

# Aurita Bazar Patrika

BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY.

VOL XXXVI.

CALCUTTA SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 1904.

NO. 7

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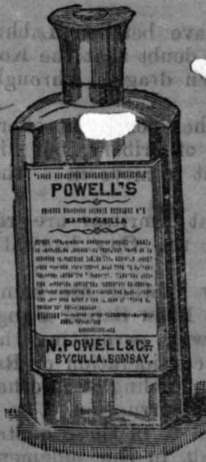
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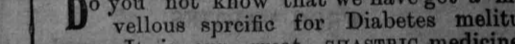
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Babu Nityananda Biswas of Rampur-Boallah has executed my orders with great promptness, and the workmanship he has exhibited is highly creditable. He is, as far as I am able to judge, honest and full deserving encouragement and patronage. He is trustworthy in his dealings with his customers.

(Sd.) Nil Kant Majumder, Professor Presidency College.

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Mail Notes.

STORY WITH A MORAL.

Paris, Dec. 31.—Speaking the other day at a meeting of commercial travellers, M. Trouillot, Minister of Commerce, gave the following amusing definitions of the methods of English, German, and French travellers, says the "Figaro":—"When the English traveller arrives in a town and finds that his merchandise is not appreciated, he leaves by the next train and never comes back. The German, under similar circumstances, also leaves, but only to return with goods suited to the tastes of the inhabitants. As for the Frenchman, he remains, in spite of rebuffs, and always succeeds eventually in persuading unwilling customers that his merchandise is just what they want."

DISCOVERERS OF RADIUM.

Paris, 24 Dec.—Most of the experiments conducted by M. and Mme. Curie have been with little more than the thousand part of a gramme of radium. Yet they receive letters from medical men from all parts of the country asking for the loan of a tube to make trials in some surgical case they have in hand! According to Mme. Curie, "It is quite true we have been able to recognise the presence of radium and to isolate it with slender means. But we have only had 20,000 francs and an infinitesimal quantity of radium can be isolated with that. The 60,000 francs of the Osiris prize just bestowed on us will be very useful. What we want is a special laboratory." The two scientists are absolutely absorbed in their work. They appear perfectly unconscious of the ordinary events of the outside world.

PLAYING WITH DYNAMITE.

Rome, Dec. 23.—A terrible explosion of dynamite occurred yesterday evening at a farm at Resina, a small village on the outskirts of Naples. According to the "Mattino," the farmer was entertaining some friends, and the party was amusing itself by making dynamite bombs when the explosion happened. The house, consisting of a large room on the ground floor and one upperstorey, was blown to atoms. The report was heard in all the surrounding communes about Vesuvius. Eight dead bodies were discovered in the ruins, but so disfigured that it was only possible to recognise five of them. Five other persons were also dismembered, all gravely injured, one of whom died on the way to the hospital. It is distinctly stated that the party was not making bombs for amusement.

RADIUM BLANCHES MICE.

Paris, Dec. 28.—M. Gerault Richard has laid upon the table of the Chamber of Deputies a proposal to vote 26,000 to aid Professor Curie in pursuing his researches in connection with Radium. At to-day's meeting of the Academy of Sciences Dr. Ruix, of the Pasteur Institute, reported the results of some interesting experiments with radium made by M. Danis. Having hung a tube of radium above some young mice in a cage for a period of from 14 to 15 hours, he noticed twenty days afterwards that the mice commenced to lose their fur, and that when it grew again it was of a different colour. Those mice which had been grey turned white. When he increased the duration of exposure he observed that several hours afterwards the animals became paralysed, paralysis especially affecting the younger mice.

FROG PARTIES.

The latest craze in society is to make a pet of the small green French frog, numbers of which are being sent over from Paris for frog parties. These strange pets are not much bigger than a sixpence, and the average cost varies from 8s. to £1 1s., at which price the vendor no doubt secures for himself a substantial profit. One would scarcely credit the frog with the possession of a vast amount of intelligence, but ladies who have kept them are of the opinion that the frog is far from a stupid animal, for by the exercise of patience they can be taught many clever tricks. It is almost amusing to see the quaint little reptiles jumping through a row of rings. The frogs after their education has been perfected, are placed on a table, and in front of each frog is placed a small ring, not much larger than a wedding ring, and then, without the slightest prompting, the frogs commence to jump through the rings and continue their performance as long as there remains a ring to jump through. A frog race with, say, eight rings to negotiate forms an amusing spectacle for a children's party. Many of these little reptiles live in the lap of luxury, and their appetites are tempted with the delicacies of the season such as slugs, caterpillars, and earwigs. They are usually kept in a large bottle with a little water at the bottom, and ladies sometimes have special stands built on which their pets' residences stand.

FROM BOILING POINT TO ZERO.

Paris, Dec. 30.—Under the prosaic form of an action brought by a jeweller against an officer for the price of articles sold to him a remarkable love story was unfolded to-day before the Paris Civil Tribunal. Last year a young lady, the daughter of a wealthy cattle-dealer of La Villette, fell deeply in love with an officer belonging to the garrison of Le Mans. Her affection was returned, and a number of endearing letters were exchanged. The young lady's first epistle was a frank confession of hopeless infatuation. "What can you think of this first letter which I am writing like one possessed?" she said. "I have completely lost my head, and whose fault is it? Yours, my handsome officer. Would you like a kiss? Here it is." Her father at first declined to agree to the marriage of the lovers on account of the officer's comparative poverty, but eventually consented. In July the lady wrote to her betrothed: "I send you a heart full of kisses." The correspondence went on in the same strain for some time longer. Then the lady reproached her lover with coldness, and expressed impatience at the delay in the marriage. But a week later she expressed a desire to postpone it, and finally at an interview confessed that she was about to marry another. The jilted lover had made her various presents of jewellery obtained on credit. When the jeweller demanded payment he was told by the officer to apply to the gentleman to whom she had transferred her fickle affections. The case is proceeding.

DYSPEPSIA: THE LAUGHING CURE.

Some famous physician—he must have been famous, because the remark got into print—once said: "A hearty laugh once a day is Nature's own physic." He should have practised a different school. Homeopathy in this case limited the sweep of genius. He had the right idea, but his dose was too small. A hearty laugh not once a day, but all day, if possible, is nearer the proper proportions. A gloomy table is one of the relics of bygone days. The Puritans took life seriously. Dyspepsia took them unanimously. Eating a meal was with them a deep problem. The standard prescription for dyspepsia in these days is: Less work, less worry, more air, more exercise, plenty of wholesome laughter. Few physicians to-day treat dyspepsia with medicines. Dyspepsia is purely a functional ailment, originating in abuses which offend common sense at the outset. Correct the abuses and you strike at the root of the ailment. Therefore, why medicines? why prescriptions? with no conversation at the table, eating becomes merely a process of bolting food and getting through a disagreeable ordeal with the greatest possible expedition. With conversation confined to a discussion of business troubles or household affairs, it becomes a worry and vexation, and the blood needed in the stomach is called to the brain through necessity of concentration. The only solution of the problem is the introduction of light talk requiring little thought and leaving at perfect rest all the organs of the system on which the greatest strain is otherwise brought to play. A merry jest, a running fire of repartee, an accidental joke, and plenty of laughter to greet the sallies—these not only aid enjoyment to the meal, but prolong the sitting time at the table, promote proper mastication of food, and prevent that disastrous rush and hurry which only obtain where there appears to be nothing to do but eat, because of the prevailing conversational stupidity or torpor in the circle.—"What to Eat."

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

A petition signed by over 4,000 inhabitants of the Bombay Presidency has been addressed to H. E. Lord Lamington praying for the abolition of the Medical Inspection at the different bunders and railway stations in the vicinity of Bombay which it is urged would drain the revenue of India is simultaneously proving an oppression to the population of the City and Presidency. By the maintenance and enforcement of Medical Inspection persons suffering from ordinary fever desirous of proceeding to their native places to recruit their health are reluctant to do so from apprehension of the Medical Inspection and hence either die for the want of the necessary change or if they do muster sufficient courage to face the ordeal are in major instances rejected and despatched to a Segregation Camp for observation where in a large percentage of cases they acquire plague through fear of the disease.

THE BHATIA LIBEL CASE.

A meeting of the Bhatia Mahajan was held on Saturday at the old Mahajan Wadi Kalbadevi, Bombay, for the purpose of considering the question of costs incurred by the committee of the Mahajan in defending an action of libel brought against them by a Bhatia gentleman belonging to the reform party which was eventually amicably settled in court through the intervention of the magistrate. Mr. Ranchoddas Thackersey was called to the chair. Mr. Javer Jugjeevan proposed that the legal costs incurred by the members of the Committee in defending the action for libel against them be defrayed from the Mahajan funds. Mr. Jumnadas Manoredas Ghandy moved an amendment to the effect that the opinion of the Advocate-General of Bombay be obtained whether the Mahajan could defray such costs from the funds of the community. Mr. Nurbharam Vaid moved another amendment that as the total amount of costs had not been mentioned, the matter should be postponed until such time as the lawyers bills had been received and placed before the Mahajan.

The Chairman said that the total costs incurred would amount to about Rs. 17,000. Mr. Hirji Topan and other members thought that as the action for libel was against the members of the committee in their individual capacity, and as it arose from their own mistake and negligence, the funds of the Mahajan ought not to be made available for defraying such costs.

The Chairman having requested the Hon. Mr. Vithaldas Damodar Thackersey to offer any explanation he might have on the subject, the latter said that the committee had never asked the Mahajan to defray the costs incurred by them. Even if the committee were asked to pay the costs out of their own pockets they were all such well-to-do and wealthy people that it would be a mere flea-bite to them.

The amendments were, on a division, lost. The original proposition for defraying the costs from the funds of the Mahajan was then carried, there being only nine dissentients.

The meeting then proceeded to consider other costs matters, and the proceedings then terminated.

Imaginary Ailments

THERE are many who have pains in the back and imagine that their kidneys are affected, while the only trouble is a rheumatism of the muscles, or, at worst, lumbago, that can be cured by a few applications of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, or by damping a piece of flannel with Pain Balm and binding it on over the affected parts. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors. If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stainstreet and Co., Calcutta, on receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem Calcutta.

THE AMRITSAR DEFAMATION CASES.

In the court of H. A. Sams, Esquire, Magistrate, 1st class. Complainant—Emperor through Safdar Jang Inspector, Police, Amritsar. Accused—(1) Jey Chand, (2) Parbh Dyal, (3) Maha Raj (4) Nathu Ram. Offence charged with Law applicable—Sections 500, 501, 502, Indian Penal Code. Date of institution in Court—23rd July 1903.

JUDGMENT.

In the case the complainant Safdar Jang, Inspector of Police, City Kotwal, has prosecuted the Editor, Printer and Proprietor of the "Public Gazette"—a Vernacular paper of Amritsar—for the publication of defamatory articles appearing in its issues of 24th March 1903 and 1st April 1903.

The imputations to which the complainant more especially refers are:— (a) For a few months past the Courts of Amritsar have been the arena for the courageous Kotwal of our city and the local gamblers to fight in.

(b) There can be no gainsaying the fact that gambling was carried on at Amritsar after coming to an understanding and that the moneyed people acted on the adage "give money and secure protection."

(c) Babu Safdar Jang could not control himself at being openly taunted by Labhu and at once set about to find such a Magistrate who would take action on his report or verbal complaint.

(d) Labhu has hit the Kotwal hard—"buri kit hi or kiti."

(e) Still more light was however destined to be thrown on the corrupt practice of the Kotwal.

(f) Whatever may have befallen Labhu and Gana there can be no doubt that the Kotwal's reputation has been dragged through the mire.

(g) Labhu lodged another complaint offering to prove the charge of bribery, but it was not thought expedient to move in the matter.

(h) The court-rooms at Amritsar are resounding with stories of the City Kotwal's corruption.

(i) In one Court after another are being recorded facts regarding Babu Safdar Jang, Inspector and City Kotwal, permitting the gamblers of Amritsar in consideration of Rs. 300 a month to carry on gambling or in other words facts relating to his corruption.

All the incidents alluded to in these quotations have been fully dealt in the judgment of this Court in the case Emperor through Safdar Jang versus Gana under Section 500, I. P. Code. As this case and also that of Emperor versus Haq Pasand, has been treated with the case versus Gana as one and the same as far as the subject matter goes. I will not again recapitulate it. In that case the allegations made were held to have been substantiated and the accused has been acquitted.

The truth of a libel does not however excuse it in the case of an individual much less in the case of a paper which intensifies it. We have therefore to determine two things whether the publication was for the public good, and whether it was made in good faith, that is with due care and attention, for it cannot be denied that the Articles are defamatory unless privileged, and that the privilege of their being the report of a judicial proceeding will not hold good as the Articles are evidently leaders commenting on certain statements in the Courts in connection with the Inspector. I think it may be admitted without further discussion that the publication of Articles exposing the corruption of an important police officer is for the public good; the very fact of exposing themselves to the risk of an action is advantageous to the public as giving an opportunity to have the matter sifted in the Courts. We have then simply to consider the good faith of the Articles and see whether the imputations have any foundation on fact or likelihood.

To take the imputations seriatim. (a) This is actually a fact. From November 1902 to February 1903 there were cases pending in the courts of Amritsar in which the gamblers and the Inspector figured. On the 1st November Labhu versus Safdar Jang, under Secs. 500 and 323; this was dismissed by Mails. Kundu Bakshi on 22nd February 1903. Safdar Jang versus Labhu, under Section 186, I. P. Code, decided on 27th February 1903. Emperor versus Gana and others, and Emperor versus Soman and others, the riot case decided on 27th March 1903. Ali Sheikh versus Gana and others, under Section 107 C. P. Code, Labhu's petition, dated 6th November 1902, on 23rd December, Dulla versus Gana, under Section 325, decided on 16th December 1903.

(b) The word "Samjhote" is disputed. The translator who translated complainant's petition added the words "with the police on the subject." It is clear that "Samjhote" has some meaning of the kind here, and I do not see how it could have any other. The writer is of opinion that gambling is going on because those who can afford it get protection, nevertheless a raid could not be averted. This is exactly what happened and the fact that the raids during 1900, 1901, 1902 were not always successful must have suggested to the writer some such reason, especially when as early as May 1902 Chetu, son of Asa, had publicly accused the Inspector of being in league with the gamblers of Soma's party.

(c) We have seen already the action that Safdar Jang took when Labhu confronted him at the investigation in the riot case, how he went to the house of Hafiz Muhammad Yusuf and there obtained a warrant without bail in a bailable offence and arrested Labhu.

(d) This is founded on fact and was well known not only in the Bazar but by this time in all the courts.

Dysentery.

OR Inflammation of the bowel or large intestine is of more frequent occurrence during the summer months. It can be checked and cured if Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy is taken according to the printed directions with each bottle. Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy is invaluable to all medicine chests. Get a bottle to-day, it may save a life. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors. If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stainstreet and Co., Calcutta, on receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem Calcutta.

(e). The writer of the Article had ample grounds for showing that more light was to be thrown on the corrupt practices of the Kotwal for he goes on to give the contents of Gana's petition of December 23rd and statements on that day in court.

(f). That the Inspector's reputation had been dragged through the mire is so obvious that it hardly needs comment. What other could have been the result after the allegations made in the courts by Chetu, Labhu and Gana?

(g). This is also founded on facts for Labhu on 20th January 1903 put in a complaint against Safdar Jang under Sections 161, 384, 388 in which he offers to prove charges of bribery. The Deputy Commissioner refused to act in the matter as the language was too vague.

(h). (i). This is also founded on fact; one has only to go through the files of these cases to see what allegations were being made before the Magistrates.

These two Articles exactly describe what took place in the courts of Amritsar and they are a just epitome of the events out of which the present case arose. There is hardly a word in these Articles that cannot be substantiated by the files through which I have read. The writer does not decide on the truth or falsehood of the allegations, but points out what was taking place in the Court. The writer infers that either the Inspector is a bribe-taker as is alleged, or that the Police in Amritsar are inefficient. Nothing else can explain the state of affairs. I think that he was under the circumstances perfectly justified in making this inference.

The Articles are in my opinion moderate in tone and are such as any respectable paper would publish under the circumstances.

I therefore acquit the accused. (Sd.) A. H. SAMS, Magistrate, 1st Class.

9th January 1904.

THE ASSAULT ON BISHOP WHITLEY.

A Calcutta message to the "Pioneer" says:—

With regard to the assault upon the Right Rev. J. C. Whitley on the 7th instant at Bamni in the Manbhan district the facts as stated in the newspaper reports do not seem to be in the least exaggerated. Bamni is a village inhabited by Khatris, a caste of Bengal-speaking people, about 26 miles from Purnia on the Ranchi road. The Bishop was brought into Purnia during the night of the 6th or 7th instant in a state which demanded immediate surgical assistance. He had severe injuries on his arms and shoulders sustained while trying to ward off the blows from the "lathi" his head had been cut open, and his cassock and shirt were saturated with blood. A native Christian, named Sadrap, who was with him at Bamni, also had marks on his forehead. The Bishop's statement as recorded on the 8th by Mr. Lang, Deputy Commissioner at Manbhan, was as follows: "We went with four Christians to Bamni to preach to the people, some of whom, I had been told, were inclined to hear the Gospel. I had never been to the village before Sadrap, a native of Muchiram, and we stopped in a narrow passage outside his compound. Sadrap said to Muchiram, 'We have come to give you good news.' Muchiram became angry and said 'Do you want to take away my caste?' I replied 'No' Sadrap was then severely beaten in my presence. I turned to go, but Muchiram and his son said 'We will not let you go' and having tied their clothes about their loins they proceeded to beat me with 'lathis' among each blow at my head. I wanted off the blows with my arms as best I could, they struck me as hard as they could on the head and shoulders. There were many people present, but none tried to protect us. I received ten or a dozen blows, one of which cut my head, in spite of my sola topi which was knocked down, but got up and left the village feeling dizzy. My head was bleeding profusely. My assailants did not pursue me. I had been told before I went that some of the villagers had been outcasted for eating with Christians. I had information before the local police and a Sub-Inspector had arrived before I left the neighbourhood."

