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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ৩।০ টাকা।

পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ

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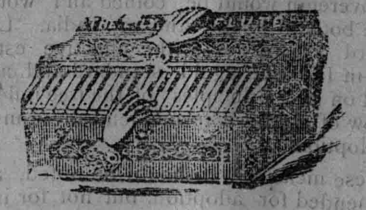

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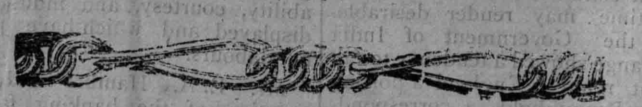

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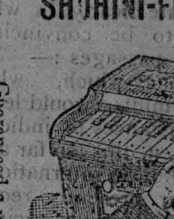

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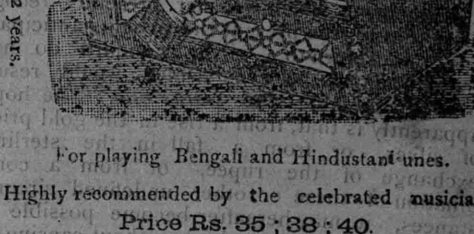

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REPORT OF THE INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

THE Report of the Indian Currency Committee, 1898, to the Secretary of State for India has been issued. No delay has been allowed to separate the final completion of the Report and its publication, for the document was only signed on July 7. The evidence received by the Committee and made public in two parts in August, 1898, and April last, has prepared the considerable section of our readers who are interested in the subject for the general character of the Report. The Committee has held forty three meetings and examined forty-nine witnesses.

The Report,which is divided in to eight parts, is signed by all the members– namely, Sir Henry H. Fowler, M. P., Lord Balfour or Burleigh, Sir John Muir, Sir Francis Mowatt, Sir David Barbour, Sir Charles Crosthwaite, Mr. E. C. LeMarchant, Mr. Everard A. Hambro, Mr. W. H. Holland, M. P., Mr. Robert Campbell and Sir Alfred Dent. Messrs E. A. Hambro and W. H. Holland have each signed a short subsidiary stantement of their views on certain points ; Mr. Rober Campbell and Sir John Muir have attachef their names to a declaration in favour of 1*s.* 3*d* instead of 1*s.* 4*d.* as the best valuation for the rupee ; and Messrs. Campbell and Holland and Sir John Muir urge in strong terms that borrowing in sterling should be rigidly restricted.

Part I. is historical, and though it will, no doubt, be read with interest, our readers may be taken to be acquainted with the series of events set forth in it, and we need only quote the conclusion, which is as follows:—

16. It will thus be observed that, at the present time, gold is not a legal tender in India, though the Government will receive it in the payment of public dues; that the rupee remains by law the only coin in which other than small payments can be made; that there is no legal relation between rupees and gold; but that the Indian Government has declared (until further notice) a rate at which rupees can be purchased for gold coin or bullion—such rate serving to determine the maximum limit to which the sterling exchange can rise under present arrangements.

Before leaving this part of the subject it may be well to point out that the notion very commonly held that silver has always been the standard all over India is erroneous, for in Madras, at any rate, gold was until 1818 the principal currency and money of account.

Part II. discusses the whole question of a silver standard in relation to India, and ends with the succinct and plain statement that, "in view of the considerations which we have stated, we concur with the Government of India in their decision "not to revert to the silver standard.'" The "considerations" alluded to are dealt with in such a manner as to represent fairly the views of those who wish India to return to silver, and to indicate clearly in what respect their arguments fail to be convincing. We give the most important passages :—

18. As regards the policy which, while declaring in favour of open mints, would leave it to future undefined circumstances to indicate when the step should be taken, this (so far as it is not dictated by the desire for an international agreement, to which we refer presently) recognises that for the present the benefits anticipated from a return to a silver standard do not counterbalance the evils which would result from abandoning the *status quo*. The hope apparently is that, from a rise in the gold price of silver, or from a fall in the sterling exchange of the rupee, or from a combination of these or other undefined circumstances, it may hereafter become possible to revert to a silver standard without causing a sudden and heavy fall in the exchange value of the rupee. Meantime it is proposed that the present arrangements should continue indefinitely,in spite of the disabilities considered to be thereby imposed on what are regarded as the true interests of India. This suggestion could, of course, only be entertained by the Government of India if it were definitely decided in principle to re-open the Indian mints to silver; and its adoption or rejection must depend on the answer to the broad question with which we are about to deal—namely, Is it desirable for India to revert to silver monometallism ?

19. The policy of reopening the mints at some future date to silver stands on a different footing when urged by those who look forward to an international agreement and consider that there is reasonable hope of such an agreement within a limited period. Such persons, unlike those above referred to, aim directly at a stable exchange between India and the United Kingdom, and advocate delay only in order that an international agreement may be reached. With regard to this anticipation, we confine ourselves here to stating that, the negotiations of 1897 with France and the United States of America having proved fruitless, no fresh proposals, so far as we are aware, have been, or are being, made by any of the Governments concerned.

As the evidence showed, many witnesses representing trade interests were in favour of "a low rupee and a low exchange," for reasons which the public has had pressed on its attention *ad nauseam* in letters addressed to us. The Committee, as was to be expected, gives no countenance as a body to the notion that any permanent advantage could be gained for India, or even for certain classes of Indian producers, by fixing the rupee at 1*s.* 3*d.* or 1*s.* 2*d.* instead of 1*s.* 4*d.* They say :—

24. . . . This aspect of the question was considered by Lord Herschell's Committee, and the conclusions at which they arrived will be found in paragraph 27 of their report. They expressed the opinion that, even if we assume the argument as to a stimulus or check to production to be sound, the effect of each successive fall in exchange must be transitory, and could only continue until circumstances have brought about the inevitable adjustment. In this opinion we concur, and evidence has been laid before us which shows that prices and wages have risen in China since silver has fallen in price and the local copper currency has appreciated in terms of silver.

25. Lord Herschell's Committee examined the statistics of Indian exports for a series of years,and came to the conclusion that, "although one may be inclined, regarding the matter theoretically, to accept the proposition that the suggested stimulus would be the result of a falling exchange, an examination of the statistics of exported produce" [from India] "does not appear to afford any substantial foundation for the view that in practice this stimulus, assuming it to have existed, has had any prevailing effect on the course of trade; on th contrary, the progress of the export trade has been less with a rapidly falling than with a steady exchange.

We need not quote the statistics of the export trade to which that Committee called attention, but we desire to state that we have been unable to find any statistical support for the theory that exports are largely and permanently stimulated by a depreciation of the standard of value, resulting in a fall in the exchange.

As already mentioned, Mr. Robert Campbell and Sir. John Muir thought it necessary to dissent from this part of the report, in so far as they believe that the experience of the last six years does not justify the adoption of a 1*s.* 4*d.* ratio.

Part III. begins by pointing out that "at the present time the practical alternative to silver monometallism is a gold standard—that is to say, gold as the measure of value in India either with a gold currency or with a gold reserve." After referring to the fact that over four-fifths of the foreign trade of India is with gold-standard countries, a consideration of much importance, they go on to say:—

35. A further and certainly not a less important consideration for a country like India is that an established gold standard is the simplest and most effective means of attracting capital. The need of India for foreign capital is indisputable, and this need is partly of a temporary, and partly of a permanent character. For climatic reasons, India is essentially a country of seasonal trade; she has a busy season and a dull season, though the tendency of late years has been to diminish the disparity and to exhibit approximation to a more uniform auerage within each year. Form this seasonal character it follows that the demand for money is much greater for one part of the year than for the other. In the busy season there is a brisk demand for temporary advances to move the crops; in the dull season money is in little demand. The distinction is shown in an extreme form by the facts of the money market in 1897-98, when there was a seasonal variation in discount rates of no less than seven percent, and the fluctuations were even greater in 1889 and 1890. In order to diminish the risk to Indian commerce of a recurrence of such stringency, and in order to reduce the average rate charged for the local use of money, the sound policy is to attract capital to India from the gold-standard countries which have capital to lend, and this can best be achieved by a gold standard and a stable exchange. Moreover, it is in many ways as important that money should be able to flow out of a country without depreciation, when it is no longer in relative demand there, as that it should flow in when required. A gold standard is in our opinion, the only means by which, under present conditions, these benefits can be secured. . . 37. . . . We desire, however, to remark that the effective establishment of such a standard in India would not preclude India hereafter from considering responsible proposals for an international agreement, if circumstances should arise to render such negotiations practicable.

We suppose the Committee considered it wise to conciliate a certain powerful section of possible opponents by the reference to "proposals for an international agreement" contained in the last sentence, but from the general character of the report it may be inferred that the probability of negotiations for such an agreement becoming serious is not regarded as very high. The Committee proceed to give reasons for thinking that the existing state of things as regards currency resulting from the course of events since 1893 is less unsatisfactory than might have been expected.

38. . . . Inasmuch as, for practical purposes, the sterling exchange furnishes a broad test of a country's claim to be on a gold standard, and inasmuch as the Indian exchange since January 1898, has been stable (within what may be regarded as "specie points") at 16*d.* per rupee, it has been represented to us that the gold standard may be regarded as having been reached in India already. According to this view, the closing of the Indian mints to silver and the undertaking by the Government to give rupees of gold, has already had the result of making gold practically a legal tender in India, present arrangements being sufficent to supplement automatically from time to time the stock of currency.

39. Judged solely by existing fact, this contention cannot be disputed in its essentials. Events have proved more favourable than was anticipated by the Government of India when, in their despatch of March 3, 1898, they represented that it was not very probable that gold would be presented in the early future. And although they expressed the opinion that it was " in any case extremely unlikely to be presented in such quantity as to lead automatically to an accumulation of gold sufficient for a reserve," statistics indicate that a considerable accumulation has already been effected. On March 31, 1899, the reserve of the Paper Currency Department of the Government of India included gold to the amount of over 2,000,000*l.* sterling. At the present time the amount of gold is 2,378,609*l.*

The Report goes on to say that, if it has been possible to secure these results in the face of distrust as to the continuance of the system inaugurated in 1893, "even greater success may be expected in the future with the growth of confidence." They proceed to point out that the present system was never intended to be permanent, and that it was foreseen that it would not be possible for the Indian Government to go on for ever receiving gold into their treasuries or their paper currency reserve unless they were "empowered to pay that gold out again in cashing their notes or meeting other liabilities in India."

41. . . . The practical questton is, the report narrowed to this : - Should the *status quo* be allowed to continue until events force the Government to take action ? There would have been more to be said in favour of suspending action and leaving facts to settle the problem, had it not been for the circumstances which led the Government of India to formulate proposals for curtailing the transition period and taking "active steps to secure the early establishment of a gold standard and a stable exchange." That opinion having been expressed by the Government of India, and public discussion having been aroused by the publication of their proposals and by the present inquiry, it appears to us undesirable, even though results have proved more immediately successful than the Government of India anticipated on March 3, 1898, to leave matters as they are. If, in face of the public attention which the question has attracted, and in face of the considerable divergence of the views expressed on the subject, no further steps were now to be taken, an additional uncertainty would be caused ; doubts would be excited as to the ultimate success of the gold standard ; rumours would arise of a possible change of currency policy; the Government both in India and at home would be pressed for a final pronouncement, alike by the friends and by the foes of a gold standard ; and meantime the materia interests of India would suffer from the withdrawal of confidence in her monetary future.

For these reasons we conclude that steps should be taken to avoid all possibility of doubt as to determination not to revert to a silver standard, but to proceed with measures for the effective establishment of a gold standard.

Part. IV. is devoted to the Indian Government's proposals, and the Committee, as may be supposed, do not recommend them for adoption, though they " sympathise with the Government of India in their desire to shorten the period of transition." Part V. discusses briefly the various suggestions for providing India with a gold standard, with or without a gold currency. As our readers are aware, the chief obstacle to the attainment in India of a gold standard in its best or, as Lord Rothschild and others hold, its only sound form, is the supposed danger of the withdrawal of gold coin by the natives for hoarding, on which the Committee say :—"We are of opinion that the habit of hoarding does not present such practical difficulties as to justify a permanent refusal to allow India to possess the normal accompaniment of a gold standard—namely, a gold currency." After referring to the various "fancy" schemes proposed by Mr. L. C. Probyn, Mr. A. M. Lindsay, and others, the Committee proceed to positive recommendations in the following terms :—

54. We are in favour of making the British sovereign a legal tender and a current coin in India. We also consider that, at the same time, the Indian mints should be thrown open to the unrestricted coinage of gold on terms and conditions such as govern the three Australian branches of the Royal Mint. The result would be that, under identical conditions, the sovereign would be coined and would circulate both at home and in India. Looking forward as we do to the effective establishment in India of a gold standard and currency based on the principles of the free inflow and outflow of gold, we recommend these measures for adoption.

These measures, it should be noted, are recommended for adoption, but not for immediate adoption, and it may be presumed that the Indian Government will apply to the Imperial Government for the mint powers suggested as soon as it is satisfied that it is in a position to maintain the principle of "free inflow and outflow of gold," which the Committee regard as essential to the success of the measure.

Part VI. deals with the important question how far the principles of convertibility and of limitation of the amount of rupees receivable as a legal tender can be applied to India. To take the latter point first, the Committee say that now and for some time to come the conditions in India will not admit of the imposition of a limit on the amount for which rupees can be tenderd in discharge of a debt. They also remark that India will not be alone in maintaining a silver coinage which is legal tender for unlimited amounts, but the quantity of which in existence is limited. They quote in paragraph 58 the cases of France and the United States, in which countries gold is *de facto* the standard, while an enormous mass of silver coins is maintained at par with gold and is available for transactions of all magnitudes. In other words, they consider that the *double etalon boiteux* will serve India's needs for the present, at any rate, and they go on to say :—

59. The position of the Currency Question in India being such as we have explained in the preceding paragraph, we do not consider it necessary to recommend a different policy in the case of that country from that which is found sufficient in France and the United States, by imposing a legal obligation on the Government of India to give gold for rupees, or, in other words, to substitute the former or the latter on the demand of the holders. This obligation would impose on the Government of India a liability to find gold at a moment's notice to an amount which cannot be defined beforehand, and the liability is one which, in our opinion,ought not to be accepted.

Although the Government of India should not, in our opinion, be bound by law to part with its gold in exchange for rupees, or for merely internal purposes, we regard it as the principal use of a gold reserve that it should be freely available for foreign remittances whenever the exchange falls below specie point; and the Government of India should make its gold available for this purpose, when necessary, under such conditions as the circumstances of the time may render desirable. For example, the Government of India might, if the exchange showed a tendency to fall below specie point, remit to England a portion of the gold which it may hold—a corresponding reduction being made in the drawings of the Secretary of State ; and when it has accumulated a sufficient gold reserve, and so long as gold is available in its Treasury,it might discharge its obligations in India in gold instead of in rupees.

60. The exclusive right to coin fresh rupees must remain vested in the Government of India ; and, though the existing stock of rupees may suffice for some time, regulations will ultimately be needed for providing such additions to the silver currency as may prove necessary. The Government should continue to give rupees for gold, but fresh rupees should not be coined until the proportion of gold in the currency is found to exceed the requirements of the public. We also recommend that any profit on the coinage of rupees should not be credited to the revenue or held as a portion of the ordinary balance of the Government of India, but should be kept in gold as a special reserve, entirely apart from the paper currency reserve and the ordinary Treasury balances.

In Part VII. the much-vexed question of the ratio, or the sterling rate for the rupee, as the Committee term it, is dealt with. The discussion turns on the question whether 1*s.* 4*d.* or some other rate shall be adopted. The rates proposed range from 1*s.* 1½*d.* to 1*s.* 6*d.*, and their diversity seems to suggest that there is no ground *a priori* for taking one rate rather than another. Lord Herschell's Committee, however, laid it down that a "provisional" limit must be fixed which would prevent the exchange from rising above 1*s.* 4*d.* for the rupee, and this arrangement was accepted by the Indian Government and embodied in its Act of 1893. It was not intended that this arrangement should permanently fix the legal rate between the rupee and the sovereign, but the business world has from first acted as if, when a permanent arrangement was made, it would be on the basis of an exchange of 1*s.* 4*d.* The report says:—

65. Although the limit of 1*s.* 4*d.* for the rupee was declared to be merely provisional, it has been regarded generally as the permanent rate at which the Indian monetary standard was to be transferred from a silver to a gold basis. There are some who would prefer a lower rate, and there are others who are prepared to accept a higher rate ; but it is not desirable, in he absence of any strong reason to the contrary to adopt a rate different from that on which calculations have been based, and which has formed the ground of practical action.

We also desire to point out that the rate of 1*s.* 4*d.* is that of the present day; prices in India may be assumed to have adjusted themselves to it, and the adoption of a materially lower rate at the present time would cause a distinct, and in our opinion a mischievous disturbance of trade and business. The *onus probandi* rests on those who would now propose a different rate. Between the rate of 1*s.* 4*d.* and the rate determined by the bullion value of the rupee, there is no one rate whch can be described as natural or normal, ratihe than any other rate.

The Committee go on to say with reference to suggestions for some other rate:—

66. . . . In our opinion arise in prices which expresses only the depreciation of the currency, is no gain to the community as a whole, and, although the fixing of a lower denomination in sterling for the rupee might for a time give some advantage to producers and induce for a limited period a larger importation of gold than would otherwise take place, this would be at the expense of every holder of a rupee, of debt or security for a fixed amount of rupee; and the taxpayer would again be compelled to provide a larger amount of currency to meethe sterling requirements of the State. It is not by such an expedient as the writing down of the rupee in sterling that permanent stimulus can be given to production or to the importation of the standard metal. We see no sufficient reason for altering the existing relations of prices and the essential conditions of contracts expressed in Indian currency, or for reversing the course of exchange and returning to some basis of value which may have prevailed during the interval between the fall and partial recovery in the sterling value of the rupee, and which do not possess elements of permanent stability in a higher degree than the present rate. We are, therefore, of opinion that the permanent rate should be that which has been adopted as the provisional rate in the past, and which is also the market rate of to-day—namely, 1*s.* 4*d.* for the rupee.

Certain members of the Committee,as already mentioned, have views of their own as to the ratio, and this fact is thus referred to:—

67. In recommending a fixed legal rate of 1*s.* 4*d.* we are not unanimous, though the majority hold the views we have just expressed.

One of our number would not fix the permanent rate at once, but would leave that question to be decided in the light of further experience final rate being fixed ther below or above 16*d.*, as further expriencemight show to be expedient. We are of opion that any advantage which might arise from this source is more than counterbalance by the importance of removing doubts as to the future policy of the Government of India, and giving increased confidence to those who are engaged in commercial and financial business in connection with the Indian Emp

68. Two other members of the Committee are not prepared to adopt the rate of 1*s.* 4*d.* and recommend that it should be fixed at 1*s.* 3*d.*

The Report concludes as follows:—

In conclusion, we desire to record our opinion that the effective establishment of a gold standard is of paramount importance to the material interests of India. Not only will stability of exchange with the great commercial countries of the world tend to promote her existing trade, but also there is every reason to anticipate that, with the growth of confidence in a stable exchange, capital will be encouraged to flow freely into India for the further development of great natural resources. For the speedy attainment of this object it is eminently desirable that the Government of India, with whom it will rest to decide when successive steps should be taken, should husband the resources at their command, exercise a resolute economy and restrict the growth of their obligations.

