code with regard to the first accused and the sentence of fine of Rs. 50 passed on the second accused, should not be set aside and such other sentence passed as to the High Court might seem fit. Counsel did not propose to trouble himself about the second accused. The circumstances and facts so far as the second accused was concerned formed a perfectly different transaction, which arose out of the incident above referred to. Mr. Allen then proceeded to state the facts of the case, after which he said that if Mr. Norton had exhibited a little common-sense, a little forbearance, and a little courtesy, this case would never have arisen. As their Lordships were aware the road was sometimes momentarily blocked and even noblemen had to wait till the wretched hackney carriage or bullock cart had passed. Because this young Prince came within sight of Mr. Norton's conveyance, while Mr. Norton glanced at him and, it might be supposed, did not give an ordinary glance.

Prinsep, J.: Why should we suppose that?

Mr. Allen: The evidence shows that it was a fixed glance as much to say "who will dare stop my way."

Mr. Allen submitted in the first place that no body had a right to appear in this rule on behalf of the Crown or any body else, and, secondly, that there was no case for the Court's interference either on facts or law. He wished to meet this rule really upon the merits of the matter because his contention was that it had no merits, one way or the other, and was an attempt by a private prosecutor to appeal against a conviction. In fact, it was an attempt on the part of a private individual to take upon himself to fix the amount of punishment. It was also an attempt to interfere with the ordinary course of law but to interfere under the extraordinary powers possessed by the Court. The whole of the incident arose out of Mr. Norton giving a command in dictatorial tones.

Prinsep, J.: How far is it from where the incident began to Prinsep's Gate?

Mr. Allen: Very nearly half-a-mile.

Counsel then proceeded to say that there was no truth in the suggestion that the accused followed Mrs. Norton; there was no deliberate following. Mr. Norton had no right whatever to drive his trap up against the accused's trap and no right whatever to stop the carriage in order to get the accused's name. Counsel had failed to find any law whatsoever which empowered a man to stop another and force him to give his name. Mr. Dunne had said that the young Prince was driving a large, as horse, but there was nothing in the evidence to show the size of the horse or its strength. In an incident like this it was very difficult to state accurately what took place for, however cool and collected a person might be, one was naturally bound to get excited.

Mr. Allen then read the written statement put in by the Prince in the lower Court and said this was a plain unvarnished statement of what had actually occurred. From Mr. Norton's evidence, which counsel read, it appeared that there was no charge made by him against the Prince, the charge being only against the second accused. Any respectable person would have resented the way in which Mr. Norton shouted out in stentorian tones. Counsel was sorry that Mr. Norton was not present or their Lordships would have had an opportunity of hearing his voice. It was as patent as the sun was in the sky, that the whole of this incident had been brought about by Mr. Norton's lack of forbearance and want of courtesy. Mr. Norton must have known that the accused were respectable gentlemen. They were dressed in silks and satins and were driving private conveyances and when Mr. Norton saw them he must have known that he was dealing with gentlemen and if Mr. Norton did not know it, it was his fault. It was clear upon Mr. Norton's evidence that he, of his own accord took the whip out of the socket, used it with his own hands and drove up to the young Prince. What was the meaning of such conduct towards a boy who was trying to avoid him? Under these circumstances it was said that the Prince had assaulted him. The Prince's statement was that he tried to defend himself.

Prinsep, J.: What was the defence? Aggression?

Mr. Allen: My client says that he did not assault him.

Prinsep, J.: On that occasion?

Mr. Allen: My client admits that he struck at the horse but not at Norton.

Prinsep, J.: But why strike at the horse?

Mr. Allen: A horse as a rule does not approach a whip and by flourishing a whip the horse would move away with the trap and Mr. Norton being in the trap would be taken away. I think it constitutes a very good defence.

Counsel then read the evidence of Mrs. Norton and two other prosecution witnesses and observed that Mrs. Norton's evidence was but a faint echo of what Mr. Norton had said and threw no additional light on the subject. Her evidence was worth very little. Counsel then read the evidence of the defence witnesses:

Mr. Allen: What is a little boy to do when a great big burly Englishman comes thundering upon him in this way? What would your Lordship have done?

Prinsep, J.: I don't know what I should have done under the circumstances. It is an unfortunate position.

Mr. Allen: Certainly it was an unfortunate position. Was the Prince to throw himself from the trap?

Prinsep, J.: Your client used his whip and broke it.

Mr. Allen: Yes, it is a miracle that my client did not break his head as well. What on earth was the boy to do to protect himself against this reckless attack on the part of Mr. Norton? He said and Mr. Pearson believed him that he struck out wildly not knowing whom he hit. I put it that my client was justified in defending himself in any reasonable way against that attack of Mr. Norton. I do not know of any law in the land which entitles Mr. Norton to run down the Prince as he did. That is the truth of the matter. If Mr. Norton had used a little common-sense and a little forbearance, these proceedings would not have taken place, and there would never have arisen between the parties these strong feelings, which had led Mr. Norton, backed up by others, to come into court and make this vindictive application to punish this little boy for defending himself. The Magistrate having heard the case passed a decision.

Prinsep, J.: I understood your witnesses to say that Mr. Norton deliberately changed sides for the purpose of assaulting the accused.

Mr. Allen: I don't suppose he did that deliberately. It may mean that they came up first on the right hand side, went further on and then went towards the left when Mr. Norton would be on the right.

