

# Amrita Bazar Patrika

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NO 72

### পদক-পাতক।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে  
মূল্য ৩০ টাকা।  
প্রতিশ্রুতি বহুত

অনুব্রতবার পত্রিকা আকিমে প্রাপ্য।

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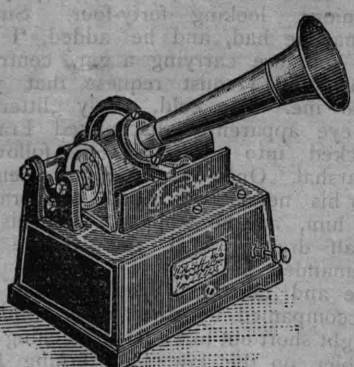
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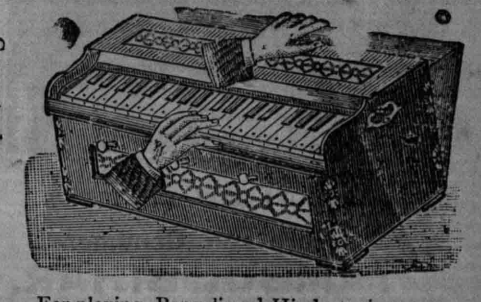
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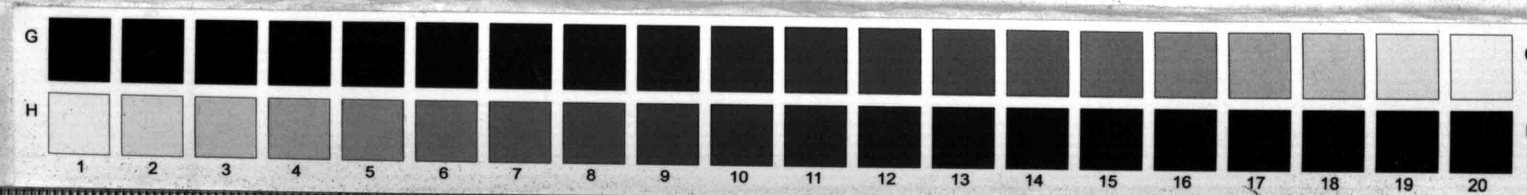
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Captain Welby accompanied Ras Makonnen's army on its march to Adis Abeba, and also proceeded some distance with the united forces on their way to Tigre. Returning to Adis Abeba he there collected a caravan, such as was necessary for the long journey he had set before himself, and then struck south, skirting the western shores of the Abyssinian lakes. The last of these, Lake Obai, is surrounded by mountains over 10,000 ft. in height. The country from this point had been previously unexplored. Captain Welby found it very fertile and thickly populated by Gallas, who are tributary to the Abyssinians. It is purely agricultural, and the natives, many of whom had not seen a white man before, were everywhere friendly. Leaving this region the party continued their journey to the north end of Lake Rudolph, Captain Welby being able to satisfy himself that the river Womo runs into that body of water. The east shore of the lake, which was next visited, was found to be practically uninhabited. Captain Welby himself enjoyed good health throughout his long journey, except for an accident by which he lost one of his fingers. He passed through the country of twenty tribes. One tribe, the Tirkana, was of immense stature, most of the men being 7 ft. in height. They had long hair extending to the waist, and matted like felt. They generally were turned up in such a manner as to form a receptacle for small articles and nicknacks, the end being finally twisted into a tail with a thin stick, about which they are very particular. No precious metals were seen, but there is a large supply of white marble. Payments are made in beads, salt, and iron bars.

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**MR. SMITH OF ABILENE.**

"TALKING about nerve," said Colonel T. C. Henry, formerly the "wheat king" of Kansas, but now the President of a little private republic down in Old Mexico, as he sat with a small circle of friends who were calling up reminiscences of border days in Kansas for the benefit of a Globe-Democrat man, "I think the man who possessed it to a greater degree than any one whom I ever knew was Tom Smith, city marshal of Abilene, in the early '70s. I was mayor of the town at the time, and as it was the end of the cattle trail it was about the toughest town on the border. City ordinances would be posted only to be openly and speedily perforated with bullets; I would appoint city marshals and soon receive their resignations, mailed at the first stopping place where they rested while winging their flight to a more congenial clime, until the better element, which was sadly in the minority, was almost in despair.  
"One day I received a visit from Tom Smith, who was then living at Kit Carson, who said he had come to apply for the position of city marshal, which was at the moment vacant. Smith was known to every one on the border as a killer. At that time I had not become convinced that it would be necessary to employ a known desperado to control the lawless element, and I declined the proffered services and sent to the chief of police at St. Louis, who was a personal friend, a request to send me two of his bravest men to fill the offices respectively of marshal and deputy. They came, and were no sooner installed than a preconcerted effort was made to frighten them out of town. The usual result followed, and I was again looking for a city marshal. We started to build a cala-boose, and had it nearly completed when the gamblers and cowboys made an open daylight raid and razed it to the ground. We rallied a force, rebuilt and completed it under strong guard and that night placed in it a negro who had amused himself by shooting out the street lamps. Later in the night a crowd from the negro's own camp rode into town, shooting in every direction, tore down the cala-boose, and took the negro away with them.  
"That was too much, and in desperation I telegraphed Tom Smith to come at once. He reached Abilene the next morning and presented himself at the mayor's office. I requested that before accepting the position, he spend the day looking over the situation, asking him to report in the evening. Shortly after supper he strolled quietly in and said he guessed he would tackle the job. I asked him to outline to me his plan of action, and he replied that he had none in particular, but that the first thing to do, in his opinion, was to enforce the ordinance prohibiting the carrying of firearms within the city limits. I looked at him in amazement, for the exposed revolvers were considered as necessary a part of the average cowboy's make up as the sombrero or the knotted handkerchief at the neck.  
"You see," said Smith, "we could stand guns alone or whisky alone, but when there is a combination of these it usually means bloodshed, and as there is no chance to suppress the whisky, we must get rid of the guns."  
"That night new copies of the anti-gun ordinance were posted, and the next morning Smith took the oath of office and was ready for business, but long before he appeared on the street the gang had heard of his appointment and read the ordinance, and many of the more boastful had declared that the man did not live who could make them give up their guns. Smith was a man of about 5 feet 11 inches in height, of magnificent build, deep-chested, and with sinews of steel. He was an expert boxer, and, in fact, a thoroughly trained all-around athlete. Under the most trying circumstances he never was known to have lost his head for a single instant. He had the killer's eye, that indescribable steel gray before which a bully would always quail. He was a dead shot, quick with his guns, but quicker and more certain with his fists. Knowing that he had work before him, he fortified himself with a hearty breakfast, and strolled down the street.  
"The first person he encountered was Hank Hawkins, a big cowboy, who had made himself particularly obnoxious to former marshals, and one who had been the loudest in his boasts that he could not be disarmed. Meeting Smith on the sidewalk, he opened the ball by asking him if he was the fellow who had come down to run the town. Smith replied that that was not his purpose, but that he had been employed as city marshal and would simply endeavour to preserve order and see that the laws were obeyed. Hawkins, who was openly wearing two big knives, asked what he was going to do about enforcing the anti-gun ordinance. That, replied Smith, was one of the laws which must not be violated; and he quickly added: "I shall be obliged to trouble you for those two guns you have in your belt."  
"I will not give them up to any live man, was Hawkins' reply. 'You have read a copy of the ordinance that has been posted, and know that you are disobeying the law,' said Smith. 'Yes and what are you going to do about it?' replied Hawkins.  
"I am not looking for trouble," said Smith, "and for that reason have treated you in a decent and gentlemanly manner, and have requested that you give up your weapons; you have refused, and it is now clearly my duty to enforce an observance of the law." The words, spoken in a quiet, even tone, were hardly out of his mouth, when, like a tiger, he sprang forward and landed a terrific blow with his fist squarely on the forehead of big Hawkins, who promptly measured his extreme length on the sidewalk. In the twinkling of an eye Smith had secured his weapons and stood over him with one of the guns in each hand. 'I'll give you ten seconds to start for the city limits and get out of range,' said Smith, who now seemed to have the suppressed fury of a tiger raging within him. Big Hawkins took one look in the flashing eyes and had nine seconds to spare when he lit out for high grass. After waiting a moment Smith quietly pocketed the guns and sauntered down the street.  
"The news of the encounter spread like wild fire among the saloons and gambling houses, and many and loud were the threats made against the new marshal, but the most vociferous among all the loud boasters was a desperado known by the sobriquet of Wyoming Frank, a notorious gambler of gigantic stature, who had been a terror to every marshal in the border, and who, when in liquor, was always

spoiling for a fight. In addition to this, Hawkins was his close friend, and a half drunken kind of reasoning made it seem to him an imperative duty to wipe out the Hawkins insult by humiliating Smith in the most public manner possible, and he, therefore, declared that he would seize the first opportunity to carry out his designs.  
"The chance occurred the same evening. Frank was standing in front of the Texas saloon, the worst hole in the town, when the marshal was seen approaching. Knowing that there would be trouble, a large crowd quickly gathered to witness the affair. Smith saw at once that he was in for it, and was not at all surprised when Frank stepped in front of him with the remark that he understood that he had knocked a man down for carrying a gun, and at the same time he threw back his coat, displaying an ominous looking forty-four. Smith replied that he had, and he added, 'I see that you, too, are carrying a gun, contrary to the law, and I must request that you give it to me.' The cold, steely glitter of Smith's eye apparently discomfited Frank, who backed into the saloon, followed by the marshal. Once inside, Frank seemed to recover his nerve, which had temporarily deserted him, and he stopped, with his revolver half drawn. 'Will you give me the gun?' demanded Smith.  
"Come and take it, if you can," was the reply, accompanied by the oath. Smith's terrible right short out like a flash, catching the big gambler on the jaw, half turning him around; followed by his left, which landed behind the ear, turning him completely, and he heavily struck the floor, face downward. With lightning rapidity the marshal secured his gun, and, with it, heavily-beat the prostrate desperado over that part of his anatomy usually used in propelling bums out of a saloon. The gambler was completely cowed and made no effort to rise.  
"Smith, who during the action was the coolest man in the room, then proceeded to make a little speech, more for the benefit of the crowd than for Wyoming Frank, who, he knew, would never give him any more trouble. 'I am the city marshal of this town,' he said, 'employed to preserve order and to see that the laws are obeyed. I shall treat everybody fairly and respectfully, but I want it distinctly understood that no guns will be carried, except by those authorized by law to carry them. I shall take all weapons to the mayor's office, and when the owners get ready to leave town they can call there and get them. Now, get up!' he exclaimed, emphasizing the command with no slight pressure of his toe to the cowering hulk at his feet. The deathlike stillness pervaded the room as Wyoming Frank slowly rose to his feet. There was a back door to the saloon, out of which he disappeared with out a word. Where he went no one knew. Possibly he may have joined Hawkins, but neither was ever again seen in Abilene.  
"After Frank's undignified departure not a word was spoken by any one present for a few minutes, but the silence was then broken by a faro dealer, who was a kind of a leader among the sports. 'By G—' he exclaimed, 'that's about the nerviest play I ever saw, and I want to say to you, boys, that that kind of a man catches my friendship. Here, Mr. Marshal,' he said, turning to Smith, who was quietly leaning against the bar, 'you haven't asked me for it, but here's my gun. Such an exhibition of pure, unadulterated nerve ought to win out the friendship of every decent man in the town. This was the signal of the crowd, and they all pressed forward, offering to give up their guns. Many in the crowd were glad of an opportunity to get out of the bad predicament in which their loud boasting had placed them, for, after witnessing Smith's nerve, there was not one among them who dared face the man who had coolly walked up to the muzzle of a gun, and, without the display of a single weapon, disarmed and put to rout the worst man in the camp. 'Never mind, boys, I couldn't carry them all,' remarked Smith; 'I only ask you to leave them off while in town.' The proprietor of the saloon asked all hands to 'name their pizen' at the expense of the house, after which the crowd dispersed, and from that time on until fall, when Smith met an awful death, no guns were carried in Abilene.  
"Smith was killed while attempting the arrest of a murderer about three miles from Abilene, after the man had driven off the sheriff and posse. It appears that a couple of Scotchmen had had trouble with an Irishman over some of the latter's cattle destroying some of their corn. A herd law had just gone into effect, and as there were no fences, trouble of that character was common. One of the Scotchmen, after a wordy war with the Irishman, deliberately killed him, and, with his partner, took refuge in their dugout and defied arrest.—*Inter Ocean.*

**BRITISH INDIAN SOLDIERS FOR TRANSVAAL.**

The work in the Bombay Government Dockyard is continued with the greatest activity, and the City of London has already been taken in hand. The Transport Secundra No. 2 left the Dockyard yesterday at 6 A. M., and proceeded to the Prince's Dock, where the 42nd Field Battery and the Veterinary Hospital will be taken on board on tomorrow, the vessel sailing at 6-30 P. M. The Transport Lalpoora will sail on Monday, and will be the first Indian Contingent Transport to reach Dunbar, the probable date of her arrival being October the 3rd. The Transport Guldanal will leave on Tuesday and the Ellora on Wednesday, the City of London and the Sutlej leaving on Thursday with the Devon Regiment and the Headquarters Staff, Infantry Brigade Colonel Yule, of the Devons, who sails on the Sutlej, will be the Senior Brigadier-General in charge of the forces until he hands over charge to Sir George White in Natal. Colonel Wolf Murray, chief of the Intelligence Department and General Sir Archibald Hunter, chief of the Staff, also sail in the Sutlej. The date of the departure of the 19th Hussars, who will sail in the Transports Pundua, Sirsa and Vadala has not yet been definitely fixed. The Gordon Highlanders will be sent out in the Transports Patiala and Palitana, the date of sailing not being fixed for the present. At the Prince's Dock the work on the steamer Lalpoora is practically finished. The steamer Vadala has been taken into the dry dock.  
A Secunderabad correspondent states that Lee-Metford carbines have already been served to the 19th Hussars. So far the 19th Hussars have not fired a shot with the Lee-Metford carbine.

**MONSOON AND AGRICULTURE.**

RAIN fell heavily for about six hours, on Wednesday night and Thursday morning. A Bombay telegram of the 12th instant, says:—The crop prospects in the Bombay Presidency are greatly improved by the rain which has fallen during the week. The downpour unfortunately has not extended to Sind. The crops are suffering from want of water in Karachi and cattle are very weak. Early rice crops now in Shekripur are hopeful, but late crops are suffering. Fodder is insufficient, and there is also a deficiency of water in Hyderabad, Upper Sind and Thar and Parkar, and the levels of the canals are greatly reduced. Prices of food-grains are, however, stationary. In Guzerat the situation is still very grave, as the rainfall is altogether inadequate. Almost all the standing and un-irrigated crops are withered in Ahmedabad, and agricultural stock are starving on account of the insufficiency of fodder. The remnants of *khairi* crops are endangered in the Panch Mahals, where the distress has led to disturbances requiring the presence of the military from Baroda. Cattle are still being fed on leaves in Kana, while at Broach all agricultural operations are at a standstill, and prospects are gloomy. Surat alone relieves the depressing outlook, and there, although standing crops are generally fair, more rain is wanted. In Thana showery weather has refreshed the standing crops and saved the transplants, but is too late for those untransplanted. In Central Deccan standing crops have greatly benefited by the recent rains, though more would be welcomed. Khandeish is worst off, for there standing crops are withering and fodder is in sufficient. In Southern Deccan too the rainfall has greatly improved the position. Generally speaking the fodder supply is sufficient, and the condition of agricultural stock good. The crops which were withering have revived. The sowing of cotton has recommenced. More rain, however, is needed. The rainfall in Kathiawar and Cutch is, however, still extremely small. Relief works are in progress in most of the principal Native States and in Bhanagar especially the measures taken to relieve distress have been prompt and well devised. Government have turned their attention to the meeting of the fodder famine which is now inevitable. There are immense quantities of grass available in the Thana district and southern circle. This will be collected, pressed and despatched by rail to the districts where it is most needed, and a large grant has been made to at once set the necessary machinery in motion and purchase hand and steam presses. The present scheme it based on an out-turn of a hundred lakhs of pounds from Thana and the same quantity from the southern circle. The Government have pointed out at this will only provide for the needs of forty thousand cattle, which are a very small proportion of the number of useful cattle that will require to be fed if the September and October rains fail. The Government are pressing upon the Forest Department the need of extending their operations, and in the meantime, the experiment of driving the cattle to districts where fodder is plentiful is to be tried. Any idea of obtaining fodder by contract has been abandoned on the score of price and the Government are looking abroad to see if it is possible to widen the sources of supply.  
A correspondent wires under date the 14th instant:—With varying rains the situation in the Upper Provinces looked very bad, but lately it has changed and the outlook is more hopeful within the last 24 hours. There is a marked improvement in the situation, as general rain is reported from the North-West Provinces and the Central Provinces. The heaviest fall was the 3 inches at Cawnpore and about 2 at Hoshangabad. Good rain fell in Central India, and showers extended into parts of the Punjab and Rajputana. The local market reports high prices and peons of the Government of India are applying for ration allowances.  
Another Bombay telegram of the 14th instant, says:—Heavy rain has fallen at Cawnpore (2.91), over an inch at Jubbulpur and Sholapur (1.95), Hoshangabad (1.73), Karwar (1.10), and Indore (1.08), about three-quarters of an inch at Nagpur, about half an inch at Saugor and Jhansi, about quarter of an inch at Delhi, Allahabad, Akola, Ahmednagar, Goa, Mangalore, Calicut and Cochim, and from 0.01 to 0.14 cents at Sirsa, Neemuch, Khandwa, Raipur, Amraoti, Bombay, Poona, Belgaum, Bangalore, Secunderabad, Masulipatam and Cuddapah. The monsoon gradient is slightly weaker than usual on the Malabar coast and fairly normal between Karwar and Bombay, thereby indicating conditions favourable for rain all along the coast. In Berar, the Central and North-West Provinces, Central India, at inland stations, in the Bombay Presidency, and at northerly stations in the Madras Presidency, local showers are to be expected.  
Steamers arriving in Colombo report very rough weather between Ceylon and the Straits.  
A RUMOUR is circulated that Professor G. K. Gokhale, of the Ferguson College, Poona, will retire from that institution shortly as soon as Professors Paranjpe and Bhanu join the staff. Professor Gokhale joined the staff in 1885, and as for the agreement, we learn that his 15 years' service will be completed in a year. It is stated that when he retires from College he will devote himself to form a strong liberal party and agitate for the "social and political regeneration of India."  
**A WONDERFUL CURE OF DIARRHOEA.**  
A PROMINENT VIRGINIA 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, Hillside, 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 17, 1899.