We desire to express our high appreciation of the assistance which Mr. Chalmers has rendered to us throughout the whole course of this inquiry. We feel it to be our duty to recognise in the strongest terms the knowledge, ability, courtesy, and industry which he has displayed and which have greatly facilitated our labours.

Mr. E. A. Hambro adds a note on the question of the banking facilities of India, which deserves attention on account of the great practical knowledge and experience of its author. He is of opinion that the creation of a strong bank resembling the Bank of England or the Bank of France would greatly facilitate the carrying out of the policy recommended by the Committee. This is a solution which is not likely to be lost sight of. Mr W. H. Holland appends to the Report a note in which he expresses some degree of regret for the maintenance of the *status quo* in India, but not, apparently, enough to induce him withhold his name from the signatures to the Report. As already stated, Messrs. Campbell and Holland and Sir John Muir lay stress on the advisability of restricting the growth of India's sterling debt as much as possible, not being satisfied with the strength the report itself on the subject. After giving their reasons for this view, they say :—

For these reasons we are opposed to sterling borrowing, whether for the establishment or the maintenance of a gold standard. Borrowing to support the standard once restored, it would be impossible to know when to stop, and the only safe course is not to begin. Its effects on trade support that the maintenance of a gold standard must in the long run depend on any saving of delay through borrowing would not be worth the risk of finding, after incurred a load of sterling debt with consequent addition to the home charges an impracticable scheme had been adopted which when left to its own merits must break down.

SIR ROMESH CHANDRA MEMORIAL MEETING.

A CROWDED and influential meeting of the inhabitants of Bhowanipore and its neighbourhood was held on Saturday last, the 29th instant, at 6 P. M. in the hall of the L. M. S. College, Bhowanipore, to mourn the loss of Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter *Kt.*, and to consider what steps should be taken to perpetuate his memory. All sections and all classes of the suburban population were represented with a spinkling of ladies.

On the motion of Mr. Handley seconded by Mr. Allen, the Hon'ble C. M. Ghose was voted to the chair. The Chairman in opening the proceedings paid a handsome tribute to the memory of Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter, *Kt.*, by giving a short account of his life and career as a lawyer and Judge and patriotic citizen. He emphasized the excellence of his private character and his charities. In the course of his speech he read a letter which he had received from an eminent resident of Hyderabad, Raja Indra Kumar, who wrote as follows :— "I was grieved to learn the sad death of the Hon'ble Justice Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter, Kt. Not only Calcutta but the whole of India has sustained a great loss in him." In conclusion he referred to the letter of sympathy which our popular Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Woodburn, had written to the eldest son of the deceased in his bereavement. The first resolution was then moved by Mr. S. P. Sinha, Bar-at-Law, which runs as follows :— "That this meeting desires to place on record its deep sense of sorrow at the death of Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter, *Kt.*, and the irreparable loss which the country has suffered in consequence. This meeting recalls, with grateful admiration, the many noble qualities of head and heart which so pre-eminently distinguished the illustrious deceased in the discharge of his manifold public duties, whether in the practice of an honorable profession, or as one of Her Majesty's Judges of the highest Court in the land, or as a patriotic citizen always ready by precept as well as by example to promote, in every way, the advancement of the country."

In an eloquent speech Mr. Singha referred to the sense of justice and fearless independence which characterized the career of Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter on the Bench. No matter who the parties were in a case or who the counsel were who represented them, Sir Romesh would mete out justice with an even hand irrespective of creed, colour and caste. He next referred to the fact after that his retirement from the Bench he saved many an ancient family from ruinous litigation and concluded with a reference to the unblemished character of the deceased.

This resolution was seconded by the Rev. Mr. J. P. Ashton of the London Mission who said that he had had the honour of being associated with the deceased in several public movements connected with the moral advancement of the people, such, for instance, as the temperance and purity movement and he had always found him to be courteous, earnest and sincere. He ended by saying that during the recent plague scare Sir Romesh had placed his splendid house in Ballygunge at the disposal of the local Plague Committee, of which the speaker was the president, to be used as a hospital for the benefit of the general public and this act of generosity, he said, had been fittingly acknowledged at the time by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.

The Resolution was supported by Babus Devendra Chandra Ghose and Hemendra Nath Mitter, the latter explaining the spiritual side of Sir Romesh's character. The Resolution was then unanimously carried.

The second Resolution was then moved by Mr. Satyendra Nath Tagore, late of the Bombay Civil Service, in an impressive speech. The Resolution ran thus:—

"That as a mark of appreciation of the greatness of his life and the noble example he has left behind him, this meeting resolves that a suitable memorial be raised in honour of the late Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter, *Kt.*, and that subscriptions be invited for the purpose."

Referring to what had appeared in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the speaker expressed a hope that this meeting would not interfere in any way with the Town Hall meeting in contemplation, and he also dwelt on the private virtues of Sir Romesh as a man and a friend. The Resolution was seconded by Babu Dwarka Nath Chakrabatty and supported by Babus Ashutosh Biswas and Lalmohan Dass, and on being put to the vote was unanimously adopted. Babu Ashutosh Biswas in supporting the Resolution made an eloquent and forcible speech in the course of which he said that Bhowanipur, where Sir Romesh had lived, flourished and closed his eyes for ever, should be the foremost to claim the privilege of sheding tears his over pyre. He strongly emphasized the fact that Sir Romesh was a mighty product of English education consecrated by the genius of our University. Such products were the proudest monument of British rule in India. Sir Romesh, said he, did not stand in need, of a memorial at their hands, he having raised, a monument for himself in his own life and in his own hands. He had left Rs. 60,000 for a school and dispensary in his native village and his private charities when capitalised would represent a further sum of Rs. 40,000 and this, the speaker said, was the noblest monument of his life raised by himself, and he impressed upon the audience that their memorial should be of that type if they meant to make it worthy of the great dead.

The third Resolution which was moved by Babu Bankim Chandra Sen in an eloquent speech was, on being seconded by Babu Sures Chandra Mittra, unanimously adopted. It ran thus :—

"That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the family of the late Sir Romesh Chandra Mitter, *Kt.*, under the signature of the Chairman, with an expression of the deep sympathy of this meeting in their terrible bereavement."

The fourth Resolution proposed by Babu Issur Chandra Chakrabutty and seconded by Pandit Kanailal Sastry ran thus :—

"That a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be formed to give effect to the adove resolutions, and that this meeting empowers the Committee to co-operate with any Committee that may hereafter be appointed at a general public meeting to be held in the town of Calcutta."

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Guru Das Banerjee moved a vote of thanks to the chair and the authorities of the College which was seconded by Babu Priya Nath Mullick.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA AUGUST 3, 1899.

THE NEED OF BRITISH TROOPS IN INDIA.

REFERING to the probable despatch of ten thousand British troops from India, the *Englishman* thinks that the better way would be to get them from Canada or Australia, "where there exist no threatening frontier tribes, and an alien population to be impressed and overawed." We did not know this before that British troops were kept here for the purpose of overawing us, or keeping us in fear and subjection. If that be one of the main objects of the presence of British troops here, it is a very good joke to make the Indians maintain them! Here, however is a revelation. It is news to us that one of the objects of the presence of British troops in India is to keep its people in awe of their rulers! We knew that they were here to protect us from Russia and the border tribes. The information, therefore, *viz.*, that the troops are to keep us in fear and trembling, is a great and disagreeable surprize.

And how could we know that the troops were for such a purpose? The rulers and the ruled have always expressed profound friendship for one another. The Indians are non-political in their instincts, and are always expressing their devoted loyalty to the British Government; and their masters have, on the other hand, always declared their brotherly feelings for the Indians. Every responsible British statesman has proclaimed that they are here solely for the good of the country, and that they not only trust the people but know also that the people trust them. That being the position, there is no need of any army to overawe the people, and the announcement that troops are here for that purpose is, as we said before, likely to give a rude shock to the feelings of the Indians.

The Indians and their English masters are not at war with one another; they live in the same country for mutual benefit. Nations keep strong garrisons on their frontiers for the purpose of overawing their neighbours. Nations maintain strong military forces for the purpose of overawing rivals and enemies. But the Indians are not the neighbours of the English, nor are they their rivals or enemies. They are, on the other hand, dependent subjects whose destinies are absolutely in the hands of their rulers.

Besides, forces that overawe have the likely effect of chilling good feelings. If the Indians desire the good feeling of their masters, their masters, on the other hand, desire nothing better than the good feeling of their dependants. But a strong, overawing force is not the best means of promoting that feeling. Indeed, if there is anything that chills good feeling, it is distrust and violence. An over-awing force here, in India, will have the effect of emasculating the Indians; it will have the effect of demoralizing their masters, especially the British soldiers who are kept here.

We, therefore, cannot believe the statement that the British force here is for the purpose of over-awing the Indians. The *Englishman* is quite mistaken in his supposition. Our contemporary is opposed to the reduction of British troops, and, therefore, has to create an argument for it, and invent a plea. If the *Englishman* has sincerely any such idea in his mind as he gives out, let him at once remove it. Let him, on the other hand, proclaim, as we always do, that the English are here under the wise providence of God, for the good of the two countries, and that if it is the duty of the Indians to stick loyally to their protectors, it is the duty of the latter to treat their dependants more kindly than even they do their own countrymen. Let him and let every other Anglo-Indian paper, and indeed, let every Englishman here, see that the feelings between the rulers and the ruled remain cordial and are never disturbed.

JUDICIAL AND EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS IN ONE.

THE *New Orleans Times Democrat* thus condemns the British system of administering criminal justice:—

To an American any English criminal trial seems grossly unfair, and I remember the lawyers who went across to help defendant O'Donnell, who shot the informer Carey, came back wild with indignation. The procedure is so entirely different. The Judges there are allowed a latitude unknown to our bench, and may lecture a jury into any verdict they choose. I will venture the assertion, which may surprise laymen, but which will be indorsed by every well-posted attorney in New Orleans, that there has not been a conviction in England during the past fifty years that would not be set aside on technical grounds by the Supreme Court of Louisiana.

Yes, criminal justice is administered with great rigor in England. And a man when convicted is almost hounded to death. He becomes for ever a doomed man. But if it is bad in England, it is worse in India. When poverty is the cause of crime, the criminal ought to be treated with kindness by the more well-to-do men who try them. When mal-conformation of the brain is the cause, he ought to be regarded more as an unfortunate being, worthy of pity than a foe worthy of anger. And most criminals owe their fall either to their poverty or to their mental constitution.

In India the people are naturally gentle; their religion makes them unaggressive, and their sobriety keeps them from acts of violence. Here there is no need for any rigorous administration of criminal justice. Yet the other day Mr. Hill when defending the accused Purulia European, Harry Ambler, was led to complain that he did not know "why punishments should be so atrociously severe in India." When Mr. Hill, an experienced lawyer says this, the scale of punishment must, indeed, be high here. Where is the Christian missionary to speak a word on behalf of criminals in India? Where is the statesman with philanthropy enough to inaugurate reforms in this direction? We have plenty of men who are members of the Society organized for the prevention of cruelty to animals. Where is the man who will raise his voice against severe punishments to human animals alluded to by Mr. Hill?

But the Indians have other serious complaints besides that against severe punishments The laws that obtain here are different from those that prevail in England. As, for instance, here we have no trial by jury, though the Judges and Magistrates being aliens and therefore, ignorant of, or imperfectly acquainted with, the language, manners, instincts and customs of the people, are not in a position, in spite of their high character, to administer justice properly. Thus, trial by jury is more needed in India than even in England, but we have it not here. Here we have fresh prosecution after acquittal and enhancement of sentence by appellate courts,—innovations which would not be tolerated in England or any civilized country for a moment. Here Magistrates are invested with summary powers; and, above all, we have here the system of the prosecutor trying the case instituted by himself—the Magistrate being the head of the police, a judicial officer, as well as the appellate court!

A memorial to the Secretary of State for India, urging the separation of Judicial from Executive functions in the Indian administration, and signed, among others, by Lord Hobhouse, Sir Richard Garth, Sir Richard Couch, Sir Charles Sargent, Sir W. Markby, Sir John B. Phear, Sir John Scott, Sir W. Wedderburn, Sir Roland K. Wilson, and Mr. Herbert J. Reynolds, was forwarded to Lord George Hamilton with the following covering letter:—

To the Right Honourable
Lord George Francis Hamilton, M. P.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for India.
India Office, Whitehall, S. W.

My Lord.—We have the honour, on behalf of the signatories, to forward for your favourable consideration a Memorial urging the separation of Judicial from Executive functions in the Indian administration.

It is hoped that the expense involved will not be great; but even if the cost is considerable, the improved condition of Indian finance will, in the opinion of this Committee, justify the expenditure necessary to carry out this much needed reform. The financial statement just presented to Parliament shows that the Government of India anticipate a surplus of Rx. 4,759,400 for 1898-9, and of Rx 3,932,600 for 1889-1900; also we notice that the Secretary of State has been able to sanction an increase to the emoluments of the High Court judges. This Committee therefore considers that the time is opportune for dealing with this question, and trusts that funds will be provided to place the lower grades of the judicial service upon a satisfactory footing and give effect to a measure earnestly desired by the Indian community.

We have, etc.,
Signed { W. WEDDERBURN, *Chairman*,
J. HERBERT ROBERTS, *Secretary*,
Indian Parliamentary Committee

In reply to a question, asked four or five days ago, Lord George Hamilton said that the memorial had been sent to the Government of India for report. Here is an opportunity for Lord Curzon for doing a really great and useful work. For, the separation will benefit not only the people but the officials also. The memorial is signed by some of the most distinguished Judges of the several High Courts of India, which shows that they had, from their own experience come to know of the mischief done to the cause of justice and good government, by the union of functions that exists at the present moment. If Magistrates do not, generally speaking, like to lose any part of the power they possess now, it is because they unfortunately do not realize that there is not a greater curse than the enjoyment of excessive powers.

THE UNION OF THE TWO FUNCTIONS.

MR. JUSTICE PRINSEP thus concludes his judgment in the case between Messrs, Bird and Co., and the East India Coal Company, a native firm, which came before the High Court on July 19, and in which Mr. H. F. T. Maguire, Deputy Commissioner, took a prominent part in his two-fold capacity of Magistrate and Collector:

We think there are ample grounds for directing the removal of the trial as asked for. The proceedings of the Deputy Commissioner were altogether unjustifiable. The Deputy Commissioner has not hesitated to cancel and set aside the effect of the order passed judicially over which he had no control. He has not also hesitated to exercise official influence as Magistrate to give effect to his orders passed as a Revenue Officer in a manner so as to affect private rights of properties of others, and, lastly, he has reported unfavourably of the Sub-divisional Officer of Gobindpore and obtained his removal from that office when the officer had done nothing else but his duty so far as appears from these proceedings. For these reasons we think that the trial of this case cannot be safely left in any Court in the district of Manbhum in which the District Magistrate does not hesitate to exercise his superior powers in such an arbitrary manner. We accordingly direct that the trial be transferred to the Sub-divisional Court of Raneegunj.

We wish that those ex-High Court Judges and other high Anglo-Indian officials, who have submitted a memorial to the Secretary of State for India for the separation of Judicial and Executive functions, had appended to it the record of the above case; for, it would have shown, at a glance, in vivid colours, the grave evils of the present system. When the document comes for final disposal before Lord Curzon, we hope, His Excellency will send for the papers of this and similar other cases, which it is our intention to publish at this opportune moment.

The facts of the case, alluded to above, are somewhat complicated, but we shall try to place them before the reader as clearly as possible. Mr. Maguire is the Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, that is to say, he is not only the Magistrate but the Collector of the district, and, as such, he is the manager of the encumbered estates under the Act specially applicable to Chota Nagpore. One of these encumbered estates belongs to the Katras Rajahs, and Mr. Maguire, on behalf of these Rajahs, claims the mining rights of a village called Kumarjari. The Rajah's rights to the mines of Kumarjari were, however, not only denied by certain persons called the Trigunaits, but the latter had long ago taken possession of the village as their own and leased the rights to the East India Coal Company who have been working the mines there. Mr. Maguire objected to the presence of the servants of the Coal Company in Kumarjari and charged some of them with criminal trespass in respect of lands in the village, before his subordinate, Mr. Garrett, the Sub-divisional Officer of Gobindpore. Mr. Garrett tried the case and found that the accused, or rather their employers, were in possession of these lands and acquitted them accordingly on the 21st March last.

In the meantime, Messrs. Bird and Co. had obtained leases,—apparently mining leases—in the village of Kumarjari from the revenue authorities, acting on behalf of the encumbered estates. Mr. Maguire granted these leases in spite of the order of the Sub-divisional Officer of Gobindpore, who had not only acquitted the servants of the East India Coal Company of criminal trespass but had forbidden certain persons under Messrs. Bird and Co., from interfering with the mines in the village under section 144 Cr. P. C. This order was not only binding but not open to revision by any superior authority. But yet the Deputy Commissioner set it at nought in the following way, which the High Court characterises as "improper" and "without jurisdiction."

Now what Mr. Maguire did was to pass an order, cancelling the names of the persons under the employment of Messrs. Bird and Co., from the operation of the order of the Sub-divisional Officer, which forbade them from meddling with the works of the East India Coal Company in Kumarjari. The Deputy Commissioner next directed the Sub-divisional Officer to see that Messrs. Bird and Co. got possession of lands in Kumarjari as ordered by the Commissioner. The High Court condemns this order also as "very improper." "It was not in the power of the Deputy Commissioner," says Mr. Justice Prinsep, "or the Sub-divisional Officer to interfere with the private rights of property by ordering that any particular person should get possession as against any person in possession." Mr. Maguire had, however, leased out the village to a European Company though it was in the possession of another, and he was bound to have the thing done, law or no law.

The Sub-divisional Officer did not know what to do. He had acquitted the men of the East India Coal Company charged with criminal trespass, and found that they were in possession. He had also passed an order prohibiting Messrs. Bird and Co. from interfering with the E. I. Coal Company. How could he now cancel his own order and do what was not only improper but illegal on the face of it? But the order came from his official superior, the Deputy Commissioner, and he, accordingly, asked the latter for further instructions regarding the order he had passed acquitting the accused in the case of criminal trespass. Mr. Maguire was equal to the occasion. He wired to Mr. Garrett:—

"Carry out my orders and send record immediately."

