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পত্রক-পতক।

দশম পত্রিকা
মূল্য ৩০০ টাকা।
পত্রিকা
অবকাশের পত্রিকা আফিসে পাঠাব।

শ্রীঅদৈতপ্রকাশ।

শ্রীঅদৈত প্রভুর প্রিয় অমৃতর ও শিবা
শ্রীশিবাননাগর, কৃত।
শ্রীশ্রীমাদেশ্বর লীলা সম্বন্ধে অনেক নূতন
কথা আছে এবং শ্রীঅদৈতপ্রভুর সমুদ্র লীলা
বিশদরূপে বর্ণিত হইয়াছে।
মূল্য ৬০ আনা। ডাকমাসুল ১০ আনা।
অমৃত বাগাব, পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

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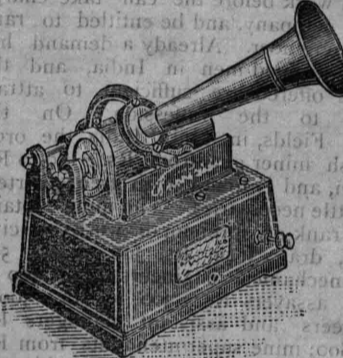
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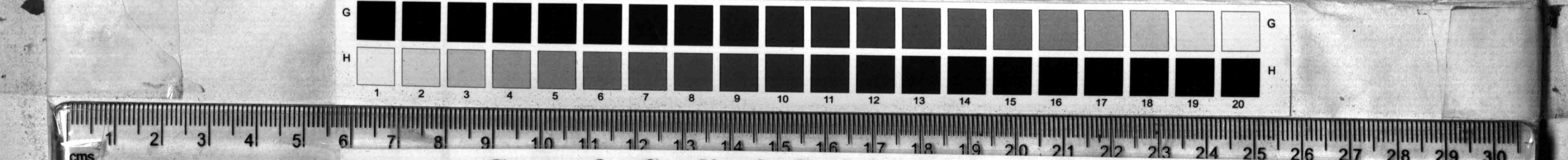
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THE PLAGUE.

OUTBREAK IN PORTUGAL.

The correspondent of the Times at Oporto telegraphed on Aug. 14:—The rumours which have for some time been prevalent as to the existence of bubonic plague in Oporto are founded on fact, several cases of infectious disease presenting features which, in the opinion of some doctors, are symptomatic of plague.

Reuter's agent at Lisbon, writing under date Aug. 11, says:—"A telegram sent by me yesterday announcing, on the authority of the Correio da Noite, a Government organ, the occurrence at Oporto of cases of illness suspected to be plague, was suppressed by the censorship. To-day however, the existence of a suspicious disease at Oporto for two months past is officially notified in the Gasette.

The correspondent of the Times at San Sebastian, writing on Aug. 15, says:—"Some consternation has been caused, especially in Estremadura, by the recent reports of bubonic plague spreading in Oporto. The plague is supposed to have been introduced early in July by an English steamer from Bombay. The Portuguese doctors differ as to the malignant character of the visitation. The latest advices received from Portugal to-day by the Spanish authorities report 36 cases and 6 deaths.

Lisbon, Aug. 16 (Reuter).—The newspapers state that the Bacteriological Laboratory of Lisbon has consulted the Pasteur Institute of Paris on the alleged cases of plague in this country. The Pasteur Institute confirmed the view that the microbe of the epidemic at Oporto was the plague microbe.

PRECAUTIONS IN SPAIN.

The Madrid correspondent of the Standard telegraphed on Aug. 15: In consequence of the reported cases of bubonic plague at Oporto, the Spanish Board of Health met yesterday, under the presidency of the Minister of the Interior, and decided to establish a cordon along the frontier, temporarily interrupting the communication between Portugal and Spain for a few days, until the medical inspection of travellers can be established at the frontier stations.

The Spanish Consuls have been instructed to advise the hundreds of Spanish families who are at present at the seaside at places in Portugal to postpone their return home for a few days until a system of medical inspection has been established at the frontier. All arrivals by sea from Portugal are to be subjected to quarantine. Doctors Vicente and Mendoza proceed to Oporto to report to the Spanish Government upon the nature of the cases said to be those of plague.

The appearance of the plague in Portugal is creating quite a scare in Spain. The newspapers state that about 20,000 Spanish subjects who are spending the summer in North Portugal watering-places will rush home, perhaps bringing with them germs of the dreaded disease.

The Madrid papers upbraid the Portuguese authorities for having so long concealed the facts at last announced by their own physicians and Press. They say the Portuguese Government has not fulfilled the engagements which were agreed upon at the Venice Congress in 1897. Spaniards above all fear that France and other countries may also take such precautions as will affect Spanish interests and trade.

Of all the members of the Government, the Minister of the Interior alone seems to remain cool. He is doing his best to reassure the people by pointing out that the British and French authorities effectively checked the spread of the plague in their ports without any panic or recourse to extraordinary measures. Nevertheless, as I have pointed out, the Supreme Board of Health of Madrid has already decided that the Spanish Government will stop all communication by land with Portugal for ten days. The Consuls have already reported that there have been 45 cases of plague in Portugal, and 33 deaths, since June.

Madrid, Aug. 16 (Reuter).—The Spanish Government has issued a semi-official Note recommending the publication by the whole Spanish Press of a notice advising all Spaniards in Portugal to remain there, since communication is totally interrupted between Spain and Portugal. In order to cause as little inconvenience as possible to such persons, this interruption of communication will be of short duration. The Government is resolved to have the sanitary regulations most rigorously carried out, so as to prevent the propagation of the plague in Spain, and to provide foreign nations with no excuse for imposing quarantine on Spanish arrivals. The Mayor of Madrid is taking vigorous measures in the same direction.

Ponta Del Gada, Aug. 15 (Reuter).—All communication between Portugal and the Azores has been stopped, on account of the appearance of plague at Oporto, and no vessels, merchandise or mails from Portugal are now admitted to any of the Azores.

Rio de Janeiro, Aug. 15 (Reuter).—The Brazilian Government has imposed quarantine on vessels which since the 1st inst. have left Portuguese ports or Vigo for Brazil.

Cairo, Aug. 13 (Reuter).—The total number of cases of plague at Alexandria since the outbreak now amounts to 83, of which 39 terminated fatally and 42 have been cured. During the past week there have been 3 new cases, 2 deaths, and 3 cures.

Alexandria, Aug. 16 (Times).—There have been 3 cases of plague and 2 deaths in the week ended to-day.

Reuter's Agency is informed that the British authorities have received official information of the outbreak of bubonic plague at Oporto, and that the Local Government Board have accordingly communicated with the various port sanitary authorities throughout the Kingdom

regarding the precautionary measures to be taken to prevent the importation of the disease. The Royal Mail Steamship Company informed Reuter's Agency that they have given orders for their steamers, whose port of arrival is Southampton, not to call at Oporto.

CENTRAL ASIAN NOTES.

RUSSIAN RAILWAY ENTERPRISE.

The Vienna correspondent of the Times telegraphed on Aug. 13:—The Holtische Correspondenz says that the presence of a Russian emissary at Cabul has occasioned some uneasiness at Simla. He is said to be negotiating for an extension of the Central Asiatic Railway to Afghanistan. As the relations of the Ameer and the Viceroy of India are, however, of the most cordial character, there is a disposition to regard the friendly reception of the Russian emissary as a mere manifestation of Oriental politeness. It is true that, just now, it is of great importance for the Ameer to keep on a friendly footing with Russia as disturbances that have broken out on the Turkestan frontier might afford the Russian officials, who now observe an attitude of strict neutrality, a pretext for intervention.

The presence of a number of Russians in Persia is reported from Bunder Abbas, where there is only one opinion as to their intentions. Never before have so many strangers been observed on the shores of the Persian Gulf. They turn up in every direction, ostensibly as merchants although they are met in places which have no trade whatever. The Veli of Basra has considered it necessary to exercise increased vigilance at Kowyet, a circumstance which is said to be due to orders from Constantinople.

THE RUSSIANS IN TURKESTAN.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the Morning Post wrote on Aug. 11:—A paragraph appeared recently in a Vienna journal, and has since been quoted by various German and British newspapers, to the effect that Russia has lately completed the formation of an entire army in Central Asia. Two Turkestan army corps, it was stated, have been formed and placed under the command of the Governor-General of Turkestan. These include three brigades of Infantry and three of Cossacks, together with Artillery, Engineers, and Reserve Infantry, the Infantry alone numbering some 65,000 men.

The natural inference to be drawn from these statements is that a large increase has been made in the Russian forces in Central Asia. This, however, is not the case. All that has been accomplished is the organisation of the troops already in the district.

Two Army Corps have, indeed, been formed, each with its own staff and reserve arrangements, and the whole force is thus brought into a more effective condition and made far more easy to handle in the event of war. It may be true, therefore, that the Russian fighting strength in Central Asia is now greater than before, but the number of men available in the district remains the same as hitherto.

QUININE AS A REMEDY FOR MALARIOUS FEVERS.

A WRITER in the Indian Medical Record says:—"I think it will be generally conceded that the chief value of quinine is as a prophylactic. Its administration in small doses and at frequent intervals before the appearance of any of the symptoms of malarial poisoning show themselves is attended with the most satisfactory results; but these results are not obtained unconditionally. I will explain. A visitor to a malarial locality can word off an attack of fever for weeks by regularly partaking of quinine and paying that attention to his general health the need of which will assuredly be forced upon him at a sooner or later period. Despite the use of the drug, symptoms will from time to time manifest themselves that too surely point to the fact that the enemy is at active work and must be dealt with rationally. What this rational treatment should be it is needless to indicate to professional readers, except to hint that the mere pouring down of quinine into the stomach is not rational. Valuable as quinine certainly is to the visitor to a malarious tract, the permanent resident therein ultimately learns that the drug is not an "unmixed blessing" for where that most subjective symptom of a malaria-stricken system, viz hyperpyrexia is kept under control by its repeated use, other morbid phenomena take the field, chief among these being nervous prostration ultimately resulting in chronic neurasthenia with its attendant evils and forcing upon the sufferer a choice between a total breakdown of the system or a change of residence, or the abandonment of prophylactic treatment for a resort to something that will restore him to health. This last measure is not impracticable to a modified degree, and unfortunately is the only alternative left to the many sufferers from malaria. But now matters go back as it were from where they started, and the permanent resident is, if anything, in a worse plight than when he first migrated to the stricken places of the earth.

Once the system has become fairly under the influence of malaria and "fever" has become an established "habit" of recent date, quinine again comes to our aid. Amongst your readers there will no doubt be ranged those who are advocates of small and repeated doses of the drug and those who practise the administration of large doses. If experience gained in a practice extending over many years in eminently malarial areas might justify me in venturing on an opinion, I would say that a greater degree of success must attend the advocates of the latter plan. Tinkering doses of the drug I have never seen do any good and en passant let me observe that that bogie much dreaded by some, viz. "cinchonism" I have never seen as described in text-books. I will go further and say that where a practitioner is not qualifying for a residence in a penal settlement, or has not already qualified for a lunatic asylum, he will find it hard to poison a patient with quinine in treating him for an acute attack of malarious fever. A toxic effect can, however, be produced by the injudicious pretracted use of the drug, as where a person with the object of warding off the onset of the disease, or a repetition of attacks persists in its use in ill-regulated doses. Here not the cinchonism of our text-books occurs, but a neurasthenia already alluded to.

The negro skull and skeleton are heaviest and hardest.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

A CEMETERY near New York is being equipped for the cremation of the dead with an electric furnace, supplied with oxygen by means of liquid air, thus reducing the process from hours to minutes.

The United States Agricultural Department have adopted a French idea, and are taking pictures by the cinematograph of growing plants. In the division of Vegetable Pathology a young oak is under the lens, a picture being taken every hour. In this way the growth of the plant from its first shoot will be illustrated on the screen, and thus imitate the "mango trick." The experiment is merely to test the value of the plan in watching the progress of diseases such as blight, and if successful the agricultural colleges and experiment stations will receive positive photographs for their own use.

Dr. Ripley, an American anthropologist, in his lectures on the "Racial Geography of Europe," has maintained that the Jews are not by any means a pure race. For one thing they are now mainly broad-headed, whereas the pure Arabs, who, according to him, represent the true Semites, are long-headed. In the "Popular Science Monthly," Mr. Jacobs, President of the Jewish Historical Society, contests this view, and argues that mental work has broadened the head of the Jew. There is a good deal of evidence to show that brain-work does broaden the skull, and the Jews, of course, are intelligent. Mr. Jacobs has given figures to show that the Jews as a race take rank intellectually between Scotch and English, and the Western Jews even rank above them. His statistics, of course, may be open to question, but the intellectual powers of the Jew are beyond a doubt. The truth probably lies between the standpoints of Mr. Jacobs and Dr. Ripley.

Lord Kelvin has written an interesting letter on a thunder-storm effect in Nature. He says:—"Last night, during a thunder-storm of rare severity, in which brilliant flashes—single, double, triple, or quadruple—followed one another at intervals often of not more than a few seconds of time, I was surprised to see with great vividness, on a suddenly illuminated sky, two nearly vertical lines of darkness, each of the ordinary jagged appearance of a bright flash of lightning. I remembered to have seen two real flashes of just the same shapes and relative positions, and I concluded that the black flashes were due to their residual influence on the retina. I returned my eyes quickly from the dark sky outside to an illuminated wall inside the house, and I again saw the same double dark 'flash,' which verified my conclusion in an interesting manner. The fatigued part of the eye failed to perceive the sudden brightness of the sky in the one case, and of the wall in the other.

OUTRAGE BY A SCHOOL MASTER.

THE Hon. Mr. Justice Parsons and the Hon. Mr. Justice Ranade, on the Original Side of the Bombay High Court, disposed of the application of Diego Gabriel De Silva, for revision of a decision of Mr. R. P. Barrow, District Magistrate of Thana, who, in June last, convicted the accused of assault or using criminal force to a woman, and sentenced him to six months' rigorous imprisonment. The Sessions Judge of Thana, on appeal, confirmed the conviction and sentence—Messrs. Daphraj and Ferreira appeared for the accused. The accused was charged with committing an offence punishable under Section 354 or Section 323 of the Penal Code. On the 4th June last, a little girl, named Rose Mathilda, who lives with her mother in Thana, attended the Portuguese school, which is held in a room attached to the Roman Catholic Church. On returning home about 5.30 P. M. she was found to have been assaulted. When questioned as to what had happened, she stated that the accused, who was the second master in the school, had caused the injury. The accused was on the following day arrested and sent for trial. Considerable difficulty, said Mr. Barrow in his findings, was experienced in finding a section of the Code which seemed to fit the case, but finally a charge was framed under Section 354, or alternately under Section 323. The points for decision were—was the child assaulted and injured while at school on the 4th June last? If so, was she assaulted and injured by the accused? If so, did the accused know that he was likely by his act to outrage her modesty or that he was likely by his act to cause hurt to her? Mr. Barrow found all the points in the affirmative, and sentenced the accused as mentioned above. The Sessions Judge of Thana, in disposing of the appeal in the case, said that the conviction was justified at any rate under Section 323. The judgment was delivered in the absence of the accused, who was said to be suffering from plague.—Their Lordships saw no reason to interfere, and dismissed the appeal.

—RUDYARD KIPLING has refused an offer of \$1,000 from the patent medicine firm of J. C. Ayer & Co. to write a poem of eight lines, or two stanzas.

—COLERIDGE, when lecturing as a young man, was once violently hissed. He immediately retorted:—"When a cold stream of truth is poured on, red-hot prejudices, no wonder they hiss."

—THE natives of a certain country in West Central Africa, if they have not solved the problem as to how to silence the slanderous tongue have at least devised an appropriate punishment for the slanderer. The person who is found guilty of slandering another is punished in the following manner: He is made to march through the town, with a bell tied to his neck, calling out that what he said was a lie. He is afterwards compelled to go into all the compounds, and tell what he has done at every door.

A WORD TO MOTHERS.

Mothers of children affected with croup or a severe cold need not hesitate to administer Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It contains no opiate nor narcotic in any form and may be given as confidently to the babe as to an adult. The great success that has attended its use in the treatment of colds and croup has won for it the approval and praise it has received throughout the United States and in many foreign lands. For sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B K PAUL & CO.

A NEW PROFESSION FOR INDIA.

THE researches of the Geological Survey of India have proved that the Indian Empire is rich in mineral wealth. Vast areas, known to be covered with rocks that are the matrix of gold, copper, lead, tin, iron, coal, salt, oil, &c., have been mapped out, and actual mining operations of many of these areas have proved that the Government geologists have not been mistaken. With the exception of Bombay, Sind and Mysore, coal is found throughout British India and the Native States. Within the last ten years the coal production of India has increased from 1,564,000 tons to 4,063,000 tons. But as yet not a hundredth part of the areas known to be coal-bearing has been exploited, the bulk of last year's returns coming from two small fields, one in Lower Bengal and the other in the Nizam's Dominions. A glance at the Geological Map, issued with the new edition of the Manual of the Geology of India, will show enormous tracts of country in Bengal, Madras, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Rajputana and Burma coloured as gold-bearing. Of these, a minute speck in Madras (Mysore) is all that is being worked and yet from this little patch gold to the value of 222 lakhs of rupees was mined last year. Petroleum to the extent of 19 million gallons was extracted last year, chiefly from the Burma oil wells. The salt mines of the Punjab yield 66,000 tons of rock salt. Mica to the value of 12 lakhs of rupees was exported from the mines at Hazaribagh, and rubies to the amount of 8 lakhs removed from the gem lands of Mogok (Burmah). The Mining Industry in India is still in its early infancy, and yet it employs 263,000 persons and turns out material to the value of 420 lakhs of rupees a year.

This wonderful development of the mineral resources of India is of very recent date, and, as we have shown, but a fractional part of the vast deposits of coal, gold and other minerals have been touched. There cannot be a doubt that mining in India is bound to take a more prominent place than it has hitherto done, and that next to agriculture it will perhaps come to be the chief industry of India. With the development of the mineral resources of the country, there will of necessity be a demand for highly skilled labour, and just as the growth of railways has created a market for a large staff of highly trained civil engineers, it is but reasonable to expect that a wide field will be opened out for the mining expert.

Mining in the present day is a wholly different matter to what it was fifty years ago. Then the practical miner, the man who had passed a great part of his life in beating a drill, or using the pick and gad, was in great requisition. Such a man was thought capable of taking entire charge of a mining concern, and perhaps he was not wholly incompetent to manage the small mining ventures which were then the rule. In the present day such a man in charge of a mine would be as much out of place as one of Nelson's captains on a modern battleship. A glance at the curriculum of study laid down at the Royal School of Mines, London, in order to qualify for an associateship of that Institution will show how varied are the duties of the mining engineer. The candidate must prove that he has a sound knowledge of ordinary English literature before he is admitted as a student; and during his three years' course he has to pass in geology as applied to mining, assaying, mineralogy, practical chemistry, electricity, surveying, practical mining, machine drawing, mechanical engineering. A three years' course and a successful pass merely entitles the student to an associateship. He has now his foot on the first rung of the ladder, and it requires years of patient hard work before the can take charge of a mining company, and be entitled to rank as a mining engineer. Already a demand has sprung up for trained men in India, and the inducements offered are sufficient to attract good men to the profession. On the Kolar Gold Fields, in South India, the ordinary English miner gets from Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 a month, and is found with free quarters and other little necessities. The mine captain, who would rank as foreman of works in civil engineering, draws from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 a month; mechanical engineers Rs. 300 to Rs. 500; assayers Rs. 300 to Rs. 500; chief engineers and assistant managers Rs. 500 to Rs. 800; mine superintendents from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,500. There are plums in this profession too as in others, but rather bigger ones. The Managers of the Kolar Gold Mines do not draw less than £10,000 per annum, a salary which though double that of a Cabinet Minister is not at all to be compared with that received by Mr. J. Hammond, who acts in a similar capacity for a number of the Transvaal mines. A London financial paper recently stated that this gentleman's fixed salary for managing a number of properties was known to be £32,000 a year, and that in addition he received fees, for opinion on other properties.