MANLINESS OF EUROPEANS AND EFFEMINACY OF INDIANS.

THIS was how Dr. Fairbairn described Swami Bhaskarananda —

What was my surprise to find him in face, and still more in manner, exceedingly like the late Cardinal Manning, and later I found that the facial resemblance had struck others besides myself.

As a rule, a man is known by his face, and to be more accurate, by his eyes, lips and brows, and mainly by his eyes. The cold, steeley eye of the man of nerve shews that he is not to be trifled with.

We saw an English soldier, in our younger days, whether a deserter or what we cannot tell, roaming at large, putting to flight not only villagers, but the police, headed by the Magistrate.

Of course, the Englishman justifies his so-called fierceness as the Indian justifies his so-called effeminacy. The Englishman says that the Indian has no manliness, no will, no nerve, no back-bone, no enterprise, etc., etc.

The Englishman is fond of power and will sacrifice much to acquire it. This love of power led the Englishman to enter into every corner of the world and whiten the remotest parts of the globe with his bones.

The Indian, with his half-a-pound of rice, with his affectionate wife and dutiful children, and with an uneventful life, has not to pray God to deliver him from temptations, for he has very little.

The other races of the world condemn the effeminacy of the Indians; yes, they are too effeminate. But the manliness of other races is much worse. The Indians lead an uneventful life, never leaving their homestead, maintaining their parents and children, and honoring and loving their wives, paying their taxes and worshipping their God.

RESIGNATION OF THE COMMISSIONERS.

THE general public saw, in the merciless manner in which the Municipal Bill amendments of the representative members were slaughtered, one by one, displeasure on the part of the Government, for the resignation of the Commissioners. For, they had never before seen the Government of Sir J. Woodburn so determined in their attitude.

fill the last moment? We do not think any guest would do it. In other words, if any guest remains there to enjoy a few minutes feast after the intimation referred to above had been given, he is considered a beggar or a mean fellow who has no self-respect.

It is quite possible that, if the Commissioners had remained to the last moment, in spite of the charges of corruption brought against them, they would have given perfect satisfaction to the authorities. The Government has a right to urge that the Commissioners had no business to resign, and thus try to create a sensation.

Assuming that the Commissioners had resigned to create a sensation, what is the harm? What could they do to enter an earnest protest against this policy of Government, which threatens to throw back the advancement of the country, for Heaven knows, how many scores of years? Let the authorities realize the situation, if they can.

THE PROSPECT OF ANOTHER FAMINE.

Justice repeats in stronger language what Mr. Digby said in reference to the terrible position to which this country is being led.

The usual dreary farce of the Indian Budget has been gone through at the end of the session, and that third-rate comedian, Lord George Hamilton, has acted his part again. Nothing more infamous is recorded in history than the treatment of British India by the British House of Commons.

The strong language usually used by Justice mars its usefulness. It is, however, somewhat excused on the ground that its ill-humor is due to the fact that it apprehends another famine. It says, "meanwhile there is another famine to provide against while we are establishing a gold standard."

Heaven protect India from another famine; but if it comes, it will ruin the cause of those who are for leaving matters as they are. If it comes, every one is likely to repeat the question, what Mr. Digby asks, viz., why should India alone of all countries be so often visited by famine?

Englishmen, from an Indian's point of view, can be divided into two classes, viz., those who are interested in India and those who are not. The latter vastly outnumber the former. The latter having no interest to protect in this country, like nothing better than to see India prosperous and happy.

We have often thought whether the Indians have any such friend among Englishmen who would befriend them, if they were to make an attempt to secure their independence. This idea occurred to us when we found a class of Americans denouncing their countrymen for fighting with the Philippines.

object. The question is, is there any Englishman who will sympathize with the Indians if they attempt to secure their independence?

We do not think there is any such Englishman, at least he is not known to us. If a few Englishmen sympathized with the Americans, it must not be forgotten that they were white men, kinsmen of the English people, speaking their language and following their religion.

Such is, however, the organization that Englishmen at home have no means of knowing how India is faring under British rule. The officials here are interested in keeping up the impression that they are the aggrieved parties, who require all the sympathies of their countrymen at home to be able to discharge the disagreeable and dangerous duties that they have undertaken to perform.

The Secretary of State, who represents India in England and in India, is a stranger in this country. But he is surrounded by the representatives of these interested officials. There is not one independent man to advise him or let him see the other side of a question.

How then is the Indian to tell his woes to Englishmen at home, their real lords and disinterested masters, who are always willing to do them justice? And how is the Englishman at home to know as to how the Empire is faring under the rule of his countrymen?

It was, therefore, to represent India in Parliament the Parliamentary Committee was formed in England. Composed as it is of Englishmen only, there is no fear of sedition or treachery in that body. That Committee ought to have been nourished, not only by Englishmen generally, but also by the Ministers of State. Such a Committee, if nourished, is likely to give the other version of every question, and enable Englishmen at home to see the true state of affairs.

If Sir W. Wedderburn and his Parliamentary Committee have been snubbed and silenced, they cannot silence famines. The eloquence of Lord George Hamilton. Only three years ago the whole world was moved to come to the rescue of India.

Two incidents enlivened the dreary proceedings of the Bengal Council held on Wednesday last. One was a personal explanation from the Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie, which is published elsewhere, and the other was a fight between the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton and the Hon'ble Mr. Baker over certain amendments. The reader will remember that a few days ago, a letter appeared in these columns, pointing out that the Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie being a Director of the firm of Messrs. Burn and Co., was not justified, under the law, to take part in a certain meeting of the General Committee of the Corporation which discussed the question of the payment of compensation to that firm.

Mr. Mackenzie was due to his ignorance of the law, and that it was absurd to suppose that he had deliberately supported the cause of a firm with which he was so closely connected. We fear, however, if a Bengali Commissioner had found himself in the position of Mr. Mackenzie, his name would have figured in the black book of the Government. Indeed, the general impression is that, the charge of corruption, brought against certain Bengali Commissioners rests upon very flimsy grounds; and, if the so-called corrupt Commissioners were given an opportunity to defend themselves, their explanation would have been as satisfactory as that of the Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie.

It has now been made plain how Lord George Hamilton was led to charge Sir W. Wedderburn with disseminating "gross falsehoods" through the newspaper, India. The spectacle was unique of a Minister charging a member of Parliament with "gross falsehoods." And we were expecting an explanation. One "gross falsehood" was that India had accused his Lordship of "having called India a savage country." India now explains all the circumstances of the case. On July 21, 1898, Lord George Hamilton spoke as follows in defence of the Indian Civil Service —

If their Empire abroad was extending to an immeasurably greater extent than that of any other country, one of the main reasons of that advance

and progress was that there were any number of young men who, at any moment when they were called upon, were ready to go to a savage, foreign country taking their lives in their hands.

On this passage India remarks: — Does this mean that India is a savage country, which is only becoming civilized by the efforts of the English India which presented an aspect of ordered civilisation which was already ancient when the ancestors of the English were still nomads, and which has endured unbroken to the present day?

The London Daily News thus comments upon the explanation of India: — This seems to us a most fair criticism, and for Lord George Hamilton to talk about "the grossest falsehoods" only shows of what very light stuff he is made.

The West Minister Gazette says:—"From these it is apparent to any fair-minded reader that they afford not the slightest justification for the charge in question."

The Star says—"Lord George Hamilton was talking deliberate nonsense."

But it is not necessary to quote opinions. One can easily see that India has scored. Nay, we think that Lord George Hamilton has done a service by his violent attack. His attack has drawn the attention of the English public to the subject; to the unfortunate position of Sir W. Wedderburn; and to the temper of Lord George Hamilton. We have the so-called "gross falsehoods" of India before us, but we have yet to know what his Lordship meant by the Indian papers multiplying them "hundred-fold."

A SILCHAR correspondent announces that the example of Calcutta is sought already to be followed in that distant town in connection with the so-called reform of the local Municipality. This is what many had apprehended would be the result of the passing of the Calcutta Municipal Bill; and one of the reasons which have evoked such universal protest, is that once Calcutta is deprived of the shade of local self-government, mofussil towns will follow suit, and the evil will thus permeate through the entire country. Local self-government was introduced in this country both in the interests of the people and the overworked District officers. Of course, it means the curtailment of some petty powers possessed by the local authorities. But it was thought that they would gladly part with them to secure some rest for themselves. It now appears, that the co-operation of the people is not wanted by the ruling classes even in petty municipal matters. Such being the case, it is a mistake that mofussil Municipal Commissioners, members of District Boards and Honorary Magistrates should continue in their posts and irritate the officials. When local self-government is in such high disfavour with the Government of the day, it should completely cease to exist. Local self-government is a work of love; and if the authorities will not have it, the people need not carry even a semblance of this thankless work any longer.

SOME of the highest English statesmen are of opinion that the increasing wealth of England means a serious danger to that country. This plethora of money, they say, may sap their national energy. Twenty millions a year flow into England from India alone, in the shape of cheap foodstuffs which deprive the English agriculturists of vitalising work on the English soil. Similarly, the corn brought as tribute from Egypt to feed the people of Rome ruined the Latin farmers who had supplied men to the legions. Indeed, it is feared, that the English people stand in no small need of becoming some day a nation of officials, bond-holders, servants, financiers, merchants, shop-keepers, manufacturers of luxuries and builders of houses, but dependent for food and clothing upon countries beyond the seas! "If these dismal prophecies should be realised," says an English correspondent, "the countries which England has conquered and held in subjugation will be better treated than they are being treated now." The fact is, individuals as well as nations cannot resist the working out of natural laws.

WE have over and over again urged that the importation of mercenary soldiers to India and the disarmament of its people are needless cruelties, and that any effective rebellion against the authorities here is an impossibility. We have before us an admirable pamphlet on cow-riots by the late Captain Harsey, in which he makes a statement that proves our contention conclusively. Captain Harsey was in the mutiny and fought and bled for the Government; so he is an authority on the subject he deals with. Says he: —

In the Mutiny of 1857, wherever the Mahomedans had seized the reins of Government and found themselves the strongest, they commenced once more to proselytize the Hindus by force by thrusting cow's blood and cow's flesh down their throats, "vide" occurrences in Delhi, Lucknow, Fatehgar, Bareilly, and other Mahomedan centres of rebellion.

The above is known to every body, though the fact is kept in the background, namely, that one of the causes which led to the collapse of the mutiny, was the internal dissension between the Hindus and Mahomedans. The mutineers, both Hindus and Musalmans, committed all sorts of atrocities; but, wherever the Musalmans got the upper hand, they began the proselytization of the Hindus by forcing cow's blood down their throats! Thus when British soldiers came from England to suppress the mutiny, they were received as deliverers by the general mass of the people. And it was thus that Jung Bahadur was induced to join the British standard for the purpose of suppressing the terrible rebellion. The rulers here do not need mercenaries from England for the maintenance of the British Government in India. But they have no confidence in the bureaucratic rule that they themselves have introduced, and therefore they see spectres which do not exist.

THE fight between the Hon'ble Mr. Bolton and the Hon'ble Mr. Baker reminds us of the fight that took place between the Hon'ble Mr. Risley and the Hon'ble Mr. Cotton over the late Choukidary Bill. Mr. Cotton was in charge of that measure and had to go against the interests of the people. Mr. Risley, however, ranged himself on the side of the latter, and gave several home-thrusts to the late Chief Secretary of the Bengal Government who, as every body knows, is a liberal-minded statesman and was thus out of his element when defending this retrograde Bill. Mr. Risley voted with the non-official members, who were, of course, in a minority, and was slaughtered with them in

the battle, though he fought valiantly for a good cause. The same fate, it is needless to say, awaits Mr. Bolton, if he makes common cause with the elected members.

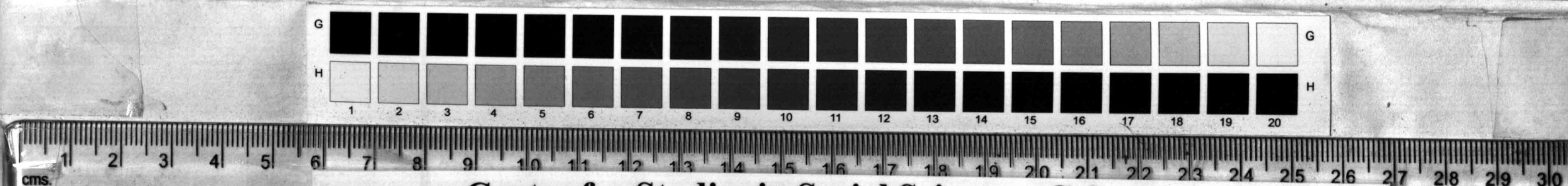
WHO will, after this, say that our official members are not independent? Indeed, they have now and then shown their independence both in the old and the reformed Councils. We shall explain how such thing happens. Our Legislative Council is a copy of the theatrical stage. Warriors come upon the stage armed with wooden swords, with the avowed object of fighting a fierce battle. The spectators watch, on the tip-toe of expectation, the result of the fight. Though it is all a preconcerted affair, it sometimes happens that an actor gets a thrust, which rouses his anger; but he is helpless. Things have been arranged beforehand that he must fall prostrate on the stage, with his throat cut by his antagonist. His being unfairly hurt, his consciousness of being quite a match for his antagonist, his eagerness to take revenge, are of no avail. He must lie dead with his throat cut, otherwise the manager will cut his pay, or forthwith dispense with his services. Similarly, a paid official member in our Councils may forget himself and his place, and break through the bonds which bind him hand and foot. Yet, as the Secretary of State has drawn up the plot, and as the member is handsomely paid for the acting, he must fall with his throat cut, though his antagonist may be weaker in strength, and armed only with a wooden sword. It must, however, be said that a performance on the stage is a more interesting spectacle than one in the Council; for, the spectator does not know how the plot will end. But, in our Councils, the end is known from the very beginning. The end is clearly seen in the first Act.

REFERRING to the trial of Thorpe, of the West Kent Regiment, the Indian Spectator says:—"The jurors would have been more than human if, after that address from the prosecuting counsel, they had hesitated to bring in a verdict of not guilty." One of the reasons why it is difficult to secure the conviction of European culprits, is the perfunctory manner in which cases, relating to European offenders, are prepared in the beginning and conducted throughout the trial. In this case of Thorpe the prosecuting counsel spoke more as counsel for the defence than for the prosecution. In the case of Bappoo the syce, who died of spleen rupture, the prosecuting counsel almost pleaded for the prisoner, on the ground that his duty was not to procure conviction but to see justice done. Counsel for the prosecution, no doubt, took a very high and unassailable ground, but the fact is, there are plenty of men to see that justice is done, and it is no part of the duty of the prosecuting counsel to usurp the functions of his opponent.

