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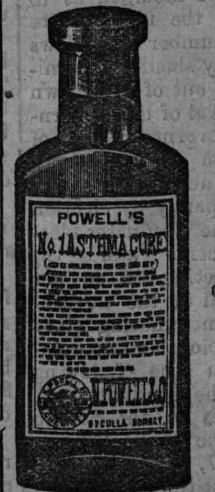
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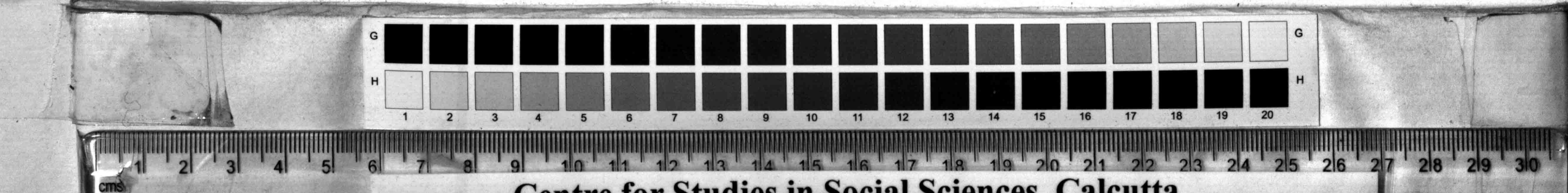
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CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SENATE.

A special meeting of the Senate was held at the Senate House, College Square, on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. There was a large attendance of members, the Hon. Mr. Raleigh, the Vice-Chancellor presiding.

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that they had to consider the report of the Committee appointed to take into consideration the Universities Bill. Their first duty was to thank the gentlemen who served on the Committee for the great care and attention they had bestowed on the subject, and the very attractive report they had presented.

The Chairman said that the author of the Bill was the Governor-General in Council. As far as he knew anything of the intention of the Government of India he thought while Government adhered to the position which they had taken up after a very full consideration of University questions, they were fully conscious of the many difficulties which attended the practical solution of these questions, and were extremely anxious to hear the views of those who were interested in the matter.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously. Revd. Father Lafont said that he would now proceed to move the proposals one by one. The first was that in Section 3 for the words "subject to the approval of the Government" be substituted the words "subject to a general power of intervention on the part of the Government."

Babu Sangram Singh seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting, and carried. Revd. Father Lafont next moved that in Section 4, sub-section 1, for "five," be substituted "ten."

A member seconded the proposal. Mr. Edwards suggested that five should be allowed to stand, which was in accordance with the rules laid down by the London University.

After a little discussion the proposal was put to the meeting, and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont proposed that Section 6 be so modified as to provide (a) that in forming the first Senate under the new Act, if the number of Fellows is to be one hundred, seventy should be nominated by the present Senate out of their own number, subject to the approval of the Government and thirty by the Government out of the existing Fellows or from other sources; (b) that for the future the number of Fellows required should be made up partly by election and partly by nomination, the Graduates electing twenty-five per cent., and the Faculties or the Senate electing fifteen per cent., and the Government nominating sixty per cent., and (c) that the elections and nomination should take place in the following order:—(1) election by the graduates, (2) election by colleges, (3) election by the Faculties or the Senate, and (4) nomination by the Chancellor.

Mr. Edwards seconded the proposal. Mr. Wheeler proposed as an amendment that in clause (b) provision should be made for election by colleges in addition to the other forms of election.

Dr. P. K. Roy seconded the amendment which was put to the meeting and carried.

The proposal of Revd. Father Lafont was then put to the meeting, and carried with the amendment proposed by Mr. Wheeler.

Revd. Father Lafont then proposed that in Section 7, Sub-section 2, for clauses (b) and (c) be substituted the words "Graduates in any Faculty of ten years' standing or upwards."

Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting, and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont next proposed that in Section 7, Sub-section 2, for the words "upon application made within the period of one year from the commencement of this Act or from the date on which he becomes so entitled," be substituted, the words "provided that if the application therefor is not made within the period of one year from the commencement of this Act or from the date on which he becomes so entitled, he shall be called upon to make such further payment as may be prescribed by the bye-laws to be made in that behalf."

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont also moved that in Section 7, Sub-section 3, for the words "all arrears" be substituted, the words "such amount as may be prescribed by the bye-laws to be made in that behalf" with the addition of the words "provided that on payment of a composition-fee of twenty-five rupees at any time, a Graduate shall be exempted from the payment of any further fee on that account."

Mr. A. M. Bose seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting, and carried.

Dr. Morrison moved that in Section 9, Sub-section 1, the words "or Graduates in" should be omitted.

Mr. Edwards seconded the motion. After a little discussion the motion was put to the meeting and lost.

Revd. Father Lafont moved that in Section 11, Sub-section 2, after "Convocation" be inserted, the words "or a meeting of a Faculty."

Hon'ble Moulvie Seraj-ul-Islam seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting, and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont then moved that in Section 12, clause (c) be so modified as to dispense with the introduction of any thing in the nature of a lottery into the proceedings of the University.

Mr. Abdur Rahman seconded the proposal which was put to the meeting and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont also moved that in Section 13, Sub-section 3, after the word "cease" be inserted, the words "for the time being."

Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont next moved that in Section 13, Sub-section 4, after "Honorary Fellows," be inserted, the words "nominated under Sub-section 2."

The Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont then moved that, in Section 15, Sub-section 1, clause (c) be so modified as to make it clear (a) whether the words "representing the various Faculties" are to be taken in connection with the words "ordinary Fellows;" and (b) whether the Syndicate shall as a body be reconstituted every two years, and whether in that case a member elected to fill up a vacancy, shall be elected for a full period of two years, or only for the remainder of the two years.

Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting, and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont then moved that in connection with Section 15, Sub-section 2 and 3, in which statutory provision made for the representation of teachers on the Syndicate, a similar provision should be made for the due representation of teachers on the Senate, and so as duly to safeguard the interests of Government aided, and unaided colleges, respectively.

Babu Jogendra Chunder Ghose seconded the proposal.

Mr. A. M. Bose moved as an amendment that the following be substituted in place of the proposal of Revd. Father Lafont:—That while it may be desirable to prescribe a certain minimum proportion of teachers (the proportion to be laid down by law) as ordinary Fellows, it should be in such a way as to duly safeguard the interests of Government aided and unaided colleges respectively.

A member seconded the amendment, which, after a little discussion, was put to the meeting, and carried.

The following proposals were also carried, having been duly moved and seconded:—

That in Section 19, after the words "a college," be inserted the words "or other institution," and so wherever the word "college" occurs in the Bill.

That in Section 18, after the words "if the Senate shall" be inserted the words "by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting called therefor."

That in Section 21, Sub-section 1, clause (b), words "and the terms on which they are engaged" be omitted.

That in Section 21, Sub-section 1, clause (c), the words "and that due provision will be made for the residence, supervision and physical welfare of students" be omitted.

That clause (d) in Sub-section 1, of Section 21, be omitted.

That in Section 21 Sub-section 1, clause (e), the word "permanent" be omitted.

That in Section 21, Sub-section 2, for clauses (a) and (b) be substituted, the words "make such inspection and inquiry as may appear to them necessary."

That in Section 23, Sub-section 1 after the words "may require," be inserted, the words "to judge of the continued efficiency of the College."

That in Section 23, Sub-section 2, after the words "Syndicate may" be inserted, the words "when they deem it necessary."

That Section 24 be so modified as to provide that where both the Syndicate and the Senate are against a proposal to disaffiliate a College the matter need not go up to the Government.

That Section 24 be further modified by inserting in Sub-section 2, after the word "shall" and before the words "make a report to the Senate," the words "should they be in favour of such proposal or should they consider a reference to the Senate otherwise desirable."

Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose proposed the following:—"Should the opinion of the Senate be in favour of the proposal at the commencement of Section 24 (3)."

A member seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting, and carried.

Revd. Father Lafont then proposed, and Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose seconded, that in Section 26, Sub-section 2, for the words "after consulting (if necessary) such persons, not more than three in number, as the Senate may depute in this behalf," be substituted, the words "after consulting the Senate (if the Government consider any additions or alterations necessary)."

The proposal was put to the meeting, and carried.

Mr. Abdur Rahman moved the following resolution:—"That the Senate do recommend that the following be added:—(1) to Section 6, cl. (c) of sub-sections (1) and (2) of the Indian Universities Bill:—Provided always that in making such nomination due regard shall be paid to an adequate representation of the religious communities which send their children to the Universities. (11) to section 15, Sub-section (1) clause (c) of the Indian Universities Bill:—"Provided always that in such election due regard shall be paid to an adequate representation of the religious communities which send their children to the Universities."

He said that the section as drafted not only affected the Mohamedans, the Senate, and the Syndicate, but it also affected the Hindu

and Christian communities. If they allowed the section to stand as it is the result would be that sometime or other they might be hampered.

Hon'ble Babu Bhupendra Nath Bose seconded the proposal, which, after a little discussion, was put to the meeting, and lost.

Babu Saroda Churn Mitter, and Babu Hem Chunder Mitter seconded, that clause (g) of Sub-section 21 relating to payment of fees might be omitted, as it was not necessary.

The motion was put to the meeting and lost. Dr. P. K. Roy next moved that the maximum number to the Syndicate might be 20 and the minimum 12.

Mr. A. M. Bose seconded the proposal, which was put to the meeting, and carried.

The following is the Report of the Committee and the Notes of Dissent:—

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE ON THE UNIVERSITIES BILL.

In submitting our Report, we have the honour, without re-opening questions which have already been considered by the Senate, to make the following proposals with reference to some of the provisions of the Bill:—

I. That in Section 3, for the words "subject to the approval of the Government," be substituted, the words "subject to a general power of intervention on the part of the Government."

We appreciate the section as enlarging the scope of the University, an enlargement for which the Senate moved as far back as 1890. The modification, we propose would obviate the necessity for multiplied references, such as clause (d) seems to involve, which are likely to cause frequent delay, and would remove the apparent inconsistency between clause (a) and the power of making provision for the instruction of students, conferred on the University in the former part of the section.

II. That in Section 4, Sub-section 1, for "five," be substituted "ten." (Five of us were in favour of this proposal and two against. Two of the members were not present.)

III. That Section 6 be so modified as to provide (a) that in forming the first Senate under the new Act, if the number of Fellows is to be one hundred, seventy should be nominated by the present Senate out of their own number, subject to the approval of the Government, and thirty by the Government out of the existing Fellows or from other sources; (b) that for the future, the number of Fellows required should be made up partly by election and partly by nomination, the Graduates electing twenty-five per cent and the Faculties or the Senate electing fifteen per cent, subject to the approval of the Government, and the Government nominating sixty per cent; and (c) that the elections and nomination should take place in the following order:—(1) the election by the Graduates, (2) the election by the Faculties or the Senate and (3) the nomination by the Chancellor.

IV. (1) That in Section 7, Sub-section 2, for clauses (b) and (c), be substituted the words "Graduates in any Faculty of ten years' standing or upwards." The modification, we propose, will provide for the inclusion in the Register, of Graduates in the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering, very few of whom have taken the highest degree in those Faculties, while it will not increase the number of Registered Graduates.

(2) That in Section 7, Sub-section 2, for the words "upon application made within the period of one year from the commencement of this Act or from the date on which he becomes so entitled," be substituted, the words "provided that if the application therefor is not made within the period of one year from the commencement of this Act or from the date on which he becomes so entitled, he shall be called upon to make such further payment as may be prescribed by the bye-laws to be made in that behalf."

(3) That in Section 7, Sub-section 3, for the words "all arrears" be substituted, the words "such amount as may be prescribed by the bye-laws to be made in that behalf," with the addition of the words "provided that on payment of a composition-fee of twenty-five rupees at any time, a Graduate shall be exempted from the payment of any further fee on that account."

(It was proposed that in Section 9, Sub-section 1, the words "or Graduates in" should be omitted and that in the same section, Sub-section 2 for the words "Members of or Graduates in the Faculty shall be qualified to elect or to be elected," should be substituted the words "Members of the Faculty shall be qualified to elect and Members of or Graduates in the Faculty shall be qualified to be elected." Two of us were in favour of the proposal and five against. Two of the members were not present.)

V. That in Section 11, Sub-section 2, after "Convocation," be inserted the words "or a meeting of a Faculty."

VI. That in Section 12, clause (c) be so modified as to dispense with the introduction of any thing in the nature of a lottery into the proceedings of the University.

VII. (1) That in Section 13, Sub-section 3 after the word "cease," be inserted, the words "for the time being." (2) That in Section 13, Sub-section 4, after "Honorary Fellows," be inserted the words "nominated under Sub-section 2."

VIII. (1) That in Section 15, Sub-section 1, clause (c) be so modified as to make it clear (a) whether the words "representing the various Faculties" are to be taken in connection with the words "Ordinary Fellows;" and (b) whether the Syndicate shall, as a body, be reconstituted every two years, and whether, in that case, a member elected to fill up a vacancy, shall be elected for a full period of two years, or only for the remainder of two years. (2) That in connection with Section 15, Sub-

sections 2 and 3, in which statutory provision is made for the representation of teachers on the Syndicate a similar provision should be made for the due representation of teachers on the Senate and so as duly to safeguard the interests of Government, Aided, and Unaided Colleges, respectively.

We apprehend the Sub-sections 2 and 3 may be found unworkable as regards a proper representation on the Syndicate, of the Faculties of Law and Engineering.

IX. That in Section 18, after the words "if the Senate shall" be inserted, the words "by a majority of two-thirds of the members present at the meeting called therefor."

X. That in Section 19, after the words "a College," be inserted the words, "or other Institution," and so wherever the word "College" occurs in the Bill.

XI. (1) That in Section 21, Sub-section 1, clause (b), the words "and the terms on which they are engaged" be omitted. (2) That in Section 21 Sub-section 1, clause (c), the words "and that due provision will be made for the residence, supervision, and physical welfare of student be omitted."

We think that the provisions in Section 3, clause (c), and Section 25, Sub-section 2, clause (m) are sufficient for the purpose.

(3) That clause (d) in Sub-section 1 of Section 21, be omitted.

(4) That in Section 21, Sub-section 1, clause (e), the word "permanent" be omitted.

(5) That in Section 21, Sub-section 2, for clause (a) and (b), be substituted, the words "make such inspection and inquiry as may appear to them necessary."

XII. (1) That in Section 23, Sub-section 1, after the words "may require," be inserted, words "to judge of the continued efficiency of the College." (2) That in Section 23, Sub-section 2, after the words "Syndicate may," be inserted the words "when they deem it necessary."

XIII. (1) That Section 24 be so modified as to provide that where both the Syndicate and the Senate are against a proposal to disaffiliate a College, the matter need not go up to the Government. (2) That Section 24, be further modified by inserting in Sub-section 2 after the word "shall" and before the words "make a report to the Senate," the words "should they be in favour of such proposal, or should they consider a reference to the Senate otherwise desirable."

(Four of us were in favour of this proposal and two against. Three of the members were not present.)

XIV. That in Section 26, Sub-section 2, for the words "after consulting (if necessary) such persons, not more than three in number as the Senate may depute in this behalf," be substituted the words "after consulting the Senate (if the Government consider any additions or alterations necessary)."

