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CALCUTTA, THURSDAY AUGUST 31, 1909.

NO 67

পত্রিকা

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অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

ঐতিহ্যপ্রকাশ।

ঐতিহ্য প্রভুর প্রিয় অনুচর ও শিষ্য

ঐতিহ্যপ্রকাশ কৃত।

ঐতিহ্যপ্রকাশ লীলা সম্বন্ধে অনেক নতুন

কথা আছে এবং ঐতিহ্যপ্রভুর সমুদ্র লীলা

বিশদরূপে বর্ণিত হইয়াছে।

মূল্য ১০ আনা। ডাকমাস্তুল ১০ আনা।

অমৃত বাজার, পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য।

অনুগ্রাগবলী।

ঐতিহ্যপ্রকাশ প্রণীত।

এই বালি উপদেশ বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ হইয়াছে

মূল্য ১০ আনা। ডাক মাস্তুল ১০ আনা।

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MAINE'S MOUSE-CATCHING RAT.

FORBES BAKER of Steuben, Me., has one of the most remarkable mousers in the country in a trained rat. Having driven all the rats and mice from his own premises, the rat is now doing odd jobs for the neighbours.

This rat's odd propensities are no doubt due to the influence of his adopted mother—a big maltese cat owned by Mr. Baker and rated the best mouser in Steuben. Last winter she gave birth to kittens. One day she came upon a young rat and took him to her kittens. Mr. Baker supposed that she intended to give her young ones their first lesson in the art of rat-killing; but the old cat had no such intention, for instead of offering to injure the helpless creature, or allowing her kittens to do so, she adopted the rat and made him a useful factor in her household. The kittens, too, seemed to take to the rat, and as the rat grew apace with them, ate, slept and played with them, they accepted him as a brother, and were contented. When later the mother cat began to teach her children to catch mice and rats as a means of livelihood, the rat entered with much spirit into the game. Finally the old cat saw that adopted child was about the most ardent rodent hunter of the lot, despite his ancestry, and she seemed satisfied and at once sent them all out to make their own way in the world. Mr. Baker disposed of the kittens, but kept the rat now full grown. The rat has since waged a merciless war on the whole rat kingdom in Steuben. He still follows the old cat about the house, and the two are as attached as mother and child.

AN INTERESTING CASE OF KIDNAPPING.

AN interesting case of kidnapping was, the other day, disposed of by the local (cochin) and Class Magistrate. I would not certainly have touched upon it but for the circumstance that it created a great deal of sensation in the town owing, apparently, to the position of the parties involved in it, and of other incidents which may be of interest to persons outside Cochín. Two persons, of whom the 2nd accused belongs to a respectable family, were charged under Section 366 I. P. C. with having seduced the daughter of the complainant, a clerk employed in a European firm here. The case dragged a weary length, and eventually it had to be thrown out by discharging the accused who were very ably defended by Mr. A. G. Gover, Barrister-at-Law, while Mr. F. X. Augustus, a local pleader, tried his level best to secure a conviction in representing the prosecution. The story goes to say that the 1st accused and the girl were on terms of intimacy, and in order to avoid the disgrace that would be consequent upon the disclosure of the result of their intimacy, they mutually agreed upon an elopement, which was carried out on a fine night just after the inmates had gone to sleep. The complaint was lodged in May last before the Deputy Magistrate who transferred the same to the 2nd Class Magistrate for enquiry and committal, if proved. On the following day a statement from the complainant, to the effect that the girl went away voluntarily and that she was under age, was taken by the Sub-Magistrate and, with an unusual promptitude, the 2nd accused was arrested and locked up in jail despite all endeavours for release on bail. On Monday, the 8th May, Mr. Gover appeared for the accused, and after a part of the evidence of the prosecution was recorded, he produced the registry of admission kept in the local St. Mary's Convent School showing that the girl was 18 years old. The accused in consequence were released on bail. The prosecution still contend, in order to support their theory, that the girl was under age and to prove it they attempted to get a Baptismal certificate from one of the Catholic churches in Mangalore, alleging that she was baptised there; but for reasons best known to the prosecution itself this could not be obtained as by a very sensible mistake, the birth and christening of the girl seem to have taken place elsewhere. When the prosecution failed in this and having obtained repeated adjournments, they fell upon a few persons who were put in the box as those who took part in the function on the occasion of her birthday and closed their case by dispensing with the rest of the witnesses who were afterwards, on the insistence of the Magistrate and in spite of the objection raised by Counsel for the defence, examined for the prosecution. The defence, thereupon examined the Rev. Mother Superior of the said Convent School in reference to the School register in which the girl's admission was entered. This conclusively proved that the girl was 18 years old. The Magistrate attempted to make the Convent a Court soon after the Rev. Mother's examination, but as it was strongly reported the case would be committed to the Sessions, Mr. Gover immediately put in a petition before the Deputy Magistrate for the recall of the case before him. A brief meeting ensued between the two functionaries, and the case was subsequently thrown out in the 2nd week of August. A cart load of witnesses was examined by the prosecution and no energy was spared to secure a conviction. Even the "non-official Magistrate" (there is a person here by this designation who is the head of the Cochín rowdies) did all he could both by money and otherwise to run in the 2nd accused and, but for the discriminating intellect of a veteran European Barrister, the prosecution would have stultified the attempts of the defence. The 2nd accused, whom I have referred to as belonging to a respectable family, is one who was connected with some of the Catholic educational institutions in and out of Cochín. He was imported into this case simply for the purpose of paying off old scores which were more imaginary than real. The whole prosecution was got up in a spirit of malignity, and the unfortunate father of the unfortunate girl repents that he should have figured so conspicuously in a case which ended in such regrettable consequences, one of which has been the disappearance of the girl under the protection of the "non-official Magistrate's" son.—*West Coast Spectator.*

CUPS are now being made with small thermometers, which tell the degree of temperature of the cocoa coffee they hold.

MR. H. W. C. CARNDUFF, Deputy Secretary in the Legislative Department, goes on three months' leave in September. Mr. A. Williams, who is now on special duty in the Foreign Office, will act in his place.

THE IMPENDING FAMINE IN BOMBAY.

GOVERNMENT MEASURES.

THE measures so far taken and contemplated by Government in view of the impending famine in the Bombay Presidency, are indicated in the following Government Resolution just issued. The first of those calls for a report as to measures to be taken in the event of a fodder famine.

The attention of the Conservator of Forests, C. C., should be invited to paras. 133, 138, 248, and 283 of Mr. Shuttleworth's report on famine. Grass operations disposed of by Government Resolution No. 179 Fam., dated 30th May, 1898, in which Mr. Shuttleworth recommended that in any future famine similar operations, if found necessary, should be commenced early in the seasons in the month of October to enable a considerable quantity of good grass being secured. Mr. Wroughton should be requested to report as soon as possible, in consultation with the Conservators of Forests, N. C. and S. C., what measures he would propose to adopt in the event of Government having to face the contingency of a fodder famine during the current year. Mr. Wroughton should be informed that the degree of success which attended Mr. Shuttleworth's operations was, in the opinion of Government sufficient to warrant the undertaking of similar operations on a far larger scale on the present occasion, if an extensive fodder famine arose. Mr. Wroughton should therefore report the largest area which could be made available for the supply of grass through any agency and means which could be utilised for the purpose within the next three months. The Commissioners, N. D. C. D. and S. D., should be requested to favour Government with an early report on the condition and prospects of the grass crop and supply in the various districts of their respective Divisions where grass is as a rule abandoned and valuable.

CULTIVATORS TO GROW FODDER.

Cultivators in Guzerat are to be encouraged to grow fodder crops, using Government sources of water-supply without any extra rate. The following resolutions on the subject are dated 10th August:

Circular Memorandum dated the 3rd August, 1899, addressed by the Commissioner, N. D., to the Collector in Guzerat:

"In view of the impending danger to the cattle, the Commissioner trusts that the Collectors will use every effort personally and through their officers and other influential men to urge the people to grow fodder crops. In Kaira and in many parts of Ahmedabad there are numerous wells and other sources of plentiful water-supply which might be made the means of very largely adding to the fodder-supply. In Broach unfortunately they are not so numerous.

"It often happens that near a field there is a well belonging to a neighbour. It should be clearly explained to the people that, if the neighbour agrees on any terms to give his water, there is no objection whatever to taking it, and no extra rate will be levied by Government on that account. Every one does not understand this. The Commissioner has seen many fields of bajri withering, though there is a well close by full of water.

"Further it should be widely made known that water may be taken for the use of fodder-crops from Government wells, from rivers (by dhokudi) and from any source belonging to Government without any extra rate. Nothing will be charged for the water in this time of scarcity. Such fine wells as Dada Hari's well, and that at Adaj in the Ahmedabad district will carry eight kos each, and will irrigate a large area if the people are stirred up to sow it.

"Poor cultivators may hesitate to sow a fodder-crop, because, if rain should fail, it would become of little value. It has been proposed that the Mahajan of Ahmedabad should encourage such people by issuing to them individually a promise to buy the produce at a fixed minimum rate, whether rain falls or not. If rain does not fall, they might, of course, be allowed to take their profit. This suggestion might be made to other Mahajans."

Memorandum from the Commissioner, N. D., dated the 3rd August, 1899:

"Forwarded to Government with reference to paragraph 3, with the request that, considering the seriousness of the situation, the remission of all special water-rates on Government sources of supply for growth of fodder may be ratified."

Resolution.—The Commissioner's proposal is sanctioned, subject to re-consideration, if serviceable rain falls.

ANIMAL RELIEF CAMPS.

The proposal to start "animal relief-camps" to provide against the present scarcity of fodder in Guzerat is thus recorded:—

Letter from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 2941, dated the 1st August, 1899: "I have the honour to forward copy of a Circular issued by me to the Collectors of the Division. Large numbers of starving cattle are already coming into the town of Ahmedabad, and it seems to me that their preservation, while more difficult, is also even more important economically than the more direct preservation of human life. If the Guzerat people lose their cattle, they will be for the time ruined. They have in most of Guzerat no forests to fall back on—nothing but the leaves of scattered mango and other trees—and these even do not exist in many parts. Whatever can be done must be done now.

"The Mahajans led by the Mahajan of Ahmedabad are willing to open animal relief-camps which will be of very great benefit if they can be induced to listen to reason on one or two points, the two chief being to give a preference to young sound animals, and not overcrowd by taking in all which come. I am going to meet the leaders in conference, and hope to open a small relief-camp on my own premises as an example of how to do it sensibly.

"I do not hope to get them to 'exclude all worthless animals,' but if two-thirds of those they take in are worth saving, their camps will be of great use.

"Shedding to protect the animals against the sun will be essential, and I beg to solicit the early sanction of Government to the Collectors indenting on the Forest Department for posts, rafters, and bamboos for any camp that may deserve the help.

"With reference to the suggestion of the Ahmedabad Mahajan that steam pumps should be set up on the river Sabarmati and other rivers for the production of fodder-crops, I think it is worth considering. If a moderate water-rate were charged, the cost would be partly recouped. The difficulty mentioned in the Circular might probably be got over by

the Mahajan undertaking to take over the fodder at a fixed price in any case. If a suitable site can be got for an experiment, and other conditions can be arranged, I would ask permission to get a pump from Bombay with the least possible delay. I am asked that even without rain the river Sabarmati will well hold out throughout the year.

"I also propose to lay in a rick of grass while it can be got for the model 'animal relief-camp,' and hope Government will allow me to spend a limited sum, say, Rs. 200, on that. I will personally take care that no money is wasted." Circular from the Commissioner, N. D., No. 2947, dated the 1st August, 1899.

According to the Commissioner's information, the prolonged drought is already having a serious effect on the cattle in North Guzerat. Where there are trees, they are being fed on leaves, but in the treeless tracts there is no fodder to be got.

The Commissioner need not point out that a large loss of agricultural cattle will have just as distressing, though indirect, results as the starvation of human beings. The livelihood of the ryot depends on his bullocks.

With the experience of famine now obtained it is possible to prevent any waste of human life if measures be taken betimes, before the people are run down. The case of the cattle is different. Not only is it more difficult to provide for them, but they begin to suffer long before their owners. If anything is to be done to save them, now is the time to consider it.

To save them, or nearly all of them, will be quite impossible if the present drought continues, but we are bound to do what we can. The Commissioner would be much obliged for any suggestion, however limited in scope; meanwhile he contributes the following:—

All District Officers should stir up those who possess wells to set apart land for growing fodder. Mr. Mollison is being asked for advice about this, which will be communicated when received. Guinea grass is most excellent and quick growing, but the supply of roots is limited. Jowar will probably be preferred by the people.

In every Guzerat town there is a guild of well-to-do merchants who conceive it their highest religious duty to preserve animal life, especially that of kine. The Commissioner is aware these men are difficult to deal with as shown by their attitude towards the Veterinary hospitals, but in this matter they would perhaps be more facile. All that is needed to bring them into line with Government policy is that they should take charge of young and sound animals only, and that they should return them to cultivators when the stress is over. It would be better that they should buy them at a small maximum price for this, among other reasons, that a cultivator's willingness to sell at a small price is a sure test of his need.

If these people could be induced to take a sensible course and recognize that by saving useful animals rather than old and worn-out ones, they are also saving human lives, much might be done. An animal "Relief-Camp" in every town would mean the rescue of many thousands.

Lines of shedding to give protection against the sun would be needed, and Government will be asked to grant bamboos and posts free through the Forest Department.

Neither Broach, Kaira, nor Ahmedabad have any Government forests to resort to, but so far as things have gone for the present, it is not impossible that Surat and the Panch Mahals might be able to supply cut and pressed grass for the other three districts. The Collectors of those two districts should report whether this will be possible. Grazing is of no use even if available, as the cattle cannot be taken so far. Thana will probably be able to trust to itself.

In Ahmedabad the Mahajan asks that steam pumps may be set up on the river to irrigate large areas for fodder-crops. The matter is not without its difficulties, the chief being that the landholders can scarcely be expected to sow fodder without some guarantee of indemnity against loss in case rain should fall before the crop is ready for use. The Commissioner is making inquiries as to what pumps can be got, and meanwhile Collectors in whose districts there are available rivers should consider the subject, and at what sites pumps should be erected if it is decided to erect them.

Resolution.—The proposal embodied in paragraph 4 of the Commissioner's report is approved. A report of the details of the scheme of cattle relief-camps, the success attained, the expenditure involved, or expected to be required on the part of Government, if the scheme should be extended, should be submitted as early as practicable.

With regard to the proposed experiment with steam pumps, the Commissioner should consult freely with the officers of the Public Works Department, and if he sees any reasonable prospect of success in effecting the irrigation of an area large enough to grow an appreciable quantity of fodder-crops by means of steam pumps, he is permitted to obtain one from Bombay, reporting to Government the expenditure incurred and the extent to which it is expected that it will be recouped by the cultivators who utilize the water for irrigation purposes.

Sanction is accorded to the expenditure of Rs. 200 on the provision of grass to start with for the model animal relief-camp.

A TELEGRAM has been received to the effect that an attack of some kind was made on the Murree Brewery at Quetta last night. Four men are reported killed and 16 wounded. No attempt was made to robbery.

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 Diarrhoea 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.

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EXPERIMENTAL CULTIVATION.

LAST year's experimental cultivation on Burdwan farm, was most instructive. Of experiments tried in numerous ways, we purpose giving some few in detail, starting as an introduction with potatoes. In out sets *versus* whole tubers an interesting experiment was made in three series of plots. Croy was sown in third week of November, and harvested third week of March, and treatment of all plots was similar, except as regards quantity of seeds sown. All plots were heavily manured with 30,480 pounds of cow refuse, and 1,820 pounds of castor cake per acre. For an equal weight sown, out sets have always given a heavier yield; but for an equality of number, whole tubers gave a much larger out-turn. It has, however, been found that increase in out-put obtained by planting an equal number of whole tubers, does not compensate for increased cost of seed necessitated thereby. Experiments in crops and new varieties of existing crops, were made with paddy, sugarcane, potato, maize, and sorghum. Six varieties of paddy were tried, as in two previous years, besides long-stemmed paddy which had been obtained from Faridpur a year previously, (1896) and several varieties of Ceylon paddy, which were experimented with in a non-experimental field. Experiments with long-stemmed Faridpur paddy and varieties of Ceylon paddy field, owing to fields becoming water-logged. Experiments with other kinds were, however, successfully conducted as usual. Burdwan Bansmati gave largest yield; Kartikal gave next best out-turn, though last year it gave very poor results. Next to them comes Jettakalma, which gave a good result last year also. Those obtained are, however, not conclusive. In 1896-97, two varieties of sugarcane, viz., Shamshara (local) and Poona, were experimented with, but results were not very reliable, though Poona variety succeeded well and was appreciated by cultivators near abouts, who adopted its cultivation, which argues some amount of enterprise in this class—a fact few are aware of, and perhaps for which, fewer still would give them credit. Four varieties were tried last year, under direction of Dr. Leather. Fresh canes were obtained from Poona for cuttings, and three local varieties known as Puri, Kajli and Shamshara, were experimented with in a variety of ways and with unequal success. Croy was sown on 4th March, and harvested first week of March next year. Shamshara and Poona varieties proved to be best *growing* producing species. This experiment will be continued. Three varieties of potatoes were tried on a non-experimental plot, viz., (i) some potatoes obtained from Darjeeling, (ii) some received from a cultivator (called Amargachu variety), and (iii) Naini Tal potatoes. All these varieties were sown in equal quantity and numbers, and similar treatment was also given to all plots. Naini Tal variety gave nearly one and a half as much weight of potatoes as both other species, if we may be permitted such a term in reference to inanimate nature. Hill varieties, however, proved superior in size and favour to Amargachu variety, fetched a higher market value, and continued to be highly appreciated by neighbouring cultivators, who showed every disposition to cultivate them on their own account. This experiment is also to be repeated this year. American and country maize were sown, but did not yield good results. Two plots were sown with two varieties of sorghum crop, known as black-seeded and red-seeded varieties. Crop was sown on 24th May, and harvesting began on 11th July. Black-seeded variety yielded a decidedly better return than red-seeded, and considering that plots were unmanured, yield in both was most satisfactory. This crop is inexpensive, and is an excellent fodder for cattle. Now, seeing what a vast scope Bengal offers to experimental cultivation, is it not a marvel how still and apathetic our monied classes can be, whilst allowing opportunities to slip by, which may never recur to them, but which, we feel certain, their successors will not treat with equal indifference? In textile fibres we have a magnificent field open to us, which by careful cultivation could, humanly calculating, be made to yield an ample and remunerative harvest. In so many different ways can agriculture be made to pay, and especially by those who possess some knowledge of chemistry, that it seems to us almost beyond belief that wealthy zemindars, who have seemingly imbibed a portion of that spirit of accidental enterprise and plucky energy, that have made us so notable, should hang back in an undertaking by which they might support thousands of their countrymen with profit to themselves. Nor would this be all. They would, by investment of their capital, open out Bengal to a dozen different ways of direct communication; they would concentrate trade in a number of new scattered centres, and spread their wealth over thousands of miles of area, which now lie fallow and uncared for, to all appearance, but which might, by trifling care be forced to yield handsomely, remunerative results.

DR. WATT, the Reporter on Economic Products, is touring over India to collect specimens for the Paris Exhibition.

M. BLOWITZ says that his story about the threatened resignation of the Czar comes to him from a friend through whom he previously announced important projects. One of the Czar's disappointments is that he sent the Armenians at the time of their troubles, half-a-million roubles from his private purse, and afterwards ascertained that not a penny reached them. Numberless similar things have disgusted him with the throne. The absence of the heir excites his superstitious feelings. He remembers the Russian legend that a boy, without a son, will be succeeded by Czar Michael, who is predestined to occupy Constantinople. He has, hitherto, postponed his abdication in the hope of having a son, for whom he has fervently supplicated Heaven. He was told that if he abdicated while the Peace Conference was sitting, it would be a breach of faith, but he has always said "I am powerless to realise my plans. If I have a son, I will keep the throne for him, but if not, I will renounce it." He agreed to wait until the end of the Conference, but the result of the conference seemed to him a rebuff, and he considered he had made himself ridiculous. Lastly, the intention to abdicate explains the telegram to the Bonaparte pretender, which, though denied was really sent. It is suggested that M. Blowitz was used by some of the Czar's entourage. A similar story recently appeared in a Danish Journal.

THE DOCTOR AND THE DOG.

A STORY OF 148 EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIMENTS.

DR. EDWARD HAUGHTON, B.A., writes to us the *Daily Chronicle* from 32, Sackville Street, Piccadilly, in reference to the proceedings of a Dr. G. W. Crile, who has published a book on "Surgical Shock." The author therein admits that he has had no fewer than 148 dogs on his "dog board," and describes the periods for which they were able to live under the various so-called anaesthetics which he used with the disadvantages of having their throats cut, their blood poisoned, their paws crushed and their internal organs dragged out, and manipulated by the half-hour, with or without stimulation by electricity or the application of a gas flame to some sensitive part of the body.