Mr. Garrett, however, could not carry out the above order, and the Hon'ble Judges remark, "It was obviously impossible for the Sub-divisional Magistrate who had in the judicial trial found that the accused were in possession of Kumarjari to take another action to disturb that possession so as to carry out the instruction of the Deputy Commissioner and to see that Messrs. Bird and Co got possession." When Mr. Maguire saw that the Sub-divisional Officer would not obey his order, he got offended and adopted some extraordinary proceedings. On the 28th March, it seems, the Deputy Commissioner, as Collector of the district, recorded a memo, stating his views on the facts connected with the property in the village of Kumarjari, and in it he mentioned that the order of acquittal passed by Mr. Garrett on the ground that he had found that the accused were in possession of the mining rights of the village, was not justified. He next recorded his opinion that notwithstanding this udicial proceeding "these persons were not in any sort of legal possession of the mining rights and the mere opinion of the Sub-divisional Officer can not operate to deprive this office," that is, his own office as Collector, or "its lessees," that is, Messrs. Bird and Co. He therefore directed that in accordance with his order, Messrs. Bird and Co. be put in possession of the village.

In the above, Mr. Maguire acted as Collector; he next proceeded to act as Magistrate. Having recorded the memo. he sought to put it into execution by forwarding a copy of it to the other side of his office, so that he might give effect to it as District Magistrate by directing that police assistance, if needed might be given. In other words, Mr. Maguire the Collector, wrote to Mr. Maguire the Magistrate, to see that his order was carried out with the help of the police! But he was not yet satisfied. Mr. Garrett was unmanageable; and he sent a copy of the memo. to the Commissioner together with the record of the criminal trespass case, with a recommendation that Mr. Garrett might be removed from Gobindpore "as he does not seem to be able to control Mr. Smith," Mr. Smith being a servant of the East India Coal Company and one of the persons against whom the charge of criminal trespass had been brought.

When Mr. Collector Maguire wrote to Mr. Magistrate Maguire, the ministerial officers proceeded to carry out the instructions of the latter recorded by him as Collector, and police officers were stationed at the village of Kumarjari to prevent the men of the East India Coal Company from proceeding with their mining operations. This interference was naturally resented by the latter who were in possession and for whom the Sub-divisional Officer had already found. The police officers deputed by Mr. Maguire, the Magistrate, felt themselves insulted by this protest on the part of the East India Coal Company, and a constable filed a complaint against the Company's servants before the Sub-divisional Court at Gobindpore, charging them with criminal trespass regarding the village Kumarjari. Mr. Garrett had not yet been removed from Gobindpore; so he had to receive the complaint against the very persons whom he had already acquitted as innocent, and who were charged with the same offence under the same conditions!

On receipt of the complaint, Mr. Garrett solicited the instructions of Mr. Maguire, stating that it was impossible for him to try this case as the Deputy Commissioner had disagreed with his judgment in the former case and he was being transferred for this reason from Gobindpore. He also pointed out that, in his opinion, the Deputy Commissioner's order in this case was illegal, because, it was passed against his judicial finding. Mr. Maguire obviated all difficulties by removing Mr. Garrett from Gobindpore and transferring the case to the file of another Sub-divisional Officer! Mr. Garrett was thus punished for having refused to act illegally and against his own conscience and good sense!

The accused servants of the East India Coal Company now sought the help of the High Court and prayed for the transfer of the case not only from the jurisdiction of the Deputy Commissioner, but from that of the Commissioner also, and the Hon'ble Judges have granted their application with the strong remarks quoted in the beginning of this article. What is most surprising is that the men of the East India Coal Company are going to be tried on the same charges of which they were acquitted by a competent court. On this point they make the following remarks in their petition to the High Court:—

For that your petitioners having once been tried by a court of competent jurisdiction for a similar offence, namely, criminal trespass in Mouza Kumarjari and acquitted of such offence are not liable to be tried for the said offence on the same facts and circumstances, or, in other words, the judgment of Mr. Garrett, dated 21st March, 1899, acquitting your petitioners of criminal trespass in Kumarjari operates a bar to the present prosecution.

As we said, the Hon'ble judges were simply amazed at the manner the Deputy Commissioner had conducted himself throughout this case. Mr. Maguire's action was pronounced by their Lordships to have been "arbitrary" and "unjustifiable," his proceedings "illegal," and his order "improper."

As regards the changes proposed in the Municipal Bill, by the Viceroy, the opinion seems to be unanimous that they have not in any way improved the position. We have heard from a good many men on this subject, competent to give an opinion, and they are for the continuance of the agitation. Some of the letters we have received will appear in these columns in due course. One says that the only thing good in the Viceroy's Despatch is its courteous and friendly tone. Another goes further and says that the changes have made the Bill worse, for under the existing method, the ratepayers could elect two-thirds of the members of the Corporation but now they will have the privilege of only electing half. In short, this seems to be the general opinion. We have already expressed our humble views on the subject. A public meeting should be held to thank Lord Curzon for his good intentions, and to point out that the changes that His Excellency has suggested are not improvements to the Bill. And we think also that the representatives, Babus Surendra Nath and Narendra Nath, should address the Viceroy to say that they have been misunderstood. One can see, at a glance, that in the Despatch the Viceroy has sought to make it clear that in effecting the changes, he has only closely followed the recommendations of the representatives.

IN the correspondence columns of the *Pioneer* appeared "a startling proposition." According to the writer of the proposition, the troubles of the rulers and the ruled in India would be mitigated if the general administration of the country were left to the people, under British advice and control. Eventually the British Government will have to do that to save their Empire. The task that the rulers have now undertaken,—that of not only controlling the finances of the Empire, fighting its battles and the battles of England too, but also supporting village Choukidars and controlling village pounds,—is too much for puny mortals to accomplish with success. The result is, every body is in a state of discontent. The rulers find the work hard and their lives cheerless, and the natives find that they are day by day getting emasculated. The hostility of the people to the European or to the British Government is a myth. If a European is found to be maltreated by an Indian, enquiry will show that the former had provoked the latter to deeds of violence. The Indians have been punished for sedition on two occasions. But the *Bangabasi* would never have been prosecuted if Lord Lansdowne had not introduced his Age of Consent measure; and Mr. Tilak would never have been punished if British soldiers had not been permitted to take charge of plague measures in Poona.

ELSEWHERE will be found two letters on the subject of the Residential Clause, raised in connection with the Burdwan election. We are obliged to publish both of them. It seems Babu Hemendra Nath Sen has been unfairly treated by a contemporary, and he ought to be given an opportunity of saying his say. And the other letter, from Babu T. P. Mukerjea, contains, or purports to contain, arguments, against the position which we had taken with reference to this question. We owe it to the generosity of Babu T. P. Mukerjea and his friend Rai Nalinakshya that they do not believe the statement, made by a vernacular paper, that we had been bribed by Babu Baikantha Nath Sen. A reference to this personal matter, in a letter discussing a question of principle, is irrelevant, and therefore, we must presume, that it was referred to with a view to punish us, for holding a view regarding the Residential clause which is not agreeable to Nali Babu. It is quite true we have objected to Nali Babu's raising this question of residence, but we have no personal feelings in the matter. If Nali Babu had been the victorious party and Babu Baikantha Nath had raised this question to disqualify his rival, we would have yet raised an objection to such a proceeding. As a matter of fact, when Rajah Sashishekhareswar opposed the election of Mr. A. Chowdhury, who was then almost a stranger to us, we took exception to the action of the Rajah and suggested to him not to push the matter to the bitter end. This Residential clause was introduced by whom we do not know. We know this, however, that Sir Charles Elliott declined to claim its authorship when we raised our voice against it as soon as the Councils Act was put in force, and we know that it is an attempt to undermine the principle of election; and, therefore, it should never be resorted to by any one who has the welfare of his country at heart.

WHILE going to press, we received a private telegram stating that Babu Boikantha Nath Sen has received his letter of appointment as member of the local Legislative Council.

THE following paragraph appears in the *Bengalee*:

We have reasons to believe that the Editor of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* placed himself in communication with some leading Commissioners, enquiring as to whether the Note of Dissent on the Calcutta Municipal Bill was shewn to them and whether they had approved of it, including the paragraph which our contemporary has contrived to misunderstand. Our information is that these gentlemen have given the Editor to understand that they had seen the note before it was submitted and they understood the paragraph in a very different sense from the Editor. Will the Editor have the candour to publish these letters?

The *Bengalee* said that the Note of Dissent had been sent to all who had a right to be consulted, and the statement alarmed us a little. We could not persuade ourselves to believe that the alternative, given to the Government by the representatives, had the sanction of those leading men in the town who were taking interest in this matter. To ascertain the position clearly we did make certain inquiries, and the inquiry did not justify the statement of the *Bengalee* that it had in any way resulted in favour of the representatives Thus we inquired of Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, Raja Binoya Krishna, Babu Ananda Mohun Bose, Mr. R. Mittra, Babus Bhupendra Nath, Nagendra Nath, Kalli Nath and Nalin Behari.

Of these eight, Babu Nalin Behari Sirkar says that the Note had been shewn to him and he had approved of it, but he thinks that the Government has misunderstood what the representatives had said. Of the remaining seven Babu Kally Nath writes:—

Surendra sent me the Note of Dissent for my perusal, but requested me to return it within a very short time; so that I had not much time to go through it very carefully. I came across the passage complained of, but I did not understand it in the light you have done. If time was allowed to me I would have suggested alterations. I believe I suggested some which were not adopted. I was never an advocate of the Bombay system, and certainly am not so now.

Of the remaining six, none got the Note of Dissent nor even a hint of what the representatives were going to do. To please Babu Surendra Nath we shall spare some space for the reproduction of one or two letters more.

Thus Babu Bhupendra writes:—

I had not seen the Note of Dissent until it was published. My belief is that the only Commissioner who saw it was Nalin.

Mr. N. N. Ghose writes:—

Neither the Note of Dissent nor any portion of it was ever shown to me either by Mr. S. N. Banerjea or Mr. N. N. Sen. Nor was I ever consulted about the views expressed in it. I am certainly not an admirer of the Bombay system and I consider it to be inferior to the system which has so far prevailed in Calcutta. Whenever I have referred to the Bombay system in my memorials or articles, I have objected to its introduction into Calcutta.

Mr. R. Mitter writes:—

I regret Surendra Nath never showed me any notes.

Thus it will be made clear that we had not suppressed letters, because they proved the contention of Babu Surendra Nath that he had shown the Note to all except this journal. Our object was to ascertain whether the views put forth by the representatives were shared by others, and we were satisfied that they were not. As for Babu Nalin, he too says that the Government has misunderstood the meaning of the representatives, which goes to show that the language, in which the views were clothed, was faulty.

THE appointment of Babu Boikantha Nath Sen as a member of the Local Council seems to show that Sir John Woodburn has accepted the liberal interpretation put upon the Residential Clause by Sir Charles Elliott. This is very gratifying, and proves the liberality of His Honor. The interpretation of the officiating Advocate-General, if accepted, would have rendered Council elections a regular farce. The representatives would then have been recruited, as a rule, from mediocres in the districts. Men like Mr. A. M. Bose, or even Babu Sita Nath Rai, would not then have been qualified to stand for the Dacca Division; for, the expressions, "ordinarily resident," according to Mr. Woodroffe, meant a person who must not only reside in the district for the greater part of the year, but eat, sleep and do his daily business there. It goes without saying that the election of Babu Boikantha Nath has given universal satisfaction. He should have been elected long ago; for there are very few Indians who possess such a vast experience of the country as he does, or whose ability in putting a case clearly and intelligently exceeds his. As regards the patriotism and independence of Babu Boikantha Nath, there can be no two opinions.

ELSEWHERE will be found an article reproduced from the *Inter Ocean*, to hand by this mail, in which Lilian Whiting, the elebrated American lady, discourses on the immortality of the soul. It is quite evident that this important matter, namely, the immortality of the soul, is going to be settled once for all. As Professor Hyslop rightly observes, if the immortality of the soul is admitted to be a truth, based upon unimpeachable testimony, the whole feature of human society will undergo a complete change. In that case, that is to say, when the immortality of the soul is established, things, which are now prized most highly, would be flung away as poison. Let people only realize that to die is to live, and to live happily one has to be good; and then they will avoid such acts as are baneful to spiritual growth.

So long the Municipal Commissioners bore with patience the attack made against them behind their backs by the Mackenzie Government; because, they had hopes of getting some relief from the Government of India. But now despairing of any help from that quarter, they are going to see if they can, in any way, protect themselves from the unjust aspersions cast upon their character. So they meet to-day to consider the propriety of asking the Government for a copy of that letter in which the Commissioners have been charged with corruption and other mal-practices. The following appears in Babu Nalin Behari Sarkar's Note, (part 3) on the Calcutta Municipal Bill with reference to this subject:—

After having admitted that much good work has been done by the Corporation, and

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that there are many good men among its members, Sir Alexander Mackenzie observes:—We all know that there are certain classes of candidates who come forward to contest Municipal elections not out of love for the public service, but out of a regard for their own personal advantage. We all know that when it comes to the question of making appointments in the Municipality, there is canvassing, there is jobbery, there is even corruption; and I say that the work of no city can be carried on until there is some effective stop put to iniquities of that description. This is no doubt a very serious and a sweeping charge against the Commissioners; but is it true? Evidently Sir Alexander Mackenzie has got certain information on the subject in regard to some of the Commissioners. But has he taken the trouble to thoroughly enquire into the truth or falsity of such information? In this country we often hear of many things regarding public men, both officials and non-officials; but such rumours, though very plausible at first sight, do not always stand the test of close scrutiny or examination. It is therefore the bounden duty of the ruler of a Province when he hears of serious charges against a body of public men, entrusted, under the law, with responsible duties, to institute a searching enquiry by proper and reliable men, openly and publicly conducted. No such enquiry has been made in this instance, and under the circumstances to accuse some of the Commissioners of jobbery and corruption, is very unfair and wholly unjustifiable. It is possible that there are ugly rumours in regard to one or two Commissioners, but how far those rumours are true, it is impossible to say, unless there be a full and proper enquiry by trustworthy persons; and no right-thinking man, much less the Governor of a province, should take any action whatever, unless and until the reports that reach him are duly established after a full and proper enquiry. If Sir Alexander Mackenzie had appointed a commission of enquiry, only to enquire into the alleged misconduct of some of the Commissioners, he would have done a great public service not only to Calcutta, but to the whole country at large. That there may be a few 'black sheep' amongst a body of 75 persons no one would venture to dispute on *a priori* grounds, and if their conduct in public life had been made the subject of a public enquiry and subjected to exposure and public censure, that would have served the purpose of a strong moral deterrent in future and would have done real good to the country.

OUR hope that Sir John Woodburn, the ruler of Bengal, is a prayerful man and our suggestion that His Honor should pray for the cessation of rain, is treated by the *Pioneer* with a sneer. He begins by saying :—

Servants, Mohurrirs, Clerks, and even Deputy Magistrates have ever the deepest faith in a word of recommendation from one in authority, but the following from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 24th July apparently attributes higher powers to the word of a Lieutenant-Governor than even an Archbishop would claim.

Though the point raised, that servants, mohurirs, clerks, Deputy Magistrates, that is to say, the high and low among Indians, have the deepest faith in authority, is irrelevant to the question at issue, yet we may say in reply that there is not a race, on the face of the earth, which is more obedient to authority than the English. The discipline, to which English clerks, servants, subordinates, soldiers and sailors submit, shews that they have greater faith in authority than even the Indians have. And do not many Anglo-Indian papers oftentimes write what they are bid to do? No Indian paper will ever submit to it; and if any one sacrifices its independence in this way, it is immediately thrown overboard by its constituents. The highest Englishman is a slave to his party. And will not every Liberal or Conservative vote as he is told to do by his leader? It is this respect to authority that has made the English nation so great. Now a native of India will never submit to such a discipline. An Indian is humble and respectful to his superior; but he also respects himself, and that is the reason of the frequent collisions between Europeans and Indians. The Indians, though a subject race, have yet their pride and principle for which they will sacrifice much. But to return to the question. The *Pioneer* after quoting our para observes: "Let us hope that the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal will at once take the necessary steps to put a stop to this incessant rain." Well, we never meant to say that any prayer from the Lieutenant-Governor would inevitably be followed by the cessation of rain. Yet who knows, but the spectacle of a ruler praying for the welfare of the subject, may really have the effect of moving the Father of all, the rulers and the ruled? What we meant, we thought, was clear even to the meanest apprehension. What we intended to convey was that, it would do no harm to them, if the rulers of India were to lead a life of prayerfulness. And here we may add that it is not only the rulers, but those European newspapers, who support the strong against the weak, purely from race-feeling, may also follow the example. Of course, Sir J. Woodburn is a pious man; nay, our complaint against him is that he is too good; but does he not yet need the forgiveness of the Lord, for depriving the Indians of the privilege of election granted to them by a predecessor?

THE Governor-General in Council has directed the cancelment of the condition in the Indian Tariff Act, which limits the exemption from import duty of machinery (and component parts thereof) to machinery intended for specified industries; and His Excellency in Council exempts from payment of import duty all machinery (and component parts thereof), without reference to the industry for which it is intended.

THE latest fad with ultra-fashionable people at Home is said to be the absence of the envelope. We have gone back to the days of the older times, says *Invention*, when the red wafers and the scaling wax and the folded paper were all that custom demanded or knew. The modern or recalled fashion has substituted the daintiest-tined wafers to march the paper, heliotrope, robins egg blue cerulean, lilac, fawn, or cream, for the mucilaged flap of the envelope. One must write of a big sheet if it is a letter; on the smaller size for notes, invitations, etc.; fold and seal, and then a wafer may be added for extra strength, or the seal alone will answer, if desired.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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PORT TRUST REPRESENTATIVE.—The Hon. Mr. J. W. Spink has been elected as the representative of the Calcutta Trades Association on the Port Trust.

SHERIFF OF CALCUTTA.—Mr. W. B. Gladstone having resigned the office of Sheriff of Calcutta on proceeding to Europe, Mr. C. Lawrie Johnstone has been appointed Sheriff for the remainder of the year.

RULES UNDER THE SUGAR ACT.—New rules regarding the assessment of additional duties on sugar imported from countries where bounties are payable are published in the *Gazette* of *India*. If an importer declares that bounty has been paid on the sugar imported at the highest rate, the corresponding rate of additional duty shall be levied, and the sugar shall not be tested, but if the importer declares that bounty has been paid at any rate below the highest, the sugar shall be tested.

RIVER LEVELS.—On the 29th of July the height of the Ganges at various points was as follows:—Mirzapur, 29th, 12½ P. M., 27·83, fall 1 foot 2 inches, (206·22), Benares, 29th, 12¼ P. M., 26·00, fall 1 foot, fair, occasionally cloudy, (196·80), Buxar, 29th, 9 A. M., 27·50, fall 6 inches (169·05); Monghyr, 29th, 7-10 A. M., 26·42, rise 6 inches (101·85); Sahibganj, 29th, 8½ A. M., 26·25, rise 4 inches (68·00); Goalundo, 29th, 9¾ A. M., 21·67, rise 1 inch (118·00); Brahmaputra—Gouhatty, 29th, 6¾ A. M., 27·20, rise ¾ inch (148·76).

POLICE REFORM.—Amongst other questions likely to come under the consideration of the Government of India at an early date is that of the improvement of the police, the general lines being (1) amelioration of the position of a constable, to render him less liable to succumb to the temptation to which he is exposed, and to attract better men into the rank-and-file of the force, and (2) to increase the number of European officers with a view to more efficient control.