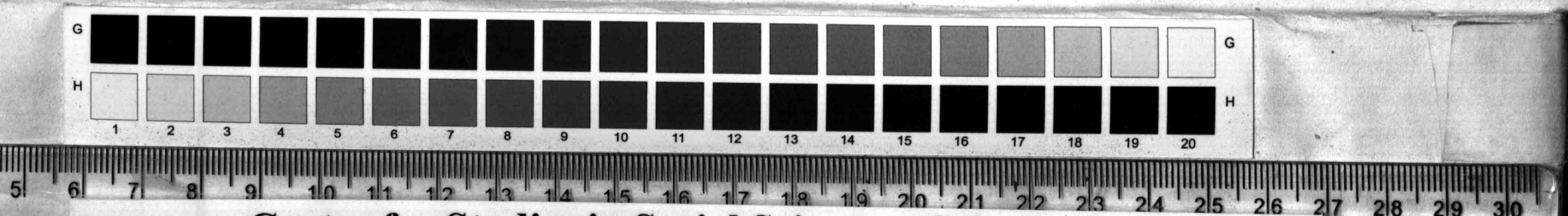
There cannot be a doubt that there is a wide field for the trained mining man in India. The supply at present is not equal to the demand, as, what with the Transvaal, West Australia, Klondike, and Mashonaland, asking for experts, the great institutions at London and Cambridge are not able to supply a sufficiency of trained men, although the number of students on the rolls of these two institutions for the past year has totalled over one thousand. A fitting attempt has been made by the Indian Government to teach mining in this country, and a few mining scholarships were opened in the Seebpur College; but hitherto the results are anything but promising. We have still to look to the old country for our mining engineers, our mechanical engineers, our assayers, and even for our foremen. In the natives of India we have good common miners,—pick and gad men, drillers, and so on. The Indian aborigines in particular make capital underground men, but where anything more than mere manual labour is required the Indian labourer is useless. European supervision is required in every department of mining, and the number of highly paid European assistants on a large company is considerable. On the Kolar Gold Fields, in Mysore, thirteen companies are at work on about eight square miles of ground, and here a staff of 540 Europeans are employed to supervise some 60,000 coolies. These figures will give some idea of the number of trained men that will be required should there be at hand a boom in the mining industry of India; and there is every reason to believe that mining as a profession in India will amply repay young men who choose to prepare themselves for it in earnest as they would for any other pursuit.—Pioneer.

PRESIDENCY BANKS ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

VICEROY'S SPEECH.

THE following is the full text of the speech of H. E. the Viceroy in connection with the above measure:— I should like to add a few words upon the subject touched upon by Mr. Dawkins in remarks to which we have just listened. The speech which he has made represents the views that are unanimously entertained by the Government of India. The question that has been raised by him is one, in my opinion, of great importance, and one upon which I should be grateful for the enlightenment and backing of public opinion. The Bill now before us, as he has told us, is one for a more or less formal amendment of the Presidency Banks Act of 1876, so as to admit to the list of securities with which the Banks are at present permitted to deal a particular security which has only hitherto been excluded because when the Act was last re-enacted the Bombay City Improvement Trust had not yet been called into existence. The proposal, however adumbrated by the Finance Member, contemplates a still further extension of these securities in future by including in them the scrip of subsidiary assisted Railway Companies. Now under the existing law the Presidency Banks are prohibited from dealing in them. We are disposed, as my hon. colleague has pointed out, to relax those restrictions in the first place in the interest of the Banks, so as to increase the scope of their operations, but secondly and still more in the interest of the investing public and of the general development of the country which we all have so much at heart. But here I must interpolate a word of caution. We are anxious to be generous, but we are bound to be prudent, and there is a certain point beyond which we cannot go. The Presidency Banks, as the Hon. Mr. Dawkins has pointed out, are not like ordinary Banks. No relaxation of restrictions, even if such were possible in an extreme degree, could make them so. They differ because the bulk of their cash balances, or what I suppose I may call their loanable capital, is supplied by Government, and because, if we subtract this at any given moment, they are not, as a rule, in possession of sufficient independent capital to enable them to conduct operations on a large scale. The Government, therefore, is under a peculiar responsibility for these Banks, and we are bound to enforce special regulations for the protection and the security of the balances which we ourselves have provided. We cannot afford to jeopardise them in the interest of general philanthropy within these limits. We desire to do all in our power to free the Banks from artificial bandages and to give to them ample liberty of the movement. But herein I should like to point out that a reciprocal obligation in my judgment is involved. We do not contemplate these steps merely in order to provide a new field for employment of Government balances. What we want to do is to enlarge the opportunities available for the employment, in enterprises indigenous and beneficial to the country, of capital, both English and native. It will be for the latter to profit by the occasion. The Government cannot do more than open the door. It will then be for the investing public to walk in, and here I am tempted to indulge in a further reflection. An examination of the existing system leads me to doubt whether the banking institutions of India are at all adequate to the growing needs of the country. This is a conviction that is gaining ground outside of India, and that, I believe, already exists in India itself. You will find substantial testimony to it in the speech delivered by the Secretary of State in the House of Commons in the Budget Debate three weeks ago, and you will notice that his sentiments on the subject were re-echoed by his predecessor, Sir Henry Fowler. Here we are at the end of the nineteenth century with 22,500 miles of railway opened in this country, with the telegraph wire connecting all our important cities and centres with business operations being conducted every year on a larger and increasing scale. Moreover, we are looking forward if we can settle our currency difficulties to a considerable expansion of financial and industrial enterprises, and yet in respect of banking it seems to me that we are behind the times. We are like some old fashioned sailing ship, divided by solid wooden bulk heads into separate and cumbrous compartments. This is a state of affairs which it appears to me can hardly continue. I can well believe that local interests will require to be consulted, and we must be careful to see that no injustice is done. But I cannot think that any sectional prepossessions should be allowed to stand in the way of a consolidation and concentration of banking facilities which strike me as being required in the interests of the business accommodation and the credit of the country. Should we succeed in effecting any such amalgamation, should we get any such separate bank established on a sterling basis giving us access to the London market, then I think we might with safety dispense with many of the existing restrictions, because we should have, on the hypothesis of a common currency with England, a permanent and stable link between the Indian and English markets. This is a question worthy of serious examination, and which, I submit, with these few introductory remarks, to the consideration of the financial and mercantile public.

SMITH STANISTREET & CO. A WONDERFUL CURE OF DIARRHOEA. A PROMINENT VICTORIA EDITOR. ALMOST GIVEN UP, BUT WAS BROUGHT BACK TO PERFECT HEALTH BY CHAMBERLAIN'S COLIC, CHOLERA AND DIARRHOEA REMEDY. READ HIS EDITORIAL. From the Times, Hillsdale, Va. I suffered with diarrhoea for a long time and thought I was past being cured. I had spent much time and money and suffered so much misery that I had almost decided to give up all hopes of recovery and await the result, but noticing the advertisement of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and also some testimonials stating how some wonderful cures had been wrought by this remedy, I decided to try it. After taking a few doses I was entirely well of that trouble, and I wish to say further to my readers and fellow sufferers that I am a hale and hearty man today and feel as well as I ever did in my life.—O. R. MOORE, Sold by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA SEPTEMBER 7, 1899.

INDIAN PROBLEMS BEFORE LORD CURZON.

"DEEP, downright, dark despair—that is the only word that can adequately express the feeling with which an Indian leaves the House of Commons after the Indian debate, year after year," says the London correspondent of the Hindu, who saw with his own eyes with what apathy the Indian questions were discussed, by the responsible members of Parliament, how Sir H. Fowler exceeded Lord George Hamilton himself in his vehemence against Indian aspirations, and how the devoted friend of India, Sir W. Wedderburn, was snubbed and sought to be humiliated. It is not the Indians only who are being daily seized with despair. That must be the state of mind of the well-meaning administrators of India—of Lord Curzon himself. His Lordship promised to be judged by his acts, but alas! His Excellency now no doubt finds, with Mr. Digby, that it is hard work to afford relief to India, and that the problem is getting harder day by day.

Mr. William Digby whose letter was reproduced in our columns the other day, from the Western Daily Mercury, lays down certain propositions, well worth the serious consideration of not only the Government but of Englishmen in general. He asks the all-important question: "Why is it that alone in the British Empire India is continually in a famine-stricken condition?" He repeats the same question in another form in another place. "Why is it that, among countries ruled according to civilized ideas, in India alone, famine should have become chronic?" The circumstances, however, shew that India ought to be one of the richest countries in the world. We shall shew why:

First, no country in the world is more fertile than India.

Secondly, in no country in the world are the mass of the people more industrious hard-working, sober and perhaps intelligent. These men, the Indians, have not one single holiday during the year; they have no drink, nor any amusement whatever to divert their attention from work. You will see an Indian ryot and his family working incessantly day and night. And then, as Mr. Digby points out, the country being ruled according to civilized ideas, there is no war to devastate it. How is it then that India alone, amongst other countries in the world, should always be in a famine-stricken condition?

This is what our Bombay correspondent writes under date, the 2nd instant:—

The prospect here is very gloomy. Famine is now almost certain throughout the Presidency. Plague is raging horribly throughout the Deccan and the Bombay city is also threatened. All business is paralysed.

Mr. Digby answers his own question,—why of all countries under British rule, India alone should be continually in the grip of famine. He says that he had arrived at "certain most grievous conclusions and for each one of which I have only too great an array of official proofs." Mr. Digby then enumerates some of the causes of "the deepening poverty all over the continent." He says:—

- (1.) "We British rulers have destroyed the industrial system" and "have benefited by the destruction of Indian industries."
(2.) "The internal and external trade of India has been monopolized by foreigners."
(3.) "England appropriates more than the whole land rental of the Indian Empire and by which arrangement "Irish absentee landlordism has been made a mere trifle."
(4.) "British Rule has created a vast army of interested individuals," who not only monopolize the posts worth having, but send their remittances home.

Mr. Digby speaks in a tone of despair. He thinks that the remedy is hard, but it is getting harder every year. Here some very serious questions suggest themselves. If Mr. Digby is right in his estimate of the condition of the Empire, how is it that the authorities here, specially the Anglo-Indian publicists, do not say so? How is it they do not raise the alarm that the Empire is in danger? On the other hand, we see the spectacle that any one who brings the disagreeable facts to the notice of the public is condemned as an alarmist and sometimes a traitor. If the Empire is in danger why should not all classes of Englishmen join in insisting upon radical reforms?

The reason for this is alleged to be that Englishmen in general do not believe what Mr. Digby and others of his way of thinking say. They have been persuaded to believe that the country is not getting poorer but richer. We do not, however, believe in the sincerity of those who say that India is getting richer or not getting poorer; for, we think, they do not believe what they say. They must be utterly blind to say that India is not getting poorer when they see that this country has to send a tribute of say twenty millions of pounds every year to the ruling country and for which she gets no adequate return. To say that a country, subjected to such a serious drain, is getting wealthier is something like declaring that a man who constantly bleeds himself gains in flesh and strength by that process.

We have, however, no need to go to theories, however clear they may be. Why should there be famines here every third year or sixth year, when the country is so fertile and the people so industrious and thrifty? The prospect of another famine this year has thrown the Lord Secretary of State in a state of despair, and his Lordship is now hankering after rest. Yes, Lord Elgin has left many legacies to his successor, Lord Curzon; and Lord George Hamilton, when he leaves office, will leave a good many legacies to his successor also.

WHEN Sir Alexander Mackenzie abused the elected Municipal Commissioners in his famous Entally speech, there was a talk of resignation on their part. The letter of resignation was actually signed by many of them; but, better counsels prevailed; and they did not take the step, as it was considered hasty and ill-advised. Our humble opinion was sought on the occasion, and we then declared that the Commissioners should never resign in a huff. As a matter of fact, the Commissioners were then the masters of the situation. They were not the subordinates of the Government, and Sir

Alexander Mackenzie only wasted his energies by exhibiting his ill-temper. The Commissioners owed their existence and allegiance to the rate-payers, and they would have been bound to resign if their constituents had found fault with them. The constituents were, however, quite satisfied with their work, and they could thus afford to take no notice of the vilification of Sir Alexander.

The case is quite different now. The present measure, which will become law in March next, not only deprives the Commissioners of all powers, but reduces their number from 50 to 25. Six months more and half of them will disappear altogether and the remaining half will be reduced to a cypher. They will thus be quite powerless to afford relief to their constituents. Not only this; they will possibly be made to serve as scapegoats for the failure of the measure. If there is oppression they will not be able to protect the rate-payers, and the rate-payers will only curse their representatives for their inability to do so. If additional taxes were to be imposed, it would be done with the help of these twenty-five Commissioners, and the odium of this further burden would be fastened upon their shoulders. To add insult to injury, charges of corruption were hurled at their heads. The Government might have quietly passed the Bill, without thus "pouring salt into the wound," as the adage is. But the Government was not satisfied with merely charging the Commissioners with corruption. When they wanted to know the nature of the corruption with which they were charged, the Government gave a curt reply saying that it would hold no correspondence with them on the subject, and thus practically declaring that they were guilty!

But, if the Government were not prepared to publish the names of the corrupt Commissioners and the nature of the crime committed by them, why did it give so much air to the charge? Indeed, the Government distinctly says that one of the grounds for introducing the Municipal Bill was the prevalence of corruption among the Commissioners. As we pointed out the other day, if a private party had made these accusations the Commissioners had their remedy in the law Courts. They cannot, however, try conclusions with the Government which is too high for them. And the Government being above their reach, should never have come down to their level and traduced their character like ordinary people. Having, however, behaved like puny mortals and not like high celestial beings, the authorities were bound, for the sake of fairness and justice, either to disclose the charges with proofs or to withdraw them with an expression of regret.

The matter at last came to this pass: The Commissioners were divested of all powers. They were further told to their face that they were a corrupt lot. When they respectfully wanted to know the nature of their offence, they were curtly asked to keep quiet. Surely the Commissioners could not be blamed, if after all these indignities, they did not find it consistent with self-respect to stick to their posts. The action of the Government left them no other choice than to cut off their connection with the Corporation. It goes without saying that none of the 28 Commissioners, who have resigned and who were the cream as it were of the Corporation, will stand again under the present Act. The very nature of the humiliation which has driven them to this step will prevent them from doing so. The Government will, however, get enough of "Babblers" or inferior men, who are likely to take the place of the old Commissioners, would not bring credit but disgrace upon the Municipal government of the capital of the Indian Empire.

HE is on tour; for, being a District Magistrate, he has to inspect all public offices in his district. On arrival at a Sub-divisional town he finds it wearing a holiday appearance, the Police in full dress awaiting his arrival. They all bend down their heads and salaam him. Used to this sort of homage, the spectacle does not move him at all. He is an Englishman and his instincts rebel against such homage paid by fellow-beings to a fellow-beings. But he came here when very young. The incense paid to him made him feel foolish, though it pleased him also. Day by day he grew used to the homage, and at last he found nothing unusual in thousands proclaiming him as "the incarnation of justice" or "the Lord of the world," and so forth. It is true the demonstrations which follow him everywhere have ceased to give him pleasure, but then he has acquired a vice, viz, the secret habit of feeling a want when his presence is not followed by a demonstration. For, true enough, he feels disappointment, if not resentment, when he is not properly received. He finds himself besieged in his temporary residence by the leading men of the place. One comes in a carriage, and the man sends up his card. "Who is he?" he asks of the Police officer who is attending on him. "He is a zemindar, my lord," says the Police officer. The zemindar comes, makes his salaam and assures the lord of the district that he has conferred a great honor by his august presence. The Magistrate asks him a question or two and then he is bowed out, to be immediately followed by another. The District Magistrate has seen from his private room that his house had been surrounded by hundreds of men, leading men, all desirous of paying court to him. He curses his fate. "I am to go through this ceremony; I must see every one of them," thinks the lord of the district and he groans. "I don't know why they come at all," he continues thinking; "is it possible that my presence gives them so much pleasure? That can never be. I do not know what to speak to these victims." One by one they come, the Magistrate receives every one of them politely, dismisses them with a few common-place remarks, and feels tired and disgusted with his work. At last he finds an acquaintance, an Indian, in whom he has confidence. He opens his heart to this man, though he is an Indian. "Why do they all come to me," he asks of his acquaintance, "in this manner. They ought to know that such visits take away my time and can never be pleasing to me." The acquaintance says in reply: "If they don't come they fail to shew their loyalty. You may not like such demonstrations, but they have no means of knowing it. It is quite certain some do. The safest course is, therefore,

to come and welcome the district lord when he honors a town within his jurisdiction with a visit." When a District Magistrate arrives at a Sub-divisional town for inspection, he rarely cultivates the acquaintance of the inhabitants, though he has to see every one of the leading men.

The following question and answer will bear repetition:—

Mr. Hazell asked the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that during the year 1897 four cases of torture were preferred against the police force of the North-West Provinces and Oudh, 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 scandals referred to.

Lord George Hamilton:—I am aware that in 1897 four cases of police torture ended in conviction in the police of the North-West Provinces and Oudh. 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 a 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.

In the above we find Lord George Hamilton, quite against his methods, voluntarily making a confession which the question did not require. For, his Lordship, of his own accord, admitted that in two of the four cases, tortures were inflicted "under the orders of a superior and well-paid officer." Does the Government desire a gradual improvement of the police? In that case neither better pay nor the employment of a better class of men to the service will do that. The key to the solution has been indirectly disclosed by the Secretary of State. It is not true that superior police officers instruct their subordinates to inflict torture, but the fact is, the Police is what their masters have made it. The superior officers never ask a subordinate policeman to do a work which is dishonorable, but what they do is this: they insist upon getting certain work from the police, and if in going to get this done it falls into danger, the Government tries to protect the force by all means in its power. It does not exist to protect the innocent from the guilty nor to suppress crime, but to please the superior officers. The police, in short, is a servant of the Government and not of the public, and that makes all the difference. The police does not make it clear that it is dreadful to commit crime but that it is dreadful to incur the wrath of the Government, that is to say, any of its members. We shall try to explain how the case stands. The authorities, even the Secretary of State and the superior members of Government, pose as distinct entities having separate interests which differ from those of the people. The Police is the most efficient and direct agent in the hands of the authorities whose interests they protect and serve. It is a mere delusion and snare to talk of improving the police by the employment of a better class of men. The Police force is bound to improve when the Government will adopt the method of treating the Indians as British subjects, which they are, and not as a conquered people, which they are not.

SINCE the Natu brothers are innocent and have been unjustly subjected to punishment, the Bombay Government, the authors of their misery, ought to have been filled with repentance and to have treated the victims of their mistake with kindness. But that does not appear to be the attitude of the Bombay Government towards the brothers. Some questions and answers in the Bombay Council disclose strange things. The brothers have estates in a Native State, and the ruler of that State is acting against the brothers. The Government of Bombay, on being questioned, declared that the Government had no power to interfere with the internal administration of Native States! Indeed, this sort of reply will not enhance the prestige of the Government for straightforwardness. We know, it sometimes, so happens that frail mothers imbibe a deadly hatred against their illegitimate but innocent offspring, who had been the unconscious cause of their shame. Is it possible that the felings of deep-rooted hostility, betrayed by the Bombay Government towards the Natu brothers, are due to a similar cause? The Bombay Government ought to have set the matter at rest by a proper arrangement. Their action cannot possibly have the approval of the Viceroy. But Lord Curzon cannot move in the matter, without humiliating H. E., the Governor of Bombay. That being the situation, H. E. the Governor should have taken action of his own accord and put a stop to the scandal.

It seems that like India, England is also going to have a Copyright Act. The text of the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee of the House of Lords, has been issued. Clause 12, which deals with copyright in news, is as follows:—

The proprietor of any newspaper or news agency in the British Islands, who has obtained specially and independently news of any fact or event which has taken place beyond the limits of those islands shall be entitled for the space of eighteen hours immediately succeeding its publication to the exclusive right of publishing such news, and any person in the British Islands who publishes the same without the assent of the proprietor who has obtained the news shall be liable to a penalty to be recovered summarily or by action, not exceeding in amount £1 for every copy in which he publishes the same and not exceeding in the whole £50. Where two or more of such proprietors have obtained news of the same fact or event specially and independently, they shall all have equal rights as against all persons who have not obtained the news, but all rights shall cease eighteen hours after the first publication of such news.

It will be seen that the proposed English Act is much less stringent than the one introduced into the Viceroyal Council here. In England, the proprietors of newspapers have the monopoly of the news procured at their

cost, for the space of eighteen hours only; but, in India, their right in this respect is extended to thirty-six hours, that is to say, double that period. Then, again, the penalty in England for an infringement of the law is a fine of 1/- but here it is Rs. 500!

THE Indian Spectator poohpoohs the suggestion of Mr. Ginwalla of making the guilty ride through the streets on a donkey. Mr. Ginwalla says:—

In ancient times there was a peculiar form of punishment with native rulers. There was no Kalapani or transportation in those days. The punishment was much more dreaded than the newly invented one. It was the ride of the offender on a donkey, with his face blackened towards the tail, throughout the city in the form of a procession, and flogging at appointed public places. No ruler could even bear to see his administration vilified without meting out instant summary justice of Donkey ride in the capital city.

Referring to the above the Indian Spectator says: "With his face blackened towards the tail," is rather puzzling, in view of the fact that the average human being is not endowed with a tail to his face." We quote the Spectator not to support him in his condemnation of Mr. Ginwalla's suggestion, but to shew the humour of the writer.