We need not add that should the sections referred to by us be modified in the way we propose, other sections would have to be modified accordingly.

E. Lafont, S. J. A. M. Bose. K. C. Bannerji. A. C. Edwards. John Morrison. Nilratan Sircar. Bhupendra Nath Basu. Amir Ali.

NOTES OF DISSSENT.

Proposal I. of the Committee's Report. We think that the provision in Section 4, Sub-section (1) of the Bill, making Ordinary Fellowships tenable for five years, should stand.

A. C. Edwards, John Morrison.

Proposal IV.

In view of the changes now proposed to be made in Section 6, Sub-section (1) of the Bill, providing for the election of twenty-five instead of ten Fellows by Graduates we think that the words "or Graduates in" in Section 9, Sub-section (1) should be omitted.

Necessary modification would have also to be made in Sub-section (2).

A. C. Edwards, John Morrison.

Proposal XIII.

We dissent from proposal XIII (2) because it gives a discretion to the Syndicate which is not given to the Senate. It also seems inconsistent with Proposal XIII—(1).

K. C. Bannerji. A. C. Edwards.

Proposal XVIII.

We have signed the Report subject to the following Note:—

In para. III. of the Report we suggest that after the words "60 per cent," at the end of (b), the words "the number of Ordinary Fellows being fixed at 100," be added. Unless this is done, the total strength of the Senate may be fixed at so low a figure as fifty or forty, or in fact any figure not less than thirty which is the minimum prescribed by Section VI of the Act of Incorporation. The matter, we may add, was not voted upon at any meeting of Committee, but has been left for consideration by the Senate.

*Subject to dissent recorded.

Para. VIII. It may perhaps be desirable to lay down that a certain minimum proportion (to be prescribed in the bye-laws) of teachers should be appointed to the Senate, the appointment being made in such a way as to duly safeguard the interests of all classes of Colleges, viz., Government, Aided, and Unaided Institutions. But we are opposed to a statutory provision being made for the representation of Teachers in the Syndicate. We would leave the Senate, reformed and reconstituted as it is going to be under the Bill, at liberty to send those to represent it in the Syndicate whom it considers most competent and best suited for the

purpose. If the Senate can not be trusted to duly discharge this duty we do not know what work it can be trusted to do. We need not refer to the contingency of the provision being unworkable in the case of two of our four Faculties as this has already been pointed out in the Report.

Para. XIII. We would put in the words "Should the opinion of the Senate be in favour of the proposal, at the commencement of Section 24 (3) i. e., before the words "The Syndicate shall submit." This would put the Senate in the same position as the Syndicate and avoid the necessity of a reference to Government when the Senate is opposed to the proposal for disaffiliation.

A. M. Bose. Nil Ratan Sircar. Bhupendra Nath Basu.

(1). I do not agree to the substitution of "ten" for "five" in Section 4 Sub-section (1). (2). I am in favour of the omission of the words "or Graduates in" in Section 9, Sub-section (1). (3). I do not agree to the omission in Section 21, Sub-section (1), clause (c) of the words "and due provision will be made for the residence, supervision and physical welfare of students." I consider the clause as it stands contains one of the most salutary provisions of the proposed enactment. In my opinion it is of vital importance that students who are collected together in any large centre of population should be properly housed and looked after.

I do not think the provisions in Section 3, clause (c) and section 25, Sub-section 2, clause (m) are sufficient to meet the object in view. I consider that even if the word "residence" is omitted the rest should stand.

Amir Ali.

FORESTS IN THE U. P.

The Annual Progress Report of the Forest Administration in the Central, Oudh and School Circles of the United Provinces for the year ending 30th June 1903, states that there is a nominal increase of 18 square miles in the area of reserved, protected, unclaimed, and forested lands in the Provinces, but this, it is stated, is merely the result of correction of areas. Only 186 miles of forest boundary remain undemarcated, of which 146 are in the Jaunpur Division. The dryness of the year and the deficiency in the winter rainfall rendered the year a bad one for fire protection, and 10,660 acres were burned in the Bundelkhand Division, this loss representing three-quarters of the total in the Central Circle. In the Oudh Circle 58,896 acres were burned, as against only 15,156 in the preceding year. The damage was practically confined to the Pilibhit and Kheri Divisions. In the latter Division the results would have been good but for one most disastrous fire, which overran nearly 21,000 acres. The originator of this fire was convicted and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. In Pilibhit there were no less than 23 fires, of which 10 were intentional and 7 were due to carelessness. Out of 8 prosecutions only 4 were successful. The people in this Division are particularly hostile to forest protection, and in order to stop incendiarism, Government has been compelled to suspend the rights enjoyed by the inhabitants in 17 of the villages most concerned. The School Circle showed better results, and the area successfully protected amounted to over 98 per cent. of the area attempted. The total output of timber fuel and minor produce was good and largely in excess of that of the two preceding years, the increase being mainly in the School and Oudh Circles. The financial results were particularly good, the total receipts having risen from Rs. 17,61,090 to Rs. 21,66,528.

R. E. OFFICERS IN INDIA.

The Secretary of State having decided, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State for War, that the system of election for continuous service in India by officers of the Royal Engineers shall be abandoned, no officer shall be allowed to elect for continuous service after the 31st December, 1904. Officers who have already elected for continuous service will be permitted to cancel their election at any time. Officers who have elected for continuous services and do not cancel their election, and officers who may before the 1st January, 1905, be allowed to elect, shall continue to enjoy all rights and privileges of continuous service officers. Rules are published regulating the service of Royal Engineers in India. The tour of Indian service will be five years, and at the end of that term an officer may be permitted to extend his Indian service indefinitely, with the privilege of giving six months' notice of his wish to revert to the Imperial establishment. Leave and pension rules are laid down. An officer retiring after 34 years' total service, of which 28 must be reckoned as service for Indian pension, will receive a pension of 2608 10s. per annum. An officer retiring after 31 years' total service will receive 2500 per annum. The following decisions are promulgated for general information: All Officers of Royal Engineers of the Military Works Services who have elected, or may be permitted to elect, for continuous service in India, shall be allowed the option between: (a) Continuous employment to the age of 55 years, with final removal therefrom at that age; (b) removal from employment on being placed upon the Half Pay List on completion of five years' service in the rank of regimental Lieutenant-Colonel, with eligibility for re-employment to the age of 57 years in the substantive rank of Colonel. This option is to be exercised within six months of the date of this Order, or of officers' election for continuous service in India. An officer of the Royal Engineers who has elected, or who may be permitted to elect, for continuous service in India, shall on being removed from employment in the rank of Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel, either on account of age or of being placed upon the Half Pay List, receive until re-employment, retirement, if residing in India, the pay and allowances of a Lieutenant-Colonel Royal Engineers, namely, Rs. 1,002-4-0, and if residing out of India the leave pay which he may be entitled under the rules of the Indian Army subject to a minimum of 2600 a year.

Dysentery.

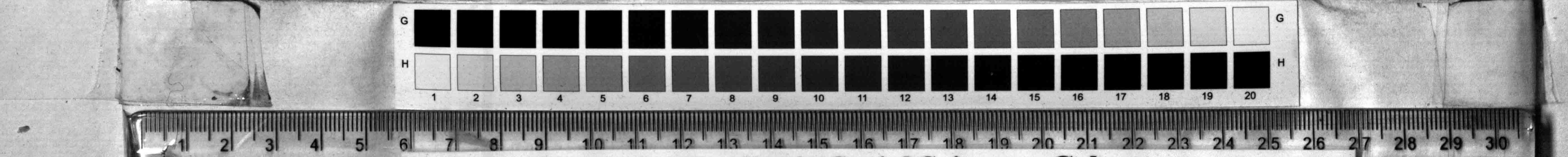
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THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY, 7, 1904.

ROMANCE OF AN INDIAN NEWSPAPER.

Mr Foulger delivered an address in London, his subject being "Romance of an English newspaper," to show how the "Daily Mail" rose from a small beginning to its present eminence.

Any visitor to the workshop of the "Patrika" of the present day, will possibly be a little impressed with its linotype and printing press machines, worked both by electricity and an oil engine, but its origin was humble enough.

This is how the "Patrika" first made its appearance. An enterprising man had purchased printing materials at Aheretola, Calcutta; but he failed, and dying soon after, his widow wanted to dispose of them.

Those who did all this had, however, to learn the business of printing before leaving Calcutta; and when they started the "Patrika," they had to hold the composing sticks and set their articles in type, and also to print the sheets themselves.

Besides holding the composing sticks and pulling the press for printing their sheets, they had to cast rollers and types, prepare matrices, manufacture ink, as also paper.

The paper they started was a weekly, in the Bengalee language, and called it the "Amrita Bazar Patrika." It began by teaching that "we are we" and "they are they." This alarmed the authorities very much; for, in those days, the Indian newspapers never dared or cared to say that the people had their separate rights and entities from those of their rulers.

The threatening attitude of the local authorities, and the out-break of a virulent type of malaria compelled the proprietors to leave their native village and shift to this city, where they were perfect strangers, with Rs. 100 only in pocket, borrowed from a kind neighbour at 25 per cent. interest.

Lord Lytton, however, by his Press Act, did a great service to this journal. The provisions of that Act applied not only to the vernacular press but also to the English columns of a diglot paper, and the "Patrika" thus came within their scope.

Like the Press Act of Lord Lytton, the Age of Consent measure of Sir A. Sooble gave this journal another lift. The only Hindu daily paper of the period, having given some sort of support to this loathsome Bill, the people keenly felt the need of another daily.

PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF EAST BENGAL TO ASSAM.

We said the other day how the public came to know about the proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam in 1896, though the Government sought to keep the matter a secret, and how they at once held protest meetings in all parts of the Division.

"(1) Is Government aware that there is now considerable alarm and agitation in the Chittagong Division arising from an apprehension that the said Division will be transferred from the Province of Bengal to that of Assam?"

"(2) Will Government be pleased to state whether such a proposal is now under its consideration?"

"(3) If so, will Government be pleased to publish all papers and correspondence relating thereto so as to allow the people of the Chittagong Division an opportunity of submitting representations and reasons against the proposed transfer?"

The Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn, (the late Lieutenant-Governor) the then Home Member, thus replied:—

"The Government of India have received representations which show that the idea of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam is regarded with dissatisfaction by some people of the Division. The Government of India decided in 1892 that the Chittagong District should be transferred to Assam as soon as settlement operations were concluded in it.

"The Government of India will give attentive consideration to any representations against the proposed transfer which the people of the Chittagong Division may submit through the Government of Bengal; but they do not think it necessary to publish at present any papers relating to the matter."

What happened was this. The idea of weakening the Bengalee nation, on the plea of strengthening Assam, originated with Sir Charles Elliott, who was Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in 1892. In that year a Chittagong gentleman asked him whether his district was really going to be annexed to Assam.

Fancy the way rulers like Sir Charles Elliott seek to dispose of the fate of tens of millions of human beings, placed under their charge. The matter, said he, did not concern the people at all. Yes, in one sense, he was right. The position of the people of this country is like that of the two bullocks whose story is so well-known.

"1. Will Government be pleased to state the grounds of the proposed transfer of the Chittagong District and Chittagong Division to Assam, so as to enable the people of the Division to meet the same in their representations against such transfer which will be submitted through the Government of Bengal and to which the Government of India has expressed its willingness to give attentive consideration?"

"2. Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a paragraph in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 14th (February) instant, which says:—"While on this subject (transfer of the Chittagong Division) a report that the transfer of Dacca and Mymensing to Assam is also under contemplation along with the Chittagong Division reaches us also."

"3. Will Government be pleased to state whether any such proposal has been made and is under its consideration?"

To the above, the then Home Member, the Hon'ble Mr. Woodburn, replied thus:—"The main grounds which led the Government of India to determine that the question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam should be considered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam were the following:—

"The Government of India considered it desirable, if possible, to relieve the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal of some portion of a charge which, owing to the development of the country and the growth of the population, unreasonably became too large to be administered by one Government. Assam, on the other hand, is the smallest province in British India for which there is a separate administration, and the addition to it of the Chittagong Division would not have the effect of throwing too great a burden on the Chief Commissioner. The interests of that province will be materially benefited by its being brought into direct communication with the sea, while those of the port of Chittagong are likely to receive more attention when it is annexed to Assam than can be given to it as one of several ports connecting the province of Bengal with the sea.

"2. The Government of India have noticed the reference in the newspaper ("Amrita Bazar Patrika") referred to by the Hon'ble Member as to the report that the transfer of Dacca

and Mymensing to Assam is under contemplation.

"3. The Government of India have made no proposal that Dacca and Mymensing should be transferred to Assam nor is such a proposal at present under their consideration."

About the same time, that is to say, on 1st March 1896, in reply to a question of the late Babu Guru Prosad Sen, at a meeting of the Local Council, on the subject of the transfer, the Government of Bengal under Sir Alexander Mackenzie declared:—

"The proposal to transfer the Chittagong Division to Assam was put forward in a conference which met in Calcutta in January, 1892, to examine certain questions relating to the country of the Lushai and Chin tribes. It was suggested that if the South Lushai Hills, with their avenues of access through the Chittagong District, were transferred to Assam, as was strongly recommended, it would be convenient that the whole Chittagong Division should also be transferred."

It was thus mainly for affording to the Chief Commissioner of Assam "avenues of access through the Chittagong District" to the South Lushai Hills that the Chittagong District and Division were to be transferred. Which means, that Sir Alexander did not agree with the Government of India, that Bengal, as it then stood and yet stands, was a too heavy charge for one Lieutenant-Governor. Indeed, none of the first three grounds, urged by the Government of India in favour of the transfer, was referred to by Sir Alexander in his reply to Babu Guru Prosad.

So what we find is that, in 1896, the Government of India stated that (1) to afford relief to the over-worked Government of Bengal, (2) to give work to the under-worked Government of Assam, (3) to secure a direct communication for the latter with the sea, and (4) to place the Assam-Bengal Railway under one Government that the Division of Chittagong was to be relegated to a non-regulation rule after a century and a half of regulation government.

Another important fact we gather from the reply of the Government of India quoted above is that the Home Member denied the truth of the report that along with the Chittagong Division, the districts of Dacca and Mymensing were also going to be made over to Assam. So the present proposal of adding these two districts to Assam is an after-thought. This requires an explanation from the Government. The transfer of Dacca and Mymensing was never contemplated in 1896. What then led the Government to change their views afterwards and make the proposal of lacking two more districts of Bengal to Assam? Who is the author of this proposal, and when did he first bring it forward before whom? Were the Local Governments of Bengal and Assam consulted before the proposal in question was accepted by the Government of India? Was the High Court consulted?

At least, the people of the doomed districts, who are directly interested in the question, knew nothing of the surprise that has been suddenly sprung upon them by Mr. Risley. A terrible earthquake could not have created such a panic among them as the announcement of the proposed transfer has done. Even now they are acting like those surprised in the dark. Why are they going to be thrown at the mercy of an inferior Administration after having enjoyed uninterruptedly the benefits of a superior Government for upwards of 150 years? We trust, some member of the Council will ask for information on the following points:—

"(1) Is it a fact that in 1892, it was decided to make over the Chittagong Division to Assam and then dropped? If so, will the Government publish all the papers in this connection, including the correspondence, if any, that passed between the India Government, the Governments of Bengal and Assam, and the High Court?"