In the case of Mr. Ross, some very important points in favour of the prosecution were omitted, and we had to notice the omission at the time. We do not mean to say that public prosecutors sometimes betray their trusts deliberately when they are prosecuting a European. But this is oftentimes done, perhaps, because when a European is tried, his trial is carried on with greater care than what is bestowed upon cases in which natives are concerned. The cases in which Europeans are implicated, are, however, mismanaged in the beginning. The Police, naturally, can have no heart in the business. Rightly or wrongly, they think that they will not get unadmitted thanks by shewing zeal or detective ability in cases in which a European has been charged with an offence. And thus, when a case has been mismanaged in the beginning, it becomes hard for the Court to secure a conviction of the culprit even when there is no doubt of his guilt.

The fact is, the European offender here has innumerable ways of escape from the clutches of the law. The law is in his favour, and this, we regret, is an indelible blot on the reputation of the British nation for its sense of justice. Ordinarily it is told triumphantly that there is not one law for the rich and another for the poor. But, in India, there is no doubt of it, there is one law for the European and another for the native. The native police become utterly demoralized when they have to deal with a European offender. The European police cannot always be relied on when they have to deal with a countryman who has been unfortunately led to commit an illegal act. The native Magistrate is, likewise, demoralised when he finds an European accused standing before him. The European Magistrate cannot always be relied on under such circumstances. The public prosecutor has a right to sacrifice everything for justice; and if he sees there is a point which is in favour of the accused, there is no reason why he should not point it out to the jurors or the Judge. The question before the Government, however, is not how to deceive a native, but whether it is politic and proper that a European offender should be provided with facilities of escaping from the clutches of the law when he has broken it. Is it politic and proper, is it sound policy to furnish such facilities and thus indirectly encourage Europeans in India to break the law? If it is not sound policy to do so, the Government ought to stop it, and it can do so if it only takes up the matter with heart.

THE Court-jester of Russia, like all Court-jesters in the world, was not the fool that he pretended to be. His cousin had been ordered by the Czar to be hanged, and the Court-jester was trying to secure his reprieve. Seeing that he was coming near, the Czar angrily exclaimed, "That fellow is coming to me with a prayer, but I promise before God that I will not listen to his request." No sooner had the Czar thus declared himself, than the jester fell at his Imperial feet and declared: "May it please your Imperial Majesty, my prayer is that you must not pardon my cousin." So the man had to be pardoned under the oath of the Emperor! It is to be presumed that before the hon'ble official members attended the Council Chamber to consider the Municipal Bill, they had held a consultation amongst themselves. It appears that Mr. Baker was given the charge of opposing every amendment, and the other official members agreed to vote solid. For a perusal of the proceedings shews a tiresome repetition of the same tactics. "The amendment was put, Mr. Baker opposed it, and it was lost." That was the fate of the first amendment, and that was the fate of the last amendment, and of every amendment which was not ruled out of order. Suppose a re-





representative member had proposed an amendment that the Bill should be proceeded with till passed, what would the Hon'ble Mr. Baker have done then? Under the supposed arrangement, referred to above, the ho'ble member would then have been placed in a queer position. It is a pity some such arrangement was not made to break the monotony of the situation. Is it not time to put a stop to further discussion of the subject? It is no idle compliment to say that Sir J. Woodburn is burning with zeal to serve us, and that his heart is excellent. Equally true is it that in Mr. Bolton he has found a worthy Minister who, while he was a Magistrate, gained the golden opinion, by his sympathetic treatment, not only of his subordinates but also of the people in general. As for Mr. Baker, where will you find a better man and a more sympathetic official than he? But then they are not only individuals but officials. As individuals they are as good as angels. As officials, they are "defenders of the creed." The Khalifa is the defender of the Faithful; Sir J. Woodburn and his Ministers are defenders of the Municipal Bill. They are bound to oppose every one of our amendments; they are bound to proceed with the Bill; and they are bound to vote in a body. And the matter ends there. Now and then a bitter expression escapes us, and we repent for it afterwards. Why should we find fault with Sir J. Woodburn and his Ministers? Call it the effects of Karma; call it pre-destination; or call it service—they do what they are bound to do and they cannot do either more or less. In the same manner we propose amendments, oppose clauses, denounce principles, and go through the result of our Karma.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Hindu* describes a Swami at Vellore, Madras, in these words:—  
 Sir,—A number of friends and myself went to see the Swami the other day. That part of the country in which he lives, is remote from busy centres, and is a pleasant valley surrounded by lofty hills and intersected by jungle-streams. The Swami resides in an open space by the side of the road, about a mile from the village of Agrani. We saw him at 7 A. M., and kept company with him till the evening. He is remarkably calm and indifferent to what goes on around him and is always absorbed in contemplation, waiting for his deliverance from mortality. He has virtually relinquished all worldly concerns, and the stern life which he has been living for the past 10 years is a striking testimony to his decision of character and force of will. The 10 years' exposure to sun and rain has not a whit affected his body, and he is apparently in good health, rather, is not affected in any way, except that when he moves to and fro, as he sometimes does, his legs shake and shiver like a young baby's. He does not care for his food except when offered to him. He is almost clothed, the whole of his body being exposed. He completely fulfils the condition of a *sithapragna* ("wide" verses 55 and 56, Chapter II of the *bhagavata*), and his life is a marvel. The history of the Swami, before he was seen in the above-mentioned place 10 years ago, is wrapped up in mystery, and no information is forthcoming.

We have heard of heroes,—Alexander conquering the world, Washington delivering his country; of martyrs sacrificing themselves for their religion; but no country in the world can produce heroes like the one described above. It is one sort of heroism to face a Maxim gun, and it is another sort of heroism to give up society and live in the open, up in food that comes by chance, all for the purpose of attaining to salvation. There must be something very grand and tempting in such spiritual culture to sustain the devotees. Yet the view of the world is that the greatest man is he who has the greatest amount of worldly good, power and wealth.

FAMINE is in the land—at least in a portion of it. News comes from Ahmedabad that two females of the Brahmin agriculturist caste died on Wednesday last from being exposed to heat and starvation. Next morning four deaths occurred from the same cause and at the same place. About twenty persons including children have been attacked with famine fever and are very emaciated. Precautions for removing them are being taken. Poor people are said to have arrived at Ahmedabad after days of walking. Relief-works at Sabar and Tank have commenced, 2,000 poor persons of the District of Radhanpur being employed there. A gloomy picture indeed!

FROM Kolhapur, a Native State in the Southern Maharashtra country, comes a very strange story of an attempt to poison Colonel Wray, the Political Agent, with whose plague measures the people are said to have been greatly dissatisfied. It would appear that Colonel Wray and Mrs. Wray and the Hon. Mr. James were the guests of the Maharaja. Colonel Wray received an anonymous letter telling him that a certain person who was named, had paid Rs. 250 to have him poisoned at the Palace dinner, and warned him to look out for the daily baker's bread, meaning the bread supplied by a baker in the town. Colonel Wray arranged with a confidential servant that the rolls of the daily baker's bread, which was the subject of the warning, should be removed from the table immediately before the guests arrived, and taken charge of under seal, and bread made at the Residency substituted for them. This was done quietly and unobserved, and the dinner passed off without incident. The rolls were sent to a chemical analyst at Bombay, and his analysis showed that powdered glass had been put into them, one containing a thin piece cut like a wafer, the size of a two-anna piece. The Maharaja, on learning the result of the analysis asked the Government for police assistance; and the result of the investigations made by the officers sent from Bombay was the arrest of four persons—a Native Christian, named Fernandez, two bakers and a person in the service of the Durbar. Fernandez is a kind of law-agent who recently petitioned Government against Col. Wray's refusal to allow him to practise in the Residency Court.

FROM the reports of the present agricultural prospect of the country, from the north and the south, from the east and the west, the conviction is irresistible that there will be distress in many parts, and that relief operations and works should therefore be necessary. The scope and extent of these operations cannot yet be decided upon owing to the variable nature of the rainfall. The Government of India have, however, called for special reports detailing the exact condition of the various threatened districts. These reports will be received

ed by the 24th instant, and will inform Government as to the areas of distress and serve as a rough gauge of the probable famine expenditure. Prevention is always better than cure; and so it is better to be prepared for the worst. The familiar adage is that danger does not prove dangerous when one is prepared to meet it.

THE "ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA" DEFAMATION CASE.

THE defamation case brought by Babu Kali Prasanna Kavyabharad, editor of a vernacular weekly called the *Hilabadi*, against the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, was called on for hearing on Thursday before Moulvi Seraj-ul-Haq, Suburban Police Magistrate of Alipore. Four of the accused persons whose personal attendance had been dispensed with, were represented by their agents, while the other accused duly entered appearance.

Mr. B. C. Mitter, Barrister-at-law, Babu Kisori Lal Sircar, Vakils, High Court, and Babu Upendra Nath Brahma and Bonomali Ghose, pleaders, appeared for the accused.

The case was called on for hearing at about a quarter to 12 noon when it was found that the complainant was neither present in court nor did he respond to the call. The Magistrate after waiting for some time, had the name of the complainant called out again by the crier, but, again, there was no response. His Worship then took up the case for disposal. On Monday last, when Mr. P. L. Roy for the defence had prayed that the Court should fix some other day for the hearing of the case instead of Thursday, the Magistrate announced that this was the only case on the board that day and so it was expected that the parties should be present in court precisely at 11 in the forenoon.

The Magistrate then passed orders to the following effect:—The complainant is not present. The case is a compoundable one. The accused are discharged.

The complainant turned up with Counsel some time after noon, to find that the case had been struck off the file.

ON Friday Babu Hemendra Nath Mitter appeared before Mr. Allen, the District Magistrate of Alipore, and presented, on behalf of Babu Kali Prasanna Kavyabharad, editor and proprietor of the Bengali weekly paper, *Hilabadi*, a petition of motion for (1) sending for the records of the case; (2) for further enquiry into it; and (3) for transfer of the case to the file of any other Magistrate. After the pleader had addressed the Court at some length the Magistrate made the following order:—"Let a rule issue on the accused to show cause why further enquiry in the matter should not be held." The hearing of the rule is to come off on the 22nd instant.

PLAGUE NEWS.

PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

ON the 14th September, there were only cases with three deaths reported in Calcutta, one case and one death being in each of the wards Nos. 9 and 11. The total mortality, however, was far in excess of the average of the last five years, being 65 against 57, the largest number being reported in wards 4, 5, and 6.

BOMBAY RETURNS.

THURSDAY'S plague returns give 36 cases and 13 deaths, total mortality, 90; last year 33 cases and 16 deaths, total 100.

KARACHI RETURNS.

THURSDAY'S returns show plague 1 case and 2 deaths.

POONA WEEKLY SUMMARY.

THURSDAY'S plague returns show 107 cases and 87 deaths in the City, total mortality 98; no cases and 2 deaths in the Cantonment; 4 cases and 1 death in Suburban limits; 184 cases and 134 deaths in the District. The weekly plague summary published to-day for the week ended the 1st instant, shows as follows:—Poona District, 1,772 cases and 1,377 deaths as compared with 1,598 cases and 1,188 deaths in the previous week. Ahmednagar District, 200 cases and 152 deaths, against 102 cases and 76 deaths in the previous week; Belgaum District, 697 cases and 463 deaths as against 682 cases and 492 deaths in the previous week; Dharwar District, 232 cases and 157 deaths, as against 171 cases and 125 deaths in the previous week; Satara District, 395 cases and 278 deaths, as against 290 cases and 214 deaths in the previous week; Sholapur District, 60 cases and 41 deaths as against 16 cases and 15 deaths in the previous week; Kolhapore State, 706 cases and 573 deaths as against 634 cases and 512 deaths in the previous week.

A CORRESPONDENT writes:—"A curious custom is attached to paddy transplanting in the Chicocole taluq of Ganjam. When paddy is being transplanted, the young seedlings are tied up in small bundles, awaiting their turn to be transplanted into the acres of wet ploughed ground. The transplanting is always done by women, who stand knee-deep in the slush placing the seedlings one by one into the ground. They stand in a line of twenty, or so, in number, and are always on the look-out for a passer-by of any importance. Immediately he approaches, one of the women rushes across to the road, and places a bundle of seedlings at his feet and demands a few pice, while the women in the field raise a sort of war cry. They do the same should you be riding or driving. The custom appears peculiar only to the southern portion of the Ganjam District."

THE announcement is made that the Russian traveller and scientist, Baron E. W. Toll, is fitting out on his own account an expedition to the Far North with the object of purchasing the New Siberian Islands of Samokoffland and Pennel Island. Baron Toll is now in Norway looking for a suitable small steamship. It is more than probable, of course, that the Russian Government is the prime mover behind Baron Toll's expedition, says a Sebastopol correspondent of the *Graphic*, but whether that be so or not, the fact that a Russian is seeking to acquire those new Siberian Islands by purchase throws a new light upon the recent incident of Russia's forcible protest against captain Lerner's occupation of Bear Island under the aegis of the German Government.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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VOLS. I AND II.

THE price of each Volume is— PAPER COVER 1-12 CLOTH BOUND 2-4 Postage extra. To be had at the *Patri* Office Calcutta.

FORT WILLIAM.—The Government have sanctioned an expenditure of about Rs. 14,000 for adding an upper storey to the Plassey Gate Quarters at Fort William, Calcutta, used as Army Head-quarters Offices.

A NEW STEAM LAUNCH.—The construction has been sanctioned at the Government Dockyard, Kidderpore, at a cost of Rs. 20,000, of a new steam launch to replace the Customs launch "Swift," which has been condemned as unserviceable. The "Swift," we hear, will be sold by public auction when the new launch is completed.

NEW RULES.—The Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, have issued a new set of rules for the purpose of regulating the importation of *Shahjehanpur* rum into Bengal. These rules will come into effect on October 1st, and will apply, *mutatis mutandis*, to the removal of spirits under bond from a distillery situated in any district in Bengal.

IMPORTS.—The total value of imports to Calcutta during the month of August, 1899, was Rs. 3,30,42,229, or an increase of Rs. 38,67,882 over that registered for the same month of last year. There was, however, a decrease of Rs. 15,05,022 in the exports, the total for August, 1899, being Rs. 3,99,42,267.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.—Mr. H. G. Gearing, Honorary Assistant Engineer, is, on return from furlough, posted to the Orissa Circle. Mr. M. H. Arnott, Executive Engineer, Mahanadi Division, having returned from the privilege leave granted to him, the unexpired portion of that leave, *viz.*, from the 20th to the 31st August 1899, is hereby cancelled.

BENGAL PROVINCIAL RAILWAY.—The approximate earnings of this Railway for the week ending 2nd September 1899 were—Coaching Rs. 967; Goods Rs. 199; Miscellaneous Rs. 15. Total Rs. 1181 or Rs. 36 per open mile. In the corresponding week of the previous year the total earnings were Rs. 1244 or Rs. 39 per open mile. Total for 9 weeks from 1st July 1899 Rs. 11,377 as compared with Rs. 13,842, total for the corresponding 9 weeks of 1898.

ALLEGED ADULTERY.—On Wednesday last before the District Magistrate of Howrah, the case in which Mr. J. Spencer charged one R. S. Morhead with having committed adultery with his wife was resumed for further hearing. Three witnesses for the prosecution were examined after which the case was adjourned to the 10th instant for cross-examination of the witnesses.

CROP PROSPECT IN BENGAL.—Good general rain fell during the week in North and East Bengal. Prospects of the winter rice crop continue generally good, except in Angul and Furi, where the rainfall is still very deficient. More rain is also required in the Chota Nagpur Division and the west of the Burdwan Division. The harvesting of the autumn crops and jute is going on, and the preparation of lands for the *rabi* crops has begun. Sugarcane is generally doing well. The price of common rice is reported to have risen in some districts. Fodder supply is sufficient, and cattle are generally in good condition.

ALLEGED OUTRAGE BY A PRINCE.—Prince Makim Mirza, a member of the Mysore family, and a servant of his, stand charged at the Alipore Suburban Police Court with having outraged the modesty of a married Mahomedan girl. It is alleged that during the absence of the husband of the complainant, who has gone on a voyage to England, the accused prince had been doing his best to induce her to live with him. She having, however, sternly and indignantly refused all his overtures, the first accused waylaid her on her way to a relative's house on the 1st instant and outraged her modesty. The second accused was charged with abetting the same.

ENGINEERING.—The undermentioned candidates have passed the B. E. Examination from the Seepore C. E. College:—*First Division* (in order of merit) Dattagupta, Karunakumar; Ray, Chandrasekhar; Chattopadhyay, Suryakanta; Bandhyopadhyay, Jyotindranath; Ghosh, Kunjabihari; Chakrabarti, Priyanath; Mukhopadhyay, Haranchandra. *Second Division* (in order of merit) Mukhopadhyay, Phanindranath; Gangopadhyay, Niranjanchandra; Moitra, Surendralal; Biswas, Surendranath; Kakshit, Kesabchandra. The undermentioned candidates have passed the L. E. Examination:—Nirupamchandra Roy Chowdhury and Nagendranath Das.