THE action taken by the Commissioners in resigning their posts has no parallel in the annals of British rule in India. In their fight with the authorities the Hindus have never taken the offensive. They have always avoided giving offence. In the present case they would have returned to the fold at the last moment, if the Government had sought to bring them back. But the Government did not do this. No, that is not it. The Government could not do it: It was a mistake to listen "to the tales of back-biters." A great Government should never resort to such devices. What Sir A. Mackenzie's Government did was to encourage weak-minded and unscrupulous men to bear tales against their countrymen. The tales were told under the seal of secrecy, and carefully recorded, and perhaps edited by the subordinate officials of the Government. That formed the basis of the battery which was sought to be employed against the elective system. That record served its purpose in this way,—it served to influence the minds of the Viceroy and the Secretary of State. That secret document was sent to their Lordships and they were thus won over to join the crusade against local self-government. But a difficulty arose which the Government had not foreseen. Why should the Commissioners agree to be denounced without a hearing? They wanted to know the charges against them, which, however, the Government could not do. To disclose the charges would mean a regular trial on each charge. But the Government had no witnesses to produce, for it had got all information under the seal of secrecy and thus the Government could not enumerate the charges. So there remained one way of replying to the demand of the Commissioners, and this Sir J. Woodburn adopted. What else could His Honor do? Of course, he could have given a more courteous reply. But that would have not only stultified the Government but weakened its own case. Thus, for instance, Sir J. Woodburn might have said that the charges were not serious and the Commissioners need not mind them. If the Lieutenant-Governor had said that, then the foundation of the battery, planted against the elective system, would have come down. His Honor could not say that. His Honor could have sent for the Commissioners and persuaded them not to resign, but we do not see what His Honor could have said to induce them to remain. That some of the Commissioners were so persuaded, of course, not by Sir John Woodburn or by any high official, we have no doubt. Thus, it would appear, that Sir John Woodburn had no help but to give a curt reply, and the Commissioners had no help but to resign. Thus it is proved that it is a risky business for the Government to encourage back-biting in any shape. When Sir Alexander Mackenzie left the legacy to Sir J. Woodburn, His Honor should not have accepted it.

WE cannot too highly admire the dignified attitude of the 28 Commissioners when they resigned in a body. We hope the Government will accept the resignations in the same spirit in which they have been tendered. The Commissioners did not mean to be aggressive; their resignation does not mean a threat or an expression of ill-humour. The Commissioners would never have resigned, but they felt that they were being kicked out. There was a strong indication in the letter of the Government addressed to them, to show that the Commissioners were not wanted. Mr. Braunfield can be regarded as an independent Commissioner, having no interest in this dispute. His opinion was that the Commissioners had no way left but to sever their connection with the Corporation, after the reply of the Government to their representation. The twenty-eight Commissioners who have resigned, hold leading positions in society. Having been driven out of the Corporation under circumstances, which preclude the possibility of their entering it again, Calcutta has, by this action of the Government, been deprived of the services of some of its best men. It is quite certain that these twenty-eight men have been, as it were, disqualified from taking any part in the next Corporation.

ELSEWHERE will be found a long article on the Gauranga movement, reproduced from the Indian Witness. It appears that, at the monthly meeting of the Calcutta Missionary Conference, Babu Kali Charan Banerjee explained "the history and principles of this movement." And this led to the article referred to above. Babu Kali Charan's speech is not before us; so we cannot say whether it was he or the writer of the article, who was responsible for the mistakes made in explaining the "history and principles" of the movement. We are told that Vaishnavism is borrowed from Christianity and "the teachings of the New Testament were known to the Prophet of Nadia." Be it so. Why is not then the Gauranga movement welcomed by the Christians? For the movement, if it succeeds, will only pave the way for the spread of Christianity. Already the Gauranga movement has done this service, viz, it has established the divine mission of Christ. "Strange enough," says the writer, "a Magistrate,

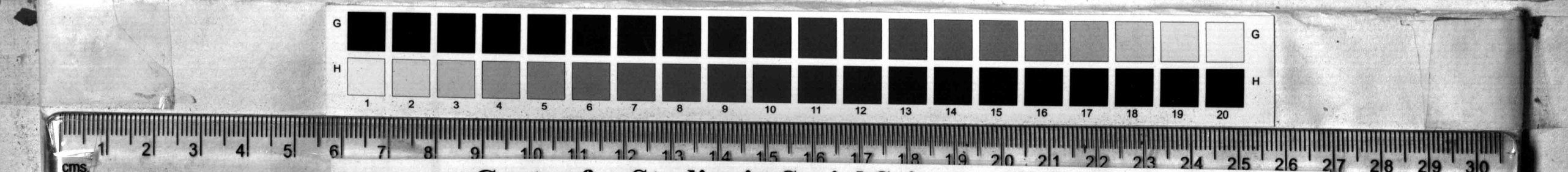
Collector of Krishnagore claims to have passed through a similar experience," that is to say, the experience of Babu Shishir Kumar Ghose, which was that he could not accept the divinity of Jesus Christ before, but this he was led to do when he had been forced to accept the Lord Gauranga as an Incarnation of God Almighty. So, you see, the Gauranga movement has already done this good to Christianity, namely, that it has made men like Babu Shishir, Kumar Ghose and Nanda Krishna Bose, the Magistrate-Collector, to accept the divine character of Jesus—men who are leaders of intellectual and Hindu India. The attitude of the Christians towards the movement is, however, of bitter hostility. Not so is the attitude of the Gaurangists towards the Christians, of whom they always speak with affection and regard. Here is a paragraph from the article. After assuming that the kirtians in Calcutta were due to the plague, we are told:—

"We have seen it openly asserted in native papers that in organizing these Sankirtan parties the leaders had other motives in view than the kindling of spiritual devotion; but of this we will not now speak."

What are these other views, pray? Perhaps picking pockets when men are singing and dancing in a sankirtan party. If it requires hard toil and single-minded devotion to be a Senior Wrangler, it requires greater toil and devotion to be a servant of God. The time and trouble that the Christians devote to religion enable them no doubt to talk and to talk only. But religion is a most precious thing and a hard-earned gift. In the article we see both history and criticism of the Gauranga movement. But the history is faulty. Where is the authority for the statement that the Lord threw Himself into the ocean? The followers of the Lord don't revile any religion and because they speak, as humble servants of God ought to speak, respectfully of Christianity, it is alleged that they "do pay homage to Christianity." When Sree Rup, the "servant of the Lord Gauranga, sitting under a tree in Brindaban, was writing one of his great books, he was interrupted by the appearance of an aggressive savant, who wanted to hold a political discussion with the saint. His challenge was that either the saint should enter into a discussion with him, or give him a certificate, acknowledging defeat. Sree Rup immediately agreed to acknowledge defeat, and declared the same in a certificate. But his disciple and nephew, young Jeeva, was there,—young Jeeva who made Jehangir, though a bigoted Mussalman, prostrate before him with great humility. (Vide Jehangir's Autobiography.) He followed the savant when the latter had left Sree Rup, and announced himself as a disciple of the saint. Said Jeeva to the proud savant: "My Guru is an humble servant of the Lord. It is true he has confessed defeat but that is due to his humility, not to any want of ability. Will you please hold a discussion with me, one of his meaneest disciples?" The discussion was held, and the savant was utterly routed. This came to the knowledge of Sree Rup and he sent for Jeeva and told him these memorable words: "You have to reside in Brindaban, but you must first make yourself fit for it. You have yet desire for victory, and you took offence because an ignorant man had spoken unworthily. Go hence: first curb your passions, and then come to Brindaban."

SOMETIME ago we reproduced a paragraph from the Inter-Ocean (America) in regard to social affairs at Simla. We now learn with dismay that the whole thing is pure imagination. Mrs. Levi Leiter has never been to India, but the two Misses Leiter have been, since April, the guests of His Excellency. They take no part in Viceroyal ceremonies; and it appears that from beginning to end the whole thing is evolved out of imagination. We are sorry for being imposed upon, but we had no means of knowing that the American paper was writing fiction.

THE elected Municipal Commissioners have done their part of the duty by resigning their posts; the rate-payers must now do theirs. There was a talk of holding a public meeting to protest against the Despatch of Lord Curzon, as soon as it was published. But any further demonstration was thought to be useless and a mere waste of energy, as all that was possible in that way to convince the Government of the retrograde character of the measure, had already been done by the rate-payers. Indeed, never was Calcutta more convulsed than over this measure, nearly a score of public meetings having been held in the city and as many memorials submitted to Government. When, therefore, the question of holding another public meeting was raised at a conference of a large number of leading men at the palace of Raja Benoy Krishna Bahadur, it was decided that the only reply to the Despatch of the Government of India, in which the Bill was made still worse and prominence was given to the charge of corruption, was the resignation of the elected Commissioners in a body. Such a protest, it was deemed, might lead the Government to think over the matter again; for the fact need not be concealed that the Corporation would not find it all easy sailing without the help of the 28 Commissioners who have resigned. Of two of them, Babu Kally Nath Mitter and Nalin Behari Sarkar, even Sir Alexander Mackenzie was pleased to say that, he would throw his Bill into the fire if men like them would not serve under its provisions. Would Sir Alexander now act up to his promise? Of course, he is not now the ruler of Bengal; but he may confess to Lord Curzon by a letter that he had given his word of honor as a Governor, that he would shelve the Bill if men like Babu Kally Nath and Nalin Behari refused to serve; and that as they, along with others, have resigned, he would thank his Lordship if he would reconsider the situation and redeem his promise by withdrawing his assent to the Bill when it is passed and sent up for his sanction. It is a misfortune that neither Lord Curzon nor Sir John Woodburn know the merits of the 28 Commissioners who have resigned, for both of them are strangers to Bengal. If they knew, as Sir Alexander Mackenzie did, the invaluable services which many of them have done as Municipal Commissioners, they could not have looked upon their resignation with the cool indifference which they are seemingly doing. But, as we said, the rate-payers have no duty to do, and that is to show to the Government that they approve of the



decision of their representatives. What they ought to do is to hold meetings in all the wards, thanking the Commissioners for their past services and deploring the action of the Government which has driven them to tender their resignation. They have also another duty to do. It is to let the Government know in respectful language, that they should not be invited again to elect their representatives; for they could not ask gentlemen, possessing a drop of self-respect, to represent them in the Corporation, when they are to be used as mere tools in the hands of the executive. There will shortly be a fresh election to fill up the vacancies caused by the resignation of the 28 Commissioners. Here is an opportunity for the rate-payers to show their real feeling towards the Municipal Bill. Our belief is that, except the would-be "Babhans," no respectable person will offer himself as a candidate and that very few rate-payers will care to exercise their right of voting. And those who will exercise the right, will elect only the race of "Babhans."

LET us relate here again how these "Babhans" were created in days of yore, by a certain king. He needed several thousands of Brahmins to perform a certain ceremony. But so many Brahmins were not to be had either for money or for love. The king thereupon resorted to an easy plan to secure the required number. He converted a large number of non-Brahmins into Brahmins by investing them with the sacred thread. But it is not the thread but the culture and discipline of centuries that make a Brahmin. So when the king held his court and invited the newly-created Brahmins, they sat like dummies in the company of the real Brahmins. They could neither speak in Sanskrit nor expound Shastric texts; and so they became objects of universal ridicule. In due course these herons in the midst of the geese, as the Sanskrit simile has it, gradually fell into contempt, and came to be nick-named "Babhans," instead of Brahmins. These Babhans now form a large class. They have the sacred thread but they till the land and are a low-caste and altogether inferior people. The by-elections may possibly create a class of Babhans in Calcutta.

THE *Harvest Field*, a missionary paper, deploras the lack of good fellowship between Europeans and Indians; but it fastens the guilt upon the latter, because they do not dine with the Europeans and do not allow their women-folk to come out. And thus, says the missionary paper, the "Christian gentleman" can never meet the Hindu freely and frankly on equal terms. But the England returned Hindu has no such objection. Nay, the Christian "convert" is as much a pariah with the Europeans here as any orthodox Hindu. We have in India a large number of missionaries who are maintained by the heathens. The latter do not, frankly speaking, object to this arrangement in the belief that spread of morality and religion, which the presence of pious men is presumed to assure, would, in the long run, be of advantage to the subject race. But the Christian missionaries do not meddle with Christian gentlemen in India, they devote almost all their energies to the conversion of the heathens. There are people who would not pay their debts, but would spend in charity. For there is no glory in paying debts but there is much in the conversion of a heathen. The missionaries love glory and, therefore, ignore the principle that charity must begin at home. Let the missionaries and their organs first put their own home into order; let them shew to the heathens the superiority of their religion by example, and then, that will help them more in the spread of their faith than precepts, sermons and abuse of the Hindu.

Strangely enough it never occurs to these men, who pose as philanthropists, and deplore the lack of good-fellowing between the races, or if it occurs to them, they never care to give vent to their thought, that there are possibly other causes than this exclusiveness of the Hindu which keeps up this difference between the rulers and the ruled. Here is a paragraph from the *Investor's Review*.

Our contemporary *India* very properly "pulls up" an evening journal for its pother about the despatch of white troops from India to Natal "unless their place is immediately to be taken by others from England." This portentous authority professes alarm at the withdrawal of any portion of the "small white garrison" from India. Dear, dear! But it is so very small? It consists at present of about 74,000 men—only one-third of the entire British army. For this the English tax-payer pays not a farthing; our home authorities take care that India "pays the piper," though she is not permitted to "set the tune." She is not consulted about the strength of the white garrison she needs. In 1875-6, this "small white garrison" consisted of less than 60,000 men. But this was before the revolutionary policy inaugurated by Lord Lytton. That is what has necessitated the increase of the "white garrison," for no one seems to have any compunction about throwing the burden of "Imperialism on the mild but unfortunate Hindoo. And we must not forget that with the superior modern equipment of the present "small white garrison," it is, as compared with that of 1875, equivalent to about 90,000 men. All the time, too, the native Indian army has been largely increased—in consequence of the continuance of that fashionable revolutionary policy. But, as India pays, no body in England complains. That is how the War Office and Horse Guards are left to their own devices. If the English tax-payer had to pay for the expensive garrison, there might be grumbles. And yet we do not know. Our home army is being steadily increased almost without the sound of a protest. What will be said when recruits fall and conscription is enforced? That day seems not far off.

Now these Christian gentlemen, on whose behalf the *Harvest Field* speaks, have, as Christians, or ought to have, a very strong sense of justice. Everyone of them is for the retention of this huge army. They all know that it is poor India which has to pay for this "white garrison." Have they ever spoken a word to say that it is unjust to make India pay for this garrison? They do not utter a protest, because they have not to pay a pice of this cost. They would have rent the skies with their cries of distress if they had been made to pay their share of the burden. Lord Curzon has already said that he would not permit the reduction of any portion of the white garrison. That is all right. But his Lordship has not as yet declared his opinion about the justice of the arrangement which makes India pay for this huge army. We have suggested this aspect of the question to his Lordship before, and we hope it will

attract his attention. For, surely, if the presence of the white garrison is absolutely needed, it is also absolutely correct to say that it is not India alone that should bear the cost.

The lack of good feeling which the *Harvest Field* deploras is not due to any defect in the social custom of the Hindus; it is, we fear, due to the lack of sympathy of the ruling races for their fellow-subjects in India.

THE case of Henry Wilson, stud groom in the service of Lord Sandhurst, who was charged with causing the death of a syce on the night of the 19th August, as also with simple hurt, came before Mr. Aston, Judge, Poona, and three assessors. Two of the assessors found the accused guilty and one found him not guilty on both charges. The accused was fined Rs. 25 on the second charge, that of causing simple hurt. But simple or not, the man died from its effects.

Varieties.

PROFESSOR REGINALD A. Fessenden, of Pennsylvania, has invented a telescope which it is said will tend to lessen the efficiency of smokeless powder in warfare by locating the flash when the powder is discharged. The War Department will make a test of the instrument before the examining board.

DR. SCHLATTER made a remarkable operation in which he extirpated the stomach of a female patient. It is interesting to know that she lived 14 months after the operation and that there was no difficulty in keeping up the nutrition of the patient. The food taken passed directly from the oesophagus into the intestines, and the intestinal digestion was sufficient to satisfy her wants.

MR. C. D. P. GIBSON, of Jersey City, has built a motor carriage which is run by carbonic acid gas. In many ways this is a most alluring motive agent, but usually inventors have not been able to control it and they could not prevent the valves of the agent from freezing, owing to its too rapid expansion. Its expense was also against it, the latter has been overcome at the present time.

An electric clock, one of the largest in the world, has recently been erected at the Liverpool Street Station of the great Eastern Railway. It is constructed of iron and manganese steel, and the case itself forms a room inside 9 feet square. From the pinnacle to extreme ornamentation at base is 21 ft. The four opal dials with bold Roman figures, facing the four points of the station are 6 feet in diameter. The figures of each hour are about 18 inches apart. This clock will be worked by a regulator clock fixed in the main telegraph office.

MRS. AVILLE-KENT recently showed at the Camera Club a number of fine examples of three colour photographs of various natural objects. The method involves the production of three separate negatives taken each under a different coloured screen. Positives from these negatives are then associated with properly coloured glasses, and the three images are by special apparatus projected upon a screen—one red image, another blue-violet and the third green. By the touch of a lever these 3 images approach one another and finally overlap, the result being a very fair representation of the original object in all its natural colours.

A NEW way of preserving milk has been tried, after which it retains all the properties of the fresh article. New milk is cooled down directly, and treated to pure carbonic acid gas under a pressure of 5 or 6 atmospheres for 4 or 5 hours. This kills all germs which require oxygen or aerobic bacteria. Then the milk is subjected to a pressure of 5 atmospheres in the presence of oxygen for five hours, after which all germs that will not flourish in contact with oxygen, but obtain their supply from the substances they live upon, or anaerobic bacteria are found to be destroyed. In transit the milk is carried in vessels containing oxygen under 2 atmospheres' pressure, which may be in the form of syphons.

THE "Biokam" an instrument for amateurs interested in the production of living pictures, is a novelty put on the market by the Warwick Trading Company. It is so compact, portable, moderate in price and easy of manipulation that it will attain the same degree of popularity as the ordinary camera. In this instrument, the film which is 25 feet in length contains as many as 700 pictures and can be wound on a sort of reel and developed as easily as an ordinary plate. The exposure by means of a train of wheels, can be effected at such a speed that each separate impression is practically instantaneous, and thus an unlimited number of midjet portraits or photographs of scenery may be taken with a minimum of trouble.

LIQUID air is 344° colder than ice, and it can be caused to boil while its containing vessel stands on a block of that substance. It freezes pure alcohol into a solid mass. Iron and steel become brittle as glass when they are acted upon by it. Copper, gold and silver become softer and more pliable. Its vapour has an expansive force two times that of steam. In this respect it threatens to supersede steam as a source of energy in driving our locomotive engines and steamers. Factories all over the world will be run by air, and flying machines will be brought rapidly within the bounds of practicability by its influence. Surgeons have already successfully used it for cauterising purposes as it sears the flesh like red-hot iron. Experiments prove that an explosive of enormous disruptive power can be made with liquid air. In short, liquid air seems destined to be of enormous service to mankind.

DR. HELMES recently made certain experiments regarding the hygienic value of paints that are usually employed to colour the walls of buildings and thereby to ascertain the effect of such paints upon bacteria. He took several pieces of timber and smeared each with different kinds of paints, such as oil paint, size paint, lime paint and enamel paint. Afterwards he coated them with cultures of various disease-inciting bacteria and placed them in an incubator in which an ordinary room temperature was maintained. The scrapings from the surface of timber pieces were examined now and then to detect the amount of live bacteria present. It was found that on oil paint coatings the bacteria died off much quicker than on others and, therefore, such paint must be used in hospitals, schools and other buildings.—*Scientific American*.

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BARODA GOALINI'S CASE.—The case will be tried at Burdwan on the 25th instant.

WILD ELEPHANTS.—The *Bankura Darpan* reports the appearance of two wild elephants in the district. They are said to be committing a sad havoc in the paddy fields of some of the outlying villages.

QUARANTINE.—In consequence of the outbreak of plague in Portugal the Government of Bengal has decided to strictly enforce the Venice Sanitary Convention Regulation in the ports of Calcutta and Chittagong against vessels arriving from the Portuguese ports.

ASSAULT ON A WOMAN.—On Monday a Hindu resident of Tallygunge was tried by Babu C. N. Singh, Deputy Magistrate of Alipore, on a charge of having stabbed a woman with a spear. The accused and the husband of the wounded woman were enemies, and the former in order to wreak his vengeance, went stealthily into the house of the latter with a spear in his hand, thrust it through the open window and stabbed the woman in her arm. He was sentenced to four months' rigorous imprisonment.

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.—The Indian National Congress, which is to be held at Lucknow in December, is making active preparations for a place in which to lay its head. Ten acres of land have been granted to it by the Commissioner at a rental of Rs. 40 per month and work will speedily be commenced on a large pavilion (the acoustic properties of which will be carefully legislated for), offices, &c. The hat is now being vigorously sent round to pay the many expenses which will be incurred.