A MEETING.—A meeting, as already announced, was held at 1, Aga Karbulla Mohamedan Lane, on Sunday evening, under the presidency of the well-known Sanskrit scholar Mahamahopadhyya Pundit Govinda Shastri where and when, the celebrated Brindabun Savant delivered a speech on "Hari Bhakti, Hari Nam and the Lord Gauranga." Speech as usual, was much impressive and nourishing to the soul. The president in addressing the meeting expressed his deep sense of satisfaction and delight at his finished oration and elucidation of the Shastric texts. Pundit Bani Madhab Shastri, Babu Jagannath Chaturbedi and others also spoke on the point. At the suggestion of the president it was decided to hold another meeting this evening at Baldev's Temple, 20, Banstolla Street.

THE BONGONG OUTRAGE CASE.—In regard to the alleged outrage committed on a female passenger at the Bongong Station, particulars of which have already been published. We learn that a formal complaint has been laid by the passenger in question with the G. R. Police at Bongong, who, we expect, will shortly place ticket-collector, Moti Lal Bhuttacharjya, Assistant Booking Clerk, Nogendra Nath Chakrabarti and Assistant Station Master, Moula Bux, on their trial before the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Bongong. The hearing of the case is expected to come on the 2nd proximo. The Railway authorities have deputed their pleader, Babu Hem Chandra Rai, to conduct the prosecution. One of the miscreants, we are told, has confessed to his guilt before an Honorary Magistrate, who has recorded his statement under Section 164, Crimina Procedure Code.

MURDER IN SONAGACHI.—An Ooriya woman named Wooly, a washerwoman by profession, living at 91 Durga Churn Mitter's Street, was found brutally murdered in her room on Sunday night. Yesterday morning, the beat constable finding the door of the deceased woman open peeped in and found her lying dead in a pool of blood with severe wounds about her neck and other parts of the body. The constable also found on the floor of her room a broken brick which was lying close by the deceased, who seemed to be 50 years old. To all appearance, it seems, that during a severe conflict she must have been struck with the brick on the head and so stunned as to enable her assailants to finish their horrible work. There was a severe gash across her throat with other smaller wounds. She had also another wound on the right side of the chest, evidently coused by some sharp cutting instrument. A knife wound was also found in one of her hands, which would go to show that there had been a struggle between the deceased and her assailants, before she was over-powered and polished off. Her room was ransacked and most of her ornaments were found to be missing. Only some silver trinkets were found on the person of the deceased. Mr. Halliday, Deputy Commissioner, Superintendent Rai Jogendra Chander Mitter Bahadoor, Inspectors Aldridge, Ellis and Preo Nath Mukerjee went to the spot and held an enquiry into the matter. The murder was, it is believed, committed for the sake of ornaments. No clue of the culprit has as yet been found.

PARIS EXHIBITION.—The Government of India has addressed the Bengal Chamber of Commerce with reference to the representation of Indian commercial products at the forthcoming International Exhibition to be held at Paris. The Government of India are not, they say, prepared to make any further contribution from public funds for exhibition purposes; they consider, however, that an exhibit of the more noteworthy productions of the larger Indian mills and factories would be of undoubted value. In the British Colonial Section the Colonies will show not only what they are prepared to export, but specimens of what their manufactories and mills turn out for home consumption. It would be a matter for regret if India alone were unrepresented in those directions, and if nothing were done to mark the progress of India in industrial development during recent years. Government, therefore, inquire whether the members of the Chamber are taking or intend to take, any action in the matter of sending samples of commercial products and manufactures to the Exhibition.

FURLOUGH.—The Hon'ble Mr. M. Finucane C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, is allowed furlough for six months, on making over charge of his present appointment as officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE.—The Hon'ble Mr. James Pratt has resigned his seat in the Bengal Council. The appointment of Mr. Handley, officiating Superintendent and Remembrancer of Legal Affairs, and of Babus Baikanta Nath Sen and Surendra Nath Banerjea as member of the Bengal Council, is also gazetted.

INDIA IN PARIS EXHIBITION.—The complete Indian trophy for the Paris Exhibition which will occupy the Oriental Pavillion in the World's Fair of 1900 is to be set up in Calcutta for the Viceroy to see, prior to its despatch, also to allow the different Native States' exhibits to be correctly catalogued. The contract for the carpets to adorn the panels of the pavillion has been given to Messrs. Dauvergne and Company, of Srinagar, who are sending twenty-five *chefs d'œuvres*, designed from old Persian carpets, many of which are contained in the famous Rothschild and Vienna collections.

ALL ABOUT A RULE.—The day after the Rule in the case of Empress *vs.* Soonderjee Nanjee was discharged by the High Court, on the ground of want of jurisdiction, Mr. Soonderjee Nanjee sent an application, through Babu Sasishekher Basu, Vakil, High Court, to the Chief Commissioner, Assam, for a Rule similar to one issued by the High Court on the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Haflong, in North Cachar Hills, to show cause why the proceedings in the case should not be quashed, has now been informed by the Secretary to the Chief Commissioner that the Rule has been issued in terms of the petition, that the records of the case has also been sent for, and that the orders will be passed by the Chief Commissioner in due course.

PLAGUE NEWS.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

PLAGUE figures have risen high by a leap. On the 31st ultimo 10 cases and 9 deaths were reported in Calcutta, distributed over the different wards as follows: 1 and 1 in Ward No. 6; 3 and 2 in No. 8; 1 and 1 in No. 11; 2 and 2 in No. 20; and 3 and 3 in No. 22. The total mortality was 55 as against 47, the mean of the last five years.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

PLAGUE attacks reported on Monday number 15, and plague deaths 20; the total mortality being 114; last year it was 87, and in 1897, 162.

HIGH MORTALITY IN POONA.

ON Monday 151 cases and 109 deaths were recorded in the city, the total mortality being 142. In the cantonment there were 25 cases and 28 deaths. Two Hospital assistance in the general plague hospital have been attacked.

RENEWAL AT KARACHI.

AFTER an interval of eight days, the plague returns for Monday record one case and one death.

BANGALORE STATISTICS.

DURING the week ending the 21st of July, the plague in Bangalore City rose from one to nine cases. From the 11th of March last to the 16th of June there had been no indigenous cases, but during the week ending the 23rd of June the city was reinfected. An exodus of people from the city has commenced owing, I believe, to disinfection of houses adjoining infected houses. In districts outside Bangalore cases decreased from 91 to 73, and in the Gold Fields increased from 8 to 11. Cooly labour in the mines is increasing. The following are the figures for the week—Bangalore City nine attacks and five deaths; Cantonment one attack and one death; Bangalore district 73 cases and 64 deaths; Kolar district 18 cases and 16 deaths; Mysore City 10 cases and six deaths; Mysore district 44 cases and 31 deaths; total 155 cases and 123 deaths against 254 cases and 107 deaths in the previous week. The grand total is 19,267 attacks and 15,895 deaths.

THE N-W. P. High Court will be closed for the long vacation on the Civil Side, from Saturday, 12th instant, till Tuesday, 31st October.

DAMAGE has been done in and around Lucknow by unusually heavy rains. News comes from Fyzabad that the Gogra has overflowed, submerging large tracts of land, converting Manfre into an island, and cutting off all road communication between Fyzabad and Ajoydhia

DRAFT bye-laws to regulate the sale of milk cream, and butter in Simla are under consideration. The rules which deal with every possible phase of the milk trade are voluminous and exhaustive. They are much needed, as at present such supervision as can be exercised over the milk-supply leaves much to be desired.

THE annual report of the Jamaica Immigration Department states that no immigrants were introduced last year into the Colony and none were sent back to India: 950 East Indian depositors have £25, 668-15-4 standing to their credit in the Government Savings Bank. The condition of the general East Indian population continues to be prosperous, and the relations between employer and employed are most satisfactory.

THE fodder rates in Karachi at present are ruling very high. There is a water famine at Thar and Parker. Great destitution prevails in the districts and food-grains are dear and cattle-feeding is impossible, if the rain continues to hold off. The weather is unusually cool

THE POLLARBUND RIOTING AND ASSAULT CASE.

(*From our Own Correspondent.*)

SILCHAR, JULY 27.

THE hearing of the case in which 7 coolies of Pollarbund Tea Estate stood charged with rioting and causing grievous hurt to Mr. Falckytter, Assistant Manager of that garden, came on yesterday (the 26th inst.) before Captain Herbert, the Deputy Commissioner. Babu Kamini Kumar Chanda, pleader, appeared for the complainant and a muktear appeared for the defence. The complainant, Mr. Falckytter, in his examination said: "I am Assistant Manager of Pollarbund garden and am in charge of the machinery also. On the afternoon of the 14th June last it was reported to me that the boiler was not working properly. I went to see the boiler and on enquiry found that the fireman Kartick, had not cleansed the chimney although he was paid the *bakshis* of one Rupee for attending to the work properly. I found fault with him to which he did not say anything particularly. He went to his stoking and I returned to the carpenters' shop. He then returned with the rupee paid him as reward to the carpenters' shop and threw it before me. Thereupon I took Kartick by the neck and pushed him out of the carpenters' shop. He picked up an axe and aimed it at me, when it was snatched away by the head mistry named Mungal. He then took up a bamboo and his wife who was working in the sorting room came and took up the axe. I took it from her and threw it away. I then took Kartick to work and made him to stoke. I stopped with him for about 10 minutes, looking after the stoking. I had then to go to weigh out women's leaves and finding the Keranee Babu, told him what had happened with Kartick. He said "You cannot say anything; the coolies, Sir, go to your bungalow." After finishing the weighing of leaves by lamp light I was told by one of the Babus whose name I don't remember, "Go to your bungalow, coolies will kill you." I sent for Kartick twice but he did not come. I then went to him and met him at the tea-house door. I tried to put him in good humour and told him to go to his work The oilman Bhukan came and said—"I am not going to work for you, you—are only a boy." About 20 people, including the accused, had collected there. One of the accused had a stoking iron in his hand. They said "We won't go to work but we will kill you." I smiled at them and was tired of inducing them to go to their work. Some people began to talk loudly and the accused named Prasadi pushed me on the stomach. Behari hit me on the back of the neck with a thick stick. Then they all set upon me with sticks, bamboos and any thing they could get hold of. I tried to get hold of one of their sticks to defend myself. I grasped in the air and as one of these men aimed a blow at me, I repelled it over my head by my hand. I was hit on a little above the wrist. Another man hit me, on the side of the forehead. I was stunned and fell down. I did not know at the time where I fell. I recovered my senses on receiving a severe blow on my left knee. I looked round and saw Keranee Babu. He was then in a way standing over me. I said, "Give me your hand and help me up." I then felt I had broken my arm. Finding that I was worse for defence and that the men were following me I picked up a stick from the court of the tea-house and walked away to my bungalow. All the accused were there but I could not say for certain whether all struck me. Every one said "I will kill you." They had all sticks, firebars or something in their hands. I raised my right arm and saw with the light that was coming from the tea-house through the open window, that it was bleeding. I cannot do my work now. Dr. Glover came and bandaged my wounds. The policeman came on the following morning, when I made a statement to him at Mr. Mason's bungalow. I described the men by the works they did, and the Keranee Babu gave their names. The accused were brought to that bungalow, and I do not remember whether I identified the accused to the police officer. Mr. Mason was away to Dewan at the time of the occurrence. He returned during the night."

Dr. Glover, the medical officer of the Lakhipur and Tarapur side gardens, who was the first witness examined, said, that on reciept of an urgent call from Mr. Mason he came to Pollarbund on the morning of the 15th. instant and found Mr. Falckytter reclining in bed, body semi-flaxed and his right arm supported on a towel on a board laid on his thighs. His banian trousers and handkerchief were stained with blood. Referring to notes, witness then enumerated the bruises on several parts of the body and indicated the compound fracture of the right fore-arm as being serious. The nature of the injuries were for the most part severe bruises which might have been caused by blunt weapons such as sticks and stoking iron like those produced before the Court. He saw the wounds bleeding when he saw me for the first time. Witness believed that under the best possible conditions, it would take about a month from the date for Mr. Falckytter to recover from the effects of the injuries and about 7 weeks to take up his ordinary duties. Dr. Glover further stated that the right hand of the complainant was absolutely useless at present, but he was not in a position to say at this stage whether it would be permanently injured.

The next witness, Gagan Chandra Deb, the Keranee Babu, said that at about 5-30 P. M. on the 14th of July, when he was weighing leaves plucked by the villagers, Mr. Falckytter told him that he had given the fireman Kartick *bakshish* of a rupee for cleaning the chimney, but Kartick had not done it, and now on the other hand had thrown back the rupee. Mr. Falckytter thereupon held him by the neck and turned him out of the carpenters' shop. Kartick took an axe which Mungal Mistry snatched away from him. A little while afterwards the witness with other Babus and the Jemadar went to give their usual reports to Mr. Falckytter when he asked him to send for Kartick. Kartick was sent for twice, but he did not come. The Sahib then went himself, followed by the witness and the other Babus. They found the accused Kartick, Prosadi, Behari, Bhukan, Sitna, and Musua with some other people had left their works and were standing with sticks in hand. The Sahib and the Babus, including the witness, tried all means to persuade the coolies to return to their work, but they refused and assumed a defiant attitude. Behari at first hit Mr. Falckytter on the back which was followed by another stroke from Musua. Prasadi aimed a stroke at the head which the Sahib repelled with his hand. Other accused also struck him. Mr. Falckytter tried to go away but he fell down on the drain senseless. The accused then said, "Shala is always beating us, kill him." In such a strait Prasadi again hit him on his right knee. The Sahib making a sound held out his hand to the witness who picked him up. Mr. Falckytter then slowly walked up his bungalow. The coolies were again persuaded to go to their work but they said they would go to the thana. Mr. Falckytter sent for the witness at 4 o'clock when he saw his arm broken and the clothes stained with blood.

The next witness Sita Nath Ukil, a Tillah Muharir, said that at 6-30 P.M. on the 14th of July, when after weighing the leaves he with the other Babus went to give report, Chota Sahib asked Gagan Babu to send for Kartick. He was twice sent for but did not come. The Sahib then went himself. The witness and other Babus also followed him. As they were in front of the tea-house 12 or 13 men including the 7 accused, surrounded the Sahib. The accused Behari, Musua and Bhukan had sticks and Prasadi had an iron bar like the one in the court, in their hands. While the Sahib tried all amicable means to induce them to return to their work, Behari struck him on the back. Musua also hit him. The Sahib then fell down into a drain. Prasadi saying that Mr. Falckytter was feigning, struck him a blow on the arm. They all raised a noise saying that they were going to Lakhipur thanah and actually left. The witness and Sarada Babu went to bring them back, and on their return found that the Sahib had gone to his bungalow.

Sarada Charan Bhattacherjee, another Tillah Muharir, said that at about 8 o'clock at night, on the 14th of July, he with the other Babus went to give report when the Chota Sahib asked Keranee Babu to bring Kartick. One Dwarika was sent for him but he did not come. The witness and the Jemadar then went for him and found that Kartick, Musua, Shitna, Bhukan, Prasadi, and Kadru amongst other people were standing in front of the house with sticks in hand. Kartick was asked to come but he refused and others said that they would beat the Sahib. Witness informed Mr. Falckytter how the coolies had assembled with sticks in hand and advised him not to go there. Yet he went there and the Babus including witness followed him, while the Sahib tried to induce Kartick to go to his work, Behari struck him on the back with a *lathi*; others also beat him. The Sahib fell down into a drain. They (accused) all made a noise saying that they were going to the thana and they actually proceeded. As the stoppage of work was calculated to destroy the leaves, witness and another Babu went to bring them back. On their return they found the Sahib had gone to the bungalow

At this stage the court rose for the day.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Babu Sures Chandra Das, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Hazaribagh, is allowed furlough for one year.

Babu Kali Coomar Roy Chowdhury, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Backergunge, is allowed leave for twenty-eight days.

Babu Probhat Nath Roy, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Khulna, is allowed leave for eighty-two days.

Mr. M. Smither, Offig Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Hajipur, is allowed leave for two months.

Mr. R. C. Hamilton, Offig Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Darbhanga, is appointed to have charge of the Hajipur sub-div.

Maulvi Syed Abdool Malek, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Balasore, is allowed leave for six weeks.

Mr. E. V. Gabriel, Asst Magte and Collr, Hoogly, is transferred to Monghyr.

Mr. F. W. Ward, Asst Magte and Collr, Chittagong, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the district of Champaran.

In modification of the order of the 19th June, 1899, Maulvi Abdul Mahmud, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Pabna, is transferred to Chittagong.

Babu Makhum Lall Chatterjee, sub pro tem Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Balasore, is transferred to the head-quarters station of the district of Hazaribagh.

Mr. Birendra Chandra Sen, Offig Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Jahanabad, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magte and Collr of Bogra.

Babu Monmahan Chakravarti, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Gaya, is appointed to have charge of the Jahanabad sub-div.

Babu Debi Prosad, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed furlough for one year.

Babu Nowrunghi Lall, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Shahabad, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Hem Chandra Sarkar, M. A., tempy Lecturer in the Rajshahi College, is appointed to be a sub pro tem Professor in that College. He is also appointed sub pro tem to class VIII of the Provl Educational Service.

Babu Upendra Nath Maitra, Prof, Hooghly College, is appointed temporarily to be a Prof in the Presy Coll.

Babu Mahendra Nath Sanyal, Law Lecturer, Rajshahi College, is allowed leave from the 3rd July to the 31st August. Babu Sarat Chandra Ray, B. L., acting for him.

Babu Baikuntha Nath Roy, Offig Asst Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Divn, is allowed leave for one month and twenty-one days.

Babu Mohim Chandra Bose, Dy Inspector of Schools, Chittagong, is appointed to have charge of the office of the Asst Inspector of Schools, Chittagong Div, in addition to his own duties.

Babu Mohendra Nath Roy, Sub Judge of Mymenshing, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Upendra Chandra Ghose, Munsif of Comilla, is appointed to act until further orders, as Sub Judge of Dinajpur.

Babu Poresh Nath Roy Chowdhury, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Comilla.

Babu Manmatha Nath Bose, B. L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Kishorganj.

Babu Mati Lal Haldar, Sub Judge of Birbhum, on deputation to Bankura, is allowed leave for seven days, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of the 30th June 1899.

Maulvi Syed Ghalib Hossain, B.L., is appointed to act as an Additional Munsif of Samastipur.

Babu Lal Gopal Sen, Addl Sub Judge of Bhagalpur, is allowed leave for one month.

Mr. Mahomed Waseduddin Ahmad, Bar-at-Law, is appointed to act as Munsif of Purnea

Babu Gobind Gopal Gupta, Munsif of Firojpur on leave, is appointed to be a Munsif, of Ampta

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Babu Jogendra Nath Mookerjee, Munsif of Ampta, is appointed to be a Munsif of Pirojpur.

Babu Charu Chandra Mukerjee, Munsif of Hathazari, is allowed leave for thirty days.

Babu Shoodhangshu Bhusan Roy, Munsif of Munshiganj, is allowed leave for twenty-one days.