THE ELEPHANT AND THE ENGINE.—We noticed the incident some time ago. Here are further particulars:—The driver of the Perak goods train last week, which was repeatedly charged by a tusker elephant, pulled up when he noticed the animal on the line, and did not steam on until, after many desperate onslaughts with his head and tusks, the elephant presented its hind quarters to the engine and tried to push the engine and train back. The engine then gradually shoved the elephant out of the way, but ran over one of its legs and crippled it. Mr. Fox, the guard of the passenger train, who came on shortly afterwards, shot the wounded animal and put it out of its misery. *Singapore Free Press.*

CHARGE AGAINST A RAILWAY GUARD.—Before Mr. P. N. Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, on Wednesday, the Cossipore police charged one B. K. Sen, a railway guard, with trespassing into the house of Mr. J. Bailey, foreman artificer of the Cossipore Gun Foundry, on the night of Monday last, at twelve o'clock, and committing adultery with his wife, Mrs. Bailey. Mr. Bailey stated that on receiving

certain information he went home accompanied by a friend, and finding the door closed, burst it open. On seeing the accused the complainant beat him on the head with a door bolt, making a gash on the head, and then handed him over to the police. Mrs. Bailey ran away with her baby as soon as she saw her husband. The accused admitted the charge. The Magistrate, taking into consideration that the accused, quite a young man, came of a respectable family, and that Mrs. Bailey was more to blame than Sen, inasmuch as the young man had been invited by her, and also that he had already received corporeal punishment from the defendant, sentenced him under section 448 I. P. Code and fined him Rs. 50.

TIGER VS. WOMAN.—The other day, there was a tug-of-war at Dunarkola, near Gidhour, the contending parties being a woman on the one hand and a tiger on the other, and the object of contention, the former's husband. It came off in this wise. They—husband and wife—had gone to the jungles to hew wood. There a tiger pounced upon the man and commenced to drag him away. The woman, indignant at the brute for thus unceremoniously taking away what by right belonged to her, began to pull her husband. But the monster was loath to part with its prey so easily. Then ensued the drag and pull in which the woman could not get any advantage over her adversary. Then she had recourse to her axe and gave the tiger some good strokes with it. Master Stripes finding it too hot for him indulged a loud roar and fled back to his forest home—leaving behind his prey. The man is still lying in a precarious state from the effects of his late experience.

THE RAMPORE BOALIA KIDNAPPING CASE.—A sensational case is going on in Mr. Rattray's Court at Rampore Boalia. A child, aged three years, daughter of Baboo Gopi Nath Sanyal, Assistant Manager of the Bettia Raj, disappeared under suspicious circumstances in the beginning of July. The girl was traced to Burdwan. A woman named Nagendrabala is alleged to have laid the whole plot with a view to appropriate the child and bring her up. She and five others have been charged under section 363 of the Indian Penal Code. During the examination of the prosecution witnesses she was enlarged on bail, but on Wednesday last the bail-bond was cancelled after taking down her statement. The Magistrate framed charges against all the accused. Nagendrabala is in *hajal* now. The public are watching the case with great interest. The Government pleader and some leading pleaders are defending the accused.

THE RAINGUNGE ABDUCTION CASE.—The curious abduction case, the facts of which have already appeared in these columns, came on for hearing before Mr. Emslie, the Sub-divisional Officer, Raingunge, on the 6th instant. A mukhtear appeared for the prosecution, and Babu Bhawan Ramon Sen, of the Burdwan Bar, for the defence. The girl, Dukmina, had to be produced in Court but was allowed to remain in *hurdah*. The Court after hearing the pleader for the defence, who said that his clients would be happy to send the girl to her husband's place, but as it is prohibitive according to the custom of the Hindus to allow even a beast to move from one place to another in the month of *Bhadra*, they did not like to infringe it, directed the husband of the girl, Guru Charan Banja, to take his wife away in the month of *Aswin* from the house of his father-in-law, in whose possession she must remain till that time.

THE LUCKNOW CONGRESS.—At its meeting of 9th instant, the Working Committee approved of the plan of the Congress pandal, which will be about 250 feet in length and 125 feet in breadth, elliptic in shape. The Committee also finally settled the purchase of furniture. Two thousand armless chairs are being prepared at Bareilly; the Committee has decided not to import Australian Bentwood chairs; over 1,200 *palanques* are being made at Lucknow. The work has been earnestly taken in hand. But much success depends on the prompt receipt of funds which are rather slow in coming. The demands on the Committee are very great and these can not be put off any further. We hope our friends in the Mofussil will at once set to work and furnish funds to their Lucknow comrades in time to be made use of with economy. In this connection, we are glad to note that Pandit Tulsi Ram Misra M. A., one of the Secretaries of the Reception Committee, has set out on a collection tour. Friends in Agra, Meerut and Rohilkhand Divisions are earnestly requested to help the Pandit in his mission. The election of delegates may also commence without further delay. In every centre arrangements should be made for house-to-house collection, a mode which, while considerably facilitating the work of collection, means an amount of political education, an education which is more valuable than what can be imparted by one or two speeches.—*Advocate.*

SPORT IN MALDA.—A correspondent writes:—As usual, the sporting element amongst the civilian and planting fraternity of this district have been perpetuating the old custom in India, of a shooting trip during the rains. This year's sport has not been quite so successful as the last, on account of the floods subsiding very early. The first three days' sport proved unsuccessful as regards any big game, though *khubber* was good. On the fourth day, *khubber* was brought to camp of three leopards having knocked down and killed a cow. Owing to some misunderstanding as to the exact locality of the kill, the *havadahs* went astray, so we were obliged to do our shooting off pads. Within ten minutes of getting up to the kill we had shot a very fine leopard the others making their escape along the banks of a very deep and treacherous nullah, where it was impossible for elephants to follow on account of the softness of the ground. The next place of which we had *khubber* took two days to reach and there as the jungle was very heavy, two of us were obliged to ride in *havadahs* and control the line of elephants, and two to go ahead and sit in trees. Three times the leopard passed by the trees but was clever to expose himself. Finally we cornered him and one of the party gave him his death-wound. Both these leopards were over eight feet in length and were splendid specimens. One of the most enjoyable days during the trip was devoted to shooting peafowl of which we got a goodly number, and by way of variation we wound up with a day's pigsticking when two good boars fell.

AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM.—A correspondent writes:—Mr. Coventry's experimental farm at Dulsing Serai is making good progress. Mr. E. A. Hancock, an Agricultural Chemist, especially selected for Mr. Coventry by that eminent scientist, Dr. Voelcker, has arrived. An efficient series of scientific experiments are being started, and no stone will be left unturned to materially improve the agricultural position of the indigo planters. The following are some of the experiments to be tried:—1.—Experiments in the artificial manuring of indigo lands with the view of getting more plant and putting more colour into it. 2.—Experiments in manuring lands to get them to such efficiency that they can be let out at high rates to native agriculturists for the growth of such valuable crops as tobacco, chillies, opium, potatoes, and sugarcane. 3.—Experiments in seed cultivation. 4.—Experiments in rotation of crops. These are all moves in the right direction. At present by simply manuring with indigo "seeth" planters can get as high a rent as Rs. 100 a bigha for their zeraats, and if chemical manures were used for distant lands on an extended scale, equally high rates could be obtained for them, and indigo concerns be high-class farms in the true sense of the word. Mr. Hancock has had a very wide experience as an analytical and agricultural chemist under Government at St. Kitts in the West Indies, and is, therefore, fully qualified for the work in hand; he is, also an expert in sugarcane cultivation. From the combined exertions of this gentleman and of that thoroughly practical and enthusiastic planter, Mr. Coventry, we look for material benefit to the industry.

THE RAMNAGAR RAJA'S CASE.—At the High Court on Tuesday before Justices Sale and Stanley, Mr. Jackson with Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, Vakils, moved on behalf of the Raja Mohan Bikramsinh of Ramnagar for the postponement of the rape case against the Raja fixed for the 18th September, before the Sessions Judge of Champaran, to the next Sessions in December. The grounds of the application for adjournment was as follows:—That the Raja was committed to the Court of Sessions on the 30th August last on charges of rape, etc., by the Joint-Magistrate of Bettiah; that on the same day the current Sessions at Motihari commenced; that the Raja was all along under the impression that his case would not be taken up this Sessions; that so late as the 7th of September the Raja received a telegram from his pleader at Matihari that his trial had been fixed for the eighteenth in the current Sessions; that the Raja at once communicated with Mr. Jackson, Barrister-at-law, with a view to engage his services for defending him but Mr. Jackson sent word to the petitioner (Raja) that he was sorry he could not defend the Raja unless his case was postponed till the re-opening of the High Court in November; that on account of the close of the High Court for the Doorga Pooja almost all leading and eminent counsel are either away to England or have ceased to take up any business; that it is impossible to secure the attendance of the defence witnesses on the 21st September, they being residents of places far from Motihari, in Bengal and the North-Western Provinces; that it would be quite impracticable to give proper instructions to counsel and vakils, within this short time; that the petitioner Raja had applied to the Sessions Judge of Champaran through Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, Vakils, High Court, for the postponement of the case to the next Sessions, but the Sessions Judge recorded an order on the 9th September last and refused the Raja's prayer. Their Lordships after hearing Mr. Jackson issued a rule on the District Magistrate of Saran to show cause why the trial of the Raja should not be adjourned as prayed for to the next Sessions at Motihari, and pending the hearing of the rule their Lordships directed the stay of further proceedings.

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL BILL.

FOURTH DAY'S DISCUSSION IN COUNCIL.

MESSRS. BOLTON AND BAKER DISAGREE.

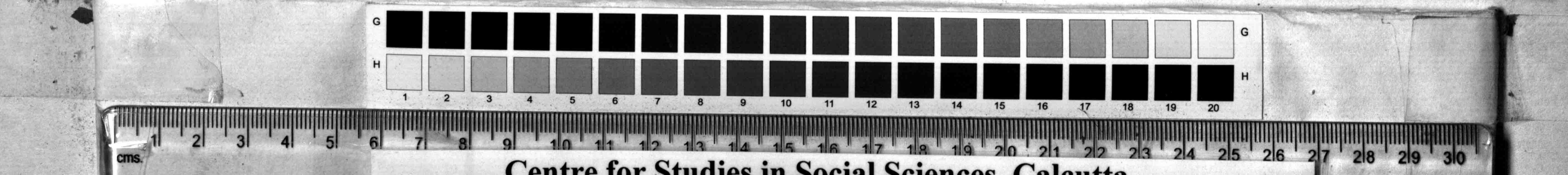
FROM 11 to 5 on Wednesday, with a recess of half-an-hour the Council sat to debate and discuss upon sixty amendments brought forward by the elected members. Most of them were rejected, some withdrawn, a very few accepted and some held over for next day's meeting. The discussion was at times of a lively character; but an incident towards the close of the day created a profound interest, as it was perhaps for the first time that the official members disagreed with one another. A hot discussion arose on an amendment regarding the receiving and opening of tenders for contracts advertised for the Corporation, by the General Committee. Both Babu Surendranath Banerjee and Mr. Apar had given notice of an amendment against this provision. They spoke strongly against this practice. Mr. Baker, however, would not budge an inch, he would stick to the provision. To the surprise of all, Mr. Bolton's speech on the amendment came as a bolt from the blue. He opposed Mr. Baker and supported the elected members.

APPEAL BY DISMISSED EMPLOYEES.

The Hon'ble Raja Bahadur of Nashipur moved that in case of the dismissal of all Municipal officers or servants drawing a salary of one hundred rupees or upwards per mensem, an appeal shall lie to the Corporation instead of to the Local Government as provided in the Bill. The Hon'ble Mr. Baker strongly objected to the amendment. It was canvassing, he said, that played a prominent part in the decisions that the Commissioners often arrived at. The Hon'ble Babu S. N. Banerjee supposed the amendment. In the course of his address he referred to the illiberal character of the Bill and if a history of Local Self-Government were to be written on any future occasion there would be a strong condemnation of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. Apar supported the amendment as well as the Hon'ble Babu Jatra Mohun Sen.

The Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukerjee suggested that appeals in such cases might lie to the appeals Sub-Committee. The Hon'ble Mr. Baker thought this suggestion of Dr. Mukerjee worthy of consideration and proposed that the matter might stand over to the next sitting of the Council. This was accordingly done.





GENERAL MEETINGS.

The Hon'ble Babu S. N. Banerjee moved that the meeting of the Corporation be held not in every two months as provided in the Bill, but in every month.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker pointed out that there was a provision later on in the section for calling meetings at any time the Chairman thought proper or he was requested to call.

After this declaration, the Hon'ble Mr. Oldham expressed his concurrence with the amendment as he had already done, he said, in the Select Committee.

The amendment was carried.

REPORT ON CONTRACTS TO THE CORPORATION.

The Hon'ble Babu S. N. Banerjee moved that every contract made by the Chairman involving an expenditure of one thousand rupees or less shall be reported by him, within fifteen days after the same had been made, to the Corporation, if not, to the General Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker opposed the amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. Buckley said that he was surprised to see that the Hon'ble member could not trust the Chairman of the Corporation with a contract for one thousand rupees seeing that Government trusted its individual officers with entering into a contract for a large sum.

The Hon'ble Babu S. N. Banerjee pointed out that he never wanted that the Corporation should allow or disallow a contract, but that the Chairman should merely report for the information of the Corporation.

The amendment was lost.

The Hon'ble Babu S. N. Banerjee further moved that all contracts for a sum not exceeding ten thousand rupees be made by the Corporation and not the General Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker said that as the Committee would consist of the pick of the Corporation it would be better entrusted them with these works. If the Corporation were good the General Committee would be better and if the General Committee were bad, the Corporation would be worse.

Both the Hon'ble Mr. Apar and the Hon'ble Mr. Banerjee pointed out that their object in asking that the word "Corporation" be instituted for the words "General Committee" was to have and to maintain the purity of administration inasmuch a large body of men was not likely to be so much influenced as a much smaller body was.

The amendment was lost. On a division being asked for the result was ayes—5; nays—12, while the Raja Bahadur of Nashipur declined to vote.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SEAL.

An interesting discussion arose about the words "Chairman's seal" occurring in section 80 of the Bill. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee did not know what the Chairman's Seal was, what it looked like and what purpose it served. He knew the seal of the Corporation, but had never heard of the Chairman's seal.

The section was worded thus: "Every contract made by the Chairman on behalf of the Corporation be entered into such manner and form as would bind the Chairman if such contract were made on his behalf, except that the common seal of the Corporation shall be used (where necessary) instead of the Chairman's seal."

Mr. Baker pointed out that it was the private seal of the Chairman.

Mr. Buckley wanted to make it clearer still. It was one's private seal, just like the one he, Mr. Buckley, or any other honourable member possessed.

The amendment was carried.

TENDERS FOR CONTRACTS.

Section 81, provides that the General Committee would have the power to open all tenders for contracts even those which would be advertised for by the Corporation. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee gave notice of an amendment that tenders for contracts for a sum exceeding ten thousand rupees, should be opened and considered by the Corporation itself and not by the General Committee.

He contended that if the General Committee were to be invested with this power of opening tenders much mischief would then be done. He did not see why the General Committee should be invested with this power.

Mr. Apar who gave notice of an amendment of a similar nature supported the previous amendment.

Mr. Baker opposed it. In his opinion there was no harm investing the General Committee with this power.

Mr. Bolton to the surprise of all, supported the amendment. He did not see any reason why the General Committee should have this power with regard to tenders called for by the Corporation.

Mr. Oldham differed from Mr. Bolton. He was on the Loans Committee of the Corporation and he did not see any harm had ever been caused by the members of that Committee opening tenders for large loans on behalf of the Corporation.

Mr. Buckley supported Mr. Baker and expressed his utter astonishment at the proposal.

Mr. Bolton was, however, inexorable. He would not give in. A consultation then took place among the Secretaries and it was at last found out that the wording of the section was defective and that there was not much difference between Messrs. Bolton and Baker on the subject.

language of the section was not clear and that it required re-drafting.

It was decided that the matter should stand over and the section be re-drafted in the meantime.

THE ADDED AREAS.

Mr. Apar moved that the electors of wards 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and 22, each of which included a portion of the added area, might each elect two Commissioners.

The motion was ruled out of order as it referred to the constitution of the Municipality.

REMOVAL OF COMMISSIONERS. On the motion of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee the following new section was added after section 55:—The Local Government may, if he thinks fit, on the recommendation of the Corporation after due inquiry, in which the Commissioner concerned shall have the right to be heard, remove any Commissioner elected or appointed under this Act, if such Commissioner has been guilty of misconduct in the discharge of his duties or of any disgraceful conduct.

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CHARGE OF DEFAMATION AGAINST THE HITABADI NEWSPAPER.