A SHOOTING ACCIDENT AT CAWNPORE.—In noticing the Local Government's Circular No. 509, VIII—93C-5 of 1899 on the killing or wounding of Natives by Europeans the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* assured us that "If the subordinates of Sir Antony Patrick MacDonnell loyally obey the instructions in the circular the result is bound to be excellent." Yes, but the "if" stands in the way. There has been a shooting accident here at Cawnpore and the victim is lying in the hospital for over three weeks and medical opinion has it that he has been suffering from bullet wound. "Almost the whole city knows who is the hero of the accident. But people would like to know what sort of enquiry, if any, has been made. Here in this case the Government circular has been treated as a dead letter.—*Indian Standard*."

OBITUARY.—Babu Nakuleswar Bhattacharjya of Kalighat writes:—A truly pious Baishnab has just passed away in the person of Babu Grish Chundra Biswas, the father of our distinguished countryman, Lieutenant Suresh Biswas of Brazil Army. The melancholy event took place on the 30th of August last, on the banks of the Ganges at Kalighat, where he was taken from his house No 106 Kurryah Road the previous night by his friends and relatives all chanting the sacred name of the divine being. The whole time till the end of cremation was spent in Sankirtan. He leaves behind him a son, Babu Monmotho Nath Biswas, and a large circle of friends and relatives to mourn his loss. We offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved family.

CLEVER ARREST OF DACOITS.—On Friday last Superintendent Rai Jogendra Chander Mitter Bahadur, received certain information on which he searched the house of an old offender named Shaik Ismail, living in Patwarbagan, Moocheepara, and arrested him. A large quantity of gold and silver ornaments and Rs. 230 in small G. C. Notes, were found in his house. The man made a statement admitting that the properties found with him, were those carried off by the dacoits who had ransacked the house of Nistar Dassi, on the night of 14th August at Dakhineswar. Shaik Ismail made a full confession before the Rai Bahadur and mentioned the names of his companions, some of whom are residents of Howrah. The whole gang were subsequently arrested. Great credit is due to the Rai Bahadur for the arrest of these dacoits. They will be placed on their trial shortly.

STRANGE PHENOMENA.—A Begoosera correspondent of the *Beha News* says:—A mango tree belonging to Babu Bacha Singh, a zemindar of Bakhari, Perganah Ballia, Sub-division Begoosera, was cut by his men in Baisakh last and a piece of the trunk of the same tree measuring 9 feet in length and 3 feet in circumference was used as a pillar for a cowshed in Jaisth last. In the beginning of the current month it has been found that the trunk had set forth some 8 twigs with fresh leaves. The matter being an astonishing one the inhabitants of the adjoining villages daily assemble there to see the trunk. There is another event more astonishing than the present one and it runs thus. A Pandit is reading and translating into Hindi the Bhagbat Puran in mouza Salama which is close to the aforesaid village Bakhari. A cow daily attends the place at the commencement of the sitting and departs after the close of the *Katha*. No one has been able to make it out whence the cow comes and where it goes and to whom she belongs.

RAIN-MAKING BY PRAYERS.—In common with the British Districts of the Chattisgarh Division, the Chattisgarh Feudatory States on the borders of Raipur and Sambalpur have been suffering until recently from want of rain. The good rainfall that has lately visited this part of the country was therefore regarded as providential, and it is the great fact of the moment in the minds of the people. The Political Officer in charge of these States

received the other day demi-officially from one of them an explanation of how this beneficent turn in the character of the season came about. It appears that a Brahmin of sanctity who was wandering about the State was much importuned by people who followed him about praying him to bring the rain. Wearied at last with their solicitations, he took compassion on them and sat himself down on the ground saying that he would not rise again until his ankles were immersed in water. In two hours' time rain had begun to fall and in fourteen hours the Brahmin's ankles were covered, and he was released from his vow. Evidently the Brahmin influence is not yet extinct in the Chattisgarh Feudatories.—*Pioneer*.

INTIMIDATING A PLEADER.—Baboo Soshi Bhushan Mitra, a pleader of the Police Court, charged Annoda Prosad Ghose, Rishiraj Ghose and Saroda Prosad Ghose, neighbours of the complainant, before Mr. N. N. Ghose and others, Presy. Magistrate with trespass, using filthy and insulting language, and criminal intimidation. It was stated that a Hindu widow, who lived opposite the house of the accused, had refused some overtures made by the accused. On the 6th April the accused and others forcibly entered the house of the woman, and assaulted her and a man who was there. The latter engaged the complainant to institute a case against the accused in the Police Court, and summonses were obtained against them. The day after the service of the summonses on the 17th April, at 7-30 A. M., the accused, who lived a few doors away from the house of the complainant, entered his place in a body, and abused him for having applied for summonses against them. The complainant told them that he had simply acted under instructions and had to do his duty towards his clients. The accused then abused the complainant in most filthy terms, using very insulting language towards him, made indecent gestures, and criminally intimidated him by threatening to kill him when he left the house and break every bone in his body. On the same day the complainant came to Court and obtained warrants against the accused. The accused moved the High Court to have the case transferred to the Sealdah or Alipore Court, but their application was rejected. The Northern Division Magistrate eventually transferred the case to a special bench, at which Mr. N. N. Ghose was asked to preside. The complainant was represented by Messrs. Manuel, Cranenburgh and Moses, and Baboos Kanye Lal Mookerjee, Gopal Lal Seal, Jotendra Nath Ghose, and, in fact, all the pleaders of the Police Courts, all of whom refused the advances of the accused to appear for them on the ground that the complainant, who was a pleader of this Court, had been attacked in his professional capacity as a pleader appearing against the accused and not on any private matter. It was owing to this unity of the pleaders that the accused had moved the High Court for a transfer in which they were not successful. The hearing, which lasted for several days, concluded on Saturday, and his Worship delivered a lengthy judgment in which he stated that he placed the utmost reliance on the testimony of the complainant. He convicted the accused and sentenced the first to a month's rigorous imprisonment and to pay a fine of Rs. 50; in default, to a further term of two weeks' imprisonment. The other two accused were fined Rs. 50 each; in default, to undergo two weeks' rigorous imprisonment. There was another case against the accused to show cause why they should not be bound down to keep the peace towards the complainant. Baboo Kanye Lal Mookerjee, on behalf of the complainant, said that the pleader was not vindictive, and after the sentence in the other case desired to drop the second case and asked permission to withdraw it. This was granted and the case struck out.

MOSQUITOS AND MALARIA.—The following appears in the *British Medical Journal* of July 22nd:—On my voyages home from Calcutta last March, Mr. J. F. Parker, of Messrs. Thacker Spink and Co. of Calcutta and Mrs. Parker, who were travelling in the same vessel with me, volunteered the following statement regarding an outbreak of fever. I cannot answer for the facts because I was not aware of the case at the time it occurred and because a letter which I addressed to Calcutta on the subject appears to have miscarried, but Mr. and Mrs. Parker seemed to be so familiar with the circumstances and to be so certain regarding those facts, that I think I may venture to record the case. If correct, it is an interesting instance of mosquito-borne malaria; if incorrect, I hope that publication will lead to the truth being known. I copy the statement just as it was written down from Mr. and Mrs. Parker's evidence in my note-book. They said:—The 1st Calcutta Company of the Boys' Brigade went out to "camp" in the month of October 1898. They were given the use of one of the bungalows in Barrackpore Park, 14 miles from Calcutta. Barrackpore Park is the estate round Government House at Barrackpore; the bungalow referred to is one occasionally used by the Viceroy's staff, and is a brick-built structure soundly made containing large rooms and surrounded by a verandah. The water-supply is the same as that of Calcutta. There are some ponds close by. The party in "camp" consisted of three officers, all young men, and thirteen boys of between 13 and 18 years age. The officers were Mr. —, the captain and Mr. — and Mr. —, the two lieutenants. The whole party slept in the bungalow every night for one week, and also ate their meals there. During the week the party lived in the bungalow, the boys did not sleep under mosquito nets because it was feared they would tear them, although the three officers did so. Mr. — (the captain) informed us that mosquitoes were very numerous, and that the boys were bitten by them. On the last day of the week a sister of one of the boys visited the camp, and was also bitten so much that her arm swelled; she was present only in that day. All the boys were attacked by malarial fever within a few days after the close of camp. One died, and several were seriously ill. Three native servants who went with the party were also, to our certain knowledge, taken ill, one, a boy, seriously. The two other servants were lent to the party by ourselves. The little girl just referred to was also attacked the day after her visit. The medical man attending the boys stated that the disease was malarial fever, and this was the disease entered on the death certificate of the one who died. We heard that the boys had repeated attacks of shivering followed by fever. M was

the first attacked (the day after returning,) and all the rest were attacked within about ten days. The three officers (who slept in mosquito nets) remained perfectly well up to February 23rd, 1899, when Mr. and Mrs. Parker left for England. The officers slept every night in the bungalow. A friend of the captain's Mr. —, also slept in the bungalow one night in a mosquito net and was not attacked. The food of the whole party was precisely the same. The three native servants, of course, did not sleep under mosquito-nets. Thus, out of twenty-one persons concerned, seventeen who did not use mosquito nets were all attacked, with fever, while four who did use them all escaped. Mr. and Mrs. Parker have authorised me to publish their names in connection with this case. (Sd.) Ronald Ross, D. P. H., M. R. C. S.

LORD CURZON'S COMING TOUR.—It is a melancholy mischance that Lord Curzon's first Indian progress should be destined to take him through a Province darkened by the shadow of scarcity and suffering. There could have been no apprehension at the time when the itinerary was fixed that the situation in Rajputana would become so serious, or we may safely assume that some other line of the country would have been chosen. Everyone feels that the Viceroy's tour, and his first tour especially, is an event that should go off with *ecclat*, and Rajputana was eager to get the first visit and to give Lord Curzon such a welcome on his first appearance in the interior of India as no future receptions should outdo. Everything promised for a tour as brilliant as loyalty and hospitality could make it, and one that would have been as full of pleasure as of interest to the Viceroyal party. But circumstances have changed with the rapidity that is so characteristic of this country. The holding off of the rains which appeared to be at first nothing more than a mere temporary irregularity of the monsoon has deepened into something very like total failure; and the country being short to start with of water and fodder has passed at one step into the state of distress. The tour marked out for the Viceroy takes him into some of the worst districts, such as Marwar and Ajmere, where he can hardly fail to come into contact with some of the sadder and darker features of Indian life. In some instances no doubt the arrangements will have to be modified. At Ajmere for instance the great difficulty ahead is the failure of the water supply and the chance of an absolute water famine. A viceregal visit which would bring thousands of outside people into the town would in such circumstances only aggravate the trouble, and we take it that unless things change greatly for the better Ajmere is pretty sure to be left out of the programme. Some people would doubtless maintain that the Viceroyal Camp should not move about in a distressed district at all. It may be urged that it brings multitudes of people together who would be better apart; that it is likely to take up the time and attention of officials who ought to be looking after relief; and that in some cases it may involve great inconvenience and hardship to people already pinched to supply a great establishment with such necessities as water and fodder. The objection applies particularly no doubt to Native States where the feelings and the property of the common folk count for little when the chief is determined that the entertainment shall do credit to himself. On the other hand, it is certainly the case that the presence of the Viceroy may do a good deal to cheer and encourage the people—when that encouragement does not take the form of Lord Elgin's remark to the unfortunate public of Jubbulpore in 1899 that he had been particularly struck by the cheerful aspect of the country. Of one thing we may be sure that Lord Curzon will have the best local information as to the state of the country, and will have it well weighed before he finally starts his camp; and if in the end he should decide to change the route, altogether and to leave Rajputana for a happier time the motives of the decision will be clearly understood.—*Pioneer*.

Correspondence.

PLAGUE STATISTICS.

TO THE EDITOR.
 SIR,—As Secretary of the Vigilance Committee in my ward (No. 1) the Corporation still sends me its plague statistics. There were again on the 2nd September two cases of plague in ward No. 1 of which more hereafter.

But there is one feature in these statistics to which I beg to call the attention of the authorities.

On August 31st there was altogether 39 deaths against an average of 51 on the same day for the last 5 years. Of these 39 deaths, 10 are plague cases; excluding therefore the plague cases, there is a death-rate of 29 against 51 from ordinary causes. Similarly in the vital statistics of the 2nd of September, the total number of deaths is 30 against an average of 55. There were 11 plague deaths on the same day. Deducting this new element of death, there were 19 deaths from ordinary causes against an average of 55 deaths from ordinary causes on the same day for the last 5 years.

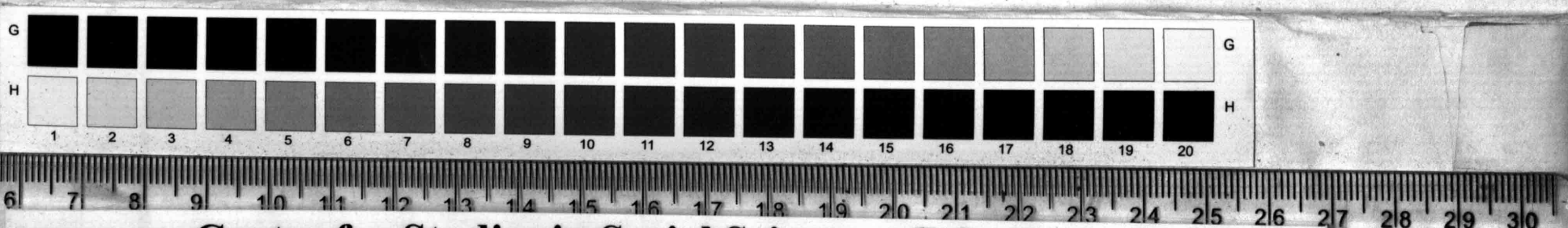
With plague raging in our midst at the rate of 10 or 11 deaths a day, does not this become a little perplexing even to a plague doctor?

May I ask when Mr. Bright countersigns these papers, does he think over this extraordinary result. Now that he has been dissociated from corruption, I trust his mind will assert its normal and healthy activity so that he may exercise some sort of scrutiny over the figures of his plague subordinates.

BHUPENDRA NATH BOSE.

A MEETING of the Legislative Council of the North-West Provinces will be held at Naini Tal on Wednesday, the 27th September.

SOME four or five men, all of them Sikhs are said to have been arrested by the Delhi police for giving expression to alarming predictions. One of them said that a great storm was brewing that would destroy the whole town, while another held that within three days cholera was to seize all the inhabitants. The third gave out that he was ordered by his *guru* to collect *chauth* from the people and that whoever refused to give would suffer the greatest hardships and even might meet death. Such rumours, during a calamitous period like this, are generally believed by the ignorant, and hence the arrest.



THE MOHANPUR RIOT CASE.

JUDGMENT.

HERE is the full text of the judgment delivered by Captain Herbert, Deputy Commissioner, in the case in which Mr. Ross charged several villagers with rioting, being members of an unlawful assembly, etc.:-

The facts of this case, as stated by the complainant, are that on the 7th February last he went with 4 of his garden coolies to the jungle land belonging to his garden, in the vicinity of Bonduk-mara, to see whether forest produce was being stolen from his garden land. At a certain spot complainant found some Bengalees on the path and at the side of it, some cutting and some tying bamboos. He thought they were on garden land and he caught two of the men and began to return, taking them and 2 bundles of bamboos with him; when the party had gone about a quarter of a mile they were attacked by Bengalees to the number of about 40, who assaulted complainant and his coolies with bamboos. Complainant also alleges that he was struck on the top with a dao, which cut through the brim. Complainant stated that he then saw some of the Bengalees cutting bamboos and sharpening the points and that they began to thrust at him with these extemporised spears. Complainant then drew a revolver, which he carried, and pointed it in the direction of the Bengalees cautioning them to desist from their attack. He was, however, struck across the top of his head with a lathi and at the same instant he was struck on the right arm and the revolver went off. Complainant and the coolies then ran away and the Bengalees followed, throwing the bamboo spears at them. Accused No. 1 states that he went to cut bamboos on his own land, that complainant seized his nephew Usman Gani and shot him, that he also shot at Abdul Gaffur (accused No. 4). Accused Nos. 2 to 5 state that they went to cut bamboos on their own land and made no attack on complainant or his coolies. Accused Nos. 6 and 7 state that they were elsewhere at the time of the offence. The 1st and 2nd witnesses for the prosecution depose to having examined brims on complainant and his coolies. The 3rd, 4th and 5th witnesses are 3 of the 4 coolies who accompanied complainant and the 6th and last witness for prosecution is Mr. Graham, the Sub-divisional Magistrate of Hailakandi, who made an enquiry into this case and the cross-examination against J. N. Ross which has been decided. Complainant states that he caught the two Bengalees on what he thought to be his garden land; he admits that he had never previously been to that place. He understood that his coolies knew the boundaries and one of them Ram Khilawan, told him that he was on garden land. Ram Khilawan in cross-examination admits that he never went nearer than half-a-mile of the place of occurrence before the 7th February and that he heard from chowkidars that that land belonged to the garden, and they pointed out a certain fari (a line cut through the forest), which fari he pointed out to complainant as the boundary of the garden land. The 4th witness Banku coolie and the 5th witness Jadu coolie admit that they never previously went to the place of occurrence.

On the other hand, Mr. Graham states that all the places connected with the occurrence are in the land of the villagers, and the place where the Bengalees are said to have been seized is between 150 and 200 yards from the boundary of the garden land. It therefore follows that complainant laid claim to land which did not belong to his garden on the statement of a garden coolie who had never previously been to the place and then proceeded to arrest two villagers lawfully employed in cutting bamboos on this land, which was their own property. Complainant was, therefore, the aggressor, and the friends of the 2 men seized had the right of private defence of their companions against unlawful restraint by complainant and his coolies.

Now as to whether the Bengalee accused exceeded their right of private defence. Complainant states that after going about a quarter of a mile with his prisoners he heard shouting from behind, and one of his coolies called out "the Bengalees have come". The coolies ran towards complainant and the 2 prisoners escaped and ran towards the men who were coming and as the coolies approached complainant, he saw that they were being beaten by Bengalees. The coolies ran past complainant and the Bengalees came on and began to beat him with bamboos and daos. The 3rd, 4th and 5th witnesses bear but this statement, but the 4th witness, who was according to the evidence, the hindmost of the party, states that he was struck before the prisoners escaped. He further stated that "immediately they were beaten and the 2 Bengalees escaped, the Bengalees also beat the Sahib, the occurrence took place very quickly." If the evidence of the prosecution is to be believed the prisoners escaped, and the right of private defence ceased just before the attack on complainant and his coolies, but it is clear that the two events were almost, if not quite, simultaneous.

Now as to the credibility of the evidence for prosecution. There are good grounds for thinking that complainant himself cannot be believed on two important points. His primary reason for carrying a revolver he states, was because of wild animals and his secondary reason was to protect himself; he does not say against whom or what. His first reason is false on the face of it. In cross-examination he first stated that he had shot wild beasts with his revolver, and when pressed stated that he had shot one jackal. In re-examination he stated that he carried a revolver to scare wild beasts. Now it is perfectly evident that he carried a revolver for quite another purpose. He wanted to catch men cutting bamboos; this is evident from his own statement that he went to the place in consequence of information received, that he had previously caught men cutting bamboos, that he did not go by the path he ordinarily used, because there was a fakir who had given warning to persons in the jungle of his approach, and the reason why he took a revolver was without doubt that he expected to meet with resistance, when a weapon would be useful. The second point on which complainant cannot be believed is his statement that Fakir Dhan, accused, was the second man caught by him. Complainant and his witnesses had several opportunities of seeing Fakir Dhan during the investigation, but they never identified him as the second man who was caught, but only as the man who attacked complainant with a dao. On complainant being asked whether it was not after hearing Arjan's evidence in the cross-

case that he thought Fakir Dhan was like the second man caught, complainant said he thought from the first that Fakir Dhan was like the man caught and yet, although this is a most important point in this case and in the cross-examination, he cannot say whether he told Mr. Graham that Fakir Dhan was like the man caught; the fact being that he did not so tell Mr. Graham. Now as to the time when complainant drew his revolver. He states that he was cut at with a dao by Fakir Dhan, that he snatched away the dao, that he was again cut at with a dao and warded off the cut with his stick. At that time he saw some Bengalees cutting and sharpening bamboos, which they began to thrust at him and then he drew his revolver. Two of his coolies state that he drew his revolver when he was cut at with a dao by Fakir Dhan, and the 3rd coolie states that the Bengalees began to beat them with bamboos and to wave their daos and complainant then held up his hand saying he held a pistol. I do not think it necessary to go into further discrepancies and improbabilities, though there are others in the evidence for prosecution, because those indicated are sufficient to show that the evidence is not very reliable. It is proved that complainant was the aggressor and that up to a certain point the accused were acting in the right of private defence. Where that right ceased is not clear as the evidence cannot be entirely believed. But I think that it is satisfactorily shown by the circumstances that the common object of the accused was not to assault complainant and his men but to rescue the 2 men unlawfully arrested by complainant; and in view of the unsatisfactory nature of the evidence I must give the accused the benefit of the doubt. I accordingly acquit all the accused under section 258 C.P.C.