The first impression (says Dr. Haughton) which Dr. Crile's labours have made upon me, is one of astonishment that he should have sought to determine the nature and extent of surgical shock by an almost exclusive attention to one phenomenon likely to be thereby induced, namely—alteration of blood pressure "in the arteries of an instrument called a 'manometer.' Of course, this change can only be effected through the nervous system, whose complexity negatives the idea of necessary uniformity in connection with such phenomena.

Dr. Crile had received his reward in the shape of the Cartwright prize for 1897, in America, and he doubtless looks for glory in this country also, as he tells us that his first sixteen experiments on dogs were performed in the laboratory of University College, London, he having received "many valuable suggestions from Professor Victor Housley."

In experiment CXXXIII. on a fox terrier, he tells us:—"In the control experiments as well as in this, the dog was not under full anaesthesia. In the former, the animal struggled on application of the flame." Besides the usual cutting experiments, in which the difficulty of obtaining what he is pleased to call "Surgical anaesthesia" is well established, Dr. Crile's ingenuity suggested shooting the dogs through the head from different standpoints, striking them violently over the stomach, heart, and jugular vein, or letting saline solution flow through their carotid arteries.

What is really wonderful is that any physiological deductions should be attempted from such grotesque acts of cruelty, or that anyone with a medical education could be expected to believe in the force of anaesthetisation in the face of the various admissions made by Dr. Crile. Nor can the well-known British paper, the *Hospital* (edited by a gentleman who has no sympathies with the anti-vivisection movement) see that other medical practice or science can be advanced by such experiments as pouring boiling water into a dog's stomach until it bursts, or the forcible dilation of sensitive parts of animals.

Dr. Crile has given us the *post-mortem* results after many of his interesting experiments; but so far, one looks in vain in the book for valuable information. As the *Hospital* points out, the phenomena of shock are profoundly modified by anaesthesia, and anaesthetics profoundly modify the normal phenomena of blood pressure and respiration; and the "Hospital" editor is astonished that no information is afforded of the anaesthetic employed in each case, of the quantity used, or of the duration of its employment. Dr. Crile must have had entire disbelief in his own pretence of anaesthetisation, about which his admissions are of a most significant character.

Dr. Haughton offers to give further information, bearing on such experiments as those of Dr. Crile's, to any reader who may care to apply to him.

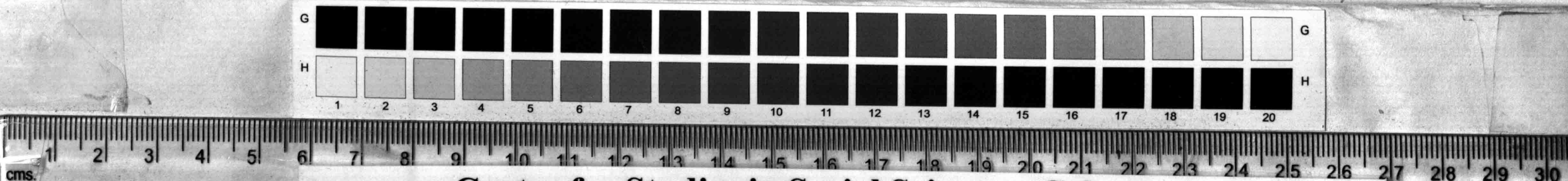
AFGHAN reports speak of disturbances in Cabul between regiments which have taken different sides with the factional followings of Princes Habibulla and Nasarulla, between whom, it is alleged, there is a sharp enmity at present.

THE rumour that Sir William Cuninghame, K. C. S. I., will return from leave, in time to accompany the Viceroy on tour, is without any foundation. Mr. H. S. Barnes, C. S. I., Officiating Foreign Secretary, will accompany His Excellency on tour.

THE Shahdara Panchayet at present consists of sixty-five members of which more than two-thirds are Mahomedans. All creeds, classes and professions are fairly represented in the Committee. The number of the cases entered in the register up to this time is two hundred and eighty; while the number disposed of is two hundred and fifty amounting to the value of twenty thousand rupees. This fact speaks for itself. Since the introduction of the Panchayet system among the people only five or six men, dissatisfied with the decision of the Committee, have taken their cases to the courts; but the fact has greatly enhanced the credit of the Panchayet in the eyes of the public that the courts have maintained the decision of the Committee. The Executive Committee holds its meeting twice a month; and in the course of nearly nine months, nineteen sittings have been held. The General Committee held nine sittings, at which the parties disagreeing with the decision of the Panchayet or having any other objection against the members appointed to decide the cases were allowed to express themselves and the suggestions for lighting the town, cleansing the streets and maintaining peace and order were heard and discussed. When lawlessness and panic were the order of day the Committee engaged the services of a few extra men for guarding and protecting the town from the *budmashes*. The Committee, it will be remembered, had applied to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor for investing the Panchayet with criminal powers in ordinary cases. We are glad to learn that the Deputy Commissioner of Lahore has directed Khan Bahadur Sheikh Nanak Baksh to enquire into the matter. Sheikh Nanak Baksh has examined the registers and sent his report to the District Magistrate. It may be mentioned to the credit of the Committee that the members appointed for deciding cases take no remuneration for their work.—*Tribune.*

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Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA AUGUST 31, 1899.

THE CAREER OF MR. MAGISTRATE HOPKINS.

DEDICATED TO MAGISTRATES IN INDIA.

We are in the habit of appealing to high officials for the removal of our grievances, to the Secretary of State, the Viceroy and the local ruler. It is the Magistrates who really rule the country. It is a mistake, therefore, to ignore the district authorities who are accessible, and to go up to impersonal beings like the "Government," the "Secretary of State," and the "Viceroy" for the redress of grievances. We have in the Magistrate the visible and tangible representative of British power. It is in his power to do infinite good as also infinite mischief. Let us see how Mr. Magistrate Hopkins managed his district.

He did not dislike touring in the winter season as most of his brethren did. He did not find his camp-life dull, on the other hand he was in very good spirits when in the midst of his people, talking to them on various subjects. By constant practice he had made himself thoroughly acquainted with the language of the people; he knew that the young jack was called *char*, and the young colera a *damp*. Thus, when he had pitched his tent, he found himself surrounded by lots of people. "Where do you get your water from?" asks he of a villager. They all tell him that they have only one tank in the village, (Kallyanpore); that the water of the tank is foul, that in the hot season they have to go to a distance of a couple of miles for the necessary and precious liquid, &c., &c.

The Magistrate took that occasion to chide them for their apathy in matters regarding health. He told them that they drank dirty water, and brought fever and cholera upon them. They ought to have a beautiful tank of their own and keep it in good order.

In reply the villagers pleaded poverty; they said that they paid the Road Cess and had been paying it ever since its creation, but they had never got one single advantage from their contributions. They prayed that the District Board ought to dig a tank for them, Mr. Hopkins, however, would not hold out any hope to them of giving them a tank from the district funds.

"Why don't you dig one," said he.

"We have no money," said they. Mr. Hopkins said that if they could only scrape one thousand Rupees, they could get a good tank, and if they dug it in a central spot, they could make it useful not only to their own village, but also to the surrounding villages. "Can't you, every one of you, pay a rupee?" asked he. They said they could. And then Mr. Hopkins asked them to make out a list of villagers, then and there. In this manner a list was made and the names of twelve hundred villagers, not only of Kallyanpore but of surrounding villages were put down in it. Mr. Hopkins then selected four of the men who surrounded him, and asked them, go with that list and come back within an hour.

Said he to them, "Go to every one of these men and ask every one to contribute a rupee. I want the money at once. Indeed, I expect you here within an hour or so. So be quick."

The four men started on their mission in the morning and came back, not within an hour but in the afternoon, when Mr. Hopkins was holding court. And they placed a bag before the Sahib.

"How much?" asked Mr. Hopkins?

"Rupees twelve hundred and twenty-two," say the four villagers.

"Come in the evening," said Mr. Hopkins as he took possession of the bag; and he then resumed his work.

In the evening a large number of people came to pay their respects to the Magistrate Sahib. Mr. Hopkins then took them with him, selected a central spot for the tank, appointed a committee to take charge of the money and instructed them to dig the tank. And in a couple of months Kallyanpore was blessed with a nice tank. Mr. Hopkins thus solved the problem how the villagers could be easily provided with tanks without cost to either the Government or the Boards.

It was thus Mr. Hopkins' tour. When he had once pitched his tent he would not leave the place until he had done something to benefit the people.

He walked about in villages followed by the people. He found much to shock him. He found the people living in dirt as it were. He rebuked them severely for it. "Fill up this dirty ditch. To whom does it belong?" asked he. And the culprit stood before him trembling with fear. He bade the man fill it up at once. Sometimes, it happened that the party thus chided was poor, and had not the means to carry out the sanitary reform suggested by the Magistrate. When assured of this, Mr. Hopkins asked his neighbours to help him and they cheerfully obeyed.

Yes, Mr. Hopkins was always obeyed. His magnetism was irresistible and the people preferred fall to a frown from him. About his magnetism there is a story.

Santiram was a noted thief; every one knew it; but yet he managed to escape the clutches of the police. Mr. Hopkins sent for him while in this village, and the thief came before him defiant. He said, "Huzar! I have, my enemies and they have given out that I am a thief, and ever since I am being pursued by the police. But I am an honest man." Mr. Hopkins regarded him with attention for sometime, and then asked him to come in the evening. He came and Mr. Hopkins had a talk with him for about an hour. What that talk was nobody knew. But on the following morning, Santiram persuaded the principal villagers to accompany him to the Magistrate Sahib, and when they all stood before the Magistrate, Santiram, the same man who had, the day before, told the Magistrate with a brazen face that he was an honest man, confessed, with tears in his eyes, that he was a great rascal; that he had come to his senses; that he asked forgiveness of his neighbours and the Sahibs for his past misdeeds, and he promised to lead a pure life thenceforward. As a matter of fact, from that day Santiram became an honest man.

Mr. Hopkins, however, as a rule, dealt very severely with *badmashes*; but he did not follow the same method in every case.

If space be available, we shall continue this sketch and let his brother Magistrates know how Mr. Hopkins managed to avert a famine which threatened his district.

THE CAREER OF MR. MAGISTRATE HOPKINS. II.

DEDICATED TO MAGISTRATES IN INDIA.

MR. HOPKINS was not absolutely trusted by the Government. Not exactly that. He was considered, by his brother officials, something like a dreamy sort of fellow, an enthusiast and philanthropist. Others voted him a "sick sentimentalist", quite unfit to be a Magistrate in India. His enemies, among his brother officials, held a secret consultation about his motives. They had no doubt that he was bidding for popularity. The Government, however, did not doubt his motives nor his abilities, but yet they thought that he needed looking after, and his work was submitted to the closest scrutiny.

Mr. Hopkins knew all that, and he was too proud to seek to justify his conduct. What he aspersions cast upon his conduct, was to stick to his routine work with the strictest scrupulousness, never taking liberties with any Government order or injunction. He knew that if he was found to make any error, either of omission, or commission, his enemies would attribute it to his "philanthropy." At one time there was some delay in his submitting a return which had not been completed, on account of the negligence of a subordinate. And the Divisional Commissioner wrote him a demerit, thus:—

"My dear Hopkins, I was put to much inconvenience for the delay you made in sending your report. Perhaps you were busy teaching the people how to grow paddy and could make no time to send your report in time."

The letter did not please Mr. Hopkins. He, however, always took extreme care not to give his superior any occasion to find fault with him. He resolved never to make use of Government money for the benefit of the people. The funds of the District Board he never meddled with. He left them entirely at the disposal of the Board and the Divisional Commissioner. In the beginning he had tried to spend the fund for the benefit of those who had created it, namely, the cess-payers. His notion was that the money belonged to them—to them alone—not only under the strictest principle of justice, but also under the terms of the Despatch of the Duke of Argyll, who had first started the fund, and laid it down that the proceeds of the cess must be devoted solely to the benefit of those who paid it. He had tried to argue the matter with his superiors and had argued that it was unjust to the cess-payers to divert the proceeds of the cess to purposes foreign to its object. He had seen, with dismay, that the Government, without devoting the fund to the purposes of local needs, were only utilizing it for carrying out works which legitimately belonged to them. But he had found that he could make no impression on his superiors by his appeal; on the other hand, he only evoked the resentment of his superiors by his earnestness. And, since then, he always suggested to the people to appeal directly to the Board for funds with which, as we said before, he never meddled.

Unluckily Mr. Hopkins found himself at one time confronted by a serious difficulty. The October rains had failed, which threatened the destruction of the paddy crop. He was in Lower Bengal, and the chief reliance of the people of his district was on the *aman* crop. What was Mr. Hopkins to do? If he applied for aid, Government would never believe in the existence of a famine, reported by a "philanthropist." But how could he meet a famine without Government aid? And how could he allow the people to die of starvation before his eyes? He got an inspiration from Heaven. He rode to a village which was close to the sufferer. The leaders came to accord him a suitable welcome. "How is the *aman* crop?" he asked. "Very bad," said the leaders.

"Why don't you irrigate?" he asked them. The leaders said that there was no water near at hand and to carry water from a distance would mean prohibitive expense. There was an extensive paddy field of about a thousand acres to the east of the village. Mr. Hopkins directed that wells should be dug in different parts of the field. To make our story short, this was done, and it was found that water could be had at a depth of from 8 to 14 cubits. The cost of digging a well was about a rupee or a rupee and a half. He then had water-lifts called *latas* erected, which cost six annas, the timber being supplied by the villagers without any cost to themselves.

In this manner, some seventeen wells were dug, and each was supplied with a *lata*. The villagers were directed to irrigate the fields sparingly, supplying the field with water just enough to keep the plants alive. When a well seemed exhausted, a dozen buckets of mud removed from it, made it yield a copious supply again.

Mr. Hopkins was encouraged to try his experiment at other places, and with the power of organization that an Englishman possesses, he succeeded in introducing this simple mode of irrigation in hundreds of villages. The paddy plants were saved for the time, and Heaven was so pleased with Mr. Hopkins, that he got for his reward a shower, which, though inadequate, was yet enough to save the crop completely. Mr. Hopkins assured the writer that even if the shower had not come, he could yet have saved the district by his mode of irrigation. The shower, which was general, however, came too late for other districts. For, while the paddy plants in Mr. Hopkins' district had been kept alive by irrigation, those in the other districts had died completely, and the late and scanty showers did them very little or no good.

Mr. Hopkins was delirious with joy. For he felt assured that his district would yield a sufficient quantity of grain to save the people from starvation. The Magistrates of neighbouring districts clamoured for aid; but to the surprise of the Government, Mr. Hopkins said nothing about it. The Government had expected an urgent and heavy demand from Mr. Hopkins, "the philanthropic Magistrate"; but contrary to their expectation, this "sentimentalist" did not utter a word on the subject of relief. The Government, however, placed a small amount of money at the disposal of Mr. Hopkins, much less than they had paid to his neighbours. In the report it was mentioned

that the district of Mr. Hopkins had been able to withstand drought better than the neighbouring ones. Not that the Government were unaware of the methods adopted by him to grapple with the drought. On the other hand, he had submitted a very interesting report showing how he had been able to save the plants which alone had enabled him to avert the famine without Government aid. But somehow or other, the report never saw the light of day; it was suppressed as the work of a mere philanthropist.

Mr. Hopkins assured the writer of this that, handicapped as a Magistrate in India, he can yet make his people happy and prosperous, if he will only work with one object in view, namely, the good of the people placed under his care by Providence.

SIR D. STEWART'S GRATITUDE TO THE INDIANS.

OUR London correspondent has discovered the cause which has led to the growth of despotism, and its inevitable result, discontent, in India. Englishmen put the Indians down for barbarians; the Indians, however, deny the accusation. The English administrators in India would govern the Indians just as the African subjects of England are governed. The Indians, on the other hand, claim that as they are as well civilized as other races, they deserve to be treated like the latter. Our London correspondent says:—

Englishmen are beginning to realise more fully the great brain-power of the Hindu, and the revolution in Hindu society that is being slowly brought about by the University system of India. I am surprised at the general ignorance which prevails even amongst men, active in educational work, with regard to the extensive use of University opportunities by the rising generation of India. When I tell them that 30,000 young Indians matriculate every year at their five great Universities, of whom an average of nearly 4,000 a year graduate in arts, law, medicine and engineering, the statement is received with incredulous surprise. There is no doubt that the increasing number of young students who come to this country for post-graduate work in law at the various Inns of Court, in medicine at London and Edinburgh, while others go to Oxford and Cambridge, is doing more than almost anything else to bring home to thoughtful Englishmen the fact that the Indian people are not the bloodthirsty ruffians suggested by the mutiny novel and melodrama, nor the bigoted and ignorant idolaters suggested by the missionary orator, but that they are people capable of the very highest brain development, culture and self-government.

In India it sometimes happens that the Indian subordinate is abler than his European master—and there is friction. It often happens that the subject shows himself more intelligent than the Government and the result again is friction. It sometimes happens that the Government is led to act like a thoughtless despot of the olden times, realizes subsequently that it has acted in a manner which has made it the object of ridicule, and there is again friction. In short, the Government has not as yet realized the fact that its subjects in India are civilized beings, and therefore deserve to enjoy all the advantages which civilized men in other countries do. And hence this ceaseless warfare between the people and their rulers.

There is an interested class of Englishmen, whose interest lies in depicting the Indians in the blackest colours. Even in pictures, the Indian is represented as a black, hideous savage, who is more like a Negro than an Aryan that he is. The missionaries deplore the grossest superstition of the Hindu who devours his own child, and they demand money to instil the light of Christianity into his benighted soul. The administrator describes the Indian as a sullen, discontented and ferocious rebel, who needs constant looking after. He demands, full power, sedition laws and a large standing army for the purpose of keeping the peace. And, if any Englishman generously takes upon himself to speak a word on behalf of the Indians, he is put down as a traitor to his country who is stirring up the bad feelings of the Indians against British rule!

Indians have gone to England to tell the people there that they have their grievances. They have always met with a generous reception. But the reception given to them itself proves that their case is hopeless. When an Indian stands up on an English platform to speak, curious Englishmen flock round him to see a sight. They see the wonder of an Indian speaking; that wonder is increased when they see the Indian speaking in the language of their masters. They are next bewildered when they see that the Indian speaks sense, nay, as sensibly as they themselves would do.

And then steps in the Anglo-Indian to neutralize the effect produced by the speech of the Indian. The Anglo-Indian triumphantly points out from the Indian's speech, what he has been able to accomplish in that barbarous country. "Here you see a savage," says he, "and we have made a civilized being of him." And thus it is proved that England is following her noble mission in India, and civilizing the barbarians of that country. The grievances of the Indians are forgotten in this universal self-congratulation.

But it is not the point whether the Indians owe their civilization to the exertions of their benevolent masters or to those of their own; the fact stands that thirty thousands of them are matriculating every year in this country. And that being the case, to treat them as barbarians is to do them a serious injustice.

The Englishman was talking the other day of the ignorance and superstition of the masses in India. They are, no doubt, both ignorant and superstitious. But it would be impossible to show, in this vast country, one such spectacle as is presented almost every day by lower class Europeans, in the streets of Calcutta. It is drink which has made them so. But our people, even the lowest classes, do not drink. That makes all the difference. Yes, the masses are ignorant but they are intelligent, gentle, sober, industrious, law-abiding and devoted to their families. Drink, greed for gold, and war have demoralized European society. India is free from all that. Yet it is contended that the Indians do not deserve a better rule than has been accorded to British subjects in Africa!

The Indian has shown that he can sit upon the bench of the highest judicial court in the land with credit. He has shown that he can manage a district successfully. But yet the Indian has not more political rights than the Matabele subject of the Crown. This is what Sir Donald Stewart said at the distribution of prizes at the Cooper's Hill College:—

Above all, it was necessary that Englishmen should recognize that there were as clever people in India as in England. He advised those students who were going out to India, to treat the natives as they would their own countrymen, and they would find that the people of India were a very charming people. Personally, he was deeply grateful for all that the natives of India had done for him.

Let us remind the rulers of India of one stern fact. Japan, which was inhabited by a cannibal race, was civilized by the Hindus. In short, when the Japanese were savages, the Hindus had developed their Vedanta and Sankhya philosophies. Thus the Hindus had a long start of the Japanese. Add to this, that the Hindus are now under the rule of the most enlightened nation in the world. That being the case, the Hindus ought to be able to shew better results than the Japanese. But while Japan is a great Power the Indians have not even one merchant vessel!