Babu Brajes Chandra Sinha, Munsif of Lakhmipur, is allowed leave for twenty-one days.

Babu Gobind Gopal Gupta, Munsif of Pirojpur, is allowed leave for two months.

Babu Dabendra Mohun Sen, Munsif of Pingna, is allowed leave for forty days.

Maulvi Syed Mohamed Yusoof Ali, Addl Munsif of Tirhut, on deputation to Somastipur, is allowed leave for one month.

Babu Kedar Nath Chatterjee, Munsif of Manikganj, is allowed leave for fifteen days.

Babu Jaya Prosad Pande, Munsif of Purnea, is allowed leave for one month.

The following promotions are sanctioned in the Subordinate Educational Service.

Promoted to Class I.

Mrs. E. A. Pegler, Head Mistress of the Victoria School, Kurseong.

Promoted to Class II.

Babu Mohini Mohan Bose, B.A., Head Master of the Chaibassa Zilla School, Babu Kesab Lal Bose, Head Master of the Ranchi Zilla School, Babu Sajivan Lal Sinha, B.A., Head Master of the Patna City School.

Babu Hemanto Kumar Moitra, Sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, is posted to the Sirajganj subdiv.

Babu Balmukund Kanungo, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, Orissa Division, is posted to Cuttack.

Babu Murari Misra, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the district of Cuttack.

Military Asst Surg G.T. Milchem, attached to the Mitford Hospital, Dacca, is allowed privilege leave for two weeks.

A REMARKABLE DIVORCE SUIT.

Plea of Husband's Connivance.

The Sessions Judge of Lucknow had on Monday last a remarkable divorce suit brought by Frank Ryan, Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of the Railway Mail Service in the N.-W. Provinces, against his wife on the ground of misconduct. Counsel for Mrs. Ryan and one of the co-respondents, admitted the misconduct but pleaded connivance, and petitioner in cross-examination admitted writing three letters (produced) to his wife at Kasauli, telling her to get money from some one whom he designated her generous friend, admirer and sweetheart; also saying that he would make no inquiries from whom, how, when and in what manner she obtained the money. The letters referred to a monthly allowance made by petitioner to his wife and contained a request that he might be excused sending money to her, so as to be able to pay his debts. Petitioner also expressed the hope his wife would obtain Rs. 500 from some one to enable him to buy a cart and horse. Ryan admitted the letters, but said he wrote them as a joke. The Sessions Judge commented severely on his conduct, saying this fact must have been withheld from petitioner's counsel or the suit would not have been filed. The petition was dismissed with costs.

THE BARH WHIPPING CASE.

The Sessions Judge of Patna has made a reference to the High Court in *re* the sensational Barh whipping case with the following remarks:—

"There are three criminal motions against the order of the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Barh in one case. They may be conveniently dealt with in one judgment. It appears from the order a copy of which was filed with each petition for revision that the three accused were convicted of receiving or retaining stolen goods under sec. 411 I. P. C. and were sentenced one man Hamid Hosain to fifteen stripes with a rattan. Abdur Rahman to three months' rigorous imprisonment and Willayet Hosain to three months' simple imprisonment, all the sentences were non-appelable, and the sentence of wipping was carried out at once. The property the subject of the charge was said to be Government property, and consisted of a stamped petition of complaint, a *Hindustani* translation of this and the commencement of an English translation of the same and a *Rasid Bahi*. The first three articles were filed with the records and only one of them appears to be Government property, *i. e.*, the petition of complaint. Along with the copy of the order filed with each petition of motion there s a copy of the proceedings, such as are required by law to be kept as a record in summary cases. These proceedings are dated 27th June. There is then a further order dated 28th June which it is not easy to describe. In it the Sub-divisional Officer defends his action in this case and anticipates certain objections to it as he hears a motion is to be filed against all his proceedings in the case.

Accordingly I sent for the original record in the case and then I heard learned counsel on behalf of two of the petitioners and some learned pleaders for the third and it does appear to me that the proceedings of the Sub-divisional Officer were irregular and illegal and should be set aside.

It appears that the learned Sub-divisional Officer was sitting in court at 3 P. M. on 27th, when the accused were caught at the *mukhtar khana*. For some reason or other which is not recorded the Sub-divisional Officer went out himself and saw the accused and the *chaprasi* apparently also though this fact is not recorded; the Sub-divisional Officer ordered the arrest of these three men. The three papers filed with this case, viz., Furrukh Hosain's petition of complaint and the other two papers were recovered from the accused in the Sub-divisional Officer's presence. They were then brought into court and tried summarily. Two witnesses were examined by the Sub-divisional Officer; the statements of the accused were taken very briefly and then three witnesses examined by the defendants or for the defendants who really do not seem to have known what it was all about.

The witnesses examined by the Sub-divisional Officer Radhi Ram peon and Jagur Nath Ojha make some what vague statements. The first named says "Saw Abdur Rahman writing in the *Mukhtar Khana*, two other accused on either side; when I saw it (*sic*) was *sarkari*, I put my hand on (the) paper, Abdur Rahman tried to tear the paper. The 3 men were sitting on one *darry* in one corner. Villayet Hosain took up a book and threw it into a concealed spot, when Magistrate came.

Cross-examined—Villayet Hosain had his head on his hand and was looking on.

This evidence is most vague; evidently the Sub-divisional Magistrate recorded the statements so hastily that he did not stop to make it even sense.

The other witness says "Villayet Hosain was reading and Abdur Rahman was writing, accused Hamid Hosain was separated by a yard distance."

This evidence does not disclose any offence and does not support the conviction.

There is no complaint in this case and Magistrate clearly took it upon his own knowledge or suspicion.

As this was so the Sub-divisional Magistrate should have acted in accordance with section 191 and if the accused objected to his trying the charge he should have transferred the case to another Magistrate.

As he has not done so all his proceedings are illegal and should be set aside.

The Sub-divisional Officer acted with great want of judgment in trying the case summarily and also in inflicting whipping as a punishment in case of one of the accused. The proper course for the Sub-divisional Magistrate to adopt was to have drawn up a statement of what he saw when he went to the *Mukh'ar Khana*, then to have examined the three accused and then to enquire how the petition of complaint and the *Rasid Bahi* came into their possession. The petition of complaint, *i. e.* the alleged stolen property, was lodged on 26th June and must have been in some one's custody from that time until it reached one or other of the accused. The accused, one of whom is a Mukhtar and another a clerk of a Mukhtar and also the old man Villayet Hosain might have been enlarged on bail pending further inquiries. In such cases nothing is gained by such hasty and ill-advised measures as the Sub-divisional Magistrate adopted. This case will accordingly be reported to the High Court for revision under section 438 Cr P. C., and meanwhile the Sub-divisional Officer will be called on to submit any explanation he may wish to offer."—*Behar Herald.*

TALKS WITH THE DEAD.

[Special Correspondence of the *Inter Ocean.*]

BOSTON, MASS., June 28.—Ten years' experience in sittings with Mrs. Piper may enable me to contribute some information that will assist Chicago psychologists in arriving at a satisfactory conclusion as regards the experiments being made by Professor Hyslop to prove the immortality of the soul.

The wave of sensation that has gone over the land from Professor Hyslop's experiences simply indicates that the time is ripe for popular discussion and examination of the question of modern spiritualism, which was first brought to attention by the "rappings" through the mediumship of the Fox sisters in 1847. For the results attending Professor Hyslop's experiences with Mrs. Piper are no more wonderful in quality, and not an hundredth part as great in quantity as those which Dr. Richard Hodgson has been obtaining for the last three years. But as each one can relate best his own experience I propose now to relate mine, which, on account of certain restrictions upon me as a member of the Society for Psychical Research, I have not before been able to make public, save partially, as in a little book of mine, entitled, "After Her Death, the Story of a Summer," which narrates personal experiences in intercommunication with my beloved friend Kate Field, during the first year after she went on into the new life.

To give a very brief resume of the evolution of Mrs. Piper, it may be stated that some fifteen years ago her mediumship began to attract attention here, the form being then the use of her own voice. Her "control," purported to be a "Dr. Phinuit," who spoke bad English with a French accent, and who was apparently in communication with the friends of sisters who sought Mrs. Piper, and who gave to a great many persons a great variety of tests. Mrs. Piper's form of mediumship now is writing, not with Planchette, as a New York paper pictured her, and which she has never used, but with her own hand. She becomes entranced; a little table is drawn up at her left side with cushions on it, on which her head is supported. In this perfectly unconscious state her right hands is stretched out where a table with writing pad and pencils is placed and her own hand writes the messages. The theory is that her land is used as the instrument by the unseen person present. This theory is corroborated by such a vast array of evidence from so large a number of persons a majority of whom are people of eminence and whose judgment, as well as veracity, would be relied upon, that I do not despair of laying before the readers of *The Sunday Inter Ocean*, even in this one article, some proofs that can hardly be explained away. The experiences of a great many people with Mrs. Piper have been remarkable; but as one can best speak of one's own I shall limit myself to these, and, while a few other friends in the unseen would have from time to time appeared, I shall restrict this narration exclusively to the communication from Kate Field, as she was widely known, and as the clear and significant character of her work in this world, in both writing and lecturing, is in signal evidence in her communications through the hand of Mrs. Piper.

Talks with Kate Field.

All appointments for sittings with Mrs. Piper are made by Dr. Hodgson, the Secretary of the Society for Psychical Research. Being under the auspices of the society, no one can go directly to her. All applications for a sitting are made to Dr. Hodgson.

If, in beginning my story, allude to the periences related in my book, called "After Her Death; the Story of a Summer," which the old Boston house of Little, Brown & Co., bring out, it is because the story begins then and I shall open it here pre-supposing all that I have then related and which is essential to a full understanding of the matter. For between Miss Field and myself this experience has been direct and telepathic, as well as objective, through the hand of Mrs. Piper. I could not make the latter intelligible without explaining the former. Her messages fall on my mind in words and sentences as clearly defined as those of any person in this world. This experience, while there is seldom a day without its occurrence, is not by any means continual. And at its best it is usually limited to one or two sentences, so that for any length of conversation with her I am very glad to resort to Mrs. Piper. And now for the story in outline; to give it entire would require more than the space of any one issue of *The Sunday Inter Ocean*

In August of 1896, three months after Miss Field's death, I returned from Europe, intending to go on to Honolulu, where her body was then resting in a vault. There was every reason, prudentially, why I should not go, but I was in the mood to fling prudence to the winds and go on regardless of consequences. With this intention, then, I was late one evening aware that Miss Field suddenly spoke to me and said: "Lilian, do not go; all you want will come to you here." This was all I received, no explanation was made, but it fell upon my mind with such absolute conviction that I instantly accepted the counsel. Within the next three months I saw four persons from Honolulu, who knew Miss Field well and who were those I should have made the long journey to meet. They were Mrs. Dole, the wife of President Dole; Mrs. William B. Castle, Miss Anna Pazis, who was travelling with Miss Field at the time of her death, and another lady, whose name at the moment escapes me, but who had married a young man from Lowell, Mass., and who came on a visit to her husband's parents in Lowell, and was so kind as to come and see me. This lady and Mrs. Castle came into my own room. Mrs. Dole I saw at the home of her cousin in Cambridge, and I went to Brooklyn, N. Y., to see Miss Pazis, where she was visiting friends. So this corroboration is presumptive evidence, at least, that Miss Field really said to me what I believed she did.

Miss Field Explains Her Will.

In the early autumn I applied to Dr. Hodgson for a sitting with Mrs. Piper, and Oct. 24, 1896, was the date of the first one. As soon as the medium became entranced the hand caressed me, and, seizing the pencil wrote: "I am Kate Field in her characteristically direct way. Passing over much personal matter much that to me was unquestionable proof in mannerisms, terms of expression, characteristic phrases, etc., this test of proof was given: Miss Field had made her will, leaving the bulk of her property to Mr. T. Standford Beaty. I asked her if that had been her real intention. Mrs. Piper's hand wrote out that it certainly was, and that she wished me—as her intimate friend—to know why. There was then written out the complete story of a business meeting and transaction as having occurred at a given date in her rooms in the Victoria Hotel in New York, and not to make a mystery of it, it was simply in reference to stock taking in the founding of her paper, Kate Field's Washington. It was a transaction of which I knew absolutely nothing. Mr. Beaty was at that time a stranger to me, but Miss Field expressed (through Mrs. Piper's hand) desire that we should meet, wrote: "I will send him to you." This assertion did not greatly impress me, but within a short time, late one afternoon, the card of Mr. Beaty came up to me, and when he followed it, he said: I should, perhaps, have written and asked your permission to call, but the fact is there has been about me such an influence, such a pressure, to come and see you that I simply had to drop everything and come." Finally, in the course of conversation, he remarked that he wished to tell me why Miss Field made a will that seemed peculiar, and he related the story as nearly identical as that which had been written out to me through Mrs. Piper's hand, as any two truthful persons would relate the same occurrence. When he had finished I said, tentatively: "I don't know, Mr. Beaty, whether you believe at all in communications from those in the unseen world?"

"Well," he replied, "I don't know much about it, but I have always felt as if my mother were near me.

Then I showed him the written communication narrating in detail the transaction of which he had just told me; his aid to Miss Field having been of such a nature as to make the arrangements of her will entirely equitable and right.

Mr. Beaty was formerly the Private Secretary of the late Senator Brice, and now is the treasurer of the Chinese railway syndicate whose office is at No. 50 Broadway, New York city, so this statement may, therefore, be verified in any way.

Now I pass through a long series of sittings extending from Oct. 24, 1896, to January of 1898; a series of which each one had tests of a more or less important nature. One of those tests involving circumstances that render it practically impossible to doubt, I am unable to relate here because it is told in full under the title, "The Date in the Ring," in a little book of mine—the "Third Series" of "The World Beautiful," and the publishers would feel it an infringement of copyright were I to relate it here as I wish I could do. Now to come to the "sittings" of last week that I had with Mrs. Piper. Miss Field came at once and began writing.

"Do you see me in my room and about my work?" I asked.

"Yes, very frequently," she replied—the reply being, of course, written by Mrs. Piper's hand.

"If you do," I said, "tell me of some special thing you saw."

"Well, for instance, last evening, Lilian, I saw you take a package of my letters from a drawer and sit down and read them over one by one."

This was true, as, having just completed her biography, I was looking to see if there were anything in certain letters that I would like to add during the proof-reading. Again, suddenly in the writing, the hand stopped, lifted itself in the air and then picking up the pencil wrote: "Lilian, Mr. Savage, is here." This referred to Mr. Philip H. Savage, the gifted and noble son of Rev. Dr. Minot J. Savage, whose death, three weeks ago, at the age of 31, was a great shock and sorrow to the entire community. Mr. Savage sent messages to his father but of these I must not speak. The entire nature, however, of all that Miss Field wrote during these sittings last week was such as to render untenable any hypothesis other than that my general life, pursuits, and experiences were an open book to her. I questioned much regarding her own life and the nature of life in the unseen world.

"When you see an individual here in the physical world, what do you see?" I asked. In reply to this question she wrote: "I see the spiritual body, and the physical body appears as a dark shadow surrounding it."

"Does this shadow vary in appearance?" "Oh, yes," was the reply, "it is more dense and gross, or finer and lighter, in exact corresponding degree to the life lived—whether gross and coarse or refined and noble."

Kate Field Describes Spirit Life.

"By way of illustrating your present life, I said at the second seance, "will you not tell me, in consecutive order just what you have done since the close of the sitting yesterday?" "I was rather weary after talking to you so long, she replied, "and I walked awhile in the garden to refresh myself; then I went with my father and mother to the temple, where we heard a lecture on the composition of light, given by several great scientific men. Afterward there was a discussion. Then we returned and talked it all over, and finally I said: "Now I must look into the earth world, and I saw you at a little table writing. Afterward we gave thanks to God for the happiness and privileges that we enjoyed, and I went to my writing."

"But do you write in your world?"

"I do. I am writing now" (relating the subject) "and distributing it among the denser spirits to help them." Inventions were spoken of with great clearness and force and other intellectual activities. The study of spiritual laws engage those who are living in the higher realms.

Last September in Paris Mr. Stead came one day to see me. He was then just starting on that interesting tour of visiting all the European capitals to write of the status of affairs to the American press. During his visit the "Julia" (whom I may now say is Miss Julia A. Ames, who was closely associated with Miss Frances E. Willard), the "Julia" who writes through his hand—came and he sat down to write. I asked him what the process is by which she writes through Mr. Stead's hand. "I substitute my astral arm for his from the elbow down," was the reply she wrote.

The Rev. W. Stainton Moses, a clergyman of the Church of England, was an opposer of spiritualistic phenomena, and he became convinced of it by means of the automatic writing of his own hand, which was controlled by a very lofty and pure intelligence, who signed himself "Imperator." There is a book called "Spirit Teachings," composed of these communications of "Imperator" to Mr. Moses, and it is well worth reading. Two years ago "Imperator" came to Mrs. Piper and assumed entire control of all arrangements. It is really he who directs the sittings, who names to Dr. Hodgson those who may be permitted to come and who also apparently directs and arranges for those in the unseen to communicate. Now "Imperator" gives such teachings as this:

"Man is a spirit temporarily enshrined in a body of flesh; a spirit with a spiritual body, which is to survive severance from the earth body. This spiritual body is the object of training in this sphere of probation to develop and fit for its life in the sphere of spirit. This spiritual being temporarily enshrined in the body of earth, we regard as a conscious responsible intelligence, with duties to perform, with responsibilities, with capacities, with accountability, and with power of progress or retrogression. It has its opportunities of development, its degrees of probation, its phases of training, and its helps in progression if it will use them. Man as a responsible spiritual being, has duties which concern himself his fellow man, and God."

Explanation of the Phenomena.

Unquestionably there is about us as an atmosphere a realm which interpenetrates our own, and whose inhabitants are in the closet magnetic interchange of thought with the inhabitants of the physical world; these inhabitants are our friends and acquaintances who have passed the change called death, and who are, therefore, living under new conditions, but conditions of which we also partake. For man, by virtue of his spiritual nature, is an inhabitant of the spiritual as well as the physical world. In fact, we are essentially and permanently spiritual beings, and only incidentally and temporarily physical beings. The next step in progress—and the step of which we are just on the very threshold—is this. That clairvoyance and clairaudience are normal faculties, that the development of spiritual sight and spiriitual hearing is just as possible to the spiritual man while still sojourning in his physical body as is the development of the finer perceptions and higher faculties in any direction, and that the sight and hearing in relation to the unseen realm will become just as much a matter of course as is now the ordinary sight and hearing. If the greater part of humanity were blind and deaf, and only the exceptional man could see and hear, the majority would affirm that the claim of A that he could see an object which others could only feel; or that he could hear sounds where, to his fellows there was but silence—such a claim would be denied, ridiculed, or at last admitted only with grave doubts and more "conditions" than a "plucked," undergraduate. Kant truly said that the other world is not another place but another view. The real man, released by death from his physical body, finds himself in a new world that is yet the old one except that he was gained another view—a larger added view. He finds himself with added powers. He can move swiftly and at will; he has gained a larger control of his capacities and powers, whose effect, practically, is as if he had acquired new ones. Spirit is so intense in its potency, so irresistible in its energy, that to its control all things are possible.