"(2) Is it a fact that, in 1896, Sir Alexander Mackenzie said that, in order to enable the Assam Government to enter South Lushai Hills that the Chittagong District was sought to be annexed to Assam?"

"(3) Is it a fact that, in 1896, the question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division was referred to the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the then Chief Commissioner of Assam by the Government of India? If so, will the Government be pleased to place their reports on the table?"

"(4) Is it a fact that, the Calcutta High Court and the three District Judges of the Chittagong Division were consulted on the subject of transfer in 1896? If so, will the Government be pleased to lay their opinions on the table?"

"(5) Is it a fact that, Dacca and Mymensing were not contemplated to be transferred in 1896? If so, what has led the Government of India to change its views and propose the transfer of the same in 1903? Were the Local Governments of Bengal and Assam as well as the High Court consulted when this step was taken? If not, why?"

"(6) In view of the great alarm and consternation which the proposal has created, and following in the wake of the Government of Lord Elgin, will the Government be pleased to

invite the opinions of the Calcutta High Court and the principal public bodies of the province on the subject?"

KETTLE AND THREE BARRISTERS.

Mr. RISLEY has generously conceded that he would yield to genuine agitation. Of course, he did not say so directly; what he said was that he would not listen to spurious agitation, which, we humbly think, means that he will respect real agitation. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor also said the same thing when he declared that he had kept his mind open, and we have suggested to the rulers to send detectives to Eastern Bengal to ascertain how the project has affected the people of that quarter.

So we have two ways of carrying on the movement in this connection. One is to give tangible evidence of the fact that the people have, rightly or wrongly, serious objection to the dismemberment of their province; and this is being done by the numerous public meetings that are starting up just now in Eastern Bengal. The other is to show that the Government project is wrong, mischievous and outrageous. As the Government is disturbing an arrangement existing for about two hundred years, it is for the Government, and not the people, to explain why it should be disturbed, and the Government has given reasons, and a good many too, to show why the partition should be effected.

But the mischief is, the rulers do not agree in their own reasons. Sir Charles Elliott gave his reasons why Bengal should be emancipated to strengthen Assam, but Sir Henry Cotton also showed grounds to prove that Sir Charles Elliott was wrong. The Government of India, Sir A. Mackenzie, and others had also their reasons. The difficulty, however, is that the authorities do not always quite agree in their respective reasons, and sometimes they (the reasons) destroy one another. For instance, one authority says that Bengal should be divided, because, it is too heavy for one ruler; another says, no, that is not the real ground for the partition. And Mr. Risley ends by making a strange declaration. In his letter to the Government of Bengal he says:—

"In 1896-97 there was a prolonged discussion as to whether the Chittagong Division should also be transferred to Assam. But though the project seemed at one time likely to take shape, it was eventually set aside for the time on grounds which have now ceased to have effect."

So not only have the rulers advanced different, nay, contradictory, reasons why the project should be carried out, but we are told that old reasons have departed with their authors, the old rulers, and new ones are occupying their place with their authors, the new rulers.

So, it appears, Mr. Risley has abolished some of these reasons because they were barred by limitation, and repealed others because they were inconvenient, and replaced them by fresh ones. But though they repealed and abolished reasons and replaced them by new ones; though they shifted their grounds every five years; and though they contradicted one another and advanced one reason in 1892, another in 1896-97, and another in 1902-3; they agreed in one main point, namely, that Bengal should be dismembered.

Coming so far, can any body help repeating the story of "the kettle and three barristers?" Well, a shopkeeper sued a customer for the recovery of the price of a kettle sold to the latter. Three briefless barristers undertook to defend him free. The plea adopted by the first lawyer was that the kettle had a hole at the bottom and was therefore useless; and he dwelt very eloquently and at considerable length upon this important point. When he sat, up rose the second counsel. His contention was that the kettle had been returned to the shopkeeper sound and whole, and he too emphatically addressed on this point. It was now the turn of the third. His point was that his client had not taken the kettle at all. And thus though they differed in their arguments they agreed in the main point, that is to say, that their client was not liable for the payment of the price of the kettle.

Thus when a new house is erected, the pillars upon which the ceiling rests are examined, and those found weak are removed and replaced by stronger ones. And, if the house is shifted. Mr. Risley, by declaring that the Government has shifted its ground, admits that it had raised its project upon a base of sand.

We shall examine all the reasons—the new and the old ones—those newly brought forward and those repealed or abolished—one by one. But, in the meantime, we have a right to ask that Sir H. Cotton's official communication on the subject should be published as also the opinion of the Calcutta High Court, when the proposal was originally made in 1896-97.

We are afraid that, the report of the Calcutta Senate on the Universities Bill, so far as the constitution of future Senates is concerned, will not meet with the views of the general public. What they have recommended is this. If the present Bill is passed, then the first Senate, if it were to contain 100 Fellows, should, in their opinion, be formed in the following way, namely, seventy should be nominated by the present Senate out of their own number, subject to the approval of the Government, and thirty by the Government out of the existing Fellows or from other sources. We think this part of their resolution is all right. But when they recommend, in the same breath, that for the future, the number of Fellows required should be made up partly by election and partly by nomination, the graduates electing twenty-five per cent., and the Faculties or the Senate electing fifteen per cent., subject to the approval of the Government, and the Government nominating sixty per cent., they practically give everything which the Government demands. For, what does it mean? It means that, out of 100 Fellows we shall get only 25 per cent. elected. It is true that the Faculties or the Senate will elect 15 per cent. more, but, as the Senate will consist of 60 per cent. of Government nominees, so this 15 per cent. will consist of largely, and sometimes wholly, of Government's men. So only 25, or, at the most, 30 per cent. of people's representatives will be matched against 75 or 70 per cent. of official or Government nominated members. Thus with 75 against 25, the Senate will be a Government institution, pure and simple. It is quite true that, under the present arrangement, official voice is supreme in University matters, and all the Fellows owe their existence to the pleasure of the Government. But that is a defect; and not only should our present Senate, when discussing the Bill, have pointed it out but demanded that

future Senates should be made more popular in their character than they are now. As a matter of fact, if the existing Senates have many shortcomings, they are due to the preponderance of official voice in their deliberations. So, even as an experimental measure, future Senates should be formed on more popular than official basis. What we apprehend is that, if officials have everything in their way in future, as they must have with an over-whelming majority to back them, the Indian Universities will be even greater failures than they have ever been.

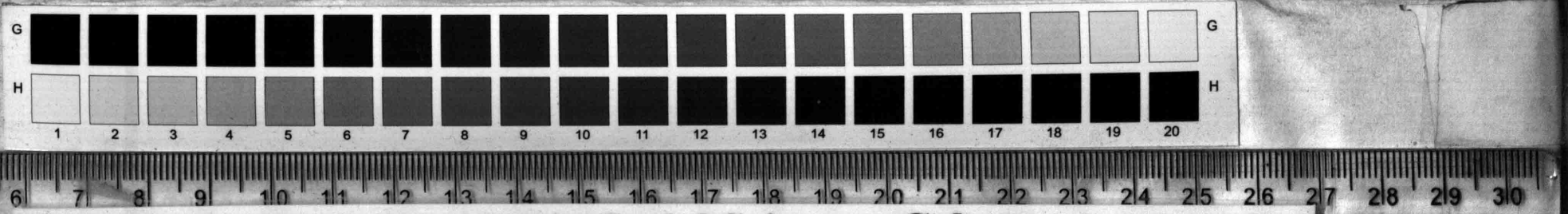
This West is as interested in the subject of the partition of Bengal as the East, at least there is no doubt that the West are vitally interested in the question. That being so, it is time that the West should move. Now there are three ways of carrying on this agitation. The East can ignore the West, and take up the agitation alone. The second is for the two to combine and work together; and the third is, for each to act separately. But the West are neither acting independently nor conjointly, nay, they are not moving at all. May we inquire why this should be so? As regards the feeling of the West in this subject, we need hardly say that it is as strong as that of the East. Nay, if we do not betray a secret, Maharaja Bahadur Jotindra Mohan Tagore is working for the cause in a quiet, and therefore not less effective, way. It is not perhaps not known that some high authorities had queer notions in this connection. Their notion was that if Dacca and Mymensing objected, Chittagong and the other two affected districts would not. Their other notion was that the West, if it did not cordially approve of the transference, would still remain indifferent. Are not the people of Eastern Bengal regarded with contempt by the people of the West? That was what the authorities thought. But the attitude of Sir Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore must have removed that notion altogether. The Government has, we believe, now come to realize that the West is as much opposed to the project as the East is.

Indeed the feeling against the measure is getting stronger day by day. The masses do not read newspapers. So it takes sometime for them not only to be acquainted with public questions but to realize their significance. The Government oftentimes tries to minimize the importance of public movements by attributing their origin to political agitators and interested parties. If the authorities are anxious to know how the proposal of the separation has affected the minds of the people, let them send secret agents to find the thing for themselves. People say the Government has a strong detective department, which is manned by Indians, who are, as a rule, said to be shrewd, diplomatic and a little bit unscrupulous, judged by the strict rules of morality. They can, we are assured, assume any disguise for the purpose of deceiving simple-minded people. Why does not Government send dozens of such men to East Bengal to ascertain whether the public meetings that are starting all over the districts are due to real feeling or actions of political agitators?

PARANTHETICALLY let us remark here that the Police Department can never be efficient in India. It is because the district heads of the Police Department are all white men, and they can not therefore hide their personality from the people by any trick whatever. We saw once a Police Inspector, possibly a Eurasian, but having the skin of a European, trying to play the Bengali Babu. But he was found out no sooner he came before the public. It is for this reason that the heads of the Police Department can not freely mix with the people without being discovered and hence the detection of crime is very difficult for them. Unless the superior Police officers have opportunities of mixing unsuspected with the people, they will never succeed in their work. It is absurd to expect that Indians will freely converse with European officials; therefore, to make the Police Department efficient, the Government should make it over to the Indians. As European District Superintendents will not do, let the Government send some very intelligent Inspectors of the Detective Department to see how the people have taken this project of separation. If a man of Hooghly is told that the seat of Government will be removed to Dacca beyond the Padma, he will consider the information as a terrible one. So every peasant of East Bengal will consider it as a great misfortune when he comes to know that he is going to be placed under the inferior administration of Assam.

Mr. JUDGE LUCAS, who heard the appeal of Mr. Tilak, has upheld his conviction upon one out of two counts, and only reduced the sentence passed on him by Mr. Magistrate Clements. That is to say, he got eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment from the Magistrate, and he will have now, under the order of the Judge, to work in jail for six months, which is sufficient time for a man in the position of Mr. Tilak to die. He is no longer wanted in India; and, if he unluckily survives the present punishment, let him go to a wilderness and pass his days in prayer and devotion. A man who has been forsaken by his earthly Providence ought to take shelter under the lotus feet of Heavenly Providence. And why has he been dealt with so ferociously? Is he really a criminal? Even Mr. Judge Lucas himself had to admit in his judgment that his motives were honest and he acted all along with the intention of benefiting the estate of Baba Maharaj. As a matter of fact, though he is convicted and sentenced, even his bitterest enemy will refuse to believe that he is consciously capable of committing the offence attributed to him. The authorities have thus gained very little by the incarceration of Mr. Tilak.

The Bengal Government's Resolution laying down "Rules for Secretariat Clerical Service," published in these columns on Dec. 10 last, has naturally caused great surprise. For, this is the first time, we believe, that a departure has been openly made from the wise policy, based upon Royal Proclamations, and the declarations of the highest authorities, by reserving certain appointments in special departments for Europeans and Eurasians only. Indeed, we are taken "back to learn that there is a special cadre in the Bengal Secretariat (proper) for Europeans and



Eurasians, to which the children of the soil have no access. The Resolution states that forty appointments in this special cadre will be reserved for the "Poor Whites", they being as follows:—12 for the departments under the Chief Secretary, 9 for those under the Revenue Secretary, 9 for those under the Financial Secretary, and 10 for those under the Secretaries in the Public Works Department. This special cadre is exclusive of the appointments of Registrar, and on the occurrence of a vacancy in those appointments Government reserves to itself the right to appoint to it any one either from the general or special cadres or from outside the Secretariat establishment. The appointments in the special cadre, to be reserved in each grade with salaries attached to them, are given in the following table:—

Table with 3 columns: Grade, Rs., and number of appointments. Grades I to IX with corresponding salaries and counts.

So forty clerical appointments, carrying salaries from Rs. 60 to Rs. 400 are to be made over exclusively to Europeans and Eurasians. May we enquire how is it possible for the Government to make such an arrangement without violating the provisions of the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 and the pledges given by various Secretaries of State one after another? Was it not solemnly declared in the severities of the last century that appointments in almost all the special departments, carrying salaries of Rupees 200 and upwards per month were reserved solely for the Indians? How, in the face of such declarations, can the Government ostracise the Indians from forty appointments in the Secretariat, specially as pure Indians are most fitted to hold this class of appointments with credit than Europeans and Eurasians? We are all the more surprised at the publication of such a Resolution by the Government of Sir Andrew Fraser, who, it is believed, is incapable of making racial distinction in the matter of State patronage. Perhaps the Government has a good explanation on the subject; if so, the public will be very much obliged to the Lieutenant-Governor if his Honour will see his way to offer one; for, not to mince matters, they see nothing but gross race partiality in the matter in question.

This Orissa Conference has done at least one service: it has brought into prominent notice a plant which produces excellent fibre. Now there are many such plants in India, but the one under notice has some special favourable characteristics which mark it out from others. Indeed, it is apparently nothing but jute, more correctly, a species of wild jute. The fibre which it yields however is finer, stronger, and whiter than that of the jute, though perhaps shorter. But its great advantages are that it grows wild, and in abundance, is a hard plant, and is not in much need of moisture for its growth. Indeed, it grows luxuriantly upon rocky soil. It can be found in any quantity in the jungly tracts adjoining Orissa, and it can be had for the asking. Here is an opportunity for His Highnesses of Mourbhari, Keonger and other Orissa States to improve the condition of their subjects. If the plant becomes as valuable as jute, we have no fear that Bengal will suffer in any way. For jute is now grown in rice fields, and rice is as profitable as jute is. Jute cultivation in rice fields has only this advantage that, by the well-known law called the rotation of crops, jute and rice, if sown alternately, the productive power of the land is increased.

We are deeply grieved to hear of the death of Babu Karuna Sindh Mukherjee, a prominent Vakil of the High Court. The melancholy incident happened at Deogarh about a week ago, where he was putting up during the Christmas holidays. He was apparently quite hale and sound; and while proceeding from his Deogarh house to that of Mr. Justice Ghose, he suddenly dropped down on the way in a fit, and became totally unconscious. He expired the following day, leaving a widow, several children and a large circle of friends to mourn for him. It is believed he died either of apoplexy or heart disease. Babu Karuna Sindh was eminently a good man. Perhaps he had no enemy in the world. He came of a very respectable Zemindar family of Koodala, B. R. bhum. He was an extremely pious man and had firm faith in the goodness of God.