All the assailants are said to have absconded. As the District Superintendent of Police was absent on duty a considerable distance away the Deputy Commissioner himself was about to start for Bamni when it became known that Muchiram and seven or eight others concerned in the assault on the Bishop and Sadrap had arrived in Purnia during the night with the intention of obtaining legal advice. Their presence simplified the necessary magisterial action pending the Bishop's recovery from his injuries. He is an old man but is making rapid progress towards convalescence. He was for many years head of the Anglican Mission in Chota Nagpur where there are many Native Christians and missionaries. On the plateau they are scarcely ever molested, although the people belong to a great measure to aboriginal tribes. The latter have become accustomed to the presence of the missionaries and the preaching in the villages, where converts are made every year. Manbhan is a district in the plains where people differ materially from the villagers on the plateau Sadrap is said to be a relative of Muchiram, and he may possibly have given the Bishop a wrong idea of the state of feeling in Bamni, where evidently some sectarian quarrel was in progress. The fact that the attack upon the aged defenceless man was not prevented by the crowd of villagers who witnessed it, shows in itself that feeling must have been strongly excited against the converts.

WAGES MAY BE APPROPRIATED TO ADVANCES.

Mr. Justice Moncrieff on the 12th instant, delivered his complete judgment at the Ceylon Appeal Court in the case in which a cooly on Hope Estate, Kandy, was sent to jail for re-assertion. The sentence and the accused's defence are obvious from the following summary of His Lordship's judgment:—

The appellant was sentenced to a month's hard labour for quitting the service of his employer without leave, on the 16th April, 1903, while he was a cooly on Hope Estate. The appeal turns on the question whether the accused had been paid his wages for January, 1903. If he was paid he cannot claim immunity on the ground sanctioned by the Ordinance that his wages were overdue 60 days from the month in which he earned them. The accused's name was on the check-roll and he worked until the 3rd April. On the 15th April he had a proctor's letter sent to the Superintendent demanding his wages, and was offered his wages as due from the end of January. He said the estate was to the wages of alternate months to the credit of advances. The December wages were paid on the 11th January, and his January wages were credited in repayment of advances. His kangany says that the accused expressly consented to the arrangement and to get an advance of Rs. 10 for current expenses. A servant's immunity from punishment for desertion, on the ground of non-payment of wages, is subject to the proviso that in computing the wages due, he shall be debited with the amount of all advances and the value of all food, etc., supplied which the employer was not bound to supply. In the Labour Ordinance, which specially refers to estate labour, it is enacted that an estate cooly's wages are payable within 60 days from the expiration of the month in which they are earned, and that desertion is excused if there is default in this payment. The legislature had the proviso mentioned earlier before it when it enacted that in computing a cooly's wages for any period of service, he should be debited with all advances etc., made "during such period." The insertion of the words "during such period" does not affect the present case. The employer says to the cooly: Here are your wages for January. I have deducted what the Ordinance says shall be deducted for advances in January, but I may remind you that you owe me much more for advances made—it may be—before January. The cooly is willing that his wages for January should be credited to the debt he owes. The employer takes the cooly at his word. Can it be said that the cooly's wages for January have not been paid? His Lordship does not know whether the cooly came into the service with original advances. He does not know to what advances the January wages were credited; but His Lordship knows of no reason why a cooly, or anybody else, should not, if he chooses, use his wages for January in paying even advances "originally made." His Lordship remarks that he was referred to a previous decision of Justice Withers, who held that the passage His Lordship cited from the Labour Ordinance referred to "advances by way of anticipated wages. If that Judge meant that advances to enable coolies to pay their debts or any other conceivable purpose are within the provision, His Lordship does not agree with him. But the present case does not turn upon what the Labour Ordinance empowered the employer to deduct; but upon what the cooly empowered him to deduct. His Lordship says he was referred to another case in which Justice Lawrie held "that the agreement (between the employer and the kangany) cannot bring within the primitive clauses of the Ordinance a man who is not liable to punishment if he had not made that agreement." His Lordship says that observation may be just with regard to the case then in question; but His Lordship cannot accept it as being of universal application. If a kangany or a cooly legally agrees with his employer to accept an advance of Rs. 50 on the footing that it should be repaid out of his wages for the current month, and his wages are so applied, His Lordship is at a loss to understand how it can be said that the wages have not been paid. If they have been paid, the cooly cannot excuse his desertion on the ground of the non-payment of his wages. The conviction is affirmed.

THE OFFICIAL SECRETS' BILL.

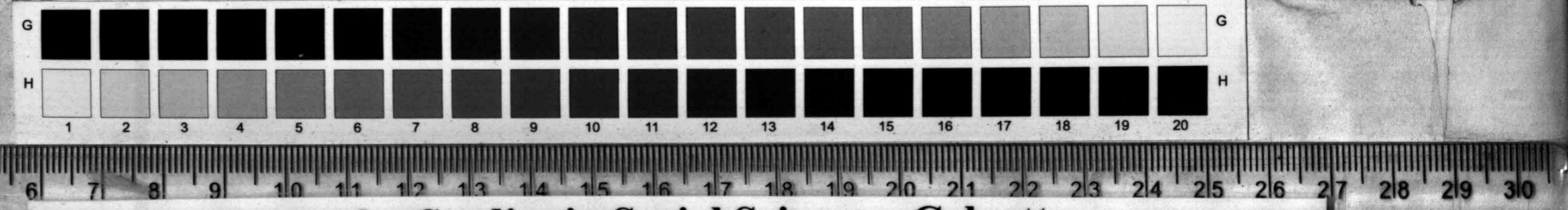
The Council of the Bombay Presidency has forwarded to the Government of India a representation on the subject of the Bill to amend the Indian Official Secrets Act. The Council submits that the proposed changes are entirely uncalled for, and that no case has been made out for such revolutionary alterations, both in substantive law and also in the procedure relating to the trial of offences under the Act, as are contemplated by the new legislation. In the statement of Objects and Reasons the Council says that the Bill is designed to remedy certain defects disclosed by experience in the Indian Official Secrets' Act and tends to render it less effective for the objects which it has in view. But the public are entirely in the dark as regards the precise reasons and circumstances which led the Government to change radically the existing provision of the law. The Council begs to observe that not only is there no necessity made out for amending it, but that if the law is amended in the manner now proposed, it will involve the subversion of some of the universally acknowledged principles of criminal jurisprudence and will be extremely mischievous in its operation.

Baby Cough, Must Never Linger

NOTHING is more distressing than to see a helpless little infant suffering with a cough and to be fearful of using a remedy which may contain some harmful ingredient. The makers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy positively guarantee that this preparation does not contain opium in any form, or any of her harmful substance. Mothers may confidently give this remedy to their little ones. It gives prompt relief and is perfectly safe. It always cures, and cures quickly. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors. If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith Stainstreet and Co., Calcutta, on receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem Calcutta.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

CHAMBERLAIN'S cough remedy 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. The time to cure, it is when it is merely a "bad cold." Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is highly recommended by the leading physicians for this malady. It always cures, and cures quickly. Price Re. 1 and Rs. 2. Sold by all Chemists and Medicine Vendors. If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith, Stainstreet and Co., Calcutta, on receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B. K. Paul and Co., Abdool Rahman and Abdool Kareem Calcutta.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 24, 1904.

A DISSERTATION ON SELECT COMMITTEES.

NINE Hon'ble members form the Select Committee, who are now considering the clauses of the Official Secrets Bill. As no reporters are allowed, the outside public are quite in the dark as to how they are carrying on their deliberations.

The president as well as the members of this Select Committee, like that of similar Committees, are selected by the Government. The president, as every one knows, has two votes, but why, only Heaven knows.

The Hindus have a notion that the hare is an intelligent creature. This is proved by the first story in the "Panchtantra" in Sanscrit, supposed to be the most ancient story-book in the world.

The lion was sitting in Durbat; and a hare, the leader of its community, who had been dubbed a B. C. I. Bahadur, approached him to pay his respects, and he did it with trembling.

The lion being in possession of irresistible powers, was a little conceited, as every one in possession of such powers is likely to be, and in proof of this we can point out some of the rulers of India, who possess irresistible powers.

To impress this point upon the minds of the scoundrels, who had assembled round him, we mean those who had attended the Durbar, he asked the hare to explain why was he trembling before him in that way?

The lion said in reply: "Fool, it is not for that you tremble before me; you did it because you have no brains while I have them in abundance. Don't you know that men of intellect have a magnetism which makes others cower before them?"

The lion did not like this talk; but he suppressed his anger and agreed to prove that he was intellectually superior to the hare, who is known to be an intelligent creature, by a discussion of high philosophy.

The lion at once found that he had committed a grave blunder. He swore, and he bullied, but found that the hare was, step by step, cornering him. He began to perspire profusely, as those defeated in arguments generally do.

The lion replied: "Your Majesty, I cannot give up the point, for just see there is a fallacy, which—"

The monarch: "Stop; I do not like this nonsense; I am tired of talking with a fool. Let us fight over the point and speedily finish the discussion. And when the lion challenged the hare to a fight, to settle the point of difference, the latter immediately gave up the discussion and confessed defeat."

We have thus explained why reporters are not permitted to attend the deliberations of Select Committees. But one point yet remains unsettled. Why has the President, who is just like others, two votes? The official members on the Select Committee on the Official Secrets Bill, should, however, bear in mind what the Viceroy himself declared in regard to this measure.

an ugly shape. We hope they will be so good as to divest the measure of all its objectionable features.

HIGH COURT'S OPINION ON TRANSFER OF CHITTAGONG IN 1896.

When the Chittagong Division was proposed to be transferred to Assam in 1896, the Government of Lord Elgin was pleased to request the High Court to express its opinion on the subject. The present Government, however, has not thought it fit to publish it up till now.

We showed in a previous article to what extent would the judicial agency be crippled if, like Sylhet, Chittagong were also transferred to the Chief Commissionership of Assam.

The next subject for its consideration was the law to be administered in the whole or any portion of the Division—as it might occur—which might be transferred from the administration of Bengal to that of Assam.

In short, Mr. Greaves, the late District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet, informed the High Court that many Regulations and Acts, which had been in force in Sylhet, ceased to have operation in that district after its transfer to Assam.

The High Court dwelt upon these and other points noticed in the letter of Mr. Greaves with great force and reasoning. Here is another matter. Even contending that the laws which were at the time, and are yet in force in Chittagong, would be allowed to continue, after its severance from the administration of Bengal, the outlook would be far from cheering.

The High Court noticed another point. The district of Chittagong, taken by itself, was one of the most advanced districts in Bengal. In 1896 it covered an area of 2,667 square miles, with a population of 12,90,167 souls.

The minute of the High Court takes a most independent view of the question, and completely demolishes the theory of administrative expediency which the Government urged in favour of the proposal.

It would seem that, as now so in 1896, the public had no definite idea as to why the Government was going to effect this territorial change. The High Court, however, made a surmise, which was that the object of the Government was probably to create a vast frontier province, embracing the north and east frontiers of Bengal, and extending from Goalpara to Chittagong; and that, in order to make it self-supporting, it was proposed to bring within its jurisdiction some of the richest and most populous districts of Bengal.

We need hardly say that, the objections raised in 1896 by the High Court to the transfer of the Chittagong Division apply with greater force in the case of Dacca and Mymensingh, which are even more advanced than Chittagong, and are far nearer to the seat of the Bengal Government than the latter is.

HOW THE PARTITION QUESTION HAS AFFECTED THE GOVERNMENT.

A RUMOUR has been circulated to the effect that the agitation against the partition question has ousted Lord Curzon, and that he is determined to disregard popular voice in the matter. Why? Why should His Lordship ignore this universal protest? Is it because, instead of groaning in secret and nourishing sedition in their minds, they have frankly addressed the Government? Is it because, instead of sleeping over a question which affects them vitally, they have thought it fit to advise the Government what it should do? Is it because they have faith in the sympathy and sense of justice of the British Government, alien though it is, which alone have led them to pray for the redress of their grievance by monster meetings and petitions?

Is their voice to be ignored, because, they are loyal and have loyally submitted to the Government what is due to them? Is it because they are gentle and abhor to resort to violent or Irish methods, or even to use disrespectful words against the Government? Is it because it is the duty of every Government, especially of a Government like that of England in India, which is based upon righteousness, to do nothing which is repugnant to the feelings of the people? Is it because Lord Curzon has professed love for the Indians and promised to heed popular wishes and sentiments? In short, is the agitation to be disregarded, because, it is genuine and based upon popular feelings of an universal character?

If Lord Curzon disregards the agitation on the grounds stated above, he is not just, nor generous; he is a despot and a failure; he is insincere and hollow. But he is nothing of the kind, for he has given evidence, in an unmistakable manner, that he regards public opinion. If he did not wish the welfare of the people he would have never founded the scholarship for technical education, or protected the Indian public by his speeches.

is it possible that the Government has any other aim in the matter of partition? The authorities launched a project, and the people denounced it. Let the Government give a patient hearing to what the people have to say; why should the Government feel that it has a fight with the people in this question? We say this, because of the attempts made to win over some of our leading men to its side. The Government is irresistible. It is in the power of the Government to do whatever it likes,—to trample all Indian agitation under foot. It determined, let the Government do that. But we cannot bear to see it adopting methods, which are not worthy of a strong Government, which man there is who can disobey the mandate of the Viceroy, or the Lieutenant-Governor, or even of a high official? If a high official asks a Raja Bahadur, or a Nawab Bahadur, that is to say, a man of position, to vote for the project of partition, where is the man in India to disobey it?

Besides, how does the Government gain by winning over any such men? If a Raja Bahadur votes for the project in public, in Parliament, he will have to entreat his countrymen with bated hands to forgive him for what he had done in which he had no help. Even if the Raja Bahadur does not pray for forgiveness in his people, the very fact of his voting for the Government, would show that he had been won over by unworthy means. Besides, what is the value of an opinion, though held by a Raja Bahadur, if it is against millions?

When the great Jhankergachhi meeting was held, where more than a lakh of people had assembled, the Magistrate of the district mixed with the crowd, and began to cross-examine the peasants. He asked, why they had come. The peasants saw that they had not pleased the Magistrate by coming there, and so some of them said, they had come because the Babus, (meaning those who had organised the meeting) had asked them to come. The Magistrate was gratified to hear this, for he had an opportunity of reporting to the Government that it was all a got up affair. But some of the Mandals present confronted the Magistrate immediately, and they began to talk of the chokidari tax, of police oppression, of the misappropriation of the Road Cess, etc., and the Magistrate was non-plussed.

In the same manner, we understand, the same tactics were adopted at the Mymensingh meeting. The local authorities mixed with the crowd, and some of them succeeded in eliciting replies from some men that they had come because they had been asked by their Zemindars. Yes, they had come because they were asked, what then? Is not the opinion of half a dozen men, who can control the minds of forty thousands, the number which assembled at Mymensingh equal in value to that of the opinion of the latter? The fact is, if the peasants thought that the authorities were displeased, because they had come, the most natural thing would be for them to lay the blame on others, and say that they had come because they had been asked.

There is another attempt of the Government which we cannot approve. The people are asked to give an alternate proposal. Does not the Government see that it means a dodge? For the Bengalees to give an alternative proposal is for them to accept indirectly the principle of the project itself, which certainly they cannot do. They are opposed to partition—any sort of partition,—that is what they feel.

The Government has a peculiar position in Bengal. If it descends so low as to adopt the position of a party or an opponent, the best thing for the people is to give up the struggle. For, if the Government plays the role of an opponent, the people have no means of fighting with it. Its role is that of a map, and to examine things from an exalted position where biser feelings have no place.

Is it necessary to disclose why the people are so keen? The partition is carried out, Bengal, if it is carried out, will weaken the nation. The Bengalees are utterly helpless. They have yet one strength. It is this that they are numerically strong.

How can they agree to the proposal which will take away from them the only strength that they possess?

We hear the Select Committee on the Official Secrets Bill had another sitting on Wednesday. May we enquire once more why is the existing Act going to be amended at all? The Government have not as yet stated its grounds for introducing this revolutionary measure. The Viceroy, in his speech, talked of the vagueness of some of its provisions. If it is the intention of the Government to remove this vagueness, surely, the remedy lies not in making the measure more hideous than it already is, but in removing it in the light of the Parliamentary debates that followed the introduction of the Bill in England in 1889. From these debates we gather the following: (1) The measure was meant to protect naval and military, and not civil, secrets. (2) The disclosure of certain other class of "Official Secrets" was also penalized. But the expressions, "Official Secrets," were defined to mean this, namely, that when a Government official communicates Official Secrets of a confidential nature to "the enemy of the sovereign," it is then only that he is liable to be hauled up and punished under the Act. And (3) the newspapers are exempt from the operation of the Act. Now, if the present Act necessitated a change, why was it not effected on the above lines. The Parliamentary debates, though throwing ample light on the subject, have been, however, totally ignored, and the Government is proceeding on an arbitrary line, without rhyme or reason, and is necessarily committing blunder after blunder and evoking bitter criticism. By the way, how do private persons manage to keep their secrets? Is Government more helpless than they are that it needs a special penal Act to protect them? If a private individual reveals the secret of another, he can be sued, civilly or criminally. The Government can also protect its own secrets in a similar way, and very well do away with the necessity of enforcing an obnoxious measure.