All that is abnormal will disappear. The medium, even so remarkable a one as Mrs. Piper, is but a temporary bridge. Man will develop his innate psychical faculties, and the open communication between spirit and spirit, irrespective of the change of death, will become a normal and customary experience.

LILIAN WHITING.

MR. H. HESELTINE, Registrar, Finance Department, will be promoted to the Assistant Secretaryship of that department with effect from the 1st August.

SHOULD a decrease in the work of the Punjab Chief Court result from the Punjab Courts Bill, which has been introduced in the Viceroy's Council it is anticipated that the services of Messrs. Maude and Anderson, die Additional Judges, will presumably be dispensed with.

THE Government of India review of the work of the Geological Survey of India last year is published. It shows much useful work accomplished by the officers of this Department during the past twelve months in the direction of economic, as well as of purely scientific exploration, and expresses the satisfaction of the Governor-General with the manner in which it has been conducted.

TELEGRAMS.

[Indian Telegrams.]

THE RANIGANJ OUTRAGE CASE.

Committed to the Sessions.

(From our own Correspondent.)

RANIGANJ, JULY 29.

To-day eight witnesses were examined. Mr. McNicol, recalled, said that there was no light near the hot-water tank nor was there any light with Prohlad Muchi, the tank guard, who said that he saw the jemadar, his brother and four others coming from the side of the tank. Mr. McNicol further said that the night was dark. One of the accused was discharged; charges were framed against the other twelve under secs 302,147 and 149 I. P. C. They were committed to take their trial at the next Burdwan Sessions.

THE INDIAN CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

Despatch of the Secretary of State.

SIMLA, JULY 31.

The following is the text of the telegraphic summary of a Despatch to the Government of India now on its way out, which the Secretary of State has laid before Parliament, on the report of the Indian Currency Committee:—Her Majesty's Government have given to the report of the Committee that careful consideration which its great importance deserves. Impressed by facts and arguments which it contains they have arrived at the conclusion that it is advisable to accept and act upon the recommendations of the Committee. The Secretary of State for India in Council is accordingly resolved to maintain the policy of keeping the mints closed to unrestricted coinage of silver and he requests the Government of India to take steps, as soon as may be considered expedient, to make sovereigns a legal tender and let it circulate as current coin. The Government of India are also instructed to prepare to coin gold into sovereigns in India in accordance with the conditions mentioned by the Committee. The Secretary of State adds that he has had no hesitation in adopting the opinion of the majority of the Committee and that the rupee should be permanently rated in relation to gold at sixteen pence. His Lordship concurs with the Committee that there is no reason to accept any legal obligation to give gold for rupees, and endorses the general principles laid down for the management of a gold reserve. The important suggestion contained in the separate report by Mr. Hambro for the establishment of a strong bank on the model Banks of England and France, is also commended for the attention of the Government of India. The Secretary of State adds that doubtless the Government will give their careful consideration to the strong opinion against borrowing gold for the purpose of establishing a gold standard, expressed in their separate report by Messrs. Campbell and Holland and Sir John Muir. Attention is also particularly invited to the unanimous recommendation of the Committee that Government should avoid increasing their existing gold obligations. Finally, the Secretary of State asks the Government for any suggestions which they may wish to make in furtherance of the policy now adopted.

[Foreign Telegrams.]

A debate on Transvaal affairs took place in the House of Lords and the House of Commons to-night.

In the Lower House Mr. Chamberlain said the latest franchise proposals of the Transvaal executive were a real advance, and, President Kruger, having invited friendly advice, Great Britain now suggested that he should submit those proposals to a Joint Committee of experts. It was reported that they had conferred real and substantial representation upon the Uitlanders. He hoped for a peaceful solution, but he clearly enunciated the intention of Government to carry the matter through and to terminate a state of affairs which was not a question of redress of isolated grievances, but one of the position of Great Britain in South Africa.

Lord Selborne spoke on similar lines in the House of Lords.

Lord Salisbury adverted to the mistaken policy of 1881, and dwelt upon the fact that President Kruger had not kept his promises of the friendly co-operation of races in the Transvaal; but if the latest concessions were a genuine effort to eliminate race antagonism, we might anticipate a friendly solution of the question. In any case, added the Premier, Great Britain had put her hand to the plough, and would not withdraw.

LONDON, JULY 28.

A Despatch from the Secretary of State for India in Council to Lord Curzon says the Government has concluded that it will be advisable to accept and act upon the principles recommended in the Currency Report, and has therefore decided to maintain the closing of the Mints. The Despatch directs that steps be taken to make the sovereign legal tender at a ratio of exchange of fifteen rupees, and enjoins making gold freely available for foreign remittances. Special attention is called to Mr. Hambro's banking recommendations.

LONDON, JULY 30.

Reuter, telegraphing from Peking, says it is semi-officially stated that, although there is no question of an alliance, the visits of the Japanese fleet to China, and of the Chinese envoys to Japan, are due to a mutual desire for closer relations.

LONDON, JULY 31.

The leaders of the Opposition have decided not to raise any debate on the Transvaal question again this session.

President Kruger has asked the Volksraad to abolish the disabilities attaching to Jewish and Catholic residents of the State. He thought that the situation at Pretoria was clearer, and hoped to join in the enquiry to settle all outstanding questions.

LONDON, JULY 31.

Parliament will probably be prorogued on the 9th instant

LONDON, JULY 31.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, British Ambassador to the United States, has been raised to peerage.

LONDON, AUG. 1.

The Indian Budget will be presented in the House of Commons on Tuesday next.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, JULY 14.

INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A CABLE message was received this week by the British Congress Committee from British Indians resident in the Transvaal, in the following words:—"Transvaal Government refuses trading licenses except to Indians living in the locations. What must we do will be ruined."

Sir William Wedderburn, as Chairman of the British Committee, has addressed a strong letter to Lord George Hamilton on the subject, and, at the same time, called attention to the repeated complaints received from Indians in Natal, urging that in making protests to President Kruger it might be as well to set our own houses in order at the same time. The *Times*, this week, has an able article on this subject, under the well-known heading of "Indian Affairs", in which Sir William Hunter makes a very strong protest against the bad treatment Indians are receiving in the Transvaal, and there is evidence that less scrupulous journals are using it to increase and fan the flame of hatred to the Boers, lighted by Mr. Chamberlain and his pliant henchman, Sir. A. Milner, which only the strong hand of Lord Salisbury restrains from the dire conflagration of war. Sir William Wedderburn has acted with his usual prudence by including in his letter to Mr. Chamberlain, as Secretary of State for the Colonies, a protest against our own treatment of Indians in Natal. He would be the last man in the world to use the condition of Indians in the Transvaal to increase the chances of war.

There is, however, great danger of the just grievances of British Indian subjects being overlooked in the agitation for the redress of the minor grievances of the Uitlanders, and I am very glad that men like Sir William Wedderburn and Sir William Hunter are standing up for them in this hearty fashion, as Sir William Hunter justly points out in his article. Many of these Indians in the Transvaal and the Cape Colonies are men of wealth, position and education, accustomed in their own country to the amenities of an ancient civilization and to dignities and honours as the reward of commercial enterprise or public spirit. They belong to the classes which supply a valuable element in the governing bodies of the great Indian municipalities and from which able members of the Indian legislatures are drawn. On the first of this month, these British Indian merchants, whose thrift and ability in business have given them a success in the commerce of the country, which has excited the envy and jealousy of the lazy Boers (and indeed of the British traders in Natal and British South Africa too) have been driven out of their houses and places of business in Johannesburg, and forced into a location outside the town. The obstinate character of President Kruger is well known, and it is characteristic that he should take the moment when his relations with Britain are strained almost to breaking point, to add this last drop of irritation to the situation. He has, no doubt, been encouraged to do it by the equally unjust, though not so harsh perhaps, treatment given to the same class of Indians in British South Africa generally, and Kruger has only taken advantage of public opinion there in order to subject these educated and respectable British Indian merchants to degradations to which the poorest coolie should not be subjected in any civilised country. If the result of this action of the Boer Government should be that Mr. Chamberlain last insists that Indian merchants throughout all our own Cape Colonies shall be treated on terms of perfect equality with all other British subjects, the Johannesburg Indians will not have suffered in vain; but President Kruger can well afford to ignore all protests about his own policy towards Indian Uitlanders, so long as it is only a harsher application of the policy which prevails in all the British colonies.

The action of the Boer Government is based upon a clause in the Transvaal Act of 1885, which gave the Boer Government the right to assign for sanitary purposes certain streets, wards and locations for habitation to persons belonging to one of the aborignial races of Asia, including the so-called coolies, Arabs, Malays and Mahomedan subjects of the Turkish Empire Encouraged by the prejudices and race antipathies of Natal and other British colonies, at last British Indian merchants in the Transvaal have been degraded to the status of common coolies, no matter how high their caste, their social or commercial status, or how scrupulously clean their habits of life, and are forced not only to live, but to carry on their business in dirty quarters outside the city boundaries. All this has been done under pretence of sanitary precautions, and the law has been twisted to include their places of business, as well as their dwelling-houses, securing at one blow their personal degradation and their commercial destruction.

Some notion of the gross oppression to which these quiet, law-abiding and industrious British Indians are under, may be gathered from official documents and petitions from other persons than British Indians themselves!

Take, for example, the petition of Mr. Frazer Parker, of Pretoria. Mr. Parker states that, relying on the London Convention, he understood that the *status* of the Indian merchants as British subjects was secure, and that he invested his capital in providing shops and tenements for them in Pretoria, the rental of which amounts to £19,380 during the unexpired period of the leases. This property "is occupied entirely by British-Indian tenants," and their enforced removal to outside the town will deprive him "of the chief source of his income." He declares them "to be his best tenants . . . unobtrusive, docile, and extremely well behaved . . . always willing and ready to conform to the laws of the country. Their habits are cleanly and they keep their stores and dwelling-places clean and neat. Their courtyards will compare favourably with those of many Europeans. Their sobriety—*i. e.*, of the trading class—is proverbial." This is a landlord's evidence; exactly the evidence which in an inquiry in England as to the habits of any class of the community carries great weight. The evidence of the medical experts is even more decisive. Dr. Veale, also of Pretoria, stated:—"Their dwellings are generally clean and sanitation is willingly attended to by them." Even as regards the poorer Indians he declared that "the lowest class of Indian lives better, and in better habitations and with more regard to sanitary measures than the lowest class White. Generally, in my opinion, it is impossible to object to the Indian on sanitary grounds." The Johannesburg medical experts give equally decisive testimony. Dr. Spink, of that town, stated that their houses were, "in fact, such as any European might inhabit," while Dr. Nahmmacher was of opinion "that they are as clean in their habits and domestic life as White people of the same standing." He significantly adds: "It is a distinct error in calling them coolies, or inhabitants of India of a lower caste, as they decidedly belong to the better and higher castes of India."

But these unhappy men are not being removed to a clean healthy suburb, where they might have some chance of reorganizing their business under *improved* sanitary conditions. The place to which they are forcibly deported is authoritatively described as a place used to deposit the refuse of the town, without any water, except polluted soakage in the gully between the location and the town, a condition of things which must inevitably result in malignant fevers and other diseases, while for trading purposes the place is found utterly impossible.

The whole situation is one of extreme difficulty. Any protest made to President Kruger will be met with the just reply that he is only following the example set him by the Natal Government, and that the British will do well first to coerce their own colony into decent treatment of their fellow-subjects, before calling him to account for his treatment of aliens and foreigners.

THE SUGAR QUESTION.

An interesting Return, moved for by Sir William Wedderburn, has been laid on the table of the House of Commons this week, shewing the progress of importation and cultivation of sugar in India for the last 17 years. During the first three years 1882-3-4, the total acreage of sugar cultivation in India averaged 1,400,000 acres; in the last three years, 1895-6-7 they had increased to an average of 2,750,000 acres or nearly double. The quantity of sugar imported from Austria and Germany in the first 3 years of serious business 1890-1-2 averaged in cwts 350,000, in the last 3 years 1,450,000. The imports from Mauritius were, in the years 1882-3-4 in cwts, an average of 770,000; in the last three years an average of 2,700,000. It does not appear to me from these figures that either the Mauritius or the native Indian sugar interests have suffered greatly from bounty-fed competition, and the view that the Indian countervailing duty had the United Kingdom at the back of it, is decidedly strengthened by these statistics. This view is confirmed by the action of those interested in British sugar refining. These gentlemen are organizing deputation of members of both Houses of Parliament to wait upon Lord Salisbury. The Government will be urged to take steps to re-assemble the Brussel's Conference, at which the British delegates would receive full powers to enter into a convention with those Powers willing to abolish their bounties, the convention to contain a penal clause prohibiting the entry of bounty-fed sugar into the territories of the contracting Powers. Lord tan more proposes to move for any correspondence which may have taken place with foreign Powers since the separation of the Sugar Bounties Conference at Brussels, with a view to the resumption of its sittings, and to call the attention of the House of Lords to the effect, on the operation of those bounties, of recent legislation in India. It appears certain Sna dete rmined effort will be made next session to get countervailing duties imposed in the United Kingdom.

A MEMORIAL.

An important memorial has been presented this week to the Secretary of State for India, submitting a series of considerations in favour of the separation of Judicial from Executive duties in India. It is signed by Lord Hobhouse, a late Legal ember of the Viceroy's Council; Sir Richard Garth, late Chief Justice of Bengal; Sir Richard Couch, member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council; Sir Charles Sargent, late Chief Justice of Bombay; Sir William Markby, late High Court Judge, Calcutta; Sir J. B. Phear, late High Court Judge, Calcutta; Sir John Scott, late High Court Judge, Bombay; Sir Roland K. Wilson; Mr. Herbert J. Reynolds; and Sir William Wedderburn. The memorial is in three sections. (a) an historical retrospect, (b) the txisting grievance and the remedy, (c) answers to possible objections. It is accompanied by valuable appendices. I send youce omplete copy for your information.

"MORAL" PROGRESS OF INDIA.

I have just been reading that interesting but optimistic volume which the Indian Government issues annually for its own justifiable glorification—the statement exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India during the year 1897-8. I find no reference to press prosecutions, punitive police, *letters de cachet* and such like trifles illustrating "moral" progress, which is very discreet on the part of the talented compiler; nor under the head of *Criminal Justice* do I find any paragraph dealing with the scandalous and unpunished outrages of British soldiers on inoffensive natives; but these are trifles.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

The Calcutta Municipal Bill is touchingly described as a proposal to amend the law so as to give more scope to the executive officers of the city, so as to secure adequate representation for trade and mercantile interests, and so as to reserve to the Government power to appoint the chief officers of the city in the sanitary and other departments." What a nice innocent looking description of a measure that has roused the anger of every patriotic Indian, and given rise to one of the most earnest public agitations of the last 20 years.

AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF INDIA.

I always read with great interest the chapters in this Blue-book dealing with the agricultural and mineral resources of India. These form the basis of all national property, and it is the first duty of a good Government to develop them in the interests of the entire people of the State. Agriculture appears to be steadily recovering from the famine period. While the export of wheat in 1896-97 was only 95,000 tons and in 1897-98 only 120,000 tons, the export during the first 9 months of 1898-99 was at the rate of 1,160,000 tons per annum, showing that recovery from famine has been complete enough to admit of this large surplus export. The yield of oil-seeds over the year under review was 1,752,000 tons as compared with 1,177,000 in the previous year. Cotton was about stationary. Tea shows an increased export in a slightly diminished production. Nothing has shewn such an enormous increase in Indian agriculture as tea. In the year 1865 the United Kingdom imported 93 per cent of its tea from China, and only 2 per cent from India; in 1898 the imports from China were down to 10 per cent, while 88 per cent. was from India and Ceylon, 52 and 36 respectively. The consumption of Indian tea in India itself is only about 4 million pounds, or 2½ per cent. of the entire crop. The use of tea in India appears confined to the wealthier classes, and to be quite unknown to the working and agricultural classes. Yet there is no beverage in the world better suited to hot climates, or better calculated to prevent that terrible scourge of India, cholera, which is hardly known among the tea-drinking populations of China and Japan, owing to the destruction by boiling of the cholera germ in the water. No better enterprise could be devised for the benefit of the common people of India than a crusade in favour of native tea as a national beverage, instead of the poisonous alcoholics so persistently pressed upon the people by the Excise Department of the State.

I am sorry to note a diminution in the area of quinine under cultivation to 4,346 acres from 5,916 in the previous year; it was no less than 14,491 in 1886-7. Here again much good would result to the people of India if the Government pushed the sale of quinine with the same diligence with which they push the sale of opium.

The low prices of jute, combined with the high prices of food-grains, diminished the area of jute cultivation by 25 per cent, and probably for the same reason the indigo area was 27 per cent less than the previous year and 35 per cent below the average. The area under sugar has also gravely diminished, while imports from other countries have nearly doubled. It remains to be seen what effect the new countervailing duties will have on this important Indian crop.

Turning from agriculture to mines and mineral resources, it is hoped that the improved conditions called into existence by the new rules regulating the grant by Local Governments to explore and prospect for minerals, and the grant of leases for mines and minerals recently sanctioned by the Viceroy, will result in a very speedy expansion of enterprise. Lord Curzon has, by the issue of these new rules, given an earnest of what I hope will be a thoroughly enlightened policy. India is full of valuable minerals, which wealth has been lying fallow and undeveloped for too long. The output of Indian coal has risen from 1,389,000 tons 12 years ago to over 4 millions in 1897. There is no reason why it should not be 10 millions within the next ten years employing tens of thousands of Indians at good wages. Last year India imported three million tons of iron and steel and manufactured 20,000 tons, an import of 150 times greater volume than production. The Barakar Iron Works are the only concern of the kind in India. The statement declares that the quality of iron is uniform and equal to Middlesborough. The Government are qualified to give an opinion as they take 10,000 tons from these works every year. This Company has had a struggle for existence, but their profits for last year were 12,000 Rx., and they take 10,000 tons and they now appear on the edge of prosperity. They have little encouragement from the Government to judge by the following remarks of the Chairman at the annual meeting:—

I should just like for one moment to refer to the remarks made by Lord Curzon in his reply to the Calcutta Trades Association with regard to the encouragement which he was desirous of giving to the introduction of British capital into India, and for the establishment of works in India by native capital. This Company is established with British capital and has for the past ten years been struggling to maintain the iron industry in India. We have had many shortcomings, and the management at the works was not always what it should have been, but still I am bound to say we have not received such encouragement as would lead to similar works being established by either British or native capital. It is true that the Government of India in 1896, when we were in very low water indeed, gave us a contract for 10,000 tons of material per annum, and I at once acknowlege that this has been of very great service to the Company, but the terms on which we are being paid under this contract do not seem to me fair, although, in the position we were in at the time, we felt obliged to accept them. While we have supplied castings and pig-iron under this contract quite as good as English, and certainly equally efficient for the work to be done, as is shown by their acceptance by the officials concerned, we only receive payment at a certain reduction under the cost of similar goods imported from this country. Our offer was to supply at the "average of English prices," but whatever may be the movements of markets and exchange, although our material is admitted to be quite equal to Middlesbro' iron, we have to supply under a reduction which practically amounts to a protective duty in favour of English or continental goods. This seems hardly the way to encourage either British or native capital to establish industries in India.