Counsel then went on to say that upon the facts their Lordships had a petition put in and upon the strength of that petition a rule was asked for, and he found that in applying for that rule apparently their Lordships had other statements made before them which mixed up the two assaults.

Prinsep, J.: We granted a rule because on the findings of the Magistrate it seemed to us that the order was not a proper order.

Mr. Allen: I only say that at the time the rule was applied for, Mr. Dunne mixed up the two assaults. Though the Magistrate had found that it was a trivial assault Mr. Dunne informed your Lordships that he was on the back and not trivial. As a matter of fact the Magistrate does not find that he was on the back and not trivial but they are not attributed to my client but to the second accused.

Prinsep, J.: The only thing is that this incident might have led to a very serious row and a public scandal in the most public place in Calcutta.

Mr. Allen: So far as Mr. Norton's conduct is concerned.

Prinsep, J.: Your client also, both. Also the way in which your client was found to have behaved and the place where it was committed. Upon the facts found by the Magistrate we came to the conclusion that the order was not a proper one and we granted the rule. We offered no opinion on the evidence or the facts.

Mr. Allen: No doubt, then, your Lordships were dealing with the findings not only as regards the first accused but also the second accused.

Prinsep, J.: Both.

Mr. Allen: Now I am separating the matter. I have nothing to do with the second accused. At this stage we have only to deal with the case so far as it affects the first accused. I submit upon the evidence placed before the Court that the Magistrate found my client guilty of assault. The only law which gives a person the right to stop another under certain circumstances in the public street is section 74 of the Police Act. The offences for which a person may be apprehended in the public street by the person injured are enumerated in that section. And supposing your Lordships come to the conclusion that my client had deliberately put his tongue out at Mr. Norton as alleged, what was Mr. Norton entitled to do? He was not entitled to do anything except to find out the accused's name and take out a summons if he thought himself insulted. The finding of the Magistrate that, under the circumstances, it was a trivial assault, is not an unreasonable view to take of the case. Then, again, look at the delay. The decision in the case was given on the 29th May. There were no exhibits and no voluminous record. On the 19th June they applied for a rule.

Prinsep, J.: This is rather early. I shall always be glad to get cases so soon.

Mr. Allen: In Calcutta?

Prinsep, J.: Yes, in Calcutta.

Mr. Allen: In the case of an aggrieved private prosecutor smarting under a sense of injustice? Does he incubate for twenty-three days before he comes to the Court? If it is an honest case in which a private prosecutor had really suffered then it would have been something different.

Prinsep, J.: We ourselves took action in this case when we came to know the findings of the Magistrate and the order he passed thereon.

Mr. Allen: Although the High Court has power to interfere yet for the exercise of these powers there must be something very exceptional. In this case the Magistrate used his discretion. If he does not use his discretion in outrageous manner why should the superior powers of the High Court be invoked. It has been a long established rule with the High Court never to interfere with the discretion of the lower Courts. The Magistrate was perfectly within his powers to use his discretion in the way he has done.

Prinsep, J.: Then I think if a Magistrate fines a man Re. 1 when he ought to sentence him for six months, the High Court should not interfere?

Mr. Allen: I don't say that. I say when he uses his discretion properly, the High Court should not interfere. The Magistrate says the offence is very trivial, and I submit on the face of that finding he is justified in using his discretion in the way he has done.

Mr. Allen continuing said that although the High Court had the power to interfere

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with a sentence it could only do so at the instance of the Crown or the accused. Sentences had never been enhanced at the instance of private prosecutors. This was quite unprecedented. If this sort of application were allowed it would give the prosecutor the power of regulating punishments on the accused. Applications of this nature were always vindictive and this Court should never lend itself to anything of the kind. In every case of enhancement of punishment it was the Government which moved, and not any private prosecutor.

Prinsep, J.: We took up this matter not at the instance of a private party. The matter was simply brought to our notice by the prosecutor and we took it up on our own motion. We can act on our own motion even if the information is received through an anonymous letter of failure of justice.

Hill, J.: Is the section an appealable one?

Mr. Allen: I think not. The order of the Magistrate is final. I submit that your Lordship should never interfere with an order like this unless the Magistrate had outrageously exercised his discretion. If your Lordships were interfering under section 15 of the Charter Act, I submit, following the decision in D'Costa and Hall, Full Bench case, your Lordships have no power to review the order. If, on the other hand, your Lordships are acting under section 439 of the Criminal Procedure Code, I submit the Court has no power to do so as there was no sentence in this case. The Magistrate has convicted the accused but has not yet passed sentence upon him.

Prinsep, J.: Then, do you say that the case is pending?

Mr. Allen: I don't say that. I say that the case has been disposed of, accused has been convicted but no sentence has yet been passed and consequently your Lordships have no power to interfere with the sentence.

In conclusion, Mr. Allen submitted that it was not a case in which their Lordships had any ground for interference. Counsel did not say anything on the case of the second accused. So far his client's case was concerned, it was a mere trifling thing and it would not be a sensible or a prudent course to take to unnecessarily stir up feelings by following up the case. The real offender in the case was Mr. Norton and not the Prince. If Mr. Norton had a bit of common-sense in him he would not have behaved in the way he did and nothing would have been heard of this case.

There was nothing outrageous in the Magistrate's order and there was no reason for disturbing it. It would be a very serious thing if a boy of what career was placed in jeopardy on account of what was a piece of boyish folly. The very fact of the boy having been placed in the dock at the Police Court for a certain number of days was in itself a lesson and warning for life.