BEFORE Mr. P. N. Mookerjee, Suburban Police Magistrate of Sealdah, Mr. K. N. Sengupta, Barrister-at-Law, appeared on Friday and applied on behalf of Babu Dina Nath Roy, Assistant Manager of the Amrita Bazar Patrika, for processes against Babu Debendra Nath Sen, Upendra Nath Sen, Kalprasanna Kavyabisharad, Aswini Kumar Haldar and Nanda Lal Ghose, under sections 509, 501 and 502 of the Indian Penal Code. Counsel said that the charge against the first and second accused, who are the proprietors of the paper, was under section 502; against accused No. 3, who is the editor of the paper, under Section 500; against accused No. 4, who is the printer and publisher, under section 501; and against accused No. 5, at whose instigation the libellous article complained of had been written, under section 500 read with section 109. The facts of the case shortly were that the complainant had been summoned by the prosecution in a defamation case at Saugor in the Central Provinces which was still pending. He gave his deposition in that case and in the course of his deposition he testified to the genuineness of a letter which was the subject-matter in that case. This letter had been received by the complainant in the present case at the Patrika office and he deposed that he had received the same. A month after this deposition had been given, the Hitabadi newspaper published an article on the case at Saugor, and in the body of that article a malicious and defamatory paragraph concerning the complainant appeared. Counsel considered that he should mention here, as it had already been mentioned in the petition, that after the complainant had given his deposition in the Saugor case, the accused in that case named Raja Babu Dutt, applied to the trying Magistrate of Saugor for sanction for the prosecution of Babu Dina Nath Roy for perjury in respect of some statements made by him. That application was rejected by the trying Magistrate without even calling upon Babu Dina Nath Roy for reply. The order rejecting the petition was passed by the Magistrate on the petition itself, and any one taking a certified copy of the petition must also get the order passed on it. What the learned counsel complained was that the Hitabadi published statements similar to those in the petition while it suppressed the order of the Magistrate, exonerating the complainant, and that showed unjustifiable malice on its part.

In reporting the proceedings of law Courts newspapers must give a substantially correct account of the whole thing. Magistrate:—You mean to say that that will create a wrong impression on the public.

Mr. Sengupta:—Yes, there is no doubt that a newspaper is privileged to publish Court proceedings, provided it does it fairly and accurately and does not help in creating a wrong impression in the mind of its readers.

Magistrate: I see what you mean. The paper says that a certain person has given, what is practically, false evidence. It further says that is what the people in the Court believed but it does not say what opinion the Magistrate held. And you say if the paper had published the order the Magistrate passed, the public would have rightly judged the whole thing.

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Mr. Sengupta:—Yes, that is exactly the position. I complain that Kalprasanna Kavyabisharad, who is the editor of that paper, has grossly libelled the complainant by these passages at the instigation of Nanda Lal Ghosh.

Magistrate:—How will you connect Nanda Lal Ghosh with it?

Mr. Sengupta:—We will give evidence that it was at his instigation that this article was published. Nanda Lal Ghosh has given evidence in the same Saugor case and has made statements against the complainant and has said that the evidence given by the complainant is not true.

Magistrate:—Well, I find that the complainant resides at Bagbazar and the accused mostly in Colootolah street. Why should not the complainant go to the Police Court at Lal Bazar? Surely he has come to a wrong Court. (To the complainant) Why do you come here?

Complainant:—I come here because I saw a paper at a place within the jurisdiction of this Court and also because I purchased a copy from a place, close to my house, within the jurisdiction of this Court.

Mr. Sengupta:—We have mentioned all this in our petition.

Magistrate:—I still think that the Lal Bazar Police Court is the proper Court to go to.

Mr. Sengupta:—But under the circumstances stated in the petition, I think this is the proper Court.

Magistrate:—But, of course, if you choose to come to this Court, I have no help in the matter. I cannot stop you. However I would like that a matter like this should be settled out of Court. Did you draw the attention of the editor to this matter?

Mr. Sengupta: That's a long story, Sir, and I do not know whether your Worship will hear it now.

Magistrate:—Oh no, I don't like to hear anything which I should not now hear. What is this,—is it not better that you should settle a dispute of this nature out of Court?

Mr. Sengupta:—I thank the Court for the suggestion, but unfortunately it is a matter in which there is no chance of coming to any settlement. In coming to Court my client is not in the least actuated by malice. The

Hitabadi newspaper has been grossly libelling the editor of the Amrita Bazar Patrika for some time past, and it has now commenced to libel the subordinates in the office of that paper. Surely, Sir, we must have some protection against such malicious and gross falsehoods which adorn the columns of that paper. There is a limit to every man's patience. We wish we could be satisfied with an apology; but the libel is of such a gross character that a mere apology, I am afraid, will not meet the requirements of the case.

Magistrate: You say this application is not from any revengeful motive.

Mr. Sengupta: Of course not. I know I can ask for warrants, but I shall be satisfied with summonses.

Magistrate: I can never give you warrants in a matter like this. They are not men who will leave the country. Surely I will never give warrants.

Mr. Sengupta: It is a warrant case but I shall be satisfied with summonses.

Magistrate: I would again ask you to make up your differences, if possible.

The complainant Babu Dina Nath Roy was next examined by the Magistrate. His statements briefly were that in its issue of 21st July last, the Hitabadi published an article on the pending case at Saugor in the course of which remarks were made regarding him, and the evidence he had given in that case. It was said that he was a petty clerk in the office of the Patrika, and not Assistant Manager. This was not true. It was not true that he, complainant, had tried to substantiate a forged letter as genuine in the course of his deposition in the Saugor case as stated in the Hitabadi. The letter he had attested in the course of his evidence was real and genuine. The writer in the Hitabadi wanted to convey that he, complainant, had committed perjury. He believed that the article was the joint production of both Babu Kalprasanna and Nanda Lal. The article was published with a view to harm his reputation and as a result of the publication he, complainant, had suffered in the estimation of his friends and acquaintances. He first saw a copy of the paper in the Indian Empire office, and afterwards bought a copy on the canal bank, both places being within the jurisdiction of this Court.

Magistrate:—What relation do the proprietors bear to each other? They are both Sens.

Mr. Sengupta:—I understand, they are brothers.

Magistrate:—I will issue summonses against only one of them, not two. Summonses against one proprietor is quite enough.

Mr. Sengupta:—As your Honour pleases.

Magistrate:—Summonses will issue against the accused nos. 1, 3, 4 and 5, while there will be no summonses against accused No. 2. The case will be heard on the 25th instant.

MR. E. CLARKE, Assistant Secretary in the Foreign Department, goes home on two years' furlough immediately, being succeeded by Mr. Latimer.

Two sleepers designedly placed across the Rajputana-Malwa line, between Ajmer and Bawal, have been discovered and removed in time to prevent an accident.

MR. COTTON'S report on five years' educational work in India is now under the consideration of the Government of India, but no action will be taken until the report has been circulated to the Provincial Governments.

WITH reference to the construction of a bridge over the river Ganges at Garmuktesar, in connection with the Ghaziabad-Moradabad Railway, girders have been ordered for the bridge of a design providing for a central deck only, suitable for the passage of artillery and transport on their own wheels on the same deck as the railway track.

It is announced in the "Punjab Gazette," that the Civil Secretariat office will close at Simla on the evening of Tuesday the 3rd October 1899, and reopen at Lahore on the morning of Monday, the 9th idem. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor will, however, leave Simla on the 18th of September and will proceed on tour to Hazara visiting Kashmir and returning to Lahore on the morning of the 24th of October. His Honor's departure from Simla and arrivals and departures on tour will be private.

THE line has been washed away at mileage 193 on the Southern-Mahratta Railway between Satara and Koregaon. The up mail due at Poona at 5 on the morning of the 12th, arrived at one o'clock that afternoon. The wash-away necessitated the transhipment of passengers, both by up and down trains. The heavy rain is said to have considerably affected the line; in one part the ballast is said to be washed away about eight feet below the level of the line.

THE Resolution on the Report on the North-Eastern Frontier of Burma for the year 1898-99 says the year was free from disorder on the North-Eastern Frontier. The principal events were the completion of the delimitation of the Burma-Chinese boundary, the assumption of administration of the tract known as the triangle, and of the tract added to Burma near the Taping, and a small punitive expedition against Matau, a village beyond the administered area, which had made numerous raids across the line.

THE Simla-Kalka Railway project has advanced yet another step, the Punjab Government having just notified its intention to acquire under Act I of 1894 the land likely to be required for the line at Kalka in the Umballa district and at Simla within Municipal limits. At Kalka the tract to be taken up lies to the north of the present railway station, while at Simla the land to be acquired is between Jutogh and the Public Works Secretariat on the north side of the hill; also between Ayrelliff and the tonga terminus on the south face of the hill. The area required has not yet been determined.

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.

Indian News.

MR. BEECHEY, Executive Engineer, on return from leave is posted to the East Coast Railway.

MR. EAGLESON, Executive Engineer, on Mr. Beechey's joining the East Coast Railway is transferred to the Godavari Bridge works.

MR. CHASE on return from leave is appointed to officiate as Locomotive Superintendent, Eastern Bengal State Railway, during Mr. Jameson's absence on leave.

MR. YATES, Officiating Locomotive Superintendent, Eastern Bengal State Railway, is transferred to officiate as Deputy Locomotive Superintendent, North-Western Railway.

THE Government of India are now circulating a scheme of works among local engagements to be undertaken as relief works in the event of famine, and it is pretty certain that the Bombay-Sind Railway will be undertaken in this connection.

A RAILWAY line will be laid passing by Doodballapur, Chickballpur, Jungankote reaching Kola Gold Fields. The work is, we hear, estimated at a crore and fifty thousand rupees. It is said that the work will commence next month.

HIS HONOUR the Lieutenant-Governor of N. W. P. has given his approval to the measures adopted by the M. A. O. College Trustees in their last special meeting regarding Mr. Theodore Morison's appointment to the Principalship and other matters.

STATE Council has recently been formed at Indore. The report that Mr. K. C. Bedarkar was about to return to Indore as Minister is said to be unfounded. Mr. Bedarkar has for some time been at Indore, but only in the capacity of Adviser to the Administration.

DURING a "Varghoda" prosecution in the village of Talegaon Dahanda, Bombay Presidency on Wednesday, the 6th instant, a number of Mahomedans armed with sticks rushed out while the procession was passing a mosque and attacked the processionists. Several bunnihs were seriously injured by the rioters and had to be taken to hospital. The police later on made several arrests.

SIR ACQUIN MARTIN, while at home has suffered from an attack of malarial fever and congestion of the liver. He is now, however, convalescent. Mr. F. A. Martin, who is at present at Kabul, is expected in Calcutta during the approaching cold weather. He has resided in Afghanistan for four years without a break, and has during that time prospected over a large part of the country.

MR. H. RISLEY will arrive in Simla about October 6th to take up the duties of Census Commissioner in India. No appointments of Provincial Census Superintendents have yet been made, and these when made will not take effect until the 1st April next; but as on former occasions a conference between the last Provincial Superintendents and their successors-designate, will be held some time in the cold weather under the presidency of Mr. Risley.

A POSTAL Notification has been issued governing the conditions under which correspondence and parcels may be posted in India for the Indian Contingent in South Africa. All correspondence for delivery to the Force after it leaves India should be addressed "A. B." (name of Regiment, Battery, Field Hospital or other unit) with name of staff appointment.—Indian Contingent for South Africa—without any post town, except insured and value-payable articles. All classes of postal articles may be posted the charge for letters being one-anna for each half ounce. Money orders will be issued for the Force.

A YOUNG lady in Moulmein named Miss Barretto, the daughter of a Second Grade Advocate in that town lost her life. It appears the ill-fated young lady was arranging her mother's room last Saturday morning and the revolver was in a drawer. Of course the trigger must have been pulled thinking that the weapon was unloaded. Madras boy was, it is said, in the room at the time, but who took up the revolver has yet to be ascertained. The mother of the young lady, is reported to have loaded that revolver on the previous night, leaving thieves, in the absence of her husband from the house, so the story runs, and on hearing the report rushed into the room and saw her daughter lying on the floor bleeding, the bullet having passed through the head. Medical aid was rendered, but death followed about three hours after the accident.

THE following are the particulars of a case which has been disposed of at the last Tellicherry Sessions, in which one Kittan who was charged for the murder of his elder brother, Pbkken, at Talainrimba, was sentenced to undergo the extreme penalty of the law, and his two accomplices to undergo 2 years' rigorous imprisonment each. It appears that Pokken did not like Kittan's marriage with a certain girl. Some time after the woman fell sick and died, followed by the death of his brother-in-law, and then Kittan fell sick. It appears that Kittan suspected that his brother was the cause of these deaths, and that he was practising witchcraft to kill him within 10 days. In revenge, Kittan did for Raman. The third case, which is under trial, is a document forgery case committed to the Sessions by the 2nd class Magistrate of Cannanore.

A LITTLE after eleven o'clock on Friday morning, a whirlwind formed immediately after a smart shower of rain near the guards' quarters behind the Railway Station, and travelling east, took up a large quantity of water from the swamps close by. It caught a portion of the engineering coolies' quarters and lifted the roof and walling. The walling is made of hard wood sleepers, and these were broken in pieces and fell around the station grounds. The wind then suddenly veered to the west, and passing over the station buildings, tore off the corrugated-iron roofing of the covered-way to the platform for the Insein local trains. The roofing was scattered about, portions of it falling as far away as Montgomery Road and 35th Street. A large banyan tree, which stood in the station yard, was also destroyed. A train was on the Insein platform ready to leave, and a number of people were on the platform, but fortunately none of them were injured. A native cooly misty at the station received a heavy blow from a piece of the wood, and was picked up unconscious and taken to the General Hospital. The whirlwind then passed westwards, damaged the roof of the iron bazaar in Dalhousie Street, and blew down several trees.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SIMLA, SEPT. 15. At to-day's meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council, the Currency Bill was passed without discussion. The Hon'ble Mr. Rayleigh moved for leave to postpone the consideration of the Scotch Kirk Sessions Bill. In doing so, the Hon'ble member said that all Local Governments had approved of the Bill, and that though the Bombay Government had approved of the principles of the Bill, it had suggested some minor changes in the details. Leave was then granted. The Council was adjourned to Wednesday, the 27th instant.

THE VICEROY'S MOVEMENTS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

SIMLA, SEPT. 15. His Excellency the Viceroy goes to-day to the upper hills, returning to Simla on the 27th instant in time for the Council meeting.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, SEPT. 13.

The statement that Mr. Chamberlain had demanded a reply from the Transvaal within 48 hours is incorrect, but he has pressed for an immediate and a definite reply. Mr. Chamberlain in his despatch absolutely repudiates the claim of the Transvaal to the status of a Sovereign International State, and is therefore unable to consider any proposal which is dependent on the acceptance of this view. Her Majesty's Government, he then states, is prepared to accept the offers of a five years' franchise, increased representation of the Rand an equal shares in the election of the President and Commandant General, provided the enquiry proposed by Great Britain proves that these offers are unencumbered by nullifying conditions. Mr. Chamberlain assumes that the new members of the Volksraad will be permitted to use their own language, and declares that the immediate acceptance of these terms will remove the existing tension, and probably render further intervention for the redress of the grievances of the Uitlanders unnecessary.

Her Majesty's Government, he says, is increasingly impressed with the danger attending further delay, and if the proposal is accepted, the Government will be ready to arrange a further conference between Sir A. Milner and Mr. Kruger to settle the details of the proposed Tribunal of Arbitration.

If the reply of the Transvaal is in the negative, or inconclusive, then Her Majesty's Government reserves the right to reconsider the situation, and formulate its own proposals for a final settlement.

LONDON, SEPT. 14.

Colonel B. Duff and Colonel Ian Hamilton will accompany General Sir George White to Natal on Saturday.

LONDON, SEPT. 14.

The steamer Clan Mackay, which was in collision with the Orizaba at Suez, is still aground.

LONDON, SEPT. 15.

The Transvaal Volksraad sat in secret session last yesterday, considering the reply to be given to Mr. Chamberlain's despatch. The discussion is closed and the executive will draft a final reply to-day. The situation is not regarded as so favourable as it was yesterday forenoon.

LONDON, SEPT. 15.

The Times Paris correspondent states that M. Delcasse has instructed the French Consul General in the Transvaal to use his influence with Kruger in favour of his acceptance of Mr. Chamberlain's proposals.

LONDON, SEPT. 15.

The Hon. William Schreiner, Colonial Secretary, announced in the Cape Assembly yesterday that forty-two fatal cases of plague had occurred at Magdalen, near Delagoa Bay.