The labours of the select Committee on the Official Secrets Bill have been brought to a close after two sittings. The measure has been mainly settled and will probably be placed before the Council next Friday. It can be easily surmised that the three representative Assam members will record their notes of dissent. That privilege which they enjoy as they enter their notes of dissent as lengthy, can make their notes of dissent as lengthy, as the learned and loyal as they choose. It took the select Committee only four hours—two hours for each sitting,—to settle the provisions of this revolutionary Bill. Parliament however, required seven months' deliberation to meet the objections offered to the Official Secrets Bill introduced there in 1889.

HERE is another bit of Philosophy. Power may be used and abused. Those who are wealthy can use their wealth either to alleviate or to increase the misery of their neighbours. It is said, the "trusts" in America are in this manner running men of small means. In the same manner men who have power can either prove themselves a blessing to their fellow-creatures or a curse. The Government of India, it is to say the English rulers of this country, enjoy great powers over vast myriads of children of the soil. This opportunity they can utilize by benefiting those over whose destinies they preside, or abuse by utilizing it for their own mischief. What does this partition question mean except wanton exercise of power? Possibly the Government knew not that the project would evoke so much opposition. But they know it now; and they have come to realize that there is not a single Bengalee out of the forty millions, who will support the scheme—nay, not bitterly oppose it. That being the case will the Government ride roughshod over their feelings? It is a strange use of power to launch such schemes without consulting the people, and it would be stranger still to trample public opinion under foot when it is known.

MR. GARTH has contradicted the statement published in the press, namely, that the Nawab of Dacca had said at the Conference held at the house of Mr. Garth, that he had been authorized by the Lieutenant-Governor to say that other districts besides Dacca and Mymensingh were proposed to be transferred to Assam. Now, supposing the Lieutenant-Governor had really instructed the Nawab to put the proposal before the Conference,—what then? We do not see how it could be a blunder, or an undignified act, on the part of a ruler to do it, specially when His Honour is engaged in the partition question. Anyhow some men, present at the Conference referred to above, believed that the proposal that emanated from the Nawab Bahadur had really come from the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Garth says it did not; so let the matter be dropped here. There is no need to make a row over the affair.

ELSEWHERE are published the questions of the Hon'ble Dr. Ashu Tushierjee and the replies of the Government. It will be seen that not a bit of the official papers, for which the whole nation has been anxiously awaiting, was laid on the table of the Council. Why? Because, the Government claims the reports of Sir Henry Cotton, the High Court, etc., as its own property to which the public have no claim! Some of its replies are very odd. It says that it has invited the opinions of the Local Governments concerned, but it does not choose to consult the High Court. Pray, why? Is it because the Hon'ble Judges will not support the Government scheme? If so, why is the Government so anxious to thrust the measure down the unwilling throats of millions when officials, with judicial training, are opposed to it? It will also be seen that the Government says neither "aye" nor "nay" to the report published in these columns, namely, that it has been proposed that, besides Dacca and Mymensingh, such districts as Jessore and Khulna and the Division of Rajshahy are going to be annexed to Assam. We are thus like people surprised in the dark. The Government will give no reasons why it is going to dismember Bengal; neither will it say precisely whether only Dacca, Mymensingh and the Chittagong Division, or in addition to them, other Districts and Divisions are included in the scheme. Further, it withholds the reports of such distinguished officers as Sir H. Cotton, and the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court. Having created this situation for us,

it asks us to give reasons why Bengal should not be dismembered! Was ever a people, in ancient or modern times, put in this awkward position?

This belief among members of the Psychological Research Society that they have established communication with their late distinguished co-worker, Frederick W. Myers, is one of the most remarkable statements of the moment, and Sir Oliver Lodge is said to be of those who incline to accept this proposition. In an interview which he has accorded to the Pall Mall Gazette, representing the Psychological Society, Professor Lodge said:—"We have collected evidence of the possibility of communication between this and other worlds which deserves consideration. We are publishing shortly remarkable examples of automatic writing which some of us believe to be a communication from Frederick Myers. I believe this document will prove to be of great importance."

How drunk is eating into the vitals of the British people will appear from the following copy of Mr. Justice Grantham to a resolution which was passed on the 17th Dec. by the Croydon Licensed Victuallers' Protection Society, regarding that during the hearing of a case on circuit he "should have again cast vile aspersions upon persons engaged in a lawful and respectable trade," and adding that "especially so they consider it a taste on his part, having regard to the fact that it was through the action of the accused victuallers of Croydon at the election in 1885 that he was returned to Parliament, thereby leading the way to his election to the judicial bench."

"Sir, I am extremely sorry to have received such an insulting resolution from a body of men most of whom, at any rate at our time, were carrying on their business in a respectable manner, many of whom I was glad to know as friends, and many of whom assisted, with the aid of numerous other bodies and individuals in returning me to Parliament."

"Now, apparently, all this is changed. I have lately been brought face to face for weeks with the conduct of publicans in carrying on of their business which has resulted in the most heart-breaking crimes that it is possible to imagine—husbands murdering their wives, wives their husbands, fathers their sons, friends their own best friends—all through the maddening influence of excessive drinking."

"Twelve murders, eighteen attempts at murder, and wounding without number that were just as likely to have ended in murder as far as the conduct of the criminal was concerned, have been mine and my brother judges' daily fare for the last four weeks on one circuit, and in almost every case, as appeared in evidence, drink was the cause—drink served by publicans, and not at clubs, and drink proved to have been served in the public-house where the man was openly drunk."

"These are the men whose conduct I complain of, and these are the men who the Croydon publicans consider are carrying on a lawful and respectable trade, and on whose behalf they speak of my strictures as being vile aspersions."

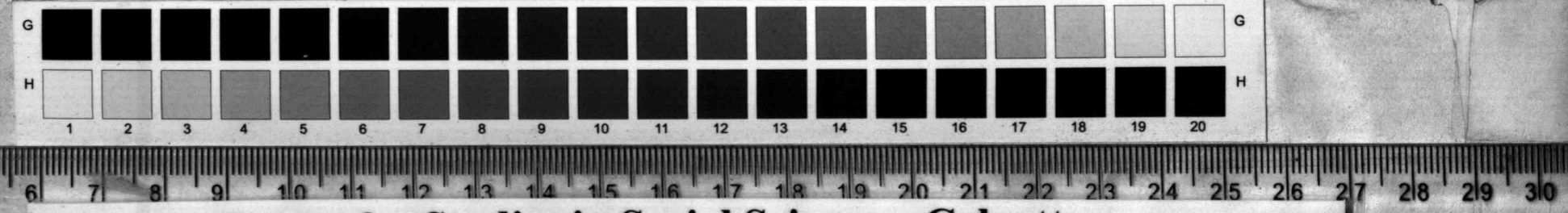
"Among sensible people, those who assist a trade to eliminate its worst characters are not looked upon as its best friends, and not its worst enemies. If the trade will not help those who are endeavouring to stop this fearful amount of crime caused by public-house drunkenness, its members must not be surprised if measures are introduced which will of necessity affect the good and bad alike."

"I ought probably to have treated this resolution with silent contempt, but the respect I once had for so many of the licensed victuallers of Croydon for the way they then conducted their business makes it incumbent on me now to express my great regret at their apparently altered character."

"Your obedient servant, (Sd.) Wm. Grantham."

Of course we are not directly interested in this question. But we think the British authorities and Christian Missionaries should give up all other work and devote themselves entirely to the endeavour of saving their own people from hell where drink is leading them.

From the able letter of our Siharar correspondent, published elsewhere, it will be seen that the Chief Commissioner of Assam has been pleased to introduce some salutary reforms in the Local Boards of Assam, which had become a hot-bed of scandals, and to which we had to refer over and over again in these columns since the last one year and a half. Not only were the European members of the Board allowed to take contracts of roads and other works for the benefit of their own tea gardens, but their bills were paid in full, whether they were correctly or incorrectly made, and practically unexamined and unchecked. Several cases had cropped up in which it was found that the European contractors had drawn more money than what was due to them. Mr. Fortoues, the Judge-Commissioner of Assam Valley districts, in one of his judgments, brought this practice prominently to the notice of the public. He said that, while in the case of European contractors false bills were deliberately prepared to hoodwink the audit department, a different method was adopted when Indian contractors were concerned. In the Siharar Local Board a similar case happened in which one Mr. Marshall, a tea planter, was involved. He was a member of the Board and undertook to repair a certain road, leading to his own garden, at the cost of the Board. He presented a bill which, on examination, was found to far exceed his actual due. Thereupon Mr. Johnston, who was, at the time, officiating as Deputy Commissioner and Chairman of the Board, refused to pay the entire amount demanded by Mr. Marshall. The European members of the Board, however, took the side of Mr. Marshall and did their very best to humiliate the Chairman. Mr. Johnston remained firm and sent up the case to Mr. Bolton, the then Officiating Chief Commissioner of Assam. The latter, however, joined with the planters and threw Mr. Johnston overboard. We are very glad to find that the Hon'ble Mr. Fuller, the permanent Chief Commissioner, has vindicated the conduct of Mr. Johnston by accepting the reform for which the latter fought and suffered so much, and introduced it in every Local Board of Assam. In future, it will not be as possible as it was before for European members of the Boards, who are selfishly disposed, to play ducks and drakes with public money. Indeed they will have to sign a declaration to the effect that, as honourable gentlemen, they will not spend



the Boards' money for their personal gain. It now remains for the Chief Commissioner to do justice to Mr. Johnston who has been transferred to Sylhet as Assistant Commissioner, whereas he has given ample evidence of his capacity to hold the post of Deputy Commissioner with much credit. As for Mr. Marshall, we are informed by our Silchar correspondent, the Chief Commissioner has refused to confirm his re-election as a member of the Local Board.

At a Committee meeting of the Kayestha Sova, held on Sunday last, two very important resolutions were passed. One was to the effect that the four divisions of the Kayesthas of Bengal can form matrimonial connections with one another, each keeping its own dignity, without violating any caste rules and that such marriages should be effected as extensively as possible. The resolution was adopted by many influential members of the various samajes who were present on the occasion, and it would be placed before the next general meeting for formal approval. Here is a solid advancement made, and we have no doubt the members of the four Samajes will hail the reform with joy. For, one of the means by which the present marriage difficulty can be removed to a large extent is by the amalgamation of the sub-castes, thereby enlarging the circle of the entire community. The other resolution was a protest against the dismemberment of Bengal on social grounds. Here is the full text of the resolution:—

"The executive committee of the Bengal Kayestha Sova has learnt with much concern the proposal of the Government to separate certain districts, inhabited by many leading and influential Kayestha families, from Bengal, and annex the same to Assam. In their opinion such separation is calculated to materially interfere with the social reforms in the Kayestha community which the Sova has inaugurated."

A memorial on the subject for submission to the Government of Bengal is in course of preparation. Now, this amalgamation of the four sub-castes will not be effected if the Kayesthas of Eastern and Western Bengal are again divided and placed under two separate Governments with two separate capitals. We hear, other communities are also contemplating to submit memorials to Government protesting against the partition of Bengal.

INDIA has many rulers, almost as many as there are Englishmen in this country. One of them holds the following opinion about the Bengal partition question:—

No strong Government should yield to popular clamour. If the people had remained quiet, of course the Government would have felt that it had a free hand to do whatever it liked. But the agitation leaves no option to the Government. The more the people agitate, the more the Government feels the necessity of carrying out its project with a strong hand.

The view of another ruler is:— The Government finds itself in an awkward position. If cannot yield to clamour, but it also cannot ignore altogether one, when it is based upon a grievance which the people feel to be real. Under the present circumstances, the Government should proceed under the principle of 'give and take.'

Here is the view of another ruler:— By agitation, it is quite possible that the people appeal to the worst passions of a certain class of the powers that be: the more they clamour, the more the authorities resent it and feel it incumbent upon them to ignore it.

But the people also have to guard their own interests to the best of their ability. If they remain quiet, they give an opportunity to the Government to take their silence for acquiescence. If they clamour gently, they again run the risk of being thought indifferent and the instruments of professional political agitators. So they have no help but to do their best to shew that not only is their agitation real, but also emphatic. To yield to the earnest wishes of a people is, however, no humiliation for a Government which is really strong, but on the contrary a triumph. If a strong Government yields to the wishes of its people, it not only shews its generosity but its strength too.

To which class of the three statesmen, does His Excellency the Viceroy belong?

It is very kind of Lord Curzon to find a few scholarships for the improvement of technical education in India, but the Government should also see that the scheme meets with success. The people of India not having any extensive knowledge of foreign countries, ought to be informed how they are to avail themselves of the opportunity presented to them. It is definitely declared that mining is one of the subjects which they can learn in other lands. But where is the country they would go to learn it? The Government knows this, at least it can procure for the candidates the information where mining is best taught. Then, the Government only gives a hint that there are other subjects which the candidates can take up, but it is in the power of the Government to enumerate what they are, and where they can be best learnt. The Government offers the sound advice that no subject ought to be taken up for study which has no prospect of being utilised in this country. We suggested that an honourable member of the Council should interpellate the Government on some doubtful points in the Technical Scholarship Resolution for the purpose of giving the public an idea of the aim and scope of this much needed step. We are glad that the Hon'ble Rai Sree Ram Bahadur has kindly responded to our call.

There is one point in connection with the case of Bahar-Uddin Choudhuri, a rich Zemindar in the district of Dinajpur, the particulars of which appears in another column, which deserves more than a passing notice. Bahar-Uddin had accused Police Sub-Inspector Mathura Nath of taking bribes. But his information was not believed by the District Superintendent of Police, and he was put on his trial for giving false information. He was convicted of the charge and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment. On appeal to the Sessions Judge Mr. Fisher, the sentence was reduced to three months. The High Court was then moved and Bahar-Uddin was discharged. Thereupon Bahar-Uddin wanted to prosecute the Police Sub-Inspector for making false statements against him.

the Sessions Judge for necessary sanction. Mr. Fisher, in refusing the permission, passed the following extraordinary order:—

"The petitioner made a false charge against the Sub-Inspector and the latter tried to defend himself by making false statement in reply. The petitioner has been given benefit of the doubt by the Hon'ble High Court. When petitioner has been convicted for falsely charging the Sub-Inspector, then I will sanction the prosecution of the Sub-Inspector for making false defence to the false case brought against him.

Refused. C. Fisher." Bahar-Uddin Choudhuri then moved the Hon'ble High Court against the order with the result that Justices Ghose and Stephen set it aside and gave sanction to Bahar-Uddin to prosecute the Sub-Inspector. The Hon'ble Judges themselves acknowledged their inability to understand the meaning of the following passage in the order of Mr. Fisher:—

"When the accused has been convicted for falsely charging the Sub-Inspector, then I will sanction the prosecution for making false defence."

They, however, sought to explain it by observing that perhaps the learned Judge did not relish the judgment of the High Court and he had not applied his mind to the real issues. To the laymen, however, the meaning of the passage is as clear as day light. According to them Mr. Fisher questioned the wisdom of the finding of the Hon'ble Judges and felt himself aggrieved, when they set aside the sentence of three months' imprisonment passed upon Bahar-Uddin, and he simply gave expression to his perturbed feelings in the passage in question.

In reply to a question put by the Hon'ble Mr. S. R. Aiyar at the last meeting of the Madras Legislative Council, the Hon'ble Mr. Hammie said:—

"(a) It is a fact that the Police of Sholavandan station in the District of Madurai charged nine Pallas of Mannadungalam village in Madurai Taluq with the murder of a schoolmaster.

"(b) One of the Pallas made a confessional statement. The Police officers alleged to have forced him to make it were charged before the Assistant Magistrate, Madurai, but were discharged as the Magistrate found that the case was false and concocted.

"(c) It is not true that flesh and bones were produced by the Police as belonging to the body of the deceased, but in the search for the murdered man portions of a corpse were found and were examined by a Medical Officer to ascertain whether they could be the body of the supposed deceased. It was decided from the length of the hair that they could not.

"(d) It is true that, while the preliminary enquiry was going on before the Magistrate, the schoolmaster alleged to have been murdered appeared before the Magistrate from Negapatam, and that the Pallas were in consequence discharged."

The above represents a true picture of the extraordinary things that may happen and, as a matter of fact, is happening frequently under the police rule as it obtains in India. The Police of Salavan station got certain information and they sent up no less than 9 Pallas on the charge of murdering a schoolmaster. The incriminating evidence then began to come in. Some remains of a corpse were actually discovered and sent to the Medical Officer for examination. But alas, while all these things were going on, the alleged murdered man appeared in flesh and blood before the inquiring officer! After this the case for the prosecution was dropped and the unfortunate man escaped the clutches of the law with a whole skin. Of course the police did not suffer in the least for this extraordinary feat. Some police officers were charged before the Assistant Magistrate of Madurai for extorting confession of his guilt from one of the accused, but they were discharged, the Magistrate finding the case as false and fabricated! But pray why should the accused make the statement which might cost his life? Was it to enjoy the fun of putting some policemen to trouble?