Mr. Dunne on behalf of Mr. Norton then rose to reply.

Mr. Allen: I object to Mr. Dunne being heard. Who is he, he has no *locus standi* in this case. I want to understand the position clearly. Your Lordships have said that it was not at the instance of the private prosecutor that your Lordships have taken action in this case. If it is so, then I don't see how can Mr. Dunne address the Court? Is he appearing for the Government?

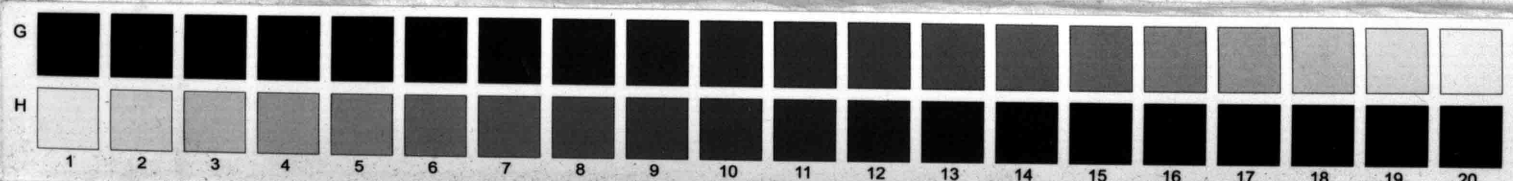
Prinsep, J.: I think we have the discretion to hear any body we like. As Mr. Dunne knows the facts of the case, we will hear him. We will hear you, Mr. Dunne, to-morrow morning.

At this stage the Court rose for the day. The court was crowded throughout the hearing.

The following press note has been issued:—The Secretary of State has agreed to a limited number of Engineers from Cooper's Hill, appointed to the Public Works Department in the years 1874, 1875 and 1876 being permitted to retire from the service on pensions admissible under the rules for their length of service increased by one-fourth, but not exceeding Rs. 5,000 in all. Practically this means that officers who are permitted to avail themselves of the terms may retire at once on the full pension admissible for 25 years' pensionable service. The terms offered are supplementary to the retirement scheme of 1893, which permitted certain numbers of officers in crowded years from 1874 to 1881 to retire on special pensions. The officers of the years now dealt with were seniors under that scheme, and, it is supposed, may have been deterred from accepting the terms then offered by the fact of full 20 years' pension of Rs. 4,000, the maximum offered under that scheme, being almost earned in the ordinary course, so they would have gained little by accepting the special terms. The conditions precedent to the admission of a limited number to the present scheme are that officers selected should be in Government service, and not in foreign employ, and also they shall either have been recommended for promotion to the Superintending Engineer rank and so would have attained that rank had vacancies been available, or that they have not been superseded for such promotion and have had no chance of such promotion in consequence of the number of officers, eligible being largely in excess of vacancies. Officers admitted under these terms will be permitted to take any furlough due to them under the rules before they retire. The final selection of officers who wish to retire under these proposals rests wholly with the Government of India within the limited number to which the Secretary of State has agreed.

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 any of the various proprietary medicines which flood the market, yet as a preventive of sufferings we feel it a duty to say a good word for Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy. We have known and used this medicine in our family for twenty years and have always found it reliable. In many cases 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 if a bottle of Chamberlain's Diarrhœa Remedy were 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

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THE RANIGUNGE OUTRAGE.

MAGISTERIAL ENQUIRY.

As announced in the telegraphic columns in our last issue, the enquiry into the death of Mr. Ironside was taken up on Friday at Ranigunge, by Mr. F. J. J. District Magistrate of Burdwan. The thirteen durwans, arrested by the Police in this connection, were in the dock.

Babu Debendra Nath Mitter, Government Pleader of Burdwan, prosecuted, and Babu Trailucko Nath Mookerjee watched the case on behalf of the durwans.

The Sub-Inspector of Police examined, said:—On the 12th instant at 10-30 A. M., Mr. Nicol, Manager of the Bullbupur Paper Mills, made a report to me. This (produced) is the report. I went to the Bengal Paper Mill in search of Mr. Ironside. I, with several constables and assisted by the mill manager, searched every nook and corner but could not find the body. At about 5 P. M., one of the mill peons found the body floating in a hot water tank. I and two men took the body out of the tank. I held an inquest and sent information to the Sub-divisional Magistrate. I arrested one jemadar and ten durwans. The following morning the Civil Surgeon held a post mortem examination. I searched the durwans' quarters and found eight *lathies* (produced).

Captain J. C. Vaughan, F. M. S., Civil Surgeon of Burdwan, examined, said:—I examined the body at about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 13th instant. I found contused bruises on the upper side of the left shoulder, on the left side, on the middle of the throat, and on the right side in the middle of the angle of the jaw there were two small bruise marks. Over the upper part of the front of the chest there appeared to be some bruise marks and there was a deep severe bruise on the left side of the head over the temple. Dissection showed effusion of blood as deep as the bone. These were the only marks I found. I considered the immediate cause of death would have been possibly the immersion in the tank of hot water, the temperature of which I was told was 130, but I did not take the temperature myself. In all probability the deceased died on immediately on immersion as the result of extreme shock. I wrote this report while I made the post mortem. I went to the body once or twice after I started writing the report. Dr. O'Connor was present and assisted in the examination, but I did the whole thing practically myself. In my opinion the wounds were caused by some heavy blunt weapon. I don't think death was due to the combined result of the injuries. The injuries received might have produced insensibility. The injury on the head was rather severe. The hands were not tightly clenched, but they were closed so (shown). There was a little blood flowing from the nose. An ordinary hot bath is 105, heat of 11 is unbearable and 130 is much more so. The bruises, etc., I noticed, may have been caused by *lathies* similar to those in Court.