The *Daily News* (London) is very kind to the people of India. It says:—

A fact which is not generally known is that this gentleman (Mr. Paranjpe) has promised the service of his genius to the Poona Ferguson College, which is staffed by a noble band of self-sacrificing Indians, who give tuition free of emolument, claiming as their sole reward the advancement of the intellectual and moral welfare of their pupils. Mr. Paranjpe's success calls to our mind that of some other Indians. Not long ago, Mr. Atul Chatterji beat all his English rivals, and topped the list in the Indian Civil Service Examination—the stiffest examination in England. In medicine, we find Dr. Sarat Mullick has followed up his brilliant University career by being elected to a distinguished place on the staff of the London National Hospital for Heart and Paralysis. He has quite recently received the unique honor of being the only Indian to be elected a Fellow of the London Medical Society, the oldest Medical Society in London. On turning to law, we find Mr. Shadi Lal has gained honors in the final examination, and has carried off the Barstow Scholarship. In science we have a good example in Professor S. C. Mahalanobis, who is now Lecturer and Examiner in Physiology in the University of Wales. Turning from the intellectual to the physical sides, we find the brilliant feats of "Ranj" on the cricket field have made him the most popular man in England. Lieutenant Suresh Biswas, who by his personal bravery saved the State army in Brazil from rout, is a living proof against the too often repeated calumny that the Bengali is not fitted to command. When we reflect that all these gentlemen have had to contend against more than the ordinary difficulties of language, early education, and racial prejudice, we stand amazed at their success, which, under the circumstances, is doubly honorable. With such brilliant specimens, selected off-hand within the last two or three years, we have every reason to be proud of India, so fittingly described as the "brightest jewel of the British Crown."

It is very kind of this great paper to speak of our people in this manner. And he is yet quite correct in stating that India, after all, is a jewel, a property. This is the way Englishmen always speak of India; it is a property, a very valuable property, more valuable than the Kohinoor, which has passed through many hands and is now in the possession of our beloved Queen. India is, however, better than the Kohinoor in this respect that it secures an annual revenue. India is rather a Zemindari, a big Estate, the owner of which is the English nation. But the Indians have great objections to be called a property, for they are living and sentient beings and have their rights which, moreover, the Queen herself assured to them by a gracious Proclamation. America at one time held property in slaves. England herself had at one time such property, but was ashamed of keeping it, and paid a vast amount of money to get rid of it. The noble English people should realize the fact that a jewel is a piece of property, and a nation can never be called a jewel, for it can never be property, especially when it has a civilization and literature of its own.

A YEAR or two ago, writes the *Englishman*, "a Mohammedan youth who trespassed into the compound of a gentleman and offered insulting attentions to a respectable young European woman was not called on for his defence by a fairly able and experienced Honorary Magistrate who, if correctly reported, considered the offence a sensational one. On Mr. Pearson's attention being called to the matter, he immediately issued a warrant against the offender, and tried and sentenced him to imprisonment. About a fortnight ago a Madras servant, accused and found guilty of using obscene language to his mistress, during the absence of her husband, was sentenced by a bench of three Bengali gentlemen to a fine of Rs. 5. The inadequacy of the sentence is so apparent as one would imagine to strike every one; and yet it evidently did not strike the bench responsible for it." Will our contemporary be pleased to give particulars of these two cases? For, we fear, he had been hoaxed. At least, we have good reasons for believing that if the cases occurred at all, they had been described in such a manner as to render them unrecognizable. In the above there is a specific accusation against three Bengali gentlemen and he should justify it by facts.

The *Pioneer* hears with incredulity the story told by the Servian Prince, of the powers of the Indian juggler. But there can be no manner of doubt of the feat performed by Haridas under the auspices and in the presence of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh and certain British officers who have recorded the incident. This saint permitted himself to be buried under ground. The condition was that a crop of barley would be sown over his grave and his body disinterred from the tomb after the barley had been cut. This was done. The man was found a corpse. But his disciples applied methods known only to themselves which revived him. A more wonderful feat than this can scarcely be conceived, has at least never been told of any miracle-performer. Then there were two scores of feats performed by jugglers from Bengal in the presence of Jehangir, related by the Prince himself in his Autobiography. The Emperor says that the feats were performed in broad daylight, in an open place before his whole court. The feats were marvellous beyond description and our readers ought to remember them, for some of them were reproduced in these columns as described by the Emperor.

At the last meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council, a string of questions was put by some non-official members to clear certain points in connection with the action of the Government in regard to the Natus, which continue to be so many "puzzles" to the Indian public. The Bombay Government replied, no doubt, to all the questions; but all the same, the matter remains involved in the same darkness in what it was before. The Hon'ble Mr. Mehta asked:—

Will Government be pleased to say if the further detention of the Sardars Natus, without any immediate view to ulterior proceedings of a judicial nature is necessary for the preservation of tranquillity in Native States, or the protection of the British Dominion from foreign hostility or internal commotion? Will Government be pleased to make some statement, which may set the public mind at rest in regard to the affair of the Natus, under the circumstances which have taken place since the commencement of their detention? Will Government be pleased to state if they intend at any time to institute judicial proceedings of any sort against the Natus?

In reply, His Excellency the President said:—"I would refer the honourable member to answers already given in this Council on 20th December 1897 and 25th January, 1899." Now, the answers given on December 20, 1897, were those in reply to questions put by the Hon. Mr. Parekh. His first question was as follows:—

Will Government be pleased to state the grounds which led to the arrest and imprisonment of the Natus Brothers under Regulation XXV of 1827? In reply, His Excellency the Governor said:—"The persons referred to, were placed under restraint for reasons of State, touching the security of a portion of the British dominions from internal commotion."

The next question was:—

Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to put them on their trial; and, if so, when?

In reply, it was stated that the action under the law in question implies that, in the language of the Regulation, judicial proceedings are either not adapted to the nature of the case or are inadvisable or improper.

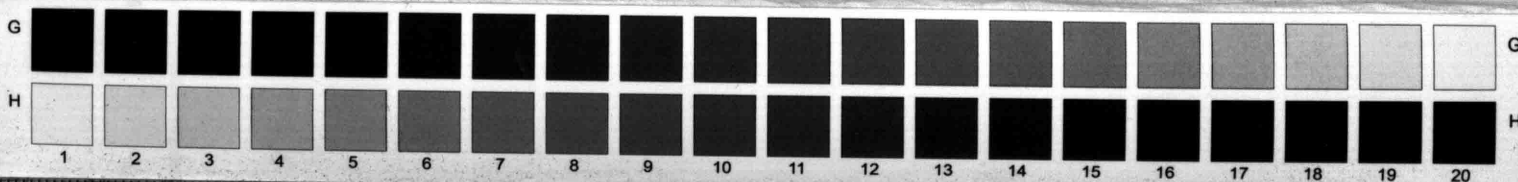
The third question was:—

If Government do not propose to put them on their trial, will they be pleased to state how long they propose to detain them in prison? In reply it was stated that the first part of this question was covered by the preceding answer. The answer to the second part depended on considerations alluded to in the answer to the first question, and upon eventualities not yet determined. The above questions were evidently put with the object of eliciting information (1) as to the offence of the Natus brothers, and (2) as to the intention of the Government in dealing with them. The replies, however, threw no light whatever on these points. The Government summarily disposed of the questions by stating that the Natus had been arrested "for reasons of State." Now, we may say by way of parenthesis, that what these, precious State reasons are, some of the ablest men living have been trying these last two years in Parliament and out of it, to find out, but alas, in vain. Towards the close of the year 1899 the matter rests exactly where it was when Mr. Parekh asked his questions in December, 1897. Indeed, the Hon'ble Mr. Mehta practically asked the same questions that Mr. Parekh had done, and he was referred to answers given to the latter which, however, were not understood at that time!

The man who invented dynamite thought that he was conferring an obligation on mankind by his invention. But the Evil One willed it otherwise. When Hiram Maxim presented his gun to the world, it was feared or hoped that, as no army would venture to face such a deadly weapon, war would naturally come to an end. But men are yet fighting. If Hiram failed, Isham, however, is likely to succeed, if all that is claimed for his invention is justified by fact. His invention, which has just succeeded in passing the test, may do what the Maxim gun failed. Elsewhere will be found an account of Isham's invention. He can, by his invention, destroy any ship or city, single handed. This rivals the missile which Bulwer describes in his "Coming Man." If Isham's invention comes out successful, the naval Powers will have to build their ships on new methods. It is said that if Admiral Cervera had a knowledge of this invention, he could have destroyed the entire American fleet without his own being hurt in the least.

News by the mail goes to show that the position in the Transvaal is growing more serious. War is imminent and hostilities may commence sooner than anticipated. Here in India every arrangement is being made for sending out troops. The Government have asked the B. I. S. N. Co. how far they would be able to help them in this matter of transport. In reply, the Company has sent in a list of the ships which they would be able to place at the disposal of the Government for that purpose. But this is not all. All preliminary arrangements are being made in Bombay also. Enquiries have been made by the Royal Indian Marine officials from the various shipping companies as to the number of ships available and the fittings required for them. With regard to the despatch of the first contingent of troops from India to the Cape, besides the two transports of the Indian Marine, the Clive and the Caning—some twelve or fifteen other vessels will be required. Each cavalry regiment and battalion of infantry, with its accompaniment of Field Hospital, horses and baggage, requires two average-sized steamers, while an artillery battery requires one steamer. So far as the Indian Marine and British India Company are concerned there is a sufficiency of fittings for each available vessel. For such others as may be required, Government stores will be indentured upon and the supply of material and labour, beyond the capacity of the Government Dockyard, will be contracted for by the various dockyard companies in Bombay. To carry the whole contingent about thirty steamers will be required.

The *Western Daily Mercury* contains a letter from the pen of Mr. William Digby, our good friend in England, who had so long been connected with the work of the Congress. The letter speaks for itself. Mr Digby is not a sentimentalist; he is only an intelligent Englishman who has been able to fathom the mysteries of British rule in India. We doubt whether there are half-a-dozen men



in England who know as much of the internal affairs of India as Mr. Digby does. In the letter there is an opinion expressed with which we fully agree, namely, that this condition of things has been brought about not intentionally. Intentionally or unintentionally, that is not the question here. The real question is, is Mr. Digby correct in his facts and conclusions? If so, the methods ought to be changed, not only in the interests of the Indians but also in those of England. Here is Mr. Digby's letter:—

THE FREQUENT FAMINES IN INDIA.

WHAT ARE THEIR CAUSES? Sir,—The telegrams which from day to day appear in your columns on the impending famine in India make me hopeful that you will think it well to devote some of your space and attention to certain questions concerning the chronic condition of famine which prevails in India.

Why is it that alone in the British Empire, India is continually in a famine-stricken condition? The ready reply will be—"Of course, the famines are caused because the rains fail, and they fail very frequently." In one sense this remark is true; in another it is wholly untrue. India has not, until in comparatively recent years, been subject to famines recurring with more and more frequency until the condition of vast portions of the country is prevailing famine-stricken.

Why, to widen the inquiry, is it that, among countries ruled according to civilised ideas, in India alone famine should have become chronic? My answers to the two questions I have asked can only find expression in the following most grievous conclusions, for each one of which I have only too great an array of official proofs:—

1. There is in India, a deep and deepening poverty all over the Continent save in certain restricted areas, such as the world has never before seen on so vast a scale. (This "deep and deepening poverty" is the necessary outcome of our principles of rule. Bishop Heber, in his day, saw what was coming, and sounded a note of warning. It is not too much to say that we have brought about this condition of things—not, of course, intentionally, very far from intentionally, but all the same we have done it.)

2. The greater frequency of famines now, as compared with preceding centuries, is owing to explainable and remediable causes: the remedy is hard, and each year it is postponed, grows harder. 3. The people of India are yearly becoming poorer and consequently more enfeebled, and wanting in stamina. One result is that, from fever alone, there have been more additional and preventable deaths in India during a period of eight years than there have been deaths from all the wars in every part of the world during the past hundred years. (For every death from fever, says an official publication, there are twenty deaths from the disease.)

4. We have destroyed the industrial system, an all-sufficing system, built up through the experience of ages, of one-sixth of the population of the world. (It is not an accident that our own industrial system has benefited by the destruction of Indian industries.)

5. The internal and external trade of India has been monopolised by foreigners, who have no abiding interest in the country in the sense of making it their home, and who (not improperly from a trader's point of view—very improperly from the standpoint of the Empire) have been driven to the land and the people only for what profit they can make out of them.

6. Irish absentee landlordism has been made a mere trifle, unworthy of consideration, by such tremendous responsibilities having been incurred in England on account of India as to take annually, from the last named country, to spend in this country, more than the whole land rental of the Indian Empire.

7. So vast an army of interested individuals has been created under our mode of administration, that eight years ago I am away from my authorities, and do not know the latest figures, but they are certainly to the higher fifty-three millions of rupees were paid in England for "non-effective services."

For these, and for many other reasons arising out of existing conditions created by our own rule, is India the most distressed country in the wide continent of the British Empire, if not of the world. Far above and beyond all the subjects which will be discussed by religious, scientific, and social organisations during the coming autumn is this great subject of the condition of India. And it may be said, without fear of contradiction, it is the one subject which, if regarded at all, will be regarded in the spirit of the priest and the levity of the parable, and be severely left alone. Meanwhile Indian suffering will go on increasing.

WILLIAM DIGBY.

Author of "The Famine Campaign in Southern India," London, 1876-78.

6, The Beacon, Exmouth, August 6, 1899.

We hope the letter will not evoke resentment, for it is written by an Englishman who is not interested in posing as a philanthropist. Mr. Digby's letter suggests, not only disaster but eventual ruin.

It would be a bad beginning for the new Municipal measure, if, when introduced, the Indians, as the *New Age* supposes, refuse to take any part in its working. We, however, think that there is no chance of the Indians standing aloof. Of course, the old Commissioners will be incapacitated, from the very humiliation to which they were subjected by Sir A. Mackenzie, to stand again. Neither is it likely that any man of position will care to stand and face public resentment, considering that the measure has evoked a good deal of indignation. But yet there are many, who were never recognised before in society as men of position, who will find in this an opportunity of cutting a figure and securing an invitation to say, a *Khulas* party. We know there are many men who will sacrifice much to enjoy the honour of a talk with the Lieutenant-Governor. These men, not recognised by society as leaders, but recognized as such by the Government, will cut a figure indeed! In days gone by, a Hindu monarch wanted a lac of Brahmins for a religious ceremony. But such a large number of Brahmins was not forthcoming. To obviate this difficulty, the king created the required number of Brahmins by having some non-Brahmins invested with the sacred thread. But a Brahmin cannot be created; a sacred thread will not make a Brahmin of a non-Brahmin. For the Brahmins had, by discipline and culture, made themselves inaccessible to superior. So, these newly-created Brahmins found themselves "just as a heron finds himself in the midst of geese," as the Sanskrit simile has it. Of course, these newly-created Brahmins gradually fell into contempt, and they came to be styled Babhans instead of Brahmins. These Babhans now form a large class; they have their sacred thread no doubt, but they are cultivators and are altogether inferior men and considered low-caste. The Government will possibly create by this measure a class of Babhans in Calcutta.

POONA appears to be a doomed city. Plague, which has been raging furiously is doing its deadly work—carrying off hundreds daily. Thousands have already left the town, and hundreds are daily leaving it. Indeed, once a noisy and busy city, it has now assumed a lonely and lifeless appearance. The spirit saddens at

the harrowing spectacles, which have become so common. A correspondent of the *Times* of India thus relates some such instances:—

At one place I saw standing in the street a bullock wagon, and knowing it waited a patient for the hospital, I went down the entry near by and threaded my way among the houses to where a group of men stood silent at the door. I looked in. The bright sunlight outside made the darkness of the interior more visible. At last when my eyes had grown accustomed to the light, I saw the patient stretched upon the floor—dead. His wife, an old woman, and two or three children were kneeling by. There was no noise, and, perhaps on that account the scene was the more touching. The room, for more properly speaking, the den, contained a few ragged blankets and a few pots and pans. A primitive cradle, with a sleeping baby in it, was slung from the ceiling. The air was fetid, and I came away wondering how many of the family would see another week.

One of the medical officers going his rounds heard a child crying loudly, and going to see what was the matter, found a hungry little one clinging to its dead mother. The body of the father was lying by her side. There have been many cases like this.

It is a puzzle to the writer, who is evidently an Englishman that these people should actually prefer dying in their own dirty places to going to the clean, bright segregation camps. When asked to be removed, their answer is always the same—"Why can I not be permitted to die here?"

WE learn, on the authority of a Dacca paper, that the charge, under section 211 I. P. C., against Babu Kali Prasanna Ray Chowdhury and his Mohuri, in connection with the now notorious Munshigunj theft case, will come up for hearing before the Assistant Magistrate of Dacca on the 4th proximo.

THAT the Bengalees are making considerable progress in the study of sciences goes without saying. The achievements of Professors Bose and Ray are too well known to be recapitulated. The experiments in wireless telegraphy tried in Agra College by Professor Nagendra Chandra Nag with a coherer made by himself have been very successful. A distance of 108 yards was tried and the response was prompt. This is in continuation of the work which Professor Nag was carrying out in conjunction with Mr. O'Reilly of the Government Telegraph Office. We offer our hearty congratulations to Professor Nag on his success, and hope to see him make further progress in experimental science.

INDIA-RUBBER is destined to prove a great life-saving agency, if all that is claimed for it by Mr. Charles Janet, of Beauvais, in France, be true. We are told that it has been ascertained by experiment that little India-rubber balloons are capable of supporting in the water persons who cannot swim. Nor is this all again. When a swimmer has been caught by a wave or eddy and submerged, these balloons are very effective in quickly bringing him to the surface. Mr. Janet's apparatus is a "very little thing," being a little balloons rolled up in a yard of cord, and not too bulky to be carried in a lady's purse. In case of need, the balloons are to be inflated to about half their full capacity, as in that condition they offer the greatest resistance to the action of the waves.

THE *Malvatiya* has described an incident that occurred at the last meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council, deserving public notice. Some time ago, the Hon'ble Mr. Chatter of Belgaum had in a speech delivered at a public meeting held by the Belgaum authorities, protested against the invidious distinction between Europeans and Indians of about equal status, living in the same localities and under similar circumstances, in respect of the consequences of not getting inoculated. Now, His Excellency had happened somehow to obtain and read a perverted report of Mr. Chatter's speech. He then called for an official report from the Collector of Belgaum, when the latter informed His Excellency that the Hon'ble Mr. Chatter was obstructing the plague measures there. And what did His Excellency do? He took care to bring with him the report when he came to the Council meeting, no doubt with the object of confronting Mr. Chatter with it. Indeed, His Excellency read out the report at the Council meeting and called for an explanation from the Hon'ble member then and there. Now, as a matter of fact, Mr. Chatter had done nothing of the kind, with which he has been charged. He had simply ridiculed the Belgaum authorities, for having made invidious distinction between Europeans and Indians as stated above. This, the officials had taken too much to heart, and they had, in their perturbed state of mind, penned the report which led Lord Sandhurst to adopt so extraordinary a course, not quite in keeping with his dignified position. Referring to this incident, the Poona paper remarks:—"What we want to notice however, is the introduction of the method of bullying Hon'ble members in open Council introduced by Lord Sandhurst on which he presided; and we are sure that this action of His Excellency will be long remembered."

DYSENTERY seems to be the disease whose ravages now cause most anxiety to the Jail Surgeons of India. Last year there was not a single case of cholera reported from any of the prisons in the North-West Provinces and Oudh. But to balance this remarkable immunity the returns of dysentery were grave; while the Punjab Jail Superintendents have also to complain of the increase of cases of this disorder.

ACCORDING to information which has reached the Government of India no Europeans were at the Quetta Brewery at the time when the attack was made on it. Ten men in all are now reported as killed, or having died of their wounds. The assailants have not been traced, and it is still uncertain who they were; but suspicion rests on a gang of Jafir Khan, who committed several daring crimes in the Quetta District in 1897, and have since been living in Afghan territory.

PASTEUR'S system of seed selection and rearing is the best remedy for the silk industry against the dire disease perbrine. In Bengal the application of the system cannot but be hailed with delight. In the districts of Malda and Rajshaye the adoption of this system has, we are glad to learn, been given trial and has proved successful. In Berhampore also, trials have been made, but on a small scale, with the same result. It is now hoped that this system will be more generally adopted leading to a rapid expansion of an ancient industry.

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HIGH COURT RECESS.—The annual vacation commences on September 8th, and the High Court will remain closed until November 18th. It is probable that Justices Sale and Stanley, will act as Vacation Judges.

A SERIOUS OFFENCE.—A case is now pending in the Court of Babu Shamadhub Ray, Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly, in which a jail warden stands charged with having criminally assaulted the wife of a prisoner, in the Hooghly Jail. The story of the prosecution is, that the woman had gone to see her husband in jail when the offence was committed.

BALLIGHATTA SHOOTING CASE.—The case in which one Mr. Martin, Chief Engineer of the Guide British Refrigerator Company at Ballighattha stand charged with having shot at one Mr. Driscoll, an Engineer under him, with a revolver, came on for hearing before Mr. P. N. Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, on Tuesday last. The case stands adjourned to the 5th proximo.

CROP PROSPECTS.—Rainfall during the week has been general, but moderate. The reports from Chota Nagpur are better. The winter rice crop is generally doing well, but in Orissa more rain is still wanted, and conditions in Angul, though somewhat improved, are still threatening. The harvesting of early rice and jute crops is going on. The price of common rice shows no important change during the week. Fodder is generally sufficient, and cattle are for the most part in good condition.