THE "Humane Review" reproduces an address delivered by C. S. Darrow to the prisoners in the Chicago County Jail, to which we draw the particular attention of those who administer criminal justice in India. The criminals are punished under the notion that the good of society and of the criminals require it. The lecturer begins by telling his audience that there is no such thing as crime. "Some of you," says he, "did the particular act for which you are in jail, because you needed the money. Some of you were in the habit of doing it, and some of you because you are born to it, and it comes to be as natural, for instance, for me to be good, as for you to be criminal." "Some of you" continues he, "will probably rob me, but the Gas Company charges me one dollar for what is worth 25 cents and still these people are good and respectable while you are in jail. And how does this happen? It is because these respectable people have the police, the Judges, the lawyers and soldiers to obey them." He says "many of you are here in jail, because you took property that belonged to others; possibly some of you have committed murder. But why did you act in that way? You don't know, but I can tell you. You did the acts because you were bound to do them. And do you know why you got into jail? One reason is that you had not sufficient money to pay a good lawyer, for there is no very great danger of a rich man going to jail." "And why," asks the lecturer, "more crimes are committed in winter than in summer. The fact is true all over the world, that in hard times more people go to jail than in good times." We may add here, that since forty millions of people in India never know what it is to have a full meal, our country enjoys the proud privilege of being the most non-criminal in the world. In short, says Mr. Darrow: If every man and woman in the world had a chance to make a decent, honest living, there would be no jail, no lawyers and no courts. The speaker offers a challenge. He says, "Give me 500 of the worst criminals and 500 prisoners; let them be allowed a chance of living, and I guarantee they will be as good people as the average in the community." In proof of this, he cites the case of Australia. That continent was peopled by convicts from England, but the people there are as good as in the mother-country. And the philanthropist ends by

saying that "Jails are a blot upon any civilization, and a jail is an evidence of the lack of charity of the people on the outside, who make the jails and fill them with the victims of their greed!"

It was understood at last Wednesday's Conference at the rooms of the B. I. Association that Maharajah Sir J. M. Tagore would preside at the public meeting to be held on the 12th February next in connection with the Bengal partition question. But, as the infirmities of age will not permit the illustrious Maharajah Bahadur to perform the onerous duty of the Chairman on the important occasion, so His Highness the Maharajah of Durbhan, has kindly consented to take his place. We need hardly say that a better selection could not have been made and great weight could attach to the demonstration from the simple fact that it was held under the presidency of the enlightened and premier Zemindar of the Bengal Presidency.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

LONDON, JAN. 1. SIR HENRY COTTON'S ENDEAVOURS. Last week I referred to the activity of Sir Henry Cotton, especially in respect to Tibet. Busy as he has been in the past, Sir Henry is to be busier still in the future. Lately he has been spending much time in the constituency he wades, notwithstanding that the bitterly cold weather is a sore trial to returned Anglo-Indians. At a meeting held on Tuesday last, the Right Hon. Arnold Morley, who once represented the constituency in the House of Commons, warmly supported Sir Henry's candidature. Among the fixtures arranged for this first half of the year, chiefly on the Tibetan question, is one of the weekly House Dinners and Discussions at the National Liberal Club, on January 11, when Sir Henry will be the guest of the evening and the other speaker. A little later—date not yet fixed—a public meeting is to be held at the Westminster Palace Hotel under the auspices of the New Heron Club, in which Sir Henry is to take a leading part. It may not be inappropriate to mention here that a long article appeared in "The Times" of yesterday on the Tibetan question in which there was a careful avoidance of the Russian bigbear as the occasion of the forward move made by the British forces. By the way, there is likely to be something of a very serious character said in the House of Commons when Parliament meets as to the deliberate breach of an Act of Parliament of which the Viceroy and the Secretary of State for India have been guilty in despatching armed forces beyond the territory of India without Parliamentary leave having first been asked and obtained.

MR. STEAD'S HERALDS.

To-day sees thousands of people on the tip-top of expectation with regard to Mr. Stead's new paper to appear next Monday morning. His moving spirit and Editor is making use of the most novel means for bringing the venture before the public. One can hardly call sandwiches heralding angels, especially when they are desolate and hungry; rather do the men who walk the streets of London this week bearing witness to the coming of the new paper, look upon Mr. Stead as an angel of mercy, in addition to their wages of 1s. 6d. a day, they get three good meals daily which, judging by appearance, send them on their way rejoicing, even radiating benevolence and some of the goodness which "The Daily Paper" is to bring into the homes of rich and poor alike. However, having already written so much about Mr. Stead and his new departure, I will not now describe what his other heralds—balloons and fireworks—are doing or are to do, but merely give you a little picture, as I saw it, of what took place yesterday afternoon in the great Queen's Hall, when the Messenger Brigade, boys and girls, and sandwichmen, as well as a goodly number of friends, were entertained on the invitation of Mr. Stead. The huge audience was far from being silent or unresponsive to the efforts made for the amusement of everyone. The sandwichmen keenly appreciated the jokes and fun, to say nothing of the ounce of tobacco each one received; the boys and girls, striving for all sorts of valuable prizes—a model locomotive or a scholarship at a London day school are two attractions offered to them—as rewards for inducing subscribers to "The Daily Paper," laughed aloud in glee, and each one, departing for home, was made happy with a box of sweets; the Messenger Girls, in black straw hats relieved with a band of red ribbon, allowed their enjoyment to find vent in cheers. The witty sallies of the humorous sketch artists and of the Marionettes, the more serious songs of accomplished singers, the deep-voiced organ music, the animated photographs, appealed to all sections of the vast company and the hall resounded with joyousness. But it was when Mr. Stead himself appeared on the platform to speak to all his guests a few words of welcome that cheers, long and loud, rent the air; from floor to roof sounded out an enthusiasm which was entirely infectious. "I would rather my friends, see you here," said the Editor of the "Daily Paper," "my messengers, my boys and girls, my sandwichmen, than all the smart people in London. I have been blamed by some excellent people for exposing my girls to terrible dangers in the new duties they are to undertake. I think I am the last man in London against whom such a charge should be brought. Eighteen years ago to-day I was in Holloway gaol because I tried to protect you. I believe that self-protection is the best protection; I believe that to trust you is to make you strong, and, further still, to trust you is to make any girl who falls in her duty feel that she brings disgrace not only on herself but on all these who have joined the Companion-ship of the "Daily Paper." We shall try to do many things in this coming year; we shall rail in some; but there is one thing in which we shall not fail, and that is that the treatment meted out to the highest paid member of the staff will be exactly the same as that meted out to the humblest helper. Our paper is for the supremacy of the Home and it will uphold the Queenship of Woman. This happy afternoon will, I trust, be the first of many such gatherings. My friends, I wish everyone

of you a Happy New Year. This is the end to which "The Daily Paper" will strive. "Three cheers for Mr. Stead!" shouted several sandwichmen. A shout of agreement, and then the great assembly cheered with might and main. "And for 'The Daily Paper'!" Again the ringing sounds filled the Hall. When they had at length died away, tea was announced, and the last half hour was spent in doing justice to the liberal fare that had been provided. All the Girls had been brought, without any cost to themselves, from their respective districts to the Queen's Hall, and were dispatched home in the same way, by 'tube' or train, by brakes or private omnibuses—and the first of Mr. Stead's New Year's Eve gatherings was over. And of the paper itself, what are people saying? I cannot give you all the opinions that are being expressed—some of hope, some of fear, some of cynical indifference—but I will quote one subscriber who bursts into rhyme. Here are some of his verses:—

"MR. STEAD PROMISES in his new Daily to eliminate stocks, betting, and divorce, and to give every reader three good laughs a day, after 10 a.m." "Farewell, my matutinal sheet, Ye solemn pages hence, away. Let me enjoy the nobler treat Of three good laughs a day. I take no further interest In stocks and shares that do not pay, But all my energies invest In three good laughs a day. Your 'racy' columns cease to lure, For I have found a 'better' way The dull ennui of life to cure With three good laughs a day. What matter though my morning news Eludes me till I go to bed; Why not indulge, if so I choose, Three laughs a night in Stead."

A LUNATIC PROCEEDING.

A leading article which, a few months ago, appeared in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika," went the round of the English Press, and was the occasion of a good deal of comment. It was an article which expressed oriental amazement at the dancing proclivities of European men and women. The ordinary ball or private dance was all that was in the mind of the critic when he penned these observations which excited so much interest in dancing circles here. I marvel what grave, sober, reverent, Hindus would say could they have witnessed a contest which took place a few nights ago in Paris. The contest was surely the acme of madness, and would justify far more scathing comments of contempt than those to which I have referred. A Waltz Tournament was held in the Salle Wagram, Paris, the crowning feature of which was a contest for supremacy (and a prize) for continuous waltzing. It may be well to add, as I am writing for readers who are not intimately acquainted with the niceties and names of European dances that a waltz is

"A round dance, probably of Bohemian origin, which has been extraordinarily popular since the latter part of the eighteenth century. It is danced by couples, the partners in each couple moving together in a series of whirling steps—either advancing continuously in the same direction, or varying this with reversing, or turning the opposite way. The regular form of the waltz is known as the *trois-temps*—the more rapid form *deux-temps*, containing six steps to every two of the other. The derivation of the waltz is disputed, the French often claiming its descent from the Volta, and the Germans from the Allemande; but it is probably a development of the slow and simple Landler. Its popularity has decidedly overshadowed that of all other fashionable dances."—Century Dictionary.

Having properly digested this bit of profound learning, the reader may be made acquainted with the lunatic proceeding in Paris, which more than justifies the Oriental in his amazement at the "mad European" in his dancing moments. The "Daily Telegraph's" Paris Correspondent says that the contest began at 10-55 in the evening. A dozen couples stood on the floor, and at the word "Go!" from the time-keeper and the chief of the jury, they started waltzing. "At first they enjoyed the tournament thoroughly, but after two or three hours of it, the exercise began to pall, though no one was lazy enough to give up at that early stage. Waltzing went on through the night. Jurymen constantly fell asleep in their seats. The unfortunate bandsmen, too, were continually dropping off, and rousing themselves by an effort. Still the competitors waltzed on. A single step of one second put the competitors out of court.

Towards 3 a.m. one couple acknowledged defeat, and fell exhausted into chairs. Two hours later six pairs of competitors were still on the floor, and declared that they were fresh, though they hardly looked so. The jurymen wished that they had never started the contest at all, as it seemed likely to go on for ever. But, after 5 a.m., couples dropped out, more dead than alive, in quick succession.

At 5-30 a.m., only two couples were left. M. Vincent and Mademoiselle Scherieu and M. Pinard and Mademoiselle Agathe. They still revolved almost mechanically and totally speechless. Pots of beer were handed to them frequently as they turned. At last, after an exciting struggle, M. Pinard and Mademoiselle Agathe stopped, and staggered, gasping, to seats. Left alone on the floor, M. Vincent and Mademoiselle Scherieu, by superhuman efforts, succeeded in turning round for one minute longer, then, in their turn, sank down on sofas, greeted by cheering as loud as the sleepy onlookers could make it, having waltzed six hours and forty-five minutes without even a moment's rest."

It would spoil an unexampled record to add a single word by way of comment.

A postal notification states that complete insurance is now available up to a maximum limit of £40, for postal parcels addressed to Malta. The charges are: 6 annas when the amount insured does not exceed £5, and six annas for every additional £5.

A correspondent writes:—I wrote to you some days ago about the conviction of the two Rajahs in what is known as the Ernad theft case. Their petition for revision before the Sessions Judge was dismissed. They then submitted a petition before the Madras High Court and the sentence has been suspended. The case would not come for hearing before the 30th instant.

Mr. B. G. Geidt, I.O.S., it is understood, has been selected for the appointment of an Additional Judge of the High Court for inspection duty.

The Limas whom Colonel Younghusband recently visited in the Tibetan camp beyond Thuma are men of position and influence. Further negotiations are now pending.

The Lahore "Tribune" understands that Inspector Saifar Jung, who lately brought a defamation case against the Editor, printer and proprietor of a vernacular weekly called the "Public Gazette," has been removed from the charge of the Amritsar Kotwali. The case created the greatest local sensation and the acquittal of the accused has no doubt given satisfaction to the public. By the way, is the removal of the Inspector from the local Kotwali a punishment to him?

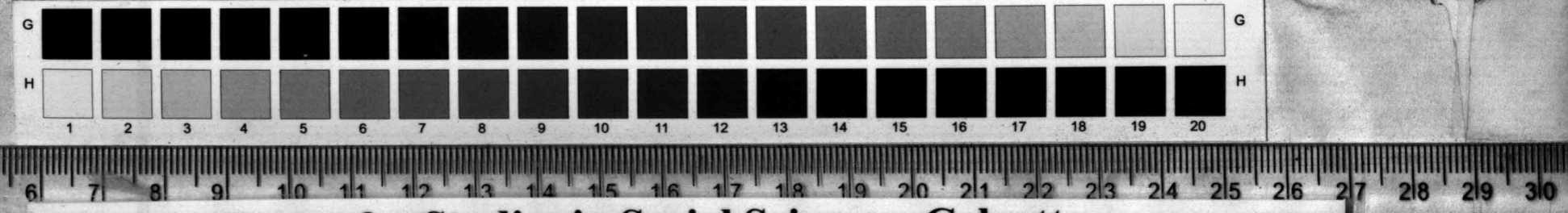
Japan has of late attracted many Indian students to her schools and is showing a desire to cultivate a good feeling between the two countries. An Indo-Japan Club established at Tokio has been re-organised as the "Indo-Japan Association." Its object is to encourage good relations between Japan and India in the matters of literature, religion and business. Japan has the ambition to become the centre of a pan Asiatic movement of progress and learning, and has already gone far in that direction. Chinese and Indian students are being attracted to her Universities and are warmly welcomed, and the establishment of Clubs and Associations will help considerably towards developing her influence and power.

During the plague period, says the Englishman, when the Hongkong Government offered a reward of £1,000 on each rat captured, the coolies developed great ingenuity. The discovery of a plague infected rat meant the premises being disinfected and the occupiers of the houses being subjected to other inconveniences. Advantage was taken of this by the rat-catchers. They darkly hinted to people that an infected rat would be found in their house, and the result was a monetary inducement for them to go elsewhere. As the rat-catchers were instructed to label each rat with the address of the house wherein it was found, they had the power to do much mischief, and many of them labelled the rats prominently and caused great confusion. All of them made an excellent business of it while the rewards were in force.

During the late great earthquake in some places of East Bengal small tanks were seen to have been formed by the sinking of the earth. Here is an account of how a new lake of considerable extent was formed in Russia. A remarkable phenomenon is reported from the Russian rural commune of Solava, in the Government of Tzareff Kolskaka. Inexplicable noises were heard for several days issuing from the earth. The sounds varied from something like the booming of cannon to the screeching of steam whistles, and seemed to come from a forest skirting the commune. In this forest, where the terrified peasantry gathered in expectation of some calamity, the earth was seen to heave incessantly. Gradually huge cracks appeared, water was seen, at last the earth seemed gradually to sink, water rose, and there appeared a new lake of considerable extent, which is now being examined by geologists.

A correspondent writes to the "Englishman" showing how the new Official Secrets Act will place every man and woman in this country at the mercy of the police. The correspondent says:—"In making the innocent act of receiving information from anybody regarding any official matter a criminal offence cognisable by the Police, the proposed law, if passed, would not only enable the Police to render miserable the existence of anybody who fell within their clutches, in the interval between the original information and the appearance before a Magistrate—an interval which has been left indefinite—but it would further enable the Police, in the manner familiar to us all, to trade on the fears of numberless persons, whom they had no intention of ever bringing before any Magistrate, but whom they could and would intimidate with the prospect of a prosecution, unless bought off. If this prospect has never occurred to the authors of the monstrous bill under consideration, I respectfully submit that the drafting of Indian law shall be rescued from hands whose directing minds ignore the most patent and most dangerous conditions of Indian life." It is an open secret that the Indian police sometimes take advantage of the unprotected people. We doubt not the Government of Lord Curzon will not hastily empower the police with this new engine of oppression.

With a view to encouraging the industrial training of Indians, the Government of India appointed a Committee in December 1901. The Committee after visiting different provinces and conferring with local educational officers, have submitted their report. In their report, full text of which has already appeared, the Committee have offered a number of general recommendations, stating that in the absence of a complete survey of industries they have found it impossible to make detailed proposals as to the particular industries and the methods of instruction that may with advantage be applied to each. They have, however, suggested the creation of a new system of industrial education in India, to be organised upon the model of the Casanova Boys' Artisan School at Naples, which aims at giving boys belonging to the poorer classes of a notoriously vicious population such mental, moral, and manual training as will turn them into good citizens, honest men, and skilful artisans. The Government of India, however, after examining in detail the scheme submitted by the Committee, have failed to find reasons which would justify them in sweeping away the present industrial schools and substituting the proposed new system. And the Government have further outlined a scheme of their own, specifying two kinds of institutions, broadly speaking—one of which will be suitable in great industrial centres such as Bombay, Howrah, or Cawnpore, where capital is employed in the organisation of industries on a large scale, and another to suit towns in which local industries are practised as handicrafts in small private establishments. An instance of a school of the former class is furnished by the Victoria Jubilee Technical Institute in Bombay. Where the Indian comes in competition with the foreign manufacturer, the object should be, as far as possible, to produce a workman as well trained as his foreign competitor.