Thomas Williams, Assistant, Bengal Paper Mills, examined, said:—I was in the mills on the 11th July last at night. I was on night duty. I went to the mills at 6 o'clock. I am a machine man. I am in charge of machine No. 2; machine No. 1 is also in the same room. Mr. Sorabjee, a Parsi, was in charge of this machine. Thakur and Debi came to me and complained that Debi was crying. He told me the *durwan* at the gate had struck him. I don't know this *durwan*, but I can recognise him (identifies Hari Persad). Neither of these men came to me personally and complained. They came first to Sajiban who knows a little English. They came to me together with Sajiban who interpreted for them. This was about 10-15. I told them to take me out and show me the *durwan*. I went out with them all. I asked the *durwan* why he struck my man. I did not understand what he said in reply, but I understood from his tone that he was impatient. I have been out in this country a year and nine months. Then I struck the *durwan* with my fist on the head one blow only, and went back to my machinery. About an hour and a quarter after, at the very least, I looked out and saw the head *durwan* talking to the Parsi, Mr. Sorabjee. I asked the Parsi what the head *durwan* was saying. He said the jemadar was very angry with me for striking the man. I told the jemadar I will always strike you men if you abuse my men. I told the Parsi to tell him so. I told him that he had no right to do anything else, but to come and report it to me if my men did anything wrong. Sajiban was not there. I was left a moment or two with the jemadar. When Sajiban came up the jemadar said he would *maro* me. I asked Sajiban what he had said, and Sajiban told me. Hearing this from Sajiban, I gave the jemadar a blow with my open hand. He told me he would fight me himself. The word he used was *subdur karro*. In the space of two minutes there were a score or more men around me. I did not hear the jemadar call out. This is the jemadar (identifies Mahadeb Singh). At that moment Mr. Ironside came up. He asked what was wrong, and I explained matters to him. The jemadar tucked up his *capra* (clothes) and told me to *chullao*, and I went for him. I hit him a blow on the forehead. I don't know what happened then. I was with the jemadar. Mr. Ironside must have been keeping the rest of the men back as both the jemadar and I fell. The jemadar tackled me and I threw him. When I got up, there were any number of men beating one another with sticks, but Mr. Ironside had no stick. I took no further part in it as my men who were working with me beat off the *durwans*, who ran away. I came into the machine house and Mr. Ironside observed blood at the back of my neck, he said, "You got your head cut, Tom, and I proceeded to examine it. At that moment a little boy, Bagal, came in crying with a bad cut above his eyebrows. Mr. Ironside said "You will have to take this boy to the dispensary." I told him not to do so, as he would have to pass the *durwans* who would kill him. He hesitated and let the boy go. Mr. Sorabjee came forward and gripped me by the arm and advised me to go opposite the machine-house and have my head dressed. Seeing that all was quiet, I went with him. Mr. Ironside must have taken another thought and taken the boy to the dispensary. The next thing I saw, a few minutes after, was Mr. Ironside fighting with five or six *durwans*. This was about three minutes after I heard a noise and turned round and saw Mr. Ironside engaged with five or six men inside the machine-room (points out the spot in the plan). They were attacking him with sticks. Mr. Ironside

had a wire pole about 8 feet long in his hand. At that time I came running to Mr. Ironside's assistance, but the jemadar got his eye on me. Previous to that I had discovered the road Mr. Ironside had taken, one of his men told me. I asked him if he was upstairs in the beater house and this man told me "No." He said: "Mr. Ironside had run under No. 2 mill." The man who gave me this information is Allum, the *stidar* in the beater-house. According to this man's opinion Allum had gone under the mill. I sent the Parsi, Bothun, and Allum with the man to look for Mr. Ironside, and I managed to get hold of an iron bar as I was running, and as the jemadar hit me on the head with his stick. I hit him with the iron bar. We hit together. It was a flat white stick, not like any of those in Court. When I struck the jemadar he turned and ran, and just got a glimpse of Mr. Ironside, throwing his stick at a man's face and running out of the door. (Here shows the place in the plan). I cannot say whether there were more or not, but there were not less than six *durwans* attacking Mr. Ironside. All the *durwans* went out of the machine-room by the door opposite to that by which Mr. Ironside had left. About this time another assistant, Mr. Brown, arrived in the machine-room and we sent the Parsi and some of our men among whom was Bothun to look after Mr. Ironside. I never went out myself. Mr. Ironside's work did not need him in the machine-house, but he is responsible for the work carried on there and I expected him to come back. Then they came back saying that Mr. Ironside was nowhere inside or outside the mill. Mr. Brown suggested that we should go to the bungalow where the four of us are staying and look for him there. We made the attempt, but we were chased back by the *durwans*; we got as far as here (points). Two *durwans* followed us all the way to the machine-house; one of them made a blow at me, but missed me. Mr. Ironside was as strong built a man as the jemadar. I did not think that anything went wrong with Mr. Ironside because he knew the road he had taken. Well I reported that Mr. Ironside was missing in the morning to Mr. McNicoll at 6 o'clock, when he came to the mill. I have never seen Mr. Ironside since. I never saw the corpse. I can only name the jemadar as being among Mr. Ironside's assailants. I cannot identify the other men who were attacking Mr. Ironside.