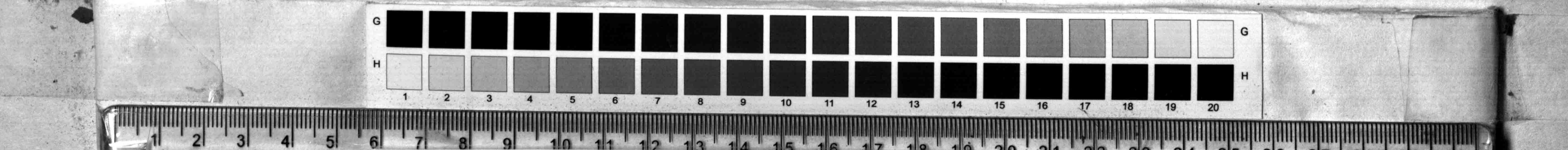
DR. J. SIMS, Director of Public Instruction, Punjab, will retire from service next April. The question of his successor is now under consideration.

LADY MACKWORTH YOUNG lost some jewels out of a jewel box which she had no occasion to open lately. The matter was reported to the police who promptly recovered the jewels and made three arrests.

A GATEMAN who caused the recent serious accident near Ajmere, on the Rajputana-Malwa Railway, by leaving the gates open while he slept, and so allowing a collision between the up-mail and a bullock cart, resulting in the loss of several lives, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment, the maximum penalty.

THE trial on charges of bribery, extortion, and abetment of the offences of N. A. Subramania Iyer and D'Santos, Military Accounts Department, commenced before Mr. W. E. Clarke, Chief Presidency Magistrate, Madras, on Tuesday last. The attorney for the accused took a preliminary objection, questioning validity of the Government of India's sanction for prosecuting the accused. His Worship overruled the objection and proceeded with the hearing of the case.

A SHOCKING fatality has taken place at the Bangalore City Railway Station shunting yard. A native fireman, when going home for dinner saw an engine moving with some carriages in the direction of his house. He jumped on the footplate and soon after the man's dying shouts were heard. The engine stopped, and the body was found cut in halves. It is not known exactly how the thing took place.





Mofussil News.

DUBALHATI (Rajshay), SEPT. 12. It rained here heavily yesterday morning. The sanitary as well as material condition of this place is not unsatisfactory.—Rice is selling 25 pice for the rupee. The Bara Raj Kumar Bahadur will shortly start for home from Rajshay.—Jute is selling at Rs. 3 3/4 to Rs. 3 As. 10 per maund.

BAIDYANATH (DEOGHAR), SEPT. 14. To the great delight of the Hindus, a Sanskrit institution has been established here after a good deal of exertion. The Maharajah of Gidhour kindly presided at the meeting held on the 12th instant, in the Baidyanath Temple and subscribed Rs. 500 for the school building. Babu Parom Prakashanand Ojha subscribed Rs. 50, and Maharaja Khaira Rs. 125. Nearly Rs. 1,100 were subscribed on the spot. The School Committee earnestly request the public to assist the institution.

PIROJPUR, SEPT. 12. FEVER has broken out, of which in almost every house there are cases. The filth near the Munsiff's 2nd court should draw the attention of the Chairman.—The Sub-divisional Officer is out in the mofussil, trying bad livelihood cases.—The ams crop is not very successful. The aman is being sown and the work is in full swing.—Our able and efficient detective Inspector has again come back to Pirojpur. He is ill and we hope that Government won't deny the people of Pirojpur the favour of their being placed under so able and good an officer as Rojony Babu is.

ASANSOL, SEPT. 13.

OWING to the congested state of the coal traffic on the Jherriah Branch of the E. I. Railway the Government of India have accorded sanction to the doubling of the line from Sitarampur to Barakar, a distance of 4 1/2 miles as also of two other portions of the Branch line. When the work of doubling is completed, the Railway Company, it is expected, will be in a position to deal with double the number of wagons. The coal traffic is so heavy already that the Railway authorities have not as yet been able to satisfy the colliery proprietors in respect of their requisitions for the supply of wagons. Although the recent alterations to the east end of the yard at the Asansol Railway Station, are considered to have much improved matters in the working of the station, the entrance to the up platform of mail and passenger trains is yet defective, as the trains have to run over a number of facing points at high speed which is dangerous. Mr. R. S. Hight, the District Engineer of Asansol, has worked out a scheme to overcome the difficulty by putting in an Island platform which will do away with all the facing points by means of cutting off completely the goods lines from the passenger platform line. The site for this new platform will be between the existing up and down platforms. A platform in the form of a dock siding will also be placed at the west of the island platform to save the passengers of the Bengal Nagpore Railway arriving by E. I. Railway trains from changing platform or crossing by the overbridge. The sanction of the Board of Directors and the Government of India to this proposal is shortly expected.

SYLHET, SEPT. 9.

The incessant rains, extending over a period of about four months, have resulted in heavy inundations all over the district. The cry of distress comes from Sunamung Sub-division, wherein the prospect of aman crops is altogether gloomy, and the condition of the peasantry is simply lamentable. Most of the outlying villages have been submerged since the last four or five weeks, transplantation has been suspended. Boro crops have signally failed, and the cattle are dying of starvation as pasture lands are all under water. Rainwater has found its way into the dwelling-houses of almost all the residents of the Sub-divisional town and the paddy-fields have become a vast sheet of water stretching as far as the eye can reach. A similar misfortune has overtaken the lot of the people of South Sylhet, where also the prospect of crops is not at all hopeful. Habigunge shares the same fate. This is purely an agricultural district, and if the prospect of crops do not improve in the meantime, dreadful consequences are sure to follow.—Mr. Hodson, the Assistant Political Agent of Manipur, who was under orders of transfer to Sylhet by way of punishment for his recent conduct in connection with a case of illegal whipping, has got his transfer from the Assam Commission. His leave has been sanctioned, and he does not intend to come back to this Province.—The Jubilee Town Hall is going to be rebuilt on the old site. The new building will be more spacious than the old one, as the breadth will increase by five feet more. It is proposed to have the new building roofed with corrugated iron with terra walls, plastered with mud and lime. The present Secretary, Babu Chandra Kanta Sen, Senior Extra Assistant Commissioner, is working very energetically in the matter and collecting subscriptions from every well-to-do native of the district. But the mofussil Mirasdars have not as yet manifested any real earnestness in this matter, and the quantum of subscription from the interior is not all that could be expected.—There is a rumour in the town that Mr. Cameron, our permanent District Judge, does not intend returning to Sylhet unless he is compelled to do so. He has gone to England on 18 months' furlough and Mr. Nicholl, who is officiating in his place, is not disposed to stay here for any length of time. It is said that Mr. Newbold, who was our Judge for some time, would be placed here as the permanent District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet. Mr. Newbold is not noted as a capable officer, and his appointment may not be liked by the people.

The great success of Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy in the treatment of bowel-complaints has made it stand, as over the greater part of the civilized world, for sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO. AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

Varieties.

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 esophagus into the intestines, and the intestinal digestion was found to be sufficient to satisfy her wants.

THE largest flag in the world is to be exhibited under the auspices of the daughters of the American Revolution. It was made during the Spanish American war by Miss Josephine Mulford. There are 325,000 stiches in the flag one for each soldier and sailor engaged in the war. The flag is 100ft. long and 50ft. wide and the blue ground measures 40x35ft. The stripes are 5 ft. wide and each star is 2 3/8 in diameter.

LION flesh is said to be very good eating, but tiger is tough and sinewy. Nevertheless, says a writer in the "St. Louis Globes Democrat" the latter is eaten in India, as there is a superstition that it imparts strength and cunning to the eater. Bear's flesh is a great favourite in Germany, and smoked tongues and hams are considered great delicacies. On account of the rarity of Bruin, they are expensive. Sausage—so dear to the Teutonic heart and stomach—is also made from bear lever; twenty-five pounds of sausage can be made from a single liver.

THE United States Agricultural Department has adopted a French idea, and is taking pictures by the cinematograph of growing plants, says the Madras Mail. In the division of vegetable pathology a young oak is under the lens, a picture being taken every hour. In this way the growth 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 photographs for their own use.

THE total length of railroad in the world amounted in 1897 to 454,730 miles. The same year the total length of railroad in the United States was 184,278 miles. North and South America and the West India Islands are credited with over one-half of the total mileage or 236,218 miles. Next to the United States among the great nations is the German Empire with a total of 29,880 miles. France has 25,673 miles. Russia 25,003 miles. Great Britain and Ireland 21,390 miles. British India 21,000 miles. Austria-Hungary 20,908 miles; British North America 16,684 miles; Italy 9,714 miles and the Argentine Republic 9,422 miles.

A REMARKABLE instance of a dream coming true is reported from St. Louis. A woman named Mary Thornton has been detained in custody for a month, charged with the murder of her husband. She requested to see one of the judges, and told him that she had dreamed that a man named George Ray murdered her husband, and at the same time gave the judge full detail of the tragedy as seen in her vision. Ray was not then suspected, but the judge was so much impressed with the woman's earnestness that he caused a search to be made for him. The man was found. The judge charged him with the murder, and recited the details as the woman had given them. Ray was astounded and confessed. The woman was released.

THE following story from the Soudan appears in the native newspaper *Bassir*.—Six natives went out lion hunting on the Wite 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 new-comer, 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 in the five dead lions on their camels and departed. A fine bag without firing a shot.

NEAR Dobschan, in the Carpathians, there is a wonderful ice grotto, which is graphically described in the August number of *Wide World Magazine*.—"Immediately on entering we feel the cool air upon our cheeks. Descending a few dozen wooden steps we next find ourselves in the neither world altogether. Soon the space around us opens up with an arched roof, and we stand on the platform of an ice-hill, where a surprising sight presents itself to our gaze. From this point we are able to overlook almost the whole of the chief 'saloon' in the grotto, the height of which is about 30 ft.; its breadth in places amounting to 180 ft., and its length to no less than 400 ft. The floor for the greater part is formed of perfectly smooth ice, which demands wary walking lest we should fall. At every step we crush thousands of ice-crystals which have fallen from the roof. Here we see a pillar of clear ice rising from the floor; there we observe a high hill of ice almost reaching to the roof. Yonder, again, is another fantastic formation, reminding us of the singular shapes to be seen in ordinary stalactite caves. The roof is of limestone; but at certain seasons it, too, is so thickly studded with millions of ice-crystals and large and small icicles as to make it seem as if it also were entirely of ice. Whereas a few moments ago we were crossing a flowery mead with the sun's rays pouring down upon us, now we are beholding a sight such as is not to be found elsewhere save only in the Polar regions. And it is just this surprising contrast that makes such a deep impression on the visitor to the Dobschau grotto—an impression never to be forgotten."

THE Maharani Regent of Mysore returns to the capital on Monday next together with the Maharajah.

THE construction of the Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway extension to Bhatinda, 201 miles in length, has been sanctioned.

MR. A. U. FANSHAWE, I. C. S., will be selected to represent the Government of India at the forthcoming Universal Postal Union at Berne.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH A "ROGUE."

"WHAT do you say to that?" demanded my brother, flourishing a note in my face one morning just forty-eight hours after the adventures and trials related in my last.

"That," on inspection, turned out to be an invitation from a planter, a well-known sportsman and a capital shot, to accompany him on an expedition which he was just getting up to hunt down and shoot a certain "rogue" elephant for whose destruction Government had offered a reward. When I saw this I was really alarmed. Wild elephants of any sort are bad enough, but a rogue! "Oh, I hope you're not going, Tom," I exclaimed.

"Yes, I rather thought of doing so," said Tom, quietly enough, but his eyes were sparkling with excitement. "The only thing is, of course, that I can't take you with me this time."

Then, as I didn't reply, he added, "But perhaps we could find a place for you where you could see what went on. I'll go and look up this fellow and find out."

And Tom went off apparently perfectly convinced that as long as he could arrange to find a place for me where I could see "all that went on" nothing else would trouble me at all! I sat still, thinking. A "rogue" elephant! What awful tales did not the words conjure up! They went sweeping through my brain, one after the other, a horrid medley of men stamped to death, men crushed to death, men battered to death; of ripped-up animals and mutilated mahouts. I could even recollect one especially horrid story of an elephant, who had turned rogue, having chased his would-be slayer till the latter fell into a ditch or cutting, which the "rogue" thereupon proceeded to fill up by kicking lumps of earth into it, knocking down his unhappy victim each time the latter tried to resist or escape, and stamping the earth well down as his work progressed, till only the miserable man's head was left exposed, over which this terrible brute then mounted guard.

How much or little truth there might have been in this story of course I didn't know, but it was enough to make me feel very sick, and therefore when Tom came in again I besought him to give up the idea. This Tom declared he couldn't do, but instead he set himself to banish my fears, explaining to me that everything would be "as safe as a house," and so, seeing it would be useless to persist, I determined to put the best face I could upon the matter and listened with interest while he sketched out to me their plans for hunting down the brute.

The "rogue" was known to de quartered in a certain dense piece of forest near some foot hills, and some thirty elephants were being requisitioned to beat through this, but as there were only two guns—Tom and the man who was getting up the affair—they were not going on any of these elephants themselves for fear of not getting near enough to the beast. Nor were they going to attempt to drive him out of his retreat into the open. Their idea was to have the beater elephants advance in crescent shape and drive him towards the foot hills, narrowing the semi-circle as they advanced and forcing him through a certain little gully above which were some narrow ledges of rock whereon they intended to post themselves. If the brute should deviate from the course they desired to force him into adopting, then they hoped, from their slightly elevated vantage point, to spot him before too late, and trusted to being able to change their position so as to get a shot in before he got out of range.

"Where do I come in?" I enquired after we had fully discussed and elaborated this plan down to the very last detail.

"I don't think you had better come in at all and that is a fact," he said at last, getting rather red. "It isn't safe. We can't put you on one of the beater elephants, because there would be no one near you if anything should go wrong and you can't take a place on the ledge with us. That is quite impossible."

"I thought you said it was as safe as a house," I observed.

A silence ensued, which was broken by Tom asking if I could offer any suggestion myself.

"How are you going to get to your post?" I enquired, Tom looked at me as if my question had given him an idea.

"You will have to reach it from the other side, won't you?" I pursued, "and there can be no danger in the walk there. All you have to do is to ascertain whether there is any big tree or pinnacle of rock or something on which you could plant me before installing yourselves on your ledge. It is very simple."

"Yes, of course, I didn't think of that. I'll see about it," returned my brother, evidently much relieved about something, and I then the conversation dropped.

I don't mind acknowledging I spent a very restless time of it till the hour arrived which was to witness a start. I didn't sleep at all the evening before; I can't say the night before because almost as soon as the night had well set in we had to get up and begin preparations. We left the bungalow long before any signs of dawn had begun to show in the sky, receiving quite light enough for our purposes from the moon. About half a mile from the bungalow we and the great train of elephants which were to supply the place of beaters separated, they going east and we west. We, a little party of five, including two native shikaris and gun-bearers who had been out day after day collecting *kubber*, making arrangements, and to whom was due the choice of the post the shahs were to occupy, had a long and arduous climb before us, for we had to bend our steps very much north of the place we ultimately intended to arrive at. After mounting steadily for about an hour the shikaris, struck off to the right, and began at last slowly to descend, and we went on descending, always bearing to our right, until we found ourselves less than 100 feet above the level from which we had first started, but right in among the foot hills, and with the forest, wherein, as we hoped, lay our quarry, rolling away at our feet.

We had to make a further slight detour to gain our post, which was on a little rounded hillcock crowned with an immense cotton tree flanked by wild fig trees and strewn with pointed rocks. Behind this on one side stretched another forest mounting up the slopes of the hills that lay at our back, and this forest was tacked on to that below by a belt of jungle; tiger grass and young trees, a dense, motionless and all appearance impenetrable mass.

On our other side the hills were bare except for stunted "bher" trees dotted here and there, some scrub and numberless great boulders of rock which lay scattered about as if giants had been playing at bowls

with them. Immediately beneath us and dividing us from the bare hills aforementioned ran the gully up which it was hoped to drive the quarry. He left the crest of the hill and descended till we stood on a little ledge of rock which ran like a platform round its shoulder, another and more irregular ledge being some feet lower down. It was on this upper ledge that Tom and his brother shot were to take their positions, concealed from the front by some branches and stones previously arranged by the shikaris. Certainly the spot seemed well chosen for its purpose, but the fact that the two poor sportsmen would have to remain crouching in a very cramped position for who could say how many hours.

As soon as I had been shown the lay of the land I was conducted to a rugged old tree on the further side of the hillcock and assisted to mount. It was no easy business, for I had to go considerably higher than I had bargained for in order to command the ledges and the entrance to the gully, but I settled myself comfortably at last with my back against the tree. One shikari got up into a neighbouring tree and the other rejoined his masters and silence fell.

The minutes rolled by very slowly. Then the dawn began to break, and by degrees the earth cast off her slumber. Flocks of green parrots passed overhead screaming shrilly, the mynahs gossiped in the trees around us, the crows hopped from branch cawing lustily, the hoarse note of an eagle sounded above. All the live things of the earth were abroad, taking their morning promenade, or looking for their breakfast.