OUTRAGING THE MODESTY OF A WIDOW.—A Konnagar correspondent writes to a vernacular paper, "A complaint has been filed in the court of the Sub-Divisional Officer of Serampur, charging a young man, with the above offence. The widow was on her way home, after having bathed in the Ganges, when she was caught hold of by the accused and forcibly dragged to a garden, near by. Accused soon after bolted, she, having, raised a hue and cry, and immediately called for help."

THE SAMASTIPUR MURDER CASE.—The case in which George Albert Strover stood charged with the murder of Mary Foden at Samastipur was concluded the other day before Mr. Justice Hill and a special jury at the High Court criminal sessions. The jury returned an unanimous verdict of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, the prisoner having no intention to cause death though he had knowledge that his act was likely to cause death. His Lordship, in passing sentence, said that the offence the prisoner had committed was a very serious one and was closely allied to the graver offence of murder. The sentence of the Court was that the accused be rigorously imprisoned for ten years.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A serious accident occurred on the Assam-Bengal Railway during the small hours of Saturday morning last to the mail train from Chandpur to Chittagong. Happily no passengers were injured, but a good deal of damage was done to the rolling stock and road. The cause of this accident is unknown at present, but the effect was alarming. Next to the engine came 14 wagons and a brakevan; of these, ten were completely smashed up or overturned on either side of the rails, some down the embankment into several feet of water, but the majority simply telescoped. The brake immediately in front of the 1st class passengers was crumpled up like a matchbox, and the front pair of wheels of the "boggy" were derailed. Beyond the immediate shock and consequent alarm at what happened and what might have happened the passengers did not suffer.

A CAT-EATING SNAKE.—A Khulna correspondent writes: "A small crowd was collected near the premises of the Zillah School to witness an exciting spectacle—a fight between a huge cobra and two cats. The two latter were no match for their adversary and it is a wonder why they went on fighting, when they might have easily made good their escape. Perhaps their martial spirit, combined with their sporting instincts, prevented them from taking this disgraceful course. Be that as it may, after half-an-hour's fight, one of the cats was caught by the cobra in its mouth, and was devoured in no time. Its comrade far from being daunted at this, displayed all the more energy to fight out its enemy, but in vain. It met the fate of its friend. The spectators got infuriated at the conduct of the cobra. They attacked it with clubs and blows, fell upon it in showers. The heavy meal it had just taken perhaps made it rather lethargic, at least it showed little disposition either to fight or to make a precipitate retreat. When it was killed, its stomach was ripped open, and out came the dead bodies of the two cats."

So far the only business for the Legislative Council to-morrow is the passing of the Presidency Banks Bill and the Central Provinces Tenancy Amendment Bill. The proclamation for want of which the Currency Bill was postponed at the last meeting, has not yet arrived from England, and it is quite possible the Bill will have to be further postponed.

The hearing of the outrage case commenced at Rangoon on the 28th before the Recorder, sitting as Sessions Judge with nine jurors. Mr. Fox, Government Advocate, opened the case. He decided the defence now set up, that the woman was a consenting party. The story told by the defence was, he said, impossible. Several witnesses were examined and the case adjourned.

"GAZETTE OF INDIA"

THE services of Lieutenants Pennington, 12th Bengal Cavalry, and Leslie, 4th Lancers, Hyderabad Contingent, are placed, at the disposal of the Burma Government for employment in the Military Police.

Mr. Dease, Executive Engineer, has been granted an extension of his 22 months' furlough for two months.

Mr. Colebrook, Executive Engineer, Burma, officiates as Superintending Engineer, vice Mr. Benton, on leave.

The privilege leave granted to Mr. Swetenham, Examiner of P. W. D. Accounts, Burma, has been commuted to leave on medical certificate for nine months.

The services of Captain C. Boileau, 5th Bengal Cavalry, are lent to Bombay for plague duty.

Mr. Whitby Smith, officiating Superintendent, Bombay Central Telegraph Office, has taken over charge of the Meteorological Office from Mr. Towers, on privilege leave.

Mr. Brereton is posted as Deputy Accountant-General of the North-West Provinces and Oudh.

INDIA GAZETTE.

Mr. H. J. BRERETON is posted as Deputy Accountant-General, North-Western Provinces and Oudh.

Mr. Mohini Kanta Ghatak is granted privilege leave for one month and twelve days.

Mr. J. Bridgell, a Superintendent in the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, is appointed to officiate as a Supernumerary Chief Superintendent in that office.

The following reversions and promotions of officers of the Accountant Department are notified:

With effect from the 10th July 1899.—Mr. W. H. Dawson to officiate in class III of the Enrolled List instead of in class III of Accountants General.

Mr. J. J. Cotton to officiate in class III instead of in class II. Messrs. J. A. Robertson and K. B. Wagle to revert to class IV. Mr. F. D. Gordon to officiate in class V instead of in class IV, and Mr. J. S. Milne to revert to class VI of the Enrolled List.

With effect from the 17th July 1899, in consequence of the grant of privilege leave to Mr. A. G. Chuckerbutty,—

Mr. W. H. Dawson to officiate in class II, Mr. J. J. Cotton to officiate in class III, Messrs. J. A. Robertson and K. B. Wagle to officiate in class IV, and Mr. J. S. Milne to officiate in class V, of the Enrolled List.

With effect from the 27th July 1899, in consequence of the grant of privilege leave to Mr. E. Lawrence,—Mr. T. H. Biggs to officiate in class II, and Mr. M. F. Gauntlett to officiate in class III, of Accountants General.

Mr. A. H. Anthony, to officiate in class II, Mr. G. C. Ray, to officiate in class III, Mr. U. L. Majumdar, to officiate in class IV, and Mr. R. Waterfield, to officiate in class V, of the Enrolled List.

With effect from the 28th July 1899, in consequence of the grant of privilege leave to Mr. J. J. Cotton,—Mr. G. D. Pudumjee to officiate in class II, Mr. M. A. Hydar, to officiate in class III, Mr. W. H. E. Mellor to officiate in class IV, and Mr. J. S. Chakravarti to officiate in class V, of the Enrolled List.

With effect from the same date, in consequence of the grant of privilege leave to Mr. L. J. W. Worgan,—Mr. P. G. Jacob, to officiate in class V, of the Enrolled List.

With effect from the 29th July 1899, in consequence of the grant of privilege leave to Mr. R. A. Gamble,—Mr. W. H. Michael to officiate in class II, and Mr. G. D. Pudumjee to officiate in class III, of Accountants General.

Mr. W. D. E. Cowley to officiate in class II, Mr. K. L. Datta to officiate in class III, Messrs. L. J. W. Worgan and J. C. Mitra to officiate in class IV, and Mr. G. C. Hart to officiate in class V, of the Enrolled List.

THE position in the Central Provinces continues to improve, the affected districts having had excellent rain during the past few days. The whole of Guzerat and Rajputana, on the other hand, is still rainless and famine in this area seems now almost inevitable. The Deccan also continues to do badly, but rain may yet save the situation there to a large extent.

AN unfortunate accident occurred on the 8th August to the raft which works across the Hunza River close to its junction with the Gilgit River to connect Gilgit with the village of Dewal and the Bagrot Valley. A party of three men and a woman and child were on board the raft in addition to the rafterman. The raft struck on a rock in midstream and was overturned, and all the passengers were drowned, the rafterman alone escaping by means of one of the skins, after being carried some four miles down the Gilgit River.

On the 24th instant at Thall Mr. Rennie, officiating Deputy Commissioner of Kohat, interviewed the Shabar, Khel (Waziri) jirga. The notorious Gulbat and 23 other Shabar Khels were present, and three of the most important cases outstanding against them were brought up for settlement, viz. (1) the return of outlaws to the Shabar Khel Kots in contravention of the conditions imposed at the time of the expedition last May; (2) the abduction of the daughter of the Malik of Chappri from British territory on the 24th June; and (3) Gulbat's recent expedition to the Laimush country, which resulted in the death of a Thall villager, who was killed during the pursuit by the Border Military Police and a local chigha party.

Gulbat, who was the chief spokesman, admitted the commission of these offences and agreed with respect to the first case to pay the fine inflicted by the Government and to expell all outlaws within 48 hours under penalty of an enhanced fine. As regards the abduction of the Malik's daughter Gulbat expressed his inability to surrender the girl who had been carried off by some Khattik outlaws who at that time were his adherents but who had subsequently left him owing to a quarrel and taken up their abode with the Umarzais. He pointed out that the raid on the Umarzais committed by him on the 19th instant was made with the object of recovering the abducted girl, but failing in that he carried off 17 camels, 100 goats and 20 cattle belonging to the clan, and he offered to hand over this loot to the Government in settlement for his responsibility for the offence. In the third case it was proposed to recover "blood-money" for the man killed according to custom. The jirga was then dismissed and the orders of the Government on the proposals are awaited.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

MR. SARHAWAT HOSSEIN, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Bhagalpur, is appointed to act as Personal Asst to the Commr of the Bhagalpur Div.

Mr. Behari Lal Gupta, Dist and Sess Judge, Burdwan, is also appointed temporarily to be Addl Sess Judge of Bhagalpur.

Mr. A. J. Chotner, Offl Jt-Magte, and Dy Collr, Gobindpur, is, allowed leave for three months.

Babu Prasanna Kumar Karmarmah, Dy Magte and Dy Collector, Manbhum, is appointed to have charge of the Gobindpur sub-div.

Babu Monmotho Coomarr Bose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Jessore, is transferred to Dacca.

The following acting promotions are sanctioned in the grades of Magtes and Collrs, until further orders:—

To act in the first grade. Mr. C. G. H. Allen and Mr. J. Clark.

To act in the second grade. Mr. Satis Chandra Mukerjee.

The following promotions and confirmations are made in the Executive Branch of the Provincial Civil Service:—

Promoted substantively to the second grade. Mr. Chundra Nath Bannerjee.

Promoted substantively in the third grade. Maulvi Syud Fatauddin Hosain, Babu Ram Narain Bannerjee and Babu Bagala Prasanna Mazumdar.

Confirmed in the fourth grade.

Babu Atal Behary Moitra and Maulvi Syed Mahomed.

Promoted sub pro tem to the fourth grade. Maulvi Syed Mahomed and Mr. J. S. Davidson.

Confirmed in the fifth grade.

Babu Mon Mohun Roy, Babu Khirode Chandra Sen and Babu Lalit Kumar Das.

Promoted sub pro tem to the fifth grade. Babus Prakash Chunder Roy, Umesh Chander Sen, Jnan Sankar Sen, Gopal Bullab Das, Purna Chandra Chaudhuri, and Jamin Mohan Das.

Confirmed in the sixth grade.

Mr. L. T. R. Lucas, Babu Ashootosh Bhattacharjee, Mr. J. A. Craven, Babu Pyari Mohan Basu, and Babu Siva Sankar Singh.

Promoted sub pro tem to the sixth grade. Babus Satis Chunder Sen, Sirram Chandra Bose, Jagat Chandra Roy, and Haris Chander Rai.

Confirmed in the seventh grade.

Babus Rajkishore Das, Romani Mohun Das, Bhabani Prasad Neogi, Basanto Kumar Raha, and Nogendra Nath Mitra.

Promoted sub pro tem to the seventh grade. Maulavi Wajehuddin Ahmed, and Babu Hem Chunder Chatterjee.

Babu Hariprada Banerjee, Special Sub-Registrar of Rajshahi, is allowed leave for six months.

Babu Kalipada Banerji, Rural Sub-Registrar, Rampur Hat, is appointed to act as Special Sub-Registrar of Rajshahi.

Mr. Mahomed Zahoor, Bar-at-Law, is appointed to act until further orders, as a Munisif of Barisal.

Babu Uma Charan Kur, Munisif of Purlia, on furlough, is appointed to be Munisif of Chabassa also.

Mr. A. S. M. Ziaur Rahman, Offl Munisif of Purlia, is appointed to act as Munisif of Chabassa also.

The Munisif of Gobindapur, is vested with the powers of a Magte of the third class.

Babu Muvir Mistr sub pro tem Sub Dy Collr, Cuttack, is posted to the Kendrapara sub-div.

Babu Amrita Lal Gupta, sub pro tem Sub Dy Collr, Jhenida, is allowed leave for fifty-one days.

Maulvi Afzalur Rahaman, sub pro tem Sub Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to the Chittagong Div.

Babu Deno Nath Chuckerbutty, Sub Dy Collr, Chota Nagpur Div, is posted to the Giridih sub-div.

Babu Nagendra Lal Mitra, Sub Dy Collr, Giridih, is transferred to the Meherpur sub-div.

PLAGUE NEWS.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THERE were nine cases and nine deaths in Calcutta distributed over the different wards as follows:—1 and 1 in No. 2; 1 and 1 in No. 6; 1 and 1 in No. 8; 1 and 1 in No. 9; 1 and 1 in No. 11; 2 and 2 in No. 19; and 2 and 2 in No. 22.

BOMBAY FIGURES.

THE plague attacks on Tuesday number eight and plague deaths 22, the total mortality being 112. Last year it was 108, and in 1897, 128. The mortality for the week was 708, and deaths from plague, were 96, an increase of 32 in the latter, and 73 in the total.

HAFFKINE'S SERUM.

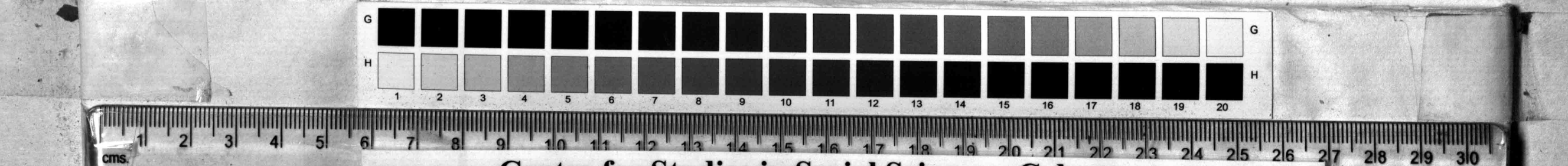
IN reference to the demand for Professor Haffkine's prophylactic serum in England, the Government of India have been asked the cost of supplying from 50,000 to 100,000 doses and the earliest date at which this quantity could be despatched. It was also desired to know if in case of need 50,000 doses a week could be sent to London. Russia desires to obtain a considerable stock for Port Arthur. Italy has been making inquiries for home use and Portugal in order to inoculate at Mozambique. At present the laboratory can only turn out 10,000 doses per day, and if India and Europe are to be supplied the new laboratory will have to be rapidly increased to about three times the size it is at present. Last week 70,000 doses were despatched to Hubli, and 10,000 the week before to Mauritius.

POONA STATISTICS.

THERE were 165 cases and 147 deaths in the city on the 29th, the total mortality being 174. In the Cantonment there were nine cases and four deaths and in the suburban area five cases.

MR. WALLINGER has arrested nine men in connection with the three dacoities recently reported in Dhandhuka Taluka. The Ahmedabad police also have arrested seven men at Jalala, eleven at Pandana and nine at Panvi.

ANOTHER riot occurred at Panvi village in the Rampoor Taluka. Some Kathiawadi people were grazing their cattle within the village limits which the village people wanted to prevent, and hence, a scuffle, took place. One grazer was killed outright and one man was severely wounded and is in a precarious condition.



THE PARIS EXHIBITION

ITS PRINCIPAL FEATURES

A PARIS correspondent writes:—The Exhibition of 1900 is slowly advancing toward completion. Already its principal buildings, some of them possessing a solidity scarcely excelled by the Madeleine itself, have begun to assume the form they will wear on the opening day. A group of stone palaces, the finest of which is to contain pictures and sculpture both ancient and modern, have reared their heads above the foliage of the Champs Elysees, and their red roofs have become conspicuous landmarks when viewed from the Palace de la Concorde. Beyond the Seine progress is not quite so apparent, for here stacks of iron framework take the place of buildings.

A stroll through the various quarters of the exhibition reveals a maze of scaffolding and steam cranes, of huge stone blocks undergoing the process of cutting and shaping, of pile after pile of planks heaped in promiscuous groups, and, dominating all, the steady screech of the big two handed saws as they cleave their way through wood and stone. For a considerable space round the Palais des Beaux Arts the ground is carpeted with a thick layer of white dust, an eloquent testimony to the amount of stone which has been used in constructing the walls and fluted columns of the handsome building.

A BIT OF OLD PARIS

As the Eiffel Tower was the principal feature of the show of 1889, so the honors of 1899 will be divided between the Great Wheel and the Bridge of Alexander III. To Parisians the former is an amusing novelty. The slender spokes and slowly revolving cars have not yet become the familiar sight they are to Londoners. The Alexander Bridge, or rather its iron frame-work, already spans the Seine, and not many months will elapse before its handsome approaches are thronged with traffic. Near it, on the river bank, has been built a street of medieval Paris, containing a typical church, the beam and plaster houses the battlements and belfry which we are accustomed to associate with a fifteenth century town. This sample of a past age is almost completed, and when viewed from the deck of a Seine steamer its old-world water front and quaint gables recall memories of Joan of Arc and her mail-clad soldiery. Very different in appearance and association are the buildings which surround the Champ de Mars. Here is the home of electricity in its various adaptations of the spinning jenny and the power loom. Here stand buildings destined for exhibits of the world's mines, and samples of minerals drawn from the two hemispheres. Here, too, will be shown the triumphs of civil engineering, and not the least conspicuous object in a conspicuous show, the Galerie des Machines, the huge expanse and sober coloring of which recall the exhibition of the eighties. The centre of the Champ de Mars has been planted with turf and trees which form a cool oasis in the midst of a wilderness of stone and iron. Rearing its head toward the sky till stands our old friend, the Eiffel Tower, dominating the Trocadero opposite, of which the sloping park has been handed over to the tender mercies of carpenter and mason. Dust and wooden fences, relieved here and there by a half-completed house of brick throw into relief a cluster of boardings which announce an Algerian panorama and African desert scenes, as an earnest of what next year's visitors may expect. To-day the site presents too much the appearance of a scrap-heap which the builders men are clearing to make way for semi-detached villas.

A BOER FARM

Beyond this quarter, which is contiguous to the Japanese session, is the ground apportioned to extra European exhibitors. A pagoda, dazzling white, peeps forth from a grove of trees, and behind it Russian workmen in red tunics and high boots are busy hammering at a wooden framework which is to contain the products of Irkutsk and Tiumen. In this neighbourhood, too, the Transvaal Government has secured a site for a Boer farm, where Parisians may watch the process of a "inspiring oxen, and may inhale the fumes of Boer tobacco. Beneath the shadow of the Trocadero will appear the exhibits of India and the British colonies. To Great Britain herself a quarter has been assigned on the Quaid' Orsay, opposite "Le Vieux Paris." It is, however, somewhat depressing to observe that while the flags of other Powers flutter proudly in conspicuous positions proclaiming to all the world the nationality of the buildings they protect, the British Empire is represented by a solitary and rather seedy red ensign, placed behind a line of trees, striving, by the modest way it hides its head, to shun the observation of passers-by. Doubtless, however, this defect will be soon remedied.

HUNTING THE MYLONON IN FLESH OR FOSSIL

THE appetite of the zoological world has been very much whetted of late by the news of the discovery in South Patagonia of a portion of mammalian skin which, it is conjectured, may once have formed part of a genuine Mylodon, or ground sloth. This interesting animal says F. P. S. in the Westminster Gazette, has long been supposed to be extinct, and its re-appearance in the wilds of South America would create a sensation as pronounced almost as if a Great Bustard had again swooped down upon Cavenham Heath or a Large Copper been brought to the net in the neighbourhood of Whittlesea Mere. To use a departmental expression, some further tidings of the Mylodon—whether in flesh or fossil—are just now very much "wanted," and besides Mr. H. S. H. Cavendish, the well-known traveller, who has gone forth with confidence to shoot one for the authorities at South Kensington, Mr. George Davis and Mr. Scott, of Aberystwyth, are making tracks for the monster in the Patagonian forests at the instance of the Hon. Walter Rothschild, M. P., the owner of the famous museum at Tring.

The details of this important, and possibly sensational, discovery come from two different sources, and are somewhat conflicting. Dr. F. P. M. Moreno, who recently arrived in England, brought with him a portion of the skin (described as being as dry as leather, hairy, and thickly encrusted with some bony substance) which was found hanging in a tree, it being part of a much larger piece which some Argentine officers had dug up in a cavern several years previously. In close proximity were discovered some half-gnawed stumps of trees, an important clue to the identity of an animal which, unlike others of its species, did not climb the branches but simply raised them to the ground by means of its prodigious strength. Professor Moreno

believes that this fragment of skin belongs to the real Mylodon, and that it owes its present state of preservation to certain contributory circumstances which on other occasions have destroyed the potency of the effacing hand of time and weather. The skin has been exhibited before the Royal and Zoological Societies, where it had to pass under the review of some of the leading zoological and geological experts of the day.