JUDGMENT IN THE LUMSDEN-AUGIER CASE.

ON Saturday last Mr. H. H. Elmslie, Sub-divisional Officer of Ranigunj, delivered the following judgment in the case brought by Mrs. Lumsden against R. F. Augier under section 120, Act IX of 1890, and section 509 of the Indian Penal Code:

The accused Mr. Augier is manager of one of the Ranigunj Coal Association's collieries at Kustore, in the district of Manbhumm. He has been charged with having committed an offence punishable under section 120 of the Railway Act and section 509 of the Indian Penal Code while travelling home from Bankipore on the 21st June. It is alleged that while travelling in a compartment next to one occupied by Mrs. Lumsden, he put his head out of the window and twice made indecent gestures, and that after the train had left the next station, he walked along the footboard and asked Mrs. Lumsden if he might come to her carriage. On that lady telling him that she would report the matter to her husband, he went back to his own compartment. It is asserted on behalf of the prosecution that Mr. Lumsden got into the first-class ladies' reserved compartment, in which his wife was, at Lukheesera, and that he was concealed in the lavatory when Mr. Augier walked along the footboard. At Jhajha Mr. Augier was found in the lavatory of the next compartment by Mr. Lumsden and Mr. Neville, a private in the army, who was travelling in a second-class carriage in which Mr. Lumsden had previously been. At another station Mr. Augier came into that carriage and pleaded with Mr. Lumsden. Mr. Augier denies that he made any indecent gestures or in any way annoyed Mrs. Lumsden or walked along the footboard. He says that he got into the compartment next to Mrs. Lumsden by mistake, as he was in a hurry, and did not distinguish it from his own. He got in at Jhajha, and was found in the bathroom at Baidyanath. He says in his written statement, so far as I remember, "I looked out of the carriage window on either side to see if it were a fact that we had an engine behind, as I had heard that it was usual to use a second engine on what is known as the Simultala bank."

I do not propose to discuss all the disputed points in this case (as for instance, whether Mr. Augier was found in the bath-room at Jhajha or Baidyanath), because I consider that, apart from such matters of details, there are ample reasons for holding that Mr. Augier is entitled to an acquittal.

(1) The witnesses for the defence had given Mr. Augier a most excellent character, and had stated that he is a timid, nervous, modest and retiring man. I may add that this description of his temperament is borne out by his demeanour during the trial. A merely good character might not be strong evidence in a case of this kind, but a character for nervousness and bashfulness, I consider, very strong evidence indeed. If Mr. Augier is really the kind of man that his witnesses say, he is, it seems to be almost inconceivable that he would behave in the manner alleged.

(2) Mr. Augier's wife was travelling in the same train. He has been married for years and is said to be a devoted husband.

(3) I can't believe that a middle-aged man of Mr. Augier's nervous character would risk his life by going along the footboard of a mail train at night on such an errand. It is quite clear that this part of the story is a product of Mrs. Lumsden's imagination. Probably he put his head and shoulders out of the window, as he says he did, and Mrs. Lumsden fancied he was on the footboard. By the time Mr. Lumsden came out of the bathroom he was nowhere to be seen. Had Mrs. Lumsden frightened him away by saying she would tell her husband, and gone and told him one would have expected that he would still be in sight when Mr. Lumsden came out. Mrs. Lumsden says she asked her if he might come in. No one but herself heard those words, and she probably imagined that also.

(4) Mrs. Lumsden has been married nine or ten months, and was, at the time of the alleged occurrence, about four months advanced in pregnancy. It is a well-known fact that a woman in that condition is sometimes subject to the most extraordinary hallucinations. Moreover, her husband says that she is of a very nervous disposition, and that her nervousness has increased since she became enceinte. Between her compartment and that in which Mr. Augier was there was only a wooden partition. A man looking out of the window nearest to the partition would be clearly visible by an occupant of the next compartment. I believe that the explanation of the charges brought against the accused person is simply this: Mrs. Lumsden being pregnant and of a very nervous

disposition saw Mr. Augier's head appear out of the window, and thought he was trying to get into the carriage. Probably before that she was agitated and nervous, and imagined that the man in the next compartment had been annoying her. Very possibly some one there had put out his head or his hands or both before the occasion when Mrs. Lumsden thought an attempt was being made to enter her carriage.

(5) I cannot accept Mrs. Lumsden's account of the gestures which she says she saw. In the condition in which she was, imaginative and frightened, it is clear that she cannot have accurately observed the man's hands. I am inclined to believe that those gestures were suggested to her afterwards. It is hard to believe that a young lady, in a state of surprise, seeing a man do something with his hands, would notice that the gestures were indecent and be able to describe afterwards exactly what they were like.

(6) The whole story of Mr. Augier's action is improbable. A man seeing a woman alone in a railway carriage and wishing to make advances to her certainly would not make some silly obscene gestures, then keep perfectly quiet, and ultimately, without saying a preliminary word, risk breaking his neck by walking along the footboard. I imagine that no motive would induce a man to make indecent gestures in the presence of a lady except mere vulgar, obscene impertinence. Such conduct must be absolutely foreign to the nature of a middle-aged, timid, sober, and respectable married man, like the present accused person. I have already commented on the improbability of Mr. Augier having attempted to enter the carriage. Apparently he was neither making advances to the lady nor indulging in an insulting practical joke, so I don't see what his object could be.

(7) Had Mr. Augier been annoying Mrs. Lumsden before reaching Lukheesera he would in all probability have noticed her husband's entrance into her carriage.

(8) After having been repulsed in his attempt to enter the compartment he would probably have jumped out as soon as the train reached the next station, instead of getting into the 4th room.

(9) The fact of his having been found in the lavatory does not seem to be suspicious. He may have got into it for an ordinary purpose.

(10) None but Mrs. Lumsden saw Mr. Augier try to get into her compartment, or heard him say anything to her, or saw him make any gestures.

(11) In the first report, hurriedly made no doubt, Mr. Lumsden makes no mention of gestures.

(12) It has been abundantly proved that Mr. Augier behaved in a very wild and excited manner when he got into the other compartment, in which were Mr. and Mrs. Lumsden, Captain Twiddell, and the other witnesses. I do not see, however, that there was anything in his conduct incompatible with innocence. It is perfectly clear that he said that he was innocent, and that the words he used in pleading for the withdrawal of the charge did not amount to a confession of guilt. No doubt, it would have been far worse to remain calm and say nothing, but an excitable, timid man, charged with such an offence, and finding himself in a compartment full of people, who had already been somewhat prejudiced against him, might not improbably act as he did, though entirely innocent.

I consider that Mr. and Mrs. Lumsden made a most unfortunate mistake in bringing this charge. Mrs. Lumsden, no doubt, genuinely believed that the accused person had been annoying her. I am satisfied, however, that that belief was due to her own nervous fears, natural to a lady of her temperament while enceinte.

There is, in my opinion, strong ground for believing that Mr. Augier in no way misconducted himself.

I acquit the accused person, Robert Francis Augier, of an offence punishable under section 120, Act IX, 1890, and section 509 of the Indian Penal Code.

PLAGUE NEWS.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

ON Tuesday last, there were 8 cases and 8 deaths, distributed over the following wards: 1 and 1 in ward No. 1; 1 and 1 in No. 4; 1 and 1 in No. 6; 1 and 1 in No. 8; 1 and 1 in No. 11; 1 and 1 in No. 19; and 2 and 2 in No. 24. The total mortality, however, was lower than the average of the last five years by 14.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

PLAGUE attacks on Tuesday number 17 and plague deaths 19, the total mortality being 72. Last year it was 136 as compared with 112 in 1897. The mortality for the week was 67, a decrease of 76, and plague mortality was 97, an increase of two. The total mortality for the corresponding week last year was 869, and plague mortality 168.

POONA MORTALITY.

ON Tuesday 100 cases and 95 deaths were recorded in the City, the total mortality being 110. In the Cantonment there were 15 cases and 12 deaths, in the suburban area four cases and one death, and in the district 16 cases and eight deaths.

SIND RETURNS.

PLAGUE at Hyderabad, Sind, shows signs of abatement, the number of cases reported daily being under ten. On the 3rd instant there were only four cases and two deaths, the totals to date being 178 cases, and 145 deaths from the 9th ultimo. Mr. Barrow, Collector of Hyderabad, is both sympathetic and strong-minded, and is thoroughly capable of administering the plague policy of Government efficiently and with tact.

—NEARLY 60 per cent. of all Russians are unable to read or write.

—THE skeleton alone of an average whale weighs twenty-five tons.

—A COMPANY of settlers, in naming their own town, called it Dictionary, because, as they said, "That's the only place where peace, prosperity, and happiness are always found." A needy traveller applied for assistance to a benevolent lady, who gave him a trifle, and in order to put something more in his way, got him to beat her carpets. The poor man went to work with so much gusto and evident skill that his benefactress could not help asking:—"I suppose that is your regular occupation, or perhaps you are a furrier by trade?" "No, ma'am—a schoolmaster!"

TELEGRAMS.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, SEPT. 1. Mr. Fischer is again at Pretoria conferring with the Transvaal Executive, which has requested the Volksraad to postpone their discussion until Monday, because the reply to the latest Imperial Despatch is not ready.

A Boer named Viljoen has been tried on a charge of inciting the natives of Bechuanaland to revolt, and has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment in default of sureties.

It is understood that Colonel Hector Macdonald has been requested to be ready for service in South Africa, should hostilities break out in that quarter.

LONDON, SEPT. 2.

The Saturday Review states that General Sir Redvers Buller sails on the 9th inst. to assume command of the forces in South Africa.

LONDON, SEPT. 2.

Reuter's special correspondent at Pretoria, telegraphs that the Transvaal has replied to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch of the 28th August and, it is understood, agrees to the proposed conference at Cape Town, and promises to explain the working of the franchise and accept any suggestions.

LONDON, SEPT. 2.

The British Despatches to the Transvaal have been published, and confirm what has already been telegraphed. Mr. Chamberlain, in his despatch of 28th August, reminds the Transvaal Government that there are other matters of difference which will not be settled by the grant of the franchise to the Uitlanders, and which are no proper subjects for arbitration. These, Mr. Chamberlain says, should be settled concurrently with the question now under discussion, and form, with arbitration, subjects for consideration at the proposed conference at Capetown.

The 1st Royal Dragoons have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness to start for the Cape at three days' notice in the event of hostilities.

LONDON, SEPT. 2.

Colonel Dorward has been appointed to the Command at Wei-hai-wei.

LONDON, SEPT. 2.

The Dundonald, from Calcutta, with a cargo of 16,000 bales of jute, is on fire in Boulogne dock.

LONDON, SEPT. 3.

Consequent upon the arrest of Mr. Pakeman, the Editor of the Johannesburg Leader, which was, however, anticipated for several weeks past, a panic prevails at Johannesburg.

LONDON, SEPT. 3.

Detectives have made an ineffectual search in the Simmer and Jack mine for arms. The trains for Natal are crowded with fugitives.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

Mr. Chamberlain, who was at Birmingham, unexpectedly returned to London to-day.

PARIS, SEPT. 4.

The evidence at the Dreyfus trial to-day was of a sensational character. Cernuschi, a Hungarian refugee, deposed that a staff officer of a certain Central European Power informed him that prior to his arrest Dreyfus was giving out valuable information. Captain Cuignet deposed to the existence of fresh Dreyfus documents not yet submitted to the Court, which has ordered their production.

PARIS, SEPT. 4.

The French Senate has been summoned to meet on the 18th instant to try M. Deroulede and his co-plotters.

BERLIN, SEPT. 4.

The Prussian Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Public Work, have both resigned. This, coupled with the dismissal of minor officials, is traceable to the Emperor's annoyance at the rejection of the Canal Bill.

ROME, SEPT. 4.

China has offered to Italy mining right at Ningchai in Chekiang. The Italians consider this unsatisfactory.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

Mr. Pakeman, editor of the Johannesburg Leader, has been liberated on bail.

The State Attorney of the Transvaal denies that warrants have been issued against Mr. Money Penny and other Uitlanders. A subordinate official at Johannesburg apprehended Mr. Pakeman without the State Attorney's cognizance.

LONDON, SEPT. 4.

All kinds of warlike rumours are being published in the Uitlander papers at the Cape.

DO RATS CARRY INFECTION?

THE District Plague Officer, Bangalore, Mr. P. F. Bowring, comments upon the fact that the disease continues to appear in fresh villages and seems inclined to accept the theory that immediately a village is evacuated the rats depart elsewhere and carry the infection to new places. "We cannot serve observation notices on rats!" he exclaims. Among the newly-infected villages is Betmanahally. It consists of 30 or 40 houses, all fairly large ones, with plenty of space in between—none of the inhabitants are said to have gone anywhere lately and no strangers had come into the village. The rats alone could, therefore, have introduced the plague. This officer's observations coincide with the experience of Dr. E. S. Krishnasawmi Iyer, the Special Plague Officer, Kolar Gold Field, and of Mr. Humza Hossain, in Tumkur. On the latter's recommendation, when a village became infected this and the neighbouring villages were ordered to be evacuated, so as to give the rats no home. The experiment has been recommended that this plan be generally followed.

THE Government of Honolulu has extended the period of quarantine against plague to 21 days.

PLAGUE having been suppressed at Bushire, the Venice Convention regulations, against arrivals from that port to ports in Bengal, are withdrawn.

DURING the absence of Major Waddell, I. M. S., Captain W. J. Buchanan, I. M. S., acts as Editor of the Indian Medical Gazette.

THE death is announced of Professor Theodore Beck, Principal of the Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental College, Aligarh, at Simla, on Sunday last.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

HONOUR TO THE HON. BABU BOIKANTHA NATH SEN. (From our own Correspondent.)

BERHAMPUR, SEPT. 2. Last Saturday the Maharaja of Cossimbaraz gave a most successful evening party at his Rajdhani in honour of the Hon'ble Babu Boikantha Nath Sen, when the elite of the town were present. The Maharaja read out a congratulatory address and the evening's entertainment proved highly successful and satisfactory. It was followed by another similar party organised by Babu Chatrapat Sing at Paluchur where the members of Jaina community mustered strong and the guests were entertained with music and nautch-ess. Then followed another party organised by the Thakurs and Pundits of Saidabad, where benedictions and blessings were read out in Sanskrit and bhoga was offered to the idol Krishnaroyji, in honour of Babu Boikantha Nath Sen's election. Other friends are arranging for more parties next week.

OVATION TO MR. A. M. BOSE. (From our own Correspondent.)

DACCA, SEPT. 4. Mr. A. M. Bose arrived here on Friday last and met with a grand reception at the Railway Station. At a public meeting held on Saturday at Jagannath College, called by the elite of the town, both Hindus and Mahomedans, including Khajeh Mahomed Yusuf, Municipal Chairman, presided over by Rai Kali Prasanna Ghose Bahadur. Mr. Bose was enthusiastically received and cordially thanked for his incessant labor of love in the national cause, both here and in England. The President eloquently welcomed Mr. Bose, dilating on his greatness and goodness. Mr. Bose delivered a splendid oration describing his political experiences and expressing great delight at seeing Hindus and Mahomedans vying with one another to do him honour. Over two thousand people were present.

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SIMLA, SEPT. 5. The probable programme of the next meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council will be the passing of the Central Provinces Tenancy Bill, the introduction of the Currency Bill and a motion to postpone the consideration of the Press Messages Bill till the Calcutta Session.

A GOLD STANDARD FOR INDIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SIMLA, SEPT. 5.

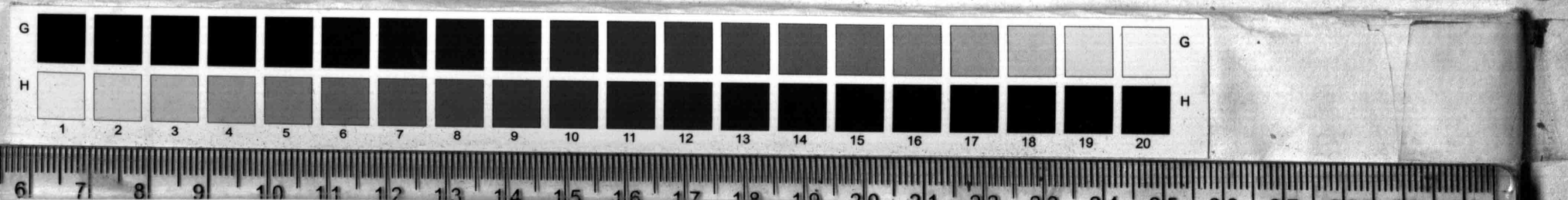
A telegram has been received here this evening from the Secretary of State saying that a proclamation making the Bombay Mint a branch of the London Mint for the coinage of gold, will not be made for sometime to come owing to legal and technical difficulties in the way and suggesting that legislation making gold a legal tender in India should be proceeded with at once, the one for the coinage of gold in India being at present held over. A Bill will accordingly be introduced in the Supreme Legislative Council, at next Friday's meeting, declaring Sovereign to be a legal tender at one shilling and four pence a rupee.

THE POPULATION OF JOHANNESBURG.

ALTHOUGH there do not appear to be in existence any trustworthy statistics as to the number of Boers in the Transvaal and the number of Outlanders, a census of Johannesburg and the surrounding districts was taken in July 1896, the existence of which appears to have been overlooked in recent discussions on the subject, writes the London correspondent of a contemporary. The area of enumeration covered twenty-eight square miles including the town of Johannesburg. The population of this area, three years ago, was 102,078 almost equally divided between the white and the coloured races. The exact figures were as follows:—European and other whites, 50,907; Malays, 952; Indian coolies and Chinese, 4,807; Kaffirs, 42,553; and mixed races, 2,879. An analysis of the white population gives some interesting results. Of British subject there were 34,020, of whom 16,265 were born in the United Kingdom, 15,162 in Cape Colony and 2,533 in other British possessions. Other countries of origin were as follows: Transvaal, 6,205; Orange Free State, 1,734; Russia, 3,335; Germany, 2,262; Netherlands, 819; France, 402; Scandinavia, 311; Italy, 206; rest of Europe, 889; United States 616; other countries, 108. It will thus be seen that British subjects made up 67 per cent. of the total white population. Of the Kaffirs, only 754 were natives of the Transvaal; 27,468 were born from British South Africa; and 14,985 from Portuguese territories. The mining population is notoriously a fluctuating one. It is impossible to see how far the changes of the last three years may have modified these figures, but they are, I believe, the last official figures available, and although they relate only to a restricted area, they are not without interest in the present crisis.

—MAJOR ROSS, who is in charge of the Tropical Disease Expedition to West Africa has arrived at Freetown and been most cordially received. Major Nathan, the Acting Governor of the Colony, in writing to Mr. Alfred L. Jones of Liverpool, said:—"I will do what I can to assist the research expedition which is coming out here so excellently recommended to me by the School of Tropical Medicine by Mr. Chamberlain, by Miss Kingsley, and yourself. I trust that one result that it will lead to will be the establishment here (Sierra Leone) of a bacteriological laboratory."

—THE ear-boxing of privates and recruits by officers and non-commissioned officers used to be quite a common outrage in the Austrian Army. It is now to be stopped. The Minister of War, says a Vienna correspondent, has now issued an order prohibiting this practice, it having appeared that thousands of soldiers have become incapable of service through the breaking of the drum of the ear.



INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, AUG. 18.

THE DREYFUS AND TRANSVAAL AFFAIRS.

WITH the prorogation of Parliament, we enter upon the most trying period of the year for journalists, and if it were not for the eternal Dreyfus case, and the crisis in the Transvaal, the newspapers could have to fall back, as usual, on the weather and the sea-serpent.

The terrible, involved and intricate details of the Dreyfus business, carrying within its tangled unflinching danger to the French Republic, fills the columns of all the London dailies, who appear to have transferred all their special correspondents to Paris and to Rennes, the small provincial town, where the final act of the Dreyfus tragedy is being slowly closed. The last dramatic incident has been the attempted assassination of Laberi, Dreyfus' leading counsel, who is happily recovering.

The Transvaal business looks a little darker this week, the impression prevailing that now the check of Parliament has been taken off, Mr. Chamberlain will drive matters with a higher hand than ever. I am still of opinion, in spite of every difficulty which surrounds this grave controversy, that some way out will be found other than by war. The Queen dreads war like nothing else, and rightly longs that her reign shall close in peace; but when both sides, in a national quarrel, begin to mobilise and arm, any trifling mistake may precipitate an outbreak of hostility that may make an appeal to arms inevitable. I still hope, all the same, that the civilised world may be spared the great scandal of the British Empire making a war of conquest on a brave little nation of simple farmers, who have known how to fight and suffer for their freedom in the past.