There is no doubt that the plague regulations have failed to do any good in checking the spread of the disease in India. And as they are now simply sitting like nightmares on the breasts of the people, the latter pray their speedy removal.

THE SILCHAR LOCAL BOARD.

Silchar, Jan. 17. There is a lesson to be derived from every bit of human affairs and the Silchar Local Board incident has not been without some lessons of its own.

And (5) that a completion certificate shall be signed by the person entrusted with the work and countersigned by the chairman or by the member of the Local Board who has undertaken to inspect the work.

High Court.—Jan. 21.

ON THE BENCH.

Justices Ghose, and Stephen.

A POLICE SUB-INSPECTOR IN TROUBLE.

Mr. K. N. Chaudhuri with Babu Dwarka Nath Mitter, appeared in support of a rule obtained on behalf of Baharuddin Chaudhuri, a rich zemindar in the District of Dinajpur, which was issued on the District Magistrate and on Mathura Nath Rakhit, Sub-Inspector of Police at Chintamon Thana, to show cause why the order of the Sessions Judge refusing sanction to the petitioner to prosecute the said Sub-Inspector for perjury should not be set aside and why sanction should not be granted to him to prosecute Mathura Nath Rakhit.

Refused. C. Fisher.

S. J. 19.9.03.

Learned Counsel for petitioner, Mr. K. N. Chaudhuri contended that the reasons given by the learned Sessions Judge were wholly unsound and shows the temper in which he viewed the judgment of the High Court and from that their Lordships would be satisfied that this was a fit case for sanction.

Mr. P. L. Roy with Babu Dasarathi Sanyal contended that the first Court had believed the Sub-Inspector's case and the High Court should not exercise its extraordinary jurisdiction in a case when the Courts had differed. Mr. Roy was not prepared to support the Judge's judgment in its reasoning but he submitted that sanction should not be accorded in this case.

Their Lordships delivered a lengthy judgment setting aside the order of the Sessions Judge and according sanction to Baharuddin Chaudhuri to prosecute the Sub-Inspector. In the course of the judgment their Lordships remarked that the learned Sessions Judge, had overlooked all that the High Court had said in the elaborate judgment they delivered; viz., that the story of the petitioner was substantially true and their Lordships were quite unable to appreciate the meaning of the following passage in the learned Judge's judgment:

"When the accused has been convicted for falsely charging the Sub-Inspector then I will sanction the prosecution for making false defence." Their Lordships said that perhaps the learned Judge did not relish the judgment of this Court and he had not applied his mind to the real issues.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Bengal Council.—A meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council will be held on Monday, 1st February at 10 a. m.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce.—The annual general meeting of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce will be held on Monday, the 29th February.

L.G.'s Departure.—His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal left Howrah at 21-57 yesterday. A salute of 15 guns at 2 a.m. was fired as usual.

E. B. S. R.—Mr. N. G. Priestley, Under Secretary to the Government of India Public Works Department, Railway Branch (on leave), is appointed Traffic Superintendent of the Eastern Bengal State Railway.

Sir Arthur Fanshawe.—Sir Arthur Fanshawe, Director-General of the Post Office of India, has been permitted to return to duty in March. This will enable Mr. Kisch to attend the Postal Conference at Rome.

Celebration of the King-Emperors' Birthday.—The anniversary of the accession of the King-Emperor to the throne was celebrated in India Tuesday by the firing of salutes of 31 guns at the principal military stations.

Director of Ry. Construction.—Mr. E. I. Shadolt, Railway Secretary to the Madras Government, has arrived at Calcutta and relieved Mr. C. W. Hodson, Director of Railway Construction, who acts as Secretary during the absence of Mr. Brereton.

Mr. Grant-Burles' Tour.—Mr. E. Grant-Burles, Director-General of Stores at the India Office, left Calcutta on the 21st, and will visit Sitarampur and Barakar on the 22nd; Agra Fort, 29th; Jaipur, 25th; Ajmere, 27th; Chitore, 28th; Udaipur, 29th; Rutlam, 31st; arriving at Bombay on the 1st February, en route to England.

An Assam Murder Case.—The Dinapur murder case in which Mr. Taylor and a Sub-Overseer were charged as the accused was heard by the Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh on the 4th. The case was heard for three days during which some seventy witnesses have been examined for the prosecution. The further hearing of the case has been adjourned to some day at the end of this month, the accused in the meantime are released on bail of Rupees 1,000 each.

P. W. D. Appointments.—Babu Amar Nath Das, Assistant Engineer, 2nd grade, attached to the Circular and Eastern Canals Division, is appointed to hold charge of that Division, during the absence of Mr. St. C. Sedgley on leave, or until further orders; Mr. C. Adams-Williams, Assistant Engineer, 1st grade attached to the Cossye Division, is appointed to officiate as Under-Secretary to the Bengal Government until further orders and Babu Manindra Nath Deb, Apprentice Engineer, is posted to the Darjeeling Division.

Plague Mortality in India.—The statement showing the plague mortality in India, for the week ending 16th January, 1904, stood at 21,302, against 17,844 in the previous week, and 19,281 during the corresponding period of last year. The following are the details: Bombay City, 184; Bombay Presidency, 5,803; Karachi, 11; Madras Presidency, 875; Calcutta, 12; Bengal, 2,325; United Provinces, 3,567; Punjab, 3,080; Central Provinces, 2,388; Mysore State, 637; Hyderabad, 1,273; Rajputana, 227; Central India, 862; and Kashmir, 52.

Example is better than Precept.—Written Max in "Capital": There is a good deal of truth in what my correspondent says. Example is far better than precept, and if the Viceroy wants to encourage Indian arts and industries, he should set a practical example and not go to Birmingham for his goods. In making these remarks I must not be considered to disparage in any way the products of Messrs. Elington and Co., who stand in the very front rank of their trade, but there is an important principle in what my correspondent says, which has been overlooked.

Alleged Corruption in the Income Tax Office.—"Max" writes in "Capital": I think that Sir Andrew Fraser would be well advised to direct an investigation into the truth of the allegations made against the Calcutta Income Tax Office. The opinion undoubtedly prevails that this department is honeycombed with corruption. I express no opinion myself but to withhold an inquiry, when a petition is presented to the Government asking for one, as has been done by Ramkrishna Jatmull, and making specific allegations is, to say the least of it, an extremely awkward position for Government to take up. It only confirms the popular opinion.

THE MANGAPATNAM DISASTER.

Madras, Jan. 21. At the High Court, before Mr. Justice Moore, the suit brought by Rattilal Kaldass, a minor, through his mother and guardian, claiming damages to the extent of Rs. 5,50,000 from the Madras Railway Company in connection with the death of his father in the Mangapatnam disaster in September, 1902, was called on for hearing.

Mr. Eardley Norton, with Mr. D. Chamber, appeared for the plaintiff; the defendant Company was represented by the Advocate-General.

Mr. Norton, in opening the case and dealing with the main issues framed, argued that the accident on the death of the plaintiff's father having been admitted and attributed in the written statement to the collapse of the railway bridge, there was "prima facie" presumption of negligence, and the onus at once shifted to the defendant to rebut that presumption by proving that something extraordinary had happened, and that in spite of all reasonable care and precaution on their part the accident could not have been averted. To support this contention, Counsel cited a large number of authorities.

His Lordship being of opinion that the question of "onus probandi" had better be decided first, called upon the Advocate-General to reply. The Advocate-General said that the proposition put forward by Mr. Norton was nothing more than an "obiter dictum," and that in most of the cases cited there was, as a matter of fact, evidence of negligence adduced by the plaintiff.

His Lordship ruled against Mr. Norton. The latter then proceeded to examine the witnesses. The case is expected to last some days.

TELEGRAMS

REUTERS TELEGRAMS.

The Japanese cruiser Nishin has left Perim for Colombo.

The Australians scored 351 in the second innings. England in the second innings made 160 for two wickets, Warner 79 unfinished.

25 bodies have been recovered at Bloemfontein. It is estimated that sixty people were drowned. The King has wired his sympathy with the inhabitants.

The Times understands that the Japanese Note plainly intimates that it is the last communication Japan will address to Russia, and it announces that she will only wait a reasonable time before taking the steps necessary to safeguard her interests. The Note invites Russia to formally recognise Chinese Sovereignty over Manchuria and signifies Japan's inability to accept the restrictions which Russia desires to place upon the strategic measures which Japan proposes to take in Korea and also declines to entertain the idea of a neutral zone.

London, Jan. 20.

The 'Times' Peaking correspondent says the Japanese Note is stronger than the preceding one. Japan does not accept the mediation of a third power and will insist on the acceptance of a reasonable demands or otherwise will take necessary measures to protect her interests.

The Russian battleship "Aurora," the transport Orei the Collier Saratoff and nine torpedo boats are in the Suez Canal. The Cruiser Kuznetz remains at Port Said.

The death is announced of Herr Mannlicher, inventor of the rifle of that name.

London, Jan. 21.

Lord Northcote has arrived at Melbourne, where he was received by the Ministers on landing, and conducted with great ceremony to Parliament House, and sworn in.

The Daily Telegraph's Tokio correspondent states that Russia's reply is expected to-day. The Japanese transport Orei has left Suez. The Japanese cruiser Kasuga has arrived at Aden and is sailing again last evening.

The Daily Telegraph's correspondent at St. Petersburg says a recent memorandum from Admiral Alexeff received at St. Petersburg strongly urged a temporary settlement by means of diplomacy, arguing that Russia's geographical position and military strength must in the course of time secure the status she claims, and no artificial barriers can long prevent this, but the land forces, which are Russia's main strength are at present insufficiently represented in the Far East. This being once remedied, the question will gradually solve itself in Russia's favour, whereas a campaign now would seriously check the natural course of things.

The Gateshead election has resulted in the return of Mr. Johnson, the Liberal candidate and free trader, who polled 7,220 votes against 7,015 polled by Viscount Morpeth, the Conservative candidate and Chamberlainite.

It is stated on high diplomatic authority that an important advance has been made towards a pacific settlement, the peace party having gained an ascendancy in Russia in consequence of the emphatic representations of certain influential ministers regarding the unpreparedness for war. Russia therefore replies to Japan in a wholly conciliatory spirit and is prepared to recognise the autonomy and integrity of Korea thereby disposing of the Korean question and to address a note to the Powers recognising Chinese sovereignty over, and the integrity of Manchuria.

Japan, however, desires a formal embodiment of the latter principle in a special agreement between Russia and Japan.

Major Pereira, of the Grenadier Guards, has been appointed military attache at Seoul.

Admiral Keppel was buried to-day at Winkfield with full naval honours.

The King, the Prince of Wales and the Kaiser were represented.

London, Jan. 22.

Colonel Fairholme, British Military Attache at Vienna, has been appointed a member of the Commission to reorganise the Macedonian Gendarmerie.

It is stated at St. Petersburg that the Far East Committee under the presidency of the Tsar yesterday discussed Russia's reply to Japan, and it is understood that no serious difficulty is outstanding.

Japan has offered to unfortify the ports on the Korean Coast threatening communications with Vladivostok and Port Arthur, and does not object to a Russo-Chinese arrangement for the permanent security of the Manchurian Railways. According to account, the reply drafted and approved courteously but firmly insists that whatever commercial concessions are granted in Manchuria it must remain amenable to Russian influence politically and strategically.

Mr. Austin Chamberlain speaking at Carpenters Hall said there were signs of somewhat less prosperous years coming. The revenue returns indicated that the budget anticipation was unrealistic, and there had also been unanticipated expenditure. He feared he would be unable to propose any remissions of taxation in the coming sessions. The time had come for us to husband our resources and restore the country's credit.

Mr. Arnold Foster speaking at Liverpool last night, said that out of the ten millions voted to remedy the inadequacy of the stores, 1,869 guns and stores for three army with six months reserve had been provided. He was convinced that the War Office's committee's recommendations would be the most practical solution of the military problem and the trusts they would be speedily applied. It was, he continued, imperative to relieve the reservists from the constant uncertainty of their terms of service. Referring to the militia Mr. Foster said that that branch of the service was dying from its being regarded as a mere adjunct of the line instead of being a fully recognised branch. The present condition of military barracks he considered detestable. As to the recruiting of the Army he thought it could be feasible to rearrange terms of enlistment in order to make it possible to engage for eight years. He believed the remedy for all the difficulties lay in reorganizing the regulars as the army was primarily for work over the sea, and then reorganising the militia and volunteers on the new bases with correspondingly greater responsibility. There must be great changes, radical, but not revolutionary and not interfering with the Army's traditions. All would not be done in a year, but several years, but we can do it now.

A TIGER STORY.

[Special for the Patrika]

The other day a Calcutta paper published a story, from its Siliguri correspondent, of some monkeys saving a man's life from the jaws of a royal tiger. The story calls to my mind another tiger story, which, while it is as true as the other, is perhaps more interesting, on that it furnishes an example of undoubted sympathy of domestic animals for man.

The monkey in the story of your contemporary's correspondent, can not be said to have consciously lent a friendly hand in saving the man's life; but the buffaloes in the story I relate, voluntarily risked their lives to save their shepherd being killed by the tiger. The story is this:—

Sometimes ago a shepherd boy was grazing his buffaloes, some 40 in number, in the outskirts of the Terai jungles. The place had been cleared of jungles years before, but still it had left on it small groups of trees here and there. It was early morning then, and there was no one with him at the time except a little girl, who was collecting dry wood for fuel at some distance from him to the south.

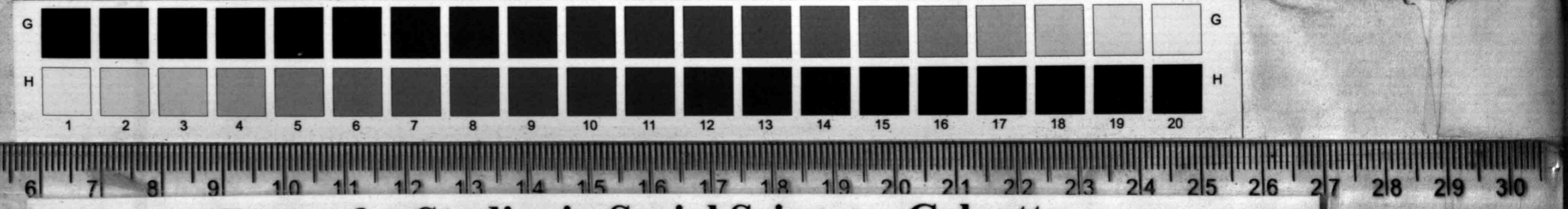
While the boy was smoking his "chillum" leaning against a tree with his face towards the south, two tiger cubs came out from the jungles into the open gambling together all the way till they came midway between the boy and the jungles, a distance of about 100 cubits. The cubs caught the eyes of the girl, but she mistook them for wild cats. She stood gazing at them for a minute or two, when a terrific roar (I should not call it a growling, the cry of a Bengal royal tiger being in no way less deep or loud than that of a lion) was heard and almost simultaneously with it, the mother of the cubs rushed out of the jungles and joined her little ones. When the roar was heard, the boy threw off his "chillum" and looked wildly about him. The girl, frightened out of her wits, hid herself behind the trunk of a tree. The buffaloes raised their heads high up in the air, sniffed it for a few seconds and then ran in the direction of the boy making a guttural noise peculiar to them. Scarcely had the buffaloes reached the place where the boy was, the tigress sprang upon him and in an instant about half-a-dozen of the buffaloes ran to his rescue charging the tiger with their horns. The tigress let go her hold on the boy, sprang back a few feet from him and stood gazing at the buffaloes. Again did the buffaloes charge her and again did she recede a few feet and make another stand, her cub in the meantime took themselves to the jungles. In this way the tigress made several stands, but all in vain, and in the end ran to the jungles for dear life.

While the fight between the tigress and the buffaloes was going on, the other buffaloes formed a semicircle round the boy, facing the tiger, who had joined his mate, the calves taking their place behind their mothers. The boy was severely mauled and lay unconscious on the ground. When the fight was over, all the buffaloes assembled in one place and then commenced to make their way towards the village, taking the boy with them, two of them pushing him gently with their horns as they slowly went along. The girl in the meantime had run to her village and given information of the occurrence to the villagers, who thereupon hastily came up and took the boy away. The boy regained his consciousness but died a week later.

A. B.

Siliguri.

A gun accident, which might have proved much more serious than it fortunately did, occurred on the last day of the old year to a well-known Bombay sportsman, who was out shooting on The Nal in Kathwar with a party of five friends intent on making a good bag of ducks. It was a hot day and the barrel of Mr. H. Courtney Wright's gun, a hammerless by Stephen Grant, grew warm, and Mr. Wright thoughtlessly dipped the muzzle into the water to cool it. The result was instantaneous and alarming. The left barrel exploded, and the charge found egress four inches from the breech, where it tipped it up for about three inches. A piece of the barrel about the size of a shilling-piece, entered Mr. Wright's wrist and another piece of smaller size lodged in his neck. A miraculous escape, for had the bits entered the head, fatal consequences might have resulted.