On the other hand, Dr. Ameghino claims to have procured some of the skin from natives, who assured him that they shot the animal, and that owing to the bony lumps it had to be literally hacked from off the carcass. He regards it as a living representative of the Gravidigrads of Argentina, and has given to the name of Neo-Mylodon Listai. Be that, however, as it may, the animal in question is—or should be—about the size of a bear, and in many quarters the possibility that it may yet be found alive is hopefully regarded. If it is alive, it is scarcely possible that it will elude for long the vigilance of so keen and practised a big-game hunter as young Mr. Cavendish, whose name has been given to a new species of antelope which he recently discovered on his travels in Africa. Up to the present the Mylodon has only been found in a fossilized state, its remains having been brought to light in a pleistocene fluvialite deposit not far from the city of Buenos Ayres nearly sixty years ago. There is a complete skeleton, but nothing more substantial, in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, and there is an almost entire one in the Hunterian Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons. As a consequence, the efforts of those gentlemen who are endeavouring to establish its reality in the flesh are being watched with the closest interest.

As to the ordinary sloth, it has been thought by many that owing to the imperfect nature of its formation its existence must be a positive burden to itself, but this is far from being the case, as those know who have seen the agility which it displays in its native state in the forests of America, despite the unequal length of its arms and legs. True, it is absolutely helpless on terra firma—in fact, it can neither walk nor stand—but even that is excusable in the case of an animal that not only moves but also rests, and even sleeps in a state of suspension. Since the above was written news has reached England from Patagonia that several huge bones, entire skulls, powerful claws, and a complete hide of the animal have been discovered deep down in a cave by Dr. R. Hauthal, of the La-Plata Museum, who had also joined the ranks of the pursuers.

NOTES FROM THE GARDENING CIRCULAR

EXPERIMENTS WITH SUGARCANE SEEDS AND AUS-PADDY.—We are glad to direct the attention of the public to new varieties of sugarcane and aus-paddy that are being cultivated at the Sibpur Experimental Farm. The present variety of sugarcane is grown from seed, and eight or ten successive crops may be gathered from a single sowing. As for the variety of aus-paddy, it is in all other respects similar to the pre-existing varieties of aus, producing two crops at a single sowing; the difference lying only in the grains which are much better and finer than the former.

HOW TO PRESERVE FLOWERS.—Generally speaking there is no perfect method of preserving flowers which can be safely relied on. We, however, recommend our readers to try the following one which is taken from a foreign journal: "Moisten 1000 parts of fine white sand that has been previously well-washed and thoroughly dried and sifted with a solution consisting of 3 parts of Stearin, 3 parts of Paraffin, 3 parts of Salicylic acid and 100 parts of Alcohol. Work the sand up thoroughly, so that every grain of it is impregnated with the mixture, and then spread it out, and let it become perfectly dry. To use, place the flowers in a suitable box, the bottom of which has been covered with a portion of the prepared sand, and dust the latter over them, until all the interstices have been completely filled with it. Close the box tightly, and put in a place, where it can be maintained at a temperature of from 30° to 40° C. for two or three days. At the expiration of this time, remove the box, and let the sand escape. The flowers then can be put into suitable receptacles or glass cases without fear of deterioration. Flowers that have become wilted or withered before preparation, should have their colour freshened up by dipping into a suitable anilin solution.

HOT WATER CURE FOR MILDEW.—Hot water has for some time past been known as an insecticide. In a recent issue of the "Gardener's Chronicle" a correspondent bears testimony to the utility of hot water. He tried it with mildew, bug, and his experiments of it with Cacti have proved especially successful. It is a good method to apply it with syringe, as the force of the water washes away nearly all the eggs that may happen to occur on the plant. The water should be a little above tepid.

ROSES IN POTS.—It might benefit some of our readers to know that roses intended for pot-culture are best bought in pots, as plants in pots may, flower in the same season, while plants lifted from the ground generally receive a temporary check to their growth, when re-established after a certain period. After pruning and potting rose-grafts, it is advisable to place the plants in cool places for two or three weeks, which allows of the formation of roots.

PINE-APPLE FIBRE.—The pine-apple was long known to produce a kind of strong white fibre, which the natives utilised mostly in making nets and ropes. Some time ago the Honorable Mr. Buckingham of Amguri, Assam, sent a sample of fibre for report, to the Reporter on Economic Products who forwarded it to the Imperial Institute, London. From the reports of the authorities of the Institute, we are happy to learn that the fibre possesses good spinning qualities, and may be used in the manufacture of textile fabric. The present value of the fibre in London market is from £20—£25 per ton. The material, we believe, cannot at present be supplied in any very great quantity, as pine-apple, as far as we know, is not cultivated anywhere for its fibres. But here is a new line of industry, and enterprising gentlemen will do well to try the cultivation of pine-apple.

AT Amritsar a young man named Bhagwan Dass has been arrested on a charge of committing rape on a girl of six! The girl, when brought before the Magistrate, was bleeding and is now lying in hospital in a precarious condition. Later information states that the girl has died.

AN AMERICAN SUBMARINE STEAMER.

MR. SIMON LAKE, an American Engineer, is, says a transatlantic contemporary, going to cross the Atlantic on the bottom of the ocean with his new submarine boat, the Argonaut. A year ago he made a thousand mile trip on the bottom of Chesapeake Bay in his first submarine boat. This was the first long distance voyage in a submarine boat in the world's history. It was a realisation in part of the French novelist Jules Verne's Nautilus described in his famous book, "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea." It was the success of that voyage that encouraged Mr. Lake to undertake the world-startling feat of crossing the Atlantic in a submarine boat. Four months ago he began to rebuild his boat and make it an ocean-going craft, the like of which no marine architect had ever dreamed of before. The new submarine boat was made by cutting the old Argonaut in two, using the two parts as bow and stern, building an entirely new hull between and joining them together. This makes the boat twice as long as formerly, her present length over all being 66 feet.

Over her rounded, eel-like back has been built a steel superstructure, shaped like a steam yacht or light gunboat above the waterline. Above all towers her big turret amidships. This looks as if it might contain the formidable guns of a monitor. But its real use is for entrance into the ship, and for the pilot's wheel and outlook. It is built solidly of half-inch steel plates, in order to resist the tremendous pressure of the water at great depths. The ugly looking iron nose of the boat, just below the water line, looks like a warship's ramming head. But that, too, is misleading. It is a porthole protected by an inch thick glass, through which the vessel's search-light will sight her way among the wrecks and rocks at the bottom of the sea. On either side of this are two glistening greenish eyes, as big as a man's head. These also are glass portholes, through which the man on the lower outlook can keep a watch on things on both sides of the vessel. As to motive power, the Argonaut has, besides her propeller of regulation pattern, still another means of locomotion. On either side of her bows is a three-foot wheel, which acts also as a rudder. When the submarine boat settles down upon the bottom of the ocean the forward wheels are dropped down and used for driving wheels. In this way the vessel can race along at a greater speed than when on the surface of the water. The Argonaut's course across the Atlantic has not yet been mapped out in detail. It will take considerable study of ocean charts to do this. She will naturally keep as much as possible in shallow water. Where the ocean's floor sinks to a mile or two below the water surface, not even the Argonaut's steel shell could withstand the tremendous pressure of the water above weighing down like a mountain over her. For the first part of the train across the submarine voyagers will probably follow the Long Island and New England coast line, keeping only a few miles from the shore. The hard sand bottom of the ocean along the coast makes a splendid speeding ground for a craft like the Argonaut. She can drop her wheels down on the bottom and scorch along like an automobile on the seaside drive at Newport.

A good part of the way along the coast the Argonaut may be only one or two hundred feet below the surface. By day the water at this shallow depth will be lighted up to a beautiful pale green. The submarine voyagers will doubtless see strange sights along this favourite cruising ground for yachtsmen. There will be the hulls of many a fine boat from the Yacht Clubs of New York, Newport, and Boston that have gone down in September blows, in collisions, and in mysterious ways that will never be known. Who can tell what treasures may be picked up in this "No Man's Land" in which the Argonaut's crew will be the first explorers? They may come upon the big passenger steamship Portland that went down off Cape Cod last winter, carrying hundreds of people and a valuable cargo to the bottom. The Argonaut will continue northwards, skirting the New England and Nova Scotia coasts, and pass directly through the graveyard of ships of Sable Island, where 200 vessels have been caught in its shifting sand bars and wrecked.

Upon reaching the shallow water surrounding the British Isles the Argonaut will again dive. In this way she will avoid the dangers of coastwise shipping and storms—and have plenty of sea room. She will probably pass down through the Irish Sea to Liverpool. When she bobs up at the docks in that great shipping port she may be able to tell the British sailors something they do not know about their own coast line. The Argonaut's destination will be Paris, where she is to be exhibited during next year's International Exposition. On her way she will also show Englishmen how to cross the Channel without getting seasick, by simply submerging and crawling across the bottom. Just nine men will make this first submarine trip across the Atlantic according to present plans.

The interior arrangements of the Argonaut for her transatlantic trip will be almost as comfortable as on a steam yacht, and vastly more novel and interesting. In the bows will be the observation room, where the travellers may sit with the regular lookout, and glance ahead along the search-light's path on the sea bottom. Aft the cabin, and about half its size, is the operating room. Here is the fine apparatus that directs this wonderful vessel. There is the wheel in the centre, where the sailing master stands and steers by the compass above his head in the turret. At the Captain's side Mr. Lake, the inventor, will spend most of his time operating the levers and valves which control the diving motion of the vessel. By turning one of these valves he can fill the cylinders with water and go down to any required depth. A dial before his eye tells him at the same time just how far down he is going. Another dial indicates the angle at which the boat is moving, whether shooting downwards, upwards, or moving on a level.

A WELL-KNOWN Chetty is reported to have absconded from Rangoon. He made several large contracts to supply rice during August and September at Rs. 220 to Rs. 230 per one hundred baskets. The price of rice at present, however, is Rs. 280 and more per hundred baskets, and it is estimated that the Chetty's losses, if he stuck to his contracts, would amount to nearly a lakh or more, and this has led to his absconding.

INDIAN NEWS.

A TRANS-FRONTIER Pathan has been caught at Peshawar in possession of several rifle stocks.

For hundreds of years, in Malta, bee-stings have been considered a certain cure for rheumatism.

We learn from Bombay that the time for receiving tenders for the fifty lakhs loan has been extended to the 2nd of October.

It is settled that a bill to amend the Bombay Presidency Districts Municipal Act will soon be introduced in the local Council.

It is reported that the Postal Mail between Siyana and Bulandshahr was plundered on the night of the 21st instant. The Police are enquiring into the matter.

The pilgrim vessel Goa arrived in Bombay harbour at 12 noon on Monday. Eleven cases of Jigger were found among them and the patients were removed to hospital.

MAULVI GAFUR KHAN, British Agent at Kabul, who is returning to India, has had a farewell interview with the Amir, and found His Highness in excellent health.

The man Howard, who was arrested in Bombay a short time ago, and taken over to Rangoon under Police escort on a charge of criminal breach of trust, has been sentenced to a year's rigorous imprisonment.

FROM the 1st September next, the Bombay Tramway Company will charge a uniform fare of one anna over the Company's lines with the exception of the fare between Boree Bunder and Crawford Market, which will continue half-anna.

POISONING is becoming an alarmingly frequent crime in Rangoon, and the police are investigating several cases. The Thuggee case before the Rangoon Sessions, on Saturday last was adjourned for a week pending the hearing of the outrage case.

THE latest news from Quetta regarding the recent outrage states that the murderers were heard of on a neighbouring hill called Chitlan, and 200 men of the 26th Baluchis were ordered out to secure the hills and endeavour to capture them.

A SERIOUS gun accident occurred at Lonauli on Monday. A boy named Jones, son of a driver on the G. I. P. Railway, was accidentally shot in the mouth by another boy named Giles, who had a double-barrelled gun. The charge blew Jones's mouth and the side of the face away.

A SUMMONS has been issued upon the application of the Madras Government against N. A. Subramania Iyer and J. Dsantos, employees in the Military Accounts Department, Madras, who are now under suspension for bribery, extortion, etc., under circumstances which transpired in the recent defamation case.

THE seven prisoners of the West Kents, charged with outraging a woman on the 2nd April last, are being tried at the Criminal Sessions at Rangoon separately. The jury are all Europeans. Of the 44 witnesses for the prosecution, only nine have recorded evidence. The trial will probably be a very long one.

THE letter of the Inspector-General Police, N.W.P. asking the Lucknow Municipality to pay an additional sum of Rs. 10,000 for the maintenance of the Reserve Police Force was laid before the late meeting, the Board resolved that as the annual contribution of Rs. 57,000 was fixed by the Government as a permanent arrangement, the Board does not see its way to meet the increased demand.

MR. J. A. GRAD, a mining contractor at Yellandur in Hyderabad, who was arrested at Colombo, was brought to Madras and charged by Mr. G. E. Tyres, Engineer of the Singareni Collieries, with enticing away his wife and committing adultery. It appears that the run-aways eloped from Hyderabad to Madras, then proceeded to Pondicherry, whence they went to Colombo travelling under the name Godard. His Worship, ordered the accused Grad to be released on furnishing bail of Rs. 3,000.

THE Viceroy, Lady Curzon and the Misses Leiter will leave Simla on the 15th of proximo for a short trip to Narkanda and the Bagri forest and will be absent from the station about ten days. Colonel Sandbach, Military Secretary, during the same period pays a flying visit to several stations in the plains in connection with the Viceroy's coming tour. Although the dates are not yet finally settled, it is practically certain that Lord Curzon will visit the centres already mentioned as probable.

THE following new order has been issued by the Madras Command Officers who pass the preliminary test in Chinese are permitted to proceed on leave to Peking for a period of one year for the purpose of studying the Pekinese dialect. The year's leave will commence from the date of embarkation for Rangoon, and will be inclusive of the time taken in making journeys to and from Peking. The leave will be granted by the General Officer commanding the Burma District, who will first ascertain that there is no regimental objection.

ON Sunday forenoon, about a quarter to twelve, whilst a thunderstorm was raging, a flash of lightning crashed through the roof of a barrack room in the lines of the 1st Scottish Rifles, killing Privates Braden and Low and injuring Privates Slackett, Foulger, House and Brackley, all of the 1st Scottish Rifles. The storm was particularly violent in cantonments, though comparatively slight in Civil Lines. The flash of lightning which proved so disastrous, occurred simultaneously with the clap of thunder, so that the centre of the storm must have been directly overhead.

TUESDAY'S Moulmein Advertiser says:—The Bengal raftsmen who convey round logs from Kado to the various saw mills in Moulmein are reported to have struck work. At the mouth of the Kado Creek there is a Forest Department station where the raftsmen have to give up their passes and receive permission to proceed with their rafts to Moulmein. It appears that last week, owing to the force of the current, some of the raftsmen were unable to halt at this station being carried away by the currents, and arrived at Moulmein without the formal permission referred to. The Deputy Conservator of Forests, on learning this, sent for the raftsmen promptly, but they somewhat unreasonably struck work. The consequence of this strike, unless matters are amicably settled will be that the saw mills will have to shut up, and one of them, we understand, has already closed as it has no timber to cut and cannot get any.

TELEGRAMS.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, AUG. 25.

Lord George Hamilton speaking at Deal said he feared that the threatened drought in India would require all the skill and attention of the Government to counteract it. He remarked that he began to feel the strain of thirty-one years of public life and would be glad to rest.

LONDON, AUG. 25.

The majority of newspapers manifest a feeling that the situation regarding the Transvaal is less favourable, and the next move, which rests with Great Britain, is awaited anxiously. In the meantime complete secrecy is maintained by Government in the matter.

LONDON, AUG. 26.

A Blue Book on the subject of the Transvaal arbitration question has been issued to-day. Mr. Chamberlain, in a despatch of 27th July last wherein he proposed a joined enquiry with regard to the franchise, said that if President Kruger agreed to the exclusion of the foreign element, Great Britain was willing to consider to what extent the questions relative to the interpretation of the Conventions between Great Britain and the Transvaal could be decided by some impartial judicial authority.

LONDON, AUG. 26.

Mr. Chamberlain, speaking at Birmingham this evening, said he regretted to announce that no progress had taken place in the negotiations between Great Britain and the South African republic. Great Britain, he declared, had exhibited a patience which was unparalleled in the relations between a paramount Power and a subordinate State.

The issues of peace or war were, he said, in the hands of President Kruger. He characterised the present situation as one that was too fraught with danger as well as too strained for indefinite postponement.

If delay continues the British Government will not hold itself limited by what it has already offered to the Transvaal Government, but will secure for Great Britain conditions for finally establishing herself as the paramount Power in South Africa.

In conclusion, Mr. Chamberlain said that if a rupture, which we have done everything to avoid, occurs, Great Britain is confident of the support of the whole empire.

LONDON, AUG. 26.

Telegrams from Lorenzo Marques state that much excitement prevails at Delagoa Bay. The Portuguese authorities are holding their troops in readiness, as they apprehend a sudden Boer raid for capturing the ports.

Several men suspected to be emissaries from the Transvaal have been arrested by the Portuguese.

LONDON, AUG. 26.

The whole sitting of the Court at Rennes was occupied yesterday in hearing the evidence of Mr. Bertillon. He demonstrated his theory by elaborate drawings and photographs that Captain Dreyfus in the bordereau imitated the handwriting of his brother Mathieu Dreyfus, and insisted that the prisoner was guilty. He maintained that Major Esterhazy was paid by a Syndicate since 1894 to imitate the writing of bordereau for the purpose of eventually, assuming himself its authorship and thus exculpating Captain Dreyfus. The evidence of M. Bertillon evoked perpetual bursts of laughter in the Court, but the General Staff attaches the greatest importance to it. It is believed that the Judges of the Court Martial will be influenced by M. Bertillon's evidence.

LONDON, AUG. 26.

A first real success has been scored for Captain Dreyfus to-day. Captain Freystatter, one of the Judges in 1894, emphatically declared that "a whole series of secret documents were communicated to the Court-martial which convicted Dreyfus. This fact has been hitherto denied by General Mercier and Colonel Maurel." The latter officer afterwards admitted that Captain Freystatter was right in his declaration.

ROME, AUG. 27.

A semi-official note issued to-day states that despite the intention of the Italian Government to keep the negotiations between Italy and China within peaceful commercial lines, complications may arise if China meets the moderate demands of Italy by persistent refusals.

LONDON, AUG. 28.

The Transvaal Government, in reply to Mr. Chamberlain's last despatch, have notified that they adhere to their latest offer, and decline to make further concessions.

CAPE TOWN, AUG. 29.

It is understood that a detachment from the Cape Town garrison will proceed immediately to Mafeking, and that also a strong force will go from Maritzburg to Laingsnek to await further developments.

NEW YORK, AUG. 29.

President McKinley, addressing the troops at Pittsburg, returning from the Philippines, eulogized in glowing terms the conduct of all forces, and declared there would be no parleying with the insurgents until the insurrection was suppressed.

LONDON, AUG. 29.

The statement that a part of the Capetown garrison proceeds to Mafeking immediately is premature.

LONDON, AUG. 29.

At to-day's sitting of the Capetown House of Assembly Mr. Schreiner, Colonial Secretary, was attacked for allowing quantities of arms and munitions destined for Bloemfontein to pass over the Cape Railways.

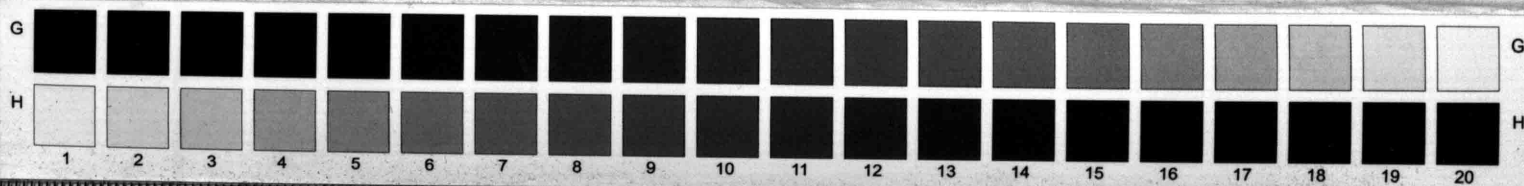
Mr. Schreiner strongly repudiated the charge of disloyalty levelled at him, and affirmed that it was impossible for him to act otherwise than he did.

He read a spontaneous telegram from the president of the Orange Free State denying the malicious reports which had been current that the Orange Free State thought of taking up arms against the British Government. They would only do so in self-defence or to enforce treaty obligations.

BERLIN, AUG. 29.

The Koelnische Zeitung in an inspired article has confirmed the Transvaal's last communication to London, which asked for the abrogation of British suzerainty as compensation for further concessions.

The article adds that in the event of war over such a demand, the Transvaal will be isolated, and no body will move a finger to prevent the ruin of the Republic.



INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, AUG. 11.

THE INDIAN BUDGET.