President Kruger is an old man, and when he dies, the stupid conservatism that has so largely been the cause of this crisis, will give way to better counsels, and sound policy dictates the acceptance of the terms he now offers, which will largely meet the legitimate demands of the British Government, and which, in course of time, will give the Outlanders as large a share in the government and administration of their adopted country as they are entitled to demand.

SIR W. WEDDERBURN'S MOTION.

I send you herewith a huge bundle of cuttings from the press of this country, metropolitan and provincial, discussing various points of the Indian Budget, and the debate in Parliament thereupon. I think it may be gathered from these that, on the whole, the Liberal press supports Sir William Wedderburn in his demand for a long Parliamentary control on Indian affairs. Sooner or later, what he asks for will be obtained, and at any rate the Budget debate will be fixed earlier in the Session, and the salaries of the Parliamentary representatives of the India Office, with their immediate executive offices, will be borne on the British Estimates. I do not, however, anticipate that Sir William Wedderburn's third demand, that of the reference of the accounts to a Select Committee of the House, is likely to meet with general acceptance. I do not myself think it would be of any serious value to appoint a Committee to overhaul accounts already discussed, adopted, and actually working in India. Any important recommendation of such a Committee, for any serious change, would be almost impossible to carry into effect during the current year without grave disorganization; and unless the Committee of the House discussed Indian accounts before they were finally adopted in India, no very practical result could follow. The fact, however, remains that the existing criticism of Indian expenditure and taxation by its final responsible authority, the House of Commons, is miserably inadequate, and stands in urgent need of strengthening reform. I have no doubt that Sir William Wedderburn himself has quite an open mind on this matter, caring only for efficient criticism, and not holding obstinately to any particular method by which it may be obtained. What I want to see is, that in some way or other, the old doctrine which so wholesomely applies to British Expenditure—"Grievance before Supply" shall apply to India, both in the Viceroy's Council and in the House of Commons. The most urgent reform is, of course, the election of popular Indians to the Viceroy's Council, with full powers of criticism and of voting upon the accounts when they are presented there. Failing that, much would be gained by the transfer of the Secretary of State's salary to the British Estimates. His salary, as the supreme Minister of State over Indian affairs, would include every imaginable grievance of the Indian people; and its discussion would be at once one of the most important in the entire Committee of Supply, and Government would soon find that they would have to give up at least two complete days to it. I cannot but think Sir William would have been well advised to have confined his demand to the two first clauses of his resolution. I do not know that he would have mended his division test by doing so; but I have reason to believe that many members of the India Council would be glad to see greater facilities for discussing Indian grievance and look with considerable sympathy on the demand for an earlier day for the Budget, as well as the payment of the Secretary of State's salary from the British Exchequer. The entire series of reforms covered by Sir William Wedderburn's resolution are also covered by the reference to the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure, of which he is a member, and I have no doubt in the final discussions, under which that body will prepare its report the subject will be thoroughly threshed out.

The division on Sir William's amendment hardly turned upon the demands of the resolution. As I explained last week in your columns, the division turned almost entirely in Sir Henry Fowler's impassioned appeal for blind support of the present system of Government, and the implied censure of Sir William Wedderburn and his colleagues on the British Committee, which ran all through that most unhappy oration. This is amply borne out by an examination of the division list. Thirteen Liberals voted against the resolution; had they supported it, as they ought to have done, and would have done, but for Sir Henry Fowler's speech, a majority of 59 for the Government would have been reduced to the insignificant figure of 33, and the reform

demand would, in some shape or other, if not in the one specified, have become inevitable in the next Parliament. Every member of the late Liberal Government who was present, without exception, voted with the Tory Government, against as modest and reasonable a demand as was ever submitted to the House of Commons. I am quite certain that but for the policy of exasperation, which the British Committee has always adopted towards Sir Henry Fowler, that ex-Minister's speech would have been a sympathetic appeal to Lord George Hamilton to concede the two first demands of the resolution followed, if it had been refused, by a vote in favour of the motion itself.

THE BRITISH CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

ABOUT a year ago, I made a vigorous protest in your columns about the coming estrangement of Sir Henry Fowler and the Front Opposition Bench, which I then foresaw as inevitable. This protest was, if I remember aright, condemned by yourself in a leader, and by most of the Congress organs in India. I was right then, and I am right now. A political organization that has Parliamentary functions, whose leaders have quarrelled with both Front Benches, is an important organization. Its only chance of success, in face of such a condition of political warfare, is to have the support of the rank and file throughout the constituencies. This the British Committee has not got, though it could get it fast enough, if it went the right way to work. It will never be got, until it addresses itself direct to the Liberal party in the constituencies, and works the just grievances of the Indian people up to a test question to Liberal candidates. Under existing circumstances, all money and effort expended in other directions, is money and effort wasted. I know I am "a voice crying in the wilderness," but I shall cry all the same. The weak spot of the whole Congress movement is its British Committee, and I should be no friend to a movement to which I am so heartily attached, if, with the knowledge I possess of political organizations and Parliamentary procedure, I remained silent. I shall not again comment publicly in your columns on the unfortunate situation into which the British Committee has drifted. It is quite well known to all the leaders of the Congress party in India, and it is for them, the masters of their own Committees, whether in India or Britain, to put matters right. The responsibility rests with them and not with me.

THE INDIAN FRONTIER POLICY.

The new Frontier policy of the Government of India, as declared in the orders just issued by the Viceroy, is very satisfactory evidence of good fruit from the seed sown by the Liberal party in this country, and demonstrates how necessary it is for the accomplishment of solid Indian reforms, to secure the advocacy in Parliament of one or other of the Front Benches. The debates and divisions on the "Forward" policy of the Indian Government, which took place earlier in the history of the present Parliament, made it abundantly clear that, whenever the Liberal party returned to power, it would inevitably reverse the foolish and costly Frontier policy of the Government of India. Lord Curzon, like the shrewd and capable politician he is, has recognised the condemnation of the policy of which he was himself one of the prophets, a condemnation not only by the other great party in the State, but by the constituencies, as shewn in the results of successive by-elections, notably in the case of Southport, vacated by Lord Curzon himself, on accepting the Viceroyalty. Nothing in this world affects, or ought to affect, so strongly the policy of a Government in a constitutional country, as the approval or condemnation of the constituencies which have called them to office. It is not, therefore, surprising that Lord Curzon, acting with the evident approval of the Cabinet at home, has finally thrown over the advocates of the Forward policy, him if included, in withdrawing the regular army from the frontier territories and organizing an efficient defence by means of militia regiments of the friendly tribesmen themselves. The result of these measures, as claimed by the telegrams announcing them, will be a net saving annually of many lakhs to the Indian Exchequer, the restoration to the offensive strength of the Indian army of the very considerable quota now habitually lost by service in advanced garrisons, and the conciliation of the tribes by the offer to secure them well paid employment in the defence of their own country. Lord Curzon has now given the highest proof of statesmanship—courage to put himself right, when he knows himself wrong. I send you a bundle of press comments on this new departure, a veritable chorus of harmonious approval of the important step taken by Lord Curzon; none approving so thoroughly as those ultra-Tory journals who were wildest in their support of the Forward policy of three years ago.

The Spectator says, "we need not say that we cordially approve of the new policy." The St. James Gazette declares that the scheme is marked alike by a broad and statesman-like grasp of general principles, and a careful consideration of points of detail. The Morning Post thinks that in all ways the scheme promises success. The whole Tory press seem of the same mind, and Liberals generally feel and express considerable satisfaction at the conversion of Lord George Hamilton, Lord Curzon, and the Tory Cabinet to their views about the Frontier policy of India. Perhaps it was complacency born of this that led Sir Henry Fowler to cast his lot with Lord George in the Budget debate.

MR. WILLIAM DIGBY.

Your old friend and correspondent, Mr. William Digby, C. I. E., though too much absorbed in his large banking business to be able to take much active part in politics, does not forget his old love for India and her people, and every now and then contributes some excellent matter to the press.

LORD G. HAMILTON'S STRICTURES.

I have not seen Sir William Wedderburn since the Budget debate, as he has gone to the country, but I hope he will not allow Lord George Hamilton's violent and utterly unjustifiable attack upon India as the promulgator of "falsehoods," fourfold repeated in the Native Press of India, to pass without calling him to severe account. He ought to be compelled either to establish or withdraw so definite and deliberate a charge. He has no doubt been often, and justifiably, criticised in the columns of India, in a way that has not been palatable, but nothing can justify such

an attack but specific evidence supporting it. India is edited honourably and honestly such a charge as that of deliberately promulgating falsehood, brought against a paper, whose ownership includes 3 or 4 members of Parliament, ought not to be brought under cover of "privilege," in the House of Commons, but openly, in such a way as to give its editor a fair opportunity of bringing to book the man who made it. If Lord George Hamilton fails to do this, he must not expect to be treated any longer as a fair and honourable opponent.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

- Babu Lalit Kumar Das, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to Alipur.
Mr. A. F. Steinberg, Dist and Sess Judge Rajshahi, is allowed leave from the date on which he may avail himself of it up to the 5th November 1899, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.
Babu Fatik Chandra Das, Sub Magte Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Pabna, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.
Babu Ashutosh Bagchi, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to Pabna.
Babu Mohendra Chunder Mozoomdar, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Monghyr, is allowed leave for three months, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.
Babu Basanta Krishna Bose, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is posted to Monghyr.
Babu Jogendra Kumar Sinha, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Dinajpur, is allowed leave for one month, under article 291 of the Civil Service Regulations.
Babu Satyendra Nath Das, Offg Dy Magte and Deputy Collector, Purnea, is allowed leave for thirty-four days, under article 273 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations.
Mr. H. B. St. Leger, Dist Suptd of Police, is allowed furlough for one year, under article 340 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations.
Babu Ashwini Kumar Mukhopadhyaya, M.A., is appointed to act as a Professor in the Dacca College, during the absence, on furlough, of Mr. N. L. Hallward, or until further orders. This cancels the order of the 17th August 1899, appointing Mr. Nalini Kanta Nag to act as a Professor in the Dacca College.
Babu Barada Prasanna Shome, Sub Judge of Gaya, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Midnapore. This cancels the order of the 14th August 1899, appointing Babu Barada Prasanna Shome to be Sub Judge of Tirhut.
Babu Mohendra Nath Roy, Sube Judge, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month, under article 306 (b) of the Civil Service Regulations.
Babu Anukul Chandra Banerji, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Bhagalpur.
Babu Ram Gopal Chaki, Sub Judge of Jessore, is appointed to be Sub Judge of the 24 Perganas.
Babu Rajendra Coomar Bose, Sub Judge of the 24 Perganas, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Jessore.
Babu Mohendra Nath Roy, Sub Judge of Mymensingh, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Midnapore.
Babu Bhagavati Charan Mitra, Sub Judge of Midnapore, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Mymensingh, but to act as an Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, on deputation to Saran.
Babu Jadupati Banerji, Sub Judge of Birbhum, on deputation to Bankura, who is now acting as an Addl Sub Judge of Birbhum, Faridpur and Saran, on deputation to Saran, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Backergunge.
Babu Chandri Charan Sen, Sub Judge of Backergunge, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Pabna and Bogra.
Babu Haro Gobind Mukerjee, Sub Judge of Pabna and Bogra, is appointed to be Sub Judge of Tirhut.
Babu Mohendra Nath Dass, Munsif of Jahanabad, is allowed leave for three months and twelve days.
Babu Bipin-Bihari Sen, Munsif of Gaya, is allowed leave for one month.
The order granting privilege leave for one month and twenty-three days to Babu Sarat Chandra Basu, Sub-Dy Collr and Suptd of the Distillery at Monghyr, is cancelled.
The orders, posting Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Momen, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr to the Presidency Div are cancelled.
Babu Monmatha Nath Sircar, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr and Suptd of Distillery, Patna, is allowed leave for one month.
Babu Deno Nath Chuckerbutty, Sub-Dy Collr, Giridih, is transferred temporarily to Patna as Suptd of the Patna Distillery.
Mouvi Afzalur Rahaman, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, Chittagong Division, is posted to Sandip.
Babu Satish Chunder Guha, sub pro tem Sub-Dy Collr, Sandip, is posted to the headquarters station of that district.

THE GAZETTE OF INDIA.

- The services of Mr. W. S. Adie, Indian Civil Service, are placed at the disposal of the Finance and Commerce Department.
The services of Captain H. J. Walton, I. M. S., are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of Bengal.
The services of Captain E. Wilkinson, I. M. S., and Captain Buis, I. M. S., are placed permanently at the disposal of the Government of the Punjab.
The services of the undermentioned officers are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Bombay Government for employment on plague duty:—Captain A. D. C. Pond, 5th Bengal Infantry; Captain C. F. Headley, 21st Madras Infantry; Captain MacGregor, 2nd Royal Scots; Captain Wilkins, 14th Bombay Infantry; Captain Grace, 5th Bombay Infantry; and Lieutenant F. D. Browne (Madras).
Major Watson, Cantonment Magistrate, Dinapore, is granted furlough for one year.
The services of Captain Johnson, 3rd Punjab Cavalry, Assistant Commandant, Military Police, are replaced at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief.
The services of Mr. E. G. Hart, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Bengal, are placed at the disposal of the Chief Commissioner of Assam.
Veterinary-Lieutenant G. K. Walker, Assistant Bacteriologist to the Government of India, is granted privilege leave for two months and 27 days.
Major Bythell, R. E., Survey of India Department, is granted leave for eight months.

Lieutenant Hamilton, Supernumerary Assistant Commissioner, Punjab, is granted leave for twelve months.

Mr. Tucker, Political Agent, on return from furlough, is posted as Commissioner of Ajmere-Merwara.

Colonel C. M. Ravenshaw, Indian Staff Corps, Political Officer, is appointed temporarily to officiate as Resident at Baroda.

Mr. Harry Dale Green is appointed to the provincial service of the Engineer Branch of the Public Works Department, and is posted to the State Railways; his services being placed at the disposal of the Director of Railway Construction.

Mr. P. P. Dease is granted extraordinary leave without pay for six months.

Major E. A. Waller, R.E., Deputy Accountant-General, Public Works Department, for inspection duty, is granted special leave for three months.

The undermentioned are appointed to the provincial service of the Engineer Branch of the Public Works Department and are posted to the Punjab:—Mr. Joseph Benjamin Smith, and Mr. Bhagvati Prasad Verma.

Mr. F. Lund, Public Works Accounts, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, is, on the return of Mr. W. F. Barrow from privilege leave, transferred to the Office of the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bombay.

Mr. F. G. Maclean, Deputy Director-General of Telegraphs, is appointed to officiate as Director-General of Telegraphs.

THE TRANSVAAL CRISIS.

SOME STRATEGICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

GREAT military activity has set in with the arrival of the special service officers in South Africa. Volunteers and irregular troops are being organized, and arrangements made for the occupation of threatened spots, Natal, Rhodesia, and the Cape Colony being all centres of activity. Incidentally it may be noted that the hint given by the Raid that failed has not been thrown away, for Mochudi, a point on the western Transvaal border is to be occupied. The movement of the 1st Liverpool Regiment from the Cape Colony, Natal is important, and clearly not devoid of political significance, since, by one of life's little ironies, the cable announcing its transfer and disclaiming political significance, therefor was published in the country simultaneously with an official announcement which fixed the date of the move for the beginning of December. Moreover, the great military activity is not confined to one side only. Advances from the Transvaal state that for some time a special Boer military commission has been laying in large supplies of stores; and Johannesburg Fort has been strengthened in consequence of an inspection by General Joubert. Now the artillery reserve has been called out and detachments stationed at points in the Transvaal which seem to the Boer leaders to be of considerable strategic importance. Kimberley seems to be one of their objective points, for not long ago we were told that a small surveying party had been sent to survey the south-western and western border of the Transvaal. Further, one or two batteries of Boer artillery have been moved by rail to Klerksdorp and are to be stationed close to Fourteen Streams, where the railway from Kimberley to Bulawayo crosses the Vaal River. This is one of the weakest spots on the line of communication. These are steps which the Executive is perfectly justified in taking, but they are none the less significant. The despatch of this force may be taken as an indication of one of two things: either that the Boers intend to establish a corps of observation in that direction, or that they mean to make preparations so that any advance from that direction may be checked at the various watering-places. From Fourteen Streams to Mafeking the Transvaal is particularly vulnerable, and the only gleam of sound strategy shown by the leaders of the Jameson Raid was that they selected the really best route by which to invade the Republic. But there is more in this movement meant than that. It is very possible that it is meant to provide a convenient base for an aggressive defensive movement.

From the Orange River station in the Cape Colony as far as Francistown in "the disputed territory" in Matabeleland the Cape Government Railway is at no point more than an hour's sharp ride from the border either of the Orange Free State or of the Transvaal. And it cannot be denied that it would be the soundest possible tactics on the part of the Boers to destroy that railway and interrupt communications. Much, of course, depends upon the attitude taken up by the Orange Free State. In its own interests it would be advisable for it to keep clear of any struggle between the Transvaal and Great Britain, but the chances are, now that the Afrikaner spirit is so rampant, that the Free State Boers will conceive that the independence of the Transvaal is threatened, and will therefore think themselves bound to cast in their lot with their northern brethren. In that case Kimberley would be in considerable danger. The Volunteers there have only an old type of worn-out rifles, the guns that have been sent up there are without ammunition—indeed it can hardly reach the town for another three weeks or so; and if the railway were cut, as well it might be by blowing up the bridge, which spans the Orange River, and destroying it in one or two other places, it would be long before reinforcements could reach the great diamond mines. Moreover, the districts of the Cape Colony lying immediately to the south of the Orange River—Hopetown, Colesburg, Albert and Alwal North—are notoriously sympathetic with the Transvaal, and in these districts are the important strategic points. De Aar Junction, Naanwoport Junction, Burgersdorp and Alwal North, which command the bridges over the Orange River, and a combined raid might very possibly place the Boers in possession of all these points. This view is somewhat strengthened by the report that some Free State burghers are to rendezvous at Rouxville, a small town twenty-one miles from Alwal North. Not, be it understood, with a view to further invading the Cape Colony, but with a view to taking up strong strategic positions well suited to their methods of fighting, as the best means of defending their own country. Such a procedure would be the very soundest tactics which the Boers could pursue, and would give them a very great initial advantage, especially if, at the same time, they could succeed in occupying Laing's Nek in the north-western angle of Natal.

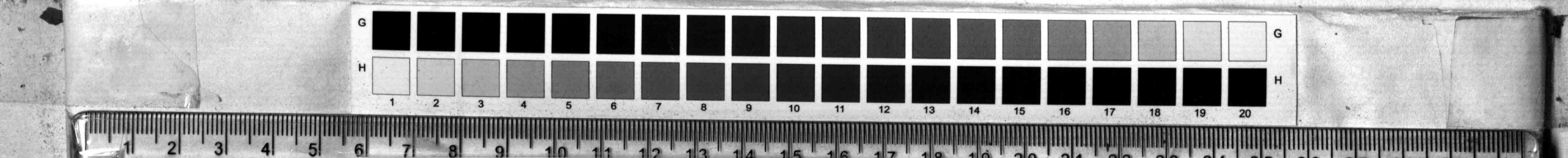
WHERE OPERATIONS WOULD COMMENCE.

From all indications it would appear that if hostilities should unfortunately break out, the main attack will be delivered through Natal, and a glance at the map will show that this is the natural way. Lady Smith, the chief camp, to the south of which many other places are strongly garrisoned, is only 190 miles from Durban, while the Transvaal position is less than 120 miles to the north of it. During the Zulu and Transvaal wars full particulars regarding the northern part of Natal were gathered, and from a military point of view the ground is well-known. The following particulars regarding the topography of Natal are valuable just now. The road from Maritzburg, the Capital of Natal, to the Transvaal border, passes over a series of plateaux, separated by rivers which have their source in the Drakensberg, the huge mountain rampart dividing the colony from Basutoland and the Orange Free State in turn. When the highest plateau has been reached at a point about 250 miles north of Maritzburg, the Transvaal has been entered. Northern Natal is somewhat of the shape of a leg of mutton. It narrows to a point on the extreme north having the Drakensberg on one side and the Buffalo River on the other. Five or six miles on the Natal side of the border are low plateaux, and the road to the Transvaal passes across the saddle known as Laing's Nek. On the Natal side the descent is steep. Ridges on either side of the road curve forward, somewhat enveloping the road to Newcastle, until in the west they merge into steeper slopes at Amajuba (7,000 ft. high), while on the east the curve rests on the Buffalo River in Pogwan's lofty and rugged range. Between Ingogo, which is fifteen miles from Newcastle, and Laing's Nek tunnel, the railway line rises 1,300 ft., and this is effected, as on the Ghauts in India, by means of a reversing station. Laing's Nek tunnel is 2,113 ft. long, is faced with hewn stone, and for the greater part of its length is driven through solid rock. Charlestown, which is four miles to the north, is in its turn four miles from Volksrust, the most southern Transvaal town, though the border marked by a barbed wire fence is only 2 1/2 miles off. As regards the Southern Transvaal detached ranges, continuations of the Drakensberg extend from the Natal boundary across the Oifant's River as far as the northern frontier. These rise in places to 7,000 ft. The country is, however, fairly level until reaching Heidelberg, where the plain is broken into ridges, having the appearance of the loosely-built stone walls so commonly met with in Ireland. It would, however, appear that the Boers, if fighting should take place, intend to make Standerton one of their main defensive positions.