The reader is aware that a large number of leading Marwari gentlemen of Calcutta have submitted a memorial to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal through Ram Kumar Jaimal paying for a sitting in the enquiry into the alleged corruption in the Income Tax Office of Calcutta and an immunity from criminal prosecution of those witnesses who gave bribes to the alleged offending officials. For, under the law, both the giver and the taker of bribes are equally liable to punishment. Now we shall offer some general remarks on this subject.

LORD BROUGHTON said, while addressing the House of Lords on the Bill of Degradation and Divorce introduced for depriving Queen Caroline of Brunswick of the honours attaching to her position as Queen-consort of the ruler, that as regards the administration of justice, actual purity is of less moment than the reputation of purity. This observation applies with equal force to the machinery in every department of the State. The presence of a corrupt official in any department is not, after all, so harmful as a belief among the people that the department is corrupt. Government, in every branch of administration, ought to be like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. When, therefore, the purity of a particular department is openly called in question, the responsible authorities should do everything in their power to see that the reputation lost is regained. Inquiry should never be hurried and every facility should be given for making it thorough, impartial and complete. And lastly, if need be, immunity should be offered to witnesses desirous of coming forward to prove corruption on unassailable grounds.

LORD MACAULAY in his Notes on the Draft Penal Code submitted to Lord Auckland said:— "One important question still remains to be considered. We are of opinion that we have provided sufficient punishment for the public servant who receives a bribe. But it may be doubted whether we have provided sufficient punishment for the person who offers it. The person who, without any demand, express or implied, on the part of a public servant, volunteers an offer of a bribe and induces that public servant to accept it, will be punishable under the general rule contained in Cl. 88 as an instigator. But the person who complies with a demand, however signalled, on the part of a public servant cannot be considered as guilty of instigating that public servant to receive a bribe. We do not propose that such a person shall be liable to any punishment, and as this omission may possibly appear censurable to many persons, we are desirous of explaining our reasons.

"In all states of society, the receiving of a bribe is a bad action and may properly be made punishable. But whether the giving of a bribe ought or ought not to be punished is a question which does not admit of a short and general answer. There are countries, on the other hand, in which the giving of a bribe may be what it is not desirable to visit with any punishment. In a country situated like England, the giver of a bribe is generally the tempter, the receiver is the tempted. The giver is generally rich, powerful, well-educated; the receiver, needy and ignorant. The giver is under no apprehension of suffering any injury if he refuses to give. It is not by fear but by ambition that he is generally induced to part with his money. Such a person is a proper subject of punishment. But there are countries where the case is widely different, where men give bribes because no man can, without a bribe, obtain common justice. In such countries we think that the giving of bribes is not a proper subject of punishment. It would be as absurd, in such a state of society, to reproach the giver of a bribe with corrupting the virtue of public servants as it would be to say that the traveller who delivers his money when a pistol is held to his breast, corrupts the virtue of the highway man.

"We would, by no means, be understood to say that India, under the British Government, is in a state answering to this last description. Still we fear that it is undeniable that corruption does prevail to a great extent among the lower class of public functionaries, that the power which those functionaries possess renders them formidable to the body of the people; that in the great majority of cases the receiver of the bribe is really the tempter and that the giver of the bribe is really acting in self-defence.

"Under these circumstances we are strongly of opinion that it would be unjust and cruel to punish the giving of a bribe in any case in which it would not be proved that the giver has really by his instigations corrupted the virtue of a public servant, who unless temptation had been put in his way would have acted uprightly.

A writer in the "Saturday Review" said that the notes on the Draft Penal Code from which the above observation is made, constitute the "chef d'œuvre" of Macaulay. Indeed, if Macaulay had written nothing else, his reputation as a jurist and a master of English prose would still have been safe. We commend the above observations to those officials who are for burking inquiry into the charges of corruption brought against the Calcutta Income Tax Office. In the Draft Penal Code there was no section which made the giver of a bribe punishable unless it could be proved that the giver was the instigator and that by his instigation he corrupted the virtue of the public servant. It was Sir Barnes Peacock who, in revising the draft code of Macaulay, introduced the sections on bribery and made the giver in every case, as much guilty as the receiver. It was an ill-advised measure. It placed bribery beyond detection, for the giver will deny the gift as stoutly as the receiver will deny the receipt. It is absolutely necessary that if corruption is to be proved, immunity should be given to those who come forward to incriminate themselves for proving it.

WHILE on this subject, we can not refrain from alluding to an earlier case of alleged corruption in the Income Tax Office. The Board of Revenue is, it seems, subject to periodical fits of morality. At one time, accusations, as in the present instance, among worthy non-resident persons, with offers of proof, are unheeded. At other times, the merest breath of suspicion induces it to take severe action. Babu Rakhal Chander Ghose, an able assessor of Income Tax, was dismissed in 1883, because a certain Mahomedan gentleman chose to say to the then Presidency Commissioner that he had heard some persons say that they had heard that Rakhal was corrupt. We quote an extract from para. 18 of his memorial:—

"It will be seen that it was Hadjee Noor Mahomed who was the Commissioner's informant about the corruption of Your Excellency's memorialist. The Hadjee, again, it is expressly stated, had for his informants some persons who are described as all respectable and some of them amongst the wealthiest men in Calcutta. Who the informants of the Hadjee were, were not mentioned by name. Whether, again, those informants had informants of their own from whom they had heard about the corruption of your Excellency's memorialist can not be ascertained. The informants of the Hadjee might, for ought that is known to the contrary, have had informants from whom they had received information. When there were so many wealthy men behind the Hadjee, was it difficult to prove even a single act of corruption against Your Excellency's memorialist? The failure to prove even a single instance of corruption shows what the character was of the information which the Hadjee laid before the Commissioner and which the latter accepted unhesitatingly."

This statement, made by the Mahomedan gentleman in 1883, was held to be sufficient evidence for breaking the poor man. He appealed to the Government of Bengal and then to the Government of India. "Declines to interfere" was the reply he got from both for his pains. The Collector of Income Tax, Mr. Goodricke, was then himself "under a cloud." He had quarrelled with the Presidency Com-

missioner, who naturally wished to make his subordinate feel the edge of his power. The Board of Revenue sided with the Commissioner. The situation was scandalous in the extreme. Mr. Goodricke supported poor Rakhal. The was Rakhal's misfortune; indeed, even evidence of guilt. The Bengal Secretary, who disposed of Rakhal's appeal, actually said that Mr. Goodricke's favourable opinion of the appellant could be of no value. The truth is, the Commissioner had succeeded in obtaining the ear of the Secretary Rakhal's case was disposed of on the strength of a report by the Board that was anterior in point of time to his well-argued memorial to the Lieutenant-Governor. The Presidency Commissioner, the Board of Revenue, the Bengal Secretariat had then the fit of morality. We understand that Rakhal Chander Ghose has addressed a memorial to Lord Curzon. Every difficulty is being thrown in the way of its reaching the Viceroy. Lord Curzon has it in his power to disappoint many expectations. Will he call for this memorial? From the papers connected with it, His Excellency, we do not hesitate to say, will learn some useful lessons on Indian administration.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, Dec. 13. THE LATE LORD STANLEY AS A MOHAMMEDAN.

It was an open secret during the life of the late Lord Stanley of Alderley that so far as he placed dependence upon any religious faith, Mohammedanism was that faith. He was not demonstrative in his worship. This, perhaps, was to be commended seeing that he was, under the quiet conditions of a Christian, maintained by the Established Church in this country, the patron of more than one church. In those churches he took great interest and was always well pleased when his guests attended service at least once on Sunday. But he did not attend himself. The question having arisen since his death as to whether the noble lord's faith really was that of the Prophet, Sheikh Quilliam of Liverpool, the head of the Mohammedan faith in this country, confirmed the information that the late Lord Stanley of Alderley embraced that religion many years ago. Recent communications passed between them regarding it, and the Sheikh states correctly that his lordship took no pains to hide his belief. His Mohammedan name was Abdur Rahman, or "Servant of the Merciful." At the Liverpool Mosque on Sunday night special prayers were said as a requiem for his lordship. On Tuesday morning at the early hour of eight Lord Stanley was buried in Alderley Park according to the rites of Moslemism. Only the immediate family circle were present at the interment, and the body was carried to the grave by a number of employes at Alderley Park. The putting away of the mortal remains of Lord Stanley was of the simplest character and, in so far as it was simple and unostentatious, it was in accord with his life.

WHAT "EDWARD R. AND I" STANDS FOR.

Probably, the most weighty opponent in the Press which Mr. Chamberlain has encountered is that sober and most influential journal, "The Economist." The fact that it was edited for many years by one of the early Finance Ministers of India should not make its attitude less interesting to Indian readers. By the way it may be remarked that no Editor—Indian or Anglo-Indian or English—has been found in the Viceroy's Council since Mr. Wilson looked after the finances of India. Concerning Mr. Chamberlain's sneer at all who do not agree with his peculiar views concerning the White Man colonies as being men who care nothing about the Empire and would leave the colonies to shift for themselves, your important contemporary, as regards the Empire, it would be interesting to know if Mr. Chamberlain had ever considered what "Edward R. and I" stands for. Judging from the neglect with which he has treated India, the "Economist" would be inclined to doubt it. "That vast continent—an empire in itself, and in population far exceeding all the rest of the British Empire put together—has never presented itself to his imagination. Every proposal he has made in the direction of Imperial unity has been met by the inquiry—How will this affect India? But it is not an inquiry that Mr. Chamberlain has been at any pains to answer. His definition of the Empire would seem to be, a collection of self-governing colonies—dependencies do not count—which ask for preferential tariffs. To have a moment's hesitation about granting this request is to be indifferent to the true source of England's greatness, the crown of emerald stars which is her best title to fame." Your contemporary thinks it worth while to consider for a moment how these emerald stars would fare in Mr. Chamberlain's hands. If there be one thing more than another which is of importance to the welfare of an infant community it is the multiplication of industries. Only sixty miles away, it remarks, we have a disastrous example of what comes to a community which draws its whole subsistence from a single source. Indeed, in the long record of English sins against Ireland, nothing stands out more prominently than her suppression of Irish manufactures. "Yet this is the very policy which Mr. Chamberlain wishes to pursue towards the colonies. He would not, indeed, destroy colonial industries—this amount of concession he does make to modern ideas of colonial administration. But he would tempt the colonies themselves to forego these industries of their own free will, in order to find a better market for their agricultural produce. Happily for themselves, the colonies have declined the suggestion, but the fact that it has been made is a curious illustration of the subordinate place really assigned to the colonies in Mr. Chamberlain's scheme." These arguments are only too familiar to Indian economists. I quote them to indicate the necessity which exists for the economists of your country to insist, in season and out of season, upon their application to India. Had Mr. Chamberlain really been an Imperialist he would have discerned India's clamant need first of all and have advocated its relief all the time. As it is he simply the municipal politician who looked fairly well—and only fairly well—after the

affairs of Birmingham in his early manhood. As a statesman, with present eye and wide forecast, the ex-Colonial Secretary has no existence.

THE TWO LONDON BYE-ELECTIONS.

The English Free Traders are mighty unreasonable. Ninety-nine out of every hundred of them on Tuesday last at midnight and early on Wednesday morning were distinctly disappointed at the results of the polling at Dulwich and at Lewisham. Because the Free Trade candidates were not returned, they had a momentary spasm of despair. "May all the curses of Gehenna pursue Harmsworth and Pearson and their Protectionist Halfpenny papers for all the mischief they are doing in London!" was the first remark I heard on Wednesday morning from an ardent Free Trader. It was his way of beginning a conversation with me on the Dulwich and Lewisham results. Two of the strongest Tory seats in the United Kingdom did not succumb to the first attack made upon them, and sanguine Free Traders were greatly disappointed. On the other hand, the Tories, that is, the Protectionists were unduly elated at a success which they had hardly dared to hope for. One of the Protectionist papers cried aloud in its joy: "Chamberlain policy wins the day; victory rests with Tariff Reformers." To the comment it was properly retorted that the Chamberlain policy and the Tariff Reform have between them reduced two Tory majorities by an aggregate of 2,047 votes, and it was added: "If they win in the same proportion all round at the general election, the result will be the greatest Liberal and Free Trade sweep ever known. Tariff reform is a poor cry if it needs a margin of 1,023 votes to carry it." Indeed, if only Free Traders would be reasonable they would find great occasion for satisfaction in these contests. Whenever a bye-election takes place, the "Westminster Gazette" makes an analysis of the votes recorded in all recent contests. It has followed this excellent practice in relation to the latest fights. Your vigorous contemporary is not dismayed, nor is there any room for dismay. It declares that to expect to win these seats was to anticipate that a miracle would be wrought. If, it urges, these two seats had been captured by the Liberal Party, the fair inference would have been that only about one hundred Conservative members would have escaped alive from a General Election. Let us, it goes on to remark, dismiss these fancies and try, so far as the bye-elections are any guide, to weigh the real probabilities of the great fight. The following table shows at a glance the transfer of votes at bye-elections in the last two years:

Table showing vote transfers at bye-elections in 1900 and 1902-3. Columns for Liberal vote and Conservative vote with percentage changes.

Majority C. 32,801 L. 237 If the plan adopted by the "Daily Chronicle" be followed, and the elections be examined which have been contested since Mr. Chamberlain launched his new policy, a slightly different result is found.

Table showing vote transfers at latest contests in 1903. Columns for Liberal vote and Tory vote with percentage changes.

Tory Majority 9,028 L. 4,110 "The Liberal increase, therefore, goes on, but the Tories have pulled up a little. There is nothing to be dismayed at in these figures. The 'new policy' has done precisely what might have been expected of anything, good or bad. This is a same way of regarding the facts. Such increase in voting strength as the Liberals have lately shown, if manifested generally, as it certainly would be, could not fail to give the Free Traders a splendid majority in the House of Commons.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN IS DELIGHTED.

Sir,—The irate indignation with which the Chamberlain press has jumped at the retention by reduced majorities of two Tory seats—uncontested at the last general election, and one of them uncontested at the last two general elections—is strongly reminiscent of the antics of the drowning man to snatch even at a straw. For, apply the Dulwich result to the whole of London, and what do you get? To-day London is represented as follows:— Unionists, 54; Liberals, 10. Mr. Masterman's reduction of the last Tory majority in Dulwich by 1,645 would mean a loss of 21 London Tory seats. So that, had all London been polling yesterday, and were the Dulwich result typical, London's representation would now stand:— Unionists, 30; Liberals, 81.

Table showing London's representation: Tories 395, Liberals 193, Nationalists 82, Total 670.

Tory majority over Liberals (excluding Nationalists altogether) 202 Assuming that the Dulwich result is characteristic, Mr. Chamberlain would lose 133 seats in Great Britain (I do not examine the case of Ireland at all). Things would then stand thus: Liberals 326, Tories 262, Nationalists 82, Total 670.

Liberal majority over Tories (excluding Nationalists altogether) 64 I see that Mr. Chamberlain "is delighted with the results." He is easily pleased nowadays. According to the Dulwich test the practical government of the country could only remain in his hands by grace of the Irish Party, the members of which (when other things are slowing down) he is never tired of describing as "traitors." For so ostentatiously patriotic a gentleman, this "delight" of his is a little remarkable. His great schemes for what he is pleased to call the consolidation and unification of the Empire are only possible by favour of those who, according to him, are bent upon

the destruction and disruption of the Empire! And yet he is "delighted!"