THE Indian Budget debate came off, as usual, on the last day of the Session. The full report will, of course, reach you through the public press, and there is no need for me to recapitulate the long introductory speech of Lord George Hamilton, which was largely a reproduction of the salient features of his own official memorandum which I sent you last week. He spoke with his wonted light-hearted optimism about the very satisfactory change from deficit to surplus, which is of course the main feature of the Budget, ignoring the chief cause of it, the rise, in the exchange value of the Rupee, which is not to be regarded as any token of increased prosperity among the people. Indeed, the possibility of famine, which I pray God to avert, should have made him trip very lightly over the surplus question. On the whole, however, the Secretary of State is entitled to a little self-congratulation, for there can be no doubt that financially the Government of India have got through the last 3 years of stress and storm with considerable success. I wish I could say the same of their administration as a whole, though under the new Viceroy the future appears to be brightening all round. I think, on the whole, the Indian Government are wise in not reducing taxation, for it is quite as easy in Indian finance to jump from surplus to deficit as from deficit to surplus. It was clear that the two Front Benches were in hearty accord on the new currency policy for India, and Sir Henry Fowler recommended in his speech, that the Government should purchase all gold produced in southern India.

Lord George, I am glad to say, got through a speech of over an hour-and-a-half, without any of those venomous little attacks on the Congress leaders in Parliament and India, of which he is rather too fond; but he made up for lost time in his concluding speech in reply to the various amendments. Sir William Wedderburn, in seconding the amendment moved by Mr. Caldwell (who came first in the ballot) calling for reforms that would place the Secretary of State's salary on the Estimates; fix an earlier day for the Indian Budget; and appoint a Select Committee to which the Indian accounts should be referred, made out a very strong case indeed, for the provision of some earlier opportunity in the session for the debate of Indian grievances, for which undoubtedly the payment of the Secretary of State's salary, by the British Treasury will afford the best and most constitutional opportunity.

It is very significant of the close alliance which now so unfortunately exists between the past and present Secretaries of State for India, that the duty of replying to Sir William Wedderburn was not undertaken by Lord George Hamilton, or by Sir Henry Fowler. If Lord George were weary with his long speech, the proper person to reply would have been the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was invited by the amendment to provide £5000 a year for the Secretary of State's salary, now borne by India. But no discount is too great to be put upon Sir William Wedderburn by Lord George Hamilton. Sir Henry Fowler made a very fierce attack upon Sir William Wedderburn. Sir Henry is one of the "Ruperts of debate," and he carried the House with him, all his terse and vigorous sentences being cheered to the echo by the subservient Tories, who were kept to make a House by the party whips. Sir Henry should beware of the dangerous joys of opposition cheers, which have been the ruin of statesmen of equal reputation and ability. A careful perusal of his speech, as reported, will give some idea of the bitterness of the attack, but Sir Henry's invectives must be heard to be appreciated. Every word he uttered confirms one in the conviction that if the Liberals succeed in forming a Government he means to go back to the India Office. The House divided immediately after Sir Henry concluded, when they voted—

For the amendment 336
Against ... 95

The speeches that followed, with the exception of Mr. Roberts on the subject of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, and Mr. Pickersgill on the separation of the judicial and executive functions, were of no great importance. Mr. Herbert Roberts made a very brief, but terse and pointed, speech on the alternative scheme for Calcutta Municipal government, proposed by Lord Curzon, with a view of showing that this new scheme was no better, and in some respects worse, than the previous one. As your readers will be naturally interested in it, Mr. Roberts has kindly had a verbatim report prepared for me, which is as follows:

He (Mr. Roberts) desired to bring before the House the present position in regard to the constitution of the Municipal Government of Calcutta. In February last he moved an amendment upon the Queen's Speech, calling attention to the same subject. At that time the Municipal Bill, introduced by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, was being considered by a Select Committee. He had pointed out the objectionable features in that Bill, and had urged for a delay and an enquiry into the matter by a Commission. Lord George Hamilton had assured him that he would consider the point which he had raised, and he did not then divide the House. What had happened since? The Bill had been returned as amended by a Select Committee to the Government of India, and on June 17th last the views of the Government of India, both in regard to that measure and in reference to the future municipal administration of Calcutta, were sent to the Bengal Legislative Council.

The object of his motion was first to call attention to the fact that the Bill previously introduced had been, in regard to some of its most important provisions, vetoed by the Government of India; second, to shortly indicate the nature of the alternative scheme proposed by the Viceroy, and third, to show that this scheme was no better, but in some respects worse, than the previous one. According to the present municipal constitution of Calcutta, the Corporation consisted of 75 commissioners, 50 elected by the rate-payers, and 25 nominated by the Government and the European commercial bodies. The General Committee consisted of 18 members, 12 elected by the members of the Corporation, and 6 nominated members. The salient feature in this constitution was obviously the fact that in regard both to the Corporation and to the Executive, the representative element bore a proportion of two to one to the nominated ele-

ment. The Viceroy's proposals, on the other hand, were as follows: That the Corporation should consist of 50 members; 25 elected by the rate-payers, and 25 nominated, and that the General Committee, or Executive, should consist of 12 members; 8 selected by the Corporation, and 4 nominated by Government. The result of this change, if carried out, would be to give the native rate-payers of Calcutta less than one-half of the representation on the Corporation, and to place them in regard to the General Committee in a standing minority of one to three. Taking, for instance, the Corporation, if Lord Curzon's scheme was carried out, half that body would be elected by the rate-payers of Calcutta, including the Hindu and Mohammedan population, the European residents and merchants and Government officials as electors. It was clear therefore that the whole native population could not have even half the representation upon the Corporation. Further, as the other half of the Corporation was to be elected by the Government and the European commercial bodies, it followed that the European residents would have double votes in the election of the Corporation.

As regards the General Committee, out of the 12 members which formed it, 4 would be elected by the European members of the Corporation; 5 would be nominated by Government; and the remaining four only would be elected by the whole native population of Calcutta. His objection to this was not a sentimental one. The Corporation was to have the power of framing the Budget, and as the present house-tax in Calcutta was about 10 to 15 per cent of the annual value of the premises, and it would be a serious thing for the native population of the city to be put thus in a position in which they would be helpless to regulate municipal taxation, or to resist its increase in the future. The House would also be in mind that the European and Eurasian population of Calcutta (excluding Government buildings) only paid about 64 lakhs per annum in municipal tax; whereas the native population paid over 22 lakhs per annum in taxation. The broad result of passing the constitution proposed by the Viceroy would be the withdrawal from Calcutta of that measure of municipal self-government which it had enjoyed for 23 years; and which had, on the whole, worked well, and he said without hesitation that it would be far better to strip the situation of all its representative elements, and to establish a system of absolute government control in the city, than to set up a system which had the semblance without the reality of self-government.

Dealing with the case put forward by the Government in support of these proposals, he would note one or two special points. First, it was said that the Corporation at present was too large. His reply to that was that it could be reduced in numbers without affecting its representative character. Again, it was said that very little interest was taken by the electors of Calcutta in municipal matters; that only some 2½ per cent. of the population took part in municipal elections. But he would point out that the value of that statement depended entirely upon first, the franchise in Calcutta, secondly, upon the number of contested elections in the elections referred to, and they must also remember that in regard to English municipal life, but a small proportion of the inhabitants took part in such contests. As an illustration of that, he would remind them that at a recent County Council election in London, only about 10 per cent. of the population recorded their votes, yet no one would assert that the County Council of the Metropolis of this country was not on the whole representative of the feelings of the community. Again, the Government of India stated that the solution of the present municipal difficulty was to be found if, possibly, in a plan recognised and constituted in some sort of equality of balance between the two main interests and classes in the population of the city, viz: the European interest largely preponderating in wealth and interest, and the native interest largely preponderating in numbers. First of all that view was a misstatement of facts, because it could not be said that the European interest in Calcutta largely preponderated in wealth when the native population paid in municipal tax, as he had shown, almost four times as much as the European and Eurasian population. Further, he contended that municipal Government had nothing to do directly with commercial interests, but was responsible primarily for the conditions of life under which citizens lived who paid the rates. He was quite ready to admit that certain distinctions would be drawn between cases of municipal self-government in India and elsewhere, but he held it to be a foundation principle that, wherever municipal self-government was set up, it mattered not where or under what circumstances this was done, the preponderating influence should be with preponderating numbers and preponderating financial responsibility.

Dealing with the past record of the present constitution of Calcutta, he only desired to remind the House of the opinion expressed, as recently as November last, by the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, when he pointed out that the Commissioners had not shirked from the heavy taxation which was needed to bring certain beneficent projects into effect; and that he himself had had evidence of the high public spirit and laborious circumspection which many members of the Corporation brought to the discharge of their duties. It might be said in favour of the new proposals that the Government of India was proceeding to set up in Calcutta a constitution upon the lines of that established in Bombay. He would point out, first of all, that if Calcutta had enjoyed a more liberal constitution than Bombay, and if this constitution had upon the whole worked well, there was no reason why it should be destroyed in order to be set up upon the Bombay model. They must bear in mind that the success of any modification of a municipal constitution depended largely upon the past history and development of self-government in the community concerned, and as the constitution now proposed to be given to Calcutta was a distinct step backward from the standpoint of self-government, he believed that it could not by any possibility work satisfactorily. Further, in regard to Bombay, it must be remembered that during the late visitation of the plague, the Government thought it well to take from the Corporation its executive powers with regard to plague measures, and to invest them in a separate body.

To sum up, there was no reason why they should in Calcutta adopt a system which had in an emergency failed, and discard a system of government which had upon the whole succeeded in the past. He was glad to know that the Government of India recognised their special responsibility in reference to the further municipal life of Calcutta. It appeared from the statement of their views to which he had already referred, that they expressed the view that it was their natural desire in the interests both of continuity of administration and of public harmony, to see these objects (efficient administration, etc.) attained, not by any contravention of the broad principles of local self-government already conceded, but by a curtailment of the abuses to which in practice they might have become exposed. Further, they laid it down that the success of municipal administration of a city like Calcutta required both a high standard of public duty on the part of those of its citizens who entered its service, and a friendly and disinterested co-operation of every section of the community. It was because he believed that the proposals to which his motion referred to, failed to secure either of these essential conditions, that he had drawn the attention of the House to the issue involved that evening.

In concluding, he pointed out that the present position of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's Bill had been virtually vetoed by the Government of India. There was therefore a natural pause in the proceedings. He would therefore strongly urge that a postponement should take place in the final settlement of this question, and he suggested that a Committee of five should be nominated during the winter in Calcutta, to be composed of two Europeans, two natives and the

chairman nominated by Government, to enquire into those practical abuses to which the present constitution had become exposed; and to see whether amendments of the constitution were not possible, which would remedy those difficulties, without withdrawing virtually the right of self-government from the citizens of Calcutta.

Twelve months ago he had ventured to congratulate Lord Curzon upon his appointment to the Viceroyalty of India, and he had predicted that he would have a most successful career in his office. The history of the past year, so far as Lord Curzon was concerned, fully justified that prediction, for he had shown in a marked degree the qualities which had secured for him the sympathy and the confidence, and he might say further, the affection of the Indian people. He would therefore greatly regret if it should fall to the lot of Lord Curzon to set his seal to a municipal government in Calcutta which was doomed to failure. Neither must they forget the present position of India; the horror of the plague had not yet vanished; the desolation of famines, still a dark memory in the minds of hundreds of thousands of the population. It would, he thought, be particularly gratifying just now to the people of India for the Government to manifest their continued confidence in their right to enjoy the privileges of self-government in their chief cities; and with regard to the particular case alluded to in his motion, the question at stake was not the details of administration of an ordinary town, but rather the name and the fame which alone attached to the metropolis of a great empire.

Lord George Hamilton, of course, replied briefly on the whole discussion. He gratefully recognised the kind help he had received, not only during the debate, but in all times and places from Sir Henry Fowler. With regard to the Calcutta Municipal Bill it must go through; he could hold out no hope of its being modified, so Calcutta now knows what it has to expect. With regard to Mr. Pickersgill's advocacy of the separation of the judicial and executive, he admitted the force of his arguments, but his proposals would entail heavy expenditure, and he must await further communication from the Indian Government before committing himself. He was totally unable to set down without one of his characteristic flings at the hated Sir William Wedderburn, closing his speech in the following words:

In the course of the debate, opinions had been expressed in various quarters that the House was indifferent as to Indian questions and took little interest in Indian subjects. He had been very many years in the House, and he did not think he had ever known a House of Commons where the interest taken in Indian questions was more intense than it was in the present House of Commons. He could not help being struck by the pathetic admission of the hon. baronet, the member for Banff. The hon. baronet said that for six years he had been working away under the impression that he represented the whole of the natives of India and that he had never succeeded in getting one single solitary grievance he had brought forward remedied. The Press, he went on to say, public opinion, Parliament, and the India Office were all against him. How was it the hon. baronet had not been able to get any redress for any question he had brought forward? How was it that public opinion, the House of Commons, the Press, and the India Office were all combined against him? Had it ever occurred to the hon. baronet that his want of success was a little due to the tactics he adopted? The hon. baronet had complained that he was not a *persona grata* at the India Office. Why should he be? The hon. baronet—he did not say intentionally—and those with whom he worked, did everything in their power to stir up bad feeling against the Indian Government. He considered the hon. baronet responsible for the fact that a paper called *India*, circulated the grossest falsehoods, which were repeated fourfold in the native Press. If the hon. baronet wanted to make his efforts of any effect he should try to say to people to their face what, through the Press and otherwise, he said behind their back; and until he did that he could not expect that anything he said in that House would have any effect.

I have seldom seen a more utterly melancholy spectacle in Parliament, than that presented during the Indian Budget debate on Tuesday night. Only 120 members, out of a House of 700, were found willing to present themselves at the most crowded period of attendance. It was seldom that a score of these were to be seen in the chamber itself, the rest spending their time in gossiping on the pleasant terrace which overlooks the Thames. The debate itself never rose from the sludge of personalities. The bitter quarrel between Sir William Wedderburn and the India Office, including the past as well as the present Secretaries of State, smeared the whole of the proceedings, and passed into a still deeper stage of permanent rancour and settled hostility. It is quite hopeless to expect the House of Commons to adopt any really liberal and progressive policy towards the self-government of the Indian Empire during the present Parliament. A combination of the two Front Bench representatives of the India Office, equally in the House of Commons and the House of Lords (for Lord Kimberley is at the side of Sir Henry Fowler) cannot be broken down by such forces as Sir William Wedderburn can summon to his side, and the pitiful total of 36 votes in favour of his amendment is the most significant comment on the position and influence of the Indian Parliamentary Committee of which he is chairman. Of course, this miserable total is largely accounted for by the late period of the session, but the fact remains that out of 280 members sitting in opposition to Lord George Hamilton's deplorable Indian policy, only 36 cared enough for the progressive interests of India to run up to London for a single day. It is no use being mealy-mouthed about individuals when the interests of 300,000,000 of Indians are involved, and I must say once more, what I have said more than once before, that so long as the policy of irritation prevails in the councils of the British Committee of the Indian National Congress, so long will it be impossible to obtain a fair hearing in Parliament for the just and eminently wise demands of the Congress itself.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.

The British Empire is under party Government. All Parliamentary action which eventually succeeds, is based on party Government, and each successive administration gives legislative effect to reforms which it has agitated and matured in Opposition. Many, perhaps nearly all, of the legislative acts of Parliament spring, in the first instance, from the action of independent members. Indeed, it may be truthfully said of that man who more than any other statesman of the age, has written his name largest on the Statute Book of the country, Mr. Gladstone, that there is not one of

his Parliamentary achievements, the principles of which he did not bitterly oppose in their inception and earlier stages. Those, however, who had them in charge as infants, such men as Bright, Mill, Fawcett, Stansfeld and Lawson, did not quarrel with Mr. Gladstone over them, but took them to the country, and the country as it always can when it likes, adopting the reform, put the men who led the reforms into Mr. Gladstone's successive Governments, Mr. Gladstone, like the fine statesman he was, accepting the country's verdict, and doing the Parliamentary needful with all his might. India forms no exception to the general rule. I write, with a very long experience, of practical parliamentary experience, and the Indian National Congress will never get its legitimate demands, except through a converted British democracy, sufficiently in earnest to make those demands a party question. There is not one of those demands which does not commend itself in principle to the rank and file of the Liberal electors of this country, and until the Congress leaders realize this, and spend the funds they raise for use in this country in converting the Liberal party to their views and making progressive popular reform in India a test question for Liberal candidates, they are merely beating the air.

The position of Aguinaldo in the Philippines is very romantic and heroic, but he will never drive the Americans out of his country by an irritating guerrilla warfare. The position of Sir William Wedderburn in Parliament is magnificent, but it is *not* war. The crux of the Indian position in this country lies inevitably with him and his leadership and organization. A general election may happen any time and all the experienced politicians on both sides of the House forecast it for next year. As far as I can see, Sir William Wedderburn and the British Committee will be no stronger in the next Parliament than they are in this; for the simple reason that 600 out of the 700 Liberal candidates will go through the general election, without having uttered the word "India" once in their public speeches, elected by voters whose chief notions of our Indian Empire are drawn from Missionary addresses and Mutiny melodramas and romances. Sir William Wedderburn will be once more in the hopeless position of a politician with a splendid cause, but without any of that material backing in the electorate, which can give him any measure of success. In fact, the only change in his Parliamentary position will be, that Lord George's virulent tongue will wag on the Opposition Bench, and Sir Henry Fowler's far more powerful animosity will be directed with tenfold force from the Treasury Bench.

WORK FOR THE CONGRESS.

The party tie in the House of Commons is the strongest thing in our entire constitutional system. The majority for the Liberals, if obtained at the next election, will not be large, and the party will be very severely whipped. The Congress policy for India has no strong hold on the Liberal leaders, because it has no strong hold on the Liberal electors, who create those leaders; and I do not anticipate any success for that policy with a miserable personal quarrel raging between the Congress Parliamentary leader, and Sir Henry Fowler, who, I regret to say, is now the inevitable Liberal Secretary of State for India, made so by the bitter line taken towards him by the British Congress Committee. I would be glad to see Sir Henry Fowler in any Secretaryship of State, than that for India, and there is none he could not fill with ability and honour to himself; but I look with great dismay at the prospect of a Parliament, of which I hope and expect to be a member, in which the leader of the Congress movement and the Liberal Secretary of State for India are on terms of personal animosity. Progress will be impossible.

The Congress is now very firmly rooted on Indian soil. The leaders can now spare some of their time and attention to the campaign in Parliament and the electorate which creates Parliament. It is then the real battle will have to be fought, and I tell them plainly that unless very great changes are made in the tactics of their generals, nothing but defeat and disaster awaits them, on a field where every natural element is entirely in their favour. I have said all this before, without effect, and I suppose we shall drift along till some disaster rudely brings the situation home. Some day the Congress leaders will realize that they cannot convert the British democracy to the adoption of Congress principles, by a weekly newspaper circulating in India. It is extremely disagreeable to me to write like this in the columns of a paper devoted to Congress principles. But my letters to you are not fair-weather letters only, and I should be false to my own deep and unalterable attachment to the Congress movement, in which alone I see the path to Indian self-government, if I remained silent. There are few men in politics in this country who have had the large and varied experience which I possess in political organization and agitation, and I have seen many of the reforms I have helped to engineer successfully through the electorate, and subsequently through Parliament by the agency of the Government of the day. I have never been concerned in any of these successful reforms which presented better intrinsic merits, or a larger hope of early success, than the reasonable Indian reforms which constitute the Congress platform. If instead of wasting their energies and financial resources on a weekly newspaper, (whose excellent editing I admire with the rest of us) read only in India, the British Committee would spend their money and energies in the foundation work of reaching the Liberal electors in the 700 constituencies, they would soon conquer the Liberal members of Parliament, and secure the co-operation of a Liberal Secretary for India. This would, indeed, be building on a rock; at present we are building on the sand.

I have no objection to *India*. It is an able and useful paper for the Congress supporters in India, but so far as our work in this country is concerned, it is a luxury and not a necessity, and ought to be paid for by those who want the luxury. If the Congress leaders can and will raise a sufficient fund for proper and thorough advocacy in this country of their unanswerable demands, over and above the cost of producing *India*, I have no hostile comment to make about the continuance of that excellent and valuable journal. I would be glad of both. But if it must be from lack of funds, either, then let the journal go, and educate the British electorate, not the Indian public, with whatever funds are available or British use.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE SERVICE.

The following official *communiqué* has been received from the Bengal Government:—
The orders of the Secretary of State have been received on certain proposals for the improvement of the position of Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors in Bengal. The sanctioned Cadre of these officers was 266 but the extensive settlements undertaken in recent years and other demands of the Administration have necessitated the employment of a large number of additional officers. These could only be appointed to officiate as Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and unless they were promoted from other substantive appointments, their service before confirmation in the sanctioned Cadre, lasting for many years did not count for leave or pension. The Secretary of State has now sanctioned the addition of 98 permanent appointments to the Cadre, to be distributed as follows: 1 in the fourth grade, 12 in the fifth grade, 29 in the sixth grade, 23 in the seventh grade, and 33 in a new eighth grade. This will permit the confirmation of the majority of the officiating officers, leaving 23 to be hereafter gradually absorbed. Many officers will also receive promotion to higher grades. Under a new rule also, all Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors appointed at the beginning of their service to officiate as such will count for leave and pension the service rendered after two years of continuous officiating service or after the date of fully passing the Departmental Examinations, whichever is later. The substantial benefits conferred by these orders will, no doubt, be greatly appreciated by the members of the Provincial Executive Service. The promotions and confirmations will be notified as soon as practicable.