THE SUPREME LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A meeting of the Supreme Legislative Council was held at the Council Chamber, Government House, on Friday at 11 a.m. His Excellency the Viceroy presided and there were present:—The Hon. Mr. Raleigh, The Hon. Sir Edward Law, the Hon. Major-General Elliot, the Hon. Mr. Arundel, the Hon. Sir D. Ibbetson, The Hon. Rai Sri Ram Bahadur, the Hon. Mr. Cruckshank, His Highness the Raja of Sirmur, His Highness the Agha Khan, the Hon. Mr. Goakhale, the Hon. Mr. Cable, The Hon. Nawab Saliyid Mohammad Sahib Bahadur, the Hon. Mr. Lely, the Hon. Mr. Adamson, the Hon. Dr. Bhandarkar, the Hon. Mr. Morrison, the Hon. Dr. Bhandarkar, the Hon. Mr. Blüdenbeck, the Hon. Mr. Hamilton, The Hon. Rai Bahadur B. K. Bose and the Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya.

V. Will the Government be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal, the Government of Assam and the Calcutta High Court were consulted before the scheme of transfer now under consideration was framed? If so, will the Government be pleased to publish the opinions submitted by them? If not, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of consulting the said authorities before further action is taken in the matter?

VI. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the financial effect of the proposed scheme of transfer of the Chittagong Division and of the Districts of Dacca and Mymensingh to the Assam Administration has been considered?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state what reduction will be effected in the expenditure annually incurred by the Government of Bengal if the scheme of transfer referred to in clause (a) be carried out?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to state by what amount the gross annual receipts of the Government of Bengal would be reduced if the scheme of transfer referred to in clause (a) be carried out?

(d) If the figures furnished in answer to clauses (b) and (c) show that the aforesaid scheme of transfer will result in a financial loss to the Government of Bengal, will the Government be pleased to state how it is proposed to recoup that loss?

VII. Has the attention of the Government been drawn to a paragraph in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of the 14th January, 1904, in which it is stated that an alternative scheme of transfer will result in a financial consideration of the Government according to which, not only the Districts of Dacca and Mymensingh and the Chittagong Division are to be transferred to the Assam Administration, but also the Districts of Barisal, Faridpur, Jessore and Khoulna and the Rajshah, Division, excluding Darjiling, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar? If so, will the Government be pleased to state how it is proposed to recoup that loss?

VIII. Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is intended that the portion of the Chota Nagpur Division which is proposed to be transferred to the Central Provinces Administration should, by such transfer, be placed out of the jurisdiction of the Calcutta High Court? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons?

The Hon. Sir Denzil Ibbetson replied:—The attention of the Government of India was directed, in 1892, to territorial re-adjustments on the eastern frontier of Bengal, in connection with the administration of the Assam Province. The first proposal was to transfer the Chittagong district to Assam as soon as the revision of settlement then in progress was finished, and the Assam-Bengal railway was nearing completion. The transfer of the whole Chittagong division was also considered; and during the discussion which ensued, it was proposed to transfer the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh as well. Various authorities were consulted; and in 1899 the proposal was laid aside for the time being. The Government of India do not propose to publish the opinions then recorded, which were written for their information only, and not with a view to publication.

At the Hon. Member will refer to the papers which have been published on the subject, he will see that the Governments of the provinces concerned have already been consulted. His replies have not yet been received. The Government of India do not propose for the present to consult the High Court.

Any consideration of financial details, such as are referred to in Question VI, would be premature at the present stage. When a final decision has been arrived at, any adjustment that may be found necessary will be made in connection with the provincial settlements.

The attention of the Government of India has only now been drawn to the article referred to in Question VII; but the proposal therein described has not been before them.

The question whether the jurisdiction of the High Court should be continued in any portion of Chota Nagpur which it may eventually be decided to transfer to the Central Provinces has not yet been considered.

THE POISONS BILL

The Hon. Sir Denzil Ibbetson moved that the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to provide for the regulation of the possession and sale of all poisons in certain local areas, and the importation, possession and sale of white arsenic generally be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to. The Hon. Sir Denzil Ibbetson then moved that the Bill as amended be passed. The motion was put and agreed to.

THE BORROWING POWERS BILL

The Hon. Sir Edward Law moved that the Bill to make further provision regarding the borrowing powers of certain local authorities be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon. Mr. Raleigh, His Highness the Raja of Sirmur, the Hon. Mr. Cable, the Hon. Mr. Lely, the Hon. Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya and the mover.

The motion was put and agreed to.

THE CENTRAL PROVINCES CIVIL COURT AMENDMENT BILL

The Hon. Sir A. Arundel moved that the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to Civil Courts in the Central Provinces be taken into consideration.

The motion was put and agreed to.

The Hon. Sir A. Arundel moved that the Bill as amended be passed. The motion was put and agreed to.

The Council was then adjourned to Friday the 5th of February.

The Financial Statement for 1904-05 will be presented on 23rd March, 1904, and discussed in Council on the 30th of that month.

His Highness the Maharana of Udaipur is giving his daughter in marriage to the Maharaja of Kishengarh. The latter is one of the recognised Chieftains of the Rajasth clan, and his family is already closely connected by marriage with the great Sesodia house. The alliance between parties of such high nobility is naturally to be celebrated with every stately observance, and there will be a notable gathering at Udaipur between the 9th and the 13th of next month when the event takes place, including a number of European guests whom His Highness the Maharana has invited.

TIBET MISSION.

CHUMBI AND THE WAY THITHER. Mr. Henry Newman, special correspondent of the "Englishman" writes to that paper from New Chumbi.

So this is this beautiful valley, this land of milk and honey, this country of fruits and farmyards! As a matter of fact it is like any other Himalayan ravine, only a little more so. Sombre fir-clad hills tower up to the skies. The so-called valley, so far as I have been able to see it, is not at its widest part more than a thousand feet from one hill side to the other, and at most points one could throw a stone across. A torrent rushes down the middle. There are no fruits and farmyards, and all that appears to be cultivated is a little maize and rice. The Chumbi does not deserve writing up.

The inhabitants are not many in number, and are of the dirty, flat-nosed type to be seen every day coming down the Darjiling road. At the present moment there are a number of them in the camp working on the stone houses that are being erected for the troops. The majority of the labourers are women. "The Ladies in the Camp" would be an attractive heading for an article, but what is one to say of ladies with unwashed faces and matted hair, who have painted their noses with what looks like coal-tar, in order that their fascinations might not prove too attractive to the sepoy?

The only interesting thing in the valley is the quaint architecture of the houses in the villages of Yatung, Rinchenpong, and Chumbi. The builders have produced a compromise between the Chinese and Hindu styles. They have also built close together, and the result is that in a small space which would ordinarily accommodate about 30 people there are living about three thousand, and probably there would be more but for the waste involved by the erection of overhanging turrets and eaves and the curious pagoda roof which all who have visited Burma must remember.

Along the road down the so-called valley one meets a number of chortens, situated in many cases by tall poles with a bunch of rags at the top which might by courtesy be called flags. These poles are to be seen from a great distance. The majority of the chortens have running round their inscriptions in a character which I am informed by Mr. Walsh who is acting as Political Officer here, is an ornamental form of medieval Sanscrit. Mr. Walsh also tells me that the inscription in the majority of cases is nothing more than a repetition of the mystic Buddhist formula, "Om mani padmi om," which as most people probably know by this time means "O, the jewel in the lotus."

GNATONG AND THE JELAP.

But far more interesting than Chumbi, particularly at this time of the year is Gnatong and the Jelap Pass. It is from Gnatong that the scenery assumes an appearance really distinct from that which follows one up the Teesta. The hills become bleak and arid, great black rocks overhang the road. The air is still. There is no sign of life. The torrents, the murmur of which is heard at times, are frozen into cold streaks of white down the hill-side. The slightest exertion leads to heavy panting, and when breathing the mass the majority of persons get pains in the eyes and the ears.

In a previous letter I referred to the wonders that had been effected by the Sappers and Pioneers, but no amount of road-making can make any difference to the fact that the Pass is at the top of what is a sheer hill, which must be climbed. This climb has proved too much for many transport animals. The poor frozen corpses are to be seen at every corner. Half-way up the Pass are the remains of the wall the Tibetans built during the 1888 campaign to keep us out. I am now told that the story of the wall having been built in a single night without our pickets being aware of the fact so quietly and wonderfully quickly was the work done, is not true, as a matter of fact the building was done in the day, and our troops watched the Tibetans thick and black as ants at the business, which could have been interrupted at any time, but for orders which forbade General Graham advancing beyond Gnatong without permission.

Several descriptions have been written of the Pass itself, but I don't know if any writer has been up it in the depth of winter. It is just near the top that one catches that awful breeze of which one has heard. It is not a quizzard, for there are no particles of ice with it, but it strikes through and through the heaviest garments, your eyes and nose, which is all you dare leave exposed become after a while numb to all sensation. The very saddle is frozen on your horse.

The view from the top is wonderful. One dare not stay for more than an instant, but that instant reveals the fact that you have not yet crossed the highest ridge of the Himalayas. Far away and yet near in the range of air, one sees a mighty mass of mountains, the peaks topped with snow stretching out from the Nepal border. A single glance settles at once the geographical point as to whether the Chumbi is on the Indian side of the Himalayas or not. It is. Later on when you descend the valley you see that the waters of the larger streams which are not frozen are rushing down towards Assam. They find their way through the Bhutan hills into the Brahmaputra.

THE INHABITANTS OF PHARI.

Chumbi, Jan. 20. The inhabitants of Phari Plain are described as the most degraded the Mission has yet seen. They are literally perfectly black with dirt which is caked several inches deep on their faces and hands. Fierce bloodshot eyes gaze from matted hair and their appearance is the result of the conditions in which they live; brooding over fires of Yak droppings. They have eagerly accepted payment for the task of cleaning the Fort which is in an abominably filthy state.

ATTITUDE OF THE TIBETANS.

Chumbi, Jan. 21. The people of Chumbi and Phari continue to acquiesce in the Mission. They say that this is the year of the wood dragon which always means calamity to Tibet. Their only complaint is that the British have not allowed any snow to fall. They want a little snow in order that the grass may flourish next year. Several rooms in Phari fort are adorned with engravings of the King and royal family called from illustrated papers and advertisement sheets. Officers who have visited the big Tibetan camp at Guru report that it is excellently planned with tents of European manufacture. About 15,000 people are gathered there.

THE PHARI FORT.

Phari, Jan. 20. The wood belt ends three miles beyond Gantsba. Ten miles farther on is Phari, the first important Tibetan town and meeting-place of the trade routes of Tibet and Bhutan. It lies on a plateau at the foot of Chumulari, which rises abruptly to the East. The surrounding country is barren and uninhabited. The fort is a huge rambling building six stories high, surrounded by a circular court, where there is stabling for mules and ponies. The interior is a warren, the stairs and landing, dark and cavernous. The rooms would take a whole day to explore. The walls are built of stone and mud coated with century-old smoke.

There are no chimneys or windows. The filth is indescribable, though eighty coolies have been employed for a week clearing away the refuse.

WHERE THE OFFICERS LIVE.

The officers' mess is warmed by a yak-dung fire in a brazier. At dinner it is a choice between being half frozen or suffocated with smoke. Better rooms with frescoed Buddhist pictures and paying wheels line the stairs. On the roof amidst praying flags and tattered bits of native raiment flies the Union Jack. Below the fort the village lies like a rabbit warren, the houses being mostly underground for the sake of warmth. The Tibetans, black as coal-heavers, huddle with the yaks and mules. Tibetan women, equally dirty, go about, their faces smeared and blotched with catchouc, wearing a hooplike headdress, ornamented with alternate turquoise and ruby-coloured stones. The troops must wait at Phari some time for provisions before proceeding.

PARTITION OF BENGAL.

MASS MEETING AT FARIDPUR.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Faridpur, Jan. 15.

Under the auspices of the Faridpur Peoples' Association a mass meeting was organised yesterday in a spacious Pandal erected on the Faridpur Mela grounds. Over 3,000 people attended the meeting. Babu Ambica Charan Mazoomdar took the chair and about 40 speakers addressed the meeting, which lasted over 5 hours from 2-30 to 8-15. The first resolution, which was proposed by Babu Mathura Nath Moitra B.L., seconded by Mr. H. Mullick, Bar-at-law, and supported by a large number of leading gentlemen and zemindars, was as follows:—

"That the people of Faridpur having learned that it is proposed to transfer all the districts of the Dacca and Chittagong Divisions to Assam this meeting respectfully but firmly protests against such a violent and retrograde change under the following grounds:—

(1) That the splitting up of the Bengali-speaking community into two parts, having two separate centres of administration will tend to weaken its national forces, retard its social amelioration, progress and reform and create differences in lieu of the fusion which is rapidly taking place.

(2) That it is undesirable from every point of view that the more progressive people of Eastern Bengal should be dissociated from the advanced administration of Calcutta in order to be included into what is admittedly a backward province.

(3) That politically considered the Eastern districts would, if such a proposal be carried out, be unmistakably deprived of these cherished rights, privileges, institutions and advantages which they have so long enjoyed."

The second resolution, which was proposed by Babu Prosonna Kumar Sanyal, seconded by Babu Purna Chandra Moitra B.L., and supported by a large number of speakers, ran as follows:—

"That as regards Faridpur, specially its people being much more closely associated by social ties with the people of Nadia, 24-Perghanas, Jessore, Khulna and Pabna than with the people of Dacca or Mymensingh, or the Chittagong Division, it is undesirable that they should be placed under an administration different from the above-named districts, and further being geographically nearer to Calcutta to which, by reason of railway communication, it has an easy access and also being closely associated by commercial and intellectual ties with that city, it is highly undesirable that its administrative capital should be altered to any such remote places as Shillong, Chittagong or Dacca."

(4) That being dissociated from the advanced administration of Calcutta, Faridpur will not only be highly prejudiced in all its business and other long-established connections with the metropolis of the Empire, but will also be exposed to those serious difficulties and inconveniences which a connection with places separated by big, dangerous roads and long distances must necessarily involve."

(5) That most of the landed interests of Faridpur being vested in the zemindars of Calcutta, 24-Perghanas, Jessore, Khulna and Pabna, the transfer of Faridpur to a different province will seriously interfere with its progress and development."

The third resolution, which was proposed by Babu Kalki Purasanna Sarcar B.A., seconded by Moulvi Aad-uz-Jumma B.L. and supported by a large number of speakers, ran thus:—

"That in the opinion of their meeting Dacca being a place with which the people of Faridpur have no connection, except such as is necessitated by the Revenue Commissioner's head-quarter being located there, it would be unjust to deprive them of the manifold advantages which they at present enjoy by reason of their connection with Calcutta, and that there being no apparent grounds whatever for the severance of Faridpur from the Province of Bengal, it is extremely undesirable to cut off these districts for the mere consideration of the severance of a whole division."

After these resolutions were unanimously carried with loud acclamations, a select committee was formed for drawing up a memorial to be submitted to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Magistrate of the District whose opinion the former wants to know. Copies of the above resolutions were also forwarded to His Honour and the District Magistrate.

From the above it will appear, to what extent the people of Faridpur have been agitated over the matter which they consider will be a public calamity. To-day we have received a letter from Dacca which contains the news that if the districts of the Dacca, Rajshahi, and Chittagong divisions together with Jessore, Khulna and Pabna, in all 14 districts, be formed into a province with a Lieutenant-Governor and a Legislative Council at Dacca, the people will accept it. Even this arrangement cannot be accepted, as the people cannot afford to cut off their connections with Calcutta.

A MURDER CASE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Hooghly, Jan. 19.

Priotoma Devi, widow of one Ram Coomdar Chatterjee, of village Bali, in the sub-division of Atambagh, died on the 6th of Aghrayan. Her husband's younger brother, Ram Lal Chatterjee, separated and lived in a separate house for about 25 years where he too died leaving a son Makhom Lal Chatterjee, now aged 27 years. Makhom Lal sold his half share in the old homestead land to one Itan Coomdar Pal-Soshi Bhuan Mookerjee, brother of Priotoma, after living for some time in her house with family and children, got a "mukorari" lease of 5 annas share of Priotoma in 1297 B.S. He secured some land by virtue of a lease and constructed new houses on the new land as well as on the adjoining land which he got from his sister and had started a brass manufacturing business there. On 6th of Aghrayan last the day on which Priotoma died Makhom Lal with Issur Sing, a Rajput, and three Bagdis and Haris came to the said house of Soshi Bhusan. On their arrival they were told that Soshi Bhusan with his son's father-in-law Ganga Narain Mookerjee had gone to cremate the dead body of Priotoma. Makhom Lal came there with the object of taking forcible possession of the house and the place of business as the heir of Priotoma. A cry was raised which brought Soshi Bhusan and Ganga Narain back from the cremation ground with the bamboos with which they were cremating the dead body. They found one seat of the sadder door of the house lying on the ground broken. After some altercation, Soshi is said to have struck Issur Sing on the head and Ganga Narain on the leg with the bamboo they had in their hands. Issur fell down and was secured by Soshi. The others fled away. Soshi and Ganga Narain leaving Issur in charge of the servant, went to the cremation ground but shortly after they returned and told Issur dead. Through fear they removed the corpse to the adjoining field and sent the servant to the village chowkidar and the Faridar (in charge of the outpost). The chowkidar came and saw the door's leaf lying on the ground. Soshi requested the chowkidar to inform the police at once. The chowkidar and the Faridar, for reasons best known to them, suppressed the case of Soshi and informed the Daroga that an unknown dead body was found on the field. The Daroga came to the spot on the next day, and without making any mention of Soshi's case, sent up Soshi and Ganga under sec. 302, 304 and 326 of the Indian Penal Code for trial. In due course the case being committed to the Sessions by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Arambagh, came on for hearing before Mr. G. K. Deb, presiding over the Hooghly Sessions, who tried the case with a jury. The court found Soshi guilty under sec. 326 and Ganga Narain under sec. 323 and sentenced them to 4 years and 3 months' rigorous imprisonment respectively. The plea of the right of self-defence was not allowed by the learned Sessions Judge. We hear an appeal is shortly to be filed before the High Court against the sentence stated above. The Government prosecutor conducted the prosecution and Babu Sris Chunder Chatterjee B.L. appeared for the defence.