Another feature of the recent election was indicated on Wednesday afternoon by Mr. Augustine Birrell, President of the National Liberal Federation, in opening a district conference at Ipswich, remarking that Dr. Rutherford Harris was now a Member of Parliament, he asked: Was there not something sinister in the fact that the first candidate that stood as an out-and-out supporter of Mr. Chamberlain should be a man of the character, calibre, and history of Dr. Rutherford Harris? Of such was the kingdom of Chamberlain! A man now goes into the House of Commons who has not only been severely censured by a Select Committee of that House, but has also been unseated when elected for saying of his opponent that which was not true. Dr. Harris is a fit follower of Mr. Chamberlain.

"LEPER" AND A FISH DIET.

The "Amrita Bazar Patrika" is not a believer in Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson's theories that "leper" in India is the result of a fish diet. That is to say, if I remember rightly, the "Patrika" has assailed the aged and eminent Doctor's views. It would seem as if the brief in a direct communication between "leper" and fish diet obtained in other parts of the world. Two nights ago, reading a story in the December "Temple Bar", called "The Star of a Leopard", I can across the following passage:—

"... this little chap's birthmarks frightened everyone. He appears to have something very like a sort of white ringworm on the back of his neck, and some similar marks of the same kind on other parts of his body, promptly identified, from some famous resemblance, with the spots on a leopard.

"A kind of leprosy?" "It may have been, and it is possible that, in a groping sort of way, the priests were acting on some such ideas, though there is never much leprosy as you know, among inland tribes, who don't eat fish." This is a curious and interesting confirmation of the fish diet theory. The locale of the story is the hinterland of the West Coast of Africa.

FIRE-WALKING BY FIJIANS.

At a meeting of the Royal Colonial Institute, held on Tuesday last, Mr. W. L. Allardye, C.M.G., read a most interesting paper on the Fire-walking of the Fijians. He explained that the object of his paper was to supply information with regard to some of the ancient customs of the Fijians, including Fire-walking—or the ceremony of Vuvulavavu, that is, the glowing oven, by which is meant the extraordinary feat of walking barefoot over red hot stones. A number of views supplied a very realistic idea of the ceremony as performed now-a-days. The circular earth oven, around and through which the Fijians walk, is about twenty-five feet in diameter. It is dug out in the first instance to a depth of between two and three feet, and then large logs of wood are stacked up in it to a height of several feet above the ground. Some of these tree trunks are as much as fifteen and twenty inches through. Stones varying in size from six inches to two feet across are placed between the logs and on the top, and the fire is kindled about twelve hours before the ceremony, such charred logs as remain on the top of the stones are removed by long, incombustible rope vines, and the rough surface of the oven is levelled. The temperature at the edge of the oven is about 120 deg. Fahrenheit, while, on the one occasion when a thermometer was suspended immediately over the stones, it registered 282 deg. Fahrenheit, when the solder melted. When the Master of the Ceremonies considers that the natives walk over it sufficiently levelled, the natives walk over it barefooted, and after doing so show no sign of having passed through this extraordinary ordeal. What is it that prevents the flesh of the fire-walkers from being burnt? Can some of the Indian readers of this paragraph answer the question? It should be possible in the land of the Yogas, the ascetics, of the sanyasis, to learn how the natural effect of fire is avoided. Some interesting notes, corroborating the statements made by Mr. Allardye, appeared in yesterday's "Daily News." Knowing the interest which Indians take in such triumphs over Nature, I append them as they stand. They are as follow:—

Mr. Allardye's account of fire-walking among the Fijis is corroborated by the Rev. A. T. Saville, the Hon. Sec. in East Sussex to the London Missionary Society. Mr. Saville witnessed precisely the same feat in the island of Hushine, near to Tahiti, distant 1,500 miles from Fiji, and one of the first islands in the Pacific to be reclaimed from heathenism.

Christianity had been established for sixty years, but Mr. Saville was still assured by his deacons that natives, fortified by evil spirits, could walk over intensely heated stones. Mr. Saville himself was incredulous until a day came when conviction was forced upon him by the evidence of his eyes.

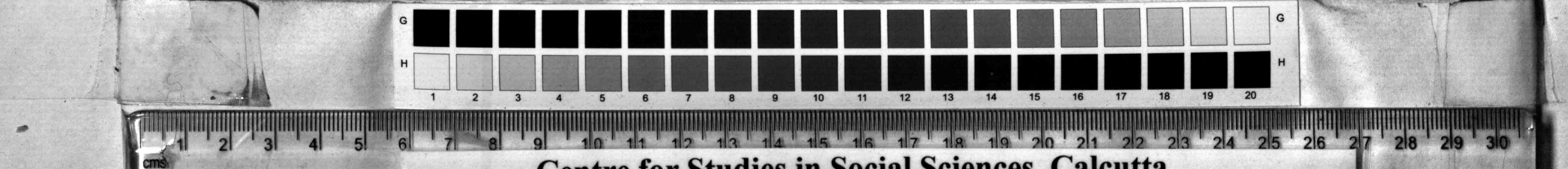
An oven had been constructed for cooking roots, which could only be eaten after subjection to great heat. Great trunks of trees and large boulders were mingled together in a high mound over circular holes. At sunset the wood was kindled, and by morning there only remained the stones, which were white hot. Six or eight young fellows brought up in Mr. Saville's own school stood dressed in calico shirt and loin cloth. An elderly native went through a short incantation, waved a branch several times, after which the boys calmly paced from stone to stone till they reached the other side of the 20-foot chasm.

With equal safety and composure they retraced their steps. Their hair was not singed, their attire had not suffered, nor were their feet, which Mr. Saville examined, in any way injured. The natives explained that the stone had to be absolutely white hot.

Does not the explanation lie in the action of the moisture on the foot protecting it momentarily from very great heat?

A correspondent writes from Colombo:— Lord Northcote, accompanied by Lady Northcote, arrived on Sunday by the "Moldavia" from London and left this morning for Australia.

After some days, the plague returns of the Bangalore Station were issued the other day. Some more Eurasians have been attacked besides Mr. Hay Ellis's little girl, one of them, a child of 8 years, having died.



Indian Notes.

SIR J. A. BOURDILLON K.C.S.I.

Sir James Bourdillon, the Resident in Mysore, arrived at Madras on Monday from Bangalore.

THE DEPARTURE OF THE BOER PRISONERS OF WAR.

The Boer prisoners of war at Ahmednagar, whom General Delarey recently persuaded to take the oath of allegiance, left Ahmednagar for Bombay on Sunday.

MAHOMEDAN CONFERENCE AT MADRAS.

The Nadwa-ul-Ulma Conference of Mahomedan theologians commenced its sittings in the Indian Congress Hall on Monday afternoon.

CHIEF'S COLLEGES.

We understand that the Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the scheme for the re-organization of the Chiefs' Colleges in India.

STRIKE AT THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT PRESS.

A strike occurred at the Madras Government Press, due to the revised rules regarding working hours and the quantum of work demanded.

THE RANGOON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the last Committee meeting of the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce, the question of the proposed railway into the Southern Shan States was considered.

ARREST OF A BRITISH CAVALRY OFFICER.

Second Lieutenant A. G. Cooper, of the 6th Dragoon Guards (the Carabimers) stationed at Bangalore, was arrested at the Comemara Hotel on Tuesday last in connection with certain alleged irregularities in the regimental accounts.

DEATH OF A BOMBAY RESIDENT.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. usso Haji Casam Amina, second son of the late Mirza Khan Bahadur Haji Casam Amina.

TIBET MISSION.

The telegraph offices at Lamtang and Lingtang in the Te sia Valley have been closed as it has apparently been found that they were of no practical use as a means of keeping up communication with the Tibet Mission.

We understand that information has been received from Colonel Younghusband that he can arrange to receive two fresh representatives in his Camp at Chumbi Valley.

As no further news has been received of the Tibet Mission for some days, the supposition is that matters remain in statu quo.

MADRAS RAILWAYS BREACHED.

BREACHES have occurred on the East Coast Railway at the 134th mile. The mails and passengers are being transhipped.

LATER accounts give very dismal reports of the condition of affairs on the South Indian Railway, caused by the recent deluge.

THE UNIVERSITIES BILL.

The Graduates of the Madras University have submitted a memorial to Lord Amulthill, as Chancellor of the Madras University.

RECOVERY OF STOLEN PROPERTY.

Inspector Robbins, of the Bangalore Police Force, made a smart detection of two large burglary cases, one in which Captain Howe, 77th Moplah Rifles, lost Rs. 4,000 worth of property.

THE TILAK APPEAL CASE.

Mr. Lucas, the District and Sessions Judge of Poona, on Monday, delivered judgment in the case in which Mr. Tilak appealed against his sentence.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

NEW TARIFF VALUES ON COTTON GOODS.—A Customs Circular fixes new tariff values with effect from the 1st January on certain descriptions of cotton goods.

POSTAL.—We learn that the arrangement that has been made by the Post Office with the Bengal-Nagpur Railway for the carriage of the Bombay mails from and to Calcutta will not come into force till March.

CENSUS REPORT.—The Indian Census Report for 1901 has now been completed, and is in the hands of the printers.

The Berhampur Bribery Case.—The District Magistrate of Burdwan delivered a judgment on Saturday last in the above sensational case, which was transferred to his file by the High Court.

The Wheat Crop.—The first general memorandum on the wheat crop states that the reports from the chief wheat growing provinces are not favourable.

Water Supply of the City.—The Special Committee, which the Corporation appointed at the last meeting to consider the suggestions advanced by the new Engineer Mr. MacCabe, regarding the water supply of the city.

Custody of a Child.—At the High Court on Saturday before Mr. Justice Sala Mr. Ayeetoon applied on behalf of the petitioner in the divorce suit of Reginald John Coombs vs. Anne Frances Coombs.

A Novel Procedure.—We take the following from the "Weekly Chronicle" of Sylhet:—Fazal Rahaman alias Kalameah is the Head Mohareer of the Police Omeer here.

THE LINER PREUSSEN.—The Liner Preussen has been refloated. FRANCO-SIAMENSE CONVENTION.

France and Siam have agreed to extend till 10th February the period for ratifying the Convention of October, 1902.

The Argentine vessels sold to Japan have been renamed the "Nysshin" and "Karuga."

The views taken at the Japanese Legation in London to-day are distinctly more gloomy upon advices received from Paris.

The absence of news from Japan has increased the pessimistic feeling in London.

Lloyd's underwriters are demanding additional premium to cover war risks on vessels proceeding east of Singapore.

Five Russian destroyers have left Malta hurriedly without completing their repairs.

The cruiser King Alfred has sailed for China.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

ENGLISH HONOURS.

Owing to the proximity of the Birthday Honours there will be no English New Year Honours. They will henceforth be replaced by the Coronation Day Honours.

PROMOTION FOR COMMANDER GAUNT.

Commander Gaunt of the "Mohawk" has been promoted to Captain.

THE HOMEWARD MAIL.

The Calcutta mails of the 17th instant arrived at Brindisi to-day.

AMERICA AND ABYSSINIA.

Mr. Skinner, the American Consul-General at Marseilles, who went on a mission to Abyssinia in September last, has procured Menelik's signature to a commercial treaty.

AUSTRALIA AND MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

The Commonwealth ministry has telegraphed to Mr. Chamberlain, on behalf of the people of Australia, an invitation for him to pay an early visit to Australia.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Japan has ordered the most rapid completion of the Argentine warships, which, it is hoped, will be ready by the end of January.

Reuter's Tokio correspondent says it is stated at Seoul that the Russian Minister is straining every nerve to prevail upon Korea to grant Russia a naval station at Masampo.

The Russian cruiser Almaz has left Liban for the Far East.

Mr. Chamberlain, in reply to Mr. Deakin's invitation to him to visit Australia, states that he is deeply grateful and recognises the advantage it would be, but, until a mandate is given him, lengthened absence is impossible.

LOSS OF A FRENCH VESSEL.

The French steamer "La Vienne," of which all hope had been abandoned, has arrived at Orleans partially disabled.

ADMIRAL ALEXIEFF.

A Russian Ukase grants Admiral Alexieff special vice-regal flags and accords him a salute of twelve guns.

OFFICERS' WIDOWS AND ORPHANS.

The Queen has devoted to a scheme for providing homes for officers' widows and daughters the Coronation gift of £10,000 presented to Her Majesty by Australia.

CRICKET IN AUSTRALIA.

In the second test match the English team closed their play for 211 for two wickets. Warner scored 68, Hayward, 53, and Tyldesley and Foster, not out, 46 and 49, respectively.

ANGLO-ITALIAN TREATY.

An Anglo-Italian Arbitration Treaty has been arranged on the same lines as the French-Italian Arbitration Treaty.

THE CHICAGO HORROR.

The funeral of some of the victims of the Chicago fire took place to-day. The number of the victims is so great that the funerals will continue to-morrow and Monday.

MEXICAN MONETARY COMMISSION.

The Mexican Monetary Commission has reported in favour of the gradual adoption of the gold standard.

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TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE TEST MATCH.

Play was resumed in the second Test Match at Melbourne. The Englishman made 806 for six wickets.

THE CHICAGO DISASTER.

In consequence of the report of the commission of inquiry into the fire at the Iroquois Theatre the Mayor of Chicago has closed nineteen theatres in compliance with the regulations.

THE COTTON CRISIS.

The Master Cotton-spinners' Federation has recommended a reduction in the working hours from 55½ to forty hours weekly.

THE REVENUE RETURNS.

The revenue for the quarter shows a decrease of £2,631,947, mainly due to customs, £987,055, and income tax £870,000.

JAPANESE SQUADRON FOR MASAMPHO.

Reuter from Tokio wires that a squadron consisting of six armoured cruisers is expected to leave Sasebo to-morrow for Masampo.

WAR OFFICE REFORM.

The Committee appointed to advise regarding the creation of a board for the administration of the business of the War Office held its first sitting at Portsmouth, and meets at the War Office to-day.

A WARLIKE PRESS.

Reuter wiring from Tokio to-day says the Japanese press urges the immediate opening of war against Russia, which it declares is unavoidable.

THE RUSSIANS AT BIZERTA.

The officers of the Russian Squadron at Bizerta en route to the Far East gave a brilliant reception last evening and most cordial toasts were exchanged.

RUSSIAN REPLY.

Reuter's correspondent at Peking says that despatches from Tokio show that Russia is prepared to negotiate regarding Korea, and contends that Manchuria concerns Russia and China alone.

THE MACEDONIAN SITUATION.

Fifty Bulgarian gendarmes from the village of Monastir have joined the insurgents with arms and uniforms.

A SECOND TEST MATCH.

The Englishmen are all out in the first innings for 210. Tyldesley made 87. The wicket was in a sodden state.

ESCAPE OF THE MAD MULLIAH.

An Italian warship has arrived at Auen, and reports that the Italian Commander's emissaries failed to find the Mulliah. The latter has escaped through the British cordon, and repudiates the idea of coming to terms.

TROUBLE ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE.

Five Russian torpedo boats have left Malta bound eastwards. A Russian battleship and torpedo boat has passed Gibraltar bound westward.

NEWS FROM THE FAR EAST.

News from the Far East continues meagre. The newspapers are divided in opinion as to the situation.

THE SECOND TEST MATCH.