RECEIVED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA

REFERENCE UNDER SECTION 307 C.R.P.C.

POSITION OF THE CROWN.

YESTERDAY before Justices Rampini and Pratt, presiding over the Criminal Bench, a rather interesting question arose as regards the position of the Crown with reference to cases referred to High Court under section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code. The section deals with procedure with regard to cases tried by Jury in which the Judge and Jury do not agree. It provides for a reference to High Court under such circumstances, and the High Court decides the case as coming up before it on appeal. In such matters the Judge is almost invariably for conviction and the Jury for acquittal. When a reference of this nature comes up before the High Court the Crown is represented by the Deputy Legal Remembrancer who appears in support of the reference by the Judge. A case referred under the section (307) came up before the Court yesterday, but it was not of the ordinary kind, remarked Mr. Rahim, the Deputy Legal Remembrancer. It was the case of *Empress vs. Deodhar Khan*, Sub-Inspector of Police, and Fariduddin, Head Constable, both of the Patna Police. They had been tried in the Sessions Court at Patna before a Judge and Jury for the offence of taking illegal gratification and keeping incorrect records. The Jury by 3 to 2 found them guilty while the Sessions Judge considered them to be not guilty. Having thus disagreed with the Jury, the Sessions Judge referred the case to the High Court under section 307.

The reference came on for hearing yesterday when Mr. Rahim, Deputy Legal Remembrancer, appeared for the Crown, Mr. P. L. Ray and Mr. K. N. Sengupta for the first accused and Moulvi Shamsul Huda for the second accused.

Mr. Rahim rose to open the case when Mr. Justice Rampini remarked: "You are for the Crown, your object is to say that the prisoners should not be convicted. Is it not?"

Mr. Rahim: No, my Lord, I am for the prosecution.

Rampini, J.: Against the Judge's reference.

Mr. Rahim: Yes, I cannot appear for accused persons.

Rampini, J.: I understand, you are for the reference. The Judge says that these two persons should be acquitted.

Mr. Rahim: No, my Lord, I shall oppose the reference.

Rampini, J.: If you are for the prosecution then I think Mr. Ray and Mr. Huda should begin.

Mr. Ray: The Crown is here in a peculiar position, it is against the reference by the Sessions Judge.

Mr. Rahim: The Crown is not bound to support a reference.

Mr. Ray: Then I must begin and I will have a right to reply.

Rampini, J.: I don't say you will have the right of reply, but you may be allowed to reply.

Mr. Ray then opened the case by reading the letter of reference.

The case was in connection with a raid on a gambling den by the accused police officers along with some other policemen. A large number of people were arrested who were all sent up for trial with the exception of two men.

The case for the prosecution was that by taking illegal gratification the accused had released from custody the two men alluded to above and that in the first information report as well as in the Special Diary the names of these two men were omitted.

Mr. Ray had not finished when the Court rose for the day.

VIRGINIA WATER is the largest artificial lake in England.

TROUBLESOME TO THE ARMY.

During the civil war, as well as in our late war with Spain, diarrhoea 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 Diarrhoea Remedy and says he never found anything that would give him such quick relief as is for sale by

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

INDIA AND THE FAR EAST IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4.

SULTAN MUHAMMAD.—Sir Andrew Scoble asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is aware that Sultan Muhammad, described as an Afghan general and a near relative of the Ameer of Afghanistan, resident in England, has been recognised, as the official representative of the Ameer; and whether there is any truth in the statement.

Lord G. Hamilton: There is no representative or relative of his Highness the Ameer in this country. The gentleman referred to is a British subject, who was once in the Ameer's service, but is not known to have held any office in the Ameer's army.

ALLEGED INDIAN POLICE TORTURE.—Mr. Hazell asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether he is aware that during the year 1897 four charges of torture were preferred against the police force of the North-Western Provinces and Oude, all of which ended in convictions, and that it was officially reported that during the same year the conduct of the police force in the Province of Coorg was unsatisfactory; and whether, owing to the low rates of pay offered, it is difficult to get suitable recruits to join these forces; and, if so, whether the Government of India is taking any steps to improve the position of these men and so attract a better class in order to avoid a recurrence of the scandals referred to.

Lord G. Hamilton said:—I am aware that in 1897 four cases of police torture ended in conviction in the police of the North-Western Provinces and Oude. In two of these cases the torture appears to have been inflicted under the orders of a superior and well-paid officer. As regards Coorg, which is very small district, I find that for 1897 the Chief Commissioner in his review mentions "a decided improvement" as having taken place in police work, and also that he is preparing a scheme to remedy what he considers the disadvantage of insufficient pay. That cases of misconduct by the police should occur is a matter for very great regret; but there is reason to hope that a gradual improvement in this respect is taking place. The subject of improving the position and quality of the police generally has constantly occupied the attention of the Government of India, and large sums of money have been devoted during recent years to this purpose.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7.

ENGLAND AND SIAM.—Sir C. Dilke asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, whether the Bangkok-Khorat Railway contract, from which an English firm was ejected by the Siamese Government in August, 1896, was subsequently handed over to the German engineers, who had formerly been competitors with Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. of the contract, and was now on the point of completion whether the treaty with Siam was violated by the action in this case of the Siamese Government; and whether Her Majesty's Government intended permanently to withhold the correspondence on the matter from Parliament.

Mr. Brodrick: The Siamese Government have themselves undertaken the construction of the Bangkok-Khorat Railway, and this is, of course, no violation of the treaty between Great Britain and Siam. Her Majesty's Government see no particular reason for laying papers on the subject before Parliament.

JAPAN AND CHINA.—Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could give the House any information as to the reported co-operation of Japan with China in the task of maintaining Chinese independence and of establishing reforms in China.

Mr. Brodrick: I have no information that enables me to make any statement on this subject.

THE P. AND O. COMPANY.—In reply to Mr. Havelock Wilson, Mr. Ritchie said: The names of the vessels owned by the Peninsular and Oriental Company in which deductions from tonnage have been disallowed because the space required by section 210 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, was not provided are as follows:—*Aradiah, Bengal, Ballantrath, Coromandel, Karthage, Chusan, Canton, Manila, Massilia, Nubia, Oriental, Oceana, Parramatta, Peninsular, Pekin, Peshawar, Shanghai, Shannon, Thames, Valletta, and Simla.*

In reply to a further question by Mr. Havelock Wilson, Mr. Ritchie said: I can only refer the hon. member to the terms of the answer given to a similar question put by him on the 3rd inst., which obviously showed that in the opinion of the law officers of the Crown the provisions of section 210 of the Merchant Shipping Act are infringed when the space required by that section is not provided for Lascars or other native seamen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8.

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAMS.—Sir Charles Dilke asked the Secretary of State for India: If it is possible to lay before Parliament any agreements and correspondence between the Government of India on the one side, the Eastern Telegraph Company, the Indo-European Telegraph Company, and the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, or any of them on the other part, relating to the establishment or subsequent modification of a joint-purse agreement for dealing with international telegrams and settlement of accounts between the parties to the joint-purse agreement; what is the actual cost at which the Indian Government transmit telegrams over their lines from Kurachee to Bushire and Fao; and what transit rate under the existing joint-purse system the Indian Government would charge over the same portion of their lines for messages to or from England handed to them by any English company not represented in the joint-purse agreement.

Lord G. Hamilton: It would be necessary to obtain the consent of several companies mentioned before the agreements referring to the joint-purse arrangements could be made public, and I am therefore at present unable to undertake to lay papers on the table. The transit rates over the Indian Government cables between Kurachee and Bushire or Fao are as follows:—On messages exchanged with India—between Kurachee and Bushire, 1,455 fr.; between Kurachee and Fao, 1,905 fr.; on messages exchanged with countries beyond India between Kurachee and Bushire, 1,09 fr.; between Kurachee and Fao, 1,39 fr.; These rates are laid down in the International Telegraph Convention and are the same for all classes of messages, whether handed over by any English company belonging to the joint-purse agreement or by any other company or foreign Government Administration.

The rates can only be altered with the consent of the States interested who are parties to the International Telegraph Convention.

Sir C. Dilke asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it was possible to lay before Parliament any agreements and correspondence between Her Majesty's Government on the one side and the Eastern Extension, Australasia, and China Telegraph Company, and the Great Northern Telegraph Company on the other side, relating to the submarine telegraph cables which land at Wu-sung (for Shanghai), Hong Kong, Labuan, Singapore, and Penang.

Mr. Chamberlain: The latest agreement—that of 1893—can be laid before Parliament if desired, but the earlier correspondence is not only in part of a confidential nature, but is also very voluminous, and extends over many years. I fear, therefore, that it could not be given.

Sir Edward Sassoon asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs: Whether, in view of the efforts now being made for a reduction of foreign, colonial, and Indian telegraphic charges, Her Majesty's Government would request Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, Her Majesty's Minister at Teheran, and Lord Cromer to procure from the Turkish, Persian, and Egyptian Governments, respectively, copies of all concessions granted to, and all agreements made with, either the Eastern Telegraph Company, the Indo-European, or the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company, or the agents of all or any of them, and with the Indian Government.

Mr. Brodrick: In reply to the two questions of my hon. friend, I have to say that Her Majesty's Government would not feel justified in publishing or in obtaining for publication as seems to be suggested, from one of the parties without the consent of the other copies of the arrangements referred to. The arrangements between Her Majesty's Government and Turkey and Persia have already been published.

THE COLONISATION OF ASSAM.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether, out of 6,750,000 acres of land capable of cultivation in Assam, not more than 1,750,000 acres are under cultivation; whether he will state what was the area of land and what were the main conditions under which it was proposed to offer it for cultivation under the scheme for opening up a large tract of this province recently submitted to the Government of India by the Chief Commissioner of Assam; whether he will further state to what extent and under what conditions the Government of India have seen their way to sanction this experiment; and, whether, in view of the pressing importance of finding new outlets for Indian capital and labour, he will present papers in the reference to the question alluded to.

Lord G. Hamilton: The areas mentioned in the first clause of this question are, I believe, correctly stated. The Chief Commissioner of Assam has laid certain proposals for the colonisation of that district before the Government of India, who, though not in complete accord with the Chief Commissioner, have agreed to consider any scheme which he may submit for the colonisation of a large tract in Assam on the general lines which he advocated. At present I am not in a position to give any detailed information on the subject, but, if the scheme assumes a practical shape, I shall no doubt receive a communication from the Government of India, and shall then be prepared to consider whether papers dealing with this question can be presented.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9.

CHINA AND JAPAN.—Sir E. Ashmead-Bartlett asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether the Russian Minister at Peking had protested against the alliance proposed between China and Japan for the purpose of establishing the independence of China and Chinese reforms, and had threatened China with most serious consequences if such an alliance be concluded; and whether China and Japan could, in face of such menaces, depend upon the support of Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Brodrick: We have received no information to this effect. I am afraid I cannot state what the policy of Her Majesty's Government will be in a hypothetical case.

NOTICES OF MOTION, &c.

Sir Edward Sassoon.—Telegraph companies (tariff for foreign messages).—To call the attention of the House to the very high tariff for foreign messages maintained by telegraph companies here, with special reference to the extravagant charges on Indian messages; and to move: That a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the whole circumstances of the virtual monopoly enjoyed by telegraph companies. [No date fixed.]

Sir C. Dilke.—That it is desirable either that the East India Revenue accounts should be debated on an earlier day in each session or that a token vote in respect of the salary of the Secretary of State for India should be placed on the Estimates and an additional day in supply given for its discussion. [Next Session.]

SIR MARK STEWART.—Opium.—That, in view of the grave objections to which the manufacture and sale of opium for smoking purposes by the Indian Government are open, and in view of the declared policy of this country to help China in the paths of reform, it is incumbent on the British Government to take whatever steps may be necessary for bringing such manufacture and sale to an early close. [Next Session.]

FROM 1st July to the 12th August last the majority of Indian railways show an increase in earnings and have made nearly 6½ lakhs more than in the same period of the previous year but the approximate earnings from 1st April to 12th August are still nearly 47 lakhs worse than last year.

THE British Resident at Bushire has addressed the Persian Government with the object of declaring the port free from plague, as there were only 37 deaths from all causes in July compared with 46 during the last 25 days of June. There have been no suspicious deaths since 11th July.

A COURT of four Judges has been sanctioned for the Chief Court in Burma, two being Civilian and two Barristers, with emoluments equal to those in the Punjab. These conditions will be included in the Burma Civil Courts Bill to be introduced into the Legislative Council at Calcutta. The Court will therefore probably be established next April, and it is understood that the Judges, though not yet selected, will include the Judicial Commissioner of Lower Burma and the Recorder.

NEW MISSILE IN WAR.

JUST a year ago, when the American army was before Santiago, a Yankee engineer was down on the old Molino del Rey battle-field, near the City of Mexico, firing a new-fangled, high-explosive shell. Among the guests of President Diaz at the firing tests of this new shell was Powell Clayton, the American Minister to Mexico. When he saw fired from an old eight-inch smooth-bore Columbiad enough dynamite to blow up the whole city of Santiago, he advised the inventor, Willard S. Isham, a Burlington (vt.) man, to go to Washington at once and offer his invention to the government. Isham, who had been in Mexico building railroads, dredging harbors, and digging mines, dropped his work and started for the states. Eight days later he was in Washington with his invention. After a long, hard fight he won recognition from the ordnance experts, and last week, after a year of waiting—"foscillating between New York and Washington," he puts it—he saw his shell successfully withstand a remarkable test at the Sandy Hook proving grounds before the members of the board of ordnance and fortification.

Isham is a Yankee through and through—a tall, raw-boned, square-jawed, sharp-eyed, straight-forward young Vermont, who does things for the pleasure of doing them. Before he took his C. E. degree at the University of Vermont, then a boy of 20 years, he took a contract on the Canada Atlantic railroad, and after his graduation he did a piece of work on the Ontario and Quebec. A couple of years later he rebuilt the street car lines of his home town. He drifted Westward and became a division engineer on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe. When the railroad boom collapsed he went over into Mexico and took contracts to construct the rock work in Pinonis pass. Then he was chief engineer in charge of the building of the Michoacan and Pacific. From there he went to Frontiers, Tabasco, and took charge of the harbor work. When an English syndicate proposed to head off the American Pan-American line Isham was made its chief engineer. He rode through Mexico to Panama and back, 3,500 miles, on the hurricane deck of a mule, with a party of engineers. After that he turned his attention to mining, acquiring some copper and silver mines, which he was working when he left for Washington a year ago.

HOW ISHAM GOT HIS IDEA.

The engineer came to devise his high explosive shell in this way: While he was up in the mountains of Jabisco, seven years ago, developing copper mines for an English syndicate, he studied the question of how he would cope with his native miners should they break loose. Every day he was using dynamite for blasting in the mines, and it occurred to him that if he could throw dynamite shells from an ordinary gun without blowing himself over into the Pacific he could quell the bigger riot in Mexico. Isham's investigations convinced him that diaphragm shells had failed because they were made by guesswork, and he went to work to devise a diaphragm system scientifically. He carried on his investigations in explosives as a recreation, while he was looking after mining properties he was developing on his own hook.

High-explosive shells are sought by the Governments of the world because of their immense superiority to ordinary shells as destroyers. One of the Oregon's thirteen inch armor-piercers may not do any more damage to an enemy than make a hole in the armor and destroy some woodwork, but a shell charged with explosive gelatin and fired from a thirteen-inch gun will sink any \$5,000,000 battleship on the seas. The Isham twelve-inch shell, with 113 pounds of explosive gelatin, fired at Sandy Hook on Tuesday last, if it had exploded within twenty feet of the Oregon, would have sent the ship to the bottom. Had Sampson's squadron at Santiago carried Isham shells, Cervera's ships would have been sunk at the entrance to the harbor, if not in the harbor itself. Had Cervera's guns hurled these shells the American navy would be no more. Between the shells now in use and shells charged with the most destructive explosive known there is no comparison. This is why the high-explosive shell question is so engrossing, and why ordnance officers are so interested in the outcome of the tests of the new shell made by the Yankee engineer.

DIAPHRAGMS ACCURATELY PLACED.

Diaphragms are used in the Isham shell to prevent the explosive gelatin from sitting back against the base of the projectile at the moment of discharge, and exploding under the enormous pressure. Other investigators who have put diaphragms in shells have done it by guesswork, but the Vermont inventor has worked out mathematical formulas, which determine the position of the diaphragms and the thickness of the walls. His formula for determining the distance between the diaphragms is the basis of his system. This formula takes the weight of the shell, the minimum pressure necessary to detonate the explosive, the firing pressure, and the density of the explosive and from them deduces the maximum weight of the bursting charges. In making shells for the Sandy Hook tests the factor of safety was made very high, so that under the most extraordinary conditions there would be no mishaps.

The gelatin charges in the Isham shell are cheese shaped—cylinders with round holes in the centre. There were then of these cylinders in the 12-inch shell fired last week. Each cylinder was ten inches in diameter, four and one-half inches thick, and had a hole through the centre three and three-quarters inches in diameter. The inventor planned that each of these charges should weigh fifteen pounds, making 150 pounds the explosive as the shell charge, but the ordnance officers decided to use a smaller charge, 113 pounds. This made the test more severe, for a loose charge is more violently disturbed than a dense one by the firing shock. The gelatin was placed inside the projectile through holes piercing its shell—one hole for each diaphragmed space. These holes were closed by screw plugs.

The 12-inch Isham projectile, cast in one piece, is of this design: The outer shell an inch thick, the base and head being several inches thick. From the centre of the base to the head, through the hollow interior, runs a thick round pillar. At right angles to the pillar are the diaphragms at intervals of four and a-half inches. These diaphragms are of half inch steel, and apart from the rest of the shell, would look like big washers. They divide the hollow interior into the cheese-shaped or annular chambers for the bursting charges. In

the base of the shell is the fuse, and running from it, through the centre of the pillar, a long thin fuse hole. Off from this hole, at right angles to it, run the small fuse holes to the ten chambers. The shell is fifty-seven and one-fourth inches long, more than a foot longer than the ordinary 12-inch shell. Loaded, it weighs 1,050 pounds. This is the torpedo type of the Ishamshell; the armor-piercing type has not been designed.

INDORSED BY ARMY OFFICERS.

When General Miles and his associates on the board of ordnance and fortifications came back from Sandy Hook on Tuesday evening they were enthusiastic over the success of the test of the diaphragm shell. Loaded with 113 pounds of explosive gelatin, it had been fired from a 12-inch seacoast rifle, with a charge of 450 pounds of brown powder, and had withstood the enormous twenty-ton chamber pressure and the shock of being hurled suddenly with a velocity of 2,000 feet a second. The shell was not fused, and did not detonate when it struck the water and ricocheted out to sea. Never before had any such quantity of explosive gelatin been fired from a powder gun. Nearly all the officers on the grounds expected to see the big gun blown into a thousand fragments. More guns have been destroyed at the proving grounds from premature explosions of high-explosive shells than in any other way.

Sand and armor tests of the Isham shell will be made within a few days. An unfused shell will be fired into sand to see if it can withstand the shock. Then the shell will be fired at armor plate representing a battle-ship. Two plates of 12-inch Krupp steel are now being made. They will be put against an oak and earth backing and attacked by the Isham shell. This will determine the destructive power of a 12 inch shell charged with 150 pounds of explosive. The detonation of this mass of the explosive produces a million-foot tons of energy, sufficient to lift the battleship Oregon a hundred feet in the air. One hundred and fifty pounds of explosive gelatin detonating in the water within twenty-five feet of a battle-ship would blow her sides right in. Fired from one of the big seacoast guns an Isham shell, with a detonator, would sail twelve miles out to sea and explode in the midst of a hostile fleet with the same destructive force as if it were detonated at the gun's mouth.

THE FLORIDA CROCODILE.

AT least ten species of the crocodile are known to science, one species being indigenous to Florida. The difference between the crocodile and the alligator is very marked, the head of the crocodile is longer and narrower, the teeth fewer and whiter, the two lower front tusks fitting into holes in the upper jaw, a feature absent in the alligator. The crocodile is also more flexibly built, is more ferocious, and far more pugnacious. It is also more crafty and cunning, and keener-eyed in the pursuit of its prey. Florida waters abounding in food, the crocodile has the ferocity of its nature excited by hunger, but when alarmed it plunges into the river and bay and hastens seaward at full speed, until out of all danger of a possible foe. Its great speed in the water is owing to its powerful tail, which propels it after the manner of a man sculling a boat. It prefers flight to fight, yet if compelled to defend itself becomes a foeman worthy of the boldest hunter. The feet are webbed, and it can also paddle gently along with them. The teeth are not made for masticating, for when possible it swallows its prey entire. They are hollow at the base and contain the crowns of new and larger ones, so as the saurian increases in size he continues to drop the old teeth and new ones take their places.