J. L. McNicoll, examined, said:—I am Acting Manager, Bengal Paper Mills. I was in my bungalow on the night of 11th July. At 11-45 the Parsi machine-man told me there had been a *gobind* between the *sahibs* and the *durwans*. I went to the mill, but found nothing wrong. Mr. Williams told me one of his men had been struck by a *durwan* and he had fought with the *durwan*. I found a dozen *durwans* between their quarters and the manager's office. I asked the jemadar what was the matter. He said nothing. I told the men to return to their duty. I went to the machine-house, and Mr. Williams told me his story, asked the jemadar why he went to the machine-room with his men, and he said none of his men, except himself, had been inside the mill gate. Next morning Mr. Williams reported to me that Mr. Ironside was missing. At 10 o'clock I went to the police station and signed a report. I then went to the Sub-divisional Officer and gave details. I saw the dead body of Mr. Ironside brought out. Mr. Ironside had been in the country two years and one month. He was twenty-six years old.

Sorabji, machine-man, examined, said:—He and Mr. Williams were sitting outside the door facing the finishing room, talking, when the jemadar came and asked Mr. Williams why he struck the *durwan*. Mr. Williams said: "Why did you *durwan* strike my man?" then there was some "hard speaking" on both sides, and feeling that there was going to be some *gurbur* or *maramari*, the witness went inside the machine-house and saw nothing more till Mr. Williams returned with his head bleeding. Witness saw no fight with Mr. Ironside. Fifteen minutes after witness washed Mr. Ironside's head, and Mr. Williams and Mr. Brown were going to the bungalow for tea, when five or seven *durwans* wanted to beat them, and chased them to the machine-room entrance. Witness let the pursued gentlemen enter, and told the *durwans* not to make any disturbance, whereupon they went away. Fifteen minutes after Mr. Williams told witness to inform the Manager of what occurred. When witness was going, he met the *durwans* moving near to gate, and told them to disperse. They did so. Notwithstanding these conversations, witness is unable to identify the men. He could identify three or four by guess.

Mr. J. Brown, examined, said:—He saw the last part of the fray. Mr. Williams and he were chased by the *durwans* when going to the bungalow to search for Mr. Ironside, and took refuge in the engine-room. Identifies Rameswar Singh as the man who struck Mr. Williams.

Mr. Meik, examined, said:—It was midnight when he went to the mills, and was told by two men that the jemadar and his brother chased Mr. Ironside under the beater-house. He was present when the body was found, and helped to take it out.

Balagobind, engine-driver, examined, said:—He told Mr. Meik he saw Mr. Ironside chased by the jemadar and his brother, and both were armed with *lathies*. Half an hour after he went to the machine-room and saw a number of *durwans* at the door. (Identifies Hari Persad Ramsahai, and Sewdutt). The next witness, deposed to having seen the fight between Mrs. Williams and the jemadar. Mr. Ironside left the machine-house and went towards the beater-house. The jemadar then left. Bhagat Dome saw the fight between the *sahibs* and *durwans*. Witness was struck with a brickbat by the *durwans*. Mr. Ironside was taking him to the dispensary, but was chased by the *durwans*, and ran into the machine-room. At the gate the jemadar ordered Mr. Ironside to be beaten, and two *lathi* blows were dealt him. Witness cannot say who struck them. Witness did not see Mr. Ironside afterwards.

At this stage the Court rose for the day.

On Saturday the hearing was resumed and some of the mill hands were examined.

Among others the following witnesses were examined:—

Bhagat Dome, examined, said: I work at the Bengal Paper Mills. I was on duty on the night of the 11th July. There was a fight among the *sahibs* and *durwans*, but I don't know what for in the machine-house. A brickbat struck me on the forehead. Some time after Mr. Ironside was taking me to the dispensary when at the gate the jemadar ordered Mr. Ironside to be beaten. Two *lathi* blows were dealt him. I can't say who gave the blows. Mr. Ironside ran into

the machine-house. My father, who is working in the grass duster-house, came out, and took me away. I did not notice any one following Mr. Ironside. The jemadar (Mahadeb Singh) gave the order to beat Mr. Ironside.

Shaikh Inayat, examined, said: I am a machine-man at the Bengal Paper Mills. On the night of the 11th July some men came at ten o'clock to Mr. Williams, and complained that one of them had been beaten by a *durwan*. Mr. Williams went to inquire, and shortly afterwards returned. An hour after the jemadar came up to the machine-room door, and spoke to Mr. Williams. The jemadar said "Why did you beat my *durwan*?" An altercation took place between Mr. Williams and the jemadar, and the latter said, "You have beaten my *durwan*, and I will beat you." At this moment Mr. Ironside came to the machine-room and a fight took place between Mr. Williams and the jemadar. While the fight was going on, I went inside the machine-room. A little later Mr. Williams and Mr. Ironside entered the machine-room. The *durwans* were throwing stones, and a stone struck a boy on the head, causing a severe cut. Mr. Ironside tried to take the boy to the dispensary, but the *durwans* chased him into the machine-room from the gate. Mr. Ironside entered the machine-room by one door, and immediately went out by a door on the other side. He was followed by the jemadar and the jemadar's brother. I did not see anybody beat Mr. Ironside in the machine-room. Mr. Williams and Mr. Ironside escaped, and the jemadar and his brother returned. I saw several *durwans* chasing Mr. Ironside. I can identify these *durwans* (identifies eleven of the prisoners). I did not see Mr. Ironside after the *durwans* chased him.