The cricket at Melbourne is delayed by rain.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

ALLEGED ASSAULT BY A BRITISH OFFICER.

Allahabad, Jan. 3. "Citizen" reports the facts of an assault case said to have been committed by a British Officer.

To-day's Allahabad "Citizen" reports the facts of an assault case said to have been committed by a British Officer.

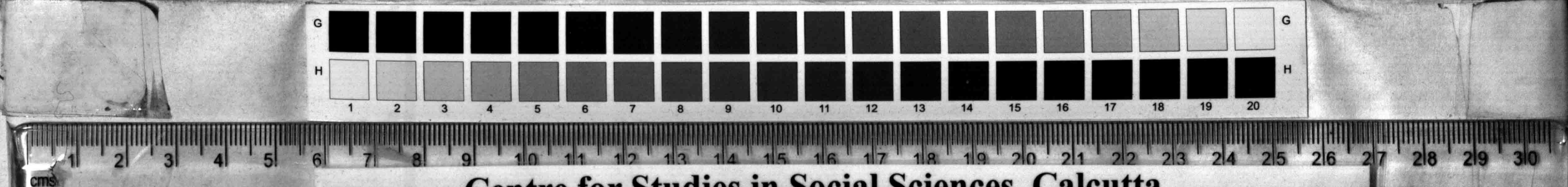
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THE STORM IN MADRAS.

THE TOWN AGAIN FLOODED.

The following account of the storm and rains that caused so much annoyance to the Congress leaders and damage to the Congress Pandit appears in the "Madras Mail" of the 1st instant.

The abnormally heavy rain that accompanied the storm that has been raging in Madras for the past three days has flooded the town to a greater extent than any of the previous storms which have been so numerous this year.

A RECORD FLOOD IN THE COOM.

The Coom, which on Monday evening had the usual pools of stagnant water in its bed in the upper reaches, was by Wednesday evening a rushing torrent, and yesterday morning the stream had topped the arches of the numerous bridges, backing up the water which overflowed into the surrounding districts, flooding them.

THE PARK FAIR RUINED.

The scene presented by the Park Fair is pitiable in the extreme; the whole place is under water, the booths and places of entertainment presenting a sodden and bedraggled appearance.

THE ISLAND AND ESPLANADE.

The Island, of course, has suffered as it always does from the overflow of the Coom, especially the portion known as the Camp Equipage ground, which is under water.

THE DAMAGE.

The damage done, of course, was most extensive in the very limited track over which the tornado passed. We published some particulars of this on Wednesday and another visit to the locality only impresses one with the terrific force and destructive power of the storm.

THE RAILWAYS ESCAPE.

From enquiries made at the Madras Railway offices we learn that the various sections of that Railway are unharmed and that communication has not been interrupted in any way.

A case which was heard before Judge Edge on the 10th ultimo illustrates, says a Home paper, the eccentricity of a man who chooses to be swindled by any scoundrel who chooses to pay them a few attentions.

Calcutta Gazette.—Jan. 6.

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS.

Mr J H E Garrett Mag and Collr Dinajpur is appointed to act as Dy Commr of Darjeeling during the absence on deputation of Mr E H C Wash or until further orders on being relieved of his appointment as Offg Commissioner of the Rajshahi Div.

Mr C P Beachcroft Jt-Magte and Dy Collr is posted to the head-quarters station of the 24 Parganas district on being relieved of his present appointment as an Addl Dist and Sessions Judge of that district.

Mauvi Abul Mozuffar Ahmed Prob Dy Magte and Dy Collr Mymensingh is transferred to the Jamalpur subdv.

Babu Jandira Mohun Banerjee Dy Magte and Dy Collr Jamalpur is transferred to the langal subdv.

Mr Satyendra Chandra Malik Asst Magte and Collr is appointed to act until further orders in the first grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, and to have charge of the Kusntia subdv on being relieved of his appointment as Offg Magte and Collr of that district.

Mr Mamatha Krishna Deb Asst Magte and Collr Kusntia is transferred to the headquarters station of the Rajshahi district.

POLICE.

The services of Mr R S F Macrae Asst Suptd of Police Howrah are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

EDUCATION.

Babu Narayan Chandra Bhattacharyya, M A is appointed to be Bengali Translator to Government vice Babu Chandra Nath Bose retired.

LEAVE.

Babu Umprasanna Guba Dy Magte and Dy Collr Rajshahi is allowed combined leave for six months viz privilege leave for three months under article 260 of the C S Reg and leave on private affairs for three months under article 337 of the Regulations.

SUBORDINATE CIVIL SERVICE.

Babu Monmohan Mukhopadhyaya substantive pro tempore Sub-Dy Collr Noakhali now under suspension is dismissed the service of Government with effect from the date of his suspension from office.

Babu Jitendra Nath Sircar substantive pro tempore Sub-Dy Collr Monghyr is allowed leave for three weeks under article 242 (a) of the Civil Service Regulations with effect from the 30th November 1903.

THE TRES PIEDRAS LEGEND.

Considerable excitement has been aroused in western Oklahoma, especially in Beaver County—the "No Man's Land" of our histories—regarding the workings of a party of men in that country in the search for lost treasure.

Several years ago priests of the Catholic Church employed guides and followed the trail to within thirty miles of Clayton, N. M., where it was lost and further search was then abandoned.

While travelling overland from eastern New Mexico, Ryan's horses strayed from camp one night, and he was compelled to search for them on foot. After searching several hours he sat down upon a stone to rest, and observed that the rocks in that vicinity formed an indistinct letter V.

Finally, near Garrett, in Beaver County, Ryan came upon a mound near the old Santa Fe trail, where three large rocks made the symbol. On the under side of one of these appeared the symbol indistinctly chiselled, and following the direction indicated within a quarter of a mile he came upon another triangle, with the symbol pointing toward the direction from which he came.

The Japanese are born sailors, and from all that can be gathered, their crews are complete, and in a high state of efficiency and discipline. Bearing these things in mind Japan's chances at sea for months to come are not such as should act as a deterrent if her interests demand action.

High Court.—Jan. 4.

CRIMINAL BENCH.

(Before Justices Ghose and Stephen.)

A PECULIAR CASE OF CRIMINAL MISAPPROPRIATION.

Mr. P. L. Roy, with Babu Atulya Charan Basu, moved on behalf of one Prabhunaran for a rule calling upon the Deputy Commissioner of Ranchi to show cause why the conviction and sentence passed on the petitioner by the Subdivisional Officer of Gumla, on a charge of criminal misappropriation, should not be set aside.

The petitioner who is a mooktear practising in the subdivisional court of Gumla on the 10th April last left Gumla for home, in district Palamou, in village Lamkhana, 29 miles from Gumla, in order to celebrate the marriage of his son at Palamou.

The Baro Daroga how he lost them and that he could get them back. Accordingly the coolies made a statement to the Inspector Ram Brick Singh which was headed "General information. On receipt of the said general information the Sub-divisional Officer on the 28th of April last passed the following order: Inspector, you must, please make a full enquiry yourself about this. It is a serious matter allowing a Mooktear to utilise the Chowkidars and police in the way.

It was contended on behalf of the petitioner that the petitioner had committed no offence, that there was no dishonest intention on his part in detaining the "siccas" and Bahanghas, that the Sub-divisional Officer ought not to have tried a case regard being had to the provisions of section 190 cl. (c) of the code, and that the offence being outside the jurisdiction of the sub-division, the sub-divisional Officer had no jurisdiction to try the case.

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(2) That the health of the town was far better than that of any other town in the district to which Part IX had been introduced;

(3) That the level of the town was very low, and that it was often inundated during the rainy season;

(4) That the water for drinking and generally for cooking purposes was exclusively procured from the river Bhagirathi; and

(5) That the town was chiefly inhabited by poor people (Pandits and Bairagis) who are unable to bear the burden of a latrine tax.

These objections, however, were considered to be irrelevant and untenable, and the first of them is incorrect, as Part IX is not in force in any portion of the town.

5. Shortly after the Magistrate's report was submitted, Mr. Finucane visited the town in company with the late Sir John Woodburn. In consequence of this visit Mr. Finucane wrote to the Sanitary Commissioner that he was satisfied that the people of the place, so far from being poor as alleged by the Municipal Commissioners, were in prosperous circumstances, and that as the incidence of taxation was so low as 7 annas and 5 pies per head, they were well able to bear any additional tax which the introduction of Part IX would impose on them; but as he was unwilling to resort to extreme measures, he suggested that the Sanitary Commissioner or the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner should again visit the town and discuss the matter with the Magistrate and the Municipal Commissioners, and that a further report should then be submitted regarding the necessity for extending to the town the portion of the Municipal Act referred to.

6. In accordance with these instructions, Captain Anderson, I.M.S., Deputy Sanitary Commissioner, visited Nadia in company with the Magistrate of the district. He suggested that all well-privies should be closed by a certain specified date, and that if the Commissioners should refuse to take action, Government should intervene, and by the adoption of stringent measures should cause the privies to be closed under the Plague Regulations, as had been done at Ranchi, in 1898.

7. The Sanitary Commissioner's letter as well as the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's report were laid before the Municipal Commissioners, who were at the same time asked to give effect to Captain Anderson's recommendations. The Commissioners, however, declined to follow this advice, and recorded a resolution declaring that they were unable to comply with the request of the Sanitary Commissioner with regard to the extension of Part IX of the Municipal Act to the whole town, because they apprehended that there were "insurmountable practical difficulties" in the way of carrying out the measure.

8. In submitting this resolution to the Commissioner of the Presidency Division the Magistrate of Nadia recommended that an order might be issued under section 64 of the Bengal Municipal Act directing the Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality to carry out the measures described below:—

(1) To prepare a scheme for the removal and disposal, within a specified period, of night-soil and sullage water, first from the more crowded portion of the town and eventually from the whole Municipality.

(2) To cause a valuation of holdings to be made by a paid Assessor and to fix a scale of latrine fees to be levied under section 321 of the Bengal Municipal Act.

(3) To require householders to erect surface latrines, to empty all cesspits, and to fill them up with earth by a certain date.

These proposals have your support, but they cannot be given effect to unless Part IX of the Municipal Act is extended to the Nadia Municipality. The Lieutenant-Governor is advised that action with a view to such an extension must be taken under section 65 and not section 64 of the Act.

ORDER.

In the letter of the 14th September 1903, cited in the preamble, the Lieutenant-Governor expressed the hope that a consideration of the orders passed in another case would induce the Municipal Commissioners of Nadia to change their attitude and carry out the reforms which had been so repeatedly pressed upon them; and he pointed out that, if they declined to accept the advice of the Sanitary Commissioner, they would be superseded so that the necessary reforms might be carried out by the District Magistrate. The letter of the 12th December 1903, from the Commissioner of the Presidency Division, shows how they have failed to avail themselves of this last opportunity which was granted to them. Their conduct leaves to Sir Andrew Fraser no option but to put into force the order of supersession which was held in abeyance by his predecessor.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor is therefore constrained to record his finding that a serious evil exists at Nadia for which the law prescribes a remedy: he finds that the Municipal Commissioners have persistently made default in the performance of their duties and have also proved themselves incompetent, in that, having the power to carry out the improvements urgently needed for the health and sanitation of the town, they have deliberately failed to exercise it, and although repeatedly and earnestly advised by the authorities best able to estimate their requirements, they have persistently refused to carry out the requisite reforms.

3. His Honour therefore declares by this order, issued under section 65 of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1884, that the Commissioners of the Nadia Municipality are incompetent to perform and persistently make default in the performance of their duties, and he directs that they be superseded for the period of one year with effect from the date of the publication of this resolution in the Calcutta Gazette. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 66 of the Act, the Lieutenant-Governor further directs that all the powers and duties of the Commissioners shall, during the period of supersession, be exercised and performed by Babu Barada Das Basu, Deputy Magistrate in charge of the Lodging-house Department of the office of the Magistrate of Nadia.

The following is the summary of the weather and crop report up to the U. P. for the week ending 30th December.—Slight rain has fallen in Dehra Dun, Garhwal, Almora, and Saharanpur. Rain is wanted in Bijnor, Moradabad, Muzaffarnagar, Aligarh, and Pilibhit. The condition of the crops is good but "arhar" has been slightly injured by frost in places in Bareilly. The pressing of sugarcane and the irrigation of spring crops and poppy continue. Markets are well supplied. Fodder sufficient. Prices continue stationary.

THE BHUMIHAR CONFERENCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Monghyr, Jan 2.

The eighth Bhumihar Conference assembled at Monghyr on the 26th December, and ended on the 28th, Maharaj-Kumar Adit Narayan Singh of Benares, accompanied by Babu Indra Deonarayan Singh M.A., arrived here on the morning of the 26th and was received by Babu Lunjat Singh, Rai Tuka Nath Singh Bahadur of Barh, and other leading members of his community who were present on the railway platform which was carpeted, and adorned quite befitting the occasion. The party, accompanied by several sowars, proceeded in a grand procession, and drove to the Bungalow at Peer Pahari. The people of the locality through which the procession passed, saluted the Maharaj-Kumar and showed much respect. A grand Shamiana was erected for the meeting and round about it hundreds of tents were pitched for the accommodation of the delegates who had come from the various districts of Bengal, Behar and the United Provinces. The Maharaj-Kumar arrived at the meeting exactly at 1 p.m., and was conducted to the dais by Babu Lunjat Singh, Shyam Shivendra Singh, alias Lal Sahab of Mangha and occupied the presidential seat, which was a most picturesque one.

Babu Lunjat Singh introduced the Maharaj-Kumar to the audience and asked him to the chair. In his so doing, he congratulated himself, and his community for having the Maharaj-Kumar amidst them, and compared this event with the historical event of Biswa Mitra going to Dasarath, and asking his son Ram Chandra to assist him in the performance of Jaghas. Rai Bahadur Tooka Nath Singh seconded the resolution, and the whole meeting accepted it and expressed their approval, and extreme joy by most enthusiastically uttering the expression "Maharaj Ki Jai."

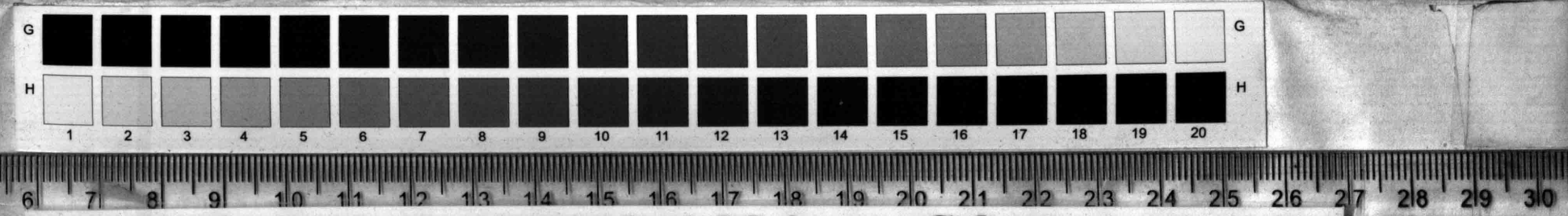
The Maharaj-Kumar opened the meeting and Babu Deoki Nandan Singh, the Secretary, in a nice little speech welcomed the President, and the other delegates from different places. Babu Jogeswar Singh B.A., B.L., in the absence of Captain Sideshwari Prasad Singh, the General Secretary of the Bhumihar Brahman Sabha, read the report of the progress of the community of the past year, and resolutions regarding the spread of education in the community by setting up schools, Pathshalas and Boarding houses, prevention of early marriage, and giving Sanskrit education were passed. Babu Dinanath Singh of Gaya delivered a very eloquent speech on these subjects, and the whole meeting seemed to be impressed by it. At the end the President addressed the meeting and said that he and his father the Maharaja of Benares, would be gratified to see the members of his community act up to the resolutions passed at the meeting and to unite in the same way as they were united in the meeting. As the Maharaj-Kumar's presence was urgently needed at Chakia owing to certain engagement which was made before, he delegated his power to Babu Shyam Shivendra Singh Sahai, alias Lal Sahab, of Monghyr and dissolved the meeting for the day. He left Monghyr at 11 o'clock in the night.