THE FIELD STRENGTH IN NATAL.

With regard to the number of troops in Natal, when the Liverpool Regiment arrives there will be four strong battalions, numbering, probably 4,400 men; two cavalry regiments, 1,200; three batteries field artillery and one mountain battery 700 men and twenty-two guns; and about 180 engineers; or, roughly speaking, 6,500 men. Before the arrival of the special service officers there were 1,500 Volunteers; these are now to be brought up to at least 2,000, while there is also an excellent police force some 800 strong. It will therefore be likely that, in the event of an immediate outbreak of hostilities, at the very least 8,000 men could be put into the field within a week. These, if not sufficient for an aggressive movement would be well able to hold Natal till reinforcements arrived. As regards the Boers and their fighting powers, it is generally believed that they are over-rated. But it will not do to underestimate them. It is, on the whole, more probable that except among the townsfolk, the old skill with the rifle is just as great as ever. The point which is most doubtful is the effect the employment of artillery by the Boers will have on their old splendid mounted infantry tactics; the probability is that they will find artillery rather a drawback than an advantage. Both the military and political situations are considerably aggravated by the latest news to hand that the Free State Artillery are to occupy Van Keenen's Pass. This would be a distinct threat against Natal, and would render the position of a British force operating in its northern districts very precarious, as it would be liable to attack on both flanks Van Keenen's Pass, which is the main Pass through the Drakensberg between the Orange Free State and Natal, is thirty-six miles from Ladysmith. There is a rise of about 2,300 ft. between the two places, and, of course, the engineering difficulty is got over by a reversing station, for the railway passes between Ladysmith in the British colony and Harris-smith in the Dutch Republic. Van Keenen's station is situated on the western frontier of the colony, and on leaving it the Orange Free State is entered. To the left of the line great isolated mountain masses are visible, and kloofs dark with impenetrable forests. It is a place of great strategic importance. This move on the part of the Free State points to a determination on the part of its rulers to throw in their lot with the Transvaal. It is also somewhat significant as it would appear that the Boer Secret Service agents sometimes hit on correct news, for it is certain that one of the first steps on the outbreak of hostilities would be for a British force to seize the Pass. In fact, orders to that effect were given a couple of years ago, when war appeared imminent.—Pall Mall Gazette.

THE electric light bath enjoys the great advantage over other methods of applying heat in that it produces strong atonic effects, at the same time that it encourages powerful elimination. As a prophylactic the electric light bath possesses a high value, especially for persons who are compelled to lead a sedentary life, such as teachers, doctors, judges, &c., and which necessarily results sooner or later in disease and premature death from the accumulation within the body of those poisons which are destroyed or thrown off through active exercise in the open air. This bath is the best of all substitutes for muscular activity. In obesity, in the treatment of rheumatic diathesis, in nervous headache and in the treatment of great variety of chronic ailments which resist therapeutic measures, the electric light bath has been found to be highly efficacious. The elimination of carbon dioxide from a person's body exposed to this bath is much greater than that eliminated by the Turkish or Russian baths. The amount of perspiration produced was fully double that induced by other baths.



THE GOURANGA MOVEMENT.

THIS was the subject discussed at the last monthly meeting of the Calcutta Missionary Conference. It was introduced by Mr. Kafi Charan Banerjee, whose luminous exposition of the history and principles of this interesting movement was highly appreciated. The movement, a revival we may call it, is one of more than passing interest to missionaries, presenting as it does special features that reveal the process by which a religious cult may spring up and spread in this very religious land, and how, after a period of comparative hibernation, it may be revived by skillful manipulation and caused to serve other than religious purposes. Gourangism, Chaitanyism, or Neo-Vaishnavism, as it is variously styled, also has points of contact with Christianity, which render it not at all improbable that the teachings of the New Testament were known to the Vaishnav reformers generally, as well as to the prophet of Nadia.

Vaishnavism, the worship or cult of Vishnu, missionaries will not need to be reminded, has had several developments dating from the twelfth century. It has given birth to numerous reformers, foremost of whom was Ramanuja about A.D. 1125, who dealt Vedantic pantheism with severe blows and taught quite an advanced doctrine of theism. Ramananda and, later, Tulsidas amplified Ramanuja's teaching, dwelling especially on love (*prema*) as the impelling motive in the incarnation of God. Other reformers arose from time to time, setting forth varying views, both in philosophical and popular style, gathering around them more or less numerous bands of adherents, founding sects that started out zealously in the way of devotion and ascetic purity, but most of which eventually sank into gross sensuality and shrank into more or less insignificance.

Among the Vaishnav reformers he who is now popularly known as Chaitanya. Born at Nadia, in Bengal, about the year A.D. 1486, he was known to his people by the name of Biswambhar given him by his father, but more generally by the name, Nimai, for which he was indebted to his mother. When he assumed the Brahminical sacred thread, he was named Gouranga, afterwards developed into Sree Gouranga, the "yellow white-bodied," by his devotees. Later still he was styled Sree Krishna Chaitanya, the awakener of God (Krishna) in the hearts of men. A disciple of Ramanuja, Chaitanya carried the spirit of devotion much farther than the founder of his school and gathered a large number of married and unmarried followers in Bengal and Orissa. He lived as householder until twenty-four years of age, but finding this mode of life did not inspire the confidence he desired, he forsook the world, repaired to Orissa and devoted the rest of his days to religious meditation and instruction. His biographers give us two accounts of his disappearance from human view in A. D. 1533. One is that standing by the sea-shore at Puri, he saw that the colour of the sea water resembled the colour of Krishna, and, imagining that Krishna was there, plunged into the sea and was carried out of sight. The other account is, that having entered the temple of Gopinath at Puri on one occasion he never came out. Half of him entered into Gopinath and half into Jagannath. It is said he appeared some time after at a place near Nabhani and told the people that it is not necessary to become ascetics in order to be true and acceptable devotees of Krishna. Among a certain class Chaitanya has been worshipped as an incarnation of Krishna, and a re-incarnation of Vishnu for four hundred years.

Quite recently an impulse has been given to this cult under the leadership of a former editor of a Calcutta native paper, whose biography of "Lord Gouranga," has had a wide circulation in Bengal. This gentleman comments Neo-Vaishnavism to Christians as an improvement upon, in fact, the complement and super-seeder of, Christianity. At one time, he says, he found it impossible to believe that Jesus was Divine. But having investigated the history and studied the teachings of Gouranga, he came to the conclusion that the latter was an incarnation of the Deity. This led him to believe that Jesus also was a Divine incarnation. But, he says, as Jesus failed—Christian Europe having discarded His religion and lapsed into materialism—another spiritual leader was needed, another Messiah, and him we have in Chaitanya or Sree Gouranga. Strangely enough, a magistrate-collector of Krishnagar claims to have passed through a similar experience. Having accepted the divinity of Gouranga he has accepted Jesus as a Messiah, Gouranga also being a Messiah.

In regard to the religious teachings of Neo-Vaishnavism, we agree with Mr. Banerjee that it looks like a skillful attempt to stimulate Christian doctrine. He rightly pointed out that every such attempt amounts to an indirect Act of homage to Christianity. According to the Gouranga cult all men are sinners, all are exposed to the punishment due to sin, repentance and austerities are of no avail to obtain salvation. When we inquire what is implied by salvation we find it does not consist of liberation of the soul in the sense of absorption into the Deity as orthodox Hinduism teaches. On the contrary, the Vaishnavas speak of the Vedantic pantheistic doctrine as disastrous. They say salvation consists in passing into a higher existence in which man shall be in a position to enjoy everlasting the companionship of God. To enjoy this, man must be in touch with God, he must be pure, but love is also needed. But how is it possible for man who is "dead in sin" to become pure and love God? Love (*prema*) may exist only between beings like one another. Either God, therefore, must become man or man must become God. The latter is impossible, therefore God must become incarnate to render it possible for man to love him and to attain to companionship with him. God must exhibit proof of the fact that He is a being of love in order to evoke man's love. At this point, it will be seen, there is a protest against the rationalism of the Brahmo Samaj. And the likeness to, yet perversion of Christian doctrine may also be noticed at various points as we proceed. In becoming man Chaitanya, it is claimed, has shown his love in two ways. First, in becoming incarnate he has offered to take over men's sin. This is illustrated by the story of two brothers who by solemn compact transferred their sins to Chaitanya. Great among sinners, the two brothers in guilt were brought before him. All stood in the river. In solemn language Chaitanya addressed them: "Jagannath and Madhab, you have been accumulating sins since your birth. Deliver them to me with copper, *tulsi* and Ganges water, and thereby relieve yourselves of your burden, and become pure."

After much expostulation, and much confession of guilt and unworthiness, the transfer of their sins was effected after the solemn Hindu method, and Chaitanya said to them: "I accept your gift!" At once, the legend runs, his body attained a darkened hue; sin had entered it. But the transference of their sin did not bring the brother's peace. They still mourned and were subject to fear. And this unsatisfactory outcome of the transaction is explained by the system thus: The sinner is bound to be punished for his sins, and although these are taken over, God would be unjust if he did not make the forgiven ones wretched on account of their accumulated sin. How great a contrast to the Christian system: Being justified by faith, *we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

A prominent feature in the Neo-Vaishnav system is *bhakti*. It is difficult to give the exact meaning of this in English, but the idea is that of loyalty—loving, thorough-going loyalty; complete surrender and devotion to the Deity worshipped. It is necessary that loyalty should be developed to a certain extent in order to a new birth. Through *bhakti* the brothers became purified and the children of God. All that was of the poisonous nature of sin was expelled from their being. They then had only to appear before Chaitanya in order to have their hearts changed by his presence, while he performed his *kirtans* before them.

Seeing that it is a doctrine of this cult that one who is a sinner himself can be of no service whatever in effecting the salvation of sinners, we are led to inquire if Chaitanya was sinless. In pursuing this inquiry Mr. Banerjee mentioned that Chaitanya's followers admit that in contact on one occasion with a famous saint, he said: "I have been wading in ungodliness, frittering my life away in vain pursuits." How then can Chaitanya be accepted as a sinless Saviour? And how can the various questionable doings recorded of him be reconciled with his alleged divinity? Two doctrines are provided by which this difficulty is nearly met. One is the doctrine called *Leela*. By this is meant an incident traceable directly to the hand of God. Let a "supposed saint commit an immoral act, they say that was *Leela*—God working through him performed the act. "Puny mortals as we are, how dare we criticise the acts of God?" If, however, you take your stand on ethical theism and affirm that immoral acts imply an immoral God, they meet you with a form of pantheism: All things belong to God (Krishna), therefore, when he steals he is not guilty of theft. He is the soul of all souls, therefore he is free to do what the husband might do, etc. But the second theory is advanced perhaps with more confidence. By incarnation they say they mean what the Bible speaks of as possession. Nimai's body was prepared for Krishna's possession, thereof. While the preparation was in process, Nimai had many fits of epilepsy and he had many peculiar experiences—constituting a necessary preparatory discipline. Finally, Krishna took possession of Nimai's body, reserving to himself the right, which he frequently exercised, of vacating it according to his pleasure. While Krishna possessed that body all that was done by Nimai was done by Krishna, but when the body of Nimai was dispossessed of Krishna, the acts were sinful Nimai's own. Combining the Gourangaite doctrines of *leela* and of incarnation we have their answer to the charges of sinfulness brought against their "Messiah." Other doctrinal phases of this system must be left unnoticed at present.

It would be interesting to inquire in detail as to the relation which this movement sustains to the systems with which it is in contact. We have seen that it is regarded as heterodox by Hindus. Indeed, many Hindus refuse to grant Chaitanya a place within the pale of Hinduism at all. It strongly antagonizes Vedantic pantheism, and is also a protest against caste. It is also a protest against Brahmoism, which knows no incarnation. Brahmoism, however, recognizes the value of the devotional and emotional element in Gourangism. It finds fault with other features, but it says the system is designed and well calculated to show Hindus how to be truly devoted.

As to how it stands related to Christianity, we have already expressed the conviction that some of its features are drawn from Christianity. The favourite name of Krishna, or Chaitanya, among Bengalis is Hari, which means "the taker away" inferentially of sin. In times of danger and sorrow, as well as in times of mirth and joy, the name is repeated with frequency and fervency, until upon those who use it work themselves up into a great fervour of devotional excitement. Quite an impulse was given to Chaitanyaism at the time the plague threatened Calcutta last year. Bands of Chaitanyas paraded the streets with banners, chanting prayers to Krishna. The words, heard above all others were "Hari-bole,"—call Hari. No doubt it was used thoughtlessly by most, but some probably would attach a spiritual meaning to the words: "Let him who takes away grief and sin and death come to our relief." We have seen it openly asserted in native papers that in organizing these *Sankirtan* parties the leaders had other motives in view than the kindling of spiritual devotion; but of this we will not now speak.

Our sympathies cannot but be awakened by an attempt to modify an idolatrous cult in the direction of Christianity. The attempt appeals to us as the voice of sin laden fellows being reaching out after forgiveness of sin, deliverance from the burden of guilt, and communion with God. Earnestly would we point all who are true seekers after God to the Holy Incarnation in Jesus Christ, the Sinless Saviour, who by the voluntary sacrifice of Himself made it possible for all sinners to be freely forgiven and constituted the children of God. But while we deeply sympathise with every effort to find God, we are one with Mr. Banerjee in believing that Christians can make no compromise with a movement to substitute a sinful being for the Sinless Christ as a Saviour of men. Christianity, he truly says, is not a movement that consists in the exchange of complements. At the same time it is our duty to try to find out that which may be common ground, and the elements or truth and aspiration which the system may possess. As to Chaitanyas and all others we must never cease to set forth the Name which is above every name and cry to all.—*The Indian Witness.*

The French army is, three times as large as it was in 1870. To offer a rose without foliage to a lady in Germany is to deeply insult her.

PRINCE HOMELESS.

PROBABLY the most eccentric millionaire in the world not even excepting Mrs. Magy Green is Count Hannibal Draval, the Magy Grandee, who travels through Hungary from one year's end to the other, living on his noble conferees, yet spending his immense income, like a royal Prince of the fable, in deeds of prodigious generosity.

Ten years ago he sold his castles in city and country, and has had no home of his own since then, not even lodgings. Twelve horses, four servants, two dogs, and two tally-ho coaches make up his train. One of the wagons serves as his dining and living room, the other as a gorgeously appointed boudoir, when he is "not sponging" on his friends, or when *en route* for another grazing spot. This wandering nobleman never sets foot in a railway car or on a steamer. Over roads impassable for wagons he journeys on horseback, and he would shoot a nag which feared to swim a river as big as the Danube or the Volga.

Though the peerage accords to him the title of Count only, they call him "Prince" Hannibal all over Hungary, Croatia, and Dalmatia. He drives his four-in-hand through a village or past a gypsy camp, throwing kisses to the women, silver to the men, and coppers to the half-naked children. In town, in hut, farmhouse, and castle, it's "Prince" Hannibal here and "Prince Homeless" there.

"Homeless," however, is a misnomer, for Hannibal is much at home in every castle of the three kingdoms, not to forget Poland. One day the newspapers report him as a guest of the Aristocracy club, in Buda-Pesth again, he is heard of in Alsuth, the seat of Archduke Joseph, whose hospitality he demanded with as little ado as he did that of his cousins in the capital, and moreover his imperial highness was delighted with the stranger, for a tidal wave of cheerfulness and fun accompanies Hannibal wherever he pitches camp.

Sometimes when driving up at a feudal seat it pleases him to affect the pomp and circumstance of the grand seigneur. On such occasions he shows himself to the people seated on silken cushions behind the plate glass windows of a splendid carriage, while the rich dress of the Magy sets off his figure to perfection. After him comes his "store wagon," the coachman distributing backsheesh among the peasants, and two hussars in full uniform bring up the rear with gaily caparisoned lead horses. But more often than not he falls into a friend's house like a midnight robber, dropping through the chimney, or crawling through a cellar window. It's a wonder he hasn't been shot and killed a dozen times over, for he always comes unannounced.

The other evening, when Count Szendroe, his wife, their children, and the children's grandmother, Princess Kadziwill, were having supper in a salon of Castle Nagy-Kazmar, they heard a tremendous noise outside, and while a servant was dispatched to see what had happened, the door opened and in rode Hannibal in matter-of-fact style, bowing gracefully to the ladies and announcing that he would stay a month, with that he jumped off his horse, threw the reins to his mounted groom, who had followed him, and sat down to it and drink. The hussar trotted twice around the table, before he made his exit. Though the children enjoyed it immensely, the old princess was frightened nearly to death, so Hannibal promised never to do it again.

At breakfast next morning he appeared riding a broomstick—the children of the house and a dozen or more dirty ragamuffins from the village, equipped in the same fashion, following him.

HOW HE PLEASES EVERYBODY. This millionaire tramp, having made billeting a fine art, visits as quickly a stranger's house as a friend's, for any day he can persuade the most disagreeable and least hospitable to his mode of thinking. A pocket full of gossip is his catch prize for old ladies; the married woman he fascinates by fashion papers and cookery recipes, which he seems to have always in advance of anybody else; for the young girls his coffers bring ribbons, bonbons, and books of poems in the most delicate bindings; while dolls that speak, and railway trains and guns that are the real thing, or nearly so, endear him to the children. He plays with the babies, romps with the youngsters, and hunts with their fathers, uncles, and cousins. When the little ones are being put to bed he is on his knees with them, chanting the evening prayers; but if the master of the house decides to sit up gambling till 4 in the morning Hannibal is certainly the last man in the world to object.

It is a byword in Hungary that no woman ever broke her neck, or arm, or leg who went steepchasing with Hannibal as escort. Church affairs or ball matches, kirmess or horse race, when "Prince Homeless" visits them financial success is assured, for, besides contributing lavishly himself, he makes others open their purses wide.

Good-looking, witty, and valiant like a knight of old, all women adore him. What he sees or hears at other people's houses he forgets, unless it be something creditable, and his conversation is agreeable.

On his left breast, just over the heart, he bears an ugly gash, remainder of a midnight assault by an aristocratic ruffian, who made him choose between the betrayal of a woman's honor and a whole skin. "Prince Homeless" didn't leave his bed for three months after that, and his assailant hasn't been awake since.

Still Hannibal is no saint. There was that affair with Baron Arthur Ssnisky, when the Baroness was a belle.

"Brother" Arthur said to Hannibal the day after his arrival, "when you feel your heart beat, think of three things. Above all, of my record as a crack shot, for I kill pigeons on their flight; and of my perfect sense of hearing, for it defies oiled door hinges, and felt shoes are like cuirassier boots to my ears; thirdly, remember that, because I can read in your heart and know your thoughts, I am three warned." Hannibal didn't look a bit surprised or disturbed. "We understand each other perfectly," he replied, "As I live I will be on guard also." And he pressed his friend's hand warmly. Ssnisky smiled, but not long, for on the morrow he found the hated Austrian standard floating from the tower of his castle, and his coat-of-arms over the portals turned into a farce. The portrait of an open-mouthed donkey preparing to bray occupied the place of honor in the ensigns armorial held for six centuries by a noble and prancing charger, and the proud heraldic motto was replaced by a pernickious abbreviation of the host's name, "A—ssinsky."

Of course the Baron was furious. He challenged Hannibal and got a bullet in his right arm, besides losing one of those ears that he so well. The name "A—ssinsky" stuck to him though. As for "Prince Homeless," he proved to everybody's satisfaction that the night when his friend lost his ear he himself was at a neighbor's, dancing, gambling, and drinking till breakfast. He four servants were with him, too; they furnished music for the dance first, and afterward turned acrobats for the amusement of the tipsy gentlemen.

Hannibal's horses and carriages are valued at 50,000 florins, and he is known to carry an equal amount of gold and silver with him all the times yet the knights of the road never trouble him—they know better. When traveling he spends the nights in his carriage; the hussars and servants sleep under canvas; the horses are put out to grass; the dogs, half-bred wolves and fierce hyenas, do the watching. There isn't a gipsy in the kingdoms who would tackle them, nor would the worst devil-may-care stand up before Hannibal's pistols.