At last I thought I distinguished a different sound, such a sound as might be caused by the beater's in the distance, the faint sound of the occasional breaking of branches and snapping of twigs. Very indistinct at first, and only to be heard at long intervals, at last I became convinced the beater's really were approaching. I concentrated my gaze on the forest and strained my ears to their utmost: there was no symptom of the approach of any wild animal of any sort.

The sounds became more distinct. I leaned forward till I was in danger of falling off my branch altogether.

The sounds continued to grow. I could see the second shikari's eyes nearly starting from his head in his eagerness to discern something.

Then a terrible thing happened. A veritable bolt from the blue, so appallingly sudden was it, and so totally unforeseen.

Something did really suddenly rush out of the trees, what I don't know, but one of the three figures on the ledge fired—afterwards I learned it was the shikari, for whose nerves the excitement had proved too much—but he fired with a result as little dreamed of as it was terribly disastrous, for the instant after the shot there came a rushing sound from behind, and craning round my tree I saw, to my intense horror, a huge form—come up from behind where no one had dreamed of the possibility of attack—bearing furiously down on the trio on the ledge.

They heard it too, for three shots rang out almost simultaneously, and reached their mark, as I could both hear and see, but nothing could stop the fury of the brute's charge.

"Run!" I screamed frantically, but my voice sounded shrill and faint. I saw the three on the ledge spring to their feet and essay to fly, but one second later the elephant and one of the figures went hurtling over the *kluas*, disappearing from view with an instant's silence and a horrible thud and crashing of twigs that told me they had fallen into the gully.

The shikari lay on his face on the bank and my brother, on his knees, was endeavouring to extricate his foot from a creeper which had tripped him up and evidently given his ankle a severe wrench.

"Get down and see what you can do," I commanded the second shikari in a voice I strove to make firm. "Ask the shahib if I am to remain here or to come to obey me."

The man set to work to obey me, but his face was livid and he trembled as if he had the ague.

Tom in the meantime had pulled himself free, and getting to his feet hurried to the edge of the bank, where he threw himself down and craned over. The second shikari reached him and they consulted together softly for some time, talking and pointing. Then Tom went back to the first shikari, bent over and examined him and finally ended by shaking him. The man was evidently only dazed and frightened, for he got on to his feet at once. His rifle lay yards away crushed out of all shape and serviceability.

The second shikari came running back to me. His face had regained its normal colour.

"The shahib asks your honour to remain here. The other shahib has only fallen a little way and I am to give help to raise him."

"Very well—go. But where is the elephant?" "I don't know, *huzoor*."

My anxieties were divided now between desire to know whether Tom's unfortunate companion was, comparatively speaking all right, and whether the elephant was safely disposed of,—by which I do not mean that I wanted the latter secured but that I wanted to feel sure we had seen the last of him.

It was very tedious work sitting still in my tree while all sorts of excitements were afoot below, but in one goes out shikaring with men one ought to make up one's mind to implicitly obey directions. Therefore, I remained where I was, though it cost me a severe effort, especially when, after various preliminary preparations on the bank, Tom and both shikaris disappeared from my view altogether. And when to that you add the fact that shortly after disappearing firing began, and that two shots in quick succession followed by one after an interval, reached my anxious ears, you can imagine with what anxiety I watched for a re-appearance.

apparently grievously wounded, and into him Tom had, from above poured, the three shots I heard. But when they had gone round to the gully to investigate, after removing the injured man, no trace of the beast remained, only some of his blood and they were too exhausted to follow him up—a circumstance for which I was properly grateful to Providence—besides which our friend's needs were imperative and had to be considered before everything.

One of the natives was despatched ahead immediately to obtain help, and our little party set off slowly after him, pausing frequently on account of the injured man who, though terribly weak and faint, yet strenuously refused to be carried. At last Tom stuck and in spite of remonstrance insisted on rigging up a temporary stretcher formed of bamboos and young trees, hacked down laboriously with shikari knives and tied in place by strips torn from his flannel shirt. Our friend was placed on this and the journey re-commenced, the stretcher being shouldered by Tom and the shikari down whose countenances the perspiration poured freely. I was unable to relieve either unfortunately, at last they would not let me try, but I kept them supplied with drink, refilling Tom's flask and a bamboo cup for the shikari at every stream we came to.

We pushed on like this for what appeared an interminable time, but just as both men had reached a condition in which it seemed impossible that they could struggle a step further, help arrived, and soon we came on half the village streaming up the hill side anxious and eager to render all the assistance that lay in their power.

We soon got our friend back to his own house with a doctor in attendance and everything complete, and at his earnest request we also moved in and took up our abode with him for the next few days, during which period he made such good progress that before we left the doctor was able personally to assure us that in six week's time he would not be a penny the worse for his misadventure, though, added the doctor, he might consider himself extremely lucky that it was so.

Of the elephant we could hear nothing and no one would venture near the spot, but we are still in hopes that one day in her own good time, the forest, in a mood to disclose her secrets will yield us up the tusks. For I cannot but think that the elephant must have died of his wounds before the sun set that day.—*Englishman*.

NOT HEAVY TO HIM.

THE man on the elephant's back is nothing to the elephant. The big beast doesn't mind him any more than one of those immense dray horses you see in London minds the brass ornaments on his harness. Yet on my back or yours the man would be a load; and, if fastened to a lark's wings, the little brasses would hold him to the earth.

Thus, we are reminded, my thoughtful friends that there are no absolute facts. The burden depends on the back. Albeit Samson walked off with the gates of Gaza, an ordinary garden get would, I am sure, prove all that we should want to lug. It follows that weight or heaviness can, as the advertisements say, "be supplied in a variety of styles."

When, for example, Mr. Sidney Challenger mentions in a letter that a certain period he was "heavy," he does not mean that he tipped the scales at a stone or two more than usual. His horse would have felt that, in case he rode one; but the truth is that at the time referred to he was actually under his proper weight by several pounds.

What he wants us to understand is that he was heavy to himself; it was not an increase of weight but an increase of weakness, having practically the same result. His explanation is that in the early part of 1899 he began to feel ill and out of sorts. He went about in a mazy way, feeling badly without knowing what the trouble was or how to account for it.

"I had," Mr. Challenger goes on to tell us "a nasty taste in the mouth and no relish for my meals." But eat we all must, or starve; and eat he did. Not much, though. At best it was a forced business. Nothing tasted natural or good, and he took just enough to keep him going until the next meal time should come round.

"And even for that I had to suffer," he says. "After getting it down I had, almost immediately, a sense of fullness or detention at the stomach and pain at the chest as if a bit of food had lodged there—which couldn't be."

No, nothing lodged anywhere. What there was of it went straight down into Mr. Challenger's stomach, where it at once began to ferment and produce a gas which caused the feeling of fullness, while the irritated nerves set up the pain. It was not too much food, but food not digested—food turned sour in the stomach—with the whole body behind it failing of the needed stimulus and nourishment of food, and wondering what the matter was. It was this state of matters that made him, to use his own words, "heavy, drowsy, and languid."

Any river in England, after a long drought in summer, looks just as Mr. Challenger felt—heavy, drowsy, and languid. And for an identical reason—the lack of necessary supplies. Wait an instant, though I don't miss the point.

The rain when it comes, fills the river by a thousand little channels falling directly into it. Not so as to food and body. Between them is a process; a mechanical, chemical, and vital operation—digestion. Mark you that, and act accordingly. Whether in the sky or on the ground water is water—the same thing.

But food and body are not the same thing. The first must be transmuted into the second by the miracle called digestion; for of all God's ways in nature none is more awful, more amazing, more glorious. And, when impeded or overborne when none which punishes the interference more certainly and swift.

"I got little or no sleep," continues our friend, "and awoke in the morning tired out, as after a hard day's work. Presently I could hardly walk, for very weakness, and from time to time had to give up work altogether. No medicine helped me and I tried plenty."

"After three wretched years of this, Mrs. Bird of Tallistown, told my wife about Mother Seigell's Syrup, and through her, advised me to try it. She said my ailment was indigestion and the Syrup would cure it. And it did. One bottle, greatly relieved me. I could eat freely, and food agreed with me. I persevered with the remedy and got strong as ever. All the pain and heaviness left me, and I felt light and energetic, although I have gained in weight."—(Signed) Sydney Challenger, Gladstone, Villa, Cwm, near Waunllwyd, Mon, August 30th, 1898.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a ruler and a color calibration strip.



LABOUR IN ASSAM IN 1898.

The following are extracts from the Resolution of the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture on the report on Labour Immigration into Assam for the year 1898:

There was a decrease of 48.7 per cent. during the year in the number of immigrants who entered Assam, the total number being 49,169 as compared with 95,931 in 1897. This decrease was greatest under the heads "Children" and "non-Act adults" and least under "Contractors' adults," and is attributed to the reaction consequent on the excessive importation of the three previous years, when advantage was taken of the cheapness of the labour supply due to famine to import a larger number of coolies. The year, moreover, especially in Sylhet and Cachar was a bad one for tea, and managers were consequently compelled to restrict cultivation and import fewer labourers. The number of coolies imported under the Act into the Surma Valley continues to show a remarkable decrease, only 1,800 having entered during the year as compared with 4,033 in 1897. The number of non-Act adults also fell from 16,478 to 9,744. The total number of Act adults imported into the Assam Valley was 20,839 against 36,584 in the previous year. There was, however, a still greater proportionate decrease in the number of adult non-Act coolies who entered this area, the number having fallen from 9,233 to 3,133.

The number of adult immigrants imported from all provinces in India decreased during the year from 66,328 in 1897 to 35,516. The falling off in the number of importations was most marked in the case of immigrants from the North-Western Provinces and the Central Provinces. On the other hand, the number from Chota Nagpur and the Sonthal Parganas was much larger than in any previous year, except 1897. These results are so far satisfactory, that they show a larger proportion of coolies of those castes which are most suited for employment on tea cultivation in the province. The Government of India also observe with satisfaction the steady increase in the proportion of female immigrants, principally among contractors and non-Act coolies.

The total numbers of Act labourers recruited during the year by sardars and contractors were 12,080 and 10,559, respectively, against 22,490 and 18,127 in 1897. An increase of over 300 appears in the number of sardars sent from the Assam Valley to recruit in 1898, and the number of coolies collected through this agency, although less than that of last year, is higher than that of previous years. On the other hand, the number of coolies imported by contractors shows a reduction of nearly 60 per cent. on the average of the three previous years. These figures are encouraging as indicating that the popularity of sardari recruitment with employers has not diminished with the cessation of the special conditions prevailing in 1897.

Of the total number of coolies who entered Assam during the year, 16,936 were engaged under contract in the recruiting districts and the remaining 18,580, after excluding 13,653 children, represent the number brought to Assam outside that Act. Of these latter 5,703 executed contracts at Dhubri, 1,284 are returned as having been placed under contract in the labour districts, while 11,593 adults are shown as free (non-Act) immigrants.

The number of coolies medically examined at Dhubri for the purpose of placing them under contract was 6,109, of whom 405 were rejected on account of physical unfitness, the proportion of rejections thus being 6.6 per cent., as compared with 8.1 per cent. in 1897. The Government of India note that the Chief Commissioner as on previous occasions, has commented on the unsatisfactory state of the present law regarding the medical examination of coolies at this depot.

The sanitary and other arrangements of the contractors' depots at Dhubri were satisfactory, with one exception and in that case the condition of the depot in question has since been improved. Owing to the extension of the Assam-Bengal Railway to Silchar a new route for the transit of immigrants to the Surma Valley has been opened, and country boats are no longer used as a means of transport. The railway authorities have erected reception depots for the coolies at three stations on the line. It is also noticed with satisfaction that, in accordance with the recommendations made by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, I. M. S., rest-houses have been established during the year at nine places between debarcation depots and gardens at a distance served by them, whilst extensive improvements have also been made in the coolie depots which have been more largely utilised by the immigrants and their dependants.

The vital statistics for the year show a most satisfactory diminution in the death-rate among immigrants during transit to their destination in the Assam Valley, the total mortality recorded being 133 against 1,245 in the previous year and 768 in 1896. This large decrease is doubtless due in part as explained by the Chief Commissioner "to the diminished volume of immigration during the year," but mainly "to the improvements recently made in the arrangements for the railway and steamer journey." By these new arrangements emigration from Bengal into Assam has been restricted to two routes only; a block system of telegraphic advices has been adopted to prevent congestion of traffic; a plan for segregating infected batches of coolies has been introduced; rules have been issued for the treatment of migrants on steamer and railway journeys, and a medical officer has been appointed to be Travelling Inspector of Emigrants at Dhubri. The Government of India are pleased to observe that the mortality during transit to the Surma Valley has likewise largely diminished owing chiefly to the abatement of overcrowding, the improved accommodation provided on feeder steamers, and the diversion of a large share of the traffic of the Assam-Bengal Railway.

Careful enquiries were made into all cases of alleged fraud and irregularity in recruitment; but although the number of complaints has decreased, the Chief Commissioner is doubtful whether this reduction indicates a real abatement of abuses in connection with recruitment.

The total labour population of the province at the close of the year was 634,519, or an increase of 1,711 persons on the figures for 1897, but there was a decrease in the total strength of all districts except Cachar, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur, the highest percentage of decrease being 5.12 in Nongong.

The decrease of 12.0 per cent. in the total number of criminal offences committed by the tea garden population and the large decrease of 40.3 per cent. in the number of offences

(excluding desertion, under Act I are most satisfactory. The total number of desertion among adults was 17,969 against 23,670 last year; among the Act population 5,303 against 6,431 in 1897, and among the non-Act population 12,666 against 17,238. There was, however, a slight increase in the districts of Sibsagar and Lakhimpur. Convictions were obtained against 6.5 per cent. only of the deserters arrested, which shows a decrease of convictions on last year's figures. There was a marked decline in the proportion of deserters among labourers from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, Central Provinces and Madras, the only increase being among non-Act Assamese coolies, very few of whom are under any sort of contract. It is observed that the question of preventing the numerous desertions of coolies from Sylhet and Cachar to Hill Tipperah and the Assam Bengal Railway is receiving special attention at the hands of the Chief Commissioner. The number of convictions under Act XIII of 1859 amounted to 160 as compared with 156 in 1897. The proportions of desertion to the labour force on healthy and unhealthy gardens was 3.58 on the former and 4.08 on the latter and 3.61 on both combined. The corresponding figures for 1897 were 4.40 healthy, 6.64 unhealthy and 4.81 for both.

The birth-rate of the year calculated on the total garden population and on the adult female population was 21.6 and 69.9 per mille, respectively, against 23.9 and 77.4 for the previous year. It is observed that while the proportion of women to men has increased the ratio of births to the adult labour population was less than in 1897. The birth-rate has declined among labourers from all provinces excepting those from the Central Provinces and natives of Assam, and there seems little doubt that it was affected by the great unhealthiness of the year 1897. The fact nevertheless remains that birth registration is recorded in a very imperfect manner on the tea gardens.

The total death-rate for the year among all classes of the labouring population was 31.1 per mille against 41.4 in 1897, and was lower than that of any previous year. This attributed in part to the measures taken to improve the arrangements for the transit immigrant of coolies and to the fact that the year was healthy one in the province generally. The returns of mortality among adults, especially those from the North-Western Provinces and the Central Provinces, although showing some improvement over the results of 1897 are still lamentable high, and the cause can only be ascribed to the importation of unsuitable labourers during the famine. The Government of India have also noticed with regret that the registration of mortality among children has again given no accurate results and that the efforts, made to induce employers to give this important subject their attention, have failed in their effect.

The relations between employers and labourers were fairly satisfactory and no case of friction between the garden population and the neighbouring villages was reported.

GENERAL JOUBERT'S PETITION TO THE QUEEN.

The earnest representation and historical reminder which the Boer General Joubert addressed to the Queen some two months ago, has been printed in pamphlet form at Pretoria. A copy of this pamphlet shows that the letter was dated "June 15th, 1899." It begins with the following paragraph:

"It is with feelings of deepest pain and distress that the undersigned ventures to address your most gracious Majesty at this critical period, and in view of the dark future which as a cloud is hovering over South Africa, the land of his birth and home. This unhappy situation has been brought about by the unjust action of one of your Majesty's Ministers, who perhaps in good faith though upon incorrect information has allowed himself to be led by unscrupulous fortune-seekers, reckless speculators, and insatiable capitalists."