Hidayatulla, examined, said: I am a machine-man at the Bengal Paper Mills. On the night of the 11th instant the jemadar came to the machine-room. I don't know the jemadar's name. I can identify him (identifies Mahadeb Singh). The jemadar told Mr. Williams, "Why have you beaten my man? I will beat you?" Mr. Williams said, "You will beat me?" and the jemadar said, "Wait, I will beat you." Mr. Ironside then entered the machine-room. The jemadar called a short stout *durwan* (identifies Shewdutt). There was a fight between Mr. Williams and the jemadar, and Mr. Ironside and Shewdutt. I then went in. Shortly after Bhagat came in with a wound on the hand. Mr. Ironside took the boy to the dispensary, but at the gate he was chased by five or six *durwans* who had sticks. I can identify some of them (identifies Mahadeb Singh, Hoop Lal, Hariprasad, and Sridutt). Mr. Ironside ran into the machine-room, followed by the jemadar and the jemadar's brother. Mr. Ironside entered by the north door and left by the south door. I did not notice if the jemadar and his brother had sticks. In the machine-room Mr. Williams struck the jemadar with an iron rod. I did not see jemadar strike anyone in the machine-room.

Khubi Kesri, examined, said: I am employed in the Bengal Paper Mills on No. 1 machine. On the night of the 11th July I was on duty. I saw Mr. Williams and the jemadar and a short *durwan* fighting with one another. I can identify the short *durwan* (identifies Shewdutt). The *durwans* outside threw stones, one of which struck Bhagat on the head. Mr. Ironside was taking Bhagat to the dispensary, but after a little while ran back to the machine-room, followed by the jemadar and the jemadar's brother, who had sticks. Mr. Ironside then went towards the south and the jemadar and his brother returned the way they came. I did not see Mr. Ironside again.

Prahlad, examined, said: I am employed in the Bengal Paper Mills. On the night of the 11th July I was on duty. I was in charge of the filtered water tank. The hot water tank is close to it. I was dozing. About 11 P. M., four persons came from the north towards the south. I recognised three out of the four (identifies Mahadeb, Hoop Lal, and Shewdutt). As they passed me I got up, Hoop Lal had a stick in his hand. Half-an-hour later Bothun came to me, and asked me if I had seen Mr. Ironside. I said I had not. Mr. Sorabjee and Alum Sirdar also came to search for Mr. Ironside. They did not ask me anything. I was dozing about a *russi* from the hot water tank. The four persons I saw came from the direction of the hot water tank.

Debi Theli, examined, said: I am employed in the Bengal Paper Mills in the machine-house. On the night of the 11th July I was on duty. Thakha Dome and I went to drink water. While we were going out a *durwan* (identifies Hariprasad) asked us where we were going. We said, "to drink water." He abused me and said "Where did you get the lamp from?" I said the lamp belongs to the machine-house. Khafi Dome went away, and the *durwan* struck me. He made me sit down for two or three minutes, and then allowed me to go. I returned to the machine-house, crying. Mr. Williams asked me what was the matter. I told him what happened. Mr. Williams, Thakur, and I went to the *durwan*. Mr. Williams abused the *durwan* and slapped him. Some time after the jemadar came to the machine-house, and asked Mr. Williams why he had beaten the *durwan* and said that he would beat Mr. Williams. There were hot words between them. Mr. Ironside then came. The jemadar called another *durwan*. There was a fight between Mr. Williams and the jemadar and Mr. Ironside and the *durwan*. After fighting some time, the *durwans* dispersed. The *durwans* then threw stones. A stone hit Bhagat on the head. Mr. Ironside was taking Bhagat to the dispensary, but the *durwans* at the gate chased him, and ran into the machine-house. Mr. Ironside then went towards the Beater-house. No one followed Mr. Ironside. I resumed work.

Akhu Dome, examined, said: I am employed in the Bengal Paper Mills. On the night of the 11th July, I was on duty. Bhagat is my son. He was working in the machine-house that night. I was working in the grass duster-room. Mr. Ironside was taking Bhagat towards the dispensary. Hearing my son's cries I came towards him, and saw the *durwans* assaulting Mr. Ironside with *lathies*. Mr. Ironside was struck two blows. He ran away. I don't know where he ran. I then took my son to the grass duster-room. There were ten or twelve *durwans* assaulting Mr. Ironside. I can identify them (identifies nine of the prisoners).

Rajbullah Mookerjee, examined, said: I am employed in the Bengal Paper Mills as a clerk. At half-past six on the morning of the 12th July I was at the mills. I saw a number of men, forty or fifty in number, standing

near the office. I entered the office and met the jemadar (identifies Mahadeb). I asked the jemadar what was the matter. The jemadar said, "There was a fight between us and the *sahibs* last night. He told me that a man was coming out of the machine-house with a light, and that the *durwan* at the gate told him it was against orders to go out with a light; that the man went to Mr. Williams and complained; that Mr. Williams came to the gate, and assaulted the *durwans*; that the *durwan* came to him and complained; that he (i. e. the jemadar) went to Mr. Williams in the machine-house, and asked him why he had assaulted the *durwans*; that Mr. Williams assaulted him, and gave him two blows; that he, too, struck Mr. Williams two or four blows; and that at the time Mr. Ironside came up and struck him with an iron bar on the head, wounding him. He showed me a wound. I then commenced to do my work. At one o'clock I had a talk with the jemadar. I asked him what was going on, and he told me that the Manager was pressing him to give the whereabouts of Mr. Ironside. I told the jemadar it was a matter of regret that there was a fight, and that since that night Mr. Ironside was missing. The jemadar said that Mr. Ironside might have gone to Bally, Calcutta, or might be staying with some one at Raneegunge, or might have drowned himself. Having said this, the jemadar retracted his statement, and said, "Very likely this has not taken place; he has gone to Calcutta or Bally."