The meeting again resumed its sitting on the 27th December and Babu Lal Sahab took the chair as arranged. The number of delegates this day increased to about five thousands and in spite of this, order and calmness prevailed all through. Resolutions regarding the curtailment of marriage expenses, patronising the national journal called the "Bhumihar Patrika," and the compilation of a directory of the Bhumihar Brahmins were passed, and the meeting dissolved at about five in the evening.

On the third day the meeting assembled earlier and resolutions for creating a national fund to support the orphans and widows, and for sending a batch of preachers to all the districts for explaining the object of the agitation were passed. At the end of the meeting Babu Dinanath Singh explained metaphorically the meaning of the caste system in India. He said that it was simply a division of work, and one class was intended to assist the other in their attempts to improve the spiritual intellectual and material condition of the country. He further said that at present, while the different castes were holding conferences for the improvement of their communities, they should not be zealous of each other, but rather assist and guide those who are in any way in a backward condition. They have the advantage of a liberal Government. It is the wish of Providence that the English and the Indians should be placed together so that the latter may learn the feelings of nationality, patriotism and sense of duty from the former, while the former may learn spiritualism in India.

Votes of thanks were proposed to the Lieutenant-Governor, the Divisional Commissioner, the District Magistrate, the District and Sessions Judge of Patna, and to the various Rajas, Maharajas and the Rani of the seven annas Tikari Raj for their sympathy and taking interest in this noble movement. The President in addressing the meeting, informed that it would assemble next year at Gazipour, and declared it dissolved.

A lady correspondent writes to The Madras Mail about the late storm from Chetput—"I was sitting upstairs with my husband, when we heard the most extraordinary noise. I said 'What can they be doing with the train?' It sounded like an express dashing by. My husband said: 'There is no train at this time.' We rushed to the window to see what was happening and the most extraordinary spectacle met our eyes. Branches of trees, leaves, bits of wood, tiles, etc., were being whirled about in the most hopeless confusion. The tornado advanced towards us like a wall, sweeping everything before it. Every leaf was swept off the trees and, torn to minute shreds, were plastered against our window panes. The whole house shook in receiving the first shock and swayed to and fro. I said to my husband:—'We are done for.' Had it not been that our windows and doors on the side of the house which faced the storm were closed, as a strong wind had been blowing all day, we should have been blown to pieces. As it was, our front door was blown from its hinges and dashed in the dining room. Several window panes were blown in and our floors were strewn with glass. I have lived in India for 24 years but I never saw anything like it in my life!



THE METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

RESOLUTION ON THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The following resolution reviewing the report of the Meteorological Department for the year 1902-03 appears in the "Gazette of India":—

ITS HISTORY.

2. In the report of the Department for 1900-01 the progress of meteorology in India has been traced from the earliest measures taken by the East India Company in the eighteenth century, to the present day.

ITS DEVELOPMENT.

3. Important steps have also been taken for the wider diffusion of weather information, by the issue at Simla and various provincial centres of five daily weather reports with charts, and by the publication at headquarters of weekly returns of rainfall.

4. As regards the more purely scientific side of the Department, a new observatory has been established at Kodaikanal in the Palni Hills in Madras, where observations in solar physics are being conducted, while a magnetic survey of India has been added to the work of magnetic observation formerly carried on at Colaba.

SIR JOHN ELIOT.

5. In collating and comparing the result of the observations recorded, Sir John Eliot has accomplished much excellent work which has been recognized as of the highest scientific value by meteorological experts, and which some years ago obtained for him the honour of election as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

THE WHEAT CROP.

FIRST MEMORANDUM.

The Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture, have published the following first General Memorandum on the wheat crop of the season 1903-04:—

The reports from the chief wheat-growing provinces are all favourable. The area sown in Upper India is likely to exceed last year's area by 10 per cent, and in the Punjab may equal the record area of 1900-01.

The provincial reports are summarised below:

In the Punjab the district estimates show an area of 7,789,300 acres under wheat up to the end of November. This is 9 per cent. above the area finally ascertained last year, the increase being 10 per cent. for irrigated land and 8 per cent. for unirrigated land.

In the North-West Frontier Province the area sown up to the end of November is estimated at 792,000 acres (irrigated 257,000 and unirrigated 535,000 acres), as against 822,900 acres finally returned last year, and if rain falls immediately a considerable area can still be sown.

In the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh moisture was ample when the wheat crop was sown. In low lands it was excessive and sowings were delayed in consequence. No rain has fallen since the middle of October last, and the crop is now being irrigated.

In the Central Provinces the preparation of land for wheat was somewhat interfered with owing to the heavy and continuous monsoon rainfall; sowings were consequently delayed, particularly in the northern districts.

In Bombay the information is up to 5th December, and is incomplete as sowings were in progress at that date. The total reported area for the whole Presidency including Sind is 1,811,000 acres, against 1,400,000 acres at the same period of last year, and the similarly estimated decennial average of 1,680,000 acres.

In Gujrat the area in the British districts is 243,000 acres and in the Native States 361,000, or 8 and 41 per cent respectively over the average. Cotton and other crops have taken the place of wheat in parts of Ahmedabad, Baroda, Kathiawar, and Cutch; but elsewhere larger sowings have been made under favourable late rains.

KABUL AND ITS NEW COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

If we are to trust native reports published by Reuter's agent at Peshawar, the new Commander-in-Chief at Kabul must have but little leisure on his hands. The Sardar Nasrullah Khan is said to attend a parade of troops every morning and inspect the arsenal and magazines each afternoon.

he is never likely to be a prominent figure even if he attains to manhood. Habibullah has few anxieties to disturb him: he has been over two years in power and his authority has never been questioned though the Army demanded and got higher pay.

Correspondence.

THE CULTIVATION OF RAMIE OR RHEA.—III. TO THE EDITOR.

DECORICATING AND DEGUMMING.

Sir,—I promised in my last letter to say in conclusion, a few words about the decoricating and degumming of ramie or rhea. This is indeed the crux of the whole matter.

As long ago as in 1869 and 1877, the Indian Government felt so strongly the importance of encouraging the cultivation of ramie in India, that they offered large money prizes for the best method or machinery for treating the fibre; but though competitive trials were held in Saharanpur in 1872, no machine was found satisfactory, and no practical good result.

The large number of letters which have been received by myself and the Bunbeg Mills (17 Southampton Row, London, W.C.) in response to my first letter, show that planters in India are not unwilling to try ramie, or even to devote extensive areas to its cultivation, provided that a steady market could be found for the "ribands" or "china grass."

Ramie has been grown for untold centuries in China, where it is used for cordage and fishing nets, and to weave into imitation silk fabrics. There it is always decoricating by hand, in the Green state, and this hand-stripped ramie or "China grass," still fetches the highest market price.

The Bunbeg Mills have kindly supplied me with samples of hand-stripped ramie or rhea from China, from West Africa, and from the Argentine, and of machine-decoricating samples from India, and from the Malay Peninsula.

In the process of hand-stripping, the stems are first deprived of their leaves and branches and either split or left whole, the outer bark is peeled off. The shining fibrous or bark coat is thus laid bare. The stems are then tied into small bundles and are exposed for several days to the sunlight by day, and to the dew by night; at the end of which time the fibrous layer is easily peeled off from the woody core beneath.

I am informed that, in reply to many inquiries, the Bunbeg Mills have provided to several Indian growers, samples of hand-stripped ramie, to show the condition which it should be in when exported; and they would doubtless do this kind service to others who applied for information.

On the question of degumming, I can give but little information. The processes adopted by various manufacturers are secret, and the secrets are carefully and jealously kept. It is, however, not necessary for a grower to trouble himself with degumming, as manufacturers have confidence only in their own methods of degumming, and prefer to buy ramie or rhea simply decoricating whether by hand or by machine.

In conclusion, I must thank you, Sir, for having accorded me so much space in your valuable paper, and thus enabled me to draw the attention of planters in India, to what will, I trust, prove in time, a profitable and progressive industry in the great Indian Empire.

RAJA VARMA. 3, Northumberland Avenue, London, 18th December 1903.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

COOLENS the cough, relieves the lungs, and opens the secretions. It counteracts any tendency of a bad cold to result in pneumonia. It is unequalled for bad colds.

If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith, Stanstreet and Co, Calcutta on receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem Calcutta.

OPERATED ON 84 TIMES.

LONG SUFFERING SURVIVOR'S EXPERIENCES.

A man who has survived eighty-four surgical operations lives at Guisborough, an old-world market town in Yorkshire, at the foot of the Cleveland Hills.

For over thirty years he has suffered from the ravages of the hungry disease known as lupus. Having reached that stage of life which under normal conditions, would be a man's prime, he is still an intense sufferer.

"Did you say that I had plenty of grit? Well, I don't know about that. I certainly needed it. You see, I am a Yorkshireman. In the days gone by I travelled and tramped the country from end to end in the search for treatment. I have been as far south as London, and to numerous hospitals in Wales. I visited almost every principal town in the north, including Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Stockton, Middlesbrough, and Scarborough. But it was all to no purpose.

"At times the disease showed an improvement, but it was only temporary. Occasionally the disease became so virulent that I could hardly see out of my eyes. The acute pain and sensitive feeling consequent upon the disfigurement intensified the trouble. I never dreamt of completely breaking down, but went from hospital to hospital, and doctor to doctor, with the firm determination to find a cure.

"I have only referred to serious operations which involved the use of the surgical spoon and knife. At one institution the disease part was cauterised weekly every third day, with the exception of Sundays. That in itself was a very great nerve strain. Many eminent specialists have taken a keen interest in my case. At one time and another I think I must have been treated by fully one hundred doctors, many of whom are now dead and gone. The expense has been endless, but people were always very kind and generous."

Originally he was an active engineer, and he has many times proudly boasted to his professional attendants that he would make an iron man, if life could be breathed into it. He is himself entitled to be called a man of iron. Before five o'clock every morning he tramps several miles to work in the iron-stone mines for which the Cleveland Hills are famous. He is "below" eight hours, and earns a weekly wage of 8s. He could make more money at his original trade, but is content with the assurance that the peculiar atmosphere of the mines may be beneficial for lupus.

Despite his eighty-four operations, this man is engaged in pursuits, apart from his ordinary work, which call for exceptional mental activity. He resides in a little ivy-clad cottage next a chapel, of which he is the trustee, superintending the structural alterations now proceeding. Then he is also an official of the Free Church Council and treasurer of the Liberal Club.

It is to religious enthusiasm that he ascribes his patience in many hours of suffering. His keen political interest, however, arises from a desire to think of other things than his own affliction.

"The disease," he asserts, "has not in any way impaired my powers of thought and perception. According to the doctors, I was always a good subject for the administration of anaesthetics, and much chloroform has left no ill-effects upon me. Soon I hope to be well again. Why shouldn't I? My father was a long-lived man, and two of my aunts were over ninety years of age when they died. I think I shall be cured."

THE PARTITION OF BENGAL.

Anent the above subject a Chittagong correspondent writes to the "Englishman":—

From a geographical point of view Chittagong, sandwiched between Burma and Assam, will be compelled sooner or later to cast in its lot with one or the other of these Provinces. Would it not be better now that Assam is so ready to join hands, in fact the overtures for amalgamation have come from Assam, to close with the offer while there is such a good opportunity of doing so under favourable conditions? Chittagong possesses an ocean port which can be made perfect with a moderate expenditure. Assam is yearning for a direct exit for its enormous produce. Assam has a scantier population which according to reports is not over energetic. Chittagong teems with an industrious hard-working for intelligent population. Why should not the two peoples become partners to their mutual benefit?

"If 'annexed' to Assam, Chittagong will naturally have a sentimental grievance with which most of us can sympathise, but with 'amalgamation' a friendly struggle for superiority should arise, and there is little doubt that the go-ahead Chittagong will come out best. There is a large annual exodus of skilled and agricultural labour from Chittagong down Burma way to the great benefit of the former, and should we join Assam, the wealth of that place should also pour into Chittagong.

"Were we assured that the cold weather headquarters of the Chief Commissioner or

Lieutenant-Governor of the Province would be at Chittagong, perhaps there would be fewer sentimental objections to the project. In the meantime it is hoped that we shall hear little about "transfer," nothing at all about "annexation" but a good deal more about.

THE ROMANCE OF LOST PROPERTY.

If anyone wishes to realize what incredibly careless and oblivious creatures we human beings are, he should pay a visit to one of the many lost property offices—at New Scotland Yard, Euston, King's Cross, and the other great railway stations—with which London is punctuated, and watch the ceaseless stream pour in of articles found derelict in cabs, omnibuses, and railway carriages.

And even more remarkable than the number of these articles is their odd variety. To forget a bag, an umbrella, or a pair of gloves on leaving a hansom is an act of oversight of which even the most careful man may be guilty once in a way; but it is difficult to see under what conditions a trombone or a set of false teeth could be overlooked, to say nothing of a pair of crutches, a saucepan, and an artificial leg.

But articles much stranger even than these have found their way to the lost property offices of London—notably, at Euston, a small silver-mounted coffin of ebony, surmounted by a grinning skull resting on cross-bones; at Broad Street, a so-called fossilized giant, more than twelve feet high and with a chest five and a half feet in girth; a fine and stalwart baboon not much under four feet in height at Waterloo; and at Cannon Street a wailing infant who at this moment is serving in the King's Navy.

The best-known undoubtedly of all these Metropolitan repositories of lost property is that at New Scotland Yard, under the admirable management of the Metropolitan Police, for it is to this office on the Embankment that the man who leaves his handbag on the top of omnibus or his opera-glasses in a hansom repairs in the confident expectation of finding his lost property awaiting him there.

As is perhaps pretty generally known, any cabman or conductor who finds abandoned property in his cab or omnibus is bound, under a penalty of £10, to take such property within twenty-four hours to the nearest police-station; and apart from his natural honesty he has strong inducement to obey this demand of the law, for it ensures him a substantial reward for his trouble. It is by no means an unknown thing for a cabman to purchase a hansom and a couple of horses with the reward paid to him for restoring to its owner a fat pocket-book, a bag of gold, or a casket of jewels.

How people contrive to forget articles of such value passes understanding; but during the writer's connection with Scotland Yard a bag containing money and securities to the value of £8,500 was brought to the office by a cabman, who had the gratification of receiving 100 golden sovereigns as the reward of his honesty; and in another case jewellery worth £3,000 was found lying ownerless on the outside of an omnibus.