Contrast with this the terms offered by one of our colonies, in which the pig iron industry is protected by an import duty of 18*s.* 5*d.* per ton. The Government in question offered a bounty of 4*s.* 7*d.* per ton upon all pig-iron made in the colony. The import duty and bounty together amount to 23*s.* per ton, which would enable local works to compete with the best works in England and the continent. I don't suggest to the Government of India either an import duty or bounty, but I do think that Indian manufactures should have a preference at equal prices.

There is no doubt that the Government of India could, through the Railway Companies alone, give such orders to this and other native iron industries, as would not only stimulate this great and important mineral asset of the Empire, but eventually provide considerable economy in expenditure. This Indian pig-iron makes excellent pipes, fully equal to any that can be imported from abroad; it also is equally suitable for beams, pillars, girders and such like rigid iron work, of which 25,000 tons were imported last year.

BY-ELECTIONS.

THE last of the group of by-elections came off yesterday in East St. Pancras, but without giving a victory to the Liberal party this time. It has always been a very obstinate Tory seat, and the metropolis throughout gives better and more unvarying support to the Tory party than any other section of the country. East St. Pancras gave a Tory majority of 501 in 1886, 441 in 1892 and 289 in 1895. On Wednesday the Tory was returned by a still vanishing majority of 187, and the Government rejoice with trembling. The last fortnight's by-elections have hit them very hard indeed, especially the Oldham defeat, and the humiliation of Stockport, which I commented upon last week.

NOTICE OF MOTION.

Sir John Leng has given notice for Monday next to ask the Secretary of State for India what is the sum in rupees payable this year from the revenues of India to the late Red Sea Telegraph Company; how much has been contributed from the revenues of India to that Company since 1865, when its cable was lost; on what ground has this contribution been made; and can any plan of commutation or compromise be arranged with the representatives of the late Company for the relief of the Indian revenue from this charge.

CURRENCY COMMITTEE REPORT.

The Currency Committee, presided over by Sir Henry Fowler, has at last reported. No doubt the full text of the recommendations has been telegraphed to India and will be very stale news by post, so I will refrain from repeating them in my letter to your columns. I will content myself with saying that it has secured a general approval in the minds of all in this country who are interested in Indian affairs. My own opinions on so abstruse and technical questions are worthless, and consist mainly of a strong instinct in favour of letting the whole currency problem alone to solve itself. A stable Rupee is a mighty good thing, and so is a gold standard. I hope the process of getting these good things for India may be got through safely and happily, and without producing a longing for the good old times of a silver currency. However, it is better to have tried and failed than never to have tried at all. I send you copious cuttings from the British press to let you see how the report is taken in this country; also the full text of the report itself.

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

The Imperial Institute having parted with the bulk of its premises at South Kensington to the London University, now seems disposed to reach out into pastures new, and has opened a city branch for the benefit of commercial men in the city of London. It will consist of a news room, which will be supplied with the chief British industrial and commercial periodicals, and those of the principal colonies and India, as well as many other foreign commercial periodicals. The office will be in telephonic communication with the Commercial Information Office of the Imperial Institute, where enquiries relating to industrial, commercial and other matters connected with the Colonies, India and foreign countries will be received and promptly dealt with. The news room will be free to Fellows of the Institute, and a subscription of £1 a year will entitle the subscriber to the free use of the news room and the supply, free of charge, of all information not involving special research or correspondence. They will also be entitled to inspect maps, books, and official papers included in the Institute Library at South Kensington. I don't know how this experiment may, answer, but I am afraid the Institute is too hopelessly discredited to ever do any good, and the sooner it is wound up and forgotten the better.

THE DUM-DUM BULLET.

Lord George Hamilton has issued a Parliamentary paper containing a copy of reports on the effect of the military bullet now in use in India; and it is pretty gruesome reading. It gives practically the surgeons' reports showing the nature of the wounds inflicted by the Lee-Metford bullet compared with those inflicted by the Dum-Dum bullet during the recent military operations on the North-Western frontier. It also gives some interesting accounts of wounds inflicted upon bullocks. The wounds inflicted by the Lee-Metford bullets make easy recovery, as they simply bore a clean hole through the part of the body struck, the hole of exit being of the same size as that of entry. The Dum-Dum bullet, on the other hand, makes a rending wound, the outlet of which is very much wide and more ragged that entry. I will just give one case to illustrate the effect of the Dum-Dum bullet.

There was a small wound of entrance in front of the left leg about 4 inches above the ankle. There was a very large wound of exit on the posterior surface of leg, the muscles were torn and blown out of the wound hanging in shreds. The tibia was grooved and splintered by the bullet, but not fractured entirely. Splinters of bone were in the bone and muscle. The wound of exit measured 3 inches by 4 inches. The skin was split in one or two places, and there was a good deal of general oozing.

The report is very emphatic in stating that the Dum-Dum bullet is not an explosive one; but, judging from the graphic description I have just quoted, it appears to be a mighty good imitation of one. For myself, I have never been able to understand the delicate refinement which condemns an explosive bullet fired from a rifle while permitting an explosive shell fired from a gun. On the whole, I think I would rather stand in front of a Dum-Dum bullet than an 18 cwt. shell fired from a 63-ton gun on board an iron clad. But the ways of soldiers were ever mysterious. War is a hateful and horrible thing at the best, but if one is to fight, it is as well to be armed with weapons that stop your enemy.

THE INQUIRY DEPARTMENT OF THE INDIA OFFICE.

It is quite time that some effort was made to improve the inquiry department of the India Office, specially as regards appeals on matters of grievance by natives of India. The India Office and the House of Commons is the last court of appeal for the Indian people, and must always be so until they obtain some measure of Home Rule; but the tremendous delay which takes place in the investigation of appeals on personal grievance is a scandal to the department which has them in charge. I think it is about four years ago since some zemindars of Khariar appealed to the India Office on grievances, which they believed to be just and fair. Every session since these appeals were sent in, Mr. J. Herbert Roberts has, both by private communications to Lord George Hamilton and by public questions in the House of Commons, pressed the India Office for a reply. I hope Mr. Roberts will take this matter up and insist upon some change being made in the management of this important department of the India Office.

THE Birur-Shimogah Railway will be opened probably this week.

THE members of the Amritsar Bar have remitted Rs. 75 to Mr. Mehta of Bombay in aid of the G. I. P. Railway Striker's Fund.

MR. DICKINSON shortly returns to the South Circle of the Central Provinces as Conservator of Forests on return from leave. Mr. Haarle, who is officiating, then proceeds on furlough.

WILSON, a fitter on the N-W. Railway, who has stabbed last week, has confessed his story to be an entire fabrication. Wilson, it appears, was skylarking with a friend and was accidentally stabbed. He admitted the fraud when questioned by the police.

WITH reference to the alleged culpable homicide by one Mr. Muller at the Mullapur Tank in the Gudgunta Samastan, the Minister of His Highness the Nizam has informed the Resident of Hyderabad that the Special Magistreat for trial of cases prosecuted by the Thagi and Dacoity Department has been directed to proceed to the spot and hold an enquiry in the matter.

LETTERS have been received in Ceylon from Mr. LeMesurier, in which he intimates his intention of taking proceedings against Sir West Ridgeway, the Governor of Ceylon, in the Queen's Bench Division, for having employed the Ceylon Police to eject him by force from certain lands in the Matara District of which he was in possession. The *Times of Ceylon* believes that by this time a process has been issued in connection with the proceedings.

THERE are still no signs of rain in Bombay. The sky is almost clear, and the weather close and oppressive. Anxiety as to the effect of the continued drought on the crops continues daily.

THE want of rain is much felt in Sind generally. The prices of fodder are exceptionally high, and much anxiety is felt at the absence of rain which usually falls in June and July. The Municipality has taken steps to husband the water-supply. In Malir the consumption is restricted.

ANOTHER syndicate has been formed for supplying electrical power in Simla Hills. It proposes to top the Sutlej river near Bilaspur by a tunnel, the head of water here available being so great, that it is expected to be able to supply electricity to Lahore as well as Simla and even perhaps to haul trains on the North-Western and Simla-Kalka Railways.

AN order has gone Home for rails for the Simla-Kalka Railway, which are to be of forty-pound section, so the railway will be equal to carrying heavy traffic. Its alignment is now completely mapped out, a flag-station being provided for Western Simla below the Bodyguard lines near Viceregal Lodge, whence the line will pass through a short tunnel between the Observatory and Summer Hill. Mr. Harrington, Engineer-in-Chief of the Railway, goes to Kalka next week, where a conference with the East Indian Railway officials will be held in connection with the working of the line. Mr. Harrington subsequently leaves for home to make final arrangements, returning to Simla in November next, to superintend the construction, which commences next December.

MONDAY'S meteorological report is again discouraging. The Reporter for Western India says pressure changes continue to be small and irregular, and the barometer still regains in considerable to large excess of the normal all over the country lying to the north of latitude 16. The excess is strongly marked in Sind, Gujarat, Cutch, Kathiawar, Rajputana, Central India, the Punjab and the Central and North-West Provinces. The monsoon current in the Bay of Bengal is very weak and the Arabian Sea current, instead of showing any improvement, appears to be becoming day by day weaker. There is no monsoon on the Malabar coast, while a slight gradient exists on the west coast. Skies are becoming more or less clear, and winds are becoming variable in direction. Under the circumstances the prospects of rain are poor, and no general rain is likely at present, though there may be a few scattered showers.

A Mother Tells How She Saved Her Little Daughter's Life.

I am the mother of eight children and have had a great deal of experience with medicines. Last summer my little daughter had the dysentery in its worst form. We thought she would die. I tried everything I could think of, but nothing seemed to do her any good. I saw by an advertisement in our paper that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy was highly recommended and sent and got a bottle at once. It proved to be one of the very best medicines we ever had in the house. It saved my little daughter's life. I am anxious for every mother to know what an excellent medicine it is. Had I known it at first it would have saved me a great deal of anxiety and my little daughter much suffering. Yours truly, Mrs. Geo. F. Burdick, Liberty, R. I. For sale by,

SMITH STANISTREET & CO.
AND B. K PAUL & CO.

The soothing and healing properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, its pleasant tas and prompt and permanent cures, have made it a great favorite with the people everywhere. For sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO.
AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

Troublesome to the Army.

During the civil war, as well as in our late war with Spain, diarrhœa was one of the most troublesome diseases the army had to contend with. In many instances it became chronic and the old soldiers still suffer from it. Mr. David Taylor of Wind Ridge, Greene Co., Pa., is one of these. He uses Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy and says he never found anything that would give him such quick relief. It is for sale by

SMITH STANISTREET & CO.
AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE RANIGUNGE OUTRAGE CASE.

(From a correspondent.)

THE hearing of the case in which thirteen durwans of the Bengal Paper Mills, Ranigunge, are charged with the murder of Mr. George Ironside, assistant of the same Mills, on the night of the 11th instant, was resumed day before yesterday before Mr. B. Foley, District Magistrate of Burdwan, at the Ranigunge Court. The attendance at the court was not so large as on the previous occasion.

Babu Debendra Nath Mitter, Government Pleader, Burdwan, appeared for the Crown.

Babu Troylokho Nath Mookerjee and three muktears appeared for the accused.

Mr. McNicol, Manager, Bengal Paper Mills, recalled, said: I don't know the actual terms on which the durwans are recruited. The jemadar has to deposit Rs. 500 with the firm, on which he draws interest at 5 per cent., and he recruits the rest of the durwans, but they are paid individually by the Company. All the accused durwans were recruited by the jemadar, I don't know anything about the other two, who are *khalasies*.

Alam Sheikh, examined, said: I am a sirdar at the beater-house, Bengal Paper Mills. On the night of the 11th July I was in the beater-house. Mr. Ironside was there. At 10 P. M. he went below. I don't know where he went. Between 11 P. M. and 12 P. M. Mr. Sorabji and Mr. Williams came to the beater-house. Mr. Sorabji asked me where my master Mr. Ironside was. I said I did not know. Then I helped to look for Mr. Ironside in all parts of the Mill. After Mr. Ironside went away at 10 P. M. I did not see him again.

Cross-examination reserved.

Annoda Prosad Ghose, Assistant Surgeon, Calcutta Medical College, examined, said: I was Assistant Surgeon of Ranigunge till the 15th July, 1899. I examined Mr. Williams of the Bengal Paper Mills, on the 13th July. I found one small contused wound on the head. It was slight in nature and probably caused by a blunt weapon. I also examined one Bhagal Dome on the same date, and found a small bruise on the forehead. It was slight in nature, and caused by a blunt weapon, such as a *lathi*, stone, etc. On the same date I also examined one Mahadeo Singh. I found a small contusion on the head, slight in nature, and also probably caused by a blunt weapon. The wounds on all three persons were fresh looking wounds.

Cross-examination reserved.

Then Gobardhan Modak, Rash Behary Das, Jogeshwar Ray and Haridas Bostab were examined. They all deposed as to the proper identification of the accused.

Their cross-examination was reserved.

At this stage the Magistrate adjourned the case till four o'clock to enable Mr. Seivers, photographer, who took photographs of the Mill premises, to be summoned from Asansol.

The Magistrate then remarked that as Mr. Seivers was a formal witness, if the pleader for the accused wished to say anything he was prepared to hear him.

THE DEFENCE.

Babu Troylokho Nath Mookerjee then addressed the Court on behalf of the accused. He said: May it please your Honour,—I do not think from the evidence that the offence of murder can be brought home to the accused. This is apparent from the doctor's evidence, which shows that the cause of death was due to the falling into the hot water tank. If the falling into this tank was sufficient to cause death, then it is clear that there is no evidence against the accused on the charge of the murder of Mr. Ironside. This is my first point. As to the second point, I do not know what charges my friend will bring forward, but I submit that my clients have committed no offence. Now as to what occurred in the engine-house. According to some witnesses the number of men who came in there was five. Others say there were more than five, but no one can say which were the five out of the thirteen accused. There is no evidence that they were armed with deadly weapons. There are, in fact, five or six sets of evidence in this case. One set says that all the durwans came to the door; another set says that only five or six durwans came to the door. And if your Honor accepts one set of this evidence, it seems clear to me that you must necessarily reject the others. There is another point on which there is some evidence, namely, that some one struck Mr. Ironside at the gate. Mr. Ironside was struck, cried out, and then rad away, but where he ran to there is no evidence to show. The witnesses who saw the occurrence from behind the engine-house cannot be relies upon. Th engine-house was so clearly lighted that, according to Mr. McNicol, it was an bright as day, and yet the witnesses who were in this very house did not see the occurrence. Nodody knows who struck Mr. Ironside. The accused were simply arrested because they were on the Mill premises. That is the only evidence against them. The wound on Bhagal's dead was a very slight one, and did not require immediate attention. It seems strange that Mr. Ironside should go out of his way to take Bhagal for medical treatment, especially as there was a row on at the door. A scuffle took place, and the witnesses ran and hit behind the engine and did not see what occurred. Their evidence is not worthy of credit. I contend that my clients had nothing to do with the throwing of Mr. Ironside into the hot water tank. One witness says he saw four men returning from the direction of the tank, and if they threw Mr. Ironside into the tank, he must have seen them doing so. There is no evidence that my clients had anything at all to do with the death of Mr. Ironside. The most that can be said against them is that they were members of an unlawful assembly.

ADDRESS FOR THE CROWN.

Babu Debendro Nath Mitter, Government Pleader, then addressed the Court on behalf of the Crown. He said: May it please your Honor:—Although there is no direct evidence of murder, the circumstantial evidence is very strong, and shows that Mr. Ironside was murdered. In the first place it has been proved that on the night of the 11th July there was a row between Messrs. Williams and Ironside on the one side and the jemadar and the durwans on the other side. This fact has been proved by several witnesses, including Mr. Williams. It has further been proved by Mr. Browne that when he and Mr. Williams attempted to get to their bungalows to have tea they were not only not allowed to do so, but they were chased by a number of durwans, and had to fly for their lives and take shelter in the machine-house. This shows that the jemadar and the durwdans were greatly incensed, as they did not feel any hesitation in chasing Mr. Browne, who had done no harm whatever to them. Then, as Mr. Ironside was taking the boy Bhagal to the dispensary, he was assaulted and chased, and when Mr. Ironside ran to the machine-house the jemadar and his brother chased him there with *lathis* in their hands. But finding Mr. Ironside had gone out, they left the machine-house. Then they (the jemadar and his brother) were seen chasing Mr. Ironside under the beater-house by Balai and Balgoored. They told this to Mr. Meik, under whom they work, the next morning. Mr. Meik was not at the Mill during the night of the 11th July. Then they were seen by Pralhad, who was near the tanks, running to the water with two others, one of whom was recognized to be Sew Dutt, the durwan who fought with Mr. Ironside. Thus the circumstantial evidence is very strong to show that Mr. Ironside was last seen alive when being chased by the jemadar and his brother. The hot water tank is on the other side (west) of the beater-house. The accused should therefore be charged with murder and the case should go to the jury. As for rioting, the evidence is very strong—marks of injuries were found on the person of the jemadar, and the complicity of the accused has been satisfactorily proved by the testimony of several witnesses.

Mr. C. Sievers, who had arrived in Court, was then examined, and said: I am a photographer at Ranigunge. I know the Bengal Paper Mills. I took photographs. These (shown) are the photographs. I took them on Wednesday last week.

Cross-examination reserved.

This closed the case for the Crown.

The Magistrate then discharged Ramsahai Singh, and framed charges against the others.

He framed charges against Mahadeo Singh and Huplal Singh under sections 302, and 146 of the Penal Code, of murder and rioting, and against Hariprasad Singh and the remaining nine accused under sections 302, 149, and 147, of the Penal Code, of murder, being members of an unlawful assembly, and rioting, and committed all the twelve prisoners to take their trial at the Burdwan Sessions, which commence in September. The exact date is not yet known.

Correspondence.

THE BURDWAN ELECTION.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—In the "Statesman" of the 21st July (Dak Edition) a letter appeared over the signature of Babu Sarat Chunder Bose, regarding the Bengal Legislative Chuncil election, inviting reply on some points urged in the same. Accordingly, I sent a reply to the "Statesman" on the following day, and hoped, that at least for the sake of fairness, the editor would publish my letter. But as I find the worthy editor has not thought it fit to publish my reply, even today, I send a true copy of the same to you and I hope you will be so good as to give publicity to it.

HEMENDRA NATH SEN.

Berhampore, 26th July.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "STATESMAN AND FRIEND OF INDIA."

Sir,—As you have been pleased to publish the letter of Babu Sarat C. Basu, dated Burdwan, July 17th, regarding the Bengal Legislative Council election, I hope for the sake of fairness you will allow me a little space for this letter. Although I, for myself, do not see how it avails us by carrying on this controversy in the columns of newspapers, yet when I find that after the appearance of the "Holy Ghost" in the *Patrika* (vide T. P. Mukherjee's letter in the *Patrika* of the 6th July 1899) the "Son" deems it proper to invite discussion on the subject of his "Father's" defeat, in your paper, he is quite welcome, and I too feel it my duty to respond to his invitations.