General Joubert then enters upon a detailed and passionate account of the history of the Boers since the beginning of the century. In a rhetorical style and with frequent appeals to sentiment, the Boer is represented as having suffered constant wrongs at the hands of Great Britain—wrong which culminated in the war of 1880. The events which followed this war, in which "God gave the Boers the ultimate victory" are thus described:

"There arose a man Mr. Gladstone, at the head of affairs in Great Britain, an upright God-fearing man, who could discern the directing finger of the Almighty, and was not too high-minded to acknowledge the same and boldly declare that righteousness exalteth a nation—his nation, your Majesty's nation—while injustice and wrong-doing sullies the fame of a nation. Actuated thereto by a generous and noble impulse, he caused the unjust war to cease, and restored the honour of Great Britain, by transforming an act of violence into a magnanimous deed. Peace was thereupon concluded at Laing's Nek, and the Boers might have again exulted at being in amity with Great Britain although burdened now with a heavy debt—an ability which they respectfully protest they never incurred—an empty treasury, broken firearms, ammunition all spent, and a Convention that cannot be conformed with, which can be declared as infringing every day, with no impartial tribunal to determine one way, or the other. The Boers were, however, free again and they hoped it would now go better with them. They vainly imagined so and frequently declared so. But, alas, Poor Transvaal! You have hardly survived one disaster when two others stand staring you in the face.

"Unfortunately; a rich gold mine has been discovered in your country. It is surely not meant for the poor down-trodden Boer. Poor and abandoned men began soon to flock to this new Eldorado, and were presently followed by a legion of unscrupulous speculators. Afterwards certain ambitious capitalists arrived on the scene, who knew how to use their influence, and were indifferently as to what role they played or of what became of the country as long as they could increase their wealth ten-fold. And to what end did they eventually apply their gold derived from the Transvaal mines? Let history tell your Majesty, and it will prove that it was not devoted to the good of the country or the welfare of their fellow-men; but on the contrary, to the detriment of the country, whose hospitality they were enjoying.

"Their object was to overthrow the Government and to rob the people of their liberty by force if necessary. As they had money in abundance, the proceeds of the gold they had won from the mines, they bought thousands of

rifles and Maxim cannons smuggled these concealed in oil casks, into the country for the purpose of using them against the people of the Transvaal, to oust them out of their country whither the capitalist had come, and possessed himself of the goldfields. With this aim in view they had made a compact with one Cecil Rhodes to undertake a raid into the Transvaal, Dr. Jameson acting as the tool.

"Behold! your Majesty, the conduct of these men—the same men who are to-day clamouring about grievances. Yes! grievances which have made them rich, richer than ever any of the Voortrekkers was or any of their children will be.

"They then who tried to overthrow the South African Republic, who stirred up strife in Johannesburg, on account of which many anxious and timid people fled from the city to escape probable hardships—are responsible for that dreadful railway accident in Natal, through which so many mothers and their children lost their lives. They shall also have to answer before the judgment seat of God for the blood that was split during this contemptible Jameson Raid. Here, again, your Majesty, six Boers fell defending their right, and the independence of their country.

"Thus have the Boers, from time to time, been aggravated and harassed.

But even in these troubles they were not deserted by their God, Who gave them refuge and enabled them to prove to the world that they are a meek and enlightened people, for although they had it in their power to refuse grant quarter or pardon to Jameson and his gang of freebooters, they did not shoot them down as perhaps another military force would have done, or even follow the example set them at Salchternek. The thought alone that they were British subjects sufficed the Boers not to treat them according to their deserts, but to hand them over to the law officers of your Majesty to be dealt with as your Majesty deemed fit. And what is the thanks we got for our magnanimity in liberating Jameson, Rhodes' henchman? Instead of thanks, we are cursed with the revival of the Johannesburg agitation of 1895 and 1896.

These are the men who, encouraged and assisted by Mr. Chamberlain, are trying once again to bring misery upon the Transvaal, and as a means to this end and in order to mislead the generous British public have caused a false document to be voluntarily signed by 21,000 oppressed aliens, to be addressed to your Majesty. If your Majesty would have that petition sent to Johannesburg to be publicly and impartially scrutinised, it would soon be made manifest how many thousands of the names appended thereto are of persons who had neither read nor seen it, and of numerous others who have long been dead. Armed with such a document they are now endeavouring to bring another calamity upon the Transvaal, and perhaps upon the whole of South Africa. Were such a scrutiny to take place, it could be positively proved that many whose name appear as signatories rather than being against the continuance of the independence of the Transvaal, have grievance against framers of that notorious petition and would like to bring them up for the withholding their wages or ill-treatment. Such we are sure, will faithfully stand by the Boer and fight for their adopted country, unlike the authors of that petition, whose guilty consciences are prompting them to leave the country or send their wives and money away to Natal or the Cape Colony. All this for fear of the consequence of their own wickedness. They have insured the words at their gold mines against damage, which they recklessly wish to cause to others. The wire pullers of this vile scheme are Messrs. Rhodes, Chamberlain, and Jameson.

"Your Majesty, what are we expected to do? We are told to-day they demand the franchise. Would it not be better for the people and for the independence of the country to give a vote to every raw Englishman just arrived in the country, or even to an Army deserter, than to such unscrupulous capitalists and dishonest speculators, whose only object is to rob the South African Republic of its independence in order to be enabled to do the same here with the gold mines as they did with the diamond mines at Kimberley under British rule?"

"Your Majesty, it was with a deep sense of pain at the critical state of affairs in South Africa that I commenced to write this letter, but my pain and indignation has been intensified by what I have lately read in the newspapers of Mr. Chamberlain and his statements anent the Transvaal, which he fondly hopes will be accepted as Gospel truth by every one. He has never yet been in the Transvaal. I have been to London and yet I do not imagine that I know all about it. Would it not be presumptuous on my part to think so? And does he alone know everything about the Transvaal? No, your Majesty. Now I see clearly that he has been misled, that he has believed in fiction; for how otherwise could he have uttered such language? Witness his bitter speech at Birmingham when he referred to the shooting of Edgar. Your Majesty, this man had struck another a mortal blow and when the police tried to arrest him, he struck and almost killed one of them, who thereupon shot him dead. It was, indeed, a regrettable incident, but has it not often occurred at Hyde Park and Trafalgar-square that the English police have found it necessary to fire on an unarmed mob, thereby killing and wounding private citizens? And did ever any Foreign Minister dream of declaring war against England or make unreasonable demand on account of such action? Mr. Chamberlain is alarmed forsooth, because a woman is murdered in the streets of Johannesburg—a circumstance which we all deplore, yet cannot discover the murderer. We have offered a reward of £500 to any one giving information that will lead to the conviction of the person who committed this crime, but up to the present we have failed in tracking the culprit. Now your Majesty, how many women were murdered in London by the so-called Jack-the-Ripper, who, notwithstanding Mr. Chamberlain, has never been caught? And yet who would ever dream of going to war with England because of this Jack-the-Ripper? Mr. Chamberlain, however, would set the whole of South Africa ablaze just because we have not captured a murderer or because a jury has not convicted an Englishman in our police service of a certain murder.

"Will Your Majesty permit a small, weak State, that has time after time relinquished its rights and has ever tried to live in peace and harmony with your Majesty's people and Government to be oppressed and overthrown by the world-renowned

power and might of Great Britain, simply owing to the misrepresentations of the persons I have already mentioned?

"Such is the inquiry of him who considers it an honour and privilege to extol your Majesty, the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and Empress of India, and to acknowledge the generosity of the British nation and of several British statesmen.

"Not! Your Majesty, ever in supplication to the Almighty Who ruleth over Kings and Princes and inclineth all to His great will, I, your Majesty's humble petitioner will never believe that your Majesty will suffer the sacred rights of a weak, peace-loving people to be violated in your name, and South Africa to be cast into grief and mourning. On the contrary, I pray your Majesty that peace, rest, prosperity, union, and co-operation will reign in your Majesty's name throughout South Africa, and endure as long as there remains a Boer or an Englishman on earth.

"Such is the wish and prayer of your Majesty's most humble petitioner."

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

The following explanation offered by the Hon'ble Mr. Mackenzie at the Council meeting of Wednesday last, with reference to his conduct as Municipal Commissioner, will speak for itself:—To omit section 31 (2) (IV.) would be to effectually bar any business man, and I might say any official, from being a Commissioner, for seeing that there are in Calcutta about 500 Limited Companies registered, it is more than probable, that in some way or other, some of those who would otherwise offer themselves for service would be connected in an indirect way either as directors or shareholders of those companies in supplying the wants and requirements of the Municipality, and would therefore be "interested."

With reference to what fell from the Hon. Mr. Apar in his remarks relating to his amendment as to omission of sub-section (2) (IV.) of Section 31 I crave your Honor's indulgence and that of the Council to enable me to take a personal explanation.

I am, as your Honor is no doubt aware, a nominated Commissioner—nominated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, of which body I have the honor of being Vice-President.

At the time of my nomination I was pressed by the Committee to stand, it being considered that under the new bill it would be incumbent on the mercantile community to have a strong representation, and I accepted on the express condition (which is embodied in the minutes of the Chamber) that I would not serve under the present bill.

I was appointed a Commissioner in April and never attended a meeting of the Commissioners until Wednesday last (6th instant.) My attendance on that date was due to the receipt by me the previous evening (5th instant) of the following letter from Mr. Bright, the Chairman:—"Owing to 28 of the Ward Commissioners having resigned their office as Municipal Commissioners it is very important that the nominated Commissioners and those appointed by the Chamber of Commerce, by the Port Commissioners, and by the Trades Association, should make a point of attending the general meetings of the Committees of which they may be members. Yesterday afternoon a meeting of the Water Supply Committee was convened but out of nine members only two were present, and it is evident that if members do not attend the meetings, and there is a succession of 'no quorums' public business will be at a standstill. I trust therefore that you will make a special effort to attend." Having no desire to see "public business at a standstill," I attended the meeting. On the Agenda of business were the following items and regarding these the Chairman made the following remarks:—

6. To confirm the following Resolution of the 18th Meeting of the General Committee held on the 4th August, 1899:—

(a) That Messrs. Burn and Company be informed that the Corporation decline to admit their claim to the payment of Rs. 28,890-3 on account of the loss sustained by them by the cutting of the bund across Tolly's Nullah by the Port Commissioners."

"The Chairman submitted for consideration the opinion of Mr. Stokoe on the claim of Messrs. Burn and Company for Rs. 28,890-3 on account of the loss sustained by them from the cutting of the bund across Tolly's Nullah by the Port Commissioners. He stated that the Government gave sanction to bund the nullah for a certain time for the purpose of syphoning the nullah in connection with the sewerage works in the added area; the work was commenced under a contract to complete it within the sanctioned time but during that period the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners found that the water of the nullah having been embanked was not flowing into the Docks, and unless the bund was cut there was every chance of the vessels in the Docks being stranded. He therefore asked the Chief Engineer to the Government to order the bund to be cut. The Chairman went to the office and protested, but was told that it was extremely urgent and that nothing else could be done. Then Messrs. Burn and Company pressed for the damages they had sustained, and they were referred to the Government and the Port Commissioners; and now after a year the Government said they were not liable to pay damages. At his request Babu Kally Nath Mitter gave his opinion and the matter was then referred to Mr. Stokoe."

On the first item being called on I spoke as follows:—

"With regard to item No. 2 and item No. 6 on the Agenda, I regret I cannot see my way to voting in support of the resolution now proposed, for, with all due deference to the opinion of the learned counsel that is referred to in the proceedings in question, I feel strongly that the attitude proposed to be taken by the Commissioners is not one they should assume towards Messrs. Burn and Co. There can be I consider no doubt that when Messrs. Burn and Co entered into this contract, they did so in the full faith, and reliance on the Commissioners doing all they could to assist them in the performance of their contract, and that they were entitled to conclude that when the Commissioners undertook to obtain the sanction of the Government to the canal being bunded, that they could look upon that undertaking as an assurance that the canal would be closed, and kept closed, until they had completed the work they had contracted to do. Messrs. Burn and Co., are, I consider, entitled to better treatment at the hands of the Commissioners than a mere denial of liability. I consider that under the circumstances they are

fairly entitled to all the support the Commissioners can give them. The Government gave the sanction to the Commissioners to have the canal bunded for the purpose of having the work comprised in Messrs. Burn and Co.'s contract carried out, and then the Government, before the work could be completed, accord their sanction to the Port Commissioners to break the bund. Apart from any question of the Commissioners being liable to Messrs. Burn and Co., direct, I am inclined to think that Government are, in common fairness, liable to some one—be it the Commissioners or them (Burn and Co.)—for the result of their action with regard to this canal and I should therefore, suggest that instead of carrying out the resolution intimated on these proceedings, the Commissioners should again approach Government on the subject with the view of getting some fair adjustment made of Messrs. Burn and Co.'s very reasonable and proper claim."

On the 7th instant I received from the Secretary to the Corporation the following letter:—"I am desired by the Chairman to forward the enclosed copy of a letter from the Hon. Mr. J. G. Apar with a request that you will be good enough to state whether the Hon. gentleman's information as stated in his letter is correct. Section 32 of the Municipal Act deals with the question of when a Commissioner cannot vote or take any part in the proceedings of a meeting."

The enclosure is as follows:—"I have the honor to bring to your notice with reference to the advocacy by the Hon. Mr. D. F. Mackenzie of the claim of Messrs. Burn and Co., Ltd., against the Corporation, that Mr. Mackenzie is a Director of that Company, a fact which he did not disclose in his written speech by which he supported his contention; and I leave it to you to bring the matter to the notice of the General Committee without any delay if you find that my information is correct."

To this I replied on the 8th instant as follows:—

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 432 of 7th instant forwarding copy of one from the Hon. Mr. J. G. Apar with a request that I will state whether the Hon. gentleman's information as stated in his letter is correct. That I am a Director of Burn and Co., Ltd., is quite correct. At the same time, although a Director of Burn and Co., Ltd., as reference to my remarks will show I spoke as a representative of the interests of the ratepayers, and far from asking that the money should be paid, I merely moved, that in order to avoid if possible the expenses of a law suit, the matter should be again referred to Government, who in my opinion are the proper persons to pay."

"I may mention that when I was being pressed to frame the exact wording of any amendment it was suggested to me by a fellow Commissioner that I should move that the money be paid, but this I declined to do.

"If under the circumstances the Commissioners consider my action improper, I can only express my extreme regret, and ask that the Chairman will consider any action taken by me at the meeting in connection with the subject as withdrawn and cancelled.—I was not acquainted with the provisions of Section 32 of the Municipal Act quoted by you and no one drew my attention to them."

I may mention, Sir, that my action, so far from being that of a delegate from Burn and Co., was entirely spontaneous, and prompted entirely by the statement of the Chairman which I have quoted. The matter has never yet been before us as Directors of Burn and Co., Ltd.

This then, Sir, is the plain unvarnished account of the incident referred to by the Hon. member.

That I erred in ignorance of the law I frankly admit. That the interests of the ratepayers were in the slightest degree imperilled by my action I absolutely deny, and I consider that it would have been more, in keeping with the principles of honour among gentlemen, if the Hon. member himself, if he were at the same time aware of the fact of my being a Director of Burn and Co., Ltd., and if not that other Commissioners present at the meeting; who, I know, were aware of the fact, and who are no doubt better acquainted with the law governing the procedure in such matters; had there and then challenged my action, instead of adopting the tactics they have. That the hon. member was aware of the existence of my letter of 8th instant to the Secretary before he made his remarks to-day and before he submitted his amendment is to my knowledge a fact.

I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity afforded me of making this explanation, and I leave it to you and the Council to decide whether my action in the matter is deserving of the insinuations made.

The Hon. Mr. Oldham congratulated the Hon. Mr. Apar on the extreme moderation with which he had referred to the incident that had called for the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie's remarks. The incident was a most ludicrous one and neither he nor the Hon. Mr. Apar was aware at the time that the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie was a director of Messrs. Burn & Co.

The Hon. Mr. Baker said the effect of the amendment would be to disqualify every person who held shares in any incorporated company with which the Corporation had dealings. It was one of the objects of the bill to introduce a larger proportion of the business element into the Corporation, and the amendment was absolutely inconsistent with that object.

With regard to the matter referred to by the Hon. Mr. Apar the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie was admittedly a new member, and unaware of the existence of the rule of the Corporation, which was not brought to his notice by any other Commissioner or the Chairman at the time, if the rule was enforced in the future as he had no doubt it would be there would be none of the risks to which the Hon. member had referred.

The Hon. Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee said he was glad the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie had afforded them the opportunity of making the full explanation he had. It was perfectly satisfactory and he was sure the public would regard it as such.

The Hon. Mr. Apar reiterated that he had been careful to make it clear that the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie had erred entirely through ignorance, and in perfect honesty and innocence, and the possibility of such instances was the strongest argument he could urge in favour of the amendment.

The Hon. Babu Surendra Nath Banerji and Dr. Ashutosh Mukerji supported the amendment, and Mr. Apar having replied, the motion was put to Council and lost.