These exceptional rewards are left to the discretion of the Commissioners of Police; but on all lost property up to a value of £10 the discoverer is entitled to a reward of 2s. 6d. in the pound for all articles except money and jewellery, and for these he receives 3s. in the pound, with a minimum reward, however small the worth of the article recovered, of 1s.

Twice every day recovered property is dispatched to New Scotland Yard from the police-stations of the Metropolis in small, chocolate-coloured carts, the sight of which, driven by a policeman, must be familiar to very many of our readers. When an article is taken by a cabman or conductor to the police-station a receipt for it is handed to him, the article is carefully tied up with red tape, and a label is attached to it and sealed.

Thus every day from all parts of the Metropolis the streams of lost property flow to the central office on the Embankment, where the articles are received, classified, and stored by a competent staff, consisting of ten men—four constables, a couple of sergeants, three inspectors, and a superintendent—and here they await the claims of their owners.

It is considered a poor year which does not yield 30,000 of these lost articles or an average of nearly 600 a week, of which quite a quarter come in on Mondays. It is interesting to note that of every 1,000 of these articles, roughly 400 are sticks and umbrellas, eighty-seven are purses, seventy-five bags of one kind or another, twenty-three are field or opera glasses, and five are watches; and of every 1,000, on an average 530 are restored to their owners.

At one time the loser of property had a full year in which to claim it at Scotland Yard, but since 1870 the articles have only been kept three months; and if at the end of that period they are not claimed they are either sold or handed over to the finder. Certain articles, however, of no realizable value, such as papers, photographs, etc., are still preserved for twelve months, and if they then remain unclaimed they are destroyed.

A RECORD TIGER IN THE HILLS.

A correspondent, writing to the "Pioneer" from Naini Tal, says:—I killed near here on the 2nd December a tiger which, as far as I am aware, bears the record for a large one, in Kumaon at any rate, as I have been a resident in Kumaon for forty years, and have never heard of one so large, not even from the late Sir Henry Ramsay whose personal friendship I had honour to enjoy for many years, and who was the best sportsman that the Province has ever known or is likely to know. The tiger I killed on the 2nd December measured deal, unskinned, 10 feet 1 inch, a male in splendid condition, and a very beautiful skin. After skinning when pegged out in the sun the skin measured 11 feet 3 inches, both the measurements from nose to tip of tail. I should be glad to know if anyone has seen a large tiger anywhere in India.

A Correspondent writes from Rangoon under date Jan 4.—Orders have been received from the Government of India placing Mr. Justice Chitty on special duty until Mr. Justice Fox proceeds on leave about February or March. In the meantime Mr. Chitty will remain on the Original Civil Side and Mr. Justice Fidge goes to the Appellate Side. It is rumoured that Mr. Justice Fox retires after the expiration of his leave and Mr. Justice Chitty succeeds him.

THE THEOSOPHICAL CONVENTION.

VALUE OF THEOSOPHY IN THE RAISING OF INDIA.

On the morning of the 27th December there was a large open-air gathering at the Headquarters at Adyar, Madras, when Mrs. Besant delivered the first of the series of the convention lectures for 1903. The subject chosen was, "The value of Theosophy in the raising of India."

Col. Olcott, the President-founder of the Theosophical Society, presided.

Mrs. Besant, who, on rising, was loudly cheered, said that the subject that was chosen for that morning's lecture was chosen of set purpose, of definite intent. She began by referring to the many thoughtful patriotic men who have said that Theosophy tended to hinder the development of India; that it tended to revive ancient superstitions, and check the advance of liberal thought; that it was in the air, not practice and did not deal with the modern social and political issues; and lastly, that it misdirected the usefulness of many of the brilliant intelligences of the country which would otherwise have grown to be extremely useful to the land.

She took to replying to these objections because they were not the criticisms of thoughtless and indifferent people, but of men, who are worthy of respect for their love of the land and honest desire to see her take her place among the nations of the world. But they have not understood Theosophy and its work. Personally, she said she was fired with the greatest love for India, though she was not Indian born, and though perhaps her love besprang out of ignorance. As for the objection to Theosophy, that Theosophy revives superstition, for the matter of that Western science itself was reviving them. Instance, psychology was dabbling with thought-transference, was discovering the three states of consciousness, was investigating dreams and trances and to crown all Sir Oliver Lodge's defence of prayer. Wherever they went they were the revivers of religion—Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam and Zoroastrianism, any religion. And the face of earth should pay its debt of gratitude to Theosophy for having taken part in its revival. That there has been a revival of Hinduism has been patent from the Government Reports, or the lack of success which the missionaries, who are paid amply for their work lament. Superstition was only religion defiled and degraded by ignorance, while acceptance was the belief that springs out of the real religion. Both were enemies of religion. Both would stab her to the heart and wherever you got a revival of religion there would be sane backwaters and eddies where the weeds of superstition would be touched by the flood of religion that is going on, and they would show renewed activity and fresh vitality. All good was shadowed by evil. All action was clouded with evil. She referred to the saying in the Baghavad Gita which says that flame was enveloped in smoke. Because of the volume of smoke would it be wise for one to put out the flame, and shiver in the cold? Rather all could rekindle the flame of religion that it may blaze and that smoke may disappear and we shall no longer shiver in the cold of scepticism.

As for the want of practicality, she compared the gardener who chopped off the weeds at the top, and thus made room for it to grow more powerful at the next shower, and he who grubbed up the root, who prevented the growing of the weeds, and who then scattered the seeds. Reform at the root—reform religious, moral and intellectual it is only after that we could deal with the tops of the tree of human selfishness, and ignorance. Then, she said, critics would have the fruits of their (Theosophists') labour.

Mrs. Besant said that she would first appeal to history and then to reason to prove that great work at all times and in all climes lay in the sphere of religious influence. India's day of glory was when India was supremely religious, when the king, philosopher, trader and peasant lived and worked together when duty spread through all departments of life, and when the king, throwing his diadem, and installing his sons, went to the forests to do penance, for it was the legitimate duty of man to work for God and humanity at the close of his years. Instance Egypt, where the monarch was a priest, and all life was sacred, Rome, where religion was the basis of national prosperity and England, whose profoundest statesman—to wit, Gladstone, went to preach the Bible to his peasants, and the no less brilliant Lord Salisbury, who found his solace in his Bible.

In India, Religion declined, and intellect followed suit. In the days when India was a glorious land, brilliant poets, and men brilliant in every walk of life existed. At the decadence of religion, we find only Grammarians and commentators who had little originality left in them. Material prosperity was not slow to decline. Religion lay at the basis of all true art; with its decadence, art became small, vulgar and selfish and art spread her wings and flew to Heaven to which alone she belonged. What wonder that manufactures and industries were swept away from the land? Where were the ships that conveyed merchandise of Indian manufacture up to the Thames? It was that nation that understood the fundamental truth of religion in the unity of existence, one mighty life in which we live and move, that individual life is a drop of the lifeblood of the whole, that could have a glorious existence. It was that nation that could effectively know that poison in one is poison in all, that there is unity underneath separation on the surface, that could realize patriotism and public spirit. India required more love of country, and men who would say, "I belong to India," rather than that "I belong to Madras, Bombay or Calcutta," for the nation is only the common life finding expression in individuals, and religion is the only binding tie. There was no country in the world that did not teach love of country to the lad of its schools, that did not teach religion and morality with mathematics and literature. There was the English school boy who has entertained the love of country with every fibre of his enthusiastic heart, and who had seen the College chapel and thought of the great names in the roll of honour written in

gold, and there were few boys who didn't think of future boys kneeling before his name for some glorious career, as he was then kneeling before a past great man's picture. The stars of the Indian sky were brighter, and why did not India shine equally brighter? If Southey's Nelson was being taught, to the young Indian school boy, why not teach him the greatness and purity of life of Indian heroes that have gone before?

Religion was the primary affair, and educationist propaganda was next to it in value. She referred to Col Olcott's Buddhist schools, where sound religious education was given together with Western knowledge. Instance, the Benares Central Hindu College, the very idea of which was pool-poached first, and the success of it, and the Sanatana Dharma Series, which are now used even in some of the Government schools. She referred to the incident of the principal of the Rajkumar College complaining to Mrs. Besant, that some of the princes did not do his institution much credit, which she explained was due to the want of religious education. And then she made him introduce the study of the "Sanatana Dharma Series", and the Hindu Ethics as a portion of the programme of studies. She pointed out that such work was strengthened and vitalized by Theosophy, from among whose ranks were supplied those masters of the Central Hindu College, who, sacrificing all their prospects in life, had set themselves to the task of teaching Hindu boys.

Besides, their new method of education would improve the intellectual side; it would improve not alone memory, but also the power of observation and reasoning which were much wanting amongst the Hindus. Education was the fitting of the boy to play his part well in this world, when he became a man, and not to make him stand dumb before the problems and questions of life. It was to make them patriots and lover of their country. In India, most men were in Government service, or were either vakils or doctors. Industries, manufactures and arts were dying, and India wanted more scientific than literary education, more dignity for labour, experiment and observation than for study. India was crowded with mineral resources, she had streams which may be used as great sources of power. It should have been well for Hindus to have become mineralogists and chemists and worked the resources of Mysore and of the coal of Kashmir themselves. They should regard all labour as honourable—revive agriculture by a study of chemistry manufactures by the application of chemical knowledge. That was what the Benares College hoped to do.

As night was followed by day, all these would be followed by material prosperity. Intelligent and clever but selfish men could not make up a great nation. These that trained boys in all branches of study but neglected the study of religion and ethics would do so at their peril. A nation could not be free where selfishness was the rule of life, any number of slaves put together could not make a free nation. We should improve character, and patriotism. Causes, high and noble, languish in India for want of financial support. And when it improved character, it would make India rise as the phoenix of old. They (Theosophists) were endeavouring to make India worthy of its name. They were not producing a selfish class of life, they (Theosophists) were laying the foundation-stone of the mighty future, and never worked for the moment. She said she referred to India's past, not to make the Hindus proud and vain of the past. They were trying to revive self-respect and knowledge in Indians which were the root of greatness of India in the past. She had a mighty vision of the coming days when India would send her wisest men to govern and teach the world. No Government, no alien people, not even the gods could make one a great nation, if one persisted in being selfish. Mrs. Besant concluded her speech with a thrilling peroration in first asking the Hindus to have a noble, great and glorious religion, and on the root of religion build character, strong and unselfish. She asserted that India had the capacity to improve, and she would have a glorious day in the future.

THE SPIRITUAL ORIGIN OF MAN.

On the following morning Mrs. Besant delivered her address on the "Spiritual origin of man" in the hall of the Theosophical Society premises at Adyar. In the course of her lecture Mrs. Besant observed that many of them would have noticed that in the West during the past fifty years science had been trying to trace the pedigree of men. In Germany, France and England scientific men had arranged and collected facts to draw a genealogical tree and trace the development of man's evolution. The point was that they applied to physical nature which they traced step by step and wondered how that complete organization had been built up. When that was done they had not traced the pedigree of man. The body was the garment worn by man. Man could never be understood when they left the spirit out of consideration. In the theosophical teachings of the Rishis of the past they found a truer pedigree that dealt with every part of the nature of man. It was not alone in the Hindu Shastras that they found traces of the primeval revelation form. To trace man's pedigree right they would do well to follow the broad outlines laid down by H. P. B. First they had the spiritual evolution and unless this was revealed man was an insoluble problem. At the other pole of nature there was the physical pedigree, the upward climbing of spirit through matter. The third line of evolution joined and linked both into the human being. That was the intellectual evolution, the commingling of the mind with the physical tabernacle and the linking to it of the spirit which brooded over it. When they had traced these then there was unfolded before them a vast picture in which they conceived the whole pedigree of man and understood something of the wonder of human nature. That was the great task she had undertaken in these lectures and she would place before them the results of her study that was guided by knowledge far greater than hers hoping not to dictate any scheme for their acceptance but to throw hints to help them in their study of the subject.

With these prefatory remarks she proceeded to deal with the spiritual origin of man. To understand that, she said they must know the two vast outlines, first of the great hierarchies of spiritual intelligences who in the past kalpas had passed through revelation and guided

and moulded the architects and the builders of the solar system. They need get some idea however imperfect of this. According to old occult records identical on this point with most ancient Hindu teachings they found that the solar system was a life stretching to illuminate the past and counting nine hundred and fifty-five and odd millions in years. Words could convey no idea save that of illimitable antiquity. No words could convey into them a better idea of the dawn of the universe. They were told that Iswara unfolded himself in triple form and from that marvellous light issued three mighty divine forms; He who creates; He who preserves and He who destroys. This idea was found in every religion, in far off Chaldea, in Assyrian remains and amongst the Egyptian mummies. The next forms of which they had a glimpse were those that were called the seven by different names in different religions. They called the planetary "logi" and they were identified with the seven planets each with a kingdom of his own. Round these as it were in wide circle came the hierarchies, the creators of Universe: They were twelve symbolised in the familiar signs of the zodiac and there they found the clue to the labyrinth. Out of these five have passed onwards into liberation and they had to deal with seven all touching the fragments of the Deity. Man is that being in the Universe in whatever part he be in whom spirit and matter joined by intellect made the manifestation of the Divine. Man is not limited to ourselves the puny races. As H. P. B. said every being in the Universe has to pass through the human kingdom. It is the battle field of matter and spirit and every being must fight it out before he enters the Divine kingdom. Human spirit is but the reflection of the Divinity above us and we are the Shadows of it. What is true of divine consciousness in its plenitude of power is true of human weakness. Intellect then takes up the evolution in hand and merges in the spirit. Spirit must then mature in silence leaving intellect to develop and give back the usable portion.

Dr. E. E. Francis, the Medical Officer of the Assam-Bengal Railway Company, is, it is understood, in future to be designated Chief Medical Officer, Assam-Bengal Railway, with effect from the 1st instant.

A singular incident occurred the other day in the "shikar" excursion of an Indian Prince. This young sportsman went out shooting in a village six miles from Palampur, Bombay, where "kubber" was brought that a neigai was about the neighbourhood. On the being started, a hyaena ran out of a thicket instead of the neigai, but as he was not wanted, he was given the go-by. Very shortly after, and in the course of the same beat, the much-sought after neigai rushed out of the hiding-place about a hundred and fifty yards from the "shikar," who fired at him but missed. In the evening one of the beaters brought into the camp the carcass of a hyaena, the very one that had been seen and left off soot-foot. It appears the animal sought the shelter of a bush in which direction the bullet intended for the neigai had travelled, and thus met its fate by a stray shot.

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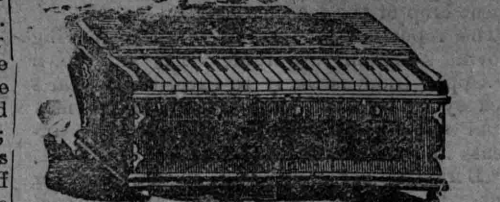
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DR. J. CHOWDHURY, B. A., L. M. S., Superintendent of Vaccination, Calcutta Corporation writes:—"I have great pleasure in testifying to the efficacy of your 'Santan Rakshak.' The bottle which you gave me for trial was used with most satisfactory and astonishing results in several cases of prolonged labour amongst my friends. I hereby commend it to the public."

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