His easy mastery of outlaws, however, does not make him their enemy. The scion of one of the proudest grandee families sometimes spends days and weeks in the society of gypsies and pig thieves, and, when recently the brigand Baron Bakonya gave battle to the pandours, "Prince Homeless" is said to have fought disguised in the first line. Bakonya was killed in that engagement, the band scattered, and Janos, the late lamented cut throat's chief of staff, now masquerades as Hannibal's coachman and alms dispenser.

But the height of his popularity "Prince Homeless" achieved in the frontier districts among the Servians, who ascribe to him all the legendary deeds of Marko, King's son and hero of ballad. It is impossible to say what they admire most in him—his generosity or his physical powers, his courage or his love of fair dealing. Probably all these virtues appeal to the unsophisticated with equal force.—*New York Press.*

SUICIDE FOR A LIVING.

THE PROBABLE SOLUTION OF MORE THAN ONE RURAL MYSTERY.

A New York contemporary gave a few days ago a brief sketch of the career of a girl who, for some years past, has been supporting herself by repeated attempts at suicide. Her method of procedure was to jump into a river when there were plenty of people about to rescue her, and, when pulled out, to tell a harrowing story of desertion, property, and starvation, which usually resulted in a more or less substantial collection from the sympathetic crowd. Like most other exceptions, however, it was attempted once too often, and a stony-hearted policeman arrested.

THE ENTERPRISING YOUNG LADY.

In Great Britain no case is on record of a woman who was bold enough to carry on trickery of this description, but the sham suicide is, in country places, considered a fairly lucrative dodge among the "gentlemen of the road," and may be regarded as one of the latest designs for lightening the pockets of the charitably disposed.

Pretended self-destruction by hanging is the commonest form of this imposition, the operator fixing the rope round his neck in such a way that a knot prevents the noose from tightening uncomfortably, while at the same time he allows just sufficient length for his feet to touch the ground and give some support to his body.

As he is careful to select a much-used barn or similar building, it is not long before the ingenious gentleman is discovered, apparently unconscious. On being cut down and "brought round," he tells the stereotyped tale of want of work and starving children, and seldom fails to leave with a few shillings jingling in his pocket.

Where poison is employed a market day in a country town is chosen, and the performer drinks the contents of a bottle labelled "carbolic acid," and immediately falls in a heap on the pavement. The acid is genuine enough, what little there is of it, and so is the act of drinking; but just previously the rascal has consumed a quantity of ammonia or

SOME OTHER POWERFUL ALKALI.

which neutralises the deleterious effect of the poison. After he has been dosed, with emetics and otherwise revived, the usual story follows with the usual result.

Even when the policeman makes his appearance, and a charge of attempted suicide is preferred, a clever hand at the game can tell such a story of despair and repentance that he is usually discharged, and sometimes even gets a little assistance from the Bench.

A most dramatic form of this branch of business has just been enacted at a little seaside town on the south coast of Devonshire. There were two performers, one of whom drew a large revolver and fired at himself, while the other rushed forward and struck up his arm just in time.

There are many drawbacks to this scheme, however. The possession of a revolver worth two or three pounds is hardly consistent with a tale of starvation and lack of means to procure food; then there is a chance of the confederate failing to perform his part of the business with absolute accuracy, and a scorched face may result; and, lastly, the sound of the shot is sure.

LION HUNTING EXTRAORDINARY.

THE following story from the Soudan appears in the native newspapers *Bassir*—

Six natives went out lion hunting on the White Nile lately. After some hours' travelling they found a likely spot, and climbed up into a tree to wait for the lions to come down to the river to drink. The first animal that appeared was an immense buffalo, and then came a lion and a lioness. On seeing the lion the buffalo went for him and, transfixing him with his horns killed him. The lioness fled, but returned shortly afterwards with another lion to take vengeance on the buffalo for her mate's death. The newcomer, however, was disembowelled by the buffalo, who also disposed of three other lions in the same manner but was so mauled in fighting that he died. All this time the hunters had remained in the tree watching the fighting, and when all was over they put the five dead lions on their camels and departed. A fine bag without firing a shot.

THE Punjab Government is considering the question of raising the bill allowances of its clerks while in Simla from three-tenths to four-tenths.

HER HIGHNESS the Maharani-Regent of Mysore has presented an elephant to the temple of Conjeevaram which was despatched by rail on Wednesday morning.

DR. N. A. SUBRAMANIA IYER, Sanitary Commissioner to the Travancore Government, has been appointed the Census Commissioner for the Census of 1901.

THERE is every probability that the Traffic Department of the Railway Company now located in Mandalay will be removed to Yemethin which will constitute the first traffic circle of the Rangoon-Mandalay Railway.

CALCUTTA Import Trades Association has endorsed the representatives of the Upper Indian Chamber of Commerce on the subject of a reduction in the cable rates between India and Great Britain.

INFORMATION has reached Bhabnagar that a dacoity attended with four deaths has been committed at Raliani in Bhowanagar territory. The police authorities have succeeded in making several arrests.

THE Nizam gave a breakfast on Saturday to the Resident and Lady Plowden and a large party. Lady Plowden leaves for England this week. The Resident accompanies her to Bombay, and then proceeds on tour in Berar for some weeks.

A FIRE broke out at Pooná on Monday last in a large bungalow recently vacated by some Brahmins who have left the station owing to the plague. The house was locked from outside. It has not yet been ascertained how the fire originated. Enquiries are in progress. The damage is estimated at Rs. 2,000.

THE Government of Bombay have issued a Resolution transferring all military officers on plague duty from the control of the Surgeon General to that of the Plague Commissioner. The chief reason assigned for this change is that in Sind the system by which the military Surgeons were under the sole orders of the Plague Commissioner worked well and simplified the routine.

THE Maharaja of Kashmir and Raja Sir Amar Singh are both returning to Srinagar about the middle of this month, in order to be present to welcome the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, who is expected there in October. His Honor's Kashmir tour has not yet been published, but he is likely to spend some days up the Liddar valley, whither the Resident is now gone.

A EUROPEAN named Phillips, last employed in the English Warehouse at Bangalore has been wanted since Saturday. He disappeared suddenly having sold a hired bicycle. Police enquiries show that he also got a couple of rings, valued at Rs. 200, from Barton Son and Company, under false pretences, and ran up an account at the English Warehouse in the name of his boarding-house-keeper. It is believed he has made his way to Pooná and Bombay.

It is stated at Lucknow that on the question of the re-arming of native troops there is a divergence between the views of General Lockhart and the Director-General of Ordnance. The latter favours the adoption of the Lee-Enfield rifle, thereby placing the Native army on an equal footing with the Ameer's troops. The Commander-in-Chief is opposed on political grounds to the Native army being armed on an equality with British troops.

TRANS-FRONTIER reports have been received of severe fighting towards Panjeh between Sirdar Muhammad Ismail, Khan, son of the notorious Isa Khan, and Colonel Nur, Mahammad Khan, commanding the Ameer's troops. The former is said to have had four thousand sows, while the latter had only one regiment available, and in consequence the Ameer's people suffered heavily at first, but reinforcements arriving from the nearest post Ismail Khan was defeated and escaped into Russian territory.

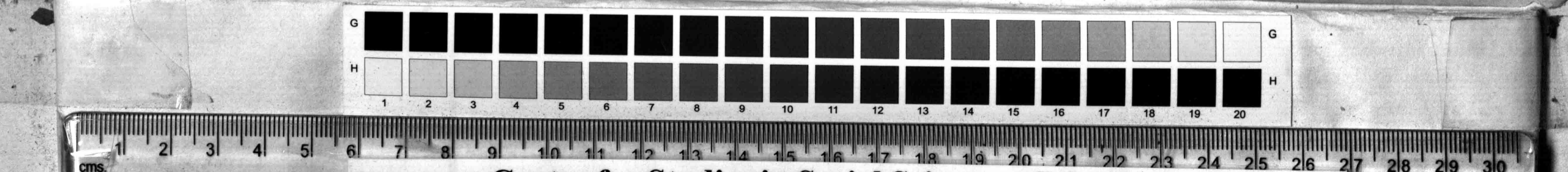
MR. J. A. GRAD, Contractor, Singareni Collieries, Secunderabad, was arrested on Saturday last at Colombo by a police officer of the Madras force. He is charged with elopement with Mrs. James Tyres, wife of the Collieries Engineer. It appears that the runaways eloped from Hyderabad to Madras, and then proceeded to Pondicherry, whence they went to Colombo, travelling under the name of Goddard. When charged at the Madras Court on Tuesday the Magistrate ordered the accused to be released on furnishing bail for Rs. 3,000.

MR. MCNICHOLAS, aged 65, a pensioned Conductor of the Bengal Ordnance Department, residing in Bangalore for the last 10 years, was found drowned in a tank on Monday last. It is presumed that after drawing his pension, he went for a walk towards the tank, about 10 o'clock last night and probably leaning over the rails, overbalanced himself and fell in. The police took charge of the body and found Rs. 88 in cash on the deceased, also an Agra Bank receipt for Rs. 4,000 and a post office pass-book showing Rs. 222 to his credit. Deceased lived very quietly by himself, and was not known to have any relatives.

THE annual report of the Agricultural Bank, Kutra, for the year 1898-99 states that the amount of the standing loans up to date is Rs. 20,278-2-2 out of which Rs. 5,294 have been advanced to the tenants this year. The remaining amount Rs. 14,984-2-2 was already in the use of the tenants. Compared to the amount of money advanced last year, the amount of money advanced this year, seems to be less. This seeming decrease can be accounted for thus: (1) That the tenants owing to some unfavourable agricultural circumstances in the year under report, could not pay the arrears due from them. (2) That they did not sell their corn owing to cheap prices. The Bank did not take any step for compelling them to discharge their debts for two reasons; (a) that they would have been obliged to borrow money from other money-lenders at a very high rate of interest. (b) That the selling of corn at low rate would have been detrimental to the interest of the tenants.

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PLAGUE DISTURBANCE AT AHMEDNAGAR.

An Ahmednagar correspondent writes to the Times of India under date the 28th ultimo:— Plague has been somewhat on the increase in Ahmednagar city of late, as many as eight or nine cases a day occurring, and on one day I heard of fourteen cases being returned as plague. In view of the epidemic increasing, the Civil Authorities recently issued a proclamation embodying some new and rather more stringent rules, to which, unfortunately, the people appear to have taken objection, and this led some slight disturbance in the city. The new regulations to which they have chiefly taken exception are, that in future there would be indirect compulsion of inoculation—that all cases of sickness in infected areas from whatever cause, will be treated as suspicious cases of plague, and that corpse-bearers will be subject to a period of ten days' segregation, instead of, as formerly, undergoing disinfection only. On the 24th August, matters came to a crisis, and the city people went on strike, the entire population combining to close all the shops, and all business, in consequence, was suspended. Fears were entertained that this state of affairs might culminate in rioting, and the military received orders to hold themselves in readiness to turn out at a moment's notice. At night a detachment of the 8th Bombay Infantry, under a British officer, was placed on guard over the Chief Plague Hospital, in case a demonstration should be made against the hospital officials. At dawn on the following day, a further force of about four companies of the 8th Bombay Infantry was drafted into the city, to assist the Civil Authorities in enforcing the plague measures, and up to date, the native regiment still continues to supply detachments of men to guard the main entrances to the city and to parade the streets. All these arrangements would make it appear that the city was in a state of active revolt, but as a matter of fact, although the people are out on strike, there has, at no time, been any actual rioting, all that the populace seem to wish is to demonstrate their objections against the new plague rules, by putting every one to as much inconvenience and annoyance as possible; but their intentions have never been actively hostile, apparently, as, notwithstanding the large gatherings of people, who, for the first day or two thronged the streets, nobody seems to have been molested, no fights or rows took place, and as far as one could see, the people were not armed in any way, none of them even carrying sticks. The temper of the people appears to be more dogged and sullen than actively hostile, and there seems to be little danger of their breaking out into anything more formidable than a determination not to agree to what they allege to be great wrong on the part of the authorities.

I drove through the city this morning, and found everything as quiet as ever I have seen it; indeed, if anything, rather quieter than usual, as many of the inhabitants have left the city, and the streets appeared to be almost deserted. The people have held several mass meetings to voice their grievances, at which perfect order prevailed, and their representatives have on one or two occasions met the Collector and the Plague Committee at the Kutchery, slight concessions being granted them. Mr. Woodburn, the Plague Commissioner for this Presidency, arrived from Bombay on Saturday morning, the 26th August, and remained here throughout the day. At 5 P.M. on that day, a lengthy Conference was held at the Collector's office, under the Presidency of Mr. Woodburn, at which the local authorities and the heads of the various native communities met to discuss the situation. The Conference lasted until 9 P.M., and was satisfactory in so much, as practically all the concessions asked for were granted. The amended rules were posted up in the city this morning, and it is hoped that during the course of the day the strike will come to an end, and the shops re-open.

THE RANGOON OUTRAGE CASE.

At the resumed hearing of the Rangoon outrage case, to-day, further evidence was called.

In cross-examination Inspector Hawit was asked if the Adjutant of the West Kent Regiment gave him Sullivan's statement ten or twelve days after the occurrence. He denied this. He said the Adjutant came and talked over the case between ten and fourteen days after the occurrence. The Adjutant never communicated to him that Sullivan had seen some men at the place. Re-examined he said the Adjutant told him they had evidenced which showed that Horricks was innocent. He swore positively the Adjutant did not give him a written statement, nor show him one. The Adjutant mentioned no names during the conversation. A native police constable said he assisted in picking up the woman. Her clothes were not torn in pieces, as asserted by other constables. Private John Sullivan, examined, said, he saw the woman singing and dancing on the 2nd April near C. Company barracks and making indecent gestures. She then went away. She crossed the ditch and went on to the public road, Coomber, one of the accused, left his dinner and followed her. Four or five minutes afterwards Johnson, Thorpe, Martin, Goff, Boulter and witness followed. They met Coomber returning. Johnson asked where the woman was, and Coomber pointed towards the nullah. Johnson then went to the woman. Later Corporal Rodgers, Martin and Thorpe shifted the woman into the nullah. Then, Thorpe, Martin, Rodgers and Goff in this order went with the woman. The witness did not touch her. At this time about forty or fifty other men assembled. Private Atkins had an old rusty pioneer sword. Some of the soldiers present threw stones at the Burmese. Witness did not know who threw stones. He left when Horricks was arrested. Witness made a statement to the Adjutant ten days after the occurrence. That statement was not true. He made an untrue statement, because he had been threatened and assaulted. At the identification parade, Atkins, Clark and the witness were identified as being present at the nullah. Witness then got afraid, and when Colour-Sergeant Macdonald questioned him, he told what he knew. Then he was knocked about by the men.

Sullivan, in cross-examination, said certain false statements he made to the Adjutant were made at the instigation of Corporal Nurse and others.

A long cross-examination ensued directed to the past life of Sullivan; the allegation being that he had been in the pay of Metropolitan detectives in the Borough before he joined the regiment. He denied this.

Corporal Nurse was recalled and admitted that Sullivan accompanied him and Horricks to the police station, but denied that Sullivan told him Horricks was guilty and that he (Nurse) dissuaded him from giving evidence.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

A FURTHER exhibition of the wonders of wireless telegraphy was given at Dover when, by means of Marconi's system, messages were sent with complete success from the Dover Town Hall to the South Foreland Lighthouse and East Goodwin Lightship, this necessitating the passage of an electric current through four miles of cliff from 300 to 410 feet above sea-level and across twelve miles of sea.

PUERTO RICO has suffered far more from the hurricane than was at first reported. Deaths are reckoned by thousands. Towns and villages have disappeared and the population in many districts are famishing. At Ponce five hundred persons have been drowned. The United States are already energetically preparing to send help, and President McKinley has approved for subscriptions.

A FRENCH schooner from Lannon, Brittany, was run into and sunk on Sunday morning near the Goodwin Lightship by the German steamer Hercules Danzig. The schooner was laden with onions and had a number of lads on board who would have hawked vegetables in Hull. Altogether there were twenty-four persons on the vessel, of whom five were drowned. The survivors were landed at Lowestoft in the course of the afternoon.

An explosion occurred at one o'clock this morning at the Llesta Colliery in the Garw Valley. Eighteen persons were killed. The night shift, consisting of sixty men, were at work when a heavy fall took place quite unexpectedly in one of the stalls. The fall liberated a volume of gas, with the result that a terrible explosion took place. It has not been exactly ascertained what number were killed but it is believed that not less than eighteen have been killed. There were many splendid acts of bravery performed after the catastrophe in endeavouring to save the miners from the effects of the fatal after-damp, but many men yet remain below.

M. PAUL DEROULEDE was arrested, early on Saturday morning at Croissy, near Paris, and thirty-seven warrants have been issued in consequence of the discovery of an alleged Royalist plot. Most of the accused belong to the Patriotic League, the Anti-Semite League, and the young Royalists. Upon the police attempting to enter the Anti-Semite League, and the young Royalists. Upon the police attempting to enter the Anti-Semite League headquarters with warrants for the arrest of M. Jules Guerin and M. Max Regis, those gentlemen barricaded themselves in, and threatened to fire on the police if they tried to force their way in. The besieged bast that they have plenty of food and water for a couple of months. Meanwhile the police have cut off the gas and water-supply. The siege still continues. The Royalist plot in Paris is being followed by more arrests. Additional troops have been marched in from Versailles. The President has returned to town.

THE Times Johannesburg correspondent says it has transpired that the reason why the reply of the Transvaal Government to Mr. Chamberlain's proposal for a joint inquiry is delayed is that a scheme is under consideration which, in the opinion of the Government, will render the inquiry unnecessary. It will be proposed to grant a five years' franchise and to effect such a redistribution of seats as will give to the gold-fields population representation equal to one-fourth of the entire Raad. Other features of the scheme have not been disclosed, but it is expected that some quid pro quo will be asked from the Imperial Government. The Transvaal authorities, it is understood, will not submit the proposal until it has been approved by the Orange Free State and an Afrikaner majority in the Cape Assembly. The correspondent adds that, in Uitlander circles, the scheme is regarded with grave suspicion, and the opinion prevails that the real motive with which it has been framed is to gain European sympathy for the Boers.

LORD CURZON, says the St. James' Gazette, is steadily introducing order and system into what has hitherto been, the somewhat haphazard affairs of India. After the currency problem and frontier problem, he has taken in hand the question of railways. Two of the most potent facts that emerge from his recent speech at Simla are his impression, that the Railway Conference is too exclusively official a body to merit such a high-sounding name, and his intention to substitute for it a small peripatetic commission to report upon the proposed new lines upon which local commercial bodies shall be represented. In the second place the railway programme, instead of being drawn up for a triennial period is in future to be always three years ahead of the work in hand. These reforms, joined to Lord Curzon's bias in favour of greater publicity, will give the greatest satisfaction to business men. Hitherto the evil tradition has prevailed in India of leaving everything in the hands of officials, and giving the commercial public no say in the regulation of their own concerns, and then the rulers wondered that they could not attract capital to the country. Under Lord Curzon all that is now changing, and it seems probable that any capital invested in India will have its claims properly considered.

SIR ARTHUR TREVOR is expected to arrive in Bombay from home on the 20th October. The Gunpowder Factory at Kirkee will be closed from the 1st of April, 1900, as future demands for different descriptions of powder can be fully met by their manufacture at Ishapur.

A NEW flight of steps is being added to the palace at Mysore, and preparations are being made for the Dusserah festival, before which time it is expected that the public announcement of the Maharaja's betrothal will be made.

MESSRS. BRADON, Langley and Dixon Assistant Commissioners, will be placed on special duty during the cold weather, in connection with certain boundary disputes.

MR. SAVAGE LANDOR, of Tibetan fame, is again at Almora, whence, nothing daunted by his former terrible experiences, he apparently contemplates another plunge into the wilds. This time his objective is Nepal.

A TELEGRAM received announces that the Cape of Good Hope will introduce a scheme of penny postage from the first of September next. Owing to the prevalence of plague in Poona, the Presidential assault-arms, which was fixed to take place from to-day next, has been abandoned.

A SERIOUS disturbance occurred on Thursday night last at Mandal in Veerungam taluk. Mr. Lambert, Police Superintendent, went there on the day following. Another disturbance took place between the Valinda and Gaff villages about the grazing of cattle. One man was killed. Mr. Mansookram and Mr. Wallinger went to Dhulk taluka. Forty armed policemen have arrived from Surat, Broach, and Thana.

THE earnings of the Indian railways have been steadily improving during the past two months, the receipts from 1st July to 19th August being eleven lakhs better than those of the corresponding period last year, due chiefly to the larger traffic on the North-Western, Eastern-Bengal, Bengal-Nagpur, and East Coast lines. This reduces the falling off since the beginning of the official year to forty-two lakhs.

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