The ugly and ferocious crocodile is provided with a throat valve which effectually prevents the water from running down it, and also enables it to secure and drown its prey under water. The nostrils, placed at the extremity of its long nose permit it to breathe at its ease, while the unfortunate animal captured drowns beneath the surface of the water. Moreover, it can exist a considerable length of time without breathing. In this way the reptile is able to conceal itself when it suspects danger.

The nest of the crocodile differs from that of his cousin, the alligator, and shows a great similarity to the turtle's. The eggs are laid in a hole and then smoothly covered with sand, the precaution making them difficult to find. A year ago a crocodile nest was discovered by a hunter and the eggs presented to the Smithsonian Institution and the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Science. A few of the eggs were boxed in the sand by the hunter, with the result of hatching one baby "Crocodilus Americanus." The little wriggler is very valuable, as it is said to be one of three captive specimens anywhere.

To the "Conchs," or wreckers, who live on the coral keys the sight of the crocodile excites but little interest for, ugly and dangerous as he looks, he has been taught by them that man is to be feared. These natives claim that they have seen crocodiles eighteen feet long in the lower end of the Biscayne bay.

The crocodile, being an expert swimmer, lives largely on fish in Florida waters, but the testimony of old hunters proves that its cunning nature is the same, whether it be the Americanus, or the much-dreaded reptile of the Nile. It does not attack openly, neither will it go ashore for its prey, but will watch for hours for animals or birds to come to the water to drink; then, diving rapidly, it appears under its victim and drags it beneath the surface. Should the intended prey be too far from the water to be reached by the huge mouth, it strikes a blow with the tail and knocks it into the water.

Many herons and other water birds of Florida meet sudden death from this crafty reptile, whose manoeuvres would do credit to the cunning fox.—*Detroit Journal.*

It has not yet been decided whether the Foreign Office building in Calcutta, which the Viceroy condemned last winter, will be demolished at once. Pending that decision, the question of the movement of the Foreign Office from Simla to Calcutta remains yet unsettled.

The total number of persons employed on the standard and metre gauge systems of railways in India at the close of 1898 was 4,967 Europeans, 6,936 East Indians, and 296,700 natives of India, a total of 308,603 against 295,976 in the previous year. Natives formed the largest percentage of the entire body of servants. The increase of staff during the year was in the following proportions:—Europeans 376 per cent.; East Indians 070; and Natives 436 per cent.

SHALL THE DEAF HEAR?

OF late years rumours have been many of wonderful inventions for enabling the deaf to hear. There was the discovery of a London contemporary that cheap but efficient ears could be made out of brown paper; there was Professor McKendrick's device for enabling deaf-mutes to hear music with their fingers; there was the American notion of making deaf-mutes hear by hypnotic suggestion; and then came the New Zealand idea of utilising the phonograph.

Naturally, each new device has been met with increased scepticism. Nevertheless, most persons who have given attention to the matter have been convinced that sooner or later an appliance would be invented that really would be to the ears what spectacles are to the eyes—some electrical device, probably, whereby sounds would be rendered audible and articulation distinct to the deafest ear. It will be remembered that an attempt to invent such an instrument led Dr. Bell to the discovery of the telephone.

A correspondent of the "Daily Mail" is now in a position to state that at last the long-sought desideratum has been found. An instrument has been invented that will enable the majority of deaf-mutes to hear.

The inventor is a young electrician, Mr. Miller Rease Hutchinson by name, of Mobile, Alabama, U. S. A. His invention has cost him nearly three years of experiment. When he was able to demonstrate satisfactorily the usefulness and importance of his discovery, it was taken up by Mr. James Howard Wilson, president of the Mobile Light and Railway Company, who, with other capitalists, advanced the wherewithal to enable the appliance to be perfected.

The instrument has been given the unwieldy name of "Akouallion" from two Greek words meaning "to hear" and "to speak." The idea is that a deaf-mute, being enabled to hear, will, by imitation of what he hears, be enabled also to speak. In size and shape the instrument is very adaptable. It can be used either by one mute alone for general purposes, or by any number at the same time for oratory or tuition.

In the latter case the teacher has mounted on his desk a "receiving instrument," into which he speaks. Each mute has an aluminium breast plate, furnished with simple switches, whereby he may put himself in communication with the teacher, hearing what the latter says, himself repeating it, and hearing also his own words.

But no pupil can hear what another says, thus averting confusion. The volume or intensity of the sound can be regulated according to the sensitiveness of the ears; and where a mute's ears are unequally sensitive the intensity can be regulated for each ear, thus securing unity of impression. Instead of a breast-plate, the instruments can be attached to the pupil's desk in such a manner that the act of taking his seat instantly places him in communication with the instructor.

There are two ear-pieces, held to the ear by an aluminium head-band. Mounted directly in front of the mouth is the "receiver" somewhat resembling a telephone transmitter. The pupil can even hear himself whisper. The transmitter is connected with a battery.

A thorough test was made at the Alabama State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Tallagega, Ala. Out of over 100 deaf and dumb children not a single one failed to hear loud conversational tones at a distance of fifteen to twenty feet. The staff united in heartily endorsing the new method of relieving deafness and predicted a revolution in deaf-mute education.

One boy, whose parents and grand-parents were deaf, could not, under ordinary conditions, hear a cornet blown, a foot from his ear. With the aid of Mr. Hutchinson's instrument he distinctly heard the cornet at a distance of thirty feet. These facts are vouched for by the Principal and head teacher. In the crude stages of the appliance the inventor advertised for deaf-mutes upon whom to test it. One of these (Mr. Louis Morris) affirms that he lost his hearing thirty years ago, at the age of nine, and was so deaf that the only sound he could hear, or rather feel, was the report of a cannon.

When he put the transmitter to his ear he heard sounds as of voices, such as he had not heard for many years but could not quite distinguish words. He asked Mr. Hutchinson—who was speaking in his ordinary tone—to speak louder. Mr. Hutchinson merely turned a lever, and continued to speak as before. The sounds were now louder, and Mr. Morris was able to distinguish his own name and other commonplace words.

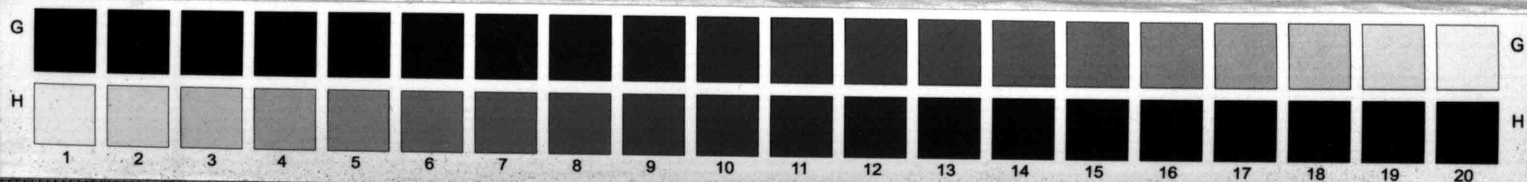
The experience of two other mutes tested at the same time was similar. They were able to hear distinctly a piano played in another room. Mr. Hutchinson, for assurance that he was not being imposed upon, had all three mutes examined by physicians, who declared them all stone deaf.

Mr. Morris further found that after using the instrument and going out into the street, he heard the rumbling noises of cars and trucks and still blasts of factory whistles, but these died away in a few days. He offered it as his private opinion that one who used the "Akouallion" for several months might do without it altogether, but the inventor makes no such claim. It was by means of such preliminary trials that the value of the instrument was proved to the satisfaction of capitalists.

The latest testimony is that of Mr. E. A. Hodgson, a prominent New York deaf-mute, and editor of "The Deaf Mutes' Journal." His position has made him cognisant of all the contrivances designed to enable the deaf to hear, but none of them ever conveyed any intelligible sound to his brain.

"But on Sunday afternoon," he says, "I heard, quite indistinctly, it is true, the music of a phonograph, and the speech of man. The cadence of the music alone could be discerned and the spoken words were entirely without quality yet by concentrating the mind were distinguishable."

In teaching the deaf, as hinted, the new appliance will cause a revolution. Specialists as teachers will be required no longer. The ordinary certificated teacher will easily learn to use the appliance and be able to impart instruction to the deaf in the same manner as to the hearing.



BOMBAY LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council held on the 24th instant the following question were asked:—

JITI.

The Hon. Mr. Shripad Anant Chhatre asked:—Is Government aware that for the last ten years grasshoppers, locally called Jiti, have every year done immense damage to the paddy, sugar-cane and other crops in the fields surrounding the town of Belgaum, and that, especially during the last five years, the insects have numerously multiplied and have spread to fields beyond the limits of Belgaum? What steps have Government taken for the destruction of the insects, and what relief, such as remission of revenue &c., have Government granted to the owners of the fields? If Government have done nothing, will Government be pleased to move in the matter to eradicate the evil? Is it true that, in consequence of the ravages of the insects, the industry of making unrefined sugar in the affected area has completely suffered, the sugar-cane mills, which numbered about 100 in 1886, having come down in 1896 to 3 or 4 only?

The Hon. Mr. Nugent in reply said:—The Government have long been aware of a certain amount of injury done. No effectual remedy has been discovered and no remissions have been granted on account of injury.

COMPULSORY INOCULATION.

Mr. Shripad asked:—Is Government aware of the fact that, in certain places, the local plague authorities have issued orders that people residing therein would be allowed to remain there only if they got themselves inoculated? Will Government be pleased to state if they have sanctioned forcible inoculation on certain plague affected places?

His Excellency's reply to Mr. Shripad was that Government were aware that in certain places the plague authorities have ordered the evacuation of certain areas in the hope of saving life, but privileges were extended to those who had been inoculated. The latter was not compulsory.

THE NATU BROTHERS.

Mr. Shripad then asked:—Is it true that Government attached the estate of the Natu brothers, situated in the Sangli State, in consequence of their arrest under Bombay Regulation XXV of 1827; that on a representation made by the brothers to Government that the attachment was illegal under the Regulation and should be released, Government was pleased to refer them to the Sangli State authorities and that the Sangli authorities having, on being applied to, declined to raise the attachment, the result was communicated to Government and Government has since done nothing? Will Government be pleased to suggest any way to be adopted by the Natus for the release of the estate from attachment?

His Excellency replied that Government issued no orders for the attachment of the estate of the Natus in Sangli. The Chief, on being advised of the action taken in British territory, took similar action. On hearing what had been done the Government instructed their officers to avoid all responsibility in the matter. The Chief has full powers of internal administration.

Mr. Shripad also questioned Government with regard to the Natus' residence in Belgaum during its present unhealthy condition.

His Excellency said the Natus were in the custody of the District Magistrate at Belgaum and were located in the Fort, where the Magistrate considers they are safe from infection. They are not at liberty to leave the limits of the city. They were offered the option of transfer to Dharwar but declined to express any wish.

A further question as to the Natus' property elicited from His Excellency the following statement:—Government ordered the rendition of the moveable property at Pachwad, but cannot at present remove the attachment on immovable property. And further, the annual accounts of the management of the estates had been furnished up to July, 1898; those for 1899 would be furnished as soon as certified by Government.

THE NATU AGAIN.

The Hon. Mr. Mehta asked:—Will Government be pleased to say if they consider that there is still any fear of internal commotion from private persons in the Central Division of this Presidency, which the Police and the Army assisted by the regular procedure of judicial tribunals are not able to deal with or prevent?

The Hon. Mr. James replied:—Government consider there is no fear of any such commotion as cannot be dealt with in the manner indicated, but the Hon. Member will realise from the history of his own city in 1893 and 1898 that prevention is a different matter. Government must be prepared to use all the powers entrusted to them for the prevention of disorder.

Mr. Mehta further inquired:—Will Government be pleased to say if the Sardars Natu are men who are in a position to stir up internal commotion in the Presidency, which cannot be dealt with by the Police and the Army and the constituted judicial tribunals?

His Excellency replied:—No persons in India are in such a position so far as the Government is aware.

The following three questions were also asked by Mr. Mehta:—Will Government be pleased to say if the further detention of the Sardars Natu without any immediate view to ulterior proceedings of a judicial nature, is necessary for the preservation of tranquility in Native States for the protection of the British dominion from foreign hostility or internal commotion?

Will Government be pleased to make some statement which may set the public mind at rest in regard to the affair of the Natus under the circumstances which have taken place since the commencement of their detention?

Will Government be pleased to state if they intend at any time to institute judicial proceedings of any sort against the Natus?

His Excellency referred the Hon. Member to the answers given on the 20th December, 1897, and 25th January, 1899.

Mr. Mehta next asked:—Will Government be pleased to say if the Presidency Police are not capable of so watching the Sardars Natu as to serve the same purpose as is at present achieved by the present modified state of their detention?

His Excellency replied:—No.

Mr. Mehta also asked:—Are Government aware that the public mind in this country is greatly exercised by the detention of the Sardars Natu for so long a time without a judicial enquiry and without any authoritative statement of the causes of their detention?

In reply to this his Excellency said that Government were aware that much had been written on the subject in the Native Press.

EXAMINATION IN COMPARTMENTS.

The following two questions stood in Mr. Mehta's name:—Will Government be pleased to state their reasons for refusing to approve the proposals of the Senate of the Bombay University in regard to passing of examinations by compartments?

Are Government aware that the said proposals were adopted by the Senate by large majorities?

His Excellency answered that in the interests of Higher education, Government did not consider it advisable to sanction the proposal.

With regard to the second question the answer was in the affirmative.

THE SHADOW OF FAMINE.

The Hon. Mr. G. K. Parulkar asked:—What measure do Government propose to take to supply the want of fodder for cattle that is being felt in many of the districts of this Presidency?

The Hon. Mr. Nugent said that the Commissioner of the Central Division had already issued orders that the forests be thrown open to grazing in all parts. In the Nasik and Kandesh districts similar orders will be issued and in other tracts as the occasion arises.

The Hon. Mr. Narayan Ganesh Chandavarkar asked:—Is it true that in the Badin Taluk of the Hyderabad District, Sind, there is a scarcity of fodder, and that cattle are dying in large numbers?

The Hon. Mr. Nugent said: Information has just reached Government in the weekly season reports and special inquiry will immediately be made by the Commissioner.

Mr. Chandavarkar also asked:—Is it true that landholders and cultivators in the Taluka mentioned in question No. 1 are being prosecuted in large numbers and sentenced to heavy fines and even imprisonment for allowing water to run on from paddy fields to village pastures and waste lands in order to grow a little grass for fodder?

Mr. Nugent replied that no such information had reached Government.

DETAINED IN POLICE CUSTODY.

Mr. Chandavarkar asked:—With reference to the remarks of the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, and the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, at pages 1 and 8, respectively, of the Annual Report of the Police of the Town and Island of Bombay for 1898, will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement giving the average and the maximum number of days accused persons were detained in Police custody pending proceedings in the Presidency Magistrates' Courts during the past five years?

Mr. Nugent said Government was not in possession of the information.

THE LATE SIGNALLER'S STRIKE.

The Hon. Mr. D. S. Garud asked the following questions with regard to the late signaller's strike:—(1) In the strike of the signallers of the G. I. P. Railway Company in May last did the Government lend any of the Government signalners to the Railway Company? If so, how many and for what length of time?

(2) In thus interfering in a dispute between employers and employees were the Government influenced by the belief that the strike had any political significance?

(3) Was there anything in the conduct of the strikers either before or after the strike which can lend support to such a belief?

(4) Have any communications passed between the Government and the Railway Company on the subject of the strike? If so, will the Government be pleased to place them on the Council Table?

(5) Are the Government aware that the signalners were petitioning the Railway authorities for the redress of their grievances for nearly two years without effect?

(6) Have any of the petitions of the strikers to their employer been placed before Government? If so, will Government be pleased to state whether in the opinion of Government any of their alleged grievances deserved redress?

The Hon. Mr. Nugent in reply said: (a) One hundred and three Government signalners were lent for 10 days and 86 for 20 days. (b) No. Not so far as Government are aware. (c) Some official communication has passed between the Government and the G. I. P. Railway Company. (d) Government must decline to place on the table correspondence as it was in connection with the Agent's letters to the Board in London and the Board's replies. (e) Government are aware that since the beginning of March, 1897, railway signalners at intervals addressed memorials to the authorities regarding their grievances. (f) A full statement of these alleged grievances was placed by solicitors to the signalners before the Consulting Engineer for Railways, Government must decline to express any opinion as to the validity of the complaints made by the signalners against the action of the G. I. P. Railway Company, their employers.

A CITY UNDERGROUND.

THOSE whose business takes them past the "heart" of the City—the Bank of England, the Royal Exchange, and the Mansion House—will know the disorganised state of the roadway at this point, caused by the various underground electric railway workings now approaching completion.

In front of the Royal Exchange is the City terminus of the Central London Railway, whose line to Shepherd's Bush, via Oxford-street and Notting-hill is making rapid progress. Opposite are the entrances to the Waterloo and City Railway opened to the public in August last. At the junction of Lombard-street and King William-street is arising the new City station of the City and South London Railway which will by the autumn of this year be able to convey passengers from Clapham Common to Moorgate-street in twenty-one minutes.

Another eight minutes will, after the end of 1900, take the passenger to the Angel, and he will thus be able to journey from North to South London within the half-hour. By the end of 1902 the Great Northern and City Railway from Finsbury-park to Moorgate-street is expected to be complete. Capital will probably shortly be asked for by the City and Brixton Railway, which proposes to construct a line from the present King William-street terminus of the City and South London Railway to Brixton, passing via St. George's circus under the Kennington and Brixton roads.

Yet another projected line is the Charing-cross, Euston, and Hampstead. All these lines will be electrically worked, and the Metropolitan Railway is at present conducting experiments with a view to adopting that power on its existing system.

HERE'S A REAL SEA SERPENT.

The real thing in the way of a sea serpent was added to the aquarium in Battery park, New York, recently. It is known as a green moray and is the first of its kind ever exhibited in this country.

Curator L. B. Spencer of the aquarium received the sea serpent with nearly 100 other varieties of fish sent from the West Indies on the steamer Orinoco. It was placed in one of the exhibition tanks in the afternoon and was surrounded by a crowd until closing time. The serpent is seven feet long and about twenty-four inches in circumference. It has a sharp snout and narrow jaws, with small eyes set well down toward the point of the snout. Its teeth are like needles and slant backward, so that once it has its prey in its mouth there is no escape.

The great strength of the beast and its quickness and speed in the water lie in a broad dorsal fin extending the entire length of its back. It belongs to the eel family, and lives mostly on smaller fish and crustaceans. The head, in certain positions, suggests the typical witch's head.

"We had great difficulty in securing a green moray," said Mr. Spencer, "because the natives of the West Indies stand in such terror of them. As it was we only got this one by offering a bonus for its capture. I am not sure how it was caught, but I presume it was in a trap built on the same principle has a lobster pot. It showed the wonderful strength of its jaws while being transferred to the steamer by snapping off the end of a plank that was placed over the tank to prevent its escape. The natives claim the bite of the fish is deadly poison, but I am not so sure of that. We shall know more about the creature after we have had it a little longer."

This monster was captured in Bermuda waters and brought to New York by Professor Charles L. Bristol of the New York University and six students, who went to the tropics with him to study the habits of the finny tribe there.

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(1) The Hon. G. M. Chitnavis, C. I. E., Member of the Supreme Legislative Council; (2) Babu Bhabotosh Banerjee, D. Magt., Jessore; (3) Babu M. N. Chatterjee, Manager to H. H. the Raja Pratap Narain Singh Deo Bahadur of Jashpur; (4) Babu Nilmani De, Asst. Settlement Officer, Muzafferpur; (5) Kumar Hemendra Krishna of Sovabazar; (6) Mr. S. C. Haldar, Political Agency, Ligit; (7) Babu Ramdhoni Paure, Dy. Inspector of Schools, Arrah; (8) Prof. Tarit Kanti Baksi, Jubbulpur; (9) Dr. Sarasi Lal Sarkar L.M.S. (10) Pandit Satya Charan Shastri, author of *Prata-paddhya*, &c.; (11) H. N. Basu M.D.; (12) Babu Amrita Krishna Mullick, Editor, *Indian Empire*; (13) Babu Priya Nath Banerjee, Executive Engineer, Sylhet; (14) Srimutty Sarojini Ghose, Lady-photographer; (15) Babu Pasmatha Nath Ghose, Hd. Assistant, Commissariat, Jubbulpur; (16) Babu Mohitosh Ghosh Kanungo, Bankura, *The Amrita Bazar Patrika*, the *Basumati*, the *Hitaishi* and other papers have also recommended it highly.

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Mr. Justice P. C. Chatterji, of Lahore.

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