Cross-examination of all the witnesses were reserved.

At this stage the Government Pleader applied for a week's adjournment to enable him to summon three witnesses.

The Magistrate said that before disposing of the application for an adjournment he would take the statements of the accused.

The accused were then examined by the Court, and each one in turn denied all knowledge of the occurrence.

The Magistrate then adjourned the case to Saturday next to enable the prosecution to call further evidence.

A POSSIBLE INDIAN INDUSTRY.

WOOD-PULP.

THE utilization of the waste products of our Indian forests is a most important problem, says Mr. P. H. Clutterbuck in the *Indian Forester*, but in many cases, even where the uses such material can be put to are known, there are serious difficulties to be overcome. In the case of wood-pulp, however, it is indeed to be wondered at that no enterprising capitalists some forward to develop the industry in this country.

In Europe the manufacture of wood-pulp has been going on steadily for many years, but so great is the demand for timber there, the manufactures are able to obtain only a comparatively small supply of the raw material required. The consequence is that, although new uses of wood-pulp are discovered every day, the industry has not expanded very considerably.

It is in America, both in the United States and Canada, that wood-pulp is creating a veritable revolution in the mercantile and manufacturing world. So much so is this the case that *The Times* says:—

"The extraordinary development of the single manufacture of wood-pulp, which only a few years ago was practically unknown and is now used not only for making paper but for clothing and an immense diversity of other articles, is a sufficient indication of the practically limitless extension of the already varied uses of timber." "Cotton" it is said, on the other side of the Atlantic was once called king; but king Cotton is a lesser potentate than king Timber must soon become."

All the American papers are full of accounts of the wonderful development of the industry in that country, and of the constantly increasing uses to which wood-pulp is now put. It is in fact this industry that has brought home at last to the people of America the urgency of making State reserves, protecting them from fire and managing them systematically; for, as long as lumber only was exported from the forests the younger and smaller trees were left, but now that the wood-pulp man has appeared no trees escape, as he utilizes all the trees left by the lumber man.

The New York Tribune, referring to the numberless uses of wood-pulp and the inroads caused on the United States Forests says:—

"Printing paper alone eats an enormous hole in our national forests yearly, and the future extent of that requirement can only be conjectured. The huge procession of railway cars all over the country run, to some extent, on paper wheels; carpenters are beginning to use boards of paper, handsomely veined, requiring no planing, twice as durable as the wooden variety, and costing only half the money. The builder is introducing paper bricks, shovelly enamelled, which will not burn, and possess many advantages over those of burnt clay. The ship-builder introduces masts and spars of the same substance, which is likewise used for telegraph and telephone poles and flagstaves. These are not fanciful experiments but serious business procedures, justified by the superior durability of the articles so produced. The same quality is claimed for the paper horse-shoe recently invented and now extensively used. An enumeration of the purposes for which this surprising protoplasm has come to be employed would stretched into a catalogue and new ones seem to be discovered every day."

Verily we are approaching the day referred to in the chorus of the old song.

"Paper hats, paper coats, paper boots, and shoes."

"Patent paper sailing ships and patent paper crews."

"On the paper market there'll be a paper strain."

"And every one, both young and old, will have paper on the brain."

The chief wood used for pulp is spruce but silver fir is used in the Vosges mountains. Poplars, which have a short fibre, are also used but more especially for mixing with spruce pulps to give the paper a more even surface. Of spruce there is an unlimited supply in the N. W. Himalayas, from the Bhagirati to Afghanistan, also in Sikkim and Bhutan. It grows chiefly on Northern and Western slopes between 7,000 and 11,000 feet. The species is, of course, *Abies Smithiana*, very closely allied to the common European spruce, *A. excelsa*. It attains a maximum height of some 225 feet, and a girth up to 16 feet. The wood is white like that *A. excelsa* and weighs about the same, viz., 32 lbs per cubic ft. on the average.

In the Jaunsar Division alone there is a huge stock of magnificent trees which is unsalable at present as there is no demand for it. So much so is this the case that wherever it happens to be found growing near deodar, it is ruthlessly killed by girdling and allowed to rot, so as to favour the valuable deodar. I roughly estimate that from this Division, were the spruce put under systematic management, an annual output of 15,000,000 cubic feet, or about 570,000 maunds, equal to about 21,000 tons by weight, could be obtained. If a large quantity like this were exported it is probable that it would pay the Forest Department to sell the wood at Dagpathar on the Jumma for about eleven annas a maund.

Wood ground mechanically yields, I believe, one-third of its weight in pulp (dry) and this the paper-mills would, it is supposed, willingly purchase for at least Rs. 3 per maund delivered on the railway at their agents in the bazars are now scouring the country for old pieces of paper of all kinds which have to be sorted, washed and bleached before being of any use. For this the agents give Rs. 2 per maund and they must get a good commission for all their trouble.