The French Minister of Finance has decided to withdraw the proposal to raise the minimum tariff rate on coffee from 136 francs to 156 francs per hundred kilogrammes.

His Excellency the Viceroy, as Chancellor, will preside over the Calcutta University Convocation, to be held on Saturday, the 13th February next.

Lord Amphill, while acting as Viceroy, will have the whole of his present personal Staff with him at Simla, with the exception of the Private Secretary.

A very sensational occurrence took place at Motihari the other day. A fracas took place between two Europeans, one a Government officer and the other an Inaigo Planter, the one assaulting the other in a public place.—"Behar Herald."

On the return of Mr. Cox from leave in April, Mr. Barrow, officiating Comptroller-General will revert to his substantive post of Accountant-General, Bombay. Mr. Branson will then return to Calcutta as Accountant-General, Mr. Michael proceeding home on leave.

Mr. Brereton, Secretary in the Public Works Department, is a passenger by this week's mail steamer. The duration of his deputation, in consideration of the Report of the Railway Commissioner is uncertain, but he may possibly not return to India, as the tenure of his substantive appointment expires in August.

Information has been received by the Government of India from His Britannic Majesty's Embassy at Paris to the effect that the French Minister of Finance has decided to withdraw the proposal to raise the minimum tariff rate on coffee from 136 francs to 156 francs per hundred kilogrammes. This will be good news for the coffee-planters in Southern India.

The severe winter in the Hindu Kush region will serve to test the new line of telegraph that has been laid from Gilgit to Chitral, as the snowfall on the Shandur Pass and elsewhere is certain to be heavy. The experience gained on the line to Gilgit over the Kashmir passes shows that the spring is the most dangerous time for the wire, as avalanches then are common. If the Gilgit-Chitral wire stands the test of the melting shows in April and May this year, it will be a standing proof of the good work done by the staff which aligned and erected it.

THE OFFICIAL SECRETS BILL.

VIEWS OF THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

Maharaj-Kumar Prodyot Kumar Tagore, Honorary Secretary to the British Indian Association, has addressed the following letter to Mr. H. H. Risley, I.C.S., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department:—

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of Management of the British Indian Association to submit the following observations on the Bill to amend the Indian Official Secrets Act, 1889, now pending before the Supreme Legislative Council.

Clause 2 sub-head (a) of the Bill:— This proposes to take out from section 3, sub-section (1), sub-head (a) of the Act the words "for the purpose of wrongfully obtaining information" and to put in their place the words "without lawful authority or permission (the proof whereof shall be upon him)." So far as clause II and III of sub-head (a) of the sub-section are concerned, the proposed alteration will introduce no substantial change in the existing law, and it is therefore necessary only to consider its effect on clause (1).

This clause may be said to deal with two distinct classes of places, those connected with the military defence of the Empire, and those which concern its civil administration. Unauthorized entry into or presence in the former class of places may be made penal, if the Government is of opinion that the defence of the Empire needs such a measure of protection. But the matter stands on a different footing so far as the latter class of places are concerned. The civil administration of the Empire in its diverse branches and ramifications embraces a great many of the details of the daily life and occupation of the people and there is hardly a person who may not at some time or other have occasion to enter a public office in the legitimate pursuit of business to be transacted there with the officers of Government. Under the circumstances to predicate of public office with which the people have business relations in various ways and for various purposes, that merely to be found inside their precincts, unless proved to be with "lawful authority or permission," is to be an offence punishable with rigorous imprisonment for one year would be practically shutting the people out of them and thereby causing them very great inconvenience. In every case, to apply and obtain from the properly constituted authority, a permit to enter an office would be a procedure so attended with trouble, annoyance and loss of time and will open such a wide door for corruption that most persons would shrink from adopting it. Moreover to the vast majority of the people having dealings with Government officials, the law would be unknown and every time they would be setting their foot inside a public office without permission previously obtained from the proper officer, they would be laying themselves open to instant arrest and detention in jail without any possibility of being bailed out on a charge of having committed an offence under the Act. To say that the law would not be set in motion except where sufficient grounds would exist for suspecting guilt, is to ignore the notorious fact that prosecutions are often instituted in this country not from a desire to promote public interest but to gratify private revenge or to gain some private end. A dangerous weapon would thus be placed in the hands of unscrupulous or thoughtless persons to harass the people and there is no guarantee that it would not be taken advantage of for unworthy purposes whenever an opportunity to do so would be ready at hand.

Moreover the proposed law is a departure from the ordinary rule regulating burden of proof in criminal cases. An act innocent in itself is made into an offence and guilt is to be presumed unless the accused succeeds in displacing the presumption of guilt by proving certain facts. In a great many cases, it would be impossible for him to prove the exculpatory facts, for he would be ignorant of the law and would enter the office without permission previously obtained and no sooner he would enter, his offence would be complete. The justification for this rather drastic law is said to lie in the circumstance that it is difficult to prove a man's intention. But it is a well-recognized principle of criminal law that where an act is an offence when done with a particular intention, the prosecution must prove that intention and the law takes no account of the difficulty of proving it. This difficulty, if it is a difficulty, is inherent in all similar cases and nobody has ever proposed to alter the law generally in order to smooth the way to a conviction. Moreover though direct evidence of a man's intention may not be easy to obtain, yet it ought not to be a matter of much difficulty in the majority of cases, where a prosecution would be really called for in the public interest, to prove guilty intention by indirect and inferential evidence depending on a man's acts and conduct generally.

Sub-head (d)—The next important alteration proposed is the substitution of the words "naval, military or civil" in lieu of the words "naval or military" in sub-head (c) of sub-section (1) and in sub-section (2) of section (2) of the Act, whereas under the existing law what is made penal is the divulgence of a secret relating to "naval or military affairs." It is proposed to extend this measure of protection to all matters without exception relating to the Civil administration of the Empire. The safety of the Empire demands that the Government should be armed with full and adequate powers which could be exercised with the utmost promptitude and ease to protect from espionage naval and military secrets but the secrets relating to Civil administration can hardly be said to stand on the same plane as naval and military secrets. Speaking generally the Government in its relations with the people ought to have no secret in the domain of its civil administration, at least no such secret needs to be jealously guarded by a most stringent penal law. The country is governed for the good of the people and unless it can be clearly established that a penal law like the one contemplated is called for in their interest, it cannot on the high ground of conservation of public interests be defended or justified. Reference was made by the Hon. member in charge of the Bill in his reply to the Hon. Mr. Gokhale to "political" matters, which it was suggested might need protection from an authorised divulgence or publication. It is possible to conceive of some political matters, such for instance as delicate negotiations with foreign countries, which may be prejudicial to the public interests prematurely to disclose. But it ought not to be beyond the powers of the Government so to define all such matters as to have ordinary administrative questions outside the scope of the Act. So far as these latter are concerned, the presumption is that their premature or unauthorised divulgence can do no harm to the public interests, although it may at times cause some momentary inconvenience or annoyance to parti-

cular officers of Government. In fact the publication is in many cases calculated to promote and not to imperil public interests. For instance, sometimes under a mistaken sense of duty, or from some motive which will not bear publicity, orders and instructions are issued confidentially by subordinate officers of Government, which are at direct variance with the fundamental principles upon which the British rule is founded. One of the most effective means to combat their pernicious effect is to drag them to the light of the day and thereby to subject them to public criticism and also to draw the attention of the higher authorities to them, who would, but for such publication, be kept in ignorance of their existence.

To make it an offence to publish matters like these would be to take away from the people, who may be thus most grievously wronged behind their back, their only remedy against acts of misuse of authority. Again publication in advance of information relating to a measure or policy, which the Government may be thinking of adopting, may elicit criticism, which may convince the Government of its impropriety or inexpediency and thus save the authorities from the odium and the people from the harm, which its adoption would have caused. Further, the right to discuss public affairs freely and fully, is one of the highly-prized blessings of British rule. The Penal Code arms the Government with necessary powers when this right is abused, but the Bill, if passed in its present shape, is likely, if its provisions are strictly enforced, to lead, if not to a withdrawal, at least to a serious curtailment, of this privilege. For in the absence of any definition of what constitutes an official secret, anything which is not authoritatively published will be such a secret; and as speaking generally, it is not always possible to discuss public affairs without referring to matters, which though not officially published are nevertheless generally known. Every time this will be done, the writer will be bringing himself within the purview of the new law and making himself liable to its pains and penalties. With such a danger before him, no person would care to criticize government measures in a manner which is likely to be of any good to anybody, the government officers or the people. Lastly "official secrets" are of varying importance and they range from important matters of State policy to the most trivial detail of administrative machinery and as no distinction depending on the nature of the "Secret" is recognised, all such matters without distinction will be brought within the meshes of the proposed law. Thus it will in every way impair the usefulness of the public press and greatly handicap the people in the discussion of public measures deeply affecting their interests.

Clause 3 of the Bill.—This clause proposes among other things to embody in the Act a section making an offence under the Act cognizable and non-bailable. This has to be read with Section 7 as proposed to be added. The latter makes the consent of the Lord Government a condition precedent to the trial but not to the arrest and detention of the person accused. The combined effect of these two provisions would thus be to enable a person charged with an offence against the Act to be arrested and detained in jail for an indefinite period, that is until such time as a reference is made on the case to the Local Government through the usual official channel and a reply thereto is received through the same agency. To be arrested and confined in jail as an under-trial prisoner is itself a severe punishment and this punishment would, in any case have to be undergone, even if the man be perfectly innocent or if the Local Government ultimately refuses sanction and the prosecution has accordingly to be abandoned. Against the improper arrest and detention in jail the person wronged will be without a remedy. Thus a section presumably intended as a safeguard against prosecutions on insufficient grounds would, in at least some cases, be no safeguard against ill-judged, improper, or even malicious arrests under the colour of the power conferred by the Act, but would actually serve as an useful weapon for the gratification of vindictive feelings or for wanton abuse of power. My Committee have not overlooked the provision which makes it lawful for the person arrested to be discharged by officers, specially empowered on that behalf by the Government. But in the first place to take the accused before such an officer is a purely optional procedure and in the second place it would be equally optional with him to discharge the accused. In any case, if he thought the matter required a reference to the Government, he would be powerless to release the accused on bail pending the reference.

A reference to the debate in Parliament proceeding the passing of the enactment of which the present Indian Act is a copy, would go to show that the English Statute was not intended to apply to newspapers. This was made clear while the Bill was under discussion in the House of Lords. Lord Thring is reported to have remarked that some punishment ought to attach to the newspapers which published the information. But Viscount Cross presumably on behalf of the Government said that he feared that if such a proposal was made there would be no chance of passing the Bill. The Lord Chancellor concurred in this view, though he confessed his sympathies were with Lord Thring. It would thus appear that the Bill would affect a vital change in the present law relating to the disclosure of official secrets. Such being the case, the public naturally expected a full and exhaustive statement of the reasons which have impelled the Government to introduce such a measure. But neither the statement of objects and reasons nor the speech prefacing the introduction of the Bill supplied the necessary information. His Excellency, however, in his recent speech at the Council meeting of the 18th of December last was pleased to explain the circumstances which have led to the present measure being brought before the Legislative Council. Reference was made to some difference of opinion between the law officers of the Bengal Government as to the unapplicability of the Act to the disclosure of confidential civil documents and information. As far as my Committee are aware, no papers showing when and under what circumstances the case referred to arose have ever been made public. So far as an official, who has, by virtue of his position as such, acquired any information without any restriction as to the department to which it relates, communicates or attempts to communicate that information to a person to whom it ought not in the public interest to be communicated, the present law is clear. Such an official is guilty of a breach of official trust and is punishable under subsection (2) of section (4). The difference of opinion is likely therefore to have arisen with respect to the liability of newspapers publishing such information. But the English Act, as shown above, was never intended to apply to newspapers. And when introducing what is now the corresponding Indian Act, the Law member in charge explained that the measure did not originate with

the Government of India but was a mere re-enactment of the Act of the Parliament which already applied to India and that the object was to give the Act greater publicity and to bring its provisions into harmony with the Indian system of jurisprudence. It does not appear that any need to enlarge the scope of the Act has been felt in England, nor has it been explained why such extension is called for in the public interest in India. That it may need amendment effectually to protect military or naval secrets may be perfectly correct but this would be no justification so to amend it as practically to make a new law with a view to shield official civil secrets. On this the most vital point affecting the people His Excellency's statement is not as clear as could be desired.

TIBET MISSION.

Mr. Henry Newman, the special correspondent of the "Englishman" with the Tibet Mission, contributes the following articles to his paper:— THE GREAT ROAD.

Sidumehen, Jan. 12. All unknown to the world at large the Government of India has constructed a great engine for peace—and for war. It is now possible for a man to ride from the plains of Silliguri across the mighty chain of the Himalayas in three days into Tibet. Those who know the Himalayas will appreciate the full significance of this statement, but even those with the faintest knowledge of geography will realise to some extent the potency of the new factor which has been introduced into the commercial and political conditions of Sikkim and Tibet.

It is true that the alignment of the present road was made as far back as 1883, during the Sikkim campaign, but what then existed was merely a track, which could only be used with difficulty by carts in the lower reaches of the Teesta Valley and by pack animals in the higher altitudes. But during the past eight or nine months a couple of battalions of Pioneers and some Sappers have quietly made a sufficient highway. The cart road has been prolonged from Rungpo to beyond Gangtok and there is no reason why it should not be taken down into Chumbi itself, while the pony track from Rungpo to Gangtok has been so improved that it is now possible to ride over it in the dark. Last year the track was difficult and dangerous even in the day. Looking over the precipitous into the bed of the Teesta below one sees at point after point the watering bones of the pack animals that have fallen over. I think I am correct in saying that since the military engineers took the road in hand not a single animal has been killed in this way.

Of course, it must not be understood that the road is a perfect sixteen-foot track all the way. It is hewn in part through solid rock. At other times it passes over piles driven horizontally into the hill-side. Again, it consists in dangerous parts merely of a wall built up from the river-bed to the requisite height. There are no protecting buttresses. Torrents are crossed by unrailed bridges. In the narrower portions it still requires some nerve to pass animals and carts coming from the opposite direction.

The route of the road here is for everybody and every animal to keep to the inside, and the result is that there is a conflict of will each time a party meets another on the highway, except in places where there is ample room. It is wonderful how the ponies and mules realise that the inside is the safest. You see them again and again standing head to head, each refusing to give way to the other. But they are too wise to struggle. It is just a case of gentle pushing and once a head has got past the other the animals quietly move on. It is different when carts meet each other and a wise rule has now been introduced by the military that the driver of each cart before entering a precipitous part must whistle to give warning to others coming the opposite way. The Bhutias with their packs of wool, who used this road long before the present improvement was effected, hang a big tin bell round the neck of the foremost mule or pony, but I have not noticed a driver pay any notice to the warning tinkle.

One result of the work done by the military engineers has been to give a great impetus to local trade. Apart from the wool from Tibet, great quantities of fruits, timber, and forest produce generally are pouring down the Teesta road from the adjoining valleys. In these few months the bumias and the Marwari have grasped at the opportunities offered for trade, and a merchant from the plains, pinched and shivering from the cold, but very much alive to the value of rupees, is to be found in almost every village along the route. The Paharias, the Nepalese, the Lepchas, and the other dwellers in these parts are apparently very simple people, and it is very evident that great profits are made by those who barter with them.

But hitherto the great trade down the Teesta Valley has not been local but in wool from Tibet. There was a time when it was feared that the trade would be affected by the political complications which have led to the despatch of the Mission, but the fear has not been realised and at the present moment large parties of Tibetans with their mules and ponies, and wives, and children, and curly-wurly doggies are to be met at every turn of the road. One wonders whether they appreciate the benefits conferred on them by a highway, such as they have never before seen, and whether they connect the road with the Mission. But they are a deliberate and phlegmatic people, very different from the curious and inquisitive Paharias and Lepchas, and if they have any opinions they keep them to themselves.

The prevalent impression that snow would close the road in the higher altitudes has now been shown to have been wrong. The fact is that in spite of the intense cold snow very seldom falls in this part of the Himalayas. The hill-men say that the passes are only closed once in seven years.

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But there is a season when the road is almost closed. The rains in Sikkim are extremely heavy, and it would appear that these majestic hills, which look so solid clothed in their verdure, are to a large extent composed of shale and similar minerals. It is not much of an exaggeration to say that many a towering mountain is only held together by the forests which grow upon it. Cut away the forest, and in heavy rain the hill begins to slide into the valley below. The making of the road has necessitated a certain amount of clearance, with the result that in the rains the roadway, not in one place but in many, disappears down the ravine, and has either to be laboriously built up again or a fresh track has to be cut into the hill-side.