In the first place it looks rather odd that the "son" has thought it fit to giving publicity to the gross "misrepresentation" which his father had made in his case for opinion to Mr. Woodroffe, especially when he stated "that certain religious ceremonies *were performed* by Babu Boikanta Nath Sen there (Alampore) *some time ago*." If the Poojahs are religious ceremonies, they are performed by Babu Boikanta Nath Sen at Alampore year after year and not "sometime ago."

Then Mr. Sarat Chandra has raised the question, who of the two candidates, Rai Nalinakshya Bose Bahadur and Babu Boikanta Nath Sen, would be a better representative of the people of the Burdwan Division? It is a pity, that my friend, Mr. Bose, has yet to learn it! For, has not the voice of the people of the Burdwan Division been distinctly heard when they, of the *five* districts, out of six in the Division, have, through their trusted representatives, publicly declared their choice and preference in favour of Babu Boikanta Nath Sen? And even of the one district left to his father, Mr. Sarat Chandra knows as well as I do, that it was merely an accident which secured the district for his father. And how does he forget that even his own district has not chosen his father for representing it in the Council? So, it now remains for the public to judge whether the candidate who is preferred by 5 districts out of 6 in the Division, is a "better representative" or the one whose son cries to the top of his voice for establishing the better representative character of his father?

Comparison is always odious; but when my friend, Sarat Chandra, tries to justify the residential question by classifying the one as the "people of the locality" and the other as a "professional politician" (borrowed from the paras of the *Englishman*), I hope I will be pardoned for dealing at some length with the respective claims of the two candidates to represent the Burdwan Division. It has been urged that for a Councillor to represent his Division properly, he must be "familiar with the habits, manners, sentiments, &c., of the people of the Division." So that when a measure is introduced in the Council he might suggest what would be beneficial for them. This is quite true, and no body denies it; but the question is, the relation of the two candidates being on the same footing with regard to the other 5 districts, whether the mere fact of Rai Nalinakshay's practising as a pleader at Burdwan Courts, should prevail over the most wide and deep interest which Babu Boikanta Nath Sen has in the said district of Burdwan. Babu Boikanta Nath Sen's annual visits to his ancestral house at Alampore in the District of Burdwan, his performing the *Poojahs* there and all domestic ceremonies, such as marrying his own children and those of his brothers, have kept him in very close and familiar touch with the people of the district. The extensive addition he has made to his family dwelling-house, the improvement he has brought about in his native village by causing large tanks to be dug at a cost of two thousand Rupees, by establishing school and Post Office in the village, and his paying donations and subscriptions to the different schools and other institutions of the district, all bear ample testimony to the "real and practical" connection he has with the district. Besides that, if his extensive landed interest in the district, is to be taken into consideration, any comparison between the two candidates would be out of the question. For, while Babu Boikanta Nath Sen's Satsoykem Perghunna, which extends over an area of 16 miles of Burdwan district and his native village and other landed properties in the district yield him a gross collection of above a lac of Rupees, the worthy Rai Bahadur can claim, at least so far as is known to me, only a few villages of land as his own in the district. Surely the public will judge whether the landlord, who has to deal with thousands and thousands of his tenants in connection with his landed properties, is likely to be more familiar with the habits, manners and wishes, &c., of the people of the Division or the pleader who in the quiet town of Burdwan has to deal with certain sections of the people, who indulge in civil and criminal Courts of Burdwan.

As for my friend's curiosity to know as to whether Mr. Woodroffe has given a favourable opinion or not to Babu Boikanta Nath Sen, I cannot help observing that my friend must entertain a very uncharitable opinion about the Advocate-General when he makes this enquiry, evidently knowing, as he does, that he has already passed an opinion in favour of his father. And as to why the opinions are not published, my friend may rest assured that Babu Boikanta Nath Sen has got better advisers and he knows full well when opinions are to be published.

Lastly, regarding my friend's statement, that Babu Boikanta Nath Sen stood as a candidate for the Presidency Division on a former occasion, no doubt it is true; but that does not stand in the way of Babu Boikanta Nath Sen claiming the qualifications necessary for the candidate for the Burdwan Division. But, pray, how is it that his father on the occasion of the Bengal Provincial Conference having addressed Babu Boikanta Nath Sen, in his letter, dated the 19th April 1899, "as an inhabitant of Burdwan" and as "one belonging to Burdwan Division", again chooses to deny Babu Boikanta Nath Sen a residence in that district?

The phrase "ordinary resident", as sought to be explained by the opponents of Babu Boikanta Nath Sen, becomes meaningless unless it excludes "permanent residents," and from what I have stated above it will be plain even to the dullest intelligence that if Babu Boikanta Nath Sen is not an "ordinary resident" of Burdwan Division, he is a "permanent resident" thereof.

HEMENDRA NATH SEN.

Berhampore, July 12, 1899.

THE SAME.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—Neither Rai Nalinakshya Basu, Bahadur, nor any friend of his, has the slightest intention or ground whatever of insinuating that you have accepted a bribe, or that Babu Baikanta Nath Sen is capable of offering one to you, to induce you to write in his favour, but I cannot help mentioning that we were highly amused here to learn that the editor of the *Hitabadi* who has been moving heaven and earth to see Baikanta Babu elected, threw out insinuations in one of his issues, only the other day, that the gold of Baikanta Babu has induced the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to come back to his side. Baikanta Babu must have, on reading the above observation, said "Save me from my friends." I have read your leader of the 20th instant, regarding the interpretation of the residential clause, and am sorry to notice that there is nothing new in it; you have made use of the very same arguments which you had advanced repeatedly before, and it appears to me that you seem to think that an argument gathers strength by repetition. All your arguments can be included in the following propositions:—

1. That the Government was wrong in placing restrictions on the qualifications of candidates, seeking the recommendations of the local bodies to a nomination to a seat in the Bengal Council.

2. That in the case of Mr. A. Chowdhury, the Government have decided that if a man has a house within the ambit of a division, whither he resorts occasionally, he is to be held to be an *ordinary* resident of the Division and, therefore, the doctrine of *resjudicata* bars Nalin Babu's objections to the election of Babu Baikanta Nath Sen.

3. That the Government by their decision in the case of Mr. A. Chowdhury, have induced Babu Baikanta Nath Sen to stand as a candidate and to incur expense and trouble in getting himself elected, so the Government are estopped under the doctrine of estoppel to withhold their sanction to his nomination.

I may here also formulate the arguments put forward by the "Bengalee" to the objections raised by Rai Nalinakshya Basu, Bahadur, under the following heads:—

That the Rule laying down the qualifications of a candidate, seeking the recommendation of the local bodies, is an executive rule framed for the guidance of the executive officers, is to be construed only by the executive Government and is never meant to be construed by lawyers who have absolutely nothing to do with it.

That under the preceding circumstances the opinion of the Advocate-General is valueless.

Let us take up the propositions *seriatim*:—With respect to the first proposition I have to say that when the Government were pleased to confer the privilege on the Burdwan Division to elect a man to represent it in the local Council, the Government certainly considered that the Division was sufficiently advanced to have a representative, otherwise they would never have granted the privilege, and the Government were, therefore, perfectly justified in laying down that no man who is not an ordinary resident of the Burdwan Division will be entitled to receive the recommendation of the local bodies of that Division. If the people of the Burdwan Division cannot find a man within that Division, who can adequately represent them, surely they are not in that case entitled to the privilege. We must bear in mind that the privilege has been granted as a tentative measure, and that we have been put to our trial now; if we can satisfy the Government that we have men in our division capable of acting as our representatives in the Council and that we have well used the privilege, the Government would be disposed to grant greater powers to us but if, on the other hand, they would find that we have to borrow men from other divisions to represent us or that we have abused the privilege, the Government will, no doubt, take into their serious consideration as to whether they would withdraw the privilege or not. The matter is so plain that it requires no argument to support it. I would, therefore, hope that you will calmly think over it and agree with me that the Government are not to blame for the restrictions they have put on the qualifications of the candidates. Before leaving this point let me ask you to consider as to who would be a better representative of the Burdwan Division; a man who lives amidst the people of the Burdwan Division and works with them, or a man who, although he has a house nominally in the division, actually resides in another division and works with the people of that division. I need not write anything more on the question as it would be quite sufficient to reproduce here what has been written by a friend of mine to the *Statesman* on it. "Any one who has studied the rule relating to the residential question, and has bestowed careful thought over it, would unhesitatingly come to the conclusion that it is a wholesome one calculated to raise the legitimate aspirations of the people of the locality which has obtained the privilege of sending a representative to the local Legislative Council, and to deter professional politicians to stand for any division they like. According to the rules a person, wishing to receive the recommendation of the District Boards of a Division, must be an *ordinary* resident of a place within that Division. The reason which has actuated the Secretary of State to frame it, is obvious. Any one who wishes to represent a Division in the Legislative Council must be familiar with the habits and manners, wishes and aspirations, prejudices and sentiments of the people of the Division. He must also be fully aware of their needs and grievances, so that when a measure is introduced into the Legislative Council he may be able to judge at once whether it is likely to affect the people of his Division, and to suggest what would be beneficial to them. In the present case it may be mentioned that Rai Nalinakshya Basu, Bahadur, has been living and working amidst the people of the Burdwan Division from his boyhood, while Babu Baikanta Nath Sen has been residing and carrying on his profession as a pleader in the Presidency Division for upwards of one-third of a century. Under the circumstances may I ask who would be a better representative of the people of the Burdwan Division? I am credibly informed that Babu Baikanta Nath Sen has also obtained opinions from the Advocate-General and the Standing Counsel on a case stated by him. Why does not he publish them? Are they unfavourable to him? It is a fact that he stood as a candidate to receive the recommendations of the local bodies of the Presidency Division. Can he be an "ordinary resident" of two divisions at one and the same time. As regards the second proposition any one who is either a lawyer or who has anything to do with legal questions must be aware that a Court or a Government authority is always very reluctant to decide a matter which is not directly at issue. He generally confines himself to give his opinion on the facts put forward before him and does not, as a rule, express his views on facts which have not actually occurred. If any such authority, somehow or other, expresses an opinion on my point not directly raised his decision on the question is considered as an *obiter dictum* and not binding on any body. In the case of Mr. A. Chowdhury, the Government found that he (Mr. A. Chowdhury,) had a house within the Rajshahi Division; that he could use it if he liked, but that he did not use it but had almost abandoned it and so they were of opinion that under any reasonable view, Mr. Chowdhury could not be held to be an ordinary resident of the Rajshahi Division. The Government have not decided any other point at all and I cannot conceive how you have jumped to the conclusion that Mr. Chowdhury would not have been disqualified, if he had not almost completely abandoned the use of the house he had in the Division, that is to say, his election would have been confirmed if his connection with the house was not merely a colorable one. The Government have not said so, and the facts before them did not require a decision on the question now raised. Dear Sir, I am afraid your unconscious bias towards Baikanta Babu has interfered with your vision very much and made you see things which have no existence at all. Now that the matter has been fully explained, I hope you will be convinced that the Government have not as yet given any opinion on the question now raised, and that even if it be eonceded that there has been a decision on it, that decision being an *obiter dictum* is binding on no body. So the bar of *resjudicata*, upon which you rely so much, fails.

I am really surprised to find that you have raised the question of *estoppel* and have contended that the Government after recording the decision they arrived at in the case of Mr. A. Chowdhury, are debarred to withhold their sanction to the election of Babu Baikanta Nath Sen, Such a preposterous proposition as you have put forward, can only emanate from a man who does not think over a matter on which he writes. I believe you have recently read section 115 of the Evidence Act and you want to utilise your knowldge derived by the perusal of that section; but I would earnestly advise you to be a little more cautious in displaying your knowledge of law. I have already shown that there is no decision of Government under which Babu Baikanta Nath can take shelter, and I will now proceed to show that Baikanta Babu knew perfectly well his position before venturing on the enterprise of obtaining a seat in the Council.

I have heard from a reliable source that Mr. Kennedy, Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, long before the election, had himself told to several gentlemen that in his opinion Baikanta Babu was not entitled to stand as a candidate from the Burdwan Division, and that he had communicated this opinion of his to him. So Baikanta Babu was fully aware of the risk he was running and came forward to take his chance. In the second place, it may be mentioned, that Nalinakshya Babu sometime before the election of electoral representatives had lodged with almost all the Boards of the Burdwan Division written protests fully detailing the objections he had against the candidature of Babu Baikanta Nath Sen, so he cannot say that he had no notice of the objections.

In the third place, it is to be stated, that Babu Baikanta Nath Sen is a competent lawyer of great experience, and is expected to be able to thoroughly understand the simple language of the rule *anent* the qualifications of the candidate. In the fourth place I have to add that he had seen the opinion of the Advocate-General before he went to Hooghly to have the recommendation from the electoral representatives of the several District Boards, to a nomination to a seat.

Under the circumstances mentioned above, Babu Baikanta Nath Sen is, in my humble opinion, not entitled to the relaxation of the rule so zealously advocated by you on his behalf. May I be pardoned to ask you as to whether you were serious in your request to the Government inasmuch as I cannot persuade myself to believe that a veteran journalist like your worthy self would risk his reputation on a childish prayer as has now been made on behalf of your nominee. The rule, as I have already shown, is *tantamount* to law and if the Government authorities go wrong in interpreting it, Her Majesty's judges will set them right.

T. P. MUKERJEE.

28-7-99.

PUBLIC anxiety is general at Amreli on account of the want of rain.

IT is now settled that the whole of the Public Works Department offices will after all move to Calcutta for the next cold season, instead of staying in Simla, as at first arranged.

EIGHT cases of jigger were imported on the 29th instant from Zanzibar on the *S. S. Setos*. All the patients have been removed to hospital.

THE levy post at Haidari Kach has been temporarily occupied by fifty rifles, under a native officer, in order to afford protection to convoys.

AMONG those who left by the Bombay mail train on Thursday evening last *en route* for England were Mr. A. Forbes, C.S.I., Commissioner of Chota Nagpur; Mr. G. Stevenson, Commissioner of Orissa; Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee, of the Calcutta Bar; and Mr. J. J. Cotton, Assistant Accountant-General, Bengal.

CLOUDS are hanging about at Prabhas Patan but without producing any result. The grass famine has literally set in.

THE steam-ship "Setos" arrived in Bombay harbour on the afternoon of the 28th ultimo from Zanzibar with forty-seven passengers and crew. The Port Health Officer on examining them found eight cases of jigger among them. The patients were all removed to the Hospital and all the passengers were disinfected.

A NOTIFICATION appearing in the last of the N. W. P. *Gazette* divides the larger municipalities in the N. W. P. and Oudh into two groups for the purpose of recommending to the Lieutenant-Governor two persons for nomination as members of the N. W. P. Legislative Council. The 25 municipalities comprised in the first group are to send their 29 representatives to a meeting at Lucknow to make one nomination, and the 15 municipalities which make up the second group are to send their 23 representatives to a similar meeting at Allahabad to nominate the other Councillor.

AN additional grant of one lakh of rupees has been sanctioned by the Government of India for construction of the Officers' Quarters in the Marine Lines, Bombay.

IT appears from a telegram received from Bombay that, there are still no signs of rain. Government have issued orders to the officers in charge of the various districts to send in spcial weekly reports on the state of the crops which are in addition to the daily reports on the rainfall. If rain comes within a week the Government are of opinion that the situation will be saved.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned the revised estimate for Rs. 1,61,15,000 for the cost of construction of the Mari-Attock Railway line, completed and opened for public traffic on the 1st April, 1899.

GOVERNMENT has announced its intention of making a priliminary survey of the proposed line of railway from Dehra to Mussoorie, which shows that the scheme is practically sanctioned.

INFORMATION has been received that the Plague Commission have completed their labours, and Messrs. Hewett and Halifax go on leave and return to India in the middle of December. The services of Mr. Cummie, also a Plague Commissioner, have been replaced at the disposal of the Bombay Government.

THE Crop Report shows that the continuous heavy rain has done injury to the crops throughout large districts in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces, while in Madras and Bombay rain is urgently wanted, and the best season for planting early crops is passing away unutilised for want of rain, while the young crops, where sown, are withering for want of rain. In the Punjab the recent rain has done good, and the conditions and prospects of the crops are good. In the Central Provinces the position in the Chanda District is critical, and unless good rain is received over the whole of the Central Provinces soon, the damage to the rice crops will be very serious. Seven thousand persons are in receipt of relief.

THE Telegraph Department has another little concession in store for the public. From the 1st September next the Government have sanctioned the abolition of the fee at present charged for re-addressing a message from abroad when the addressee has changed his quarters to any other place within Indian limits. Free re-addressing has been the rule for years as regards inland messages, *i.e.*, those from one station in India to another; out hitherto telegrams arriving from abroad in accordance with European practice, if re-addressed have been delivered with a bill at the rate of one rupee per eight words. A further indirect advantage is that as no money has to be collected, such messages will admit of being re-addressed to railway stations and "combined" offices, although these are not ordinarily authorised to deal with foreign messages, instead of having to be forwarded by post as heretofore.

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I have used yonr "Kuntaline" oil. It is very efficacious for strengthening the hair, promoting its growth and preventing wading off and premature grayness. I have derived much satisfaction from its good perfume.

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Your Kuntaline has been recommended to me by my friends here as the best hair oil in existence.

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I have used the perfumed oil Kuntaline manufactured by Mr. H. Bose, as well as his Essence Chamel, and consider both exceedingly good. At the same time they are cheaper than articles of similar quality prepared by European manufacturers. I hope the public generally and native community in particular will largely patronize

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Lala Lajpat Rai, Pleader, Chief Court Lahore.
I have used Mr. H. Bose's Kuntaline oil and Scents and found them really good. They are in no way inferior to similar articles prepared by European manufacturers.

Mr. Kali Prassonnh Roy, Government Pleader and leader of the Lahore Bar.
I have pleasure in stating that the oils and perfumery manufactured by Mr. H. Bose, are excellent and nowise inferior to articles of English manufacture.

Dewan Krishna Kishore, Rais, Grandson of Dewan Bhagwan Das, Lahore.
Your Kuntaline and Essences have given me entire satisfaction. The oil has a very sweet fragrance and does not make the hair sticky. The Essences are simply nice.

Maharajah Jagindra Nath Bahadur, of Natore.
I have much pleasure in certifying that I have had occasion to introduce the use of Kuntaline in my family. I was satisfied with its superior fragrance, and its tendency to promote the growth of hair. It is the best of its kind, and its wider circulation is desirable

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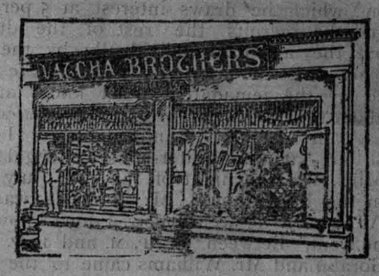

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