Fifty-seven thousand maunds of spruce would yield some 2,900,000 maunds per annum, or 633 maunds per diem (taking 300 working days equal to one year) of mechanically-ground pulp, and this should sell for Rs. 5,70,000.

There is not likely to be any difficulty in disposing of this quantity as the demand for paper in this country is steadily on the increase, more or less in proportion to the spread of education and trade. Moreover, if good raw material were readily obtainable by the paper mills they would not be so keen on making arrangements, throughout India, to collect all the waste paper, however, inferior its quality may be.

This is the prospect which seems to await any capitalist enterprising enough to take up the business; and, if mechanically-ground pulp is able to give such a profit, what would the profit be on chemically-prepared wood fibre for paper and cloth? For, although it is somewhat more expensive, to manufacture the yield is as much as 60 to 66 per cent. of the weight of the wood again at 33 per cent. of mechanically-ground pulp. Doubtless Government would be prepared to meet any capitalist willing to start the business, with an agreement to give him the first refusal of all spruce exported via Dagpathar, at a certain rate for a certain number of years, as well as to lend him a plot of land for his factory with a right to lead water from the river to propel the machinery, so that he could make his own calculations as to whether it would pay him or not. Government at the same time would benefit by the opening out of a market for spruce, for which there is now no demand.

There should be no difficulty in getting water power sufficient to drive all the machinery required for the factory as, I believe, the fall of the Tons river at the foot of the hills is about 45 feet per mile. Should a market for spruce be in this way developed, it would most probably pay the Forest Department to grow spruce on a rotation of 30 or 40 years.

The Canadian pulp factories have bought up large areas of forest land which I am informed they are treating on a 20-year rotation, but then the growth of American spruces, especially the Douglas spruce, is very rapid; vide the tables published in *The Indian Forester* for May 1899.

The trees in the plantation of spruce near Deoban in the Jaunsar Division made in 1874, when the plants were put out at one-year old, now average 20 feet in height and 4.6 inches in diameter; but the plantation is not densely stocked and the locality is one with an Eastern aspect while spruce does not apparently grow thereabouts naturally. So it is expected that with a rotation of 30 or 40 years, in places suited to the species it would give a suitable sized tree for pulp purposes. When once a regular young forest was formed, the age at which the mean annual increment per acre culminated would be determined, and that age fixed for future rotations. It is very possible that if experiments were made at the factory, it would be found that silver fir could also be utilized, in which case it would be advantageous to grow a mixed forest of spruce and silver fir.

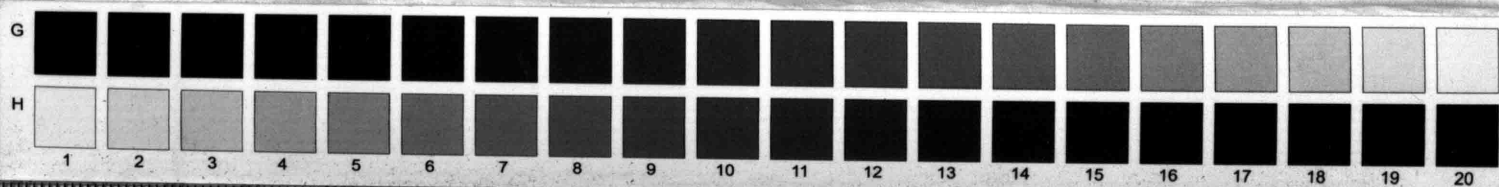
It is, indeed, to be hoped that a market will soon be developed for spruce; as it is too heart-rending a sight to see all the grand trees now growing being absolutely wasted; and, as mentioned before being girdled and allowed to rot wherever they interfere with deodar, even though the latter be seedlings, a few years old.

It is understood that on Mr. Heseltine's promotion to the Assistant Secretaryship of the Finance Department of the Government of India, the post of Registrar in that Department will be abolished, the Senior Superintendent performing the duties of Registrar in addition to his own.

THE Despatch approving the special retirement terms for certain officers belonging to the Public Works Department recruited from Cooper's Hill College, was received by Government by the last mail, and was made public on Sunday evening in Simla.

A CHICAGO millionaire, Parker R. Mason, just before his death, summoned the quarter that has been engaged to sing at his funeral, and made them practice the hymns they intended to give. Then the clergyman who was to officiate, the Rev. John Hoke, rehearsed the funeral sermon in his presence. All the melancholy arrangements having been satisfactorily made, Mr. Mason closed his eyes and died.

AT the Bombay Criminal Sessions the other day, the Hon'ble Mr. Scott, Advocate-General, appeared before the Chief Justice to hold further argument in the case of Jeevee, a woman, who was charged with kidnapping a minor girl at Kolar, in the Mysore State, and taking her to Bombay for the purpose of getting her married against her will. In the opinion of the Chief Justice, the Court had no jurisdiction, the offence having occurred in a Native State. Mr. Scott referred to Section 50 the Criminal Procedure Code, and to illustration to Section 179A. The Chief Justice remarked that there was no question of force in this case, and the Advocate-General being therefore unable to carry his argument further, a *nolle prosequi* entered, and the prisoner was discharged.



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Mr. Manohar Lal, Lahore.
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Mr. Justice P. C. Chatterji, of Lahore.
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Raj-I-Rajman Maharaj Asaf Nawazwan Murl Manohar Bahadur, Hyderabad, Decan.
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