That is why the approach of the rains is dreaded in these parts.

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PTHISIS INHALATION.

All Consumptive patients to know that Dr. Paul's "Phthisis Inhalation" kills the specific germs (bacilli) of Consumption and thereby induces prompt and radical cure in the early stage of the disease. In the more advanced stage of the Inhalation checks its further progress at once and brings them round gradually in a short time. A trial stage, when life is beneficial results even in the last stage, when life is certain to be prolonged by its use. One bottle is quite enough for a patient. Medical practitioners would do well to give the Inhalation a trial in their practice.

Rs. 5 per bottle, V. P. Annas, 12 extra. Apply to DR. S. C. PAUL, L. M. S., (Specialist in Diseases of Liver and Lungs.) 19, Doctor's Lane, Taltollah, Calcutta.

MEDICAL OPINION

Dr. Hem Chandra Dutta, L. M. S., Medical Officer, Bhagawat Doyal Singh's Charitable Dispensary, Chainpur, Daltongunge, Palamow, writes:—"I have tried your 'Phthisis Inhalation' in several cases of consumption with satisfactory results, and I have found that before the formation of cavities in the lungs the 'Inhalation' is highly efficacious. I heartily recommend it to the public. Our professional brethren would do well to give this remedy a fair trial in their practice. Please send me again a bottle of your 'Inhalation per V. P. P. for another patient of mine and thereby oblige."

Dr. A. N. Roy Chowdhury, M. B., Calcutta, writes:—"I have tried your 'Phthisis Inhalation,' in several cases of consumption and, I am glad to say, the results have been highly satisfactory in the first stage of the disease. I always recommend it to my patients. Please supply a bottle of your 'Inhalation' to the bearer whose brother has been suffering from consumption for the last five months and oblige."

Dr. Eudjee Cowasjee, L. M. S., Sir Jamssetjee's Sanitarium, Khandalla, Bombay Presidency, writes:—"As I have found your 'Phthisis Inhalation' beneficial, I always recommend it to my patients. Please send me per V. P. P. one bottle of your 'Inhalation' for my wife who has been suffering from the symptoms of the first stage of consumption."

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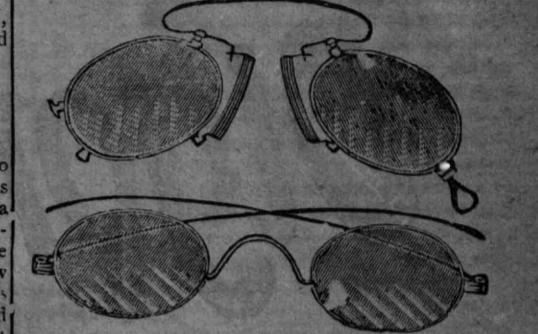
Perfect Pebble Spectacles in Gold, Silver, Gold filled Nickel and Steel, &c. at the cheapest rate in the Market. Gold from Rs. 24 up to 100, Silver from 10 to 15; Solid Nickel 6-8 Gold filled 12-Steel 5. Glass Glasses, of all descriptions. A trial order solicited. H. Laha, Optician 8, Goe Bagan Street, Calcutt

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EVERY MARRIED MAN SHOULD HAVE A BOX.

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Our Illustrated Booklet gives many useful hints on "SIGHT" shows many latest styles, and tells how to get a pair of Perfect Pebble Specs or Pince-nez, at fair price. If you haven't got it, let us send you a copy free.

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The Maharaja No. 1 Otto Scented ... Re. 1-3 per box. The Maharaja No. 2 Lily Scented ... Re. 1 " The Rose ... As. 10 " The Excelsior ... As. 6 " The Violet ... As. 6 "

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ANTI-MALARIAL MIXTURE (DR. FERRIS') Entirely eradicates the poison from the system. A well tried remedy. Re. 1-8 per bottle with full directions.

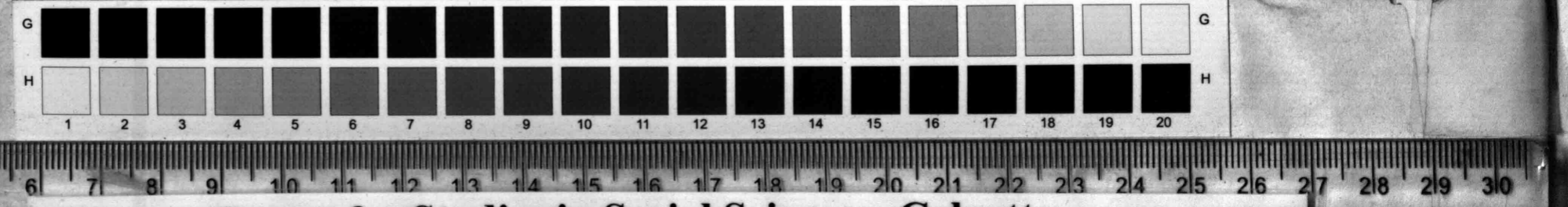
LIVER AND SPLEEN MIXTURE (DR. FERRIS') One mark three times a day, during the absence of Fever. Rs. 2 per bottle.

ONJMENT FOR ENLARGED LIVER & SPLEEN (DR. FERRIS') To be rubbed over the region of the Liver and Spleen once daily. This Ointment should be used in conjunction with the Liver and Spleen Mixture. In pots As. 12 each.

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C. L. FAULKNER, M.D. (Resident Physician and Surgeon.) Attends from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. CONSULTATION FREE. 15, Government Place E., & 14, Russell Street, Calcutta. ESTABLISHED 1800 A.D.



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DR. DEY'S Infallible cure for Acute and Chronic Gonorrhoea... It is a sure cure for Gonorrhoea, Gleet, thinness of vital fluid.

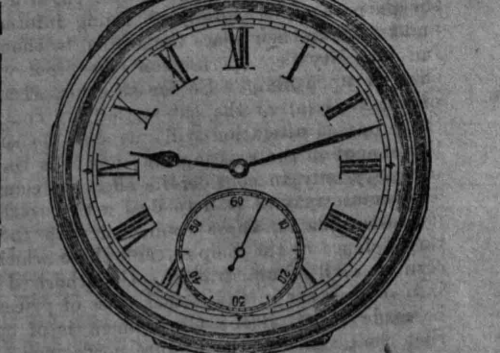
HAIR DYE. THE BEST IN THE MARKET. IT makes the grey and white hairs jet black within minute and lasting for 3 months.

Central Homoeopathic Pharmacy. 90, BEADON STREET, CALCUTTA. Medicines 5 and 6 pice per dram.

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Vigor Pills. The best specific for all organic and wasting diseases. VIGOR PILLS are UNCALLED, UNVALUED and UNSURPASSED in removing poisons from the body.

Stomachicurna. The only infallible remedy for ACIDITY & INDIGESTION, DYSPEPSIA and COLIC. LARGE PHIAL - Rs. 1 8 0. SMALL PHIAL - 0 14 0.

TRY And you will know in 24 hours what a marvellous remedy R. LAUGIN & CO'S. HEALING BALM is for all diseases and disorders due to dissipated habits in early life.

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HEALING BALM. DOCTORS—Who are looked upon and very rightly too as jewels of the profession and whose treatises on medicines and medical science are largely read as text-books in all Medical Schools and Colleges.

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MAJOR'S 'VITALINE'. And get rid of your ailments. It is a certain restorative and best alternative. Modern method and modern remedies make the seemingly improbable possible.

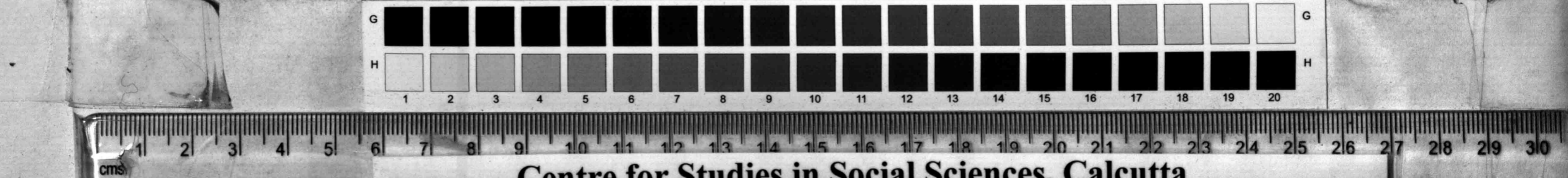


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SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

It is stated that Dr. Stiles has discovered a parasite which he believes to be effective in destroying mosquitoes.

In spite of many failures to reach the North Pole, expeditions thereto are being constantly fitted out.

An important fact in connection with the mosquito as the agent of malaria has recently been discovered.

Plague has been prevalent in Hong Kong in a more or less virulent form.

On the 5th of October last a fine sun-spot group appeared on the eastern limb of the sun.

A petition was submitted to the Governor of Barbados praying that the destruction of mongooses may be authorized in the island.

Prof. Langby has addressed a statement to the American Press in connection with his mechanical light experiments.

INDIA AND OUR COTTON SUPPLY.

A report of an interview with Mr. Edwin Stansfield, chairman of the Indian Committee of the British Cotton-growing Association.

With cotton at the present price, continued Mr. Stansfield, there is a fine opportunity for the Government to develop the resources of India in a manner which is sure to result in our profit ultimately.

Plague has been prevalent in Hong Kong in a more or less virulent form. In a report to the Colonial Office Prof. Simpson has pointed out that domestic animals and poultry may contract plague in a latent form from feeding upon plague infected material.

MUNICIPALITIES IN ASSAM.

All the municipalities of Assam with the exception of Sylhet receive substantial grants from the Government.

That's the thing you want. Don't try to get others' but KISHORY LALL JOYNEE'S TAMBUL BIHAR, AS IT'S GENUINE, EFFICACIOUS AND HIGHLY SCENTED SPICES FOR BETEL AND TOBACCO.

THE CAWNPORE EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Since the year 1881 Government have been carrying on experiments in farming at this spot situated about three miles from the Magistrate's Courts in Cawnpore.

Crops were grown of maize, wheat, sugarcane and potato, while elaborate tables are given showing the proportions of the following manures applied separately, or in combination with each other.

The Report has also something to say about reclamation of barren land, of which there is plenty, even in this otherwise fertile part of India.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Telegraph" is informed that the Russian imperial family entertains hopes that next summer the Czarina may present her consort with the long-wished-for son and heir.

The "Moscow Gazette" publishes a series of articles by Mme. Olga Novikoff in which it is gravely claimed that the fiscal campaign is a red-herring to distract the attention from the perfidious British designs in Tibet.

The Odessa correspondent of the "Times" writes (Dec. 25):—The editor of a local journal assures me that it is only the strain and stress of the tension of the situation in the Far East that prevent or retard an angry agitation in this country against the Anglo-Indian expedition to Tibet.

GREAT BRITAIN, RUSSIA, AND PERSIA.

A telegram received in St. Petersburg, Dec. 27, from Ashkabad said:—The "Sakapskye Obosreniye" publishes the following telegram from Persia:—A British Consulate will shortly be opened at Turbat-Haideri.

The "Kölnische Zeitung" publishes the following telegram from St. Petersburg:—According to Russian reports the Shah of Persia has granted to a Persian merchant a concession for the construction of a railway from Teheran to Shirvan.

The "Novoe Vremya," in a leading article entitled "England and Persia," criticises certain rumours to the effect that English diplomatists are proposing an Anglo-Russian condominium in Persia.

The "Novoe Vremya" admits that the economic situation of Persia is serious, but asserts that Russia is doing a great deal to improve it.

RAID ON COINERS.

The case in which several Indians arrested at Delhi, Kapurthala and Khurja are charged with uttering and manufacturing spurious rupees came on for hearing before the Deputy Commissioner on the 12th January.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY.

The St. Petersburg correspondent of the "Telegraph" is informed that the Russian imperial family entertains hopes that next summer the Czarina may present her consort with the long-wished-for son and heir.

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of the three accused, Bhima, Dina and Nandoo (previously reported in our columns.) He deposed to finding the dies of a 1901 rupee and Aurshidabad rupees at Bhima's house and workshop.

It is reported from St. Petersburg that the Russian Government intends undertaking surveys next year for a railway line between Samarkand and Tashkent on the Amu Darya on the Russo-Afghan frontier.

A desperate duel was fought near Paris as the result of a quarrel over the Dreyfus case. The affair was being discussed in a restaurant when Henri De Malorey shouted "Down with the Jews."

M. Santos-Dumont describes his feelings when sailing through the air in his navigable balloon in the January number of the "Pall Mall Magazine."

A Dublin correspondent says:—It is stated upon good authority that a Bill will be introduced early in the session amending the Land Act, so as to rectify the defects which have become apparent since it passed into law.

Hitherto radium, the most precious of the elements, has been derived from pitchblende. According to the "Scientific American," a new source has been discovered in the United States.

SEIGEL'S SYRUP. Digestion converts food into blood, brain, muscle; gives vigour, vitality, health. Indigestion makes good food poison, breeds dots, laggards, hobbling, rheumatic, liverish tempers, nerve-racking pains. Seigel's Syrup ensures digestion, dispels disease, produces health.

PROFESSOR LEE'S STORY.

On Thursday morning, Professor Sylvain A. Lee appeared before Mr. J. Sanders-Stater, at the Criminal Police Court, with his plea...

the appeal gave judgment on a matter which was not the point on which the reference had been made. The learned judge gave his decision on a different point altogether, which was after all the different point altogether, which was after all the...

UNJUSTLY CONVICTED.

A great deal is to be forgiven a convict who has done two years for a crime he never committed. Rabiet is a Frenchman who in 1899 was condemned to prison for seven years for robbery...

THE INVISIBLE HELPERS' WORK.

The American, an influential journal, publishes the following interesting fact going to show the truth of the assertion that Invisible Helpers are constantly looking after children who meet with accidents which in the ordinary course of things prove fatal...

SECRETARY OF STATE SUED.

At the Bombay High Court, Appellate Side, before the Hon. Sir Lawrence Jenkins, Chief Justice, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Russell, an application was made by Mr. J. C. Cursetjee, who sued the Secretary of State for India or damages amounting to Rs. 1,50,000 for libel...

If the falling child had even now and again touched the sides of the shaft as suggested the skin would certainly have been stripped from his arms, whereas there was nothing more than a slight abrasion of the back, a scratch and a trifling strain in the right foot.

THE CALCUTTA ORPHANAGE.

(Laying of the Foundation Stone.) The interesting ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Calcutta Orphanage building was held on the 16th instant at No. 121 Belloram Ghose's Street, Sham Bazar. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor presided. The place was gayly decorated with flags and foliage and a shaniana was put up for the visitors.

The Orphanage was started on the 20th February, 1892, with three orphans and a fund of four annas. It was founded by Babu Frankisto Dutt, the present Superintendent, and its prosperity is largely due to his devotion and self-sacrificing zeal.

Since I accepted the invitation to be present here I had the opportunity of reading a very interesting account of this institution and its history in the paper called "Unity and the Minister," and I have listened with great attention to the same fact brought out in the address which has just been read to us.

The Hon'ble Mr. Gupta then proposed a vote of thanks to His Honour, which was carried with acclamation. The Lieutenant-Governor then left and the gathering separated.

The case of dacoity in which the Sessions Judge of North Arcot, differing from the verdict of not guilty returned by the Jury, referred the case for the orders of the Madras High Court.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE CRISIS.

We give below an estimate of the comparative general forces of the two nations:— RUSSIA. Army (war footing)—4,600,000 men, and 5,000 guns.

JAPAN. Army (war footing)—600,000 men, and 700 guns. Navy.—26 Battleships; 24 cruisers (six third-class); 80, small craft; 40,000 seamen and 20,000 reserve men.

It is to be remembered that Russia cannot withdraw her forces from European frontiers and waters. For this reason the whole of Japan's strength as shown would be available against Russia's Asiatic forces.

One Manuk Hiar charged one Jehngingjee at the Colombo Police Court, on the 9th instant with criminal misappropriation of 25 cases of butter, worth Rs. 900.

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and was surprised to hear that the Municipality knew nothing of the matter. He came to Colombo to find that the whole thing was an invention of the accused, who he alleged had sold the cases and pocketed the cash.

(RENEWED AS THE PHYSICIAN FOR 200 YEARS) FOSTER TO H. H. THE JAM SAHEB OF JAMNAGAR.

NADAN I Manjari II Pills!!! AN Excellent tonic and restorative. These Pills purify the blood, invigorate the nerves and give the most healthful tone to the whole system.

NANUNSHAKAT-WARI GHEE. RUB this Ointment and get your secret weakness removed arising from any cause whatever.

PEARLS ANTIMONY Best for all eye-disease. No Student, Clerk and others should be without it.

Kuntaline. A delightful Perfumed Oil for Preserving and Beautifying the Hair. It has already acquired an extensive sale all over India and has been a great favourite with the Ladies of our country.

Delkosh Presents in a liquid form the sweet and charming odour of thousands of fresh blooming flowers.

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX Beecham's Pills

FOR ALL BILIOUS AND NERVOUS DISORDERS: Sick Headache, Constipation, WIND AND PAINS IN STOMACH, Impaired Digestion, Disordered Liver, AND Female Complaints.

As a protective against fevers and all other disorders, to which residents in this trying climate are so